

**MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF NESQUEHONING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Wednesday, June 12, 2019 at 6:00p.m., Borough Office  
114 W. Catawissa Street, Nesquehoning, PA 18240

**ROLL CALL:** COUNCILMEN JACOBS, RADOCHA, SABOL III; COUNCILWOMEN FOX, POREMBO; PRESIDENT HAWK; & MAYOR KITCHKO

President Hawk called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.  
Councilman DeMelfi was absent.

**PURPOSE:** General Purposes

- **Advertise – Bids for Sanitation Contract**

**Councilwoman Fox moved and Councilwoman Porembo seconded to advertise for Sanitation Contract Bids. All voted yes. Motion passed.**

Councilwoman Fox stated how they were going to have a pre-bid meeting mid-July to answer any questions that the contractors might have. Councilwoman Porembo stated how they were planning on having that meeting during the day.

- **Chief Smith’s Contract**

**Councilwoman Porembo moved and Councilwoman Fox seconded to approve Chief Sean Smith’s contract. All voted yes except for Councilman Sabol who abstained from voting. Motion passed.**

- **Hauto Valley Estates – Lot Line Revision**

**Councilwoman Porembo moved and Councilman Radocha seconded to approve the plans for the Lot Line Revision for Hauto Valley Estates. All voted yes. Motion passed.**

**1. STREETS**

**MICHAEL RADOCHA, CHAIRMAN; GEORGE SABOL III, CO-CHAIRMAN; FRANK JACOBS**

Councilman Radocha asked about Rose Richelo helping with the streets department. Councilwoman Fox stated how they have always had it that they departments could work together. Councilman Radocha stated how there were some things that her and Andy Staehle could do while Daniel “Tigger” Staehle and Nick Degiglio work on other things. He stated how nothing seemed to be getting done. Councilman Radocha stated how he was going to get them started on the inlets. He stated how they have to get with John McArdle because they got the pipes for the dry hydrants. President Hawk stated how they got the two hydrants, which they were using as filling stations, cleaned up and marked. Councilman Sabol asked who would be the person to let Ms. Richelo know that she was to work with the streets department. President Hawk stated that it should be Councilwoman Fox or him as per the contract. Councilman Radocha stated how Tigger would have to let Councilwoman Fox know that he would need Ms. Richelo for the day.

Councilman Jacobs asked what they were going to do with Rhume Run. Councilman Radocha stated how he thought that the Engineer was checking on easements. Councilman Jacobs stated how they were probably looking at material and labor. He stated that he was figuring \$20,000.00. Councilman Radocha stated how they have to see what their rights were with going through that area, because they were going through three properties.

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Wednesday, June 12, 2019 at 6:00p.m., Borough Office

Councilman Radocha stated about change orders for the Willow Lane project because Mr. Pilla wanted to go up Allen Street. Councilman Jacobs stated how the Borough could install that line themselves. Councilman Sabol asked if there was a water line on Allen Street. Councilman Jacobs stated that he did not think that there was a water line in that block. Councilman Radocha stated how he did not know if it looped around. President Hawk stated how he thought that it did and that they had a shut off valve installed on Willow Lane. Councilman Sabol stated about possibly getting water to the property on Mill Street. Councilwoman Fox stated how they were not going up that far. Councilman Radocha stated how they were only going from Rhume Street to Willow Lane. Councilman Jacobs stated how he would get in touch with the Engineer concerning Rhume Run.

Councilwoman Porembo stated how they had a list of roads back in April: Industrial Road, Mussmano Avenue, Kennedy hill (Chestnut Street), Garibaldi Avenue, Coal Street, High Street and Cemetery Road. She asked if they had put anything to a priority list that they could get something done that year. She asked if there was anything that needed to be addressed before the Winter. Councilman Jacobs stated about Mussmano Avenue and how he had talked to someone about getting a quote. Councilman Radocha asked what kind of quote he wanted. Councilman Jacobs stated how he wanted an hourly rate for equipment and what he would provide for the job.

Councilwoman Fox asked if they did some work on Cemetery Road. Councilman Radocha stated how they should take a look at what they did and tell him what they thought. Councilman Jacobs stated how they were not sure how much it was going to cost them for the storm drains for the Willow Lane project. He stated how he did not know what it was going to cost him for Rhume Run. Councilwoman Porembo stated how there was approximately \$114,000.00 in the account, plus the \$70,000.00 for 2019, which equals \$184,000.00 for streets. She stated how they had talked about how they might lose some streets. Councilwoman Porembo asked if they should be moving on getting something done with the streets (a street) before the end of Summer.

Councilman Radocha stated how Willow Lane was probably going to cost the better part of \$150,000.00. Councilman Jacobs stated how he did not think so. Councilman Radocha stated about the paving. Councilman Jacobs stated how he was referring to the storm drains, which would cost \$70,000.00 - \$80,000.00. Councilman Radocha stated how he thought that sewer was paying for that. He stated how it was going to cost \$150,000.00 to pave Willow Lane in 2020. Councilman Radocha stated how there was nothing in the contract for ditch restoration. He stated how they will have to do something before Winter. Councilman Radocha stated how that might cost them approximately \$30,000.00. Councilwoman Fox stated about sewer paying for the restoration. Councilman Sabol stated how he thought that they were opening Willow Lane in the name of sewer. Councilman Jacobs stated how sewer was not going to pay for everything. Councilwoman Fox stated that the \$150,000.00 grant was awarded for sewer. She stated that they were opening the Willow Lane to install new sewer lines. Councilwoman Fox stated that while the street was open, they were going to replace the storm drains. Councilman Sabol stated how the streets would be paying for the inlets and the storm drains. Councilman Radocha stated about the change orders. Councilwoman Fox stated about the Borough doing the work rather than submitting change orders to the contractor.

## **MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF NESQUEHONING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Wednesday, June 12, 2019 at 6:00p.m., Borough Office

Councilman Sabol stated how he contacted PennDOT again about the millings. He stated how they had promised him 20 – 30 truckloads of millings two months ago. He stated how they were supposed to deliver 3 loads that day.

### **2. SEWER**

**MARY FOX, CHAIRWOMAN; FRANK JACOBS, CO- CHAIRMAN;  
MICHAEL RADOCHA**

Councilwoman Fox stated how Martin's was done at the pumping station on Rhododendron Drive. She stated that they were still working at the Eastwood Beach pumping station. Councilwoman Fox stated how the Sewer Committee, Mike Tirpak and JP Smith (painter) met last week in regards to Unit #2. She stated about the paint job on the unit and how Mr. Tirpak had marked all of the bad spots on that needed to be repaired. Councilwoman Fox stated that the contractor was cutting out the bad spots and just repainting those spots. She stated that they were under the impression that the contractor was going to remove all of the paint in order to repaint it. Councilwoman Fox stated how they met because they were not sure what they should do. She stated that she had also called Mr. Toth to see if he had ever encountered that kind of situation.

Councilwoman Fox stated that the Seca material was guaranteed for 5 years. She stated that Eastern Environmental & JP Smith, who was the painting subcontractor, was guaranteeing their work for 1 year. Councilwoman Fox stated how Mr. Tirpak also told her that the bond was good for 1 year. She stated how it looked like a patch-work quilt. Councilwoman Fox stated how the representative and the engineer suggested taking the unit down before the year was out to make sure everything was good because of the 1 year agreement. She stated how they wanted to see if they could get Eastern to extend their guarantee an additional year because of the way it was being done. Councilwoman Fox stated that the Seca representative had told her that it was done like that at other sewer plants. She stated how they were going along with their recommendation.

Councilman Radocha stated how it was not a product failure; it was an application failure. He stated that in 8 months they were going to drain the tank with the expectations that it was going to fail. Councilwoman Fox stated that they were between \$40,000.00 - \$50,000.00 in liquidated damages. Councilman Radocha asked if that number included the engineering fees. Councilwoman Fox stated that she did not know. She stated that she thinks that it was just based on the daily amount. Councilman Jacobs stated how that amount would be submitted to them separately. He stated how the engineer figured that they would be done by the end of the month.

Councilwoman Fox stated about the pipe. Councilman Jacobs stated how the \$12,000.00 pipe was now down to \$7,000.00. He stated how he was supposed to have the change order for the meeting. Councilwoman Fox stated about the pipe that was removed and how it was supposed to be patched and repainted. Councilman Jacobs stated how it was full of holes when they sandblasted the pipe. Councilman Radocha stated that with the project, all of the piping was being changed and the only question was if it was going to be carbon steel or stainless steel. He stated how there should not be a change order if the pipe was already supposed to be replaced. Councilwoman Fox stated that Mr. Pilla had informed that there was only one hole in the pipe, but when they sandblasted the pipe, there was more than one hole in it. She stated that all of the pipes in the unit were not being replaced. Councilwoman Fox stated how that pipe was not supposed to be replaced. Councilman Radocha stated that according to the contract, that pipe was supposed to be sandblasted and painted. Councilman Jacobs stated how they were getting 2 new carbon steel pipes, painted and put back into place for \$7,000.00.

## **MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF NESQUEHONING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Wednesday, June 12, 2019 at 6:00p.m., Borough Office

### **3. BUILDINGS**

**GEORGE SABOL, III, CHAIRMAN; FRANK JACOBS,  
CO-CHAIRMAN; MICHAEL RADOCHA**

Councilman Sabol stated about the issue they had at the end of last month, where they had to call the exterminator to spray the front offices. He stated how they had to close the offices early that Friday. Councilman Jacobs asked what was in the apartment yet. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how everything had been removed from the apartment.

Councilman Sabol stated that he acquired a projection screen and how he was going to have it hung within the next few weeks.

Councilman Sabol stated about the email from President Hawk in regards to the blue house, which was located on Route 54 and owned by Panther Creek (CoGeneration Plant). He stated how they wanted to sell the house to the Borough for \$1.00. Councilman Sabol stated how President Hawk, Councilman Radocha and he had gone through the house and he thought that it was something that the Borough should acquire. He stated that he did not know what they would do with it, but they might be able to make some money off of it. Councilman Sabol stated that if there were no legal issues, they should look into it. He stated how everything looked good with the house/property. President Hawk stated that he thought that it was still the original roof. Councilman Jacobs stated that he did not have a problem with acquiring the property as long as there were no restrictions placed on the deed. Councilwoman Fox asked if they were paying taxes for the property. President Hawk stated "yes". Councilwoman Porembo stated that the Borough would not pay taxes on the property once they purchase it. She stated about looking at the cost that they would incur to up keep the house/property (heat, insurance, etc.). Councilwoman Porembo stated about the blight seminar and if they would take possession of that property, they should use any of the proceeds for blighted properties in town. She stated how they have to start with some kind of funding and did not want to see it go into the general fund and get lost. Councilwoman Porembo stated about having a goal, which was a start towards the blighted properties. President Hawk stated how he would talk to Solicitor Yurchak about looking into a purchase agreement with no restrictions.

### **4. PUBLIC SAFETY**

**ROSEMARY POREMBO, CHAIRWOMAN; DAVID DeMELFI  
CO-CHAIRMAN; DAVID HAWK**

Councilwoman Porembo asked about the police inventory of equipment/clothing and if it was taken care of. Mayor Kitchko stated how they just received a list from Officer Grecco, who got a full-time job elsewhere. Councilwoman Porembo asked if they were working on the updated procedural manual in regards to the evidence room at the police department. He stated how that was one of the things that he was going to have the Chief work on when he comes back. Councilwoman Porembo asked Secretary/Treasurer Ahner to bring them up to date on the Emergency Call out system. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that she did meet with Gary Williams, but the call-out system was actually through a company called Onsolve. She stated that she had an online meeting scheduled with a representative from Onsolve to get her set up and to go over the call-out system. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that they have sent out approximately 425 forms. She stated that they were sending so many out at a time, so they did not get flooded with the return forms.

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Wednesday, June 12, 2019 at 6:00p.m., Borough Office

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that when they were discussing the form in the office, it came out that the Water Authority never had sent forms out in the mail for resident information. She stated how they had never set up their call-out system. She stated that once they have received the forms back, they were going to share them with the Water Authority to allow them to get the information into their system to get it set up.

Mayor Kitchko stated that at their last Neighborhood Watch Meeting, they had discussed the residents/businesses that had outside cameras. He stated that they would like if the residents and/or businesses would inform the police department or the office that they have the outside camera systems, in the event something would happen in their area. Mayor Kitchko stated how they have been a big help in the past with incidents that have happened.

Mayor Kitchko stated about the Borough/Police Department also getting a Face Book page. He stated that other towns have them that people can read the information but were not able to comment on the page. He stated how that would be another way to get information out to the residents.

Councilman Sabol stated about an incident that happened at the apartment building across the street from the Borough office (127 W. Catawissa Street). Councilwoman Fox stated how she had talked to someone who rents an apartment in that building. She stated that the landlord rents to individuals who were released from prison and/or mental health units, which was a program through the state. Councilwoman Fox asked how they could do that without notifying the proper authorities. She stated that it sounded like it was a halfway house. Councilman Sabol stated about discrimination laws for renting, but with a program that was renting to a specific clientele, they should have to get approval first. Councilwoman Fox stated that it might have to go through the zoning. Councilman Sabol stated about talking to Solicitor Yurchak. Councilwoman Fox stated how she knew that people who were being released from prison/mental health facilities did need help getting back on their feet. She stated that the borough should not have to wait until something like that happened to find out about the program. Councilwoman Fox stated how it was right across the street from the church, where there were a lot of activities, which included children. Councilman Jacobs asked if the police department knew about it. Mayor Kitchko stated that he was not aware if they knew anything. Councilman Jacobs stated about getting in touch with Solicitor Yurchak to get some clarification. President Hawk stated that he would ask Solicitor Yurchak to look into it.

### **5. SANITATION      GEORGE SABOL III, CHAIRMAN; ROSEMARY POREMBO, CO-CHAIR, MARY FOX**

No report.

### **6. RECREATION      MARY FOX, CHAIRWOMAN; GEORGE SABOL III, CO- CHAIRMAN; DAVID HAWK**

Councilwoman Fox stated that the meeting was canceled in June. She stated that the next meeting would be held in August. Councilman Jacobs stated about the signs and getting them posted. He asked for the police to patrol passed the park more often.

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Wednesday, June 12, 2019 at 6:00p.m., Borough Office

Councilwoman Fox stated about the bylaws and how she had given the commission members copies of them. She stated how they had wanted to go over them at the June meeting, but now they would have to wait until the August meeting. Councilwoman Fox stated that if they would cancel the August meeting, Council could just adopt the bylaws and present them to them. President Hawk stated that he agreed, they could just draft up the new bylaws and give them a copies to see if they have any comments. He stated that if they do not have any comments, then the Borough will adopt them.

Councilman Sabol stated how he had the prisoners four different times helping him at Station Park. He stated that if they have driven past that area lately, they will see an improvement. Councilman Sabol stated how he has met three gentlemen from the Railroad; Matt Johnson, Ryan Parks and Erik Yoder. He stated that they were happy about the Borough cleaning up the area. Councilman Sabol stated that he thought that he was building a good rapport with the gentleman from the railroad.

**7. BUDGET/ PURCHASING FRANK JACOBS, CHAIRMAN; ROSEMARY POREMBO, CO-CHAIRWOMAN; DAVID HAWK**

Councilman Jacobs stated that they were going to start working on the budget for 2020 at the end of the month. He stated that they were losing their workers compensation insurance and they were looking at a \$40,000.00 increase for workers compensation insurance.

Councilman Jacobs stated about the expense to change the tires for the Ford Explorer. He stated that they change tires twice a year because of putting winter tires on the vehicle for the winter. President Hawk stated about purchasing rims for the Explorer because the Borough could then just change the tires.

Councilwoman Porembo stated that the Budget/Purchasing Committee met on May 23<sup>rd</sup> with CBIZ in regards to the Police Pension.

**8. PERSONNEL/ SAFETY ROSEMARY POREMBO, CHAIRWOMAN; MARY FOX, CO-CHAIRWOMAN; FRANK JACOBS**

No report.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Councilman Jacobs moved and Councilwoman Fox seconded to adjourn the meeting. All voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.**

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RoniSue Ahner  
Secretary/Treasurer