

MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF NESQUEHONING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Wednesday, June 8, 2016 at 6:00p.m., Borough Office
114 W. Catawissa Street, Nesquehoning, PA 18240

ROLL CALL: COUNCILMEN JACOBS; COUNCILWOMAN FOX, POREMBO; &
PRESIDENT HAWK

President Hawk called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m.

Councilmen DeMarco, DeMelfi, Sabol were absent.

Mayor Kitchko arrived late.

PURPOSE: Committees/Workshop

1. STREETS DON DeMARCO, CHAIRMAN; DAVID DeMELFI, CO-CHAIRMAN;
GEORGE SABOL, III

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner asked if she was supposed to split the cost of the install of the hitch on the F750 between streets and sewer, with a reply of yes that is should be split between the two departments.

Councilman Jacobs stated about the Borough crew cutting and patching Tippetts Road instead of bidding it out. He stated how they could probably install 3" of hot base.

Councilwoman Fox asked about the swale on Park Avenue. President Hawk stated how they were not doing anything without the Railroad being involved.

President Hawk stated about sending a letter to George Malaska concerning his trees blocking the stop sign on the corner of Diaz Avenue.

2. SEWER MARY FOX, CHAIRWOMAN; FRANK JACOBS, CO-CHAIRMAN;
GEORGE SABOL, III

Councilwoman Fox stated how the committee had met with Emory Toth. She stated how he was going to work until the end of July and as of Monday, August 1, 2016 he would be under contract for \$250.00 per month, which would include phone calls or if he would have to stop in at the plant. She stated that if he would be called to assist with a project, he would charge \$50.00 per hour. Councilwoman Fox stated how he would be sending the contract to Solicitor Yurchak for his review.

Councilwoman Fox stated how the bio-station at the First Beach in Lake Hauto had been dismantled. She stated how Mr. Pilla has the portable generator at the lake in the event of a power outage. Councilwoman Fox stated that the peroxide they were using at the other bio-station at Lake Hauto was working well. She stated that if it works well through the Summer, they would be disassembling that station and installing a larger peroxide tank.

Councilwoman Fox stated how she had talked to Ms. Chapello concerning the test on August 8th. She stated how Ms. Chapello would like to take the test at her own expense. She stated that she had informed her on how she would ask Council about the Borough reimbursing her for the test, if she passes it, after her 90 working day probationary period.

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Councilman Jacobs stated how they would not be able to reimburse her for the time off.

Councilwoman Porembo stated that she agreed that any time off under the 90 working day period should not be paid. President Hawk stated that he could see allowing her to take the day off without pay to take the test and if she passes the test and they retain her permanently, he could see reimbursing her for the cost of the test. Councilwoman Porembo asked when the next test would be scheduled. President Hawk stated how the next test would not be scheduled for months.

Councilwoman Fox stated how they would allow her to take the day off without pay and if she passes the test, after her 90 working days, she would be reimbursed for the cost of the test. There was a discussion on the length of time needed before she would actually get her license.

Councilwoman Fox stated how they have to purchase a D.O. Meter for the sewer plant. She stated how it would cost approximately \$750.00 and would be coming from Blue Book. She stated how they had to purchase a toilet for the sewer plant. She stated how they had granted them permission to purchase topsoil. Councilwoman Fox stated how they were having problems with the well at the sewer plant. She stated how the pipe was busted and they had Moyer's Well Drilling in to repair the well.

Councilman Jacobs stated how they had received a print out from Mike Tirpak that the specifications were ready for Railroad Street and Hazard Street. He stated how they have to decide about getting quotes or getting the Borough crew doing the work. Councilman Jacobs stated about getting the curbing letters out to the property owners on Hazard Street for the project next year.

3. BUILDINGS

**GEORGE SABOL, III, CHAIRMAN; FRANK JACOBS,
CO-CHAIRMAN; DAVID DeMELFI**

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner asked about the smoking for the apartment. President Hawk and Councilman Jacobs stated how they would think that there should be no smoking. Councilwoman Fox stated how it should be no smoking in all of the Borough Buildings and in the Borough vehicles. President Hawk stated how he agreed with her but did not know how they were going to enforce it. Councilman Jacobs asked if the Personnel Committee would address that issue. Councilwoman Porembo stated that she felt the apartment would be a little different than the Borough garage or the Borough vehicles.

Councilwoman Fox asked about the heat pumps for the Recreation Center. Councilman Jacobs stated how they would be able to pay for one unit if the Commission would be willing to pay for the second unit. He stated how they need more than one unit.

4. PUBLIC SAFETY

**DON DeMARCO, CHAIRMAN; DAVID HAWK, CO- CHAIRMAN;
ROSEMARY POREMBO**

Councilman Jacobs stated how Regina Kennedy had stopped at his house the other day and the code work was getting to be too much for her. He stated about getting Robbie Blisard back on code. Councilman Jacobs stated about some of the complaints that Ms. Kennedy has been receiving. He stated that if she was going to resign, she would have to put it in writing. He stated that if Officer Blisard was going to help her, she may not decide to resign.

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5. SANITATION DAVID DeMELFI, CHAIRMAN; MARY FOX, CO-CHAIRWOMAN DON DeMARCO

Councilwoman Fox asked when the new contract would start with Solomon Containers. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how the new contract starts on July 1, 2016. She stated how that gave them time to get the additional containers placed. She stated how it was 9 8-yard containers at \$410.00 per month.

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they were having problems with the color printer in the front office. She stated how they purchased the printer in 2006. She stated how she was looking for permission to purchase a new color printer when that one was no longer working.

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how she would like to get the same model that they currently have. President Hawk stated how he remembered purchasing that printer.

Councilman Jacobs stated how he did notice that they were putting the garbage cans back onto the sidewalks. Councilwoman Fox stated how she had called them after the last meeting.

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

Councilwoman Fox stated how Danielle from DCNR was going to attend their July Workshop/Committee meeting to talk about grants.

Councilwoman Fox stated how Mayor Kitchko was going to meet with the Commission members at the Borough garage to review what equipment was delivered. She stated how they had created a drawing for the placement of the playground equipment. She stated about the Borough crew knocking some humps down in the park before the equipment was installed. Councilwoman Fox stated how she was asked if they could have some members of the National Honors Society help with the install for their community service hours for graduation. She stated how that might be a question for Solicitor Yurchak. Councilman Jacobs stated about signing a waiver and a release form. Councilwoman Fox stated about playground mulch.

Councilwoman Fox stated how they were planning a paint and sip for July 15th from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at \$35.00 per person. She stated how they were planning a dance for the fall. She stated how there would not be bingo for two weeks in July. Councilwoman Fox stated how they purchased tile at Home Depot, \$1,866.92, for the floor and the serving counter at the Recreation Center. She stated how Pam Zlock's husband and son would be installing them.

Councilwoman Fox stated about getting a sign like the Nesquehoning Conservation Club had posted at their park. She stated about getting it posted about pets and bikes.

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

Councilman Jacobs stated how they were going to meet in July. He stated how they were going to discuss the sewer and sanitation rates and accessing a mill for street lighting.

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President Hawk stated how he did not care for moving the funds around and not paying it back. He stated that if they were going to do something they should do it the right way. Councilman Jacobs stated how they already have moneys budgeted to pay back funds they borrowed. Councilwoman Porembo stated how they were going to have to look into obtaining funds to fix the streets.

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

Councilwoman Porembo stated about the updated physicians list for the Workers Compensation carriers. She stated how that would have to be approved at the next meeting.

Councilwoman Porembo stated how it would probably be in the best interest of the Borough to terminate the contract with Benecon. She stated how they might end up staying with Benecon, but it would give the committee time to explore other health care options. Councilwoman Porembo stated how they had met with several brokers. She stated that as a committee they will need to decide which broker they would like to retain. President Hawk asked when they had to notify Benecon. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how the letter needed to be sent by the end of June. Councilwoman Porembo stated about the employees being covered on December 1, 2016 with the new company to try to alleviate any run out cost. Councilwoman Porembo stated that if they do decide to terminate their contract with Benecon, they should provide a memo to the Borough employees to keep the open conversation with them and keep them informed.

Councilwoman Porembo stated about the safety committee and how it might not be worth the 5% savings with everything that they would have to do. She stated how it might end up costing them more than the amount they were saving. Councilwoman Fox asked how it would work if a Borough employee would get injured while doing their job and were not using the proper safety equipment. President Hawk stated how they would still pay the claim. He stated how the Council could reprimand them under the contract.

Councilwoman Fox stated how they have not gotten anywhere on the street lighting.

Councilman Jacobs stated how they had talked about it back in 2012 – 2013 if they should have an alternate Solicitor. He stated about the neighbor dispute on Ridge Street and how Solicitor Yurchak was the attorney for the one resident. There was a conversation concerning the neighbor dispute and the ordinance.

President Hawk stated about the letters that were received concerning the trees that were cut on Park Avenue. There was a discussion on what they were willing to replace.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilwoman Fox moved and Councilman Jacobs seconded to adjourn the meeting. All voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

RoniSue Ahner
Secretary/Treasurer