

MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF NESQUEHONING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at 6:00 p.m., Borough Office
114 W. Catawissa Street, Nesquehoning, PA 18240

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

President Hawk called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Councilman DeMelfi and Councilwoman Fox were absent.

President Hawk stated that they were going into an Executive Session for the purpose of holding interviews for the vacant seat on the Water Authority. He stated that he was going to turn the meeting over to Councilwoman Porembo in order for her to conduct the interviews. He stated that he would be present, but that he would not be involved with the questions/discussions or voting for the appointment. President Hawk stated that Mayor Kitchko would also remain for the interviews in the event he would have to vote to break a tie vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Borough Council Members entered into an Executive Session at 6:04 p.m. for interview. The Council Members exited their Executive Session at 6:43 p.m.

PURPOSE: Committees/Workshop

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

Councilman Radocha stated how they had an employee who had taken time off without pay and that they would be giving him a suspension letter. Councilman Radocha stated how he had tried to get in touch with an officer during the storm, but could not find one. Mayor Kitchko stated how they could be anywhere. Councilman Radocha stated how he did not have cell service and wanted to get the Borough crew out.

Councilman Radocha stated how the Borough crew was patching potholes and working on repairing the equipment. He stated that he had to get them to straighten out the spreaders. Councilman Radocha stated that Nick Degiglio was getting close enough to the curbs. He stated that the Borough crew was going to fast while plowing, except for Andy Staehle. Mayor Kitchko stated that they were not getting paid by the mile. Councilman Radocha stated that they do not take care of the fire stations quick enough.

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated about the quote for DBI. Councilman Jacobs stated about the savings for completing it in 4 days instead of 5 days. He stated that they were only out for an hour and a half on the 5th day the last time. He stated that they only had to hit the two fire companies on that 5th day. Councilman Jacobs stated that they cannot schedule both sides of the street on the same day, because they received too many complaints. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that they were not receiving complaints because of the parking; they received the complaints because the cars that did not move did not receive parking tickets.

MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF NESQUEHONING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at 6:00 p.m., Borough Office

Councilman Radocha stated about scheduling them to sweep, in town, one side of the street on one day and the other side the next day. He stated that if they had extra time during those days, they could go up to the Estates and sweep the Avenues and/or the Fire Companies, because there were usually no cars parked on the streets up there. Councilwoman Poremba stated that she did agree with that. Councilman Jacobs stated that the bulk of the street sweeping was in town and in New Columbus. He stated how there were not many cars on the streets that run north and south either. Councilman Radocha stated that the Borough crew will need to keep the driver moving instead of letting him go home. Councilman Jacobs stated that they need to get around to some of the alleys to fill in the potholes.

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that the post office had asked if the Borough crew could help get their flag untangled, since they now had the bucket truck. Councilman Jacobs stated that he did not see that the solar light working on the flag pole at the Recreation Center. Councilman Radocha stated that he did not have a problem with them getting the flag down at the post office.

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated about the letter they received concerning the Valero gas station. She stated that they were going to be closed on March 18th and the morning of the 19th.

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that she just wanted to make sure that everyone knows that the vehicles will need to be filled before those dates. She stated how they will then be using an in-house account, because they will not be a Valero dealer any more. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that she has already filled out the application for cards for the CITGO gas cards.

2. SEWER

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

Councilman Jacobs stated that they were going to be holding a meeting with the committee and the workers on the day of the bid openings, which was scheduled for March 26th. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner asked if they were still getting the reports for sewer. President Hawk and Councilman Jacobs stated that they have not received any in a while. Councilman Jacobs stated that he would contact them to find out why they were not getting them anymore. President Hawk stated how they might start getting them again, now that Rose Richelo was back to work. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that they would not have to give something bi-weekly like they were, but it might help everyone understand what was going on.

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they had received a letter from the Historical Society requesting not to pay for sewer and garbage. She stated how they also had made that request to the Water Authority. President Hawk stated that they had decided to give them free water on a trial bases for one year up to the quarterly limit (7,000 gallons). Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how it had been mentioned that they would be renting it out. President Hawk stated how it would only be for the Church building. He stated how the water was not on at the Parish, but if they get it turned on, they will be billed for the water there. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that there was a credit on the account, so they were going to bill to the point of clearing out the credit. She stated that if they were going to be renting it out, there was discussion of added water usage and additional garbage placed curbside. President Hawk stated how that was why they were going with one year at a trial basis.

MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF NESQUEHONING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at 6:00 p.m., Borough Office

3. BUILDINGS

**GEORGE SABOL, III, CHAIRMAN; David DeMELFI,
CO-CHAIRMAN; MICHAEL RADOCHA**

Councilman Sabol stated how the washing machine in the apartment was leaking. He stated how the Borough crew was up to look at it on Friday. Councilman Sabol stated how he had asked Nick Degiglio on Monday if they had checked to see why the washer was leaking into the office. He stated that Nick told him that they were changing oil. Councilman Radocha stated how he was not going to blame Nick for that; it was Daniel Staehle (Tigger's) fault. He stated how he needed to man up and tell them what to do. Councilman Jacobs stated how that was why he was getting the extra money. Councilman Radocha stated that he was not sticking up for Nick, but Tigger needed to push them and he was not pushing. He stated that Nick will do anything that they ask him to do. Councilman Radocha stated how he would straighten Tigger out, because he needed to start telling them what to do. Councilman Sabol stated how he would think that it would take priority before they have a washing machine coming through the ceiling.

Councilman Radocha asked if they were going to be held responsible for any damage. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that she did not know, but they were told not to use the washing machine any more. She stated how they were supposed to be getting a new washing machine next week. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how the Borough crew that the floor drain was a little clogged, because the drain was not taking the water as fast as it should have been.

Councilman Sabol stated how they also have to get a pecking order as to who can give orders, when and why. Councilman Radocha stated how there did not have to have a pecking order. Councilman Sabol stated how they had one, because if he was not the chairman, they were not listening to him. Councilman Radocha stated how that was wrong too. Councilwoman Porembo stated how Tigger had to manage it out and prioritize what damage was going to be done. Councilman Sabol stated how it was not a big thing, and he does not ask them to do a lot, but vacuum the basement. He stated how they could store stuff down there and he could do some work down there. Councilman Radocha stated how they were not overworked. Councilman Sabol stated that if they wanted him to sit and babysit them all day that was what was going to happen.

Councilman Sabol stated about the lighting for in the meeting room. He had picked up one of the lights that they were looking at installing at the Borough meeting room. Councilman Jacobs stated to Councilman Sabol about getting three estimates for the Regular Meeting. He stated about the ceiling and placing the lights that the Borough purchases. Councilman Jacobs stated how they would use some of the money from the CD that they need to cash in to pay for the body of the new truck. Councilman Sabol stated how he would like to wrap the duct work. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how she thinks that they should just paint it. President Hawk stated how he should have the contractors give them a second estimate to wrap the duct work. He stated how they would see how much it would cost to get it wrapped.

4. PUBLIC SAFETY

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

Councilwoman Porembo stated about Act 172. President Hawk stated how someone else had advertised one recently.

MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF NESQUEHONING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at 6:00 p.m., Borough Office

John McArdle stated how they have to have a meeting about it, because from what he has been hearing, they were only talking about less than \$100.00. Councilman Jacobs stated how each Fire Company should submit their membership list to the Borough so they know what kind of numbers they were working with.

Mr. McArdle stated that he had two more alarms that week for the High School Apartments. He stated that the letters that were sent out for the last violations were returned. Mr. McArdle stated that he had talked to Solicitor Yurchak and that he had sent an email to Carol Walbert asking for a contact, which went unanswered. He stated how he had talked to Carl Faust and Mr. Faust has had no contact with them. Councilman Sabol asked if the High School Apartments were in some kind of litigation for the alarms. Mr. McArdle stated how they had an appeal hearing, but they did not have a quorum of Council at that hearing. He stated that they were not able to do anything. Councilwoman Poremba asked them to have something in Mr. Faust's hands by the 14th of March. She stated about President Hawk going to Solicitor Yurchak and moving to the next step, even if they have to ratify the actions at the next meeting.

Councilman Sabol asked if they could not file something at the Magistrate's office. Mr. McArdle stated that the way the ordinance was written; they had a right to an appeal. President Hawk stated how they have to schedule another appeal hearing and hopefully they would have a quorum that night. Councilman Sabol asked if the courts were holding it up. President Hawk and Councilwoman Poremba stated that they were. President Hawk stated that he would contact Solicitor Yurchak to schedule another appeal hearing. Councilwoman Poremba asked if the Borough could determine the date rather than having them push a hearing off another month. Mr. McArdle stated how the other option that they might have was to vacate the building until they correct the problem. President Hawk stated that if they did not get satisfaction at the hearing, they could proceed with that as a last resort. Mr. McArdle stated how they had also requested to switch inspectors. He stated that the maintenance person, who was coming in to reset the alarm, has started keeping a log, which they never did before. Councilman Sabol asked what the amount was. Mr. McArdle stated that they were over \$20,000 from last year and that they were at \$12,500 for 2018. Councilwoman Poremba stated that they might not see that money, but they need to bring it to a head. She stated that if something major would happen, it was not going to look good for the Council members. Councilman Jacobs stated that they needed to contact Solicitor Yurchak and have him take what actions were necessary.

Mr. McArdle stated that they had never resolved the issue up at Lake Hauto, with the dry hydrants or the water system. He stated that he was told that they had applied for a grant but did not get anything. He stated how they had also promised him that they were going to do something with the water main, but it did not happen. He stated that they were supposed to get maps, which did not happen. Mr. McArdle stated that the club had turned a blind eye to the dry hydrants. He stated how they were supposed to get insurance and hold the liability if they would sustain damage to the fire apparatus. He stated how there were also requirements that they were back flushed. Councilman Radocha stated how it was not their water system and it was not their club. Mr. McArdle stated that the Borough provides fire protection for the residents/taxpayers of Nesquehoning.

MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF NESQUEHONING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at 6:00 p.m., Borough Office

Councilman Radocha asked what the Water Authority could do to help him up there. Mr. McArdle stated that he was told that they were going to put in a super hydrant, but his issue was the size of the water main. Councilman Radocha stated that he did not see them doing anything in the near future. He asked Mr. McArdle what the lake could do for him. Mr. McArdle stated that the lake would be the dry hydrants. He stated how he wanted some kind of insurance that there were no restrictions on the dry hydrants, that they get back flushed and that they take some kind of responsibility if something were to happen. Councilwoman Porembo stated about them sending a letter to the Club to let their residents know that there was a problem and that it was not being addressed. Mr. McArdle stated that they already had Solicitor Yurchak send them letters. He stated how the dry hydrants needed to be maintained. Councilman Jacobs stated that the Public Safety Committee should meet to review what could be done.

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

Councilwoman Porembo stated that she had received a thank you note from Irene Heimbecker and Daniel Greek for the Borough crew picking up their garbage when the Garbage men could not get to it. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that they had even contacted them about starting early and the office had requested that they start on the outlying areas first, but they did not do that.

Councilman Jacobs stated that they want to combine the Sanitation Escrow account with the Sanitation Checking account. He stated that they created that account when they had to submit the tipping fees to the County.

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

President Hawk stated that they were having breakfast with the Easter Bunny on Saturday, March 31st. Councilman Radocha asked if there were any grants for Recreation. President Hawk stated that all of their tax money for recreation goes towards the expenses for the Recreation Center. Councilman Sabol stated how there were some matching grants. Councilman Radocha asked if the Commission did anything with the money they have collected for the rentals. President Hawk stated that they had purchased some playground equipment for Johnson Park. Councilman Radocha asked what the New Columbus Park was before it was a park. Councilman Jacobs stated that it was a school.

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

Councilman Jacobs stated that they were planning on cashing in the Debt Service CD to pay for the rest of the Truck.

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that she was asked about the zoning fees. She stated that she looked up the fee schedule that was adopted after they adopted the codifications. She stated that they will need to take a look at the fee schedule, because some of them may need to be changed. Councilwoman Porembo stated about making a list of the rates that they needed to look at.

MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF NESQUEHONING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at 6:00 p.m., Borough Office

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that the main things that she had noticed were for the Zoning Hearings and the Sewer rates.

Councilman Sabol stated about the property on Allen Street. He stated that he measured off 70 feet from the Dog Grooming Building. He stated that he marked it with orange paint. Councilman Jacobs stated that he had talked to Nancy Kovatch about the property down by the creek.

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

Mayor Kitchko asked if they had received any additional applications for crossing guards. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated “no”. Mayor Kitchko stated that Grace Kennedy was going to switch her spot to the High School Apartments and the Elementary School. He stated that the applicant could take her position at Coal Street. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that they were waiting for his State Police background check. Mayor Kitchko stated that Grace Whildin would go back to being a substitute crossing guard.

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that they had received some insurance rates, Life Insurance and STD/LTD Insurance. She stated that it would be through ETA Benefits and that they would be the broker on the accounts.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Jacobs moved and Councilman Sabol seconded to adjourn the meeting. All voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

RoniSue Ahner
Secretary/Treasurer