

MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF NESQUEHONING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Wednesday, October 9, 2019 at 6:00p.m., Borough Office
114 W. Catawissa Street, Nesquehoning, PA 18240

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

President Hawk called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Councilmen DeMelfi and Sabol were absent. Councilman Radocha arrived late.

PURPOSE: Workshop/Committee

Matt Johnson from Northern and Reading Railroad and Daniel Staehle were in attendance to discuss the drainage pipes at the railroad tracks.

Mr. Johnson stated how Mr. Staehle had called him about the Borough installing the elbows on those drainage pipes, which would probably not work. He stated how they had a Real Estate Committee meeting that week and Andy Muller was on that Committee. Mr. Johnson stated how they were going to be spending \$7,000.00 on that section of the railroad starting in October 2019. He stated that if they would look at the rails, which were all joint rails, every one of the joints were sinking. Mr. Johnson stated how all of the rails were also leaning to the right hand side, which would be considered as Railroad East. He stated how they have to figure something out to divert the water. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner asked if there was a way, while they were taking the rails up, if they could install drainage pipes under the tracks. Councilman Jacobs asked where they were going to put the water. President Hawk stated how there was nowhere to take it by gravity. Councilwoman Fox stated about placing guards at the end of the pipes that way the water would not be so forceful when it was discharging. Mr. Johnson stated how they had tried it in other places, but they did not have much success.

Mr. Johnson stated how the water coming from the development was not really run off; it was storm water coming out from under the roadway. He stated how he did not understand why they piped it into the railroad bed. Councilman Jacobs stated how he had heard that they had increased the number of pipes to 31. Mr. Johnson stated how he thought that there were 30. Councilman Jacobs stated how they had walked the railroad tracks several times and had agreed to install something on the end of the pipes. Mr. Johnson stated that with the amount of water they were getting, the stones were not going to work. He stated how they were talking about hundreds of thousands of dollars to fix the tracks. Mr. Johnson stated how he wanted to avoid getting as much water as possible moving forward so they did not have to visit the issue of drainage pipes again in two years. President Hawk stated how they were talking about cutting the pipes back. He asked Mr. Johnson how far back they were talking about digging. Mr. Johnson stated that his original thought was to dig back 10', but the Railroad would like to see them dig back to the actual property line, which almost puts them right at the roadway. He stated how the property line was pretty much at the edge of the roadway. Mr. Johnson stated that if the Borough could do something else with the water so that it was not dumping onto the railroad bed, they would not have to do anything with the pipes.

Councilwoman Porembo asked Mr. Johnson if they could have their engineer take a look at it. She stated that if the water was able to run underneath Industrial Road, because it was all wetlands, to be able to divert the water to the creek, which would still be quite a distance. Councilwoman Porembo stated that if the water would follow the tracks on the other side, it would get diverted to KME.

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Councilman Jacobs stated how they had a study done several years ago and the creek was not much lower than the railroad bed. He stated that with the heavy rains, if the creek was high, the water would not flow to the creek. Mr. Staehle stated that it was swampy from 1st Avenue to 4th Avenue. He stated about getting a pipe under the tracks in that area. President Hawk stated about installing a pipe from 12th Avenue to 4th Avenue on the North side of the road to pick up all of the water. He questioned as to how they would get the water onto the other side of the tracks at 4th Avenue. Mr. Johnson asked about the pipe under the road at Industrial Road and Park Avenue and if it was blocked. Mr. Staehle stated how it was pretty level in that area. President Hawk stated how there was no pitch there. Mr. Johnson asked what would happen if they would install pipes under the railroad track and just let them discharge on the other side. President Hawk stated how they would turn the triangle into a swamp.

Mr. Johnston stated that he was allowed to dump his water onto his own property and where it would go from there would be considered a natural flow. He stated how he was not allowed to run his rain spouting onto a neighboring property (yard), which was what the Borough was doing with the drainage pipes. Councilman Jacobs stated about the number of pipes. He stated how there were not that many pipes coming out from the Estates. Mr. Johnson stated how he did not remember. He stated how they could go out and take a look at them again. Councilwoman Poremba stated how there was another creek that ran on the other side of the pond. She stated how they might be able to catch most of it before the pond and that way there would not be as much water from the pond to Industrial Road.

Councilwoman Fox asked Mr. Johnson if their major problem was from Park Avenue and Industrial Road heading West or Railroad South. Mr. Johnson stated "yes". President Hawk stated that they get some natural elevation around 2nd – 3rd Avenue between the roadway and the railroad tracks. He stated how there was a pretty good swale in that area. Mayor Kitchko stated how they have to remember that all of the State's inlets were dumping down there also. Councilman Jacobs stated how they would have to shoot some elevations to see which way they could get the best flow. Councilwoman Fox asked if they would call Carbon Engineering and get them involved. President Hawk stated about calling Ron Tirpak since he had been involved before. He stated about getting Carbon Engineering to shoot the elevations to where the creek was and to see if they were able to collect it and where they might be able to go with it. Mr. Johnson stated how they could make their own elevations with the pipe. Councilman Jacobs stated that if they would go against the natural flow, they were still going to need the elevations to dispose of the water from that point.

President Hawk stated that from 12th Avenue to 5th Avenue it would be gravity, but it would be trying to get it to go somewhere else from that point. He stated that the way the stream runs behind the wetlands, it was a distance and there was little, if any, elevation change in that area. President Hawk stated that if they would install a pipe from Industrial Road/Park Avenue to the creek, the water was just going to lie in the pipe. He stated that when the creek rises, it could be possible that the water could get pushed back towards the intersection. Mr. Johnson asked if any of that had ever flooded. President Hawk stated "yes". Mr. Johnson stated how the water comes from the mountain, the hill and the roadway. Mayor Kitchko stated how it also came from springs, because that was what filled the pond. Councilman Jacobs stated how they had to get some people involved. President Hawk stated about asking Carbon Engineering to get some elevations. President Hawk asked Mr. Johnson if they had any issues from the end of the Estates all the way up to Hometown. Mr. Johnson stated how they did have a homeowner that had installed two pipes and they removed them, themselves. President Hawk asked if they had any issues along the Lake. Mr. Johnson stated how there was an issue with an embankment eroding away, but no other major issues.

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Councilman Jacobs stated that if they would cut back the pipes and installed concrete trenches, they would be collecting dirt/mud. He asked Mr. Johnson if he was trying to tell him them that at the flow of water was washing away; causing the damage to the railroad. Mr. Johnson stated how there were ties, which were packed with mud from the water that was coming down around the tracks. Councilman Jacobs asked if the mud was being caused because the ditch was not deep enough to take the flow. Mr. Johnson stated how it was coming from the water, but it could be coming from the ditch also. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated about digging the swale down a little deeper. Councilwoman Porembo stated that she agreed with Councilman Jacobs about getting an Engineer involved to see what would be possible to do to get the water flowing away from the railroad. Councilwoman Fox asked Mr. Johnson if they were open to a meeting up at the railroad tracks with the Borough Engineer. Mr. Johnson stated that he did not have a problem meeting up there again.

1. STREETS

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

Councilman Radocha stated about the concrete work (curbing/sidewalks) that was being done at the corner of Coal Street and School Street. He stated how they had torn up the blacktop on School Street, which was just paved. Councilman Radocha stated how they should be hot patching the street and then sealing it. He stated how the street was all torn up. Councilwoman Fox asked if they had gotten a Street Opening Permit. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that she did not think that they had opened the street. Councilman Radocha stated how School Street was all torn up. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how she thought that he was issued a permit for a garage. Councilman Jacobs stated how they were just putting in a parking pad. Councilwoman Fox stated how they cut up the blacktop. Councilman Radocha stated how it was not cut open; it was torn open. Councilwoman Fox asked what they do with it. Councilman Radocha stated how the contractor will have to saw cut it, hot patch it and seal it before the Winter time. President Hawk stated that whoever dug up School Street should be told that they have to get a street opening permit and repair the opening before the Winter.

Councilman Radocha stated how Mr. Stempa did not have enough protection on Willow Lane for the amount of ditches they had opened. He stated how he only has signage on one side of the street. Mr. Staehle stated how he had gotten some rods to post in the ground to mark the curbing. He stated how he was going to put reflectors on them.

Councilwoman Fox stated how she did not notice if they had paved the street opening on Ratcliff Street, where it was opened for the sewer line for the Sokol Club. Councilman Jacobs stated how that had been paved along with the street opening on E. Railroad Street. He stated how they were not sealed. Mr. Staehle stated how they were going to place additional blacktop on Ratcliff Street because the cleanout was kind of high and they did not want to catch it with the plows.

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that Mr. Staehle was requesting a monthly meeting with the Street Committee. Councilman Radocha asked Mr. Staehle when he would like to meet. Mr. Staehle stated that it did not matter. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how there would not be any Committee/Workshop meetings for the next two months.

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Mr. Staehle stated how there were two Water Authority openings on Coal Street (near the intersection of School Street) that they had plans to patch and seal. He stated how they had filled in the Water Authority tank road that day to get it ready for paving, but he would not be able to get a truck of blacktop until the following week. Mr. Staehle stated how he would be getting blacktop with the Borough truck to patch some of the smaller areas in town; W. Catawissa Street, Little Flower Avenue, 11th Avenue, and the Borough parking lot. Councilman Jacobs stated about 11th Avenue and 12th Avenue and how bad they were. He stated how they should have been overlaid that year. Councilman Jacobs stated that if they get a really bad winter, they might lose those two streets. Councilman Radocha stated about doing some base repair and tar/chipping those two roads.

Councilwoman Fox asked if there was anything being done with the VFW hill (Chestnut Street). Councilman Jacobs stated how that street was done last year. He stated how it was not done completely, but they did do some patch work. Councilwoman Poremba asked about the trench restoration on Willow Lane. Mr. Staehle stated how they were going to lay 2A Modified on Willow Lane and compact it with the roller in order to get them through the Winter. Councilman Radocha stated how Mr. Stempa had started on the curbing already.

Councilwoman Poremba asked if they were making any decision for W. High Street for the parking on snow days. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they Borough crew would post the street when they were expecting any kind of snow or freezing rain. Councilwoman Poremba stated how they had discussed what they wanted to do for the upcoming season. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they were also going to discuss what they wanted to do for the garbage collection day. She stated how that would require no parking from 7 am – 12 noon on Wednesday mornings. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated about Mr. Staehle getting together with the garbage truck driver to find out what the issue was. Councilman Jacobs stated how they never had any problems on High Street until recently. He stated how Tamaqua Transfer had changed drivers a few months ago and now they were having an issue. Mr. Staehle stated how he did not understand that the driver was able to go one way, but not the other. Councilwoman Poremba stated about holding a meeting with Tamaqua Transfer.

Councilman Jacobs stated how he had counted the parked cars on a Sunday afternoon, after the last meeting. He stated how there were 18 vehicles parked up there. Councilman Jacobs asked where those 18 vehicles were going to park if they posted “no parking” on High Street. He stated how they already have no parking on Allen Street and alternate parking on Railroad Street during the winter months (snow parking). Councilman Jacobs stated how it was easy for them to sit there and say no parking, but where were those individuals going to park their vehicles. Councilwoman Poremba stated that she liked the idea of meeting with Mr. Wittig instead of changing anything because there was never a problem in the past. President Hawk stated that as far as the sanitation, they should meet with them to discuss the issues and as far as winter parking, they could post the street for different storms like they have done in the past. Mr. Staehle stated how that worked perfectly last year and when someone did not move, they just called the police to get them moved.

Councilwoman Poremba asked about Rhume Run Tunnel. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that they had received two different quotes, but there was a dispute as to which decking they wanted to use. She stated that Mike Tirpak wanted the decking that was listed on the quote from Orkin; whereas, Councilman Radocha thought that the decking from TEAM Supply was sufficient. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how it was up to the Street Committee as to which material they wanted to order. President Hawk asked if they wanted to take the recommendation of their Engineer.

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Councilman Radocha asked about the price difference. Councilman Jacobs stated how it was a couple thousand. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how it was \$1,500.00 - \$2,000.00 difference. Councilman Jacobs pulled out the two quotes for them to compare. President Hawk stated that based on the Engineer's recommendation, they should order the material from Orkin. Councilman Radocha stated that he agreed. Councilman Jacobs stated about finding out if they delivered.

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that when she had talked to Mike Tirpak, he had questioned her about the road and bridges study. President Hawk stated how Mike Tirpak had told him that just from looking at the bridge and the inspection records that they have from the bridge along with looking at the designs of the roads, he felt that they were suitable for legal weight traffic. He stated that Mr. Tirpak informed him that they could restrict them based on an Engineer's opinion as opposed to boring or anything else. President Hawk stated how there were some areas that could use some repairs, but structurally the roads should be able to handle legal weight. He stated that if they would administer a restriction, it would be a blanket restriction along the entire roadway, which all other facilities along Industrial Road/Dennison Road would be affected. President Hawk stated that if they would get into any legal ramifications over it, it was harder to defend a weight limit based on just the Engineer's opinion rather than an actual study. He stated how they were supposed to let them know before Carbon Engineering would get into doing anything like that.

President Hawk stated that if there concern was heavy equipment/trucks going up the mountain, they could adopt an ordinance stating that anything about legal highway weight would be subject to an agreement. Councilman Jacobs stated that they were talking about it because of the possibility of the windmills coming through town. He stated how they would probably have to be hauled under special permits. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they were referring to Industrial Road and Dennison Road. President Hawk stated that anything that would be operating under a PennDOT overweight permit, the Borough could apply a restriction to it. Councilwoman Fox asked what the legal limit was. Councilman Jacobs stated how it was 80,000 lbs.

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner asked Mr. Staehle if they plowed Dennison Road. Mr. Staehle stated "yes". Councilwoman Fox asked if the Borough owned it. President Hawk stated how Mr. Tirpak had asked that question also. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how Mr. Tirpak had made mention about April 1995 and the road being conveyed to the Borough. President Hawk stated how he thought that it was a Borough road. Councilman Jacobs stated about the agreement they had with Panther Creek. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that they used to receive an annual payment, but she thought that the payments ended around 2007. President Hawk stated how it was from 1991 – 1992, so it might have been a 15 year agreement. Councilwoman Fox asked if it was listed on their Liquid Fuels. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that she did not know. President Hawk stated that Mr. Tirpak could not see spending the money for boring or anything else and did not feel that it was necessary to restrict the roadways less than the legal weight.

Councilman Jacobs stated about Industrial Road and the weight limit signs for Park Avenue only being posted at the bridge. He stated how they did not allow trucks over 8,000 lbs on Park Avenue. Councilman Jacobs stated how there should be signs posted on Industrial Road at the businesses informing them of the weight limit and that the trucks should head East. Secretary/ Treasurer Ahner stated how she thought that was the businesses were supposed to post the signs themselves. President Hawk stated how they were supposed to. Councilman Jacobs stated how the signs should be posted across the street from the driveways. Councilwoman Fox stated about "no left turns" for trucks.

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Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that the repairs to Hazard Street should have been done last week. Mr. Staehle stated how it was patched and sealed.

Councilman Jacobs stated that he was informed that the Borough did not get the CDBG funding for Diaz Avenue. He stated how he wanted to make sure that he thanked the Commissioner and the Carbon County Planning.

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that she asked Mr. Staehle to check the inlet on W. Catawissa Street. Mr. Staehle stated how they did look at the inlet, but they had repaired it last year.

2. SEWER

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

Councilwoman Fox stated that they had not heard anything back from Mike Tirpak in regards to Eastern. Councilman Radocha stated how Mr. Tirpak had called him. Councilwoman Fox stated how she was referring to the liquidated damages. Councilman Radocha stated how there was a wiring change order and something else. Councilman Jacobs stated how there were three change orders, so Eastern wanted to go back to the \$23,500.00. Councilwoman Fox stated how they would not charge them for the change orders. Councilwoman Poremba asked if they were at \$60,800.00. She questioned the cost of the change orders. Councilman Jacobs stated how he did not know, because the one change order was not submitted to the Borough yet. Councilwoman Poremba requested a copy of all of the change orders once they were in Borough hands. Councilman Radocha stated how Eastern was complaining that it was \$2,900.00 for the engineer to sign off of the crane mount. Councilwoman Fox stated how that was not the Borough's problem, because Eastern was the one who installed the crane the way they wanted to. She stated how the Borough just questioned it. Councilwoman Poremba asked if they were at a done deal or if they were still negotiating. Councilwoman Fox stated how they were still negotiating. Councilman Jacobs stated how Eastern had promised that they would get back to them in a week.

Councilman Radocha stated how they were worlds apart on the change order for Willow Lane. Councilman Jacobs stated how they were down fixing the inlet that day. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how Mr. Staehle had met with Mr. Tirpak on Willow Lane in regards to the one inlet that needed to be changed. Councilman Radocha asked "why". Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that the inlet was a little too high. Councilman Jacobs stated how Mike Kafkalas had messed up when he shot the line. Councilman Radocha asked who he worked for. Councilman Jacobs stated how he did not work for Carbon Engineering any more. He stated how he worked directly for the Borough. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they do not get a bill directly from Mr. Kafkalas. She stated how they get billed through Carbon Engineering for Mr. Kafkalas' services. Councilman Radocha stated how the inlet had nothing to do with shooting the lines. He stated how it had to do with the grades established by Mr. Tirpak in the documents given to Doli (contractor). Councilman Radocha asked whose mistake it was. Councilman Jacobs stated how Mr. Kafkalas shot the grades for the inlets and everything on Willow Lane. Councilman Radocha asked who paid him. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that in a roundabout way, the Borough paid him, because they reimbursed Carbon Engineering for that expense. President Hawk stated how it did look like Mr. Kafkalas was working for Carbon Engineering.

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Councilman Radocha asked who the Borough of Nesquehoning hired to set the specifications for the project/job. President Hawk & Councilman Jacobs stated "Carbon Engineering". Councilman Radocha asked if they would hire his company to fix the inlet and then send the bill to Carbon Engineering, because the Borough could not bill them. He stated how they were going to spend $\frac{3}{4}$ of a million dollars on Willow Lane for all of the mistakes that were made. Councilman Radocha stated how he thought that it was time to hire another engineer. Councilman Jacobs stated to Councilman Radocha about making a motion at the end of the year.

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated about the Bed and Breakfast at 459 E. Railroad Street. She stated how the Water Authority had voted to bill them for 2 units so the Borough was also going to start billing them for 2 units (sewer/garbage). Councilwoman Fox asked if it was an Air B & B, because Jim Thorpe has no zoning laws for something like that. She stated how they do for a regular Bed and Breakfast but not for the Air B & B. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner asked what the difference was. Councilwoman Fox stated how an Air B & B was more like a hotel. President Hawk stated how it was a short term rental. Councilman Jacobs asked about the EDU fee. Secretary/ Treasurer Ahner stated how she was not worried about it yet. She stated that Gene Kennedy had been informed and he was issuing her a letter as to what she had to do (Zoning). Councilwoman Fox stated how they should have Solicitor Yurchak look into it. Councilman Jacobs stated that it should be mentioned in the letter about having to pay the \$2,000.00 for the EDU fee. Councilman Radocha asked if there should be a cease and desist order to stop until things were done correctly. Secretary/ Treasurer Ahner stated how that was up to Mr. Kennedy. Councilman Radocha stated how he felt that they were getting into a legal matter with deciding it on their own. Councilwoman Porembo stated that she felt how they should talk to Solicitor Yurchak to see what was in their ordinances.

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated about the broken sewer line at 226 E. Center Street. Councilwoman Fox stated how that sewer line comes down to Catawissa Street. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how the line had blocked because it was broken, but it was now open. She stated how Mr. Pilla has informed her that the way the line was broken, it would block up again. Councilman Radocha stated how it was brought to their attention and it was going to cause a problem in the future for other people. Councilwoman Fox asked if it was something that they would need Solicitor Yurchak to write him a letter. Councilman Radocha stated "yes". President Hawk stated about telling him how they were aware that the sewer line was broken and the Borough would be shutting the water off until the line was repaired. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they did not want to contact the SEO yet, but they do need to get it fixed.

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they should also send a letter to the property owner at 24 W. Garibaldi Avenue, because they dug up their sewer line and never covered it back up. Councilman Radocha stated how the property owner dug for off street parking. He stated how the sewer line was in the way, so they needed to relocate it. President Hawk stated how it was at the back of the property on Marconi Avenue. Councilman Radocha stated how the sewer lateral was hanging out in the middle of nowhere. Councilman Jacobs asked if anyone was living there. President Hawk asked if the water was on. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that she did not know. President Hawk stated about checking with the Water Authority. He stated how they could receive a letter as well, if they did not have the proper sewer connection, the Borough would turn off their water until the problem was corrected.

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Councilman Radocha stated that if it was active, it was out in the open and was going to create a problem. He asked if they got a permit for off street parking. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how it would have to be a curb cut permit. Councilman Radocha stated how there was no curbing on that street. President Hawk asked if their sewer line was connected to the main. Councilman Radocha stated how it was connected, but their lateral line was exposed (above ground). He stated how their line was going to freeze and cause problems.

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated about the properties at 18 E. High Street & 17 E. Railroad Street. Councilwoman Fox stated how that was the property owner who had his entire yard dug up. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated about the water running off the property. She stated how they needed to find out what he was doing (sewer line, rain spouting drainage, etc.) because it was a pretty deep trench. President Hawk stated about having Mr. Pilla take a look at it and if it was not being taken care of, he should get a letter also.

3. BUILDINGS GEORGE SABOL, III, CHAIRMAN; FRANK JACOBS, CO-CHAIRMAN; MICHAEL RADOCHA

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they wanted to discuss the repairs to the apartment. Councilman Jacobs asked if they wanted to hire someone to paint the apartment. Secretary/ Treasurer Ahner stated how she had no doubts that the Borough crew was able to patch and paint the apartment. She asked how soon they wanted it done, because she did not know how much time they were going to have over the next month. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner asked if they were worried about getting it rented or did they just want to let it sit until the Borough crew had time. Councilwoman Fox stated about letting it sit until the Borough crew had the time over the Winter months. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how it had sat that long and asked if a few more months were going to make a difference. Councilman Jacobs stated how he was not too eager to rent the apartment. President Hawk stated how they could let it sit until the Borough crew could get to it.

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that they had a water leak in the basement. She stated that one of the water filters had sprung a leak and she had the Borough crew replace it. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how she did not know if that was the reason they were now getting some mold and mildew in the basement. Councilman Jacobs stated how they should get a dehumidifier for the basement. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how all of the old chairs, which used to sit in the back row in the meeting room needed to be thrown away, because they were a mess. She stated that she did not know if it was because of the water, but it did not seem to be a problem throughout the basement, just in the room at the bottom of the steps. Councilwoman Fox stated how she agreed that they should get a dehumidifier for in the basement. President Hawk stated how they should get rid of the chairs in the basement.

4. PUBLIC ROSEMARY POREMBO, CHAIRWOMAN; DAVID DeMELFI SAFETY CO-CHAIRMAN; DAVID HAWK

Councilwoman Porembo stated that she had received an email on October 10th from Mr. McArdle in regards to the dry hydrants at the pond. She stated that they would be starting them on October 13th with the assistance of the Ryan Township drivers. Councilwoman Porembo stated that the Water Authority would be helping. She stated how he also requested any help from the three stations.

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Councilwoman Porembo stated how they had a Public Safety Committee meeting on October 1st with personnel from the three fire companies. She stated how the Borough asked for the meeting to address the correspondence that they had been receiving. Councilwoman Porembo stated how it was to talk about equipment, grants, training, monthly schedules, the Act 172 application, man power and responses to calls. She stated how they found that there were a lot of common areas, which each fire department had when trying to recruit volunteers; plus it was always the same individuals for all of the fund raisers. Councilwoman Porembo stated how it was a 2 hour meeting and did not get all the way through the items on the agenda. She stated that as the committee, they wanted them to come together and talk to see if there was common ground.

Councilwoman Porembo stated how they did not ask them to consolidate. She stated how at the end of the meeting, it seemed that the consensus was, if the Borough was going to make them consolidate, several members would quit. Councilwoman Porembo stated how they were not looking to do anything of that nature. She stated how they were going to wait another month and hold another meeting to see if they had any other opinions. Councilwoman Porembo stated how it might be easier to work together than having three separate, but when the committee had asked each department to give them a copy of their income and expenses, they were doing well on their own. Councilwoman Porembo stated how the committee was not in the position to ask the Borough to make such a demand, because they would need more of a discussion. She stated how they had made the point that consolidation would not increase their donations or their volunteers.

Councilwoman Porembo stated how they did ask for a copy of the fire truck budget, which they did send it to them. She stated how they dedicate 1.75 mills to fire safety, but they felt how the Borough was not coming through with enough funding, which at that time there was nothing more they could give. Councilwoman Porembo stated how the Borough gives each fire company \$2,500.00 (\$7,500.00 total), but the fire companies did not see what else the Borough paid for them. She stated how she thought that it was a good meeting.

Councilwoman Fox stated how she had been confronted twice about the consolidation. She stated how it seemed that the Nesquehoning Hose Company was in favor of the consolidation. Councilwoman Porembo stated how New Columbus and Hauto were not looking to consolidate. She stated that it was discussed how all three fire companies could hold a fund raiser together, but they were not ready to move on that yet. Councilwoman Porembo stated how comments were made that if push came to shove to consolidate the fire companies, but they have seen what happens with the churches where they were not able to make someone do something that they did not want to do. Councilman Jacobs stated how Nesquehoning Hose Company was hurting for manpower. He stated how Hauto and New Columbus had gone through a shortage of manpower a few years ago and now Nesquehoning Hose was going through it. Councilman Jacobs stated how it was conveyed to him that Nesquehoning Hose Company did nothing to help Hauto or New Columbus when they were short on manpower. Councilwoman Porembo stated hoe they were not ready for any kind of consolidation. Councilman Radocha stated how the Borough was better off with three fire companies that were surviving rather than trying to force them into one.

Councilwoman Porembo stated about the review of the Evidence Procedure Policy. Mayor Kitchko stated how Solicitor Yurchak had it and that they were waiting for his review comments.

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Councilwoman Poremba asked about the Repair of Motor Vehicle on Public Street Ordinance.

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how Chief Smith had reviewed it and everything was good on their end. She stated how she still had some questions. Councilman Jacobs stated how he did not have any problems with it, but it was the enforcement. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that if someone had to make more than normal repairs (brakes, starter, etc.) and did not have an off-street area to do them, they should still be allowed as long as it was done in a timely manner (a day) not that the vehicle was going to be jacked up for a week. She stated how most of it would be up to the discretion of the police officer. Mayor Kitchko stated how they might be able to get some of that wording in the ordinance. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated about a time limit or not over night. President Hawk stated how they should get the remarks to Solicitor Yurchak to see about getting them incorporated into the ordinance.

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how Solicitor Yurchak had sent out three letters in regards to abandoned vehicles and asked if they were following up on the letters. She stated how she thought that 2 letters were for vehicles parked by the railroad tracks and the other one was on E. Columbus Avenue. President Hawk asked what the letters said. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how she did not remember what they stated but remembered that they were sent out. She stated how she would have to get them out to review them. President Hawk stated how the letter had to state what would be done. Councilwoman Poremba asked if the Solicitor Yurchak was sending out letters, were the police receiving copies in order for them to follow up. Mayor Kitchko stated how he did not know if the police received a copy. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that she did not know if the police received a copy, but Council did receive them. She stated how she would resend them to Council for them to review. Councilwoman Fox asked if they had an ordinance, why they needed Solicitor Yurchak to send a letter. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how there was an issue in regards to cars parked on private property.

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how Chief Smith would also like to have a monthly meeting with the Public Safety Committee. She stated that they could meet to discuss little things or just to make sure everything was going well.

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how she had received a message that the part-time officer, Charles McFeeley had qualified. She stated how she had talked to Chief Smith to find out if he had received his MOPEC for the Borough and if he was able to take a shift by himself. Mayor Kitchko stated "yes". Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that Chief Smith was not sure if he knew the town yet. Mayor Kitchko stated jokingly that he did not know all of the streets in town yet. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that nobody contacted her. She stated how she did not receive a copy of his MOPEC or received anything in writing that he was now ready to work a shift by himself. Mayor Kitchko stated how Weatherly was short handed and he was working pretty many hours up there. President Hawk stated that if he had reached that point, they should be notified in writing not saying how they had passed their test two weeks ago and should have been getting the higher rate. Mayor Kitchko stated how he would get with Officer Wuttke to write something up because he was the training officer. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated about back pay. President Hawk stated that what he had gotten paid was what he got since they were not informed.

Mayor Kitchko stated how Donna Gogal was retiring from her crossing guard position. He stated how Louis Hirochek was going to take her stop in New Columbus and Grace Whildin was going to take Mr. Hirochek's stops in town. Councilman Jacobs asked if Ms. Whildin was going to stay on as a full-time crossing guard. Mayor Kitchko stated "yes".

MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF NESQUEHONING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Wednesday, October 9, 2019 at 6:00p.m., Borough Office

Mayor Kitchko asked if they had received an application from Tyler Leslie. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that she had not seen one yet. Mayor Kitchko stated that he was supposed to be submitting an application with his background checks for a part-time/as-needed crossing guard.

Mayor Kitchko asked if they were still advertising for part-time police officers. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how it was always on the website, but there was nothing in the paper. Mayor Kitchko stated that he did not know if it was because other departments were paying part-time officers higher wages, but Joe David had found a job elsewhere. He stated how they would have to discuss the part-time wages a little further at some point. Councilman Jacobs stated how all the departments were looking for part-time officers. Mayor Kitchko stated how they were going to have overtime on the next couple of pay periods, because they did not have a full-time, part-time officer.

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how the Lehighton Borough had passed a Salvage Ordinance, where someone was not allowed to rummage through someone else's garbage. She stated how they had complaints in the past about people going through other people's garbage. Councilman Jacobs stated how they could review it.

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

Councilwoman Fox stated how they had talked about getting in touch with Tamaqua Transfer in regards to High Street. Councilman Radocha stated how it was a very short week for recycling. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they have to make sure that the word gets out that the recycling started and that it was being collected every other week. She stated how it had to be an open container or clear bag so that they could see that they were recycling materials.

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

President Hawk stated how the Recreation Commission had their meeting, and they sign the bylaws. Councilwoman Fox stated about all of Council reviewing the bylaws prior to the regular meeting. President Hawk stated how they also received copies of their financials for the last six months. Councilwoman Fox stated about the audit and the bank statements. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how she does keep copies of the bank statements, but does not always get copies of receipts.

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated about the rental forms. Councilwoman Porembo asked if there was something that could be added to the rental forms, since the Council has to keep asking, but never receives them. She stated how there was also nothing written in the bylaws about the rental forms. Councilwoman Porembo stated how there was nothing written in the bylaws about informing the Borough of the rentals 30 days prior to the rental date or returning the sign rental forms to the Borough office. Councilwoman Fox asked how they wanted to word it in the bylaws; form should be submitted to the borough office one week after signing or two weeks prior to rental date. President Hawk stated how they should get a copy a day or two after they were signed. He stated that one week after execution of the contract; the borough should receive their copy. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how the down payment-deposit deposit slip could be attached to the form and dropped off at the office.

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Councilwoman Fox stated about the rentals and how the Commission Members get a free rental. She stated how she did not know that the Commission Members got a free personal rental. Councilwoman Fox stated how it was not in the bylaws and did not know where it came from. Councilwoman Poremba stated that if the Committee feels how that was appropriate, they could add the verbiage into the bylaws.

President Hawk stated that the Christmas party was going to be held on December 15th. He stated how the Commission was holding a Halloween bingo and Kim Cooper would be attending the Trunk-or-Treat to hand out candy. President Hawk stated how they would not be holding their regular bingo the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. He stated how they will have to approve the Committees Christmas gift purchases at their Regular meeting, since it was stated in the bylaws that the Council had to approve any purchases over \$500.00.

Councilman Jacobs stated how the Commission should cancel bingo in June and July, because they only profited hundred and \$160.00. He asked why they should keep the doors open for that kind of money. President Hawk stated how they have always said that if they cut it out too much, the people would not come back. Councilman Jacobs stated how the Borough pays to keep the air conditioners and everything else. He asked if it even paid to keep it open

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

Councilman Jacobs stated how he and Secretary/Treasurer Ahner had a preliminary meeting just to go over some figures. He stated about waiting for the insurance premiums before coming up with a final numbers.

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how almost all of the computers were operating with Windows 7 and that they will need to be updated to Windows 10 before the beginning of the year.

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

Mayor Kitchko stated about the old hand guns. He stated how they had three quotes; Atlantic Tactical - \$235.00 each; Eds - \$200.00 each; and Boyers - \$150.00/\$200.00 each. He stated how the five full-time officers would like to purchase their hand guns at the cost of \$235.00 each. He stated how he was approached by Ron Peck about purchasing one of the hand guns as well. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner asked how many handguns they had. Mayor Kitchko stated "nine". He stated about placing the three remaining handguns out for bid, with a minimum bid of \$235.00. President Hawk asked about the transfer fees. Mayor Kitchko stated how the buyer would be responsible for the transfer fees.

Mayor Kitchko stated how there were two old hand guns and an old shotgun in the basement in the evidence locker. He stated how they could put them up for auction as well. Mayor Kitchko stated that if they sell all of the hand guns, they would get back \$2,115.00. He stated that they could purchase nine holsters at \$100.00/\$125 each. Mayor Kitchko stated how they have all of the old holsters that the Borough purchased, which they could also put up for sale. He stated how that would bring in a few more dollars. Councilman Jacobs asked what models they were. Mayor Kitchko stated how they were Glock 22, generation 3.

MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF NESQUEHONING BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Secretary/Treasurer Ahner asked if the full-time employees have the options of purchasing one of the hand guns as well. Councilman Jacobs stated that if any borough employee would want to purchase a handgun for the \$235.00, they should be allowed. President Hawk stated how that was how they could make their motion at the Regular Meeting and what was not purchase would go out for bid/auction.

Councilwoman Fox asked where they were at with the streetlights. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that on or around October 28th, they were supposed to start with the addition and the removal with the conversion to follow. Councilwoman Fox asked if they replaced Nick Totani on the Zoning Hearing Board. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated “no”.

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how she would like the time clock to be moved back to the Borough garage. She stated how she did not see the need for it to be at the Borough office and the reasons why they moved it never transpired. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that all of the animosity that goes on between the Council Members trickles down to the Borough workforce. She stated that the office gets caught in the middle, which they do not want to have to deal with. Councilwoman Fox stated how one of the issues that it was moved was, because someone was punching someone else’s card. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they could do that at the Borough office. She stated how she was not there to be their babysitter. Councilwoman Fox stated how they could check the cameras at the Borough office or the Borough garage. President Hawk and Councilman Radocha stated how they did not have a problem with moving the clock back to the Borough garage.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilwoman Fox and Councilwoman Poremba seconded to adjourn the meeting. All voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

RoniSue Ahner
Secretary/Treasurer