

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

Wednesday, September 13, 2017 at 6:00p.m., Borough Office  
114 W. Catawissa Street, Nesquehoning, PA 18240

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

President Hawk called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.  
Councilmen DeMelfi and Sabol were absent.

**PURPOSE:** Committees/Workshop

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

Councilman Jacobs stated how Tippetts Road was completed. He stated that the Borough Crew had done the cross cuts on Rhume Street. Councilman Jacobs stated how they were going to start milling 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. He stated how they were going to do some additional patchwork. He stated how they might also do an overlay on Marconi Avenue and Orchard Lane.

Suzanne Smith and Marytheresa Hunsicker were present to have Mayor Kitchko draw a name for the Echo Dot and the Fire Stick – Julie Hallahan.

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated about the Borough Authority's openings on Angelini Avenue. Councilman Jacobs stated how Michael Radocha was going to do the work, but they would pick up the material under the Borough's account. He stated how he would have to call them to make sure Radocha was going to be allowed to pick up the material for the Borough. Councilman Radocha stated that they should let them bring the material. He stated how he would pay to have them haul it, because it would be easier on him. Councilwoman Poremba asked if the stop signs on Park Avenue were at regulation height, because they looked short. Councilman Jacobs stated how he would have them check the height.

Councilwoman Poremba stated how she received two complains about the triangular piece of property at Industrial Road that needed to be cut. Councilman Jacobs stated how it was Railroad property. President Hawk stated how they could send another letter about cutting the grass.

Councilwoman Fox stated how they had talked about whoever got the bid for Hazard Street; they were going to see about them paving the first block of Rhume Street from Mermon Avenue to School Street. Councilman Jacobs stated how they were going to hold off until next year. He stated how they would do it straight through from Mermon Avenue to Allen Street. Councilwoman Fox stated how sewer was supposed to pay for the first block of paving. Councilman Jacobs stated how they would split the cost next year between sewer and streets.

Councilwoman Fox asked when Hazard Street was going to be bid. Councilman Jacobs stated how the bids were due into the County on September 28<sup>th</sup>. Councilman Radocha asked if they thought that it would be completed that year. Councilman Jacobs stated "no". He stated how most of the contractors were trying to finish their work for the year.

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Wednesday, September 13, 2017 at 6:00p.m., Borough Office

Councilman Jacobs stated about getting the base work done against the curb because something would have to get done before the winter. Councilman Radocha stated how he did not picture the County paying to have the base installed along the curb. He stated that once the bid goes out, it would be considered a change order. Councilman Jacobs stated how the County could pay for the material and the Borough would install the base.

### **2. SEWER MARY FOX, CHAIRWOMAN; FRANK JACOBS, CO- CHAIRMAN; MICHAEL RADOCHA**

Councilwoman Fox stated how they had discussed doing unit #2 next year. Councilman Jacobs stated how Mike Tirpak was going to have the specks drawn up to go out on bid.

Councilman Jacobs stated how the one blower at the Sewer plant was rebuilt, because the bearings were going out on the end. He stated how the second blower was also going to need some work.

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated about the grease trap ordinance. Councilman Jacobs stated about getting a bill out to China Wok.

Councilman Radocha asked if they had any problems with the property owner of 150 E. Columbus Avenue tying his french drain into the storm drain. Councilman Jacobs stated how he did not have a problem with it.

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

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how the furnaces had been cleaned. She stated that she also told him to get a date set to clean and service the air conditioning units.

Councilman Radocha asked if they had gotten New Columbus hooked up with their propane. Councilwoman Porembo stated how she had called him. Councilman Radocha stated how he felt that they should fill the tank once. Councilwoman Porembo stated that if she was looking at it correctly, phase 2 was to have the tank and line installed at a price of \$1,185.00. She stated that they would take care of the maintenance of it. Councilman Jacobs stated how they do not have any stainless steel lines at the Recreation Center or at the Police Station.

Councilman Jacobs stated how they should start looking around for propane prices. Councilman Radocha asked if the Borough owned their own tanks. Councilman Jacobs stated how they do not own any of them. He stated about looking into purchasing their own tanks and calling around when they need to be filled. Councilman Radocha stated how they have to get the sizes of the tanks and see who can give them the best price on purchasing and installing new tanks.

### **4. PUBLIC SAFETY ROSEMARY POREMBO CHAIRMAN; DAVID HAWK CO-CHAIRMAN; MARY FOX**

Councilwoman Porembo stated about setting up a meeting with the Committee and Mr. McArdle in regards to the Burning Ordinance.

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

Wednesday, September 13, 2017 at 6:00p.m., Borough Office

Councilman Radocha asked if they had an Ordinance in regards to structure fires and withholding funds from the insurance company. Councilman Jacobs stated "yes".

Councilwoman Porembo stated about the meeting that was scheduled for September 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. with the Commissioners, Senators and Representatives to discuss the railroad crossing. She stated that after reading everything from Ron Tirpak in regards to what they have under Mountain Avenue, that they want to keep Mountain Avenue. Councilwoman Porembo stated about getting some answers to decide if they wanted the crossing to remain private or to petition to make it public. She stated that if they kept it private, what rights the Borough had concerning the crossing. She stated how it seemed to be dictated only by the Railroad. She stated how they have to get some answers before they say if it was a public or private crossing. Councilwoman Porembo stated how they also had to look into if they wanted to vacate Mountain Avenue.

President Hawk stated that the two options they had were to keep it private and enter into an agreement with the Railroad or petition the PUC to make it public. Councilwoman Porembo stated how the Railroad was giving them their line if they were to leave it private. She stated about getting feedback, because there were rumors that the Railroad could remove the crossing. She stated that she would like to know what gave the Railroad, the right to rip out a private crossing. President Hawk stated how the PUC had made it very clear, that if the crossing remain private, the Railroad had the right to enter into an agreement with the owner of the crossing, which the Railroad had given the Borough their terms. He stated that the purpose of the meeting was to see and asked the Commissioners, the State and Federal Representatives if there was any way they could get involved to help them enter into an agreement with the Railroad, which was not going to be so costly to the Borough. Councilwoman Porembo stated about needing some pull/push because it felt like they were being dictated to. She stated how she would like to know what rights the borough had, because they have an Industrial Park on the other side of the crossing. Councilwoman Porembo stated about being forced to go public or if there were things that they could work out for the economy of Nesquehoning.

President Hawk stated how they were going to ask for help in negotiating an agreement if it were to remain private, especially from the County. Councilwoman Fox asked if the Commissioners had any say over the Railroad. President Hawk stated that according to the Commissioners, "no". Councilwoman Porembo stated how that was hard to believe. President Hawk stated how they were going to see if the County could exercise any influence, with state or federal help over the railroad, to allow them to come to a more applicable agreement. He stated how the crossing had been there for many years. Councilwoman Fox stated how they have to deal with the other two crossings. President Hawk stated that Solicitor Yurchak had recommended to petition to the PUC to make the crossings at Tippets Road and Tonolli Road public.

Councilman Jacobs stated about needing two crossings. He stated about acquiring land and run the road the way it used to go. Councilman Jacobs stated how there was no weight limit on the Tonolli Road bridge like there was on the Tippets Road bridge. He stated how he was looking at options. Councilwoman Porembo stated how she did not want to sign any contracts until they had asked questions. Councilman Jacobs stated how they have heard over the years how the Railroad had the power. He stated how they might have to get a high-priced lawyer, who knows about railroads.

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

Wednesday, September 13, 2017 at 6:00p.m., Borough Office

Councilman Jacobs stated that when the County signed the lease agreement years ago, there was not as much rail traffic as there was now. Councilman Radocha stated how the Borough got sold out by the County Commissioners.

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

Councilwoman Porembo stated about the recycling. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how she had received an email quote from Cogle for \$1,000 a month. She stated how they were paying Solomon \$410 a month. She stated how Solomon was going to be pulling their bins out by the end of the month. Councilman Jacobs stated how they should let the people know that there would not be any recycling by the end of September. Mayor Kitchko stated that if they do continue with the recycling, they would have to enforce . . . He stated how they would have to post signs or not allow people from out of the area to drop off recycling. Councilman Jacobs stated how they would have to gate off the bins and only allow people to drop off Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Councilman Radocha stated that if they do away with it, they would have a dump there for a month.

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how she had received a call from the gentleman from DP Fencing, because they were ready to install the fence. She stated that she did not sign or return the contract because there was a conflict with who owns the property. She stated how she had told him to hold off until further notice. Councilman Jacobs stated how he could not see them paying \$12,000 a year for recycling. Councilwoman Porembo stated how they will have to see what the repercussions would be once recycling ended. She stated about the tonnage for garbage increasing.

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

Councilwoman Fox stated how the Recreation Commission meeting would be held the first Monday in October. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner asked if they were going to hold trick or treat night on October 31<sup>st</sup>. Mayor Kitchko stated how the 31<sup>st</sup> was a Tuesday and there would not be a problem. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how it would be held from 6 – 8 p.m. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they should be holding a Halloween party at the Recreation Center. President Hawk stated how he did not have the date of the party. He stated how he was not sure if it was on the calendar that they handed out at the beginning of the year. Councilwoman Fox stated how they still had openings on the Recreation Commission.

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

Councilman Jacobs stated how they were going to wait until late September or early October to hold a budget meeting.

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

Wednesday, September 13, 2017 at 6:00p.m., Borough Office

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated about the managed service agreement for the computers with S & O Computers. Councilwoman Porembo stated how John Shemansik was very good with the computers. President Hawk stated how they had signed the agreement with the Water Authority. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they would no longer have off site backups once their current agreement ran out at the end of the year unless they signed up with the new service agreement. She stated how the Borough would be good for the agreement for 9 hours a day/5 days a week; whereas, the police would be better with the 24 hour a day/7 day a week agreement. Councilman Jacobs stated how they should not pay someone else a cheaper rate that would not be able to fix their problems. He stated how they have had that problem in the past. Councilman Jacobs asked about the Sewer plant. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they do not currently have anything at the sewer plant. She stated how he did not really have information stored on his system that would need anything more than a thumb drive to save to.

Councilwoman Fox asked what it would include. President Hawk stated how it would cover performance monitoring, application maintenance, preventative maintenance, managed anti-virus and onsite support. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner read part of the email that Mr. Shemansik sent with the copies of the managed service agreements: “Here s a copy of our 2 Manages Service agreements. One is familiar to you which is the 24 hour 7 day a week agreement. The other is an agreement that covers labor between 8 am – 5 pm. You will notice that the 8 am – 5 pm is substantially cheaper, but please make sure everyone is aware that even though we monitor you 24/7 on both agreements, any issues sent to us after hours will not be addressed until 8 am the next business day, unless otherwise directed. Any labor outside of normal business hours on that agreement is also billable time above and beyond your agreement. I really don’t see an issue with that in your office as 99% of our work is done during the day with you anyway, other than if you want us to do maintenance outside of business hours. We do have automated maintenance that will run outside normal hours that is not billable, however if that maintenance fails it will not be addressed until the next day per your agreement. Also don’t forget that the amounts in this agreement will be discounted by 25% for your government discount.”

Councilman Radocha asked how much it had increased from last year. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they do not have such an agreement. She stated how they have an offsite back up for the office and the police stations. She stated how the office was around \$150.00 per quarter and the police were \$300+ per quarter. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that the agreement they have was for \$50 per hour for service. Councilman Jacobs asked what they were looking at for the police station. President Hawk stated how it was around \$9,000 per year for all of it, police station and office. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how the office could be split between the General, Sewer and Sanitation. President Hawk stated about looking into getting a three year contract, so they would not have to worry about a price increase.

Councilwoman Porembo asked about the donation to the Dimmick Memorial Library. President Hawk stated how they had increase it for 2017 and given them \$1,000.00 instead of \$500.00. He stated how they could discuss it when they were reviewing their budgets for 2018 to see about increasing it further.

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Wednesday, September 13, 2017 at 6:00p.m., Borough Office

Councilwoman Porembo stated how she had forgotten something under the streets. She stated how she was going to give Ken Mark's number, who was in charge of transportation for Panther Valley. She stated how they have a sign that they purchased that needed to be installed on Route 209 at the base of Route 93. Councilwoman Porembo stated about Mr. Staehle calling Mr. Mark to find out the placement of the sign. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner asked if he had received an approval through PennDOT. Councilwoman Porembo stated how she did not know. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they were not allowed to install a sign on a state highway without the approval of PennDOT.

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

Councilwoman Fox stated how they were out with the street lights. She stated how they have them pretty much completed. She stated how they have a few that needed to be removed or moved. Councilwoman Fox asked if they should give the list to Council in order for them to review the lights that they want removed or moved. She stated how they did not do anything on Catawissa Street. Councilman Jacobs stated about keeping the lower lumens on those lights. Councilwoman Fox asked if they wanted to eliminate some of them on Catawissa Street. Councilman Jacobs stated that if they were going to eliminate some, then they could go with higher lumens. President Hawk stated that if they were going to keep them all, they could go with the lower lumens. Councilman Jacobs stated how they were looking to lower their street lighting electric bill. Councilwoman Porembo asked if PPL had given them any direction. President Hawk stated "no". Councilwoman Fox stated how there were not 5 – 6 lights in a block in other towns. She stated how people in town were used to all of the street lights. President Hawk stated how it was going to be a big enough change with changing to the LED lights. He stated about getting the list of lights to the Council Members.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Borough Council Members entered into an Executive Session at 7:05 p.m. for personnel reasons. The Council Members exited their Executive Session at 7:25 p.m.

**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