

AGENDA FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF NESQUEHONING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Wednesday, September 9, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., Borough Office
114 W. Catawissa Street, Nesquehoning, PA 18240

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

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

President Hawk stated how they would be holding an executive session at the end of the meeting.

PURPOSE: Workshop/Committee

1. STREETS **MICHAEL RADOCHA, CHAIRMAN; LOUIS PAUL, CO-CHAIRMAN; GEORGE SABOL**

Councilman Jacobs stated how he had received confirmation that they would be receiving the CDBG funding for the first block of E. Diaz Avenue next year. He stated how some inlets on the north side might have to be raised. Councilman Jacobs stated about checking with Mike Tirpak as to what all would be bid out. Councilman Paul asked how much they were getting. Councilman Jacobs stated how he was not sure, but thought it was around \$68,000.00. He stated how it was going to cost the Borough something from the paving, plus they had to get some pitch on it, because it was too flat.

Councilman Paul asked Council if they wanted to get involved with the shared services with Lansford, Summit Hill and Coaldale and with the School District. He stated how the school parking lot came out pretty nice. Councilman Paul stated how they were doing a lot of overlaying in their problem areas. He stated how they were renting trucks, but using their own manpower. Councilman Paul stated that from his understanding, the school bought the paver. He stated that he felt how the Borough could save some money by using the manpower to pave some of the streets. Councilman Jacobs stated how he had brought it up approximately 10 years ago, but he got shot down. He stated that with what it was costing the Borough, he agreed with him.

Councilman Paul stated that in the beginning, he told them that their priority was with the bridges in town, because of liquid fuels. He stated how he told people that they had things to do and how they were low on manpower. Councilman Paul stated how it could be a good thing to send a guy over when they were doing a project, especially if they did not have anything going on. He stated that in town, they might send three workers to the Borough. Councilwoman Fox asked how they were scheduling. Councilman Paul stated how he did not know because he did not talk to anybody about it. Councilman Jacobs stated how it was manpower for manpower. Councilwoman Fox stated how someone had to be in charge of scheduling. Councilman Paul stated how they were saving money because they did not have to go through engineers. Councilwoman Porembo stated how the school did pay \$30,000.00 for engineering, but they did not follow any of it. She stated how they had just received another \$12,000.00 engineering bill, which they were not going with their recommendations. Councilwoman Porembo stated how they would not contact the engineer right from the start. She stated that she would also agree because the paver was paid for by Nesquehoning tax payers as well, so they should tap into the paver to get the work done in the Borough.

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Councilman Paul stated that he had talked to President Hawk on how he did not want to be on the Street Committee anymore. He stated how it was really stressful when he worked there and he was getting back into it. Councilman Paul stated how he did not like what was going on to begin with, so he would like to take a break from the Streets Committee. He stated how he would be glad to help anybody out.

Councilwoman Fox stated how years ago, they used to go around town and make a list of the streets that needed work. She stated that since they know what kind of money they were going to have for streets, they could come up with a 3 – 4 year plan as to what needed to be done.

Councilwoman Fox stated how it might be worth looking into it especially if they could do it cheaper than contracting it out. She stated that she did not even know if the road by the VFW was ever completed. Councilman Jacobs stated how it was patched. Councilman Paul stated how they did not have the manpower and that was why he thought about the shared services. He stated how he did not like the pick and choose attitude that they had with their employees. Councilman Paul stated how they were not hot patching, sealing, line painting, etc. He stated how he had laid out a schedule for everybody and it just seemed like it went in the garbage. Councilman Paul stated how they were just spinning their wheels.

Councilwoman Poremba asked how the agreements were set up with the three towns and was there a contract for the services. Councilman Jacobs stated how he never got to meet with them on how it all worked. Councilman Paul stated how Councilman Radocha was in contact with the three towns, because he did work for all three of them. Councilwoman Fox stated about Councilman Radocha looking into the shared services with the other towns and with the school district. Councilman Sabol stated how he agreed that they get involved with the shared services. President Hawk stated how Secretary/Treasurer Ahner could check to see if there was a written agreement between the towns.

Mayor Kitchko stated about the overgrown brush on Angelini Avenue. Councilman Sabol asked who would be responsible for clearing that brush. President Hawk stated how it was the property owner's responsibility. He stated how they have made other property owners do it in the past and if they did not do it, the Borough would and then charge the property owner. Councilwoman Fox stated how they should send him a letter. Councilman Paul stated how he would not send him a letter, because a letter would sound nasty. He stated how he would talk to the property owner. President Hawk stated how there were trees overhanging the road on Diaz Avenue as well. He stated how he did talk to them and they were going to take care of it before winter. Councilman Jacobs stated about the Estates and how there were some trees overhanging the roads up there also.

Councilman Sabol stated how he was all for getting a list of streets as long as it did not include engineers. Councilwoman Fox stated how it was not with engineers, just the Street Committee compiling a list. Councilman Paul stated how they should overlay a lot of the streets. He stated how he would like to tar and chip some of the streets. Councilman Paul stated how he had a price to tar and chip all of the roads in the Estates, but the engineer did not like the idea.

2. SEWER

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

Councilwoman Fox stated how they still did not hear back from the Sika representative yet.

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Councilwoman Fox stated how they were out fixing the water/sewer road cuts.

3. BUILDINGS

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

No report.

4. PUBLIC SAFETY

ROSEMARY POREMBO, CHAIRWOMAN; LOUIS PAUL CO-CHAIRMAN; DAVID HAWK

Councilwoman Porembo stated how Heritage had three AFA violations and the amount due was \$300.00 in fines.

Councilwoman Porembo stated about the police looking for the Borough to submit a grant application for the LSA grant. She stated that the Chief was requesting funding within the grant: new police car, 32 split screen pole camera, residential ring camera systems, 1 LPR (license plate reader), six body cameras with offsite storage for five years, two additional visual alert systems and dark fiber lines for wifi for the cameras.

Councilwoman Porembo stated how Chief Smith was explaining to them at their Committee meeting that there was a fee from the camera system he received through the last grant in order for him to view the cameras. She stated how he was working with Blue Ridge (Pencor) and Mr. McArdle to come up with some kind of price; maybe a one-time price rather than a yearly price. Councilwoman Porembo stated how they were still waiting for him to get back to the committee with a price. Councilman Jacobs asked if there was going to be a fee from PPL to have the cameras on the poles. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they did not do anything through PPL. She stated how they were dealing with Blue Ridge, because they had to have a separate modem for each camera. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how it was a phenomenal fee per month for the modems. Councilman Sabol asked what that fee was. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how it was approximately \$100.00 per month per camera. Councilman Sabol asked how many cameras they were talking about. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated "25 cameras". Councilman Paul stated how Blue Ridge was a thief. Councilman Sabol stated how it was disgusting. Mayor Kitchko stated how that was why they were looking into the fiber lines.

Councilwoman Porembo asked if there was anything said about Halloween. She stated how trunk-or-treat was out; they had discussed a parade, but did not know about trick-or-treat. Mayor Kitchko stated how it was a no for the parade, but they still did not know what they were going to do with trick-or-treat. He stated how other towns have canceled, so it might be prudent that they cancel also, which they can vote on it at their next meeting.

Councilwoman Porembo stated how she had a call into the Jim Thorpe Borough manager to discuss blight with her. She stated how she was still going to make contact with Barry Isett.

Mayor Kitchko asked if they received any crossing guard applications. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated "no". Mayor Kitchko stated how he had received one call, but they wanted to pick where they would work.

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President Hawk asked if Mr. McArdle went ahead with the radio purchase after he received the quote. He stated how Council only authorized the purchase up to \$5,000.00 and his quote came back at \$6,500.00. Councilwoman Porembo stated how she did not get back to Mr. McArdle, because she did not know how Council felt. President Hawk stated how they could amend their vote at the next Regular meeting. He stated that since it was 30% higher than what they approved, he was not going to authorize the purchase. Councilman Jacobs asked if the Budget Committee had allotted the Fire Companies extra money in 2020 for those kind of purchases. Councilwoman Porembo stated how they had talked to the Fire Chiefs at the Committee meeting and discussed pooling the extra funds to purchase one radio but nobody jumped on it.

Councilman Jacobs stated how it should have been brought up at a workshop meeting to discuss before it was brought up for a vote at the Regular meeting. He stated how it was a surprise at their regular meeting. Councilwoman Fox stated how he expected them to vote on it that night. Councilwoman Porembo stated how he had originally told them that it was around \$4,000.00. Councilman Paul stated how it started at \$3,000.00. Councilwoman Porembo stated how it went from \$3,000.00 to \$4,000.00 so that was why they cut it off at \$5,000.00. Councilman Jacobs stated how it was better to discuss it, like they were doing there. He stated that in two weeks, it jumped to \$6,500.00. Councilman Paul stated how he has seen what other Fire Companies were doing to raise money and the Borough's Fire Companies just milk the tax payers. He stated how he was not against the Fire Companies.

President Hawk asked if they had any type of ordinance in place in regards to junk vehicles on private property. Councilwoman Fox stated how she thought that they did. President Hawk stated how he thought that they did also, but did not know if they had enforced anything. He stated about the junk vehicles that sit on the side of Route 54 in the village. President Hawk stated how it looked terrible coming into town. Mayor Kitchko stated how he thought that the property belonged to Kovatch. President Hawk stated how he did not know who actually owned it, but all the people park there. He stated how some of the vehicles were in pretty rough shape and it was an eyesore. President Hawk stated that he did not know if they could do anything. Mayor Kitchko stated how he would have the Chief talk to Kovatch to get the approval to go onto the property to get the process started.

5. SANITATION LOUIS PAUL, CHAIRMAN; ROSEMARY POREMBO, CO-CHAIRWOMAN, MARY FOX

Councilman Jacobs stated about how the garbage was usually laying all over the place at 600 E. Catawissa Street (Ferrence's property). He stated how they should have it contained so it was not visible or easily accessed by animals. Councilman Jacobs stated about the property at E. Railroad/ Allen Street. Councilman Paul stated how any apartment buildings should have a designated/ secure area for the garbage. Councilwoman Porembo stated about the garbage at the Dollar General. Councilwoman Fox stated how it looked like a dump behind that building. Councilman Paul stated about sending them all letters concerning securing their garbage.

6. RECREATION GEORGE SABOL III, CHAIRMAN; LOUIS PAUL, CO- CHAIRMAN; MARY FOX

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Councilman Sabol stated how he has not had the time or energy to do any homework on the Johnson Park grant. He stated that if it were to include all of the black top area, which he thought it did, he would request that they bite the bullet and get it done. Councilman Sabol stated that as it would stand now, that kind of money for seven parking spots was ridiculous. He stated how they could table it until next year and research the engineering cost. Councilwoman Fox asked Secretary/Treasurer Ahner if Mr. Wilusz had gotten in touch with her. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that she had talked to him about Council rejecting all the bids. Councilman Jacobs asked about having a meeting with Mr. Wilusz at the park one evening.

Councilman Paul stated how he had called everybody and gave them his opinion on an idea of what they should do. Councilwoman Fox stated that they have to figure out how to amend the grant. Councilwoman Porembo stated how she had asked Secretary/Treasurer Ahner where they had gotten derailed and she reminded her about an email that was sent out back in 2018. She stated how she went back and found/read that email. Councilwoman Porembo stated how she was thankful for the call from Councilman Paul on how he was looking at it. She stated how they were told by the Solicitor on how they might be able to amend and rebid the project. Councilwoman Porembo stated that the narrative they had from 2018, mapped everything out with prices and work that was to be done at Johnson Park. She stated how the request was for \$184,469.00, with everything listed. Councilwoman Porembo stated how they had forgotten all of it and she would admit that she did also. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how it was all discussed at the August 2018 meeting, but the email was sent in May of 2019, which was when they had submitted the application for the second time.

Councilwoman Porembo stated how the Sports Complex Fund budget was -\$16,000.00 and they were also taking funding from the 2021 budget, which would have completed that project for the first phase. She stated how they had talked about a second and a third phase, which the Borough would have applied for additional grants (which was unknown). Councilwoman Porembo stated about going back to remember how they were doing it. She stated how there were unknowns to go after a second grant. Councilwoman Porembo stated how everything was designed and about the extra engineering fees in regards to removing the side walls, which was \$1,800.00. She stated how they voted down the \$1,800.00 added cost and to let the side walls remain.

Councilwoman Porembo stated how they did start with the project in 2018. She stated how it was on the table and they had talked about it. Councilwoman Porembo stated that if they would go back in their notes, they would see how it was all mapped out. She stated how she was wrong when she made the remark that she did not know how they got there. President Hawk asked that if they wanted to move forward from that point, how do they get the state to change it. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how the Borough could file for a change of scope on the project. She stated how it was almost like resubmitting the grant application; project narrative, engineer's cost estimate, budget, time line, etc. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they submit a letter explaining what the funds were to be used for and how the Borough wanted to change the scope of the project to the new project within the same area. She stated how she had briefly talked to Mr. Wilusz about Councilman Paul's idea; basketball court & chain link fence.

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how she had talked to Mr. Wilusz about scratching the parking idea all together and just going with a basketball area; handicap ramp and basketball courts. She stated how the basketball court would go the full area of the current black top area.

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Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated about a bike rack and 8' of walkway on High Street. (4' sidewalk & 4' of sitting/standing area). Councilman Sabol asked about engineering fees. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they would need an updated engineers cost estimate for the change of scope, which would be out of pocket for the Borough. She stated how they could re-apply for the LSA grant for the park and use that information towards the change of scope for the present grant. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that if they were approved for the LSA, they might not be out of pocket as much as before. She stated how they have 2 years, but would also be able to apply for a time extension.

Councilman Paul stated how he wanted to fill in the top of the park at a slight grade, like the New Columbus Park and use the grant money to fix the wall in the front. He stated how it would not cost \$133,000.00 so the rest would cover the engineering fees. Councilman Paul stated how they could get a contractor to fill in the back at any time. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that when they use state funds, they have to pay prevailing wages, need bid and performance bonds, which all have to be shown when submitting the paperwork. She stated how engineering fees will only be reimbursed up to a certain percentage of the total project, so if the Borough's engineering fees exceed that limit, the Borough will be out of pocket for the overages. Councilman Paul stated about using the grant for the front of the park (done and over with). He stated how they then hire a contractor to haul dirt in and level off the back of the park. Councilman Paul stated how it would have a nice pitch, matched with the neighboring properties. He stated how they have the dirt up at the Borough garage. Councilwoman Porembo asked if they would have to get with the grant writer/engineer to get the cost estimate to make sure that it would a line with the current grant. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how that would be the engineers cost estimate. President Hawk stated about setting up a meeting with the engineer to discuss their option for Johnson Park.

Councilwoman Fox asked Councilman Sabol if he had talked to Pam Zlock about contributing funds to the project in the New Columbus Park. Councilman Sabol stated that when he had talked to her about the project and said how it was going to cost \$2,800.00; she told him that they would give half, but he has not heard anything since. Councilman Sabol stated how he had also asked her again about the labor cost. Councilman Paul stated how the material cost for the kitchen was \$6,817.00.

7. BUDGET/ FINANCE

**FRANK JACOBS, CHAIRMAN; ROSEMARY POREMBO, CO-
CHAIRWOMAN; DAVID HAWK**

Councilwoman Porembo gave an income/revenue presentation pertaining to the General Fund, which included millage, taxes, and other sources. She explained to all of the Council Members where and how the Borough received the revenues for the General Fund, Fire Truck Fund and Sports Complex Fund.

8. PERSONNEL/ SAFETY

**ROSEMARY POREMBO, CHAIRWOMAN; MARY FOX, CO-
CHAIRWOMAN; FRANK JACOBS**

Councilwoman Porembo stated how the Committee met with Joe Pilla – ETA Benefits concerning their health care benefits. She stated that their policy renews on December 1, 2020 and they were looking at a 6% increase in the health insurance with their current plan – Platinum 2. Councilwoman Porembo stated how they were still working on the health care.

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Councilwoman Porembo asked about the Flu Clinic. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that she had asked her for more information, but the second email she had sent did not give her any additional information. She stated how she would get back in touch with her to find out what kind of dates and times she was looking at.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Borough Council Members entered into an Executive Session at 8:18 p.m. The Council Members exited their Executive Session at 9:05 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilwoman Fox moved and Councilwoman Porembo seconded to adjourn the meeting. All voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

RoniSue Ahner
Secretary/Treasurer