

# MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF NESQUEHONING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Wednesday, March 9, 2022 at 6:00 p.m., Borough Office  
114 W. Catawissa Street, Nesquehoning, PA 18240

**ROLL CALL:** COUNCILMEN JACOBS, NALESNIK, PAUL; COUNCILWOMAN FOX; PRESIDENT HAWK & MAYOR KATTNER

President Hawk called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.  
Councilwoman Poremba and Councilman Radocha were absent.

**PURPOSE:** Workshop/Committee Meeting

**1. STREETS** MICHAEL RADOCHA, CHAIRMAN; LOUIS PAUL, CO-CHAIRMAN;  
FRANK JACOBS

Councilman Jacobs asked about sweeping the streets. He stated how they rented the sweeper from the COG last year. Councilwoman Fox stated that the company who swept the streets a few years ago did a really good job. Councilman Jacobs stated how that had cost them \$8,000.00. He stated how Mr. Degiglio did a good job last year with the sweeper they rented from the COG. Councilman Jacobs stated how he thought that the COG was going to selling the sweeper because of all of the problems. Councilman Nalesnik stated how there was so much mechanical that could go wrong with a street sweeper. President Hawk stated how the CoGen uses Stanley Sweeping to sweep their streets. Mayor Kattner stated how he could make some phone calls to get some quotes. Councilman Paul stated about the Borough crew's quarterly schedule; street sweeping, patching pot holes, hot patching and cleaning/repairing inlets. He asked when they wanted to sweep the streets. Councilman Jacobs stated about the first week or two in May.

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated about the Street Committee meeting with the engineer again in regards to the Railroad on Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. President Hawk stated how Matt Johnson, Railroad, was talking about installing pipe under the road. Councilman Jacobs stated how they already purchased the pipe to go under the railroad. He stated how they were not able to discharge water onto someone else's property. Councilman Paul stated how they would have to get more pipe. President Hawk stated that if they would install the pipe under the road, the Railroad would buy the pipe. Councilman Jacobs asked who was going to be liable for the pipe. Councilman Paul stated about placing it on an angle, but they were going to have water dumping into the triangle.

Councilman Paul stated that the price to fix the 2011 F550 was \$17,595.00; motor plus labor with a 2 year warranty. President Hawk asked if that was the truck that they tore the front end out of last year. Councilman Paul stated "yes". Councilman Jacobs stated how that cost them \$2,500.00 last year. Councilman Paul stated how the rear springs were weak, the lights were screwed up, and the universal joints were shot in the back. Councilman Jacobs stated how there was a short in the harness running down from the dash, which would cost \$2,000.00. Councilman Paul stated how they were not going to get another truck unless they could find something used for \$5,000.00. He stated how they were able to use the other trucks for what they needed to do. Councilman Paul stated that if they would hire a contractor for larger projects, the Borough crew would help the contractor with the project. He stated about the Borough crew painting the handicap line and the end zones when they were not cutting grass. Mayor Kattner stated about Keith Gogal. Councilman Paul stated how Mr. Gogal would be a third man to help them over the Summer. President Hawk stated how he agreed with contracting out for larger projects.

Councilman Paul stated about selling the Borough garage and moving them either closer to town or into town. He stated about building a pole building down by the Sewer plant. Councilman Paul stated how they had over \$30,000.00 worth of damages to the Borough vehicles and equipment.

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Councilwoman Fox stated about getting quotes to show the teamsters what it would cost the Borough for the work. Councilman Nalesnik stated that because of the teamster's contract, they would have to offer it to the Borough workers/teamster's representative telling them what it would cost the Borough for the work to see if they would be able to match the cost. He stated that if they say how they were not able to do it for that cost, then the Borough would have some power. Councilwoman Fox stated how they have to move forward with getting prices. Councilman Paul stated how there was no way that they could do any larger projects with only two men. He stated how they would need to wait to see how it all works out.

Councilman Paul stated how they were waiting on numbers from the engineer concerning the streets that they had looked at working on. He stated about the crossing on Industrial Road and the meeting with the Railroad. Mayor Kattner stated that Matt Johnson had given him a call and they were talking about the crossing on Industrial Road. He stated that Mr. Johnson had told him that he was willing to spend \$50,000.00 towards the work at the crossing and that he was also willing to purchase the extra pipe that was needed.

Councilwoman Fox stated that she was questioned about the material (fill) that was dumped on W. Rhume Street. Councilman Jacobs stated how the Borough did not own that section of street. He stated how the Borough only owns up to Cherry Street. Councilman Jacobs stated that the gentleman that was working in the garage had gotten that material to fill in the potholes in that area.

### **2. SEWER**

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

Councilwoman Fox stated how she had talked to Rose Chapello, Carbon Engineering, about the final inspection of Unit #2, which had not been done yet. She stated that Ms. Chapello told her that the inspection was going to cost the Borough \$500.00, which the Borough was going to have to pay, because they needed it inspected.

Councilwoman Fox stated how she had also talked to Ms. Chapello about the sewer line off of Industrial Road project, because they had originally drafted up the plans. She stated how there were some issues with the easements and the plans had to be redone. Councilwoman Fox stated how Carbon Engineering had to re-survey the property and then re-draft up the plans. She stated that in her opinion, they should just go with Arro Engineering, because everything had to be done again anyway.

Councilwoman Fox stated that the final thing that she talked to Ms. Chapello about were the Borough's CAD files and about Carbon Engineering sending them to Arro Engineering. She stated that Ms. Chapello told her that they were not able to send the CAD files, because they were able to be adjusted, but she could send them in a pdf format. Councilwoman Fox stated that when she talked to Dave Schlott, Arro Engineering, he told her that the CAD files could be sent (downloaded to a flash drive or a drop box), but when they go from one engineer to another, they just have to take their title off of it. She stated how they would have to sign a waiver stating that Carbon Engineering was not responsible for any changes. Councilman Nalesnik stated how it would come down to who the CAD files belonged to. Councilwoman Fox stated that according to Mr. Schlott, the CAD files were the property of the Borough of Nesquehoning. She stated how they have to get all of that straightened out.

Councilman Jacobs stated about taking the engineer up to Industrial Road on Tuesday. Councilwoman Fox stated according to Ms. Chapello, the manhole on Industrial Road would have to be moved. Councilman Jacobs stated how there was enough pitch running east that they should not have to move that manhole.

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Councilwoman Fox stated that if they have to start from scratch again, why should they stay with Carbon Engineering and not just start over with Arro Engineering. Councilman Jacobs stated about having someone there when they were surveying the property again so they would know where the line was going to run. Councilwoman Fox stated that they should have marked where the line was the first time they surveyed it. Councilman Nalesnik stated about starting over with Arro Engineering. He stated about the cost they had already incurred from Carbon Engineering for that project.

Councilman Jacobs asked what was up with the Reaman's property. Councilwoman Fox stated that she had told Kathy Reaman to get in touch with Carbon Engineering, because she did not know how far they were going to run the line past the Smith's property. She stated that Councilman Jacobs had made mention that they should run the main sewer line from 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue for those lots. Councilman Jacobs stated how there was a line running from 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, because one of the property owners on Stock Street had run their line down to the main line. Councilman Paul stated that if Kovatch would develop those properties, they should have to do the same thing. Councilman Jacobs stated about them also paying the \$2,000.00 EDU fee for each property to hook into the sewer system. He asked how many properties there were between the Smith's property and the Symmetry property. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how there was only one lot between them, which belonged to Kovatch Enterprise, Kathy & Rick Reaman. She stated that Hauto Valley Estates owns several properties (lots) east of the Smith's property.

Councilwoman Fox stated how she had talked to Mr. Schlott about the cost of copying the sewer maps, either in black or white or in color. She stated that he was not able to give her a price until he saw the maps.

Councilwoman Fox stated how she had also talked to Mr. Schlott about grants for sewer project; the maps, infiltration, main sewer line on Locust Street, generators, etc.

Councilwoman Fox stated about getting started with W. Columbus Avenue; Angelini Avenue to Genoa Avenue. Councilman Jacobs stated how they could start with that in April and that it should only take them a week to do it. Councilwoman Fox stated how they needed to get quotes for equipment with an operator.

Councilman Nalesnik stated about the sewer rate that Rush Township pays to the Borough. He stated that he wanted to know how many active EDUs they had at the lake, because it looked like the Borough was only receiving \$10.00 per month for each EDU in Rush Township; whereas, the Borough residents were paying \$30.00 per month. Councilwoman Fox stated how that was something that she had talked to the engineers about and they were going to see if they had a copy of the agreement with Rush Township. Councilman Jacobs stated how their fee was based on the flows; there were flow meters coming from Rush Township. Councilman Nalesnik stated how the Borough residents did not have flow meters. He stated how Rush Township should have to pay a set fee like the Borough residents. Councilman Jacobs stated how he has had that argument for the past several years with Carbon Engineering. Councilman Nalesnik stated that the Borough should change the rate so it would equal what a Nesquehoning resident was paying. Councilwoman Fox stated that she did not know what the sewer rates were for Rush Township. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that they had to remember that the Nesquehoning residents' rates were also for the maintenance of the main sewer lines within the Borough. She stated that the Borough did not maintain any of the sewer lines in Rush Township. Councilman Nalesnik stated how the amount was really low and that they were a second tier customer. He stated how he had no problem charging Rush Township a surcharge either equal to or slightly above what the Nesquehoning residents had to pay. Councilman Nalesnik stated how they were shorting the Borough of Nesquehoning thousands of dollars a year and that it was not fair to the tax payers.

Councilwoman Fox stated about properties that were not hooked up to the sewer system and making them hook up when a property would sell.

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### **3. BUILDINGS**

**BRUCE NALESNIK, CHAIRMAN; MICHAEL RADOCHA, CO-CHAIRMAN;  
FRANK JACOBS**

Councilman Nalesnik stated how the Borough has six police vehicles and they only have one police officer. He stated how he checked the vehicles and checked with Officer Breiner; the old Ford Crown Vic was leaking antifreeze. Councilman Nalesnik stated how they did not want to spend and more money on that vehicle. He stated that he was requesting that the Borough sell that vehicle immediately, but it would need to be stripped out first. Councilman Nalesnik stated that according to Officer Breiner, they wanted to keep the Ford SUV, the Dodge SUV, the Dodge Sudan and the Ford Crown Vic (2015). He stated about using the other Ford Crown Vic (2014) as the code enforcement vehicle/Borough use vehicle, but that vehicle would also need to be stripped down, except for any non-police lighting, because they could use it for traffic control.

Councilman Jacobs asked if they wanted to spend \$500.00 to strip the vehicle if there was a chance that they would only get \$300.00 if they would sell it. Councilman Nalesnik stated that he would feel better if they had someone who was authorized to remove the equipment, because of the liability to the Borough. President Hawk asked if they were going to sell it or scrap it. Councilwoman Fox stated that she agreed with Councilman Jacobs about spending \$500.00 to get \$300.00. Councilman Jacobs stated how Kovatch might make a deal if they do both vehicles. He stated how he would check with Barry in the morning.

Councilman Nalesnik stated how he like that Councilman Paul had touched on the idea of moving the Borough garage into town. Councilman Jacobs asked if they wanted to get someone in to appraise the Borough garage. Councilman Nalesnik stated how he would make arrangements to get it done.

Councilman Nalesnik asked if there was something they could do with the field in the Estates that they have money tied into. Councilwoman Fox stated how she has always wanted to do something with that field. Councilman Nalesnik asked what was going on with it. He stated how they have a field that nobody uses and they have money in an account, which seems to be bound to that field. Councilwoman Fox stated how there was no money in an account for that field. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how the account was called the Sports Complex Fund, but the account was for Recreation. President Hawk stated how that was used for Recreation. Councilman Nalesnik stated how they tapped into that fund and gave Dimmick Memorial Library \$2,500.00, which he was stunned with that.

Councilman Nalesnik asked if they were bound to hold the land. Councilwoman Fox stated how the CoGen purchased the property from Kovatch, but it was mostly wetlands. She stated how they were told by the Army Corp of Engineers that they would need to install drainage before they could do anything. Councilwoman Fox stated how they had dumped a bunch of fill on top, but the water will still rise to the top. She stated how she would have liked to do something with the property like they did in Penn Forest Township. Councilman Paul stated how they were going to make softball fields, but when it did not go anywhere; a lot of it went towards the new fire company. Councilman Jacobs stated how there was only a small section of the field that they were able to use. Councilman Nalesnik stated how there was no more youth soccer club anymore. He stated how nobody was using it and it was so far out of town. Councilman Jacobs stated how they were cutting the grass there, because the helicopter was using it for a landing zone. Councilwoman Fox stated how Sam Kitchko was cutting the grass for the Conservation Club. Councilman Nalesnik stated how it was zoned Industrial, Kovatch Green Acres Industrial Park. He asked if they thought if Kovatch would take it back. President Hawk stated that the only expense they had was cutting the grass and they could just stop cutting it. Councilman Nalesnik stated how it was also not listed on the tax rolls.

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Councilwoman Fox asked about the police station. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how she had to get the quote to the insurance company for the hole (damage) and then he was going to do the entire front of the building.

Councilman Nalesnik asked about the property at 40 W. Mill Street and if they were sent the letter. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how the Railroad had contacted the Water Authority to have the water turned on. She stated that from her understanding, they were going to start cleaning it out and replace the roof. Councilman Nalesnik asked what they were going to do there. Mayor Kattner stated how they were going to use it as a maintenance building. Councilwoman Fox asked if the Railroad paid taxes on their buildings. Councilman Jacobs and Councilman Paul stated how the lady from the Railroad told them that they did pay taxes.

Councilman Nalesnik stated how there were problems brewing with the project at the Fire Company. He stated how the contractor did not have the right grade on the embankment and the cap blocks on the wall were wrong. Councilman Nalesnik stated how the Fire Company did not want to pay money for a job that was not compliant with the plans. Councilwoman Fox asked if the contractor was going by the plans. Councilman Nalesnik stated how they were not going according to the plans; they were not using the right cap blocks and the grade was not correct (it was too steep). Councilwoman Fox asked who the contractor was. Councilman Jacobs "M & J Excavating". Councilman Nalesnik stated about the grant and how they were nearing the deadline. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how she had submitted an extension letter for the Fire Company. Councilman Nalesnik stated how they were going to get in touch with Solicitor Yurchak and to have him write a letter to the contractor letting them know how they were not in compliance with the contract/project. He stated how they should finish the project and then they would go after the bond. Councilman Paul asked what was wrong with the grade. Councilman Nalesnik stated how it was supposed to be a 7 and it was a 2, according to PennDOT regulations. President Hawk asked for what reason. Councilman Jacobs and Councilwoman Fox stated how it might be for soil erosion.

### **4. PUBLIC SAFETY**

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

Councilman Paul stated about bringing the one police vehicle down to the Borough office after it was stripped. He stated about it being used for code work. Councilman Jacobs stated how they were going to keep it at the Borough office. Councilman Paul asked how soon they were going to get it done. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how Councilman Jacobs was going to see if they could get the two vehicles stripped for the price of one. Councilman Paul stated how Ms. Arieta was waiting for the vehicle and a badge. Councilman Nalesnik stated how the machine was down at the Emergency Management building, so they were not able to get a photo identification badge. He stated how everybody from the Borough should get a badge. Councilman Nalesnik stated about getting her a safety vest.

Councilman Paul stated how they had met with a possible full-time police officer, who would be able to start on April 1<sup>st</sup>. He stated that he had spoken to Solicitor Yurchak and President Hawk could hire the person prior to the meeting. Councilman Paul stated how they would need to ratify the actions at their Regular meeting on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. He stated how he would have three weeks to pass a civil service test. Councilman Jacobs stated how he did not see a problem with hiring him and that he would be an asset to the Borough.

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Councilman Paul stated how they were having an issue with a property owner (Landlord) who owns multiple properties; 16 E. Mill Street, 400 W. Catawissa Street, 151 W. Columbus Avenue, 2 E. Catawissa Street. He stated how he was taking junk from his properties and piling it in a trailer on another property; 40 W. Garibaldi Avenue. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how that was not correct. Councilman Paul stated how that was what Ms. Arieta had told him, because she had followed the property owner. He stated how he had talked to Solicitor Yurchak because the gentleman was paying the citations, but he was not cleaning up the properties. Councilman Paul stated that Solicitor Yurchak told him that they should keep citing him. He stated how Gene Kennedy had also contacted the gentleman about the property on E. Mill Street and he told Mr. Kennedy that he was going to evict the tenant.

### **5. SANITATION      LOUIS PAUL, CHAIRMAN; ROSEMARY POREMBO, CO-CHAIRWOMAN, BRUCE NALESNIK**

Councilman Jacobs stated how he had received a phone call from a resident who come into the Borough office to pay his bill and he was a day late. He stated how he was a little confused with the date and thought that they were still in February. Councilman Jacobs stated how Ms. Coniglio would not waive the late fee and told him that he needed to go to Council to get it waived. He stated that if the payment would have been in the drop box before they opened in the morning, it would not have been marked late. Councilman Jacobs stated that they needed to look at a policy allowing a one day grace period. Councilman Nalesnik stated how he did not have a problem with that, but they should not broadcast it. He asked what they did if the last of the month fell on a Saturday. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that everything in the drop box on a Monday morning was considered on time, because they were not able to determine when the payment was put into the box.

Councilman Paul stated how he tried to get in touch with as many people as possible, because they were not able to pick-up the garbage in New Columbus. He stated about thanking Ms. Bamford for letting him know as fast as she did. Councilman Paul stated that he was able to let people know that they were going to be late.

### **6. RECREATION      MARY FOX, CHAIRWOMAN; LOUIS PAUL, CO-CHAIRMAN; DAVID HAWK**

Councilwoman Fox asked where they were with Johnson Park. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how the State LSA grant application had been filed and they were supposed to hear something late in March about their previous application. She stated how the extension letter was also submitted for that project.

Councilwoman Fox stated how the Recreation Commission's meeting was scheduled for Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Recreation Center.

Councilman Paul stated how he would like to get a picnic table in the New Columbus Park, since the weather was getting nicer. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they were going to contact the Conservation Club about picnic tables/park benches. Councilwoman Fox stated how she was going to get prices from Highwood. Councilman Nalesnik stated how it would be nice to have something on the concrete pad. Councilman Paul stated how the Recreation Commission had talked about asking for donations in memory of for benches; whereas, there would be a plaque placed on the bench that was donated. He stated about seeing if Rev Group would be willing to donate their benches to the Borough. Councilwoman Fox stated how she would contact them to see if they would donate them.

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**7. BUDGET/  
FINANCE**

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

No report.

**8. PERSONNEL/  
SAFETY**

**MARY FOX, CHAIRWOMAN; ROSEMARY POREMBO, CO-  
CHAIRWOMAN; BRUCE NALESNIK**

Councilwoman Fox stated how they had received one application for a cleaning person for the Borough office. She stated how they would ratify the actions of hiring her at the next meeting; \$10.00 per hour and no more than 10 hours per week.

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner asked Councilwoman Fox if she had heard anything from the Teamster's representative about the insurance. Councilwoman Fox stated how she had not talked to him she called him on the letter that the Borough was going to send him.

Councilwoman Fox stated about Air B & Bs and how she had talked to Gene Kennedy. She stated how they have to go through zoning in a residential area. Councilman Paul stated how Jim Thorpe had an ordinance against them. Councilwoman Fox stated how she had to get a copy of the one that she has seen to Solicitor Yurchak. Councilman Nalesnik stated how Penn Forest Township has adopted one against them. Councilwoman Fox stated how they had to get something on the books.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Councilman Jacobs moved and President Hawk seconded to adjourn the meeting. All voted yes.  
Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.**

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RoniSue Ahner  
Secretary/Treasurer