

MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING FOR NESQUEHONING BOROUGH COUNCIL
Wednesday, January 24, 2023 at 6:00 p.m., Borough Office
114 W. Catawissa Street, Nesquehoning, PA 18240

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: COUNCILMEN/WOUNCILWOMEN: FOX, KUBA, SMITH, NALESNIK, KATTNER, PRESIDENT HAWK, MAYOR KATTNER & SOLICITOR YURCHAK

MINUTES: Motion to approve minutes from December 20, 2023, Re-Organization on January 2, 2024 and January 10, 2024 Workshop. Councilwomen Kuba made motion to approved, Councilwomen Fox seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed.

LETTER'S OF INTERST FOR 2 YEAR COUNCIL SEAT: President Hawk said that there are three letters of interest for filling the vacancy, that will run for a two year term until the next election of Council. We have William Bamford, Derek Steidle, Lisa Shubeck have submitted letters. Councilwomen Smith made a motion to appoint Lisa Shubeck to the vacancy. Councilmen Kattner seconded the motion. Roll call was done, Councilwomen Fox (No), Councilwomen Smith (yes), Councilwomen Kuba (No), Councilmen Nalesnik, (No), Councilmen Kattner (Yes), President Hawk (Yes). It was a tie, Mayor Kattner broke tie and was a Yes. 4 yes' and 3 no's, the appointment passes.

LETTER'S OF INTEREST IN NESQUEHONING WATER AUTHORITY BOARD SEAT: President Hawk said that there is a vacancy on the Water Authority Board. We had five letters of interest, but one of the letters was withdrawn, that leaves with four. Trajan Koerbler, Shawn Quigley, who has the present term expired at the end of last year, Bob Pilla and Nicholas Degiglo. Motion by Councilwomen Smith to reappoint Shawn Quigley, President Hawk seconded the motion because it needs to be brought up to as a vote. Roll call was done, Councilwomen Fox (No), Councilwomen Smith (Abstain), Councilwomen Kuba (No), Councilmen Nalesnik (No), Councilmen Kattner (Abstain), President Hawk (Abstain), so that the vote fails. Motion was made by Councilwomen Fox to appoint Bob Pilla to the Water Authority Board, Councilwomen Kuba seconded the motion. Roll call was done, Councilwomen Fox (Yes), Councilwomen Smith (Abstain), Councilwomen Kuba, (Yes), Councilmen Nalesnik, (Yes), Councilmen Kattner, (Abstain), President Hawk, (Abstain). For anyone wondering, myself and Mr. Kattner are abstaining because we are members of the water authority board and Councilwomen Smith is an employee of the Water Authority. The motion passed. Bob Pilla was appointed to the Water Authority Board.

HEARING OF VISITORS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: We will have executive session at the end of the meeting.

PLANNING COMMISSION & ZONING HEARING REPORT: None

ENGINEER'S REPORT: None

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Motion to adopt the Tax Ordinance, it was duly advertised, it sets the tax rates for this year. Motion by Councilwomen Fox and seconded by Councilwomen Kuba to adopt the Tax

Ordinance. All in favor of motion, motion passed. Solicitor Yurchak also said that got notice of some Repository Bids. Would like council to approve them which includes, High Street Properties that were just torn down. Two of them were previously owned by Richard Emmert and the other three were previously owned by Jason Gomber, there were bids put in by Thomas Kuba, so Councilwomen will abstain from voting. Motion was made to approve the Repository Bids for High Street by Councilwomen Smith and Councilmen Kattner seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT/CD REPORT: The CD's are up for renewal on the 27th of January. Motion to approve the Treasurers Report/CD Report made by Councilwomen Kuba, Councilwomen Fox seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed.

TAX COLLECTOR REPORT:

DECEMBER 2023

Real Estate: \$10,478.30

Occupation: \$412.50

Per Capita: \$473.00

TOTAL OF \$11,363.80

Exonerations: None

Applications: None

COMMUNICATIONS: There were eight (8) items of communications received, none of which require action.

Motion to approve the Tax Collector's Report and to file the Communications was made by Councilwomen Kuba and seconded by Councilwomen Fox. All in favor of motion, motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

POLICE & PUBLIC SAFETY: Councilwomen Kuba said the Body Cams are all ready to be used, Chief Weaver did say that they are still waiting to purchase three (3) licenses. Down the road we will check on purchasing three more cameras. That will be up for discussion. Councilwomen Kuba made a motion to approve the completion of the probation period for Officer Bradley Hess, recommended by Chief Weaver, Councilwomen Fox seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed. Councilwomen Kuba made a motion to approve the completion of the probation period for Officer Samantha Janner, recommended by Chief Weaver, Councilwomen Smith seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed. The Fire Department checks will be going out to the three fire companies in the amount of \$1,783.33 each. All three fire companies have handed in their roster, they are there are the worker's comp that request them. Been in contact with Chief McArdle, and going to be doing a boot drive in April. Solicitor Yurchak as Mr. McArdle if the list of events there available to get the approval from worker's comp. Mr. McArdle said he does not have the list as of yet and that it is something that could be brought up at the March meeting.

Chief Weave wanted to give an update, he said we made a few posts in the past two weeks about some cases that we are working on, a lot of people are aware that we had a gaming theft at the gas station, due to the help of the public and the PA State Police, we were able to positively identify one of the person. The case is still ongoing.

POLICE REPORT: Magistrate Dobson, vehicle, crime codes \$1521.10; Local: \$12.32; Title-19, \$189.39; Title-75, motor vehicle \$1294.39; Title-75, parking, \$25.00; Individual restitution \$10.00; Code Report \$107.13; Parking Tickets \$575.00; Moving Permits, \$70.00; Accident Reports \$60.00; Truck Citation-22; Code Resolved- 45; Parking/Abandoned Vehicles- 41; Disposal- 1; Condemned Property- 3; Traffic Accidents- 2; Total calls for the month- 160.

MAYOR'S REPORT: He thanked Chief Weaver and the police department for doing a great job.

Fire Company Report for December 2023, they responded to 4 Automatic Fire Alarms; 1 Mutual Aid, (Weatherly); 2 Dwelling Fires; 1 Pole Fire; 1 Trash Fire; 3 Motor Vehicles Accidents; 1 Special Assignment Call out; 1 Spill Containment; 1 Rescue. That brings the total for Fire Department Responses for 2023 up to 158 calls.

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION: None

HOUSING & CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT: Report from Chip Stalega from Barry Isett, he has 36 contacts on code. Gene Kennedy, Zoning Officer, he had 4 contacts in December 2023, a total of \$298.00 received in zoning permits.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT: John McArdle said that they are going to start updating the emergency operations plan, that is done every two years. There were three bills that went out for absorbent, for traffic accidents, two of them were paid, I have one that is delinquent and would like to turn that over to the solicitor. Motion for authorizing the Solicitor to obtain payment for the third payment for absorbent was made by Councilmen Kattner and Councilwomen Smith seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed.

Motion to accept the Police and Public Safety Report, the Mayor's Report; Police report, Housing and Zoning Report; Housing Report; EMA Report. Councilwomen Kuba made motion, Councilwomen Fox seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed.

STREETS: Councilmen Nalesnik said that during the first snow storm there was a slight incident and we told the home owner to get an estimate. I would like to authorize that per council. Maple Shade had contacted us about purchasing additional handicapped parking spaces. They were told to fill out the form. Teamsters contract with the borough workers will be expiring at the end of this year, so now the personnel committee can start working on that. It is just a contract renewal. We obtained more supplies for the garage, we purchased salt and anti-skid, so are in good shape. Three guys on plows and working overtime, considering that first snow storm did a good job. Primarily their goal is to open roads first, with Mark's cooperation from the Water Authority they did a good job.

SEWER: Councilwomen Fox made a motion to accept the December 2023 Sewer/Sanitation Report. Councilwomen Kuba seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed. There is a Lab Machine that needs to be purchased from USA Bluebook for the sewer department. The estimate is \$2,190.62. Councilwomen Fox made a motion to approve the purchase of the Lab Machine for the Sewer

Department. Councilwomen Kuba seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed. Councilwomen Fox said that there is a quote from Rotett for the Turbo on the Dump Truck that needs to be fixed in the amount of \$3,800.00. Councilwomen Smith seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed. Rotett Motors, is now know as Miracle Motors. Our engineering firm is working with the railroad on Access Road near the sewer plant. Bill McMullen from ARRO said that he is starting to work on the Chapter 94 for the Borough. He also said that there are signatures required for the Sludge Bid. Motion was made by Councilmen Nalesnik and seconded by Councilwomen Smith to accept the repair estimate to repair the garage damage. All in favor of motion, motion passed.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: Councilmen Nalesnik said he did the research for the Dodge Charger, and the found a fair repair price to replace the engine with a refurbished engine and a three year warranty on said engine and that would be to Kovatch Vehicle Repair at \$6,261.26, so I feel that the car is in otherwise good mechanical condition, fully equipped, ready to go except for the engine, that we repair that vehicle, that we have received money from the damaged interceptor insurance settlement. We are not dipping into General Funds for the repairs. Councilmen Nalesnik made a motion to repair the 2013 Dodge Charger Police Vehicle in the amount of \$6,261.62 with Kovatch Vehicle Repair. Councilwomen Kuba seconded. All in favor of the motion, motion passed. In pursuit of a recreation grant for New Columbus Park, in preparation for that grant, we were advised that we would need a survey done on the park, topographical survey. We did receive a quote from Brinkash through ARRO for Option 1 and Option 2 in the amount of \$5,300.00. It should come from the Recreation Commission for payment, it will be replenished when the grant if awarded. Councilmen Nalesnik made a motion to approve the survey of New Columbus Park by Brinkash at a cost of \$5,300.00 as a preparation for eventual Grant application. Councilwomen Smith seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed. Bill McMullen from ARRO stated an update on Industrial Road. He stated that he has worked with NEPA and that they are very short staffed at this moment, so progress on Industrial Road is going slowly. Bill McMullen said that funding will not be allocated until 2025. Councilmen Nalesnik said that he sent to council some preliminary plans for the new Recreation Center/addition project, we will discuss more at workshop meeting, hopefully we will have some cost estimates for this and we could hit the ground running and get started. Councilmen Nalesnik asked for permission to remove the garage phone line. Councilmen Nalesnik made a motion to disconnect the garage phone. Councilmen Kattner seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed. He asked the Deb DelFranco, Secretary/Treasurer to give a PO to Brinkash for the survey and to disconnect the phone at the garage.

SANITATION & QUALITY OF LIFE: Councilwomen Smith made a motion to keep the rental fees at \$15.00 as discussed in workshop. Councilwomen Fox seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed. Councilwomen Smith said that the December 2023 Tonnage Report from Tamaqua Transfer was 148.23 tons. She said that Solicitor Yurchak handed her a long term and short term rental agreements and will get together with Councilmen Kattner to see if there are changes or anything that we think could be added and bring it to the next workshop meeting for council approval. Councilmen Kattner said that under the Quality of Life, we have an ever number growing in town and we need something that is going to benefit our residents and better under control and that we are working on something with regards to the rental forms and we just want to get it right. Councilwomen Smith that under Blight Committee, they are still reviewing everything that was left to the new council. It is a great starting point and we do not want to drop the ball and there is a lot to go over, and as Councilmen Kattner said, it is going to take time and we want to do this the right way.

RECREATION: Councilwomen Smith mentioned about the upcoming meeting on February 5th at 7:00 pm. Councilwomen Kuba mentioned the ongoing with Johnson Park, and that hopefully this Spring and that it is still a waiting game. Nothing has to be done on our side, just waiting.

BUDGET & FINANCE: Councilwomen Kuba said that the committee would be meeting the secretary/treasurer soon to over the numbers so far this year. She said to every committee to watch your spending for the next three and half months. Councilwomen Kuba made motion to approve the Addendum for collections of delinquent taxes from State Wide Tax Recovery. Councilwomen Smith seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed. Councilwomen Kuba made a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-1 appointing Statewide Tax Recovery to collect delinquent Occupation Tax. Councilwomen Smith seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed. Councilwomen Kuba made a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-2 appointing Statewide Tax Recovery to collect delinquent Per Capita. Councilwomen Fox seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed. She mentioned about the CD's being up at the end of January and that Deb DelFranco, the secretary/treasurer would look into the amount of percentage from the bank. President Hawk mentioned that the Budget and Finance Committee does need to make an appointment with Mauch Chunk Trust to go over the Police Pension.

PERSONNEL & SAFETY: Councilwomen Fox made a motion to hire Bertha Schreffler to clean the police after the completion of the background check and a letter of confidentiality from the Solicitor. The rate will be \$12.00 per hour and not to exceed 15 hours per week. Councilwomen Kuba seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed.

Motion to accept all Committee Reports by Councilwomen Kuba and seconded by Councilwomen Fox. All in favor of motion, motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS: Councilwomen Kuba made a motion to authorize Solicitor Yurchak to do a Proclamation for Mrs. Stockmal's 100th Birthday. Motion to ratify the preparation of the Resolution for Mrs. Stockmal's 100th Birthday. Councilwomen Smith seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed. Motion to ratify, was made by Councilwomen Smith to authorize Solicitor Yurchak to do a Resolution for Mark Lopata from the Water Authority for 40 years of service. Councilwomen Kuba seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed.

Council will be going into Executive Session right now and that there will be no action required afterwards.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made by Councilwomen Kuba and seconded by Councilwomen Fox to adjourn meeting. Adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

DEBORAH DELFRANCO
SECRETARY/TREASURER