

MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF NESQUEHONING BOROUGH COUNCIL
Wednesday, September 13, at 6:00 p.m., Borough Office
114 W. Catawissa Street, Nesquehoning, PA 18240

ROLL CALL: COUNCILMEN/COUNCILWOMEN FOX, GUARDIANI, HEANEY, KUBA,
NALESNIK, PAUL, PRESIDENT HAWK & MAYOR KATTNER

The workshop meeting was called to order by Council President Hawk at 6:05 p.m., after an Executive Session on personnel issues. Roll call was taken with Councilmen/Councilwomen Fox, Guardiani, Heaney, Kuba, Nalesnik, Hawk and Mayor Kattner in attendance. Councilman Paul was absent.

PURPOSE: Committee/Workshop Meeting

1. STREETS BRUCE NALESNIK, CHAIRMAN; LOUIE PAUL, CO CHAIRMAN;
FRAN HEANEY

Councilman Nalesnik reported that the crosswalk line painting is completed and more paint is ordered. Some handicap parking and fire hydrants line need to be completed.

Previously approved Pedestrian Crossing signs were ordered at \$225.00/piece. Seven were ordered. Veteran's Day Parade to be held in Nesquehoning on November 5, 2023. The borough only has 4 complete working barricades and 22 cones. Four more will need to be ordered at a cost of \$185.00. Penn Dot permits will also have to be completed for closure of Rt. 209 for the parade.

Municibid-It has already been approved to advertise the maroon dump truck for sale.

Salt shed- Bill McMullen, ARRO Engineer has looked at repairs to the salt shed at the Borough garage. He has contacted Zawada Builders for estimates. The salt has all been removed and some taken to the sewer plant shed. Bruce was also looking into repairs being done by the Borough work force. Have Engineer approve.

Councilwoman Heaney inquired into the ownership of E. Garibaldi Ave. (Cemetery Rd.) It was discussed as to how far the Borough owns, Kovatch or Pecha ownership. President Hawk said that the Borough plows in as far as the cemetery. Councilwoman Heaney informed that the residents lots before the cemetery actually had a Diaz Ave. address.

Councilwoman Kuba said that next month we will have to look at winter parking.

Councilman Nalesnik informed that the Borough's green pick-up truck will be for sale at \$1500.00.

2. SEWER MARY FOX, CHAIRWOMAN; BRUCE NALESNIK, CO-CHAIRMAN;
FRAN HEANEY

Councilwoman Fox informed the council that she will contact Bill McMullen, ARRO Engineering to prepare bids for sludge removal and to advertise bids.

Maple Shade Meadows has purchased four more EDUs at \$2000.00/EDU.

Bill Brior, Sewer Enforcement Officer, is being contacted about inspection of a property in Hauto.

Thank you to Bob Pilla for retrieving a blind and deaf dog from a storm sewer.

Solicitor Yurchak has prepared and completed the contract with Water Mechanics.

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**3. BUILDINGS
& GROUNDS**

**BRUCE NALESNIK, CHAIRMAN; LOUIE PAUL, CO-CHAIRMAN;
ABBIE GUARDIANI**

Councilman Nalesnik reported on the preparation for a grant for the Recreation Center that is going through ARRO Engineering. The floor has been scoped, there is no termite infestation, but the concrete slab beneath the plywood is sagging. The grant would be for renovation of front wall, kitchen, bathrooms, adding offices in the rear of building. An environment study needs to be done to exclude any hazardous materials present. Element Environmental Solutions can do this study for a cost of \$995.00
Councilman Nalesnik brought up the consideration of an alarm system for the Borough office. SimpliSafe can supply a system for \$200-\$300 with a monthly fee of \$25.00.

**4. POLICE &
PUBLIC SAFETY:**

**LOUIE PAUL, CHAIRMAN; LOIS KUBA, CO-CHAIRWOMAN;
DAVID HAWK**

Councilwoman Kuba reported that the police department would like to purchase 3 additional body cams for a cost of \$15,084.96. There were 4 purchased in April with a grant. They will be purchased from Axon Enterprise, which would be the same as the four from the grant. Councilwoman Fox questioned as to whether we need to get 3 quotes for this purchase. Councilman Nalesnik asked if the body cams are being used to date. Councilwoman Kuba reported they are not set-up yet.
Used police car-this issue was discussed and Councilman Nalesnik suggested when we are ready for a purchase we check on Municibid.
Councilwoman Kuba said that Chief Weaver agrees to go back to 8 hour shifts after September 12th.
Councilwoman Guardiani suggests we don't try to micro-manage, he needs to schedule as needed, just to watch the overtime. Extra coverage will be needed for the Veteran's Day Parade and St. Theresa's Day.

**5. SANITATION &
QUALITY OF LIFE**

**ABBIE GUARDIANI, CHAIRWOMAN; LOIS KUBA, CO-CHAIR-
WOMAN; MARY FOX**

Councilwoman Guardiani reported that the Electronic Recycling went well.
217 W. Catawissa St. issue has been solved.
Sanitation Contract due for September 2024.
Councilwoman Guardiani reported that Chief Weaver will have an officer devote 20 hours of code work per week. Councilwoman Fox said that the sewer and sanitation budgets need to be started on. She possibly feels that we can reduce the sewer fee by \$5 and add to the Sanitation budget so that the monthly bill would remain the same. This is to add monies to Sanitation in anticipation of the contract renewal next year. Councilwoman Guardiani informed council that herself, Lois Kuba and Joe Guardiani attended a meeting set-up by Senator Argall. This committee, Blueprint Communities, will be made up of the Panther Valley Community, just like Tamaqua is with their Blueprint Communities. This committee will be doing a community assessment to come up with a project priority for grants. There will be a 13 month leadership training. This committee will be made up of each of the boroughs, School District, business leaders, and Carbon Foundations.

6. RECREATION

**LOIS KUBA, CHAIRWOMAN; MARY FOX, CO-CHAIRWOMAN;
DAVID HAWK**

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Councilwoman Kuba reported that Police Dept. movie night, held at the Elementary School went well with 60 children in attendance.

A basket raffle will be held by the Recreation Commission, Friday, Saturday and drawing on Sunday, Sept. 15th, 16th and 17th.

There are 20 benches done and placed.

Johnson Park Grant-Jordaine, from Barry Isett's is no longer employed by their business. Councilwoman Kuba will have to be in touch with them to meet with new representative.

Councilwoman Kuba asked Councilman Nalesnik if the electric in the New Columbus Park is being installed. Councilman Nalesnik reported that Kresge's have the parts and will be scheduled to be installed. It was asked if we had a date for Halloween. Being that Mayor Kattner had to leave the meeting, it will be announced at the regular meeting September 27th.

7. BUDGET/FINANCE **FRAN HEANEY, CHAIRWOMAN; BRUCE NALESNIK, CO-CHAIRMAN; DAVID HAWK**

Councilwoman Heaney reported that she has met with Lacey and the budget is okay. We are cutting it close, so we need to watch what we need and not necessarily what we want.

She will check for the money for the body cams.

8. PERSONNEL/SAFETY **MARY FOX, CHAIRWOMAN; BRUCE NALESNIK, CO-CHAIRMAN; FRAN HEANEY**

Councilwoman Fox reported that the contract is ready for the office staff with the Teamsters, to be worked out for approval for September 27th meeting. Councilwoman Fox informed the council that insurance information has to begin working on coverage for 2024. Coverage runs out November 30, 2023. She also brought up the subject of hiring a cleaning permit for the office. Since the secretaries have much more work to do now, that cleaning should not be one of their obligations. We have one application for the position. She will contact that person.

Councilwoman Fox also brought up that negotiations need to be addressed for the Police Dept. She stated that Personnel has the Office Staff Teamsters contract in the work and the Healthcare Coverage to address. She asked President Hawk if Police & Public Safety could take on that responsibility. President Hawk said he would address the committee on taking on that role. Councilman Nalesnik volunteered to represent on the committee if anyone from Police/Public Safety would choose not to be on the Negotiation Team.

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilman Nalesnik gave an update on the new Website. He has asked the office staff to look at it and offer their opinions. The website is set up but not in operation to date. Bruce asks that everyone look at it and go through him, not the site, to offer their changes or opinions.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the council at this time, a motion by Councilwoman Fox

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was made to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Heaney. President Hawk closed the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted Mary Fox- Sec pro tem