

MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF NESQUEHONING BOROUGH COUNCIL  
Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at 6:00 pm Borough Office  
114 W. Catawissa Street, Nesquehoning, PA 18240

**ROLL CALL: COUNCILMEN/COUNCILWOMEN FOX, KUBA, SMITH, NALESNIK, KATTNER, PRESIDENT HAWK & MAYOR KATTNER.**

President Hawk called meeting to order at 6:00 pm

**Executive Session:**

**PURPOSE:** Committee/Workshop Meeting

**STREETS: BRUCE NALESNIK, CHAIRMAN: PAUL KATTNER, CO-CHAIRMAN; VACANT**

Councilmen Naiesnik said nothing really to report as far as workshop. There were some email conversation with complaints and the complaints we given to the Road Crew and they were addressed the ones that were reasonable and that they could address. It was a bad storm and the snow was extremely heavy and the trucks, all the trucks are getting thrown around. Started out slow with Mike, staying with Bob. Mike did a little plowing last year, but not a storm plowing, he was with Bob initially, they went off and took the red ford dump and did plow. We did have three trucks going until 3:00 the following morning and then they came out the next morning to do some more clean up. Yesterday was focused on a little more pushing back and also storm drain clearing and I authorized them to stay til 5 pm. The rain took care of a lot of issues. We will make adjustment for the next storm.

Councilwomen Fox asked how the street parking went. Councilmen Nalesnik said it was mixed. He said that it was not the sun, because the sun did not really have an effect. He said that a lot of people in town ignored it or just don't care. Councilwomen Fox said that people are complaining about their driveways being plowed in after they clean them. They have to understand that the plow is there is plow the streets and not the driveways. You might have to clean your driveway multiple times.

Councilwomen Kuba stated that sometimes it is the state that is doing the road on Catawissa and not the Borough. Councilwomen Smith referenced her street. That it is not posted because it's no parking on the one side of the street. She said that there are people parking on the opposite side of the cul de sac and that people are complaining. The plow cannot get down the street to plow because the people are parking on both sides of the street. She told her neighbors, you cannot blame the borough. She said they are just parking cars there. Councilwomen Smith said that it has never been posted. She said to post at the cul de sac. Councilmen Naiesnik asked if they could post and President Hawk said that you could do an emergency police order. Put no parking signs at the cul de sac. He also stated that the Christmas decorations will be taken down at the end of the month.

He gave an update on the Police Dodge vehicle with a quote for the blown engine. It was \$6200.00 with a 3 year warranty. Advanced auto with parts and labor. The Jasper quote came in at \$8,100.00. That was quote high.

Councilmen Naiesnik stated that there was an incident with Bob Pilia, he clipped the garage in the alley. We are reaching out to Andy for an estimate. Very minor. It is a sharp turn. Aware of it and working

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with Andy. Not something we could go to insurance company for. Councilmen Kattner did say that Andy was not irate, he was cool about it.

Councilmen Nalesnik mentioned about the Lutheran Church sidewalk. The gentleman is just an absentee owner. Marc offered to go down and clear sidewalk for the kids. Councilmen Nalesnik agreed and had Mark clean it. We should bill the owner about \$200.00 for us cleaning the sidewalk. Start at \$150.00. Send out a bill and give thirty days to pay.

**SEWER: MARY FOX, CHAIRWOMAN; BRUCE NALESNIK, CO-CHAIRMAN; VACANT**

Councilwomen Fox said that the piping over at Phodadenrom pump station was finished up by Martin's and waiting for Lake Hauto to do the easements for the generators. When the pump stations were put in there were no easements done. They want to put generators outside. She said that she finally got ahold of Matt Johnson. He said he would have to go to the Real Estate committee. The last talk I had with him was before Christmas and told him, I would like to have a meeting, he asked if it was going to be driven on and she responded that the pipe will be driven on at some point after being put in. She took a picture and sent to him. Councilmen Nalesnik mentioned about putting driveway markers up, that mean do not drive over, but if need be can drive over. She has not heard from him since.

**BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: BRUCE NALESNIK, CHAIRMAN; PAUL KATTNER, CO-CHAIRMAN; VACANT**

Councilmen Nalesnik said that there is power to New Columbus Park. Once I check is see is there is a 4 prong receptacle there and the job will be considered complete. Shawn wasn't sure if it was included or not. Would have power to the park at long last. He was going to give the Borough a lighted Christmas Tree decoration for the flagpole we have not received that yet. Next year it will be put up. The community center plans taken with gentlemen today about 60% complete. They were focused on the bathrooms and things like that, now they are working on the back area. Probably in 45 to 60 days we should have conceptual drawings for council to review. Waiting for the survey quote from Brinkash on the New Columbus Park as the first part of the grant process. They have been slow. Councilwomen Kuba brought up the sidewalk that is ripped up all the way down. It was uncovered and is a mess. The best thing to do would ne to reseed it. When they were digging the hole, there was a great sidewalk covered under the grass and said that was enough and it was a mess. The sidewalk is so beautiful, but a mess. To get sidewalks could be part of the mediation. Take the old out and put new in. On the side of park they are going up the hill where to monument. Is that part private or does the borough owns. They believe that the borough owns that. That would be the entrance and great for ADA.

Councilwomen Fox asked about Johnson Jacobs Park. Did they ever get the mulch in, yes they did she was told. The mulch also went up to New Columbus Park..

Councilwomen Smith asked is any update on the damage that was done at Station Park. Councilmen Nalesnik made council aware of what happened. So right across from Mr. Stempas garage, on our property where there was a bench and a pole, 2 poles, apparently something came onto the property and dumped snow on the bench, that area was demolished. It damaged the bench and area.

Councilwomen Smith said that there was a witness and it was asked if they went to the police department. The witness was John McArdle. There is a picture of what happened. The snow was dumped on borough property. It could have been dumped anywhere, but it was dumped right onto borough property. Councilmen Nalesnik did ask Paul Kattner to go the police and have the Chief make a report and the pictures. After making the report, go to Mr. Stempa and ask him if he is admitting or denying and that we have a witness that it was Bob's equipment. There are tire tracks, what vehicle did he have. That information need to be reported to the Chief. The Chief needs to take care of this the

right way. Need to know what the replacement cost is going to be. President Hawk stated that if we need to press charges, then we need to do so. Mayor Kattner will follow up with the Chief.

**POLICE & PUBLIC SAFETY: LOIS KUBA, CHAIRWOMEN; MARY FOX CO-CHAIRWOMEN; DAVID HAWK**

Councilwomen Kuba said that she met with the Chief of Police earlier in the week. He is going to be having a meeting with Mayor Kattner, after that we as a committee will be having a meeting. Something will be scheduled. There are a couple of things going over with Chief. We will be asking about the body cameras, as to why not running. Need to get them running and one them. She stated that they have 5 and are going to need 3. Still negotiation with police, nothing as of yet. Kuba said that there are a couple of things still out there that they are not earth shattering. The two new officers will be reviewed about coming off probation. Officer Hess and Officer Janner coming off probation and he will give recommendations on that. He will let us know what new seminars are coming up. Did ask him to attend every other meeting and give the community of what is going on. A lot of accountability of the police department as to what they are doing. It goes along way with the community.

As far as the fire companies will getting together all three fire companies on the boot drives; fund raisers. What they can do together. New Coiumbus will be getting closer to getting their fire truck this year. Maybe early Spring, maybe October a delay. The fund continues to grow. We ear marked \$150,000.00. stays there until purchase. Hauto would be the next in line. Need to find out how many years left on the aerial truck (fire). How many more payments on the aerial truck. The aerial truck belongs to the borough. Councilwomen Fox stated that New Coiumbus and Hauto Fire Companies should be trained on the aerial truck. We are low on volunteers. President Hawk stated that some of the volunteers do not want to learn. Councilwomen Kuba updated new council members about the three fire companies will be getting a check for the avoidable alarms. It will be split three ways. Checked with auditors and that we could provide them with a check. Councilwomen Fox asked about the fire tax break for the companies. They have to keep records for active members and rosters are needed. The borough pays for worker's comp. Councilwomen asked if someone on the volunteer fire company needs to get clearance. Councilwomen Kuba stated that he was not under worker's comp and that it was a personal issue. President Hawk did say we need to get an updated roster from the fire companies.

**SANITATION & QUALITY OF LIFE: SUZANNE SMITH, CHAIRWOMEN; PAUL KATTNER, CO-CHAIRMEN; VACANT**

Councilwomen Smith said that this year the sanitation contract will be up for renewal. She asked for a copy of the current contract. As far as quality of life, there was a meeting with Abbie who kind of turn all over to us, it is fabuious, but it makes me a little leary of how much we can actualiy get through this quickly. Councilmen Kattner has a copy of the Ordinanced from Lansford for rentals. It is 28 pages long. It was done by Solicitor Yurchak. To institute changes it is going to take longer. Councilwomen Smith stated that the rental properties are becoming a major concern. The biggest question is, not sure if there was a meeting or a vote. Along with a new Ordinance, insurance policies need to be provided; new application. Not sure if there was a vote or not that council was going to fore go the rental applications, as of right now, giving them a little reprieve until we determine how to handle this and what the fees are going to be. Councilwomen Fox does not think good idea, because when are we able to get this done. We need to get the rental agreement up and going and for right now keep it at the \$10.00. There is a list of rental properties, and the all the rental properties need to send out letters. Councilwomen Smith stated that she spoke with Shawn Coniglio who takes care of the rental

agreements, that we need to keep track of everyone who is coming into the office, police assistance, when it comes to enforcing this, is there anyone earmarked to help with code enforcement and citation and moving permits, without any enforcement you are wasting your time doing this. If we don't have a conversation, they we are setting ourselves up for failure, we don't know what we are going to do from start to finish. Councilmen Kattner said that there are 450 rental properties in the borough and only last year there were about 100 that registered with the borough only, A letter needs to go out to the property owners. Who is going to enforce, who is going to do inspections, who is going to be the agency. This is about six to eight months off. Councilwomen Smith stated that when the water authority sent out letters, that the owner had a time frame to return, if not they were going to be fined. Solicitor Yurchak said that it was legal to do that. We need to do something and can't wait. Councilmen Kattner stated that we need to move forward and that this new process will take at least a year. Try and get some kind of information and collect some kind of money. Councilwomen Smith wants to speak with Attorney Yurchak about doing a letter to be sent out to the property owners. Councilmen Nalesnik would like to use ARRO as the inspectors and with the 20 hours that the police should a lot for code enforcement. Councilwomen Smith stated that according to the Ordinance, you need an appeals committee, so many people on it. Councilwomen Fox said that the borough spends a lot of money with Chip Stageia (zoning) and that he has the authority to go in and inspect, with summer coming up, the police does not enforce the high grass stuff, do we want to have a part-time code officer? A code enforcer cannot enforce vehicle related. Councilwomen Smith said that we would need someone with an Act 120 that can come in enforce crime. Councilmen Nalesnik said that the borough is looking at possibly having ARRO Engineering to do the Notice of Violations for the rental properties instead of hiring another 20 hour per week code enforcer. It would make it easier to have an engineering service do the violations for the borough who would bring in some kind of money to the borough. Councilwomen Smith asked that everyone is in agreement that we keep what we have as far as fees and such going forward. Councilmen Nalesnik said as an example, that is the rental agreement is not filled out by the property owner and sent back and their tenant comes into the office to get a moving permit, then that permit should be denied and the tenant cannot move in until the property owner fills out the proper paperwork and pays the fee. A motion will be put on the agenda for the January meeting. If they do not have a moving permit and get caught moving in then they would be cited by the police.

**RECREATION: SUZANNE SMITH, CHAIRWOMEN; LOIS KUBA, CO-CHAIRWOMEN; DAVID HAWK**

Councilwomen Smith stated there is a recreation meeting the first Monday of February which is February 5<sup>th</sup>. Councilwomen Kuba said that Gunn Bingo is coming up in March. She has people calling up asking about more benches. The benches went through recreation. More benches are going to be done, there are about 8 more people for benches. Councilwomen Kuba will be getting together for a meeting with Councilwomen Smith and recreation.

**BUDGET & FINANCE: LOIS KUBA, CHAIRWOMEN; BRUCE NALESNIK, CO-CHAIRMEN; DAVID HAWK**

Councilwomen Kuba is going to meet with Deb DelFranco, Secretary/Treasurer probably in the near future and would like to work more frequently. We have suggested about bringing back the actual PO's attached to the Agenda. The Road Crew always asks for a PO when purchasing something. Councilmen Kattner asked if there is an amount that needs to go onto the po? Yes, there is an amount of \$250.00 or more that would need a quote and have council needs to be voted on. At the end of the month of January the CD's are matured, Deb DelFranco going to speak with Jim Thorpe National Bank about what the rates will be. Cannot do that until the date of maturity. Will let council know what the new rate will be. There are eight CD's. Most of them are sizable amounts. Councilwomen Kuba and Councilmen

Nalesnik asked about the two loans that are on the budget. Deb DeIFranco, Secretary/Treasurer said that she needed to check with the bank to find out what they are for and how long still on them.

**PERSONNEL & SAFETY: MARY FOX, CHAIRWOMEN; BRUCE NALESNIK, CO-CHAIRMEN; VACANT**

Councilwomen Fox said not much going on. She said that the monthly meetings should be easy and smooth considering that we are discussing everything at the workshop meeting. She stated that the committees need to meet occasionally.

Councilwomen Smith mentioned that Mark of the Water Authority has been there for 43 years and would like to do some kind of proclamation. President Hawk mentioned that he would let Solicitor Yurchak know and have him type up the proclamation. Councilwomen Kuba mentioned that Mrs. Stockmal was going to 100 years old and would like a proclamation done also for her. Council can do a motion at the January meeting, also appreciation letters to the council members who have left.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion was made by Councilwomen Fox to adjourn meeting. Councilwomen Kuba seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.