

**MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF NESQUEHONING BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at 6:00 pm, Borough Office**  
**114 W. Catawissa Street, Nesquehoning, PA 18240**

President Hawk called meeting to order at 6:00 pm

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**PURPOSE:** Committee/Workshop Meeting

**STREETS:** Councilmen Nalesnik reported that the road department has been around town cold patching some areas of the roads. They got a pretty early start on that. We had a tree go down up in Columbus Park and they cut it up, Andy mentioned that he brought his own chainsaw to the scene. Councilmen Nalesnik said that he appreciated it, but you not have to bring your own tool in to cut this, and I asked if we ever had a chainsaw and Andy replied, yeah we had a nice one, and he stated that he does not know where it is. Councilmen Nalesnik stated that we need to start an inventory system of the garage. Councilwomen Fox mentioned that there was an inventory system at one point and that she and the Secretary/Treasurer went up to the garage one day and inventoried everything. Councilmen Nalesnik said that we need to get stickers and do an inventory yearly of the things in the garage, around Christmas time and if something is missing or not there, there is accountability and responsibility. I was going to ask Council if it is okay, we did get a price from JC Small for a 16 inch Stihl chainsaw, Stihl is a good name, with a price of \$270.00. Councilwomen Shubeck asked is we could get a chainsaw cheaper from somewhere else. Councilmen Nalesnik replied, we could get something a little cheaper at Lowe's but I am comfortable with Stihl, it's a good name and they do service at JC Small. We do a lot of business with them. He also reported that up at the garage they have an air compressor a large one, but probably over bought. It's not working and the road department has been asking to get fixed or replace. He said that it could cost up to 1,000.00 to fix. He said his recommendation, 40/50lb tank, vertical, I was pricing them and the cost would be around \$700.00 for a 40/50lb tank and that would be efficient for the garage for the type of work they do. They do need an air compressor for work that they do, I do not feel it is worth fixing. Councilwomen Shubeck said, can we get anything from scraping it? Councilmen Nalesnik said that it would cost us to get rid of. President Hawk asked if does not run or compress. Councilmen Nalesnik responded that he was told that is was just not working. President Hawk said he is not opposed to buying a new one, but that maybe someone would like to buy the old one. Someone that is willing to put the time and money into fixing it. We could try and sell it and try to get something for it. Councilmen Nalesnik said that someone could maybe post it on facebook marketplace and maybe out website. Councilmen Nalesnik reported the he would like for it to go on the Agenda, for the March meeting, Council authorizing up to \$800.00 for the purchase of a new compressor for the borough garage. President Hawk said put it out there to sell old one and the purchaser can make an offer and they would have to move it. Councilmen Nalesnik passed the Streets Proposal for 2024. He said, ARRO is the technical specs which I molded into my presentation sheet to simplify it. The first one would be Pine Street which is the steep hill. That hill and all the way up to Railroad Street, that hill, they are really bad, the leveling course and the wearing course and that is a total of \$42,301.00. Our road department would help in various ways on prep for that. The second phase would be Park Avenue, which is the lower road the Valley Estates from 4<sup>th</sup> ave to 8<sup>th</sup> ave, it will give us about 12-13 hundred feet. We would begin at end of where 4<sup>th</sup> avenue ends, extend up to the end of 8<sup>th</sup> avenue. It also includes paving up to the new railroad crossing. We would pave over the currently exposed Y area between Park Avenue and Industrial Road. It is dirt right now. There are some engineering notes from Bill McMullen. That project

would cost \$64,372.00. ARRO's expense would be \$7,500.00 and they would be part time onsite while the paving is being done. The projected cost of the project would be \$114,200.00, which would be out of Liquid Fuels monies for the year. ARRO tends to try and come in under the estimated amount. They actually came in under last year. This could possibly come in under estimate, but can't make any promises. Hopefully, the company that we like will bid on the job and will be able to get the award. The Liquid Fuels account because of the printing it out and itemizing it and strictly using for roads and materials, we are solvent in that account, so my comment about, covering the totals and talking with Deb tonight, it is most definitely covered and there is no concern. The last part of East Diaz Street is a CDBG Grant Award. We did receive approval for it and we have not received the money yet, it should be happening, if money is not received yet it could be another year. Councilwomen Fox asked if there is going to be curbing up there, Councilmen Nalesnik said there is no curbing and that it was not part of the original application, but it a more thorough reconstruction than just a paving. There are two steps to this process. Councilwomen Fox mentioned no curbing up at the Estates and that she was not a fan of curbing, but just the curbing happen to be put in at the lower part of Park Avenue, we may get some repercussions about the curbing up there. I would not put curbing up there she said. Councilmen Nalesnik mentioned that they were not planning on it, and that Bill was up there and he inspected everything and he did not indicate any curbing would be needed, trying to get water to run toward the railroad tracks. It is coming off the mountain. He said that the Avenues are not that bad, that he has driven those Avenues and there are other streets in town that are worse. Mayor Kattner mentioned about Dart Street. If you give approval to have the road department cold patch all those areas, Councilmen Nalesnik said that they will hit all those roads. He said that we had East Diaz, supposedly there are three projects, I am not sure what the other ones are, so maybe that could done in the future. If there are no problems or issues, I would like to put on Agenda for the March meeting. I think next year we could possibly do more next year, but if we get East Diaz and these two other projects, that is not a bad effort without hitting the General Fund, which it is not. Councilwomen Smith reported that more pictures have come through with regards to Mr. and Mrs. Fazio property, the work that Bruce had done up there. Councilmen Nalesnik said, just to clarify, Andy was up there with the backhoe about two weeks ago trying to create paths for the erosion and the washing away, so he is up there with the backhoe, and at the bottom of the hill, he cut in too much, so that was the original complaint generated. Councilwomen Smith said that she thinks they are going back to last years complaint. Councilmen Nalesnik mentioned that nothing was done last year. Councilwomen Smith said that they said that someone knocked the marker and now that they are claiming that someone took out a tree, she said that she went up there yesterday and tree is a very loose term for I would consider a large bush. They claimed that there was a bush, she showed me the picture of the bush. At first Mr. Fauzio was in and got Councilmen Kattner and then someone rudely said Sue is on Streets also. Then is wife came in with all of her own set of stuff and I said, listen we got this via email and she said that they are giving us til Friday or they are going to the police, there are going to the DA, so Bruce has gone up there with the guys, they had done some repairs. Councilmen Nalesnik said that Andy did with the backhoe take out a small spat. He said that Andy went up there with Mike and smoothed it out and took the debris, we put modify down and created a drain, because that water is coming down, no matter what you put there it is going to erode. They did mention a bush. He said that Andy will go up there tomorrow with a tree from behind the garage and put it in. Councilwomen Fox said that before he does that he needs to contact them and get permission to do so. They want to talk to someone. Councilmen Nalesnik said that he spoke with Mr. Fauzio last week and he did not bring any other is up to him. Councilwomen Smith mentioned that before we have Andy go up there a phone call needs to happen, so she does not call the Police on him. He does need to get permission from them to enter their property. Councilwomen Smith said that she would call me and ask her what do they want. She said that she went up there the other day and the pictures look dramatic, but when you see it in person, another story. Councilwomen Smith said that she would ask her what she wants and let council knows what they want. Councilmen Kattner asked about a spreader for the pickup truck. Councilmen Nalesnik said that he was not aware that there

was one for the pickup truck. Bob Pilla from the sewer department did say that we did have a spreader that would fit on the pickup truck. Councilmen Kattner mentioned that he was sent a video the other day about the Borough garage during the storm, that the back wall moving back and forth. Councilwomen Fox said it is a pole building and that there is going to be shaking with 60 mile an hour winds. Councilmen Nalesnik said that we need to look at the roof over the office area, there is leaking, so it on their list to look at. They wanted to buy new ceiling tiles, I asked them to get up there and check it out. There were very high winds.

**SEWER:** Councilwomen Fox reported that they held a sewer committee meeting on March 6<sup>th</sup> at noon down at the Sewer plant. It was a long meeting, three hours. The first think on the agenda was smoke testing, we are going to try and get smoke testing done on the east end of New Columbus. The company that Bill did talk to Mr. Rehab, the company that Bob contacted before is still in business. We have to get some quotes on this, the quote that Bill got from this Mr. Rehab at \$1.50 per linear foot and we have 16,000 feet. The east end of New Columbus comes down, it goes under CVS and comes out at the bridge, then you have Rhume Street, Coal Street, Willow Lane coming into that line and that is where we come into trouble with Mr. Brown's problem down there and Fauzio, and they all join in and got along the Elementary school across the field to around Stempa's property and goes down along, just because of the gravity of it, it goes down all along near Fauzio's, until it goes down to the main line, so when we have a rain storm, that water comes down from New Columbus, most of the water with redoing Rhume Street and Willow Lane, we are getting a lot of water in and when it comes down and tries to get into the main and push more water in, it get backedup. We have been talking about doing water infiltration since Tirpak was here, so that is one thing we are looking into and Bill will get more quotes. The cost to will be around \$20,000.00 to change the pipe from plastic to ductile iron piping. There is no one local to do the job, it has to be, it right over the creek, where he can get an emergency permit from DEP, but he said there are fish in there and we are going to have to watch with DEP, that we are not getting a problem with the stream. It is coming off of the railroad. The biggest discussion was the railroad KME property. There was a PA one call but it happened after they already had the spur started. I did get in touch with George DiCarlantonio from the PUC. Robert has been speaking with him, everyone is unclear about the station they are putting in if they are to have permits and if they have to go through planning, they say they are exempt. They said they are exempt from any municipalities from telling them what they have to get permits for. Bob did have pictures, the spur that they put in goes right over one of our manholes, the plans that Bob has down at the plant, everytime, the sewer line went under the railroad tracks, it had to be encased, so now they are running this spur over top of our sewer line which is only 4 ½ feet down, so 16 feet up and then to the surface we are going, so that is in Robert's hands now. I did speak with Ivan Meixell from Carbon County Planning, and he said that they need to get permits for a new structure because it is a change of use. Gene Kennedy talked with them, and they said they do not need permits. They referenced some statute. In the email it says a freight line, it is not it is going to be a passenger line. We will have to wait and hear what is said. I did speak with Matt Johnson last week and I called Ivan and asked if I could give out his number to Matt. Not sure if Matt spoke with Ivan. Generators at the Lake Hauto Pump Stations, nobody can seem to find an easement, when this whole sewer system went in back in 1990, we had multiple engineers on the job, were ever the easements went for the pump stations over there, there are easements for the sewer lines, but not for the pump stations. Robert is drawing up an easement, the board came back from the Lake Hauto, they wanted some things changed. When we started this with the generators we got quotes on them and now they are probably more expensive now. The Carbon County Prison, the new well, Doug and Dave from ARRO, who are the sewer experts, they are going to check on the metals that they are finding in the well and are going to do the green sand. Our sewer permit is into the state and have not received a new sewer permit back from the State, so Bill suggest we wait until the sewer permit comes back and see what DEP perimeters are as to what we can do with the heavy metals. Unit #3 down at the plant, it has been about 13 years since the unit was refurbished and all the six inch lines were done in steel. Right now Bob has Units 2 and 3

running. We are going to replace the six inches pipes with stainless. What he has to do is pump all the sewage out of Unit 3 over into Unit 1 which is empty right now and then will see what it all has to be cleaned out, the sludge has to be removed and see what the coating looks like. Maple Shade Pump Station needs to have upgraded call out system. What happens with the pump stations, if the pump goes down, Bob needs to get a call out from the pump station, it call him. The stations up at Lake Hauto have been changed over to a radar system, so this down here is the only one not on a radar system for the call out, so Bob is going to get a quote from Martin's electric, to put that new system down there. The only thing that I would like on the Agenda is that I would like to change our sewer enforcement officer from Brior to ARRO. Brior did not sell the company, but he is just a figure head right now and will soon retire.

**BUILDINGS & GROUNDS:** Councilmen Kattner reported that there are no further updates on the Recreation Center grant. Councilmen Nalesnik said we are waiting on estimate figures, so we should have them soon. The furnace was cleaned at the Recreation Center and it was found that there is an issue with Chimney and that there needs to be some servicing done on it. Tamaqua Chimney Sweep is recommending a new liner to be installed. Councilmen Nalesnik reported that while it was being cleaned they found pieces of flu in it, so I called John McArdle and he came out and cleaned the chimney and asked him to give an estimate for a stainless steel insert. You have the estimate before you. The initial plans for the renovations was to leave the heating system alone. Councilmen Kattner mentioned that the estimate is a very fair price. He would like to have the estimate added to the Agenda for the March meeting. Councilmen Nalesnik reported he is waiting for the topographical survey fore New Columbus Park. He said he will leave Bill McMullen a message as to where they are with the survey. We have approved the expense for the survey. We discussed prior about the server and how it is outdated, unreliable, flickers in and out. We did purchase a backup battery last year just to be safe, but the conversation was we were going to explore other avenues to possibly address, update the serve. I did get a recommendation from someone for Cloud Services, I called and spoke with one of the co-owners, so they came up today and did an onsite review and evaluations, I told him about the size of the borough, the size of the offices and what kind of server we had now and he told me, we were probably oversold, back in the day. He said they have new avenues without buying a new server. He said that Cloud Services was in the office today and spoke with Deb DelFranco, Secretary/Treasurer. Deb mentioned that he did come to the office. She reported that the server warranty has run out in 2020, the hardware is from 2012, our computers have 4 gig and we should have 16. The router is expired and now made anymore and expired 4 years. 2017 the WIFI needs to be upgraded, we are on the same WIFI as the Water Authority, so what Cloud Service is going to do is do up a quote with new computers for the three staff and the fourth computer would be the main station, he is going to break all down, router, windows, gigs, computer itself. He said they are definitely outdated. Councilwomen Smith asked if we were also going to get a quote from S & O Computers. Deb responded and said that John from S & O Computers did give her a quote for 4 computers for \$3,600.00 for custom build computers, but it did not give any breakdown. Councilwomen Smith said that the plan with S&O that they have, they pay a little over \$300.00 per month. Deb said that the borough pays \$320.00 per month for the office and \$750.00 for the police department. Councilwomen Fox asked if we could get a full quote from S & O and compare, apples to apples. Councilmen Nalesnik stated that some of old council was not happy with S & O, so that is why he was seeking another quote. Councilwomen Fox said that we should get a quote from both parties for all information and then do a comparison. Councilmen Nalesnik did state that Lansford just signed a deal with Cloud Services. President Hawk would like S & O Computer to give an explicit quote and not just say custom built. Deb said that she would send an email to S & O and ask John to give a quote for all things pertaining to new computers from soup to nuts. She also mentioned that the email address, ptd.net was not a secured email address. He did say that he could make me, Sue and Shawn a new email under the Nesquehoning.org.

**POLICE & PUBLIC SAFETY:** Councilwomen Kuba reported that the new guns were ordered and that Deb DelFranco, Secretary/Treasurer went down and paid and ordered the guns. The guns are not in yet, he is checking on the stock. It is set up that only Chief Weaver or Deb DelFranco are allowed to pick up the guns when they come in. Once the guns are in order, I believe you could go and purchase the old ones, but the gun dealer is only selling three of them. Body cams, we are still not up and running, hopefully any day now. Councilwomen Smith stated that after their meeting that this was discussed with them, the next day they came in with one on, as to whether or not it is running not sure, we did not see any lights, he says it is, but hopefully they really get on this because we do not want to lose the money from the grant. If you want fancy toys, you need to be able to pay for and we do not have that kind of money. Mayor Kattner responded and said they are not fancy toys, they are items that are needed. Councilwomen Smith responded and said that she is not disputing that we need them, but we have to follow through with what is expected on the State level to receive the money. Councilwomen Kuba mentioned that Chief Weaver will have a report for us at the March meeting. She then reported that the police department have gone to 12 hour shifts, excluding Mondays, they are 8 hour shifts, hopefully to minimize the overtime. Patrolmen Brad Hess is now doing dayshift, he is doing the detective work. He is working Monday thru Friday, and weekends as needed, without a pay difference. Officer Janner is now on the night shift with Corey Herring, no problem. Mayor Kattner said that he gives Brad Hess a lot of credit, what he did in the past has not been done in the past two years. He really stepped up. Councilwomen Kuba mentioned about overtime. Deb DelFranco did say that there was one officer that had 31.5 hours of overtime and that she questioned it and the response was it was to cover shifts. She mentioned AG we get paid for. Councilwomen Kuba said that there is a boot drive on April 7<sup>th</sup>, with a rain date of April 14<sup>th</sup>. She will be asking for volunteers, once she has the shift list. The hours are going to be 9-4, it will probably afternoon hours for most of us, because the fire department fills up the morning hours. It will be about 1 to 2 hours shifts. It is a Sunday. She said they had a lot of response last year, and that is all for right now. Councilwomen Smith reported that she had a conversation with Deb DelFranco about the Social Media Policy going to the Fire Companies and Deb said that they have not gone out yet. Councilwomen Smith said that we should really put a time limit as to when they are going to be returned, we figured it they are sent out now they have until April's meeting, if you do not return them, we do not recognize you as a volunteer. They want to have a sit down with us on any concerns that they might have, I would assume we are not sitting down to discuss anything with Mr. Neilis. Councilwomen Fox said that we can't have a meeting with them. Councilwomen Smith said that if the concern is the Social Media Policy, I know that he has to others to express concern, so he shouldn't because it was in effect really before he came along, it was just not implemented and followed through on. We need to get them out and that they need to be returned by such a date or they will not be recognized. President Hawk stated that if he wanted to be a fire fighter then he can't be a journalist, he can't be both at the same time. Councilwomen Kuba reported that they had a meeting with John McArdle raised a different question with that and we will speak with Robert on that. John feels even that the Ordinance is not, the social media policy is not strong enough. Councilwomen Smith said that there is always time to make revisions, but for now we need to get something immediate since this should have been done awhile ago.

**SANITATION & QUALITY OF LIFE:** Councilwomen Smith reported that she had one complaint today from a woman up on East Railroad Street the 300 block, Kelly Stouffer, this is what her fourth complaint this year so far. She is upset that the garage pickers were physically abusive with her garbage cans, they broke the handle and then placed the handle in the garbage can and put the garbage can back in her driveway and she would like something done, unfortunately, this is about the millionth time we heard, oh, they broke my garbage can, I would question that this garbage is not new in any way shape or form. I am not even going to address it with Angie at Tamaqua Transfer. She is upset that her garbage is always on the street and that she has to pick it up, but unfortunately, I drive by her house every day, it is well on the street before the garbage gets there. We will discuss our recycling. I did email the women in charge

of the recycling, Deb talked to her in more detail about a date, and the price she had given to Deb was \$800.00 for the truck. That is for the electronics and that is just for the truck and then they have to come and pay. Deb mentioned that we could get our own vehicle and collect the recycles ourselves and people could pay us, because we are not profiting from the truck. Deb mentioned there is a place in Allentown that we could get rid of the recycles that the borough collects. Councilwomen Smith said that we have had numerous calls and to when we are doing the electronic collection, the question is do we want to pay someone \$800.00 to do it for us or do you want to try and do ourselves. No just pay. Councilmen Nalesnik said that we did twice last year and it went very well. Councilwomen Smith said she would have Deb call and set up a day and time with the recycling place. President Hawk said that you could make the event a free event, but the borough would have to pay to get rid of the recycles. Councilwomen Kuba asked about adding recycling into the new garbage contract. Councilwomen Smith said that she would look into it. She said we are not looking into the recycling with the company we had before. The answer was no. Councilwomen Fox said that if we could maybe get a dumpster and get someone in to collect the dumpster. At the time it was not feasible for them to come and pick up the dumpsters. We had about six dumpsters and the profits were down and it was not worth it. Maybe can look into someone doing that. Like Waster Management, they go to business and pick up their dumpsters. Councilwomen Smith said that it something we could look into and it would bring our garbage tonnage down. As far as Quality of Life, Councilwomen Smith reported that we did have a very informal meeting with the Chief, Brad was also there, and the office staff because it seems that we want to get ahead of the warm weather and people rushing in complaints and get a set standard on how we are going to pass these back and forth, because even when I am looking over Chip's bill, he is out there for a mattress on a fence and those are all things that we could have the police department help us with, and I also talked with Robert in speaking with Chief Weaver, our Ordinance states that citations and tickets have to be issued either by local police department or a duly appointed person, so Chief Weaver was upset because the 20 hour clause was in the contract for code enforcement. He claims that it was not supposed to be listed as the 20 hours per week, it was just code enforcement in general. In speaking with Robert, he said that he reached out to Timmy and that it was his mistake, they are not going to limit it to 20 hours the wording for code enforcement. In talking with him, I am not concerned about the specific set hours as showing me numbers as to what is being done. If you write a citation per shift, per officer seven days a week you are looking at 30 plus tickets a week, and a lot of, Chip does not need to handle for us and when talking to him, anything that comes into the office is going to the police department, once it is handled the police department is going to send it back to the office and it is then registered, and a spread sheet can be done so we can start keeping track, is it their first warning, 2<sup>nd</sup> ticket, so we know how these people are going to be ticketed, and so that there is nothing getting lost through the loophole, we don't know who it got sent off to or handled, everything will ultimately come back to the office to be checked that it was handled and the people are being notified, that is always a complaint, I filed a complaint that nobody ever got back to me, so this way we could keep records. 90% of the time when people are coming in, they are coming into the office, so they were all in agreement with that. Chief Weaver did asked that we have a sit down formal meeting with Chip and include him as to when Chip would be contacted to come in, the Chief is kind of thinking, when Chip wants to be called in and that is at his discretion, and I did also speak to Robert and he said that since there is no chance of funding wise, we could afford an actual code enforcement officer, he said you could appoint anybody, you could have your people on Quality of Life go, he said that you could not do tickets that need to go to the magistrate at that point and time, but the booklets that were made up the only thing you need to do is specify that this person is going to be doing it, give them a number and they issue tickets just the same. That is something that council would have to decide on. The Mayor could did as a public official, they just have to be approved by council to do so, so that is another option. Councilmen Nalesnik said that we transitioned from a 20 hour per week borough compensated individual, which we had funded and she resigned, and then we were going to look for another and when we transition to as a condition to the sixth officer, that officer was going to be trained to do 20 hours per week on code enforcement.

That was the original agreement. Councilwomen Fox said that if we get a complaint in, my idea is that the police are here to enforce the Borough Ordinances that is their job. It is all in their job, Robert told me that it is in their SOP, they are the enforce the Ordinances of the Borough, when you get a complaint in, here you go. Councilwomen Smith said that she was not on Council when the agreement was made for the sixth officer, I am coming in late. I had a long discussion with him and I could argue what is right and wrong at end of the day, maybe they are not going to put exactly 20 hours in, but you need to show us that you are putting some kind of hours. I get it, emergencies come first, but, we are also getting to warm weather where it is going to be light out til 9 pm, so your night shift and middle shift are not going to court hearing, they are patrolling and they could give out the tickets. They are not opposed to doing this. Chief Weaver had no issued what so ever with anything that was suggested and he was very acceptable, he said that if Robert said that 20 hours is coming out of, then work us and if you show you are working with us then there is no issues. Councilmen Nalesnik said that Chief Weaver is giving us numbers on his report at the monthly meeting, but is he giving the exact details of everyone of those, no, but I feel a genuine effort, now we get into what Chip, what has Chip done and what is he doing. Councilwomen Smith said we are spending a lot of money on Chip. I said to them, I do not want to make more work for them, ship it back to the office and girls can give it to me and the committee can go through everyone and detail them, and have a little bit more information. If someone is getting 15 tickets at \$15.00 fines, we need to keep track of that, so we offered to do it within the office and committee, as long as the police give it back to us, and if there is anything we need from the police they will give it to us. It can't be put all on one department. Council just needs to appoint who you want in charge of that, if you want to put someone in charge. Councilmen Kattner mentioned that years past he was doing a carbon monoxide call in town, when the inspector came he had me write a check to Barry Isett for the inspection, had no problem doing that. The last time, I had a check in my pocket ready to pay, I asked what was the fee and told nothing. I don't understand, why two years ago I paid to be inspected and no more than a month ago, I was told there was no bill. Councilwomen Smith said that she spoke with Robert about that and he said that sometime there is a big difference, if the police were to write a notice or a violation, we would have to call Chip in to do a follow up at that point and time, the borough has the right to charge that person what we are paying for their services. If Chip goes out on his own, I have it right here, driving around town for three hours, he patrolled the borough. If he goes out on his own, we do not have the right, the difference is that if we are sending him there, we could charge for what it costs the borough to do. There have to be guidelines. I think it would be good to sit down with the Chief and Chip, seeing that they are the ones that file the citations, etc. How many times are we going to have him make a phone that no one is going to answer. At some point and time we need to get the police involved. Chip can't enforce anything he is not a police officer. She stated we need the police to enforce and that is what they are going, but Chip making five phone calls is not enforcement, it is just a phone call. Lois was at the last meeting and we need the schedule around in the evening to have them here, with Chip and this is what is going to happen going forward, when we are going to be requiring your services. It is a matter of getting everyone on the same page as to what needs to happen. Councilwomen Smith mentioned about the short term rental applications, she said that this is the sample from Robert that he is suggesting, if you remember at the last meeting, I think it was two meetings ago, that we did approve to just keep with the regular residential license application that we have, but we do not have anything for the short term, so I would suggest if everyone is in agreement, to put on Agenda to adopt it and start using it. Councilmen Nalesnik mentioned that he thought the fees were quite exuberant. A rental application for full time is \$10.00, it should definitely go up. I believe it should go up to \$100.00. To me these fees are too large. Councilwomen Smith asked if they would like her to get a hold of Robert to see if we could lower the fees. What are you all thinking about as far as price goes? Councilmen Nalesnik said he does not know if they want to prorate this either. A short term rental is a short term rental whether you have a one bedroom or a three bedroom. Councilwomen Smith that there is a difference, long term rentals, people are getting moving permits to move in, that's a rental. If you are not getting a move in permit that is considered a short term rental, regardless of the

time frame, you are not living there, not changing your address, you taxes, that is what would apply. President Hawk said that this is an application to rent the property for a short term, this is the property owners application to have the place authorized as a short term rental. Councilwomen Smith said that we could adopt this one to have something on record for this year. If you want to hold off on this we can do so. Councilwomen Kuba asked what do you want to bring the yearly rental up to? Councilmen Nalesnik asked are we going to hire someone like ARRO to do inspections for our rentals, so we have to make sure their fees are covered. Councilwomen Smith said maybe we ask ARRO how much an inspection would run us so we can adjust our fees accordingly. So do you want to hold off on this until we have the complete revision of the other rental Ordinance. President Hawk said that if we are going to have ARRO do the inspection annually, we need to know what it will cost to have them do one. Councilwomen Kuba said that she would check with ARRO on what the cost is. She said that if the taxes or rental fees not paid then they can't rent it out. We would pay ARRO and then charge the property owner. Councilwomen Smith said here is an idea, if you want to rent here, we are not going to charge you an inspection fee, if you go and have to property inspection and then bring back the inspection letter to us, that it passed, so that means we are not paying out anything. If we provided the people with a list of inspectors that they can choose from. We should have it in black and white and have all ducks in a row. Councilmen Nalesnik asked about getting bids for a 3 and 5 year garbage contract this year. Councilwomen Smith said she will get some kind of quotes for the upcoming garbage contract for a 3/5 year.

**RECREATION:** Councilwomen Smith mentioned that she has been helping Michael Nahaj under the Nesquehoning Community Events, I have written letters on his behalf to chocolate companies like Hershey, Gertrude Hawk, I reached out to the banks. The bank had given us a donation. We told him to go purchase the candy, bring receipt in and once we have our totals for donations, we would reimburse him, I believe right now he is up to \$350.00 that people have pledged through the borough to give to him. That is a nice amount. Mauch Chunk Trust has said that they are waiting on approval and they would be giving a donation also. The Recreation Committee meeting is the first Monday in April which is April 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 pm.

**BUDGET & FINANCE:** Councilwomen Kuba reported that she attended a meeting about two weeks ago with various people and they are going to be starting a Chamber of Commerce. I am going to try and find out what we need to bring in to work the blueprint communities. Lois was asked to be the liaison for the borough. It is going to be about bringing in business to the borough. Want to meet with Deb DelFranco, Secretary/Treasurer about the second week of April to go over the budget so far. Working with blueprint communities in trying to get restaurants, little stores, more shopping, things like that, housing. Kovatch still has the property which is the service center. There are different things about bringing into the borough. She would like to get together with David and Bruce to set up an appointment with Mauch Chunk Trust to go over the police pension, we have not really looked at it for about 2 years. Deb DelFranco asked about Johnson Park Grant. She mentioned that she heard from the State and they are asking what is going on, has there been any movement on the park. She mentioned that the grant is up at the end of June of 2024 and she is not sure if the state is going to grant her an extension if one is needed. She said that she would call Barry Isett's office to find out what they are doing as far as the new revision and if it would be going out for bid.

**PERSONNEL & SAFETY:** Councilwomen Fox reported that she thinks that the cleaning at the office and the police department are happy with the cleaning process. I received an email from Mark Labauch that they are ready with negotiations, so he wanted to know some dates that we can meet with them. Councilwomen Smith said she asked President Hawk to remove her from Personnel, because she thinks that because she does work with everyone, she does not feel she should vote on anything, potentially



the water authority going into the union, it would be a conflict of interest to sit in on anything. David is going to switch, Councilwomen Smith will go onto buildings and Councilwomen Shubeck will go onto Personnel. Councilwomen Fox said that they are looking for some dates that council is available and that it would have to be an evening date for the teamsters contract, public works, email me some dates. She said that she would pick a date with no council meeting night. Thursdays are better for Councilwomen Shubeck and Councilmen Nalesnik. Councilwomen Fox said that the way they went into negotiations for the office staff was not progressing because they come in with their stuff, we would read it and we would have to give a counter and we come into the meeting with that. From what I have been told teamsters is going to email me the contract for the public works so we can go over it before the meeting and come in with something. Councilmen Nalesnik said that for this one, there is a contract already in place. The other situation was a complete start from scratch. Councilwomen Fox said the ground work is already laid for this one.

ADJOURNMENT: Council went into Executive Session at 8:10 pm.