

**MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF NESQUEHONING BOROUGH
COUNCIL**

**Thursday, August 8, 2024 at 5:00 PM., Borough Office
114 W. Catawissa Street, Nesquehoning, PA 18240**

President Hawk called meeting to order at 5:00 PM

ROLL CALL: COUNCILWOMEN/COUNCILMEN: FOX, KUBA, SMITH, SHUBECK,
NALESNIK, KATTNER, PRESIDENT HAWK, SOLICITOR YURCHAK

PURPOSE: SANITATION

SANITATION: Councilwomen Smith started by saying thank you to Deb DelFranco for gathering all the information. As we quite pretty much already knew that we are paying the most for the least amount of service. She said Larry Wittig, Tamaqua Transfer called the office and wanted to come to the meeting tonight, but we thought we should discuss this first and then set up a meeting with Larry sometime next week. We are going to ask him to explain to us, because, with some of the contracts it is their last year and they will negotiate in 2025, but from what we are gathering for just about every other town there is, they get a bulk every single pickup and we are getting a bulk pickup once per month, and ours is more than everyone else's, even Rush Township and they just renewed their contract. Councilwomen Fox asked what the number of residents are in Rush Township to Deb DelFranco, and she responded by saying, there are about the same residents in Rush Township. Deb DelFranco did mention that Rush Township does have recycling and we don't, and they also have bulk pickup every week. Councilwomen Smith said that she spoke with Lansford today and they have opted not for the twice a year clean up because they went with the weekly bulk, and that is a big difference and I think bulk is big problem in town, all the time you see people putting it out and it is just sitting there for three weeks because it is not getting picked up and sending the cops to tell them to drag it back in off the curb, where is if we had a weekly bulk pickup, I think that would be beneficial for us at this stage of the game. Councilwomen Shubeck said that we are either going to go for bulk once a week or the spring and fall cleanup. Councilwomen Fox asked if Tamaqua Transfer was charging us more for the dumpsters at the Sewer plant, the rec center, fire companies. She said that there is only one dumpster at the rec center that cover them and also the police. Deb DelFranco mentioned that in the bid, they have it listed as the borough office, and the three fire companies having dumpster and that is not true. The borough office does not have a dumpster and either does Hauto fire company. Councilwomen Smith said that New Columbus Fire Company also does not have a dumpster, they put their garbage out. Councilmen Nalesnik asked if we could phone Larry Wittig, but it was way to late in the day to call him. Councilmen Kattner stated that he understood paying more because of transportation, gas amounts, but I don't understand why he does not give us the equal of the bulk pickup. Councilwomen Smith did say that she knows he has us over a barrel, because nobody else put in a bid, so he could basically do what he wishes, and we are going to have to go to the residents and tell them their rates are

going up with no extra services, I think that is wrong. Councilwomen Shubeck said why don't we ask him and to why Rush Township similar to our Borough and they are getting a lot more than we are and they have recycling. Bob Pilla of the sewer department stated that the dumpster at the sewer plant is picked up every two weeks and not weekly like it should be. He says that he has to call them and remind them to pick it up. President Hawk asked how we compare to Rush Township as far as tonnage wise. Deb DelFranco stated that she would call and get the tonnage amount from Rush Township and compare. Councilwomen Fox stated that we are paying \$100,000.00 more and Councilmen Nalesnik said that Larry Wittig is probably attributing that to the cost of fuel. Solicitor Yurchak said that Coaldale just did their contract with Tamaqua Transfer within the last year and it doubled in price. Councilwomen Shubeck stated but to give us nothing to increase the price, we are not getting anything. We are getting our commercial picked up, so how do we justify that increase. She said she knows gas is going up, but what else. Councilwomen Smith asked Deb DelFranco go give the break down as to the price increase in the garbage price. Deb DelFranco went on to say that before anything, Susan Bamford salary comes out of sanitation as well as insurances, that is about \$80,000.00 right off the bat. The money that we cushioned if you will, there is only about \$75,000.00 cushion and that is not going to cover. If we do a \$5.00 increase to garbage it makes the bill \$540.00 per year for the residents, so you times that by 1566 residents is 845,640.00 times that by 5 years it is about 4.2 million. We have think that whatever cushion we may have, we need to take 80-85 out for Susan Bamford and we need to include the delinquent in garbage. I have suggested to council that we take Susan Bamford out the sanitation account and put her into general fund under myself and then a lot x amount of dollars to come out of sanitation once a year to cover most of her salary. The only thing that should be coming out of Sanitation is the Tamaqua Transfer for the garbage monthly payment. Councilmen Nalesnik said that we have taken away from sewer, so this is based on that template staying that way, is that sufficient for sewer. Councilwomen Fox stated that she believes that is sufficient for Sewer. Councilwomen Fox stated that she would still like to know from Larry Wittig about why we get what we get and what others get and we pay more. Councilmen Nalesnik said that he is worried that we are going to run out of time before the contract ends on September 30th. Councilwomen Smith noted that she had no problem with Sanitation Committee getting together with Mr. Wittig before the next meeting in August. Deb DelFranco will set up a meeting next week to have Larry Wittig come in and speak about what Nesquehoning Borough is getting for the amount of the garbage bid. Council members asked if the price of the bid can be altered. Solicitor Yurchak said no to the price change, but you could negotiate another service with him. Councilwomen Smith said that we could add to the bid, but not change the price. Solicitor Yurchak stated that before you call the meeting with Larry Wittig, you should have Deb calculate the tonnage for Nesquehoning, and find out what Rush Township tonnage for the year is, he said don't go into the meeting blind, make sure you have the information. Deb DelFranco also let Council know that October, November and December we will be paying a higher amount to Tamaqua Transfer and that we are going to be taking about a \$70,000.00 hit. Councilwomen Fox said that when we meet, we should ask about services and the dumpsters. Councilwomen Smith asked if any day and time works for the Sanitation Committee to meet, after Deb gets the information together.

Councilwomen Shubeck did ask if we could contact other suppliers and ask them why they did not bid. Solicitor Yurchak said that we should meet with Mr. Wittig beforehand because you call someone else.

Councilwomen Kuba brought up that this Friday is Kovatch's at 6:00 pm. The opening of Narrow Valley Sports Center. She said next Saturday, there is a train ride with the railroad for the grand opening.

President Hawk asked if Bob Pilla, sewer department received the report from the Railroad and Bob Pilla said yes and that he forwarded it to Bill McMullen at ARRO.

STREETS: Councilmen Nalesnik said that the street department met before the meeting tonight and that we are going to work on the final version of the curbing letter to be sent out, At the last meeting that we approved the new paving projects, the street committee met and there are several options. When you repave the street, you are required to put ramps on the corners. ARRO pointed that out and provided documentation proof of that, so based upon that the cost goes up when you pave streets now. Councilmen Nalesnik said it is up to us to do, but we have been advised that it is a requirement so we need to do, so based upon that the street committee opted for Option E, which is paving the first blocks of Center Street, putting ramps in where necessary, not every corner, there are some on the summitt hill side and not catawiss side, and repaving the first block of Pine Street and we would not pave that second block of Pine going up, just to save some money, not clean out liquid fuels account, so the street committee recommended option E, so I will ask Bill McMullen to prepare the bid specs for that and for use to approve at the next council meeting. Councilmen Nalesnik said that PennDot will be doing Catawissa Street starting sometime in late August early September. He said road department are doing some storm drain repairs, we were going to do them anyway, PennDot is not doing curb to curb. We will the other ones. Councilwomen Fox stated that when the gentleman from PennDot was here, he meant that a borough is different from a township and we are responsible for all the inlets all along the state highway.

Motion to adjourn made by Councilwomen Smith and seconded by Councilwomen Shubeck at 5:45 pm

DEBORAH DELFRANCO
SECRETARY/TREASURER