

MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF NESQUEHONING BOROUGH COUNCIL
Wednesday, October 8, 2025 at 6:00 PM, Borough Office
114 W. Catawissa Stree, Nesquehoning, PA 18240

An Executive Session was held at 5:00 PM to discuss Personnel Matters, no action taken.

President Hawk called meeting to order at 6:00 PM

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

PURPOSE: Committee Workshop Meeting

Jared Scott from the Carbon Chamber & Economic Development said that I am here today to discuss my transition into the Chamber and will be going to more municipalities. There are twenty three municipalities in Carbon and we are trying to get to all just to find out if it development opportunities, county idea of their comprehensive plans. You guys get to decide how you want your town to be. It is finding out if more counties are able to be developed or not. What we are trying to do, the path, get to know the communities and how can we help create a development for the county. We are trying to be proactive with this and wanting to know what you want and don't want. We want to be a resource for the counties. Myself and my co-worker Emily will be doing walk through the different municipalities, door to door, how they operate and what kind of feed back we could give them. This way we are in the communities. Economic Development is now child care, aging senior population and the needs that are needed. We also want your small businesses to be able to reach out to us and if we can help. Right now we have our hands in many pots. We want to be a support service to all. Councilwomen Kuba stated that communities did their own thing, but now they are seeing how many municipalities have grown. Take Tamaqua for example, they are going to try block to block. If we could get one block to clean up in front of your house, pulling weeds and the town can't monetary reward, but maybe do a notice that they did it. Councilwomen Fox mentioned about the train and what the tourism has done in Jim Thorpe, and it is too much for Jim Thorpe. With the train coming into Nesquehoning, I said, how do you make a plan for what would happen when you get such a major crowds. Before we go promoting things, in Nesquehoning, we need to have a plan, to not be overrun like Jim Thorpe is. Councilwomen Kuba stated that maybe in the future people will come to Nesquehoning and board the train and go into Jim Thorpe. With a lot of people, it should not clog up our town, because they would be using the parking lot at the train station. It would mean that we would not have to put on extra police. It would help our town, people will stop and get gas, get something to eat and it could maybe bring in a little economy to the town. Jarod stated that he would leave information for us and I we had any questions, to contact him and he would be more than happy to assist in anyway he could. Councilwomen Fox asked Jaro, how would you plan for large crowds in your town. Jarod replied and said, there are a lot of part in your town, and that there is still some kind of guidance. You could reach out to local reps at DCED or DCNR and find what type of comprehensive plan you could do. With the long term planning, myself and Lois did with the

train, there was not enough connection with the community and when you are bringing in 500 people and there is only a couple of places open. Councilwomen Fox stated that there is shop in Jim Thorpe that is closed on Saturday, because of the traffic of people down there.

Councilwomen Kuba stated that the 911 trails will be coming through Nesquehoning. Jarod said you need to connect all the communities together and moving forward in a position way.

Councilwomen Kuba stated that the 911 trail are going to be really big and there is a meeting at the end of the month and if anyone could make it you are going to be surprised, when you hear the final plans and what it is going to bring to Nesquehoning. It is on the 23rd at 6:00PM. We have been informed that it is going to be a big surprise. This meeting would be on the trail.

Every town will be included in this. Jarod stated that working with pilot programs, like if you have a trolley to go through town, what businesses would be open for people to stop and view and would want to come back to your town, while taking the train. It has to be more structured as to time and days. The only other thing I wanted to mention is that we also do small business loans for the small business owner and start ups. If anyone comes into the office and wants to start a small business just refer them to us, and we a team that would help with that process.

They come into our office once a week and will help with a business plan or a reconstruction of a business plan. There are more opportunities. He stated that they are excited about using the GIS system software to give ourselves highlights as to where things are. You have water, sewer system and other things on this system to pinpoint areas.

STREETS:

Councilmen Nalesnik stated that the paving project up in New Columbus has been completed. The two blocks of East Columbus to the end and Marconi are totally paved, coming down the hill to West Columbus in that cul de sac area. Took a ride today and it is a lot better than it was. Deb stated that the PO for Stork's was sent over awhile ago, Councilmen Nalesnik stated that he would contact them and set up an appointment to get the equipment installed. The backhoe is back in service. The bill was \$5900.00 and considering the scope of work it could have been a lot worse. It is a 2008, and that was the first major repair since it was bought. Councilwomen Fox stated that the sewer department paid for the repairs according to the agreement when the backhoe was bought. He stated that the Railroad wants us to do some patching on Industrial Road crossing, up near the Co-gen. They have concrete panels and tracks that are lagged down on poles and the macdem is cracking, we responded quickly and they requested hot patch and we did the hot patch. We met a guy there and then they asked us to take the panels out and have us hot patch the whole area on each side of the tracks, to keep the relations going, I agreed and we did it. We really did step up with the railroad and we did a good neighborly act. It is the first phase of the grant and it will be repaved and constructed. Councilwomen Fox stated that she has always been concerned about the pipe that goes underneath to road, it is after the co-gen. Councilmen Nalesnik stated the bottom is rotted out and we decided to right it into the grant. Phase 1 may stop before or right after that. President Hawk stated that the map he saw it is right after the Co-Gen. We helped the railroad out. On East Diaz Avenue, he asked Mark from Water Authority if they were going to hot patch the crossing. Mark stated that Radocha was going to speak with Bob. Deb DelFranco stated that she had estimates from Radocha. There is Diaz and Messina, the water tank road and Diaz and Padua. They are separate estimates. Bob brought them into me she stated. President Hawk stated that the

authority would go 50/50 on these. Councilmen Nalesnik stated that whether it is Radocha or us it needs to be done., we need to hot patch. Deb said Water tank road \$3200.00, Diaz and Padua, 1400.00, and Diaz and Messina 1240.00. Councilmen Nalesnik stated that is off the street going up and it is not actually on Diaz. We went half and half on the project. Councilman Nalesnik stated that we could go get hot patch and do it. The price of hot patch, not sure what that is have only got one order at \$600.00. President Hawk stated to have Radocha do it and split it. Diaz and Messina would be streets and the other two we could split the other two. Councilwoman Smith stated that on Friday we have Surface coming to get a price in the curbing for the water authority and I reached out to Robert to see if he could touch base with Stempa, because he is not returning phone calls and maybe Robert could possible reach him. He is not keeping the pricing from last years quote for the curbing. Deb stated that all the letters went out. Councilman Nalesnik stated we do not have to get quotes or put onto the meeting. Councilman Nalesnik stated it would be done a better, but our road department does not do. Councilmen Kuba asked about snow removal for the winter. Councilman Nalesnik stated that he was not planning any changes. Councilwomen Smith said that the Police Ordinance was a little confusing. Councilmen Nalesnik stated we changed signs and that it was a police order, but we all need to be on the same page. If someone complains, we see what happens this year and if there are any complaints, we can change the Ordinance the following year. I meet with the guys in a November timeframe and go over winter plans. Councilmen Kattner stated that Bob Pilla would like to purchase a pusher block for the backhoe to push the snow. If you see anything comes through for a pusher block. Councilmen Nalesnik stated that he got one for the new bobcat. Councilmen Kattner stated that Bob stated the backhoe gets serviced every 500 hours and Councilmen Nalesnik stated not sure why it was not done. Councilwomen Smith said that Tyler Schiler from New Columbus Fire Company said that when streets had a chance maybe go up to the fire house and get some kind of game plan for the Christmas on the Hill Event. To coordinate with streets. Councilman Nalesnik stated that Streets will go with what ever the plan may be. He stated that we could do the spikes and the lighting. Councilwomen Smith stated that they are getting prices for trees for the event. Maybe, have Bob help them. Councilmen Nalesnik asked how they want it to go. Councilwomen Smith stated that it is up to Bob and how it would work easier.

SEWER:

Councilwomen Fox stated that we had a Sewer Committee meeting on September 30th, one of our concerns was the laundry mat and Deb is sending a letter to Black Rock telling them, they need to purchase 3 more Edu's. Deb said that they are planning on putting a tanning salon on one side. Councilmen Kattner stated that the one side a skill games. Deb said she did the letter and ran it by Robert and he said it was fine and the letter was sent. Councilmen Nalesnik said that they decided to raise the EDU and the tapping fee. Right now the EDU is 2,000.00 and the tapping fee is 50.00. Councilwomen Fox stated that we are going to be raising the EDU to 4,000.00 each and tapping fee to 1,500.00. Our tapping fee right now is 50.00 and we are loosing money because of what sewer needs to purchase in order to tap into to the sewer. Councilwoman Fox stated that the piping project is still not done and hoping to have it done by the end of the October. The generators are done. The smoke testing was done ,and letters will be going out. Deb mentioned that the letters already went out to the residents to fix their

issues. Councilwomen Fox mentioned that they were thinking about replacing Diaz to Marconi. Councilmen Nalesnik stated that from Diaz to down the hill to Columbus, that there are pipes that are rotted and that are a mess, we are going to discuss with budget to reconstruct that hill, for piping and reconstructing that road, with sewer and road. Councilwomen Fox stated that when they hooked up the buried sewer, a lot of that is coming out. Councilmen Nalesnik said they maybe a bulk of our paving. That would be a joint with sewer and streets. Not that we are doing it, but this is preliminary. Deb stated that we have to keep in mind that we need to budget for Industrial Road. Bill McMullen was at the sewer meeting and he estimates the job at about \$500,000.00, so split between sewer and road it would be about 250,000.00 each. He is looking at the numbers, and if it happens it will, but if it does not this year then it doesn't. Councilwomen Fox also said that on the agenda that Bob has two different schooling to keep his license up. One in October and one in November. She mentioned about Emory's contract. The sludge is going out in December, Bill will start advertising and be award to start. The railroad inspection between Allen Street and Mountain Avenue, there are 12 buried manholes in that section. Some are buried under the railroad balas and this meeting with George of the PUC, he is going to have a meeting on October 21 and maybe we could get the agreement between the water authority, sewer and the railroad settled, because he was here for our meeting last April and we are trying to get this settled, hopefully when he comes in here we can settle something up. He also said he is doing a final inspection and maybe we can speak with him about the final agreement. President Hawk said that when he spoke with George he told him that it is still in the works and it is coming along very slowly. Councilwomen Fox said that she is not an engineer, what do you do with 12 buried manholes, something goes wrong with them. The railroad covered them up. She stated that we also looked at the budget for next year for the sewer and that everything is set up as to what has to come up and go down. We all know that hospitalization is going to go up that is a given. I did ask Deb, to go back 15 year and I did notice that the electric box and blowers were done and she will add, but that last 15 years the sewer has spent \$1,934,558.88 we have sent just on the plant and infrastructure.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS:

Councilman Kattner stated that he would like to have the furnaces cleaned at the Borough Building and the Recreation Center before winter sets in by Radocha. He also stated that the urinal at the Police Department needs to be flushed out. Councilmen Kattner asked Councilmen Nalesnik if he reached out to Mr. Dunn about the trees. Councilmen Nalesnik stated that he did contact him and got no response.

POLICE & PUBLIC SAFETY:

Councilwoman Kuba stated that there were no issues with the new police vehicle, that everything is great and they are very happy with it. She also stated that the police department will be creating a camera registry for the public. We can get that and approve the Resolution and approve at the meeting. They would allow the police to review any recording that could possibly help them in a situation. She also mentioned that there would be a boot drive this Sunday and if it rained then it would be the following Sunday. There are still some spots open if anyone is interested. The time is 8-4. Councilwomen Kuba stated that there are a lot of great

volunteers that support the fundraising. Councilwomen Fox stated that some people are receptive and others are not. Councilwomen Fox suggested that the three fire companies do some training together. We want them to just work together. President Hawk said to put the bickering aside and work together. Councilwomen Fox stated that the fire company would like us to raise the fire tax to the top rate. Councilwomen Kuba stated that she thought they should come to a meeting and they do not want to attend. There will also possibly be a resolution and proclamation done for Grace Whildin, a crossing guard that has since retired. The civil service meeting was cancelled due to illness. Need to check with Brad about the electronic signs and if he got all the particulars on that, as far as I know that nothing was ordered on, because Brad was going to speak with someone at PPL and PENNDOT. Councilwomen Kuba state that the Aerial truck was paid off this year. I was not on Council when this agreement was made. Deb stated that the agreement was done in 2012. Councilmen Nalesnik mentioned that it is a borough vehicle.

SANITATION & QUALITY OF LIFE:

Councilwomen Smith stated that we are having a meeting with Advanced Code to get an idea of what the cost would be to have them with the borough for code enforcement. Councilwomen Smith mentioned about the short-term rental agreements and the fees. Deb stated that Robert did a rental form and that looks good. Councilwomen Smith said that is why Robert made the recommendation for the rate of \$600.00 per year because the bed and breakfasts are making that ten times over in one weekend. We just need to decide on a rate. Councilwomen Shubeck mentioned that if you have an air b and b do you need a parking spot. Councilmen Nalesnik stated that they are required to have off street parking. Councilmen Nalesnik stated that in the Ordinance that it would be per bedroom as far as the parking spots. It had to be off street parking per bedroom. That is air v and b only. We do not have a current air b and b Ordinance. Councilwomen Smith asked what everyone thinks about \$500.00 for two years. Councilwomen Shubeck stated that the owner will be recouping what they are paying. Councilwomen Smith said that if it is a rental, then it is a rental. They are still required to get it inspected anyway. Councilmen Kattner stated that it is non-refundable if the property is sold. Councilwomen Fox stated that the fire companies wanted Council to look into an amusement tax because of all the skilled machines that are in the stores. Councilwomen Kuba asked if you would still charge private clubs for the skilled machines? It is something that we are going to have to look at. President Hawk said that no sure if the machines are considered a small game of chance or if that is just for things like 50/50 raffles. Councilwomen Kuba stated that it would be for just the skilled games. We can check it out with Robert about the amusement tax. Councilwomen Smith asked about the rental fees for short term, so it would \$500.00 for two years. Councilwomen Fox stated that maybe we should do \$750.00 for two years. It was in agreement that it should be two years for \$500.00. Deb will let Robert aware to do resolution and the fee schedule. Deb stated that she has not had any issues with the regular rental fees. Councilwomen Kuba asked if they were able to find the resident that lives across the street from Mermon. Councilwomen Smith stated that Robert said he has been in and out and that he sends his representative. The gentlemen still living in the basement, I believe he still does. There is no water, electricity. We have people living on the park benches now. There was a couple that was sleeping in the woods, they used to live in town. I asked Bradley to have a

police vehicle drive around and keep an eye on the homelessness in town. L C & N should be made aware that people are sleeping up there. I told police that I have them on camera from my home and these people are looking into people's car to please check it out. Councilmen Nalesnik asked if we could have Robert send a letter to LC&N advising them that there are people on their property. Councilwomen Kuba stated that there was a woman sleeping on the bench at Johnson Park. Councilwomen Shubeck stated that people have approached her about going around town and checking things out. Councilwomen Smith stated that she has no problem going out around town and checking on things, but it would have to be after November 8th.

RECREATION:

Councilwomen Shubeck stated that she received an email from Pam and that the Recreation Commission will be doing the Trunk or Treat on October 26th and if anyone was interested to just contact them. They have about 13/15 vehicles. The New Columbus fire company is helping, also on October 18th is the concert and there are tickets that are still available. The proceeds are going to the 250th birthday. They were also asked by the New Columbus fire company for help with Christmas on the Hill Event. Councilwomen Smith stated that if Nesquehoning fire decides not to do the trunk or treat next year, I would like to take it back over. Councilwomen Fox stated that if New Columbus and the Recreation Commission, if everything goes well this year and they want to continue to do it, let them take it over if Nesquehoning Fire does not want to. Councilwomen Shubeck stated that they did not have a meeting on Monday night. She mentioned that Recreation Commission received a letter from President Hawk. Councilwomen Smith stated that the issues that they had with Community Events. Community was to speak the community. But this was not an attack or malicious on community events part, but it was explained multiple times how the community events works. It was brought to my attention at National Night Out about the questioning of an invoice, I asked Deb to come over and explain to Pam and she did, that is her job to question an invoice. I thought this was done. Councilwomen Kuba then stated that she believes this has to do with the fact that the Recreation Commission has to have appointed members and there is no appointment for community events, that they have by-laws, community events no bylaws. Councilwomen Smith mentioned that the recreation commission also has their own checking account and that nothing that community events does always goes through council. Councilwomen Shubeck stated that nobody saw the letter. The question that they are asking, I told them to go to Sue with questions. Community Events is to motivate others to help them start an event and they then take it over. Councilwomen Fox asked Deb to put community events on the treasurer's report going forward. Deb mentioned that she did hear from Jennifer Hunsicker about the playground equipment and Jennifer stated that Jason in the office would be ordering the equipment. I will let the recreation commission know that Jason in her office will be doing to ordering. I will then forward any report to the recreation commission. Deb brought up about having another recycling event for October. We are looking at October 28th.

BUDGET & FINANCE:

Councilwomen Kuba stated that there will be a budget meeting next Thursday at 4:00 PM.

The CD's are up November 1st, Deb stated that the bank has no information with regards to up the rate will be. Councilwomen Fox asked if Mauch Chunk Trust wanted to speak with us. Deb stated that they really want to take over our accounts. Councilmen Nalesnik stated that Mauch Chunk Trust handles our Police pension for a large amount of money that is equal to what Jim Thorpe does for us. Councilmen Nalesnik stated we could get a much better rates with Charles Jones and possibly a better pension rate also. Councilwomen Kuba stated that Deb has said that Jim Thorpe is very good the borough.

PERSONNEL & SAFETY:

Councilwomen Fox stated that Kathy Burns is doing a great job and seems to be happy. Councilwomen Fox mentioned that she wrote to Matt with regards to the union contract with a wording change and has not heard back yet. It will go onto the agenda for vote.

Councilwomen Fox stated that we need to come to some decision with regards to the Water Authority. She also stated that she would like to have a town meeting, because the town is who elected us, and we would like to hear what they have to say on this subject. Councilmen Nalesnik stated that we need to put a motion on the agenda that council would not renew the authority but would allow the extension for up to two years, or a shorter time frame, if all the items were completed, to allow the borough to create a new water department and terminate the Authority. The extension would not be a general one.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilwomen Shubeck made a motion to adjourn and Councilmen Kattner seconded. Meeting ended at 8:45 PM

Deborah DelFranco
Secretary/Treasurer