

MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF NESQUEHONING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Wednesday, April 13, 2022 at 6:00 p.m., Borough Office
114 W. Catawissa Street, Nesquehoning, PA 18240

ROLL CALL: COUNCILMEN JACOBS, NALESNIK, PAUL; COUNCILWOMEN FOX, POREMBO;
PRESIDENT HAWK & MAYOR KATTNER

President Hawk called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PURPOSE: Workshop/Committee Meeting

1. STREETS **LOUIS PAUL, CO-CHAIRMAN; FRANK JACOBS**

Councilman Paul stated how he had told the Borough crew to remove the snow parking signs and to set the crosswalk pedestrian crossing signs back out. He stated about the merry-go-round in the Hauto Park. Councilwoman Fox stated how she was not able to get in touch with David or Diana Walls yet. Councilman Jacobs stated how the Borough had offered several years ago to maintain the property/equipment; cut the grass, etc. Councilman Nalesnik stated about getting a memo from the Fire Company authorizing the Borough to remove it.

Councilman Paul stated how they were supposed to list the F550 for sale on Municibid. He stated that he had received a quote for an easy dump. Councilman Paul stated that the money they would get from the sale of the truck would cover the cost of the easy dumper. He stated that the price for the easy dump varies from \$4,000.00 - \$5,500.00 based on the length of the truck bed and accessories. Councilman Paul stated how they had 3 dump trucks, 2 pick-up trucks, loader and a bucket truck/van for two Borough workers. He stated how the easy dump would get mounted to the bed of one of the pick-up trucks. Councilman Paul stated how they have a spreader and a plow for the new pick-up truck. He stated how the easy dump should be more than sufficient for what they have to do. Councilman Paul stated how he did not want to spend \$20,000.00 on a truck that was over 10 years old. Councilwoman Fox asked about the issues with the silver truck; motor, wiring, springs and universal joints. Councilman Paul stated how they had just spent money on the truck to have the front end rebuilt.

Councilman Jacobs stated that everything he had researched for a truck; 4 years old or newer, were around \$60,000.00. He stated how they all had higher miles. Councilwoman Fox stated how the easy dump fit into the bed of the truck. Councilman Jacobs stated that the Chevy pickup was too old for the easy dump. He stated that if they would overload that truck, they would be blowing tires. Councilman Jacobs stated how that was part of the problem with the silver dump truck. He asked if they wanted to put a secondhand engine into the truck, before they listed it for sale. Councilman Paul stated how they were talking about \$13,000.00 - \$14,000.00 for a used motor. He stated how they were not going to get a warranty on a secondhand motor. Councilman Paul stated how that did not include the wiring. He stated how they would be over \$20,000.00 with repairing everything (motor, springs, wiring, universal joints and tires). Councilman Jacobs stated that they would be able to get \$35,000.00 - \$40,000.00 if they would get it repaired. Councilwoman Poremba asked Councilman Jacobs if he wanted to fix it to get rid of it. Councilman Jacobs stated "just the engine". Councilwoman Fox stated how they might be able to get more money for it, if it was running.

Councilwoman Poremba asked if there was someone they could talk to in order to get information about placing the truck up for bid. Councilman Paul stated how it was not worth it to do that. Councilwoman Poremba stated how they had discussed in the past about hiring contracts to do larger projects within the Borough, where the contractor would be supplying the equipment/trucks. She stated about getting rid of the truck "as is" instead of investing money in the hopes that it would bring a greater return.

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Councilwoman Fox asked if there was a way to see what the trucks were selling on Municibid. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they could go onto the website to see what was being sold. President Hawk asked if they had to sell the truck. If they did not get the price they wanted. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that they would not have to sell if they did not meet the reserve price. Councilman Nalesnik asked why they needed so many dump trucks. He stated how they should be getting rid of the old vehicles. Councilman Jacobs stated how the dump trucks were not used all year round, but they did need them during the winter months for plowing/salting and cindering. Councilman Nalesnik asked if each Borough worker had their own dump truck. Councilman Jacobs stated that when they have a storm, they need them out there. Councilman Paul stated if they were going to spend the money on an engine, they should just spend the extra money for a new engine and to fully repair the truck. Councilman Jacobs stated that the quote he received from Kovatch, for a new engine, was \$15,900.00. President Hawk stated about placing the silver truck on Municibid with the reserve set between \$15,000.00 - \$20,000.00.

Councilman Jacobs stated how it was mentioned to him about fixing the old white sewer truck and installing the dump body on that truck. He stated how that would cost approximately \$3,000.00 to fix. Councilman Jacob stated that if they were going to do that, they should get rid of the Chevy. Councilman Paul stated how they agreed to keep that truck until it would die. Councilman Paul stated how they have three trucks to plow snow, but only have two workers. He stated that if one of the big trucks would break down, they have a spare. Councilman Jacobs stated how they used to use the one ton truck to plow the narrow streets. Councilman Paul stated that if they got the dump body or even if they did not get the dump body, they would use the pickup truck to plow the narrow streets. He stated how they could put some cinders on the dump body with the spreader and they could also use the dump body to pick up piles, clean drains or put down cold patch.

Councilman Jacobs stated how they could put it on Municibid with the reserve of \$15,000.00. Councilman Paul stated how he would not vote to have a used motor installed in the truck. He stated how he would rather bite the bullet and go with the new engine. Councilman Paul stated how it would be different if they were going to hire two more Borough workers. Councilman Nalesnik stated how he was not against getting a new one ton truck, but they should get rid of some of the old metal. He stated how they could look at a Dodge with a Cummings engine.

Councilwoman Fox stated how she had received a complaint about the tractor-trailers that were parked at the end of Locust Street. She asked if the Borough could paint the end zone to prevent the trucks from parking there. Councilwoman Fox stated how it was hard to see at the intersection when cars were turning onto or off of Locust Street, with the trucks parked in the end zone.

Councilman Paul stated how Andy Staehle was asking about getting a new grinding wheel. Councilman Jacobs stated how he did not have a problem with that.

Councilwoman Poremba stated how there were some larger pot holes on Park Avenue at the intersections with Sixth and Seventh Avenue. Councilman Jacobs stated how he had told them about those potholes. He stated how they should get 3 ton of hot patch instead of using cold patch.

Councilman Jacobs asked if they heard anything back from the Railroad, because they had talked about starting the crossing on April 18th. President Hawk stated "no". Councilman Paul stated how they were out patching pot holes and he was still trying to get them to seal the cracks. He stated how they could not get all of the work done with two workers.

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Councilwoman Fox stated how they could contract out for sealing the streets. Councilman Paul stated how he had given them the list of what they should contract out. He stated how they were able to cut the grass, doing building maintenance, paint the lines, clean inlets and pick up piles, along with any complaints that they would receive. Councilman Paul stated how they have a decision to make to either hire Borough workers or contract the work out. Councilwoman Fox stated “contract out”. Councilman Jacobs stated how they would have to come up with some kind of specifications and what streets that they would want sealed. He stated how it was not going to be cheap with the rising costs.

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how she had received the one quote for sweeping the streets from the company that does the sweeping for the CoGen. She stated to Mayor Kattner that she did not know if he had gotten in touch with anyone to get any other quotes. Mayor Kattner stated how Barletta has a street sweeper. Councilman Jacobs asked Mayor Kattner if he had questioned if the COG was going to be renting the sweeper. He stated how Catawissa Street was the worse street in town, because the rain did a wonderful job washing the other streets off. Councilwoman Fox asked what they had paid the COG for the street sweeper last year. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they never got an invoice. She stated how she did not know if the COG did not bill the Borough because Mr. Degiglio had made some repairs to the sweeper; got a tire replaced, fix the window. Mayor Kattner stated how he would get in touch with Sam Kitchko to find out who was in charge of the street sweeper. Councilwoman Porembo stated about the cost for sweeping based on the quote they had received. She stated how they could just pick the streets that could really use the sweeping. Councilman Jacobs stated how the flat streets were the worse. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how she could get back in touch with Stanley Sweeping to get a price for the streets that run East to West.

President Hawk stated about a tree on Route 54 at 10th Avenue, which was leaning against the utility pole. He stated how he had talked to Solicitor Yurchak to see if there was anything the Borough could do to get the tree removed. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated about contacting PPL or PennDOT. Councilwoman Porembo stated how she thought that the property owner was taking care of it.

2. SEWER

MARY FOX, CHAIRWOMAN; FRANK JACOBS, CO- CHAIRMAN

Councilwoman Fox stated how they had a request from Lake Hauto to use the VAC truck to open up a storm drain. She stated how they had done it in the past. Councilwoman Fox stated how she had told Mr. Pilla to have them check all of their drains, so he could take care of them all in one day. Councilman Paul asked what the Borough was going to charge them. Councilwoman Fox stated “their taxes”. Councilman Paul stated how it was a private community. President Hawk and Councilman Jacobs stated how they still pay property taxes to the Borough. Councilman Paul stated how they do not pave their roads or do their maintenance. Councilwoman Fox stated how they have gone over with the VAC truck in the past. President Hawk stated about making sure all of the inlets were on the Carbon side.

Councilwoman Fox stated how Mr. Pilla was going to get in touch with Michael Radocha to get a price on the excavator with an operator for the block on Columbus Avenue. Councilman Jacobs stated how they talked about tying into the next block. Councilwoman Fox stated about paving the street. Councilman Jacobs stated how it would take a day to set the manhole. Councilman Paul asked how long the whole project was going to take. Councilman Jacobs stated how it should take them a week. Councilman Paul stated how that was a week, they would not be cold patching, sweeping or cutting grass. Councilwoman Fox stated how she could ask for a price for the entire project. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how Mr. Pilla could oversee the project. Councilwoman Fox stated how the Borough would be purchasing all of the material for the project. She stated how they already have the pipe.

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Councilwoman Fox stated how they were no further along with the sewer line off of Industrial Road. She stated how the small building was owned by Windstream and they had underground fiber optic lines, running to the building. Councilwoman Fox stated how Windstream had to find their deed, because they owned that property. Councilman Jacobs stated how they had found their paperwork. He stated how the engineer, Bill McMullen, was going to meet with them to see what they owned and what they had an easement for. Councilman Paul asked who they were expecting to do the job. Councilwoman Fox stated how they were going to contract it out. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how Carbon Engineering should have done a PA One Call for design/specification reasons, but they did not. She stated how they received a call at the office from a gentleman from Windstream questioning the tree removal, which was being done by Frank Ingrassia. Councilwoman Fox stated that according to Carbon Engineering, the only easements that they needed were Symmetry, Kovatch and the Smiths. She stated how there was nothing about Windstream.

Councilwoman Fox stated how she did not hear anything from Carbon Engineering or Eastern Environmental in Unit #2. She stated that she had sent them another email that morning about fixing what was detailed in the final inspection. Councilman Jacobs asked Councilwoman Fox who she had talked to at Carbon Engineering. Councilwoman Fox stated that she had talked to Rose Chapello and Ms. Chapello was going to get in touch with Eastern. She stated how she figured that she would contact Eastern directly, since they did not hear from either one of them.

Councilwoman Fox stated how Mr. Pilla had a request, from the people who purchased the property on Tippetts Road, to hook into the sewer system. She stated how the Borough's main sewer line runs through that property. Councilwoman Fox stated how Mr. Pilla was going to contact Dave Schlott, Arro Engineering, because he was worried about tapping into the main line. She stated how that line came down from the lake and it was a heavy flow line.

3. BUILDINGS BRUCE NALESNIK, CHAIRMAN; FRANK JACOBS

Councilman Nalesnik stated how the grant was extended for the fire company project until June 2023. He stated how Solicitor Yurchak was working with the fire company for the contractor's deficiencies on the project.

Councilman Nalesnik stated how the appraiser had been at the Borough garage twice and had all of the information that was needed for the appraisal. He stated how there were some movements with building opportunities in town.

Councilman Nalesnik stated how he was waiting on a quote from the graphic designer for the Borough vehicle/code car.

Councilman Nalesnik stated about the Air B & B Ordinance from Coolbaugh Township. Councilwoman Fox asked if Solicitor Yurchak was getting information on the Air B & Bs. Councilman Jacobs stated how they should have a meeting with zoning to go over everything including some of the rates they had discussed. Councilman Nalesnik stated about the Air B & Bs and inspections. He stated how they could then move onto the rentals. Councilwoman Fox stated how Lansford Borough has a pretty good Rental Ordinance. Councilwoman Poremba stated how Tim Dow had given them a copy of a Rental Ordinance from Penn Argyle, which she had forwarded to Solicitor Yurchak. She stated how that was a Rental Ordinance that included inspections. Councilwoman Poremba stated how they were waiting on a rough draft of that ordinance. Councilman Nalesnik stated how the Coolbaugh Township dealt with the Air B & Bs. He stated how they should get something on the books.

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Councilman Nalesnik stated how he had talked to Mr. Degiglio about the two issues at the Recreation Center; light out back and the door lock. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how she had received a message about the flying ants again. She stated how Seitz was usually there once a month, but they might have to do something more.

4. PUBLIC SAFETY

ROSEMARY POREMBO, CHAIRWOMAN; LOUIS PAUL, CO-CHAIRMAN; DAVID HAWK

Councilwoman Poremba stated how she had taken some time to meet with their new full-time police officer, Mike Weaver. She stated how she had also talked with Carl Breincer, who was still a little overwhelmed. Councilwoman Poremba stated how they were now getting schedules from the officers.

Councilwoman Poremba stated about the police vehicles and taking an inventory, which cars they wanted to keep. She stated that she did not know if they were going to stay with the four remaining police vehicles.

Councilwoman Poremba stated about blight and making a decision to set up an ad hoc committee to deal with the blight. She stated about the committee consisting of 5 to 7 individuals; Council and residents. Councilwoman Fox stated how she had talked to someone from Lansford Borough about joining forces for blight, but they were not interested. Councilwoman Poremba stated about looking through the paperwork from the blight seminar to see if they could get someone to talk to them, once they had the committee started.

Councilwoman Poremba stated how she had received a call from Sam Kitchko asking where they were at with the Butler Township agreement. She stated how she would set the agreement aside and come back to it under personnel. Councilwoman Poremba stated about the Datapilot 10 Forensic Software program, which came out of a grant and was expiring in June 2022. She stated how she had asked how detailed the forensic reporting was and how valuable it was to the police force. Councilwoman Poremba stated that when they had originally met, she was under the impression that it was very valuable, because they were able to gather information from cell phones. She stated that when they would go to court, they would have more information than what they actually would need. Councilwoman Poremba asked if it was something that they wanted to continue. Councilman Paul stated how it was something that they definitely needed it.

5. SANITATION **LOUIS PAUL, CHAIRMAN; ROSEMARY POREMBO, CO-CHAIRWOMAN, BRUCE NALESNIK**

Councilman Jacobs asked Secretary/Treasurer Ahner if she had scheduled an electronic recycling event yet. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated “not yet”. She stated how they usually hold one in the fall. Councilman Jacobs asked if they used to hold one in May. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they used to hold two recycling events every year, but they had cut it back to one, because they were not getting the turnout for both and they still had to pay to hold the events.

6. RECREATION **MARY FOX, CHAIRWOMAN; LOUIS PAUL, CO-CHAIRMAN; DAVID HAWK**

Councilwoman Fox stated how they were going to have the drive-by Easter Bunny at the Recreation Center on April 16th at 2:00 p.m.

Councilwoman Fox stated how she had a request from George Sabol about getting permission to do some cleanup work at Station Park. Councilman Jacobs stated about signing a liability release form. President Hawk stated how he wanted to rake out the stone and cut the ornamental grass.

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George Sabol stated how the Council Members had granted him permission to do work at Station Park, as long as it was not across from Mr. Stempa's garage. He stated how he was requesting to fix the pole that had been damaged by the wind; to cut the ornamental grass, which should be done in the spring and to rake out the stone. President Hawk stated how he did not have a problem with Mr. Sabol doing maintenance work at the park. He stated how they would find out if they had to sign a liability waiver for volunteers. Mr. Sabol stated how he had dug a hole for concrete to place an antique mile marker from the Nesquehoning Valley Railroad. Councilwoman Poremba asked Mr. Sabol if he could give them some information in writing as to what he was doing so the Council members knew what was going to be done at the park. Mr. Sabol stated "sure". He stated how he did meet with President Hawk and Councilwoman Fox a while back to explain his plans and to see if they had any questions or ideas.

Councilwoman Fox asked about the Johnson Park grant applications. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they were submitted and that they were just waiting for them to hold their meeting, which would be on May 24th.

Councilwoman Fox stated how she did not hear anything back from the Rev Group concerning the benches, picnic tables and the car port. She stated how she would check back with them next week.

Councilwoman Fox stated that the April's Recreation Commission meeting was canceled.

7. BUDGET/ ROSEMARY POREMBO, CHAIRWOMAN; FRANK JACOBS, CO- FINANCE CHAIRMAN; DAVID HAWK

Councilwoman Poremba stated how she wanted to review the ARP funds, which the Borough will receive a total of \$340,174.94, half of which they received in June 2021 and the other half they should be getting in June 2022. She stated how their report was coming due and when the report was filed, they were going to claim how they used the ARP funding for payroll from March 3, 2021 until March 30, 2022. Councilwoman Poremba stated that once they get the acceptance for filing, it will clear the funds and it would not have to be used as COVID funds anymore. She stated how it would be money for the Borough to use on projects. Councilwoman Poremba stated about looking at priorities that they would be able to use the funds towards. She stated about budgeting for roads, buildings, recreation, etc. for the next few years.

Councilman Paul stated about the streets that they had looked at with the engineer. He stated how they only bid for overlay for W. High Street (upper and lower), W. Ridge Street and DaVinci Avenue, but they still had E. Marconi Avenue and E. Mussmano Avenue on their list for next year. President Hawk stated how it did not mean that they had to put it all into the streets. Councilman Paul stated how those projects were coming out of the street fund. Councilwoman Poremba stated how there was extra funding available. She stated how they could pay for the Columbus Avenue sewer line project out of the Sewer fund; because it was a proprietary fund and it had the funds available for the project.

Councilwoman Poremba stated how they were supposed to be placing \$75,000.00 a year a side for streets, but when the budget fell short, they had pulled from that number to balance the budget. She stated how the estimated cost for the 2022 Road project was \$206,000.00. Councilman Paul stated how they had only picked four of the streets (instead of doing all six) because they had the issue with the pipe on Industrial Road with the Railroad. Councilwoman Poremba stated about adding in a little more money to the streets to finish off that plan next year. She stated how they could set aside some funding for future projects for the roads or for the buildings. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated about placing some of the funds aside for parks. She stated that if they were not awarded the grant that year, they could still finish the Johnson Park project.

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Councilman Paul stated how the estimated cost for the 2022 Road project was \$206,000.00. He stated that if they would receive another \$300,000.00 more, they could do those streets plus several more. Councilman Paul stated how they could take \$50,000.00 - \$60,000.00 and put it into recreation. Councilwoman Poremba stated how there was \$155,000.00 in streets (road construction) and if they would add in another \$200,000.00, they would have funds leftover. Councilman Jacobs stated how there was enough money in the sewer fund to bid the project on W. Columbus Avenue and get it done. He stated how they were able to meet the bids that were coming in on the 25th; they could look at getting one or two streets in the estates done next year. Councilman Paul stated about getting several streets done every year. He stated about keeping up with their infrastructure.

Councilman Jacobs stated how the bids that came in for the County for E. Diaz Avenue were very competitive. Councilwoman Fox stated about the Budget Committee looking at where they could put the funds. Councilwoman Poremba stated how they were supposed to fix something at the police station, so they needed to keep money aside for that. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how she was still working with the insurance company, because the contractor wanted to do all of the work at one time.

Councilman Paul stated that if they would get a bunch of money, they could put lighting in the New Columbus Park; they could redo the basketball court with bleachers; they could have power to have bands in the park. He stated how he wanted to get lighting and power in the park. Councilman Nalesnik stated how they used to have a meter and lighting in the park. Councilwoman Poremba stated about looking to the future to have lighting for Christmas or other activities like music in the park. She stated how it would not have to be anything big, just something small for the people to enjoy. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they did not have to spend all of the money in 2022. She stated how they could plan projects and earmark the funds for the future. Councilman Jacobs stated how they had to keep it in the back of their minds as to the hit that the Borough was going to take with KME closing.

Mr. Sabol stated that in the next week or two, he would like to pour some concrete in the mile marker for the railroad. He asked if the Borough crew could come down with the mixer. Mr. Sabol stated that if they were busy, he would just use the mixer himself, because it would not take more than 2 hours. Councilman Paul stated how they could have Mr. Degiglio take the mixer down and help him out.

8. PERSONNEL/ SAFETY MARY FOX, CHAIRWOMAN; ROSEMARY POREMBO, CO-CHAIRWOMAN; BRUCE NALESNIK

Councilwoman Fox stated how they had received two letters of interest for the vacant Council seat. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how she had been telling people that their letters would need to be in the office by April 22nd.

Councilwoman Fox asked if the memo was sent out to the Borough workers. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that she did not know if she was handing it out the way it was or if she was adding anything else to it. Councilwoman Fox stated how it was fine the way it was. Councilwoman Poremba stated how she was asked about the workers compensation on the memo, but if they would go back to the employee handbook, it does state that the Borough needs to be notified within 24 hours. She stated how the handbook was still in a draft copy. Councilwoman Poremba stated how they have to go through the contracts to make sure that things match up with the handbook. Councilman Nalesnik stated how notification of an injury should be by the end of the working day. President Hawk stated how it should be something that would get reported immediately, even though symptoms may not appear until the next day. Councilwoman Fox stated about them reviewing the handbook and checking with Solicitor Yurchak on any changes that they would want to make. She stated how the Committee could schedule a meeting.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Borough Council Members entered into an Executive Session at 7:51 p.m. for personnel. The Council Members exited their Executive Session at 8:16 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Jacobs moved and Councilwoman Fox seconded to adjourn the meeting. All voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

RoniSue Ahner
Secretary/Treasurer