

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

Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at 6:00 p.m., Borough Office  
114 W. Catawissa Street, Nesquehoning, PA 18240

**ROLL CALL:** COUNCILMEN JACOBS, PAUL, RADOCHA; COUNCILWOMAN FOX;  
PRESIDENT HAWK; & MAYOR KITCHKO

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

Councilman Sabol and Councilwoman Porembo were absent.

**PURPOSE:** Workshop/Committee

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

Councilman Radocha stated how the street sweeping got started a little late on Monday and how they had a flat tire that morning.

Councilman Paul stated how the crosswalk signs needed to be closer to the intersections (crosswalks). Councilman Radocha asked who puts them out, the police or the Borough crew. Councilman Paul stated "Borough crew". Councilman Jacobs stated that when trucks were not able to make the swing, they get out and move the signs.

Councilwoman Fox stated how she had received a complaint about the railroad crossing on Tippetts Road. She stated how they had it cut out and filled with stone, but people were bottoming out crossing the tracks. President Hawk stated how he had sent them a message on Friday telling them that they needed to be checking the crossing regularly.

Councilman Jacobs stated how he was mistaken about the no parking on Willow Lane. He stated that after reviewing the minutes, it was discussed several times, but it was never acted on. Councilman Jacobs stated how they should pass the no parking on Willow Lane. He stated how it was really nice on that road without the parking. Councilwoman Fox asked if it was no parking on both sides. Councilman Jacobs stated how that was his opinion, yes. Councilman Radocha stated how there were very few areas to park on Willow Lane. Councilman Paul stated how almost everyone on Willow Lane has off-street parking.

President Hawk asked Councilman Radocha if he had a chance to look at the road off of Diaz Avenue, where they were driving vehicles through. Councilman Radocha stated how he did not get a chance to look at it yet. President Hawk asked if they had a chance to look at the sink hole down at Paradise (Gene Kennedy's property). Councilman Radocha stated how he had told the Borough crew to go down and look at it, but did not know if they did or not. Councilman Jacobs stated about him and Councilman Radocha going down to look at it one evening.

**2. SEWER** MARY FOX, CHAIRWOMAN; FRANK JACOBS, CO-CHAIRMAN;  
MICHAEL RADOCHA

Councilwoman Fox stated how they were waiting for Eastern to get started on unit #2 at the Sewer plant. Councilman Radocha asked if they had given them a deadline. Councilman Jacobs stated how they had talked about it, but nothing was done. Councilwoman Fox stated how they had to give them notice, because the tank had to be drained down. Councilman Radocha stated how it was only rain water. Councilwoman Fox stated how they were supposed to be there the second week of May.

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Councilman Jacobs stated how Mr. Pilla was submitting a request to purchase the old Simplicity riding mower from the Sewer plant for \$200.00.

Councilman Jacobs stated how they should finally be able to get pictures of the trucks and get them posted for sale on Municibid. Mayor Kitchko stated that if they did not get them sold, they could take them to the COG auction, which was going to be held in September.

### **3. BUILDINGS            GEORGE SABOL, III, CHAIRMAN; MICHAEL RADOCHA, CO-CHAIRMAN; FRANK JACOBS**

Councilman Jacobs stated how Heller Gas had changed out and filled the propane tanks at the Borough garage, Recreation Center and the Police station. He stated how they were waiting for Suburban to empty/pick up their tanks. Councilman Paul stated about changing the heating system at the Borough garage with a new oil burner with radiators. He stated how they were paying way too much for the propane. Councilman Jacobs stated how they were now going to be capped at \$1.79 per gallon for the propane. He stated how they did not have the \$10,000.00 - \$15,000.00 to install a new heating system with radiators at the Borough garage. Councilman Jacobs stated about the thermostats. Councilman Radocha stated how they should check the insulation in the walls. Councilman Jacobs stated how the ceiling was never insulated. Councilwoman Fox stated about installing programmable thermostats so they did not turn them up and forget to turn them back down.

### **4. PUBLIC SAFETY            ROSEMARY POREMBO, CHAIRWOMAN; LOUIS PAUL CO-CHAIRMAN; DAVID HAWK**

Councilwoman Fox stated about the complaints with the shooting on the mountain behind the CoGenn and how they would have to talk to Solicitor Yurchak about the police going onto private property to enforce the discharging of firearms within the Borough ordinance. Mayor Kitchko stated how Officer Wuttke was up and talked to one of the residents on Tippetts Road.

Councilwoman Fox stated how she had also received a complaint about the (squatters) trailer, which was sitting on the neighbor's property on Tippetts Road for 2 years. President Hawk stated how the property owner might be allowing the trailer to sit on their property. He asked if there was anything under zoning or code that would not allow the trailer to sit on the property. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how there was nothing that she knew of, unless it was falling down or weeds were growing up around it. She stated that she would check with Gene Kennedy and Tim Dow, but remembered talking to them once before about it and there was nothing they were able to do if the property owner was allowing it.

Councilman Jacobs stated how they will have to take some action at the Regular meeting in regards to the Detective position.

### **5. SANITATION            LOUIS PAUL, CHAIRMAN; ROSEMARY POREMBO, CO-CHAIRWOMAN, MARY FOX**

Councilman Paul stated how there was going to be a Sanitation Committee meeting with Larry Wittig to discuss the issues with the recycling. He stated how he had to talk to Solicitor Yurchak, because they did not have the meeting scheduled yet.

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### **6. RECREATION      GEORGE SABOL III, CHAIRMAN; MARY FOX, CO-CHAIRWOMAN; DAVID HAWK**

Councilwoman Fox stated how the Recreation Commission's meeting was scheduled for June 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

President Hawk stated about Councilman Sabol talking to Tim Dow regarding the concrete pad for the shed in the New Columbus Park. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how they did not meet yet. President Hawk stated how he had talked to Matt Johnson about getting in touch with Councilman Sabol. He stated how Mr. Johnson was not avoiding Councilman Sabol; he was just really busy.

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

Councilman Jacobs stated about they were waiting to schedule a Committee meeting to discuss the loans and the tax collections.

Councilman Paul stated how he was suggesting that they look into purchasing their own street sweeper. He stated that the money they have spent over the last several years renting a sweeper could have went towards the purchase of a new one. Councilman Jacobs stated how a new street sweeper could cost around \$170,000.00. Councilman Paul stated how they could look at financing once the fire truck was paid off. He stated how they could rent it out to other towns and/or get a schedule to sweep the Borough streets on a regular basis.

Councilman Jacobs stated about the \$8,000.00 offer they had received for the purchase of the (Sparich) property in New Columbus. He stated that they should accept the offer at their Regular meeting with the rest of the Council member being in agreement. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that she will make sure that the person was still interested before contacting Solicitor Yurchak to draft up the agreement of sale.

### **8. PERSONNEL/ SAFETY              MARY FOX, CHAIRWOMAN; ROSEMARY POREMBO, CO- CHAIRWOMAN; FRANK JACOBS**

Councilwoman Fox stated how the Personnel Committee met to discuss the police contract and the code enforcement officer. She stated how they wanted to come up with a job description for the code officer. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how she had looked into getting her code enforcement certification. She stated how she would work with Mr. Dow and the police on a normal basis for the code enforcement. Councilman Paul stated how he has been putting the heat on to get the properties cleaned up. Councilwoman Fox stated how they had looked at hiring someone, but there was more to it than just sending out letters. She stated how they have to hire someone who knows the codes, because there was more than high grass.

Councilwoman Fox stated about getting a quote from Barry Isett and Associates. She stated that if they were not satisfied with them, they could look elsewhere. Councilman Jacobs stated how he felt that they have been doing a good job. He stated how there was a lot more complaints over the Summer because of the high grass.

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Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how people have to be aware that if they do have a complaint, they needed to put it in writing and submit it to the Borough office. She stated how they were not able to always see a back yard or over a fence. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that if people were waiting several months to complain, it could also take several months to get it taken care of their complaint. She named some of the properties that they were having issues with that were not being taking care of. Councilman Paul stated how the Council members were the eyes of the town and if they saw things that they should be reporting it to the office. He then named some examples.

Councilwoman Fox stated about the property in Hauto, which looked like the property owner was now renting rooms. She stated how Mr. Pilla went to do a dye test and they would not let him in. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner asked what the address was. Councilwoman Fox stated how it was a Yard Street address. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how she had talked to Mr. Kennedy about that property in the past and he was not concerned with it. Councilman Jacobs stated how he has seen several cars there over the weekend. Councilman Paul stated how they have to enforce the ordinances. Councilman Radocha stated how they have to get the moving permits.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Borough Council Members entered into an Executive Session at 7:00 p.m. for personnel reasons. The Council Members exited their Executive Session at 7:56 p.m.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Councilwoman Fox moved and Councilman Radocha seconded to adjourn the meeting. All voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.**

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RoniSue Ahner  
Secretary/Treasurer