

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING – March 5, 2015

Approved

**BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
PUBLIC HEARING
MINUTES
HOOKSETT MUNICIPAL OFFICES
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
35 Main Street
Thursday, March 5, 2015**

CALL TO ORDER

M. Miville called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

ATTENDANCE

M. Miville, F. Bizzarro, C. Morneau, J. Pieroni, T. Jennings, K. VanHorn, D. Winterton (Town Council Rep), JR Ouellette, (Council Rep) and A. Boilard (School Rep)

Excused: S. Peterson, P. Gosselin

Absent: K. VanHorn, Hooksett Village Water Precinct and Central Water Precinct

PUBLIC HEARING opened by Chair Miville at 7:00 pm.

M. Miville read the warrant articles in to the record:

Article 3

Shall the town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant, for the purposes set forth therein, and other appropriations voted separately totaling \$16,815,222.00. Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be \$16,779,749.00, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town meeting, or by law or the Town Council may hold one special meeting, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. Estimated tax rate impact \$6.43.

F. Kotowski, Sewer Commissioner: I appear here with Bruce Kudrick, Superintendent of the Waste Water Treatment Plan. We were set aback when the Council chose to cut the Sewer Commissions budget. Council cut the budget by \$18,869. As a Commission, we do not co-mingle funds and we operate autonomously. Historically the Superintendent appears before the Committee so that all we do is transparent. If you look at the notice of Budget Hearing, you will not see where he was asked to be here. We think it is important that you look at this budget. I would like you to get back to Council via Don Winterton. It was improper for them to make a statement to the Sewer Commission that they not pay 10% of the health benefit. We pay this because their work is hazardous. There are pathogens and we pay them well and we give them the benefits they need. All employees

must be licensed by State Statute. We pay our employees at the Treatment Plant fully to keep them. We don't want to see a union there. I believe if we are having a Sewer Commission responsible for all aspects of the department.

M. Miville: We wanted to ask for a Commissioner to come to the Budget Meeting but did not follow through because the Council addressed that.

J. Pieroni: Do you negotiate for the health insurance? You get it through the town and pay the town. Do you request the same benefits as the Town Employees? Are you offering the employees the same benefits as the Town Employees?

F. Kotowski: In my opinion, the word we used which was symbolic.

T. Jennings: Is there any town committee that has an oversight over the Sewer Commission? Does the commission are not accountable to anyone?

F. Kotowski: The reason the Council doesn't have that oversight is because only the sewer users pay the bills. We are responsible to the rate payers by law. We are responsible to the Environment Services for a number of issues. We have the same authority as the Selectmen.

M. Miville: If you are part of the municipal budget, can it be increased or decreased at the Deliberative Session?

F. Kotowski: I don't know. I would think you would want the Sewer Commission here. You do not establish our budget. In courtesy, we bring that budget so it does appear on the town warrant. You will all agree you will not see a more thorough budget or complete budget than what Mr. Kudrick brings to you.

Dr. Shankle: I don't want to debate the relationship of the commission and Council, but I think it is clear that the Budget Committee has control over all commissions, water, and committee. This is not the right place for a debate between the council and the commission, but you have authority over all budgets.

J. Pieroni: It wasn't for us a political statement. We wanted benefits the same throughout the town. We mentioned the reason for paying for it was the health risks. We want to make sure we are paying for health risks after they happen. We want employees to have all the necessary equipment to prevent injury or illness. We want to lower those risks like we do for fire and police. The idea was to make sure all the safety issues are taken so the risks are as low as possible.

F. Kotowski: Our issue is that the budget is being cut without looking at why these benefits are given. One of the way you keep good employees is they get good benefits that don't cost them. We don't have a turnover rate. Our people get a good wages compared to highway because they get licenses.

M. Miville: A review of the safety protocol should be reviewed. One explanation was an employee goes home in uniform and has a child sit on their lap.

B. Kudrick: I've taken my children on calls. I'd take to the pump station and have them using the radio. I'm old school. Moving forward we are doing things the way they should be done.

T. Jennings: It did not go without consideration. I think there was a lot of deliberation about it and it wasn't our vote that removed the funds but we as a committee did discuss the issues. It didn't go past us without considering those things.

M. Miville: Can you speak about the insurance search committee?

Dr. Shankle: We have not formed the committee at this time but the intent is to have a member from all departments representative on this committee.

F. Kotowski: We as a commission are not part of the Council and not part of the Budget committee.

Dr. Shankle: This is your budget we are working off of. The Warrant needs to done.

L. Moynihan: The budget is voted on by the entire town not just the users.

Article 4

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$200,000.00 to be added to the Public Works Vehicles Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Estimated tax rate impact \$0.13. Recommended by Town Council (6-0)

No comments

Article 5

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$194,293.00 for the salaries, overtime, benefits, including uniforms and equipment to hire two (2) new full-time police officers.

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Salaries</i>	<i>Benefits</i>	<i>Estimated Increase</i>
<i>2015- 2016</i>	<i>\$109,293.00</i>	<i>\$85,000.00</i>	<i>\$194,293.00</i>

Estimated tax rate impact \$0.12. Recommended by Town Council (6-0)

No comment

Article 6

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$160,000.00 to be added to previously established Capital Reserve Funds and to apportion the sum among several funds as listed below.

<i>Automated Collection equipment</i>	<i>\$ 20,000.00</i>
<i>Drainage Upgrades</i>	<i>50,000.00</i>
<i>Parks & Recreation Facilities Development</i>	<i>15,000.00</i>
<i>Town Building Maintenance</i>	<i>75,000.00</i>

Total *\$ 160,000.00*
Estimated tax rate impact \$0.10. Recommended by Town Council (6-0)
No Comment

Article 7

To see if the town will raise and appropriate \$100,000.00 to be placed in the Conservation Fund to assist in the development of a Merrimack Riverfront Trail System. Estimated tax rate impact is \$0.06. Recommended by Town Council (6-0)

David Hess, Conservation Commission: See attached hand out

I'm here to ask for your support for 1/10 of the cost to develop a trail system along the Merrimack. The reserve has been purchased by the conservation Commission. Of the total purchase price, the commission committed 20%. The purpose of this warrant is to jump start that project and make that area recreational. The total expense to incur to make it accessible is slightly over 1 million dollars. We are requesting this as seed money to show the towns commitment and to receive funds for other locals. We applied for \$650,000 from the State and did not receive that. We have another application for \$50,000. We will be soliciting and applying for the remaining funds to complete. We can do this in phase steps. That would allow for the high intense use without completing the entire project. We asked for Recreation Impact Fees for the town which is pending Council approval. With this we are 1/5 to the goal.

We have 4000 feet of river frontage. It is the largest single track of land bordering the river that is conserved. We plan to phase as follows:

There is a parking lot with rowing club which is separated by Brown Brook. A RR use to cross the property. There is an old granite abutment on Brown Brook. There is a twenty foot span that needs to be bridged. We asked Stantec for a cost. The first part of the phase is to construct a foot bridge from the Rowing Club to the property over Brown Brook. We excluded the Conservation area so it could be used for recreation or camping area. There are trails marked and develop 3 or 4 looped trails that have increasing larger circumferences. This is flat and very accessible. There are rudiments of a trail that follows the old RR right of way that could be easily done. Secondly we would have a cross from the middle and end of Merrimack. Eventually we plan to have 9000 feet of trails and wooden walk ways over wetlands to protect them.

J. Pieroni: I support this as an opportunity. Who will maintain this and at what cost.

D. Hess: The conservation is mandated by law to upgrade and maintain tis with Conservation funds. The Forest Society holds an easement on that land. They have \$40,000 in reserve to be used by them for oversight of the property.

T. Jennings: If the CC is responsible for maintaining the property, how will it be secured? Will there be lights, will there be places to sit?

D. Hess: We have not gotten there on this project. With the Pinnacle we have posted times and kiosks. We anticipate 3 overlooks of the river. The property includes an island. Ultimately we would like a plank bridge over to that island.

C. Morneau: The cost, is that just for the ground work and bridge?

D. Hess: that is to do the plank bridge across Brown Brook, 9000 feet of trail, 1000 feet of elevated walkway over wetlands. That is half of what DES has agreed to let us put on the property. The second part is additional trails along the eastern section along to the far northern boundary and takes a left hand turn to an existing trail system. Another down to the cornfield.

C. Morneau: Has any on talked to volunteers.

D. Hess: We have talked to Kiwanis, like what is done at the Heads Pond trail. Most of the 1st phase is flat and dry and only needs stone dust. The only area that needs a trail cut is in the southern portion.

A. Boilard: How much will be river view.

D. Hess: About 2000 feet.

D. Hess: We have accounted no issues with abutters.

Mac Broderick: I applaud the work of the Conservation Commission. I encourage you to vote in favor of this.

Article 8

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$88,423.00 for salaries and benefits for non-union full-time and part-time Town and Library personnel at the current staffing level.

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Salaries</i>	<i>Benefits</i>	<i>Estimated Increase</i>
<i>2015-2016</i>	<i>\$86,418.00</i>	<i>\$2,005.00</i>	<i>\$88,423.00</i>

Estimated tax rate impact \$0.05. Recommended by Town Council (5-1)

M. Farwell: Why it specifies Library Personnel since Library personnel since they are town employees?

C. Soucie: I believe that is how they have always been written.

Article 9

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$70,000.00 to be added to the previously established Capital Reserve Funds and to apportion the sum among several funds as listed below:

<i>Air Packs & Bottles</i>	<i>\$20,000.00</i>
<i>Fire Apparatus</i>	<i>\$50,000.00</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$ 70,000.00</i>

Estimated tax rate impact \$0.04. Recommended by Town Council (6-0)

No comment

Article 10

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000.00 to be added to the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Estimated tax rate impact \$0.02. Recommended by Town Council (6-0)

No comment

Article 11

To see if the Town will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Hooksett Town Council and the Hooksett Police Union Local 46, NEPBA which calls for the following increase in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

Estimated increase over prior year

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Salaries</i>	<i>Benefits</i>	<i>Estimated Increase</i>
2015-2016	\$26,708.00	\$2,619.00	\$29,327.00
2016-2017	\$28,871.00	(\$494.00)	\$28,377.00

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$29,327.00 for the current fiscal year, such sum represents the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels. Estimated tax rate impact \$0.02. Recommended by Town Council (6-0)

No comment

Article 12

To see if the town will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Hooksett Town Council and the Public Works/Recycling Union Local 1580, AFSCME Council 93 which calls for the following increase in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

Estimated increase over prior year

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Salaries</i>	<i>Benefits</i>	<i>Estimated Increase</i>
2015-2016	\$22,631.00	(\$2,601.00)	\$20,030.00
2016-2017	\$23,310.00	(\$6,345.00)	\$16,965.00

and further to raise and appropriate \$20,030.00 for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels. Estimated tax rate impact \$0.01. Recommended by Town Council (6-0)

No comment

Article 13

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$18,657.00 for the purpose of hiring a part time clerk/receptionist in the police department to work no more than twenty four (24) hours per week.

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Salaries</i>	<i>Benefits</i>	<i>Estimated Increase</i>
2015- 2016	\$18,657.00	\$0.00	\$18,657.00

Estimated tax rate impact \$0.01. Recommended by Town Council (6-0)

No Comment

Article 14

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 to be added to the Master Plan Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Estimated tax rate impact \$0.01. Recommended by Town Council (6-0)

Article 15

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$71,997.00 For the salary, benefits, taxes and equipment for a full time Firefighter/EMT for the Fire-Rescue Department. If this article passes the operating budgets will be reduced by \$72,454.00 in overtime costs for the Fire Rescue Department. This will create a savings in our daily operating costs.

*Salary: \$ 38,045.00
Benefits: 30,952.00
Gear: 3,000.00
Total costs: \$ 71,997.00*

*Estimated tax rate impact \$0.00. Recommended by Town Council (4-2)
No comment*

Article 16

To see if the town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$49,744.00. This sum represents the additional costs over the current compensation rates attributable to an increase in salaries and benefits to address pay equity issues for library employees when compared with the salaries and benefits of other Hooksett municipal employees. The passage of this article will establish pay parity between Hooksett library employees and other Hooksett municipal employees.

Estimated increase over prior year

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Salaries</i>	<i>Taxes</i>	<i>NH Retirement</i>	<i>Estimated Increase</i>
<i>2015- 2016</i>	<i>\$43,902.00</i>	<i>\$3,358.00</i>	<i>\$2,484.00</i>	<i>\$49,744.00</i>

PETITION ARTICLE Estimated tax rate impact \$0.03. Recommended by Town Council (6-1)

Mac Broderick, 25 Barberry St.: I had an opportunity to email the Board and I don't know if you read what I sent. I will distribute copies. Statement was read into the record. (See attached)

M. Farwell, 24 Grant: As Trustee, a taxpayer, and a citizen and I ask you vote for the pay equity. I value the services of these employees. I see the value that the employee brings to organizations. A goal when I became a Trustee was to be the best in the State and we achieved that with the help of the employees. The library supports the community with the candidate forum, meeting rooms, and workshops. I don't want to pay higher taxes and respect your work to keep our taxes down. I think the increase in the tax rate for this equity pay is pennies. The average for a house of \$150,000 is 63 cents per month. I'm asking the Budget Committee to recommend this Warrant Article and it is important of the town to see your support. I want to thank everyone who came to support this warrant

article. If possible, if the committee could vote on this warrant first, we could all go home.

Ruth Knowles, 5 Clay Street: The Library, as a former media specialist in town for 14 years, I know it makes a difference for children and everyone in town. We need to support these employees for all they do. My first welcoming to Hooksett was when my children attended story hour. Now as a senior we spend many hours at the library. I do go to the town hall but is the Library is where I go every day since I move to town. Equitable pay is important for whatever work someone does.

Kevin Lane, 28 Stirling: I have been a resident for 11 years. I am here as founding member of the Friends of Library. We increase the programing beyond what the voters approve. We bring together citizens that support the library through advocacy and fundraising. All these programs are open to town and other towns. We provide community members to come to all events for free with a few exceptions. As a founding member of the Friends, I am the elected President of the Friends of the Hooksett Library. Tonight there were things said from different groups, the things that were said early apply to everyone. "Benefits equal to everyone." The need for pay equity adjustment, the employees work tirelessly. They do not do less because they are paid less. I realize everyone was provided with information on the study. In doing the equity adjustment to a town wide classification, another document was to compare these staff workers to other same staff in other towns. If you compare that with the amount of patronage we have, there is a considerable increase to just to get them to that number. The real number to get them to an equivalent job would be much higher. As the President, I want to support the Library, and to all involved in our Friends group to vote and come to this meeting. We've done a number of town wide studies. The end result is we don't have a community center. But if you look at what the library provides, it is the closest thing we have to a community center. To have the extended community services, the library provides that. It is \$49,000 that is sought and it gets these employees to a comparable rate. I heard that some people wanted that number reduced but we could have brought even a higher number.

Joan McDonald: I think everyone said what I wanted to say. I wanted to focus on, I served on Community Profile. We had only 100 people come to our weekend event. We need the committee to support this because very few votes and when it increases taxes, it easy to vote no so people look for the Budget committee's recommendation. I ask you to recommend this article.

Jim 13 Harvest Drive: I help start the junior Lego land program. I worked with Librarians to start. We had 30 kids and 6 adults to bring a stem part to the Library. We hope to get First Lego League and the Library is so easy to work with. They helped with the planning and all aspects. They work hard every day to get new programs started.

Bob Thinnes, 58 Lindsay Road: It seems to me that what we are talking about is pay discrimination. If that is true, you have a problem. If you have a study several years ago, and the Library was not included in this study, that is why I see pay discrimination. If it is

pay discrimination, the town may be in trouble. Is it cheaper to defend a law suit or promote this warrant article?

M. Miville: Through the deliberation here and talking with the Library Trustee, several years there was a salary adjustment done and for some reason, the Library was omitted from that increase and now they have been trying to catch up. There have also been many default budgets which has prevented any increases. Now, as I understand, they are giving it one shot here to make that adjustment.

Bob Thinnes: Is this pay discrimination?

Dr. Shankle: I'm confident this is not. For it to be discrimination there must be a particular class that is being discriminated against.

M. Miville: The Library, the Sewer and Water are somewhat separate from the Municipal Budget and that is why it may be out of line.

M. Miville closed the public hearing at 8:42 pm.

Review and Recommendations of School Budget and Warrant Articles

Article 3

*Shall the town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant, for the purposes set forth therein, and other appropriations voted separately totaling **\$16,815,222.00**. Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be \$16,779,749.00, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town meeting, or by law or the Town Council may hold one special meeting, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. Estimated tax rate impact \$6.43.*

J. Pieroni motioned to recommend the operating budget at \$16,833,908. Seconded by F. Bizzarro.

D. Winterton: Understand the issues and this is an issue to be discussed at another time. I have a concern about fairness.

Roll Call

<i>A. Boilard</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>D. Winterton</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>C. Morneau</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>F. Bizzarro</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>J. Pieroni</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>T. Jennings</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>JR Ouellette</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>M. Miville</i>	<i>No</i>

Vote 5-3 motion carried.

Article 4

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$200,000.00** to be added to the Public Works Vehicles Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Estimated tax rate impact \$0.13. Recommended by Town Council (6-0)

**D. Winterton motioned to recommend Article 4. Seconded by A. Boilard
Roll Call unanimously in favor.(8-0)**

Article 5

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$194,293.00** for the salaries, overtime, benefits, including uniforms and equipment to hire two (2) new full-time police officers.

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Salaries</u>	<u>Benefits</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
2015- 2016	\$109,293.00	\$85,000.00	\$194,293.00

Estimated tax rate impact \$0.12. Recommended by Town Council (6-0)

C. Morneau motioned to recommend Article 5. Seconded by F. Bizzarro.

D. Winterton: Years ago when the town was smaller and safer the town asked for a full complement of police officers. There are many nights we are understaffed for police safety. We have a crime concern and added police support is necessary. I support this.

Roll Call unanimously in favor (8-0)

Article 6

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$160,000.00** to be added to previously established Capital Reserve Funds and to apportion the sum among several funds as listed below.

Automated Collection equipment	\$ 20,000.00
Drainage Upgrades	50,000.00
Parks & Recreation Facilities Development	15,000.00
Town Building Maintenance	<u>75,000.00</u>
Total	\$ 160,000.00

Estimated tax rate impact \$0.10. Recommended by Town Council (6-0)

**J. Pieroni motioned to recommend Article 6. Seconded by C. Morneau
Roll Call unanimously in favor (8-0)**

Article 7

To see if the town will raise and appropriate **\$100,000.00** to be placed in the Conservation Fund to assist in the development of a Merrimack Riverfront Trail System. Estimated tax rate impact is \$0.06. Recommended by Town Council (6-0)

J. Pieroni motioned to recommend Article 7. Seconded by C. Morneau.

J. Pieroni: Since Hooksett doesn't have a downtown section; this is a way of making Hooksett unique. It is also a historical area.

A. Boilard: I think there is plenty of outdoor recreation space

Roll Call Vote:

A. Boilard ***No***
D. Winterton ***Yes***
C. Morneau ***Yes***
F. Bizzarro ***Yes***
J. Pieroni ***Yes***
T. Jennings ***Yes***
JR Ouellette ***Yes***
M. Miville ***Yes***
Vote (7-1) motion carried

Article 8

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$88,423.00 for salaries and benefits to for non-union full-time and part-time Town and Library personnel at the current staffing level.

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Salaries</u>	<u>Benefits</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
2015-2016	\$86,418.00	\$2,005.00	\$88,423.00

Estimated tax rate impact \$0.05. Recommended by Town Council (5-1)

***C. Morneau motioned to recommend Article 8. Seconded by F. Bizzarro.
Roll Call vote unanimously in favor (8-0)***

Article 9

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$70,000.00 to be added to the previously established Capital Reserve Funds and to apportion the sum among several funds as listed below:

<i>Air Packs & Bottles</i>	<i>\$ 20,000.00</i>
<i>Fire Apparatus</i>	<i>50,000.00</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$ 70,000.00</i>

Estimated tax rate impact \$0.04. Recommended by Town Council (6-0)

***J. Pieroni motioned to recommend Article 9. Seconded by C. Morneau
Roll Call vote unanimously in favor (8-0)***

Article 10

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000.00 to be added to the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Estimated tax rate impact \$0.02. Recommended by Town Council (6-0)

***F. Bizzarro motioned to recommend Article 10. Seconded by JR Ouellette.
Roll Call vote unanimously in favor (8-0)***

Article 11

To see if the Town will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Hooksett Town Council and the Hooksett Police Union Local 46, NEPBA which calls for the following increase in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

Estimated increase over prior year

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Salaries</u>	<u>Benefits</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
2015-2016	\$26,708.00	\$2,619.00	\$29,327.00
2016-2017	\$28,871.00	(\$494.00)	\$28,377.00

*and further to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$29,327.00** for the current fiscal year, such sum represents the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels. Estimated tax rate impact \$0.02. Recommended by Town Council (6-0)*

D. Winterton motioned to recommend Article 11. Seconded by C. Morneau.

D. Winterton: this was a well negotiated contract with the union. They did keep their step raises and understood the benefits.

Roll Call vote unanimously in favor (8-0)

Article 12

To see if the town will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Hooksett Town Council and the Public Works/Recycling Union Local 1580, AFSCME Council 93 which calls for the following increase in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

Estimated increase over prior year

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Salaries</u>	<u>Benefits</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
2015-2016	\$22,631.00	(\$2,601.00)	\$20,030.00
2016-2017	\$23,310.00	(\$6,345.00)	\$16,965.00

*and further to raise and appropriate **\$20,030.00** for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels. Estimated tax rate impact \$0.01. Recommended by Town Council (6-0)*

D. Winterton motioned to recommend Article 12. Seconded by A. Boilard.

D. Winterton: We had very fruitful discussion with the DPW and came to a satisfactory resolution for them and the town.

Roll Call vote unanimously in favor(8-0)

Article 13

*To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$18,657.00** for the purpose of hiring a part time clerk/receptionist in the police department to work no more than twenty four (24) hours per week.*

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Salaries</u>	<u>Benefits</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
2015- 2016	\$18,657.00	\$0.00	\$18,657.00

Estimated tax rate impact \$0.01. Recommended by Town Council (6-0)

C. Morneau motioned to recommend Article 13. Seconded by J. Pieroni.

Roll call vote unanimously in favor (8-0)

Article 14

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$10,000.00** to be added to the Master Plan Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Estimated tax rate impact \$0.01. Recommended by Town Council (6-0)

F. Bizzarro motioned to recommend Article 14. Seconded by T. Jennings

Roll Call vote unanimously in favor (8-0)

Article 15

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$71,997.00 For the salary, benefits, taxes and equipment for a full time Firefighter/EMT for the Fire-Rescue Department. If this article passes the operating budgets will be reduced by \$72,454.00 in overtime costs for the Fire Rescue Department. This will create a savings in our daily operating costs.

Salary:	\$ 38,045.00
Benefits:	30,952.00
Gear:	<u>3,000.00</u>
Total costs:	\$ 71,997.00

Estimated tax rate impact \$0.00. Recommended by Town Council (4-2)

C. Morneau motioned to recommend Article 15. Seconded by A. Boilard.

Roll Call Vote:

A. Boilard	Yes
D. Winterton	Yes
C. Morneau	Yes
F. Bizzarro	Yes
J. Pieroni	No
T. Jennings	Yes
JR Ouellette	Yes
M. Miville	Yes

Vote (7-1) motion carried

Article 16

To see if the town will raise and appropriate the sum of **\$49,744.00**. This sum represents the additional costs over the current compensation rates attributable to an increase in salaries and benefits to address pay equity issues for library employees when compared with the salaries and benefits of other Hooksett municipal employees. The passage of this article will establish pay parity between Hooksett library employees and other Hooksett municipal employees.

Estimated increase over prior year

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Salaries</u>	<u>Taxes</u>	<u>NH Retirement</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
2015- 2016	\$43,902.00	\$3,358.00	\$2,484.00	\$49,744.00

PETITION ARTICLE Estimated tax rate impact \$0.03. Recommended by Town Council (6-1)

T. Jennings motioned to recommend Article 16. Seconded by D. Winterton.

D. Winterton: The Library personnel have done their work and I will support this in representation of the Council's vote.

J. Pieroni: Reminder that there is money in the budget as well to increase two employees salary. This is not the only Library increase.

M. Miville: Wages are going up \$14,211 in the budget in addition to this article.

M. Miville: Because it is a petition article, it is different from the Police Articles. Because it is a petition article, brought forward by the citizens, my position is I've never voted for a petition article with money. Having said that, this warrant article is the best way to correct this problem. I am stipulating the Library employees do an awesome job. The sticking point is the Council is an excellent body to influence the citizens. For me as a petition article, I don't wish to influence the voter's decision on this. If I say yes, it looks like I'm getting on the band wagon. If I say no, then I will have influenced the no vote. So I was debating about abstaining because looking at everyone that showed up here is the reason why this should be voted on by the citizens but I shouldn't be making an impact and influencing the voters. I'm still deciding on how to vote.

J. Pieroni: We need to see this from a budgetary issue. Can the town afford this? We made many difficult decisions. This is a budgetary decision. Do we believe the taxpayers can afford this raise? This should not be an emotional issue and we should all vote.

C. Morneau: This is not a one-time expenditure. This will continue year after year. Many people will think this is a lot of money.

T. Jennings: There are a number of recurring articles.

Roll Call vote unanimously in favor (8-0)

OTHER BUSINESS

J. Pieroni motioned that the Budget request the Council Rep. call a meeting of the Budget Committee for some time in September for the appointment of the Committee Chair. Seconded by C. Morneau.

Vote unanimously in favor

PUBLIC INPUT

ADJOURNMENT

*A. Boilard motioned to adjourn. Seconded by JR Ouellette.
Vote unanimously in favor*

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Ann Moynihan