

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 2001

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm.

PRESENT: Chairman R. Dion, S. Sheidow, T. Young, D. Pichette-Volk, R. Holley, M. Jolin, P. Ganley, D. Duford, M. Farrell-Town Administrator. P. Rueppel – excused.

MINUTES: March 22, 2001: M. Jolin moved to approve as amended. Motion seconded by R. Holley. **MOTION CARRIED.**

March 28, 2001: P. Ganley moved to approve as amended. Motion seconded by R. Holley. **MOTION CARRIED.** T. Young abstained due to absence.

AGENDA OVERVIEW: Consensus by the Council was to hear “ New Business” prior to “Old Business”.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’s REPORT: M. Farrell reported on the following items:

1. Conservation Commission v. ZBA was heard in Superior Court. A decision should be reached in two weeks but may be three to four months.
2. Town of Hooksett v. Sid Baines regarding term limits for sewer commissioners was heard in Superior Court. A decision should be reached in two months.
3. Senate Bill 177 (SB177) was heard in the Ways & Means Committee regarding the computation of TIF’s. SB177 would return bill 164K to it’s original form before legislation was changed searching for school money. The current law would allow us to pay the debt service in 10 - 15 years. If we use the school portion, it could be paid off in 5-7 years. The Committee appears to be in support of this proposal and it appears it will pass.
4. The annual Union Leader’s Hero Awards Dinner will be held next week. Hooksett has two recipients for the Awards. Lt. Mike Williams, who has since gone to work for the Manchester Fire Department and Firefighter Dan Pesula. They both removed two men from a stone crusher at the Manchester Sand & Gravel property last summer. This was similar to an incident a couple of years ago at the Plourde Sand & Gravel property where the victim was fatally killed in the crusher. Lt. Michael Williams was involved in the Plourde rescue/recovery as well.
5. FEMA will provide approximately 100 million dollars in grant money to fire service agencies but it has to be applied for. Hooksett will be applying for \$63,000 to replace bunker gear. 32 of 47 sets of gear have failed safety tests and are a liability to the Town.
6. There is a meeting on April 16th with Tri-Town to hopefully finalize an ambulance being placed at the Safety Center.
7. The March budget summary was distributed earlier. Fire will be over \$30,000 however Highway and Transfer wage lines will help offset the overage due to positions not being filled until later in the year. The Welfare budget has been spent. Because the Welfare Director is currently part-time due to an earlier pregnancy leave, this will help offset overages. Fleet Maintenance took a hit due to many and major repairs to old equipment constantly breaking down. The Miscellaneous Town Vehicle repair line will help offset this overage.
8. The Governor declared seven counties in NH a disaster with the recent winter storm. Merrimack County is included. Department Heads were well prepared for all of the storms we had. The Finance Director recently went to a FEMA grant workshop and we hope to receive \$23,000 - \$24,000 from the FEMA grant.
9. The Quarry Road bond has had all of the engineering drawings sent to the bonding agent. We hope to receive a check in one month in which we will be able to pay for the repair work.

10. There was a tour of the Job Corps site in Deven, MA last week. 14 Hooksett officials and residents went on the tour including the Town Administrator, Council Chair Dion, Councilor Pichette-Volk, SAU Superintendent Suprenant, School Board members Teravainen and McHugh, Highway Mgr Hemeon, ZBA Chair Abruzzesa, Union Leader correspondent Anne Saunders, resident Nancy Winneg, Village Water Superintendent Hebert, Village Water Commissioners Locke and Pascucelli. We met with the administration of the facility, toured the facilities, and talked with students, local officials and surrounding Town officials. We were very impressed with the site and operation of the facility.

PUBLIC INPUT:

John Pieroni, Building & Site Committee for the School Board, stated that one site has been mentioned as a possibility for the Job Corps, which is Map 26, Lot 2, along Route 27. It is adjacent to school property and there may be a potential to build a middle school there and possibly a high school. Access will be needed through Lot 2 to get to the school land and there's a possibility it may be needed for fields, parking, etc. The Committee is asking for Council support and assurance that the school be given priority to this property.

T. Young asked if there would be a wetlands study on Lot 2.

J. Pieroni answered yes and they would like to put through a corridor, at minimum.

D. Pichette-Volk asked if this would include engineering on Lot 2.

J. Pieroni answered yes and asked for the Council's support.

D. Pichette-Volk stated that this was not the appropriate forum.

Steve Estes, 19 Evelyn Street, stated he's opposed to the Job Corps and opposed to it next to any proposed Hooksett school.

Chairman Dion stated this is only a presentation by the Job Corps people, not a public hearing. No site is being considered.

Len Williams, 70 Cross Road, asked if any sites had been considered.

Chairman Dion answered not yet.

M. Farrell clarified that the Job Corps went to the State and asked for locations of surplus D.O.T. land. D.O.T. has a 30-acre parcel on Cross Road, which is the draw. One of the main criteria of the Job Corps is that land not be taken off tax roles.

Thomas Chunglo, 67 Cross Road, stated he has concerns of security, access through woods, traffic and sewer.

Chairman Dion stated that after the presentation, if questions aren't answered they could be asked then.

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS:

Harold Murray, re: Forestry Grant: Harold Murray formally presented the Town with a check for \$5,000 on a Forestry Grant received. The Council thanked H. Murray for his work in this grant.

Kelly Clark and Roy Adams, re: Job Corps: M. Farrell explained that Kelly Clark is with Workforce Opportunities Council, Inc. which is part of NH Job Training Council.

Kelly Clark explained that the Workforce Opportunities Council has been in place since 1999 and they are a catalyst in the State for work force issues. Placement of a Job Corps site in NH has been made a priority by the Governor. NH is one of two states without a Job Corps site. In 1998, NH submitted a proposal to the Federal DOT for Job Corps to come to NH. The request wasn't successful because no effort had been made to identify possible locations and no work had been done with the local municipalities. Since then, possible parcels have been identified with Cross Road at the top of the list. "Fast Tracked" has been used and that means two to three years for a Job Corps project. We develop from a business development approach as well as a community approach. Parcels, which would come off of the tax roles, were not considered. The Shivers Center which is the Job Corps site in Deven, Massachusetts is nationally ranked 4th in the country in performance success with the business community.

Roy Adams, Adams & Associates, explained he is the president of Adams & Associates and is not associated with DOT or involved in land selection. His company is an independent company in which he is the CEO and they have worked with six Job Corps sites from San Diego to Massachusetts. He is familiar with the benefits of Job Corps, which is a free program. The Job Corps won't put in a lot of effort in a community which doesn't want it because there are many other communities that do. Anyone is welcome to visit the Devons site at any time, receive lunch, tour the facilities, ask questions, talk to the students, etc. There's a misunderstanding by many that it's a facility similar to a correctional facility and that's not the case. Usually \$20 - \$25 million is spend on a Job Corps facility. It's an educational facility similar to a small college. The Job Corps likes to be good neighbors and work with the business community and municipality. There is no public school system in Deven but there is a charter school set up through the high school level and there have been no issues involved with the Charter School. In fact, a ball field is shared.

Chairman Dion asked if there were any concerns of drugs, police, and tax money.

R. Adams stated that there are two qualifications for someone to enter the Job Corps which are low income and an age requirement of 16 – 24. 30% - 40% of the students are high school graduates. All prospective students must go through a criminal background check, not be on parole or probation, and are not allowed in if they have a violent background. This is a terrific opportunity for people who want to learn technical skills. The facility has a zero tolerance for drugs. Students are randomly tested for drugs. If they test positive, they must participate in a drug free program and pass a drug test in 45 days or they are terminated. Random tests are also done on suspicion. If positive, they are immediately terminated and given 30 minutes to leave. Apprenticeships require drug testing. This is a volunteer program and not a detention center. Courts do not send students to the Job Corps. We develop employability skills and teach them practical things such as in bed by 10pm, lights out by 11pm and up at 6am for work all of which apply to the working world. If they don't comply, or work at the programs, or they don't have commitment, they are thrown out. The name implies the meaning – Job Corps. We have zero tolerance for aggressive behavior. If someone makes threats they're thrown out. If someone gets into a fight, they're thrown out. They're told if they're going to fight, it had better be a good one, because they'll have 30 minutes to pack their belongings and get off of the property. If someone is arrested, not proven guilty but just arrested, they're thrown out. We have a waiting list for enrollment and we're very structured. Resident students are not allowed to have automobiles. They are provided transportation.

P. Ganley stated this is an excellent resource and asked how students are recommended to the program.

R. Adams stated they work with various agencies such as high schools, welfare agencies, etc. The Job Corps has a contract with organizations to recruit, screen and approve students. Any organization that deals with people ages 16 – 24 is involved. NH technical colleges are more expensive than universities on the west coast. We offer this program free to low income students. A student of 18 or older can qualify for low income on their own income.

T. Young asked if the protocol was contractual or was it an Adams & Associates protocol.

R. Adams answered it was both. There are Job Corps guidelines in place which are followed.

T. Young asked what the student/teacher ratio was.

R. Adams answered one staff member per three students. The lower levels are one staff member to eight students. 14 to one is the maximum allowed. Most of our vocational classes have 10/15 to one but it depends on the class. Heavy equipment classes are ten to one. Labs are 15 to one.

T. Young asked the property size needed.

R. Adams answered 20 acres or so. There are some centers with more and some with less.

T. Young asked how long a student is in the Job Corps.

R. Adams answered two years. The typical time frame is eight months. The advanced program could go an additional year for an associate's degree. The entire program is competency based. There are students constantly enrolling and graduating. The staff is present round the clock and there is no live-in staff. Evening hours ratio is 35 students to one staff member.

T. Young asked if there were daycare facilities.

R. Adams answered that many have daycare facilities. Devons does not.

M. Jolin asked what types of educational programs are offered.

R. Adams answered there is no aptitude test required to enroll. Just age and income, therefore they provide education for grade zero through college. There is a G.E.D. program available. We are encouraging NH to look at the Job Corps as alternative education. Each student is tested and then placed.

R. Dion asked if commuters were allowed.

R. Adams answered they encourage the residential component. Day students are called commuter students and they are allowed. Welfare is an automatic qualifier. If they're interested in pre-apprenticeships programs, construction, painting, facility maintenance, etc. The Tech Program offers technical training for airlines, Amtrak, etc. The Job Corps has partnerships with many major airlines, Sun Microsystems, etc. The Computer Tech Programs have had a 100% employee success rate with wages starting at \$38,000 and in 90 days at \$42,500. There are Culinary Arts programs and Health Occupation Programs. Most of the students are unemployed or have never held a good job. We work with local governments to help fill vacancies as training programs, which would be unpaid for the student. We want the students to have a legitimate experience.

M. Jolin asked if the local government could use the facilities.

R. Adams stated they could during off time. They want to be an asset to the community and they have certain hours of high time and low time. They would encourage the facilities to be used during the evening hours by the community. Most of their use time is during the day.

R. Dion asked the total number of students at one time.

R. Adams answered between 250 – 300.

R. Dion asked if a prospective site had no sewer, what would they do.

R. Adams answered that the federal government needs the entire infrastructure. The site would be evaluated for needs prior to the project commencing. The federal government would pay for all infrastructures. This would probably be a benefit to the community without an unreasonable cost and the federal government would be quite willing to do that.

M. Farrell questioned performance standards.

R. Adams answered they use an outcome measurement system which is to take the people without skills and make them productive. Performance criteria are used. If we can't prove and validate a student's success, we'll lose the federal contract.

M. Farrell stated he was impressed with the students leaving the system with money when they graduated.

R. Adams answered if they meet all expectations when they leave, they will be given some start-up money but it's earned. Most of them have no money for a car, apartment rental deposit, etc.; they need resources to make adjustments in the real world. We have bonus programs in place. G.E.D. bonus, readjustment bonus, etc.

Susanna Hargreaves, 8 Alderwood Court, asked if they would provide police security.

R. Adams answered the Job Corps has no law enforcement authority. There are teachers on the property at all times. Deven has the Massachusetts State Police should there be problem.

R. Dion asked if there have been any problems.

R. Adams answered there have not. They have nowhere near the problems a regular high school has. The Job Corps is not viewed by law enforcement as a concern. We are a school and we have young people but they don't get into trouble.

Scott Burwell, 57 Cross Road, stated he doesn't have a problem with the Job Corps but Pease Air Force Base would be better as the NH site because other sites are located on federal property. Community support is being asked to place this into a residential neighborhood but the comparisons are not the same as a federal piece of property. There should have been more fore planning done.

R. Dion asked if there are any Job Corps on non-military sites.

R. Adams stated there are some and he would provide that information.

R. Adams stated there are some sites in residential areas and there were initial problems because the residents weren't involved. It was worked out and is now very well supported. Other sites are Exeter, RI on a state owned site and New Haven Center in a mixed/rural neighborhood with the closest residential neighbor being ¼ mile away.

Jim Hargreaves, 8 Alderwood Court, spoke that he supports the Job Corps but not in a residential neighborhood and not in Hooksett. He left Nashua for Hooksett because it is a small town.

Robert Murray, 65 Cross Road, questioned if there were enough potential students locally that would qualify.

R. Adams stated that the residents at Deven are all local and live within a 50-mile radius.

Carol Johnson, 60 Cross Road, stated that she is in favor of the program but neither site mentioned is suited. There are some possible ideas associated with the 1989 Master Plan on the east side of the river which would make a better Job Corps site.

R. Adams stated that Adams & Associates doesn't decide on a site. The federal government engineers decide on the best suited sites.

D. Duford asked if they ever purchase land or only use federal and state land.

R. Adams stated the federal Department of Labor decides and if the delegation supports it then private land would be purchased. It has been done in the past.

D. Duford stated that Manchester Sand & Gravel offered 20 acres of land to the school system for a new school and the school didn't want it. The land is next to the Waste Water Treatment Plan and would be gravity fed. This may be a feasible idea.

Ray Pascucelli, 5 Bert Street, stated he worked for the Job Corps in the 1960's and 1970's in Manchester. The students lived at home and commuted. Some worked at the VA for three months each summer. They were later hired at the VA and he attended their retirement party's years later. He is strongly in favor of this program. Without it, they'll never survive. He enjoyed his work with them tremendously and if it comes into Town, he'll volunteer to work there.

Thomas Chunglow, 67 Cross Road, stated he's philosophically in favor of it but not in Hooksett because Hooksett is rural. Property values will go down and there's no way to check juvenile records because the court seals them.

Chairman Dion asked Kelly Clark what she was looking for from the Council.

K. Clark answered that the appropriate location will be determined by the community and a letter of a general level of interest would be fine.

S. Sheidow moved to continue discussion to find community interest in having the Job Corps possibly come to Hooksett at an appropriate location. Motion seconded by T. Young. **ROLL CALL VOTE CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

NEW EMPLOYEE: M. Farrell introduced Tina Paquette as the new Administrative Assistant who will be starting on Monday.

TOWN MEETING MOTIONS & SECONDS: The Council agreed on the following motions, seconds:

Article 4: R. Dion will move, T. Young will second, R. Dion will speak to it.

Article 5: Petitioners will move, second and speak to it.

Article 6: S. Sheidow will move, R. Dion will second, S. Sheidow will speak to it.

Article 7: Police Commission will move, second and speak to it.

Article 8: D. Pichette-Volk will move, M. Jolin will second, D. Pichette-Volk will speak to it.

Article 9: R. Holley will move, T. Young will second, R. Holley will speak to it.

Article 10: R. Holley will move, T. Young will second, D. Hemeon will speak to it.

Article 11: T. Young will move, D. Pichette-Volk will second, T. Young will speak to it.

Article 12: M. Jolin will move, P. Ganley will second, M. Howard will speak to it.

Article 13: R. Holley will move, P. Ganley will second, R. Holley (or dept head) will speak to it

Article 14: R. Dion will move, R. Holley will second, R. Dion will speak to it.

Article 15: P. Ganley will move, D. Pichette-Volk will second, P. Ganley will speak to it.

Article 16: Police Commission will move, second and speak to it.

Article 17: T. Young will move, R. Dion will second, T. Young will speak to it.

Article 18: T. Young will move, S. Sheidow will second, T. Young will speak to it.

Article 19: Library Trustees will move, second and speak to it.

Article 20: P. Ganley will move, T. Young will second, P. Ganley will speak to it.
Article 21: M. Jolin will move, R. Holley will second, M. Jolin will speak to it.
Article 22: T. Young will move, P. Ganley will second, T. Young will speak to it.
Article 23: M. Jolin will move, D. Pichette-Volk will second, M. Jolin will speak to it.
Article 24: P. Ganley will move, M. Jolin will second, P. Ganley will speak to it.
Article 25: M. Jolin will move, P&R Board will second, P&R Board will speak to it.
Article 26: D. Pichette-Volk will move, R. Dion will second, D. Pichette-Volk will speak to it.

COUNCIL MEETING TAPES: D. Duford stated he has a right to a copy of the Council Meeting immediately after the meeting, if requested, per RSA 91-A:4,I.

S. Sheidow suggested a second set of tapes be recorded by the Council Secretary for Councilors to make copies from which would leave the original as the original.

M. Jolin stated they would both be originals.

T. Young suggested there be no tape recording at all as other boards do.

M. Jolin stated the tape and minutes can be made available the following day if the Council wants. The Council can make the legal requirement more strict than the RSA's.

S. Sheidow asked for a copy of the Right to Know Law for all Councilors for the next meeting.

After much debate, the Chairman asked this discussion be placed on the next agenda for further discussion.

Chairman Dion adjourned the meeting at 9:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth D. Dinwoodie
Acting Administrative Assistant

Denise Pichette-Volk
Town Council Secretary