

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, July 18, 2001

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

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

ANNUAL NOMINATIONS OF COUNCIL OFFICERS:

ANNUAL COUNCIL OFFICER NOMINATIONS; _____ (which one is better?)

Chairman: P. Rueppel nominated T. Young. D. Pichette-Volk nominated R. Dion.

Roll call vote:	<u>1st vote</u>	<u>2nd vote</u>	<u>3rd vote</u>
R. Dion	Dion	Dion	Young
P. Ganley	Young	Young	Young
DiBietto	Dion	Dion	Dion
P. Rueppel	Young	Young	Young
D. P-Volk	Dion	Dion	Dion
D. Duford	Young	Young	Young
R. Holley	Dion	Dion	Young
M. Jolin	Young	Young	Young

Roll call vote tied.

Roll call vote tied.

Roll call vote carried for T. Young

Vice Chairman: P. Rueppel nominated M. Jolin. P. Ganley nominated R. Dion.

Roll call vote:

P. Rueppel	Jolin	M. Jolin	Dion
D. Pichette-Volk	Dion	R. Dion	Jolin
D. Duford	Jolin	P. Ganley	Dion
R. Holley	Dion	M. DiBietto	Dion

Roll call vote carried for R. Dion.

Secretary: Pat Rueppel nominated M. DiBietto. D. Pichette-Volk nominated M. Jolin.

M. DiBietto declined the nomination. M. Jolin nominated R. Holley.

Roll call vote:

D. Pichette Volk	Jolin	R. Dion	Jolin
D. Duford	Jolin	P. Ganley	Jolin
R. Holley	Jolin	P. Rueppel	Holley
M. Jolin	Holley	M. DiBietto	Jolin

Roll call vote carried for M. Jolin.

Subcommittee Representatives:

Administrative Code: T. Young, P. Ganley, D. Duford, and M. Farrell.

Ambulance: D. Duford.

Board of Assessors: T. Young, P Ganley, D. Duford, M. Jolin, P. Rueppel.

Budget Committee Liaison: M. DiBietto.

(Inactive)

Charter Review: T. Young.

Conservation Commission Liaison: P. Rueppel.

Council Newsletter: D. Pichette-Volk, R. Dion.

Employee Recognition Night: T. Young, E. Dinwoodie.

Facilities: D. Duford, P. Rueppel, M. Jolin, M. Farrell.

Heavy Equipment Purchases: D. Duford, R. Holley.

Heritage Commission: P. Ganley.

Parks and Recreation Liaison: M. Jolin.

Perambulation: T. Young, D. Pichette-Volk.

Planning Board & CIP Rep: P. Ganley.

Police Commission Liaison: M. DiBitetto.

Road Connector: P. Rueppel, R. Dion, R. Holley, D. Duford, M. Farrell.

Solid Waste Committee Liaison: D. Duford.

Southern NH Planning: M. Jolin.

Union Negotiations: T. Young, R. Dion, M. DiBitetto, M. Farrell.

OTHER COMMITTEES:

Central Hooksett Water Precinct: R. Holley.

Commerce Alliance: P. Ganley

Hooksett Village Water Precinct: D. Pichette-Volk

School Board: R. Dion

Tri-Town Ambulance Committee: D. Pichette-Volk.

MINUTES: June 27, 2001: D. Duford moved to approve minutes as amended. Motion seconded by R. Holley. M. DiBitetto abstained. **Motion carried unanimously.**

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

1. As of July 3, 2001, the report from finance is that this year will be a 53-week pay period.
2. There is \$177,000 unspent in the budget ending June 30, 2001.
3. Fire Department regular wages were under budget, as there were a lot of employees out in the first half of the year. The department was overspent by \$147,000 due to overtime line over \$123,000.
4. Family Service Department's budget was overspent by 9% and direct aid was overspent by \$25,000.
5. Ambulance Subcommittee Survey report has been rescheduled from next week to August 8th.

D. Pichette-Volk stated that to get the full audio-visual effects, it would be best to hold the meeting at the Hooksett Library.

D. Duford moved to have Council meet, August 8th, at the Hooksett Public Library. Seconded by D. Pichette-Volk. **Motion carried unanimously.**

6. An engine bought for one of our Fire Trucks, in 1998, has had numerous repairs worth \$32,000. The cab and chassis (excluding Bradford items), engine, transmission, breaks, pumps all covered by American LaFrance who was bought out by Freightliner. There will be a meeting in August to come to a favorable conclusion to ask for new machinery.
7. SCI Systems, a major employer in Hooksett, notified the town that they will be reducing their employee force by approximately 140. They will be maintaining about 30 – 40 employees. The manufacturing section will go to Augusta, Maine. This would affect 10-15 Hooksett residents.
8. Fire Department has had two union negotiation meetings for setting the ground rules and a partial proposal has been developed. The next exempt meeting is scheduled for August 2, at the Safety Center, 2:00pm – 5pm. The meeting following that is scheduled for August 17, at the Safety Center, 9am to noon.
9. Ed Groves sent his draft of a Code of Ethics, and a letter was sent to Mr. Groves. M. Farrell and R. Holley spoke to Mr. Groves. It was explained to him that our form of government is a budgetary town meeting. A copy of the RSA was sent to Mr. Groves. A Charter amendment needs 20% of voters in last election.

D. Duford moved to table any action. Seconded by M. DiBitetto. **Motion carried.**

R. Holley stated he would notify Mr. Groves that the subject has been tabled.

10. At the next meeting, July 25, the Council should discuss goals and objectives for the Council and Town Administrator.
11. The Town has been looking diligently into regaining Internet access. The Internet Company we were using went out of business. Their fee was \$144 per month and the best fee found was \$1,100 per month. We are still looking into a wireless connection.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Cable TV:

David Paquette, 154 Merrimack St, asked the Council to start thinking about the concept of AT&T Broadband and a possibility of a take-over. Hooksett's contract with AT&T Broadband ends December 15, 2003. There would be a signoff on a 10-year contract and he hopes that the Town would get a channel known as PEG TV, which consists of three media areas, public, education, and government. Funding for this comes from the franchise fees. Salem and Londonderry are 100% funded from their franchise fees. He is a producer for Manchester Cable TV and Concord Cable TV and has access to airtime for both channels. Mr. Paquette is interested in promoting the community and informing them as to what's going on. If you were to form a committee he would be interested in cable TV/access TV; he would be willing to work with the committee.

M. Farrell stated that the cable contract expires 2003 and we will start working on it one to two years before it expires. Renewal negotiations will start this winter and will need to form a cable committee and will certainly keep you in mind.

OLD BUSINESS:

R. Dion received two calls as to why there is no trash receptacle on the town side of Lambert Park.

D. Duford stated that there is no receptacle and some picnic tables on the Hooksett side of the park.

M. DiBitetto stated that there is a litter problem on Route 3, there is no sponsor for litter pickup. Route 3A is sponsored by the Lion's Club.

P. Rueppel stated she would bring this issue up to the Conservation Commission for maintaining litter on Route 3.

R. Holley expressed a concern on the voting of appointed Committees, Commissions and Boards at the meeting on June 27, 2001. He felt that Jonathan Hopkins, who is an Alternate on the planning board, should have been moved up to a full-term position instead of nominating a non-member.

R. Dion stated that he did not send a letter of interest nor did he show up at the meetings of nominations to show any interest.

D. Pichette-Volk asked what is the proper procedure to elect a Budget Committee member.

M. Farrell stated that as defined in the Town Charter section 11.4, if there is a vacancy in an elected office the Council shall fill that vacancy by appointment and that appointment shall continue until the next town election. RSA 32 stated that elected budget and committee appointed by moderator of town but in this case Town Charter supercedes statute. Planning Board members/members of town 49B state law to establish a Charter.

It was requested that M. Farrell obtain a legal opinion from Town Counsel.

Quarry Road:

M. Jolin asked what the status was on Quarry Road Bond.

M. Farrell stated the engineer did a site visit, last May, on Quarry Road. M. Farrell has been checking with Town Counsel on a weekly basis.

Police Commission:

D. Duford stated that Council should authorize all purchases under the Administrative Code obtaining three bids then an approval or waive the bid requirement then go through the Council.

M. Farrell has checked with the Police Commission on entering an agreement on communications. The Police Commission is responsible for all operations of Police Department.

NEW BUSINESS:

PETITION AND POLE LICENSES

P. Rueppel moved to approve the Petition and Pole Licenses for PSNH as submitted. Seconded by R. Holley. **Roll call vote carried unanimously. (See Attachment #1)**

Cable TV:

D. Pichette-Volk would like to see the cable access discussion as an agenda item on August 22. She volunteered to learn more and would be glad to meet with D. Paquette for further discussion.

Assessing Department:

P. Rueppel inquired on Management Resources, Inc. (MRI) vs. our own town assessor in respect to the cost.

M. Farrell stated that MRI is hourly and is not to exceed what our assessor would have cost for the year.

Out-going Councilors:

P. Rueppel moved that on the last meeting of the fiscal year the out-going Councilor would be honored with a plaque of appreciation, and a letter of invitation be sent to all departments to join in celebrating at a local lounge. Seconded by P. Ganley. **Motion failed.**

Assessing Department:

D. Duford moved, pursuant to Section 3.13 of the Town Charter, to conduct an inquiry and investigation of the Assessing Department concerning past practices of the abatement process, at a time and place to be determined. Seconded by P. Ganley.

P. Ganley asked if there was more than one case and if J. Temchack and clients entered into agreements, J. Temchack shouldn't be making agreements. He would like this brought to the attention of our legal counsel for review.

M. Farrell stated that the Town's attorney is aware of the situation. This is in part why MRI has been hired to review practices and procedures and they will give a report on August 15, 2001. In a recent memo it read that this has been the practice for the past 11 years.

D. Pichette-Volk would like to wait to see the findings of the August 15th MRI report.

Roll call vote:

R. Holley	yes	M. DiBitetto	recused	
M. Jolin	yes	P. Rueppel	yes	
R. Dion	yes	D. Pichette-Volk	no	
P. Ganley	no	D. Duford	yes	<u>Roll call vote carried.</u>

D. Duford moved to have the inquiry investigation on a separate night from Council meeting with all Council members present. Seconded by P. Ganley

Roll call vote:

R. Holley	no	M. DiBitetto	recused	
M. Jolin	yes	P. Rueppel	yes	
R. Dion	no	D. Pichette-Volk	yes	
P. Ganley	no	D. Duford	yes	<u>Roll call vote carried.</u>

Date and time of inquiry investigation to be at 6:30 either July 31st or August 7th, depending on Assessing Department availability.

P. Rueppel moved that the Subcommittee Reports be omitted this evening. Seconded by R. Holley. **Motion Carried.**

D. Pichette-Volk moved to enter into the non-public session at 9:07pm. Seconded by M. Jolin. **Roll call vote carried unanimously.**

D. Duford moved at 9:50pm to exit nonpublic session. Motion seconded by R. Holley. **Roll call vote carried unanimously.**

Acting Chairman Dion adjourned the meeting at 9:51pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina M. Paquette
Administrative Assistant

Michel N. Jolin
Town Council Secretary