

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
Regular Meeting
February 11, 2004

PRESENT: Chairman M. DiBitetto, D. Belanger, P. Fitanides (arrived at 7:09 p.m.), M. Jolin, P. Loiselle, G. Longfellow, M. Ruel, P. Rueppel, D. St. Pierre. Also present was Arthur Packard, Town Administrator.

Chairman DiBitetto opened the meeting at 6:30pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

December 3, 2003: G. Longfellow moved to accept the December 3, 2003 minutes as amended. Seconded by P. Loiselle. **Motion carried unanimously.**

January 12, 2004: P. Loiselle moved to accept the January 12, 2004 minutes as presented. Seconded by G. Longfellow. **Motion carried unanimously.**

January 14, 2004: M. Ruel moved to accept the January 14, 2004 minutes as presented. Seconded by P. Rueppel. **Motion carried unanimously.**

January 19, 2004: P. Loiselle moved to accept the January 19, 2004 minutes as presented. Seconded by G. Longfellow. **Motion carried 8-in favor, 0-opposed, 1-abstained (M. Jolin).**

January 21, 2004: G. Longfellow moved to accept the January 21, 2004 minutes as amended. Seconded by P. Loiselle. **Motion carried unanimously.**

January 26, 2004: G. Longfellow moved to accept the January 26, 2004 minutes as presented. Seconded by M. Jolin. **Motion carried unanimously.**

January 28, 2004: G. Longfellow moved to accept the January 28, 2004 minutes as presented. Seconded by P. Loiselle. **Motion carried unanimously.**

February 4, 2004: P. Loiselle moved to accept the February 4, 2004 minutes as presented. Seconded by G. Longfellow. **Motion carried unanimously.**

AGENDA OVERVIEW:

Chairman DiBitetto stated the agenda has been posted. There is an addendum under New Business regarding the rewording of warrant article #14. One of the scheduled appointments will not be here tonight – Steve Korzynowski.

PUBLIC INPUT:

K. Northrup advised the Council that the Heritage Commission received a \$500 donation from the Kiwanis Club. Chairman DiBitetto advised that a public hearing would need to be scheduled for the first Town Council meeting in March.

The Heritage Commission is working on a cultural and heritage inventory. Ms. Northrup is waiting to hear from the Conservation Commission before she completes this report. The February 25 Town Council meeting has been cancelled. This will be discussed under New Business at the first meeting in March. The report is due to SNHPC by March 1. Chairman DiBitetto suggested that, perhaps, the Heritage Commission could get a waiver from the rules regarding the submittal date.

NOMINATIONS & APPOINTMENTS.

D. St. Pierre asked the Council to consider moving Bob Sullivan to a full-member of the Planning Board.

P. Loiselle moved to waive the rules, seconded by D. St. Pierre.

Roll call vote:

D. Belanger	Y	G. Longfellow	Y
P. Fitanides		M. Ruel	N
M. Jolin	N	P. Rueppel	N
P. Loiselle	Y	D. St. Pierre	Y
		M. DiBitetto	Y

5-in favor 3-opposed. 2/3 Vote required. Motion failed.

NEW BUSINESS:

K. Northrup reported that Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission updated this map of natural and cultural resources that we feel are important to note as a priority in 1998. The Cemetery Commission is going to classify land near the cemetery for future expansion of Martins Ferry Road Cemetery. In 1998, the map designed 20 sites. SNHPC advised that we should include all sites, even those that were included on earlier maps. The 1998 review centered on the Village area. The Conservation Commission will be submitting their report shortly. The Town Council did review the submission before it went to SNHPC in 1998, and Ms. Northrup felt that this information should be approved by the Town Council again this year before submittal to SNHPC. She will distribute copies to the Town Council on Monday.

M. DiBitetto referred to Section 514 of the Charter concerning the acceptance of gifts. For a gift of \$500 or less a public hearing shall be at the discretion of the Town Council.

D. Belanger moved to accept the gift of \$500 from the Kiwanis Club to be used for the oral history and for the education of children for the Heritage Commission. Seconded by P. Rueppel.

Roll call vote:

D. Belanger	Y	G. Longfellow	Y
P. Fitanides		M. Ruel	Y
M. Jolin	Y	P. Rueppel	Y
P. Loiselle	Y	D. St. Pierre	Y
		M. DiBitetto	Y

Motion carried unanimously.

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS

Board of Assessors – Reval

Letter received from Sandy Piper, Director of Assessing, dated February 11, 2004. Her opinion is that Visions has done the job they were hired to do. 122 abatements have been received. Mr. Packard will request further information concerning the statistics on whether all houses in Town were visited. P. Rueppel felt that by the fact that only 122 abatements have been filed shows that Visions did a good job. Visions said they would visit every house, if the person was not at home, they would telephone the owner, and if no response, they would then send a letter.

Scientific Community Survey Results –

Matt Barrett and Glen Watson gave the Council a copy of the survey results. They will be presented and reviewed at a later date.

OLD BUSINESS:

Vote to Hold Public Hearing on Report of Charter Review Subcommittee

P. Rueppel deferred to the Vice-Chair, Don Duford.

Mr. Duford stated the sub-committee was given the task of reviewing the Charter. Matthew Coll, Union Leader reporter, was told he was very premature on reporting on this issue. The sub-committee had not come to any conclusions. Mr. Duford was very surprised and disappointed that a story had been run in the newspaper that had appeared that the Council had taken a stand on this issue. Mr. Duford was also surprised that the Chair of the sub-committee had been quoted in the newspaper. The consensus of the sub-committee was provided to the Board. The Sub-committee recommended that the districts be eliminated. Mr. Duford felt that whoever sits on the Council should have the interest and not be controlled by where they live. Mr. St. Pierre stated that he is in opposed to this recommendation.

Mr. Williams, Supervisor of the Checklist, stated he was given the task of doing the redistricting. The Charter calls for using the available Federal census data, which means using the available census districts. The Census map was drawn in 1985 and many of the physical features have changed since then. If the requirement of using the Federal data was eliminated, the Town can draw their own lines, and it would be much less expensive and less cumbersome.

Mr. Fitanides arrived at 7:09 p.m.

Mary Ruel inquired if there was a plan to transition from nine Councilors to seven. Ms. Ruel suggested that perhaps the districts are not the best idea. G. Longfellow spoke in favor of the district format. P. Rueppel stated that Hooksett is no longer a small town. She felt the districts should be abolished. M. Jolin suggested that the Council might want to consider eliminating the statement in the Charter that no more than two people from one district are able to sit on the Board.

The latest date for the public hearing on the charter amendments is March 12. A regular Town Council meeting is scheduled for March 10.

D. St. Pierre moved to table this issue. Seconded by M. Jolin.

Roll call vote:

D. Belanger	N	G. Longfellow	Y
P. Fitanides	N	M. Ruel	N
M. Jolin	Y	P. Rueppel	N
P. Loiselle	N	D. St. Pierre	Y
		M. DiBitetto	N

2-in favor, 6-opposed. Motion failed.

P. Rueppel moved to take the charter changes to public hearing on March 10 as presented. Seconded by M. Ruel.

M. Ruel stated she would like it clear as to how this would be placed on the ballot. Section 3.2 states that the section concerning councilors elected at large should be its own article. D. Duford advised that RSA 49B:5a states each amendment shall be limited to a single subject. More than one section of the Charter can be amended as long as it is limited to a single subject.

Discussion ensued as to whether there should be more than one warrant article.

M. Ruel suggested that it be sent to public hearing without determining how many warrant articles would be needed. M. Jolin stated that every year the Council does not leave enough time to review the Charter changes. M. Ruel supported moving this to public hearing because the Council would still be able to decide if they would submit the article to the warrant.

Roll call vote:

D. Belanger	N	G. Longfellow	N
P. Fitanides	Y	M. Ruel	Y
M. Jolin	N	P. Rueppel	Y
P. Loiselle	N	D. St. Pierre	N
		M. DiBitetto	N

3-in favor, 6-opposed. Motion failed.

Mr. Williams suggested that a standing committee begin meeting in September, so they can have ample time to submit their recommendations to the Town Council for next year.

Action on Acceptance of FEMA Grant

The grant information was previously submitted.

M. Ruel moved, seconded by D. Belanger to accept the FEMA Grant.

Roll call vote:

D. Belanger	Y	G. Longfellow	Y
P. Fitanides	Y	M. Ruel	Y
M. Jolin	Y	P. Rueppel	Y
P. Loiselle	Y	D. St. Pierre	Y
		M. DiBitetto	Y

Motion carried unanimously.

Action on Request for Franchise Extension at Hackett Hill Road to Manchester Water Works

M. Jolin moved, seconded by D. Belanger to extend the franchise at Hackett Hill Road to Manchester Water Works.

D. St. Pierre stated that Village Water Precinct is trying to install some wells near the Belisle quarry. He felt that they should be considered for this franchise area. D. Belanger stated that no firm plans have been received from the Village Water Precinct. G. Longfellow felt that there was no reason to give Manchester Water Works a franchise for an area they are not going to service, since only one house, and not the eight other houses, will not be connected. Chairman DiBitetto stated that Central Water Precinct has no desire to service this area.

The motion to extend is out of order.

D. St. Pierre moved, seconded by P. Loiselle to remove from the table.

Roll call vote:

D. Belanger	Y	G. Longfellow	N
P. Fitanides	Y	M. Ruel	N
M. Jolin	Y	P. Rueppel	Y
P. Loiselle	Y	D. St. Pierre	Y
		M. DiBitetto	Y

7-in favor, 3-opposed. Motion carried.

M. Jolin moved, seconded by G. Longfellow to extend the franchise at Hackett Hill Road to Manchester Water Works.

The Board took a five-minute recess at this time. The meeting reconvened at 8:24 p.m.

The church on Hackett Hill Road requires that it be sprinklered and the line be extended from the southern part. If this is voted down, are we voting down the ability for that church to have water? The answer was no.

Roll call vote:

D. Belanger	Y	G. Longfellow	N
P. Fitanides	N	M. Ruel	N
M. Jolin	Y	P. Rueppel	Y
P. Loiselle	N	D. St. Pierre	N
		M. DiBitetto	N

3-in favor, 6-opposed. Motion failed.

It was suggested that Manchester Water Works submit a more defined proposal.

OLD BUSINESS:

Warrant Article #14

Mr. Packard advised that it has been recommended to change the wording of this article to read "feasibility study and associated costs" rather than "land acquisition and associated costs".

C. Watson stated that an estimate has been received from Dufresne-Henry in the amount of \$136,000.

The number of the warrant article will remain at \$150,000.

D. Belanger moved, seconded by M. Jolin to adopt the revised wording, as provided by the Finance Director.

M. Ruel advised that the Budget Committee expressed their concern with the Town Administrator being the agent to expend on many of these warrant articles, and felt it should be the Town Council. Chairman DiBitetto felt that it would depend on the subject and the amount of money.

Motion carried unanimously.

D. Belanger moved to recommend passage of Article #14 in its new form. Seconded by P. Loiselle

Roll call vote:

D. Belanger	Y	G. Longfellow	N
P. Fitanides	Y	M. Ruel	Y
M. Jolin	Y	P. Rueppel	Y
P. Loiselle	Y	D. St. Pierre	Y
		M. DiBitetto	Y

8-in favor, 1-opposed. Motion carried.

Chairman DiBitetto reported that there was a concern that the pay increase warrant is way down on the list. It might make more sense and be better located immediately after the warrant for the

operating budget. P. Rueppel felt this was a good idea. D. Belanger and M. Jolin felt it should not change. It is Article #19 and the vote was 6-2.

P. Loiselle moved to move this warrant article to follow the operating budget article. Seconded by D. St. Pierre.

D. Belanger asked if the Council would now open the door to move each and every article.

M. Jolin felt this motion is out of order, and the prior motion should be reconsidered.

Chairman DiBitetto moved the motion out of order.

D. St. Pierre stated this article is for the non-union town personnel pay increases. He stated he wants to give the non-union employees a better chance on having this warrant article approved.

The public hearing for the budget is scheduled for March 4, 2004.

Doug St. Pierre stated he has a reconsideration request for the part-time Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer, warrant article #28. The vote had previously been 4-4.

M. Jolin stated that someone on the prevailing side (no vote) would have to ask to reconsider. M. Ruel stated that the votes speak for themselves. The Budget Committee felt if the Town Council did not recommend a warrant article, it should not be included on the Warrant. The motion to reconsider requires a 2/3 majority.

G. Longfellow stated he voted against this originally. He would consider hiring someone at 20 hours per week versus 30 hours per week.

Mr. Packard stated that the Board should decide whether the Code Enforcement Officer needs additional help and not vote this down because of a procedural issue.

Mr. Fitanides asked if that office could be re-energized so that this office operates more efficiently. Mr. Packard stated that he could try. He felt there was too much workload for one person.

There was no motion made to reconsider this warrant article.

Diane Savoie, Finance Director, reconciled the default budget. The first year's salaries of the police union contract were not originally included in the default budget. \$109,087 needs to be included in this default budget.

M. Ruel moved to amend the default budget to change it to \$12,239,217. Seconded by P. Loiselle. The Budget Committee will be apprised of this issue tomorrow evening.

Roll call vote:

D. Belanger	Y	G. Longfellow	Y
P. Fitanides	Y	M. Ruel	Y
M. Jolin	Y	P. Rueppel	Y
P. Loiselle	Y	D. St. Pierre	N
		M. DiBitetto	Y

8-in favor, 1-opposed. Motion carried.

Discussion ensued regarding the Village School. Chairman DiBitetto advised that the Town Meeting does not need to vote to accept the school. He advised that the Council could vote to accept it. The monies need to be approved for the utility costs.

The warrant is completed.

NEW BUSINESS:

2nd TIF District

Mr. Packard, Town Administrator, advised that the Town has been working on a connector road and commercial development in the Manchester Sand and Gravel area. A meeting was held with SNHU. Another meeting is scheduled with Manchester Sand and Gravel. The staff is looking at the possibility of creating another TIF District. Mr. Packard asked the Council for consensus that this connector road is needed.

Mr. Watson, Town Planner, explained the proposed Hooksett Parkway location. The University would like to have an access point off of this road in the future. They would be pleased if this road could pass Martins Ferry Road at grade. They would be willing to take over the responsibilities of North River Road so that traffic would then take this bypass road to the main entrance of the University. There are three possible ways to fund this roadway. The cost for construction is approximately \$500-\$550 per foot. Land costs are additional. One way to pay for this would be to float a bond. The industrial land that belongs to MSG behind Legends Drive, all of the Brox land, and all of the retail space at the intersection of Route 3 and Industrial Park Drive is fabulous land to develop, provided you can get easily in and out. This roadway would be a huge advantage to MSG and Brox because it would be a quick straight run from Exit 9. It would be a controlled access roadway. Mr. Loiselle felt this was an important item for the Town of Hooksett. He felt the Council should support this item conceptually. The details will be worked out in the coming year.

D. Belanger moved to show the Council's support for the concept of the parkway and the industrial development. Seconded by P. Rueppel.

Motion carried unanimously.

Charles Watson distributed a schedule of steps and estimate costs necessary to complete the southern leg of the proposed north-south alternate roadway parkway.

The Council agreed to send a letter thanking the police department and the highway department for their assistance at the polling place on Election Day.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Packard stated he received a base map from SNHPC. This is for the roadway inventory project. This needs to be signed by the Town Council Chair. It has been reviewed for accuracy.

D. Belanger moved, seconded by D. St. Pierre to authorize the Town Council Chair to sign the base map from SNHPC.

Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Two petitions were received regarding bond authorization for the sewer district. The Town Clerk is reviewing the signatures at this time. The legality of the petitions will also be requested. Clarification is needed concerning the public hearing on these petitions.

Correspondence was received from the School Board regarding the Village School. This information will be provided to the Town Council prior to their next meeting.

P. Rueppel suggested the Council review the Town Council's rules, and change the order of the Town Administrator's report. The Town Council rules will be addressed at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman DiBitetto adjourned the meeting at 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Ann Duffy

Mary A. Ruel
Town Council Secretary