

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
Public Hearing on Bond Issue
Thursday, March 4, 2004

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

Present: Chairman M. DiBitetto, D. St. Pierre, M. Ruel, P. Fitanides, G. Longfellow, M. Jolin, and A. Packard – Town Administrator.

Excused: P. Rueppel and P. Loiselle.

A moment of silence was observed in honor of Don Duford, who passed away this week.

The public hearing was called to order for the Sewer Petitioned Warrant Article for the sewer extension.

PETITION WARRANT:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$460,000 for the purpose of construction and expansion of the sewer system on Deerhead Street, Bartlett Street, Fairview Circle, and Castle Drive, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$460,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act RSA 33, and to designate the Town Administrator as agent to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes, and to determine the rate of interest thereon.

The Town Clerk has determined this is a legal petition.

Public Comments –

Patrick Ganley, Deerhead Street: This petition came about while I was on the Town Council. I approached the Sewer Commission in 2001 because some of my neighbors had failing septic systems. We have sewer right down the road. We have a terraced neighborhood. It seemed feasible to connect to the public system. The Sewer Department lost the paperwork and we had to readdress this in 2002. In the summer of 2002, I received a petition from the Sewer Commission and was trying to get this onto last year's ballot, but was unable. This year we are trying again. I reviewed the figures with Bruce Kudrick to ensure they were still valid. There are four streets involved. Deerhead, Bartlett and Fairview are all in the same area. Castle Drive is within two miles of the other three streets. The Sewer Commission decided to combine the two areas into one warrant article.

Bruce Kudrick: The majority of the monies are for the Deerfield Street area. Probably less than a ¼ of the job would include Castle Drive, at a cost of about \$90,000.

P. Fitanides: Are there any odors right now?

P. Ganley: No, since it is winter, we have not had problems. There is one home that needs to pump their septic system every year. The neighbor next door to this home complains about seepage. Ken Andrews and the NHDES have been contacted.

D. St. Pierre: Who would pay for this bond?

M. DiBitetto: This is a general obligation bond, which is paid for by the taxpayers.

P. Ganley: This neighborhood is a well-established neighborhood. Our neighborhood has participated in the payment of all other neighborhoods to change from septic to sewer. The residents will pay the hook-up fee.

M. Jolin: How many homes will this affect?

P. Ganley: About 30.

D. St. Pierre: Is this normal that all sewer lines are paid for by the taxpayers?

B. Kudrick, Sewer Department Manager: When the original system was put in, the entire Town funded it. The last expansion was a \$2.2 million bond for the Farmer Road area. That was also paid for by the taxpayers. Unless private individuals furnish it, the taxpayers have paid for the lines. Most of them are by petitioned articles that were submitted by the residents of the affected areas. This area was looked at in the 1977 Master Plan. At that time the turnpike did not go through that area. This area would have to go into the City of Manchester. The Sewer Commissioners have met with Manchester. The billing will go through the Hooksett Sewer Department. Dufresne-Henry rechecked the figures and they said there is enough money. It is a good thing for that area.

D. St. Pierre: Does this increase the value of these homes?

P. Ganley: That is a market reaction. That would be something I would have to study. Generally speaking, it is minimal. If you have septic or sewer, you have a waste disposal system. We are talking \$200,000 for entry-level homes now in Hooksett.

A. Packard: When a new subdivision is built, there is no bond floated for the infrastructure, the developer pays for this.

M. DiBitetto: Will the rates be the same as our Town wide rate?

B. Kudrick: It would probably fall under the City of Manchester's rates.

There being no further questions or comments, the public hearing was declared closed at 6:29 p.m.

M. Jolin: The total cost averages out to be approximately \$15,000 for each home.

G. Longfellow: It is about .40 cents on the tax rate.

M. Ruel: Bruce, is there anything you would like to add?

B. Kudrick: This project is eligible for state funding. Because of what happened at Elmer Avenue, the engineers did include additional monies, hoping that the bids will come in for a lesser amount.

M. DiBitetto: There would not be an impact on the tax rate this year because this is a bond. In future years, there would be a cost to the taxpayers. I don't think it would be in the magnitude that was mentioned by Mr. Longfellow.

MOTION: M. Ruel moved, seconded by G. Longfellow to recommend this petitioned warrant article.

Roll call vote:

G. Longfellow	y	M. DiBitetto	y
P. Fitanides	y	M. Ruel	y

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Ann Duffy

Mary Ruel
Town Council Secretary