

OFFICIAL

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES Regular Meeting Wednesday, July 14, 2004

PRESENT: D. Belanger, M. DiBitetto, P. Fitanides, Chairman Jolin, P. Loiselle, G. Longfellow, M. Ruel, P. Rueppel (excused), D. St. Pierre, E. Dionne (Acting Town Administrator)

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Jolin called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

June 23, 2004 - P. Loiselle moved to approve the June 23, 2004 minutes as amended. Motion seconded by D. St. Pierre. **Motion carried unanimously.**

NOMINATIONS/APPOINTMENTS:

Perambulation Sub-Committee

M. DiBitetto moved to re-appoint Denise Pichette-Volk to the Perambulation Sub-Committee. Motion seconded by D. St. Pierre. **Motion carried unanimously.**

District Court Lease Advisory Committee

M. DiBitetto moved to nominate Tracy Roche for the broker position and Mort Blumenthal for the appraiser position.

M. DiBitetto moved to nominate P. Fitanides as the Council representative.

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS:

Arah Prescott Library

David Paquette, Historical Society Chairman stated that the Historical Society is the keeper of the town's record and those records are being kept in the Arah Prescott Library. He added that the library is in need of repairs and presented each repair item to the Council. E. Dionne stated that the structural part of the building is the responsibility of the town but the contents of the building are the property of Historical Society. She added that they were advised to obtain insurance. Chairman Jolin asked if he intends to request funding. D. Paquette stated that volunteers have done repairs in the past but their members are mostly elderly and unable to perform labor work. Council consensus was to create a priority repair list for the Maintenance staff with safety issues being settled first.

Beth Smith, Benefit Strategies & Melisa Briggs, Local Government Center – Employee Cafeteria Insurance Plan

This is to update the Council with the benefit plans the Employee Sub-Committee has reviewed. Beth Smith of Benefit Strategies presented a flexible benefit plan package to the council and stated that her company is a fee-for-service company. They do not sell benefit plans nor make a commission on benefit packages. She added that her company designs flexible benefit plans known as "cafeteria plans", which allows employees to make pre-tax contributions. She explained what the plan entails and added that the final plan will have to be approved by the council. P. Fitanides asked if all employees are eligible. Melissa Briggs of Local Government Center stated that LGC requires at least 30 hours a week but the council can make their decision as to which employees could be eligible. M. Briggs presented the benefit packages being offered by HealthTrust through Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield and stated that the rate is specially designed for the Town of Hooksett based on the number of retirees. M. Ruel informed the Council that another insurance broker who would like to present a proposal to the council approached the sub-committee. Council consensus was to have them present their proposal at the next council meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Hooksett/Manchester Perambulation

P. Fitanides stated that he was able to obtain more information that needs to be considered by the council for the perambulation. (See Public Input section.)

NEW BUSINESS:

Dale Road Speed Limit

M. DiBitetto stated that this issue was brought to his attention by the Police Department. The posted speed limit on Dale Road is 15 mph while the minimum enforceable speed limit is 25 mph, causing speed enforcement issues and confusion on the part of residents. The Police Department offered to conduct a study to inventory posted speed limits throughout the town. Along with that study, the Department will make recommendations for appropriate speed limits. This could pave the way for the town council to adopt a town wide speed policy.

M. DiBitetto moved to authorize the Police Department to undertake a study on residential speed limits and to report back to the council. Motion seconded by D. Belanger.

William Beaulieu, 21 Whitehall Terrace: "The RSA on the speed limit is 25 mph. We've had discussions with past councilors/selectmen as to why there should be an exception. Our street has increased traffic because of the new school. The Police Department has allowed 20 mph but they cannot enforce it. Our street is only .4 mile long and 21ft. wide. It's a short narrow road and I ask to enforce a lower speed limit."

Roll call vote:

D. Belanger	Yes	G. Longfellow	Yes	
P. Loiselle	Yes	M. Ruel	Yes	
M. DiBitetto	Yes	D. St. Pierre	Yes	
P. Fitanides	Yes	Chairman Jolin	Yes	<u>Motion carried unanimously.</u>

Old Home Day Committee Request for Access to Village School

M. DiBitetto stated that the committee has requested access to the school for Old Home Day. The school can be locked down to isolate the gymnasium area and lock off the rest of the school. E. Dionne stated that the committee has been informed that if the school had not been turned over to the town by Old Home Day, they have to deal with the SAU regarding using the school. There were liability issues and vandalism issues in past on Old Home Days. Council consensus was that under the charter, the administrator is responsible for all public buildings.

Solid Waste Advisory Committee Communication

M. DiBitetto mentioned of an e-mail sent to him a few weeks ago by the committee requesting authorization of additional overtime hours on weekends. He added he believed that this should be a department head level decision. E. Dionne agreed with M. DiBitetto and stated that she spoke to the Superintendent and informed her that if there is enough money in their budget she could authorize additional staff time. It was agreed that the matter is a department issue if within budget and becomes a council issue only if over the budget.

Impact Fee Schedule

D. St. Pierre stated that the imposed Impact Fee has become a detriment to the town's commercial growth and would discourage big companies from setting up business in town. The town is charging an impact fee at the rate of \$1.03 per sq. ft. for industrial and \$1.14 per sq. ft. for commercial. He asked for the council to change the impact fee schedule by placing a cap of \$35,000.00. He added that this amount should be sufficient to cover additional costs for public safety. David Campbell, Attorney for Manchester Sand & Gravel stated that Hooksett is competing with other towns that are offering no fees at all to set up. M. Ruel suggested setting

up different tiers and not just put a cap of \$35,000.00. Chairman Jolin added that there is a concern regarding a big company demanding a lot of Police and Fire work with just a cap of \$35,000.00. E. Dionne commented that the town lost Associated Grocers to Pembroke, which has no impact fees. After much discussion on the matter, Council consensus was to restructure the fee schedule. There was a question about the necessity of a public hearing. D. Campbell explained that the purpose of a public hearing is to obtain input.

P. Loiselle moved to hold a Public Hearing on July 28th to modify the impact fee schedule to read: \$1.03 per sq. ft. of Industrial and \$1.14 per sq. ft. of Commercial with a cap of \$35,000.00 and anything over 200,000 sq. ft. must be reviewed by the Planning Board for additional impact fees. Motion seconded by D. St. Pierre.

Harold Murray, 311 Hackett Hill Road commented that the square footage of a building does not always determine the amount of public safety work needed.

Roll call vote:

D. Belanger	Yes	M. Ruel	Yes	
P. Loiselle	Yes	G. Longfellow	Yes	
M. DiBitetto	No	D. St. Pierre	Yes	
P. Fitanides	Yes	Chairman Jolin	Yes	<u>Motion carried.</u>

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Windsor Terrace Landscape Bond

E. Dionne referred to a memo she sent to the Town Council asking for a motion to release \$15,366.00 from Windsor Terrace Bond. She stated that all work has been done.

G. Longfellow moved to approve releasing \$15,366.00 from the bond. Motion seconded by P. Loiselle.

Roll call vote:

D. Belanger	Yes	M. Ruel	Yes	
P. Loiselle	Yes	G. Longfellow	Yes	
M. DiBitetto	Yes	D. St. Pierre	Yes	
P. Fitanides	Yes	Chairman Jolin	Yes	<u>Motion carried unanimously.</u>

Boston Post Cane

E. Dionne sadly reported to the Council that Arshalous Zatarian has passed away in March, prior to the previous motion. There was a question as to the town's senior resident. The council hopes to address the matter at the next meeting.

PUBLIC INPUT:

H. Murray once again addressed the perambulation matter to the Council adding that he's been to all the meetings and he is certain the Council has not been given all information on the three bounds that exist. He added that he would like to see the two other bounds brought to the Council, as it would impact a lot of people, mostly elderly. M. DiBitetto stated that the sub-committee does not have the power to change the boundary but only to find the bounds. He added that there is probably no way of exactly reproducing the original bounds that are lost. Denise Pichette-Volk, Sub-Committee Chair, stated that the Council could charge the committee to make a recommendation but perambulation documents would have to be approved and signed by the Council. M. Ruel added that our hired surveyor has come back and told the Council what he thinks, but some are still questioning his findings, this does not resolve the matter.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn F. Horn
Administrative Assistant

Michael J. DiBitetto
Town Council Secretary