

Approved

**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, August 25, 2004**

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

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

NON-PUBLIC SESSION:

P. Loiselle moved at 6:31 pm to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3,II,(c) "Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the body or agency itself, unless such person requests an open meeting." Motion seconded by G. Longfellow. **Roll call vote carried unanimously.**

G. Longfellow moved at 7:03 pm to exit non-public session. Motion seconded by P. Loiselle. **Roll call vote carried unanimously.**

The Council issued a statement that the non-public minutes would not be divulged at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

August 11, 2004 - D. Belanger moved to table the August 11, 2004 minutes. Motion seconded by P. Loiselle. **Motion carried unanimously.**

NOMINATIONS/APPOINTMENTS:

G. Longfellow nominated Chris Peirson for ZBA.

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS:

Diane Boyce, Solid Waste Dept. Superintendent – Purchase of Trailer

D. Boyce presented four bids they received for the purchase of new live bottom trailer. The bids came from Spector Manufacturing for \$43,280.00, Steco for \$48,500.00, Spec Tec for \$43,500.00 and Summit for \$55,950.00. She recommended for the council to accept the bid from Spector Manufacturing and added that they will do the lettering (Town of Hooksett) for an additional \$300.00.

G. Longfellow moved to spend \$43, 580.00. Motion seconded by P. Loiselle.

P. Fitanides asked to verify if the tractor had the load range the department needed. D. Boyce stated that there were several different bids and one did not have the range.

Roll call vote:

D. Belanger	Yes	M. Ruel	Yes	
P. Loiselle	Yes	P. Rueppel	Yes	
P. Fitanides	Yes	Chairman Jolin	Yes	<u>Motion carried.</u>
G. Longfellow	Yes			

D. Boyce updated the council on the purchase of a tractor (Kenworth T800), which was approved at the August 11, 2004 meeting. She informed the council that the factory increased the price from \$93,306.00 to \$94,956.00, therefore she is recommending for the council to accept the bid from Freightliner for \$88,320.00 (\$800.00 less than their original bid).

P. Loiselle moved to rescind the motion to authorize the Solid Waste Department to expend \$86,806.00. Motion seconded by G. Longfellow. **Motion carried unanimously.**

P. Loiselle moved to authorize the Solid Waste Department to purchase the Freightliner for a total cost of \$88,770.00 (including lettering), \$85,000.00 from special revenue fund and the balance to be funded from the trade of the existing tractor. Motion seconded by D. Belanger.

Roll call vote:

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

OLD BUSINESS:

TIF 10% Retainage Release

M. Sharma stated that he spoke to Bart Mayer, Town Counsel regarding this matter. It is the Town Counsel's opinion that the town cannot hold the money as leverage for the land promised to the town as it is not a performance bond but a retainage for the road construction. He also advised for the town to meet with Arleigh Green and Chuck Irving of KGI. P. Loiselle stated that according to Planning Board documents, KGI made a five-item agreement with the Planning Board. One of those items was the land for the Fire Station but the land turned out to be unacceptable. Arleigh Green agreed to donate a piece of land to the town. The agreement is between KGI and the Planning Board not Arleigh Green. P. Loiselle added that he recommends the town take the original land and switch the lands later. P. Fitanides addressed the possibilities of a litigation arising from switching lands. P. Loiselle said it would have to be added in the agreement.

Council consensus was to schedule a meeting with KGI and Arleigh Green prior to releasing retainage.

Hiring New Assessor

M. Sharma informed the council that the total compensation package for the new assessor would be \$85,000.00, \$60,000.00 for salary and \$25,000.00 for benefits. He suggested taking 1% from all departments except Library, Police, Fire and a few small departments. Another option would be to put a hold on \$100,000.00 from paving under last year's budget. He added that the town needs more money to cover for other expenses such as legal. He stated that there is no more money in the legal line and with the upcoming union negotiations, he expressed concerns as to where the money would come from. He also stated that the new assessor should have enough background in commercial real estate assessing.

P. Loiselle moved to freeze \$100,000.00 from Highway Department budget, paving line item. Motion seconded by P. Rueppel.

D. Belanger stated that he cannot support funding departments by taking it from other departments. M. Ruel stated she cannot support the 1% across the board from all departments as some departments do not have it on their budget. She, however, would support taking it from paving as the Highway Department would still be left with \$220,000.00 on their budget. P. Rueppel stated she would support the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

Disabled Veterans Property Tax Exemption

M. Sharma asked for the council's decision on the matter. He explained that this is a tax credit and not a refund. P. Loiselle stated that the Board of Assessors met on August 24, 2004 and they are recommending to increase veterans property tax credit from \$100.00 to \$250.00 and the disabled veterans property tax credit from \$1,400.00 to \$2,000.00. D. Belanger asked what level of disability is required to qualify. He added that someone with a 10% disability should not be

qualified to take the full \$2,000.00 credit. M. Sharma explained that state law requires 100% service related disability.

M. Ruel moved to increase disabled veterans property tax credit from \$1,400.00 to \$2,000.00. Motion seconded by P. Rueppel.

Roll call vote:

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

G. Longfellow moved to increase veterans tax credit from \$100.00 to \$250.00. Motion seconded by P. Loiselle.

Roll call vote:

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

Employee Health Benefits

M. Ruel stated that the sub-committee needs a concession from the council before they could proceed. She also stated that they need direction from the council as they negotiate with the union. P. Loiselle stated that he supports the cafeteria plan and added that the town should look into a 20% employee contribution in health insurance premium. Chairman Jolin and P. Rueppel expressed agreement with P. Loiselle. D. Belanger stated he would support 10% contribution from employees. Council consensus was to go with the cafeteria plan with employees contributing 20% of premium costs. On the matter of insurance broker, council consensus was to have them present proposals prior to agreeing for them to be the town's broker of record.

NEW BUSINESS:

Street Name Approval

D. Belanger moved to approve the street name, East Side Drive. Motion seconded by G. Longfellow. **Motion carried unanimously.**

M. Sharma informed the council that he received a memo from Police Chief Agrafiotis requesting he not be required to sign off on proposed street names. It was a council policy for the Police Department to sign off. The Police Chief will be required to sign off.

Discussion on Water Fluoridation Public Hearing

M. Sharma stated that there would be a public hearing on September 7th, 2004 at 7 pm at the Hooksett Public Library for public input on the proposed water fluoridation in Hooksett. There was a question regarding the necessity of conducting a public hearing. It was decided it would be an informational meeting and that speakers representing both sides of the issue would be invited. M. Sharma added that the Council Chairman would have to be there to act as a moderator.

Discussion on FEMA Grant Public Hearing

Al Dionne, Emergency Management Director informed the council that his department received a (matching) performance grant in the amount of \$1,668.00 from FEMA. A public hearing would have to be conducted in order to spend the money. There was a concern as to where the matching amount would come from. M. Sharma suggested taking it out of the Administration line with a condition that no more matching grant would be accepted in the current fiscal year.

D. Belanger moved to transfer \$1,000.00 from Administration budget to fund the matching portion of FEMA grant, the balance to be taken from Emergency Management's Mileage line and have a public hearing to accept the grant on September 8th, 2004. Motion seconded by P. Rueppel.

Roll call vote:

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

P. Fitanides brought up the matter of checking into the possibilities of the landfill and the town garage being considered as terrorists sites. A. Dionne stated that at the last town hazard analysis, the places mentioned were classified as part of the town in need of protection.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

M. Sharma reported on the following:

1. He requested for a motion to sign the DOT agreement, which was approved by the council at a non-public meeting.

P. Loiselle moved to authorize the signing of the DOT agreement regarding the connector road. Motion seconded by G. Longfellow.

Roll call vote:

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

2. The Town Clerk's office will be closed on November 2nd due to the election. It will be posted.
3. The town entered into an agreement for developers to receive impact fee credit. He received a letter from the attorney representing Springwood Homes Development, Scott Bussierre and All State Builders requesting credit towards future impact fees. \$22,608.00 impact fee credit for Springwood Homes Development, \$6,029.00 for Scott Bussierre and \$16,579.00 for All State Builders.

P. Loiselle moved to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the agreements regarding future impact fee credit. Motion seconded by G. Longfellow.

D. Belanger addressed P. Loiselle directly regarding an individual homeowner on Hackett Hill Road requesting to receive impact fee credit at the time when P. Loiselle was the Acting Town Administrator. That individual was told there was nothing the town could do. P. Loiselle stated that at that time, the impact fee was not in place. He suggested for the homeowner to make a formal request to receive credit.

Roll call vote:

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

4. The chairman of the Merrimack Valley Regional Water District asked if he could attend the next Town Council meeting. Council consensus was to invite him to the next meeting.
5. There will be a legislative policy hearing at the NHMA on Sep. 17th at 9:30 am at the LGC office. He spoke to them regarding Mr. Longfellow's request to amend provisions on

current use tax change. They suggested attending the meeting to finalize the amendment. Council consensus was to appoint a delegate at the next meeting.

6. The Town Administrator suggested doing the budget hearing on a Saturday from 9am to 3 pm instead of having night meetings.
7. He asked for the council's decision regarding the Town Vehicle Use Policy. M. Jolin stated that the council will have to review the current policy first prior to making any changes. P. Fitanides asked if there were gas cards and how many were issued. The Town Administrator said gas cards were issued to the Police, Fire, Building and Administration Department. The Fire Department has their own Diesel pump. Other departments use 2 cards to get gas from DOT and mileage has to be entered in order to get gas.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Council Meeting Calendar

G. Longfellow moved to approve the council meeting calendar to be amended if needed. P. Loiselle seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

Perambulation:

M. Sharma stated that he met with Harold Murray and he had filled him in on the matter. He would meet with the sub-committee chair, Denise Pichette-Volk and the Manchester surveyor and will inform the council. H. Murray expressed his disappointment with some councilors who were going by what the surveyors and the City of Manchester were presenting which takes away some footage from Hooksett homeowners, mostly elderly residents. He also informed the council of a meeting held between the City of Manchester and our surveyor (Don Duval). He added that Don Duval was told what boundary to present. D. Belanger said he's known Martin Micchio (City of Manchester) since he was 8 years old and that he is an honest man. He added that if there is evidence of any improper meeting being held, it should be presented to the council and investigated. H. Murray asked if the council was aware of another meeting taking place in Concord two weeks ago. The answer was no. Council consensus was for the Town Administrator to inquire if there was a meeting and the nature of the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn F. Horn
Administrative Assistant

Mike Jolin
Town Council Chairman