

## **APPROVED**

### **TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES Regular Meeting Wednesday, September 22, 2004**

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

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

#### **SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS:**

##### Merrimack Valley Regional Water District

Michael Scanlon, Chairman of the Merrimack Valley Regional Water District, stated that a charter for the organization has been adopted and approved by the NH Attorney General's Office and the NH Public Utilities Commission. Every community that currently uses Pennichuck is entitled to join the district prior to August, 2005. After August 2005, the District would have the right to veto any member coming into the District. He explained the benefits of joining the District. Brian McCarthy, Vice-Chairman, stated that every community who joined has paid \$10,000.00 for legal expenses and they don't anticipate going back to the communities for maintenance costs. M. Scanlon added that Pennichuck was being sold to a multi-national foreign corporation and there is a concern in having a foreign corporation in control of the local water system; hence, the formation of the District.

##### Health Comp Consulting Services

Mary Anne Maksalla of Health Comp Consulting Services stated she would like to offer her free services to the Town of Hooksett. A year ago she volunteered to help improve workers' comp with little support from town employees. She asked for support from the Council and cooperation from Administration Department and department heads to be able to set up workshops to educate the town. She added that a lot of money is being spent and wasted on workers' comp. The town gets reimbursed 60% and the workers get paid 100% while out on workers' comp. Council consensus was to have Ms. Maksalla meet with the Town Administrator to discuss the town's current workers' comp policy.

#### **NON-PUBLIC SESSION:**

D. St. Pierre moved at 7:15 pm to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II, (a) The dismissal, promotion or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted. Motion seconded by M. Ruel. **Roll call vote carried unanimously.**

D. Belanger moved at 7:50 pm to exit non-public session. Motion seconded by D. St. Pierre. **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:**

September 7, 2004 - D. St. Pierre moved to table the September 7, 2004 minutes. Motion seconded by D. Belanger. **Motion carried unanimously.**

September 8, 2004 - G. Longfellow moved to approve the September 8, 2004 minutes as amended. Motion seconded by D. St. Pierre. **Motion carried.** M. Ruel abstained, not present at the meeting.

**NOMINATIONS/APPOINTMENTS:**

M. DiBitetto nominated John Brock, Matt Comai, Frank Kotowski and Peggy Teravainen to the Village Re-Use Advisory Committee.

P. Rueppel moved to waive the rules and appoint. No one seconded the motion. The motion died.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

TIF 10% Retainage Release

M. Sharma updated the council on the matter. He had a meeting with the group and the Town Counsel, Bart Mayer. Harold Murray provided some valuable information. They discussed some options to resolve the problem. One option would be for Arleigh Green to provide two acres of land on Technology Drive, having a master plan which would guarantee the Fire Station being built in five years or they would have to pay the town \$100,000.00 to finish the project. Another option would be another piece of land on Quality Drive owned by Arleigh Green. Fire Chief Michael Williams, Harold Murray and Charles Watson, Town Planner walked through the property. This property would be discussed when they meet again on Tuesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2004. He would then update the Council on October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Windsor Terrace Apartments Performance Bond Release

A memo was received from Ken Andrews, Code Enforcement Officer recommending to release various performance bonds related to the Windsor Terrace Apartments.

G. Longfellow moved to release bond #'s BSA0517305 in the amount of \$220,000.00, 091404 in the amount of \$19,206.00 and 091410 in the amount of \$200,000.00. Motion seconded by D. Belanger. **Motion carried with D. St. Pierre opposed.**

Transfer of \$250,000.00 School Impact Fee to Hooksett School District

M. Sharma informed the Council that School Impact Fees have accumulated in the amount of \$273,000.00. The Finance Director recommended transferring \$250,000.00 to the Hooksett School District.

D. Belanger moved to transfer \$250,000.00 to the Hooksett School District from School Impact Fees. Motion seconded by P. Rueppel. **Motion carried unanimously.**

"No Parking/No Standing" Sign Request at Main Street

Councilor Fitanides received a letter requesting a "No Parking/No Standing" sign at Main Street. M. Sharma stated that the road is being maintained by the State and until the Connector Road is built, it will remain under the State's maintenance. He would meet with Dale Hemeon, Highway Department Head to discuss this matter but does not think a sign would be added. He also addressed the fact that the town has been receiving a number of requests regarding road signage. He suggested conducting a traffic study to give the town directions and to make sure certain criteria set by Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) are met.

Purchase of a New Fire Department Staff Vehicle

M. Sharma presented the bids for a new 2005 Ford Expedition vehicle for the Fire Department to be used for inspections. He had consulted with the staff and determined that this is a growth related expense, which could be taken from impact fees. Current impact fees balance is \$59,383.33. The bids came from the following:

<u>Dealer</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Grappone Ford	\$25,984.00
Hillsboro Ford, Inc.	\$26,783.00
Irwin Ford	\$26,800.00
Portsmouth Ford	\$29,227.00

There were some concerns with the purchase being similar to a warrant article, which was voted down. D. Belanger questioned the necessity of purchasing a 4-wheel drive type of vehicle. D. St. Pierre explained that when impact fees were established, it was to pay for the town's future growth related expenses. He added that the council should not dictate how the departments should spend impact fees. Chairman Jolin stated that the legal counsel found the purchase to be legitimate.

P. Fitanides moved to purchase a new Ford Expedition SSV from Grappone Ford in the amount of \$36,934.00 (includes warranty, siren, red lights, computer, etc.) to be taken from fire safety impact fees. Motion seconded by M. Ruel.

**Roll call vote:**

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

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

M. Sharma reported on the following:

1. He asked for a motion to award the Boston Post Cane to Eva Marie Bureau, 8 Harvest Drive, born on February 21<sup>st</sup>, 1905.

D. Belanger moved to award the Boston Post Cane to Eva Marie Bureau. Motion seconded by M. Ruel. **Motion carried unanimously.**

2. Al Dionne, Emergency Management Director has left for Alabama on a FEMA assignment in connection with post-hurricane Ivan disaster. He would be there for four to six weeks. While in Alabama, all his expenses including salary would be paid by FEMA.
3. He updated the Council regarding the proposed town census. According to Sandy Piper, Assessing Director, mailing expenses would be \$1,600.00 (personnel hours not included). There are 4,300 labels to be made. She suggested using the customized system.
4. Charles Watson, Town Planner would like to discuss the by-pass with the Council. He suggested scheduling a workshop with him at the next town council meeting.
5. Diane Savoie, Finance Director has informed him that the RSA 31:95(b) should be referenced when accepting and approving to spend grant monies at public hearings.

D. Belanger moved to make a clarification on the motion to accept Emergency Management grant money (see September 8, 2004 Town Council Minutes), to be accepted under RSA 31:95(b). Motion seconded by G. Longfellow. **Motion carried.** M. Ruel abstained, not at the last meeting.

6. He received a letter from a resident complaining about the new stop sign on Julia Drive. He would have more information on the matter in two weeks.
7. He invited the Council to join Ken Andrews' going away party on Monday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, at 3 pm.

**SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Board of Assessors**

The Board voted to give Robie's Store full tax abatement for this year and the issue would be revisited next year. The Board also discussed the matter regarding tax bills being sent for roads already deeded to the town.

District Court Lease Advisory Board

The Town Administrator would look into what other district courts are paying for lease to have a better idea on the matter. He informed the Council that currently, the Town nets about \$6.00 per square foot on the lease.

Employee Insurance/Wage Sub-Committee

They are coordinating the process with the union negotiations and that union representatives would be added to the sub-committee.

Village Re-Use Advisory Committee

They had their first meeting on Monday. They are currently formulating plans and would meet regularly to get things going.

Heritage Commission

They are working on a number of projects. There will be more information available soon.

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

The Board is still short one member.

Planning Board

They have assembled the CIP committee. The final presentation for the master plan would be scheduled in two sessions, November 29<sup>th</sup> and December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Police Commission

They are looking into adding a storage shed at the safety center. They are looking into the possibilities of moving Fire Department's communications to Concord. The costs would be around \$95,000.00.

SNHPC

They are still looking for a new Director. They would have an Acting Director in the mean time.

Union Negotiations

They met with union representatives and have agreed to put together and exchange proposals on October 8<sup>th</sup>, and schedule a meeting to discuss the proposals on October 19<sup>th</sup>.

ZBA

They finally have a full slate.

G. Longfellow attended the NHMA meeting on September 17<sup>th</sup>. An incident involving a town employee getting in an accident while plowing, which resulted to increased personal insurance rate, was discussed. They proposed to lobby the legislature to change the rules. They also discussed the Town Clerks being appointed instead of being elected.

P. Fitanides informed the Council that he received a letter from one of his constituents regarding a board member. Council consensus was to discuss the matter in a non-public session.

**PUBLIC INPUT:**

H. Murray asked if they know where the new storage would be placed. He said he does not think there is room anywhere on the Safety Center lot. P. Rueppel stated that it would be discussed at their next meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Evelyn F. Horn  
Administrative Assistant

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Michael J. DiBitetto  
Town Council Secretary