

Approved

**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, October 27, 2004**

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

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

NON-PUBLIC SESSION:

P. Fitanides moved at 6:35 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; and (d) Consideration of the acquisition, sale or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community. Motion seconded by P. Rueppel. **Roll call vote carried unanimously.**

P. Fitanides moved at 6:50 pm to exit non-public session. Motion seconded by D. St. Pierre. **Roll call vote carried unanimously.**

D. Belanger moved to direct the administration to follow the attorney's advise to go through the release procedure on the Sherwood Drive lot (see 10/13/04 minutes, John Piaseczny). Motion seconded by G. Longfellow. **Motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

October 13, 2004 – G. Longfellow moved to approve the October 13, 2004 minutes. Motion seconded by D. St. Pierre. **Motion carried.** P. Rueppel abstained, not present at the meeting.

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS:

General Elections

Leslie Nepveu, Town Clerk stated that according to the 2004 Election Manual, "*the Selectmen/Councilors shall appoint inspectors of election from the two political parties*". She presented three names from each party to be appointed as Inspectors of Election. For the Democratic party, Bertha Beauchesne, Gertrude Connor and Patricia Kisselburg, and for the Republican party, Constance Ballingall, Ethel Reiling and Elizabeth Crombie.

M. DiBitetto moved to appoint the slate of inspectors. Motion seconded by D. Belanger. **Motion carried unanimously.**

She also stated that NH Constitution requires for Selectmen/Councilors to attend the election. She asked for at least one Councilor to be present during election. Councilors M. DiBitetto, P. Fitanides and G. Longfellow agreed to be present.

Heritage Commission - Historical Sketches

At the last meeting, the council gave permission to the Heritage Commission to reprint the Historical Sketches. A motion is needed (per RSA 674:44-b and d) to give permission to the Heritage Commission to use the Historical Sketches for fundraising purposes.

D. Belanger moved to grant permission to the Heritage Commission to undertake Charles Hardy Hooksett Historical Sketches fundraiser and grant permission for monies collected from this fundraiser to be deposited into the Heritage Commission special revenue account. Motion seconded by P. Rueppel. **Motion carried unanimously.**

P. Rueppel thanked Kathie Northrup, Heritage Commission Chair and the Heritage Commission for all the work they have done in such a short time.

OLD BUSINESS:

10% Retainage Release

M. Sharma stated that there is nothing to report at this time.

Village School Quit Claim Deed

M. Sharma informed the council that the deed was signed and the keys have been handed over. All utility and insurance companies have been notified. Chairman Jolin added that the Village School Re-Use Advisory Committee has sent out RFP's (request for proposal) to different architectural and engineering companies for a study on the building. There will be an informational meeting on Monday, November 1st, 2004 at 4 pm. The proposals are due November 15th, 2004.

Kids Kaboose

G. Longfellow brought up the subject of the Kids Kaboose being in violation with the State and Federal Regulation and that it does not meet the National Standards for Safety. D. St. Pierre stated that the Parks and Recreation Director, Dale Hemeon is aware of what needs to be done. Council consensus was to have the Administrator instruct Parks and Recreation Department to remove or dismantle any non-compliant equipments as soon as possible.

Removal of Stop Sign on Julia Drive

M. Sharma stated that there is nothing to report at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

Amoskeag Rowing Club

D. St. Pierre stated that he does not know how the Amoskeag Rowing Club was invited to town or what documents they have to be in town. He added that it is good for the town to have a reputable rowing club. The Town Selectmen gave them permission to use the area a few years ago. They have since added a chain link fence and poured cement, which now makes it a permanent structure. They started using the boat ramp for their equipment and posted "No Trespassing". They have sublet areas to Derryfield Rowing Club, SNHU Rowing Club and others. As a result, when the town's people try to use the ramp, they cannot find a place to park. Amoskeag Rowing Club needs to be reminded that this is for the citizens to use and not for their exclusive use. G. Longfellow stated that when the Selectmen gave them permission to use the area, it was agreed that they would clean it all up, which they did, and give rowing classes for Hooksett residents free of charge. Council consensus was to invite them to a meeting to discuss the matter and to check with the Assessor to verify the owner of the boat ramp.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

M. Sharma reported on the following:

1. The new tax rate is \$22.00, municipal rate has gone down 3%, school is up 30%, state is down 20% and the county is up 3%. This year, the town picked up \$56 million worth of assessed value. It was published in the papers that the School Department gave the town \$1 million to reduce taxes. They were unable to find evidence that supports this at the DRA.
2. Tony Marts submitted the final draft of the deed on the Connector Road project. The Town Legal Counsel reviewed the deed and found some points, which need to be addressed before the deed is signed. This will be discussed at the next meeting.
3. He drove through Hooksett to check the road speed limit signs with the Highway Manager and found a couple of speed limits, which are improperly posted. The southern leg of Dale Road, for example, has 15 mph. The lowest enforceable speed limit in the state is 35 mph. He recommended taking the speed limit sign down immediately. M. DiBitetto said that the Police Department is in the process of putting together a summary report of posted speed limits. He suggested waiting for this report before acting on the matter.

4. He received a letter from the Regional Forest and Land Commission reappointing Harold Murray as the Hooksett Fire Warden. He asked for the council to approve and sign the reappointment.
5. He asked the council to sign a document, which certifies that the local Emergency Plan still exists and is current. This is done annually.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Planning Board

D. St. Pierre reported that they started the CIP last night. He informed the council that the DES' ruling against the capacity expansion of the sewage treatment plant might turn out to be a growth management ordinance. This could affect the Connector Road project. The public hearing for the Master Plan is scheduled on November 29th, 2004 at the Public Library from 3:00 pm until 9:00 pm. There will be a public hearing on December 4th, 2004 at the library starting at 8:00 am. If necessary, a second hearing date would be scheduled. M. DiBitetto advised that a PDF format of the Master Plan be made available at the town's website.

Solid Waste Management Advisory Board

G. Longfellow informed the council that they received a proposal from Pinard Waste Disposal to take care of trash collection in Hooksett. The Board voted not to accept but will present the proposal to the council for their review.

Union Negotiations

The union negotiations with the Fire Department had one session. The next meeting will be on November 8th, 2004 at 3:00 pm.

District Court Lease Agreement Advisory Board

The Town Administrator is in the process of collecting data from other district courts. The Board would convene sometime in November.

SNHPC

Chairman Jolin reported that they made an offer to a viable candidate from California and he is willing to accept.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn F. Horn
Administrative Assistant

Michael J. DiBitetto
Town Council Secretary