

Approved

**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, February 9, 2005**

PRESENT: D. Belanger, M. DiBitetto, P. Loiselle, G. Longfellow, M. Ruel, P. Rueppel, D. St. Pierre, M. Sharma (Town Administrator), P. Fitanides (arrived at 6:05 pm), Chairman M. Jolin (arrived at 6:55 pm)

CALL TO ORDER: Vice Chair M. Ruel called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

The Town Administrator introduced the new Code Enforcement Officer, Michelle Bonsteel to the Council.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION:

D. St. Pierre moved at 6:08 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.**

P. Loiselle moved at 6:56 pm to exit non-public session. Motion seconded by P. Rueppel. **Roll call vote carried unanimously.**

The council made a statement that they voted not to divulge the minutes of the non-public session.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

January 26, 2005 – G. Longfellow moved to approve the January 26, 2005 minutes as amended. Motion seconded by P. Loiselle. **Motion carried unanimously.**

PUBLIC INPUT:

Michael Sorel, 54 Cross Road, introduced the Hooksett Citizen/Taxpayer Volunteers (HCTV), which was organized in December, 2004. He stated it was formed in response to the hearing on the proposed Master Plan. He provided the Council with copies of the minutes of all meetings held since the committee was formed. He introduced Molly Kelahan, the Vice Chair of the committee. He presented a packet, prepared by the committee, which enumerated errors and inconsistencies in the Master Plan. He stated that they had a meeting with the Planning Board and that the committee is offering its assistance in correcting these errors and inconsistencies.

P. Loiselle asked Mr. Sorel if the committee is getting cooperation from the Planning Board. M. Sorel said that the Planning Board has been cooperative. He is hopeful that the Planning Board would be receptive to the changes offered by the HCTV.

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS:

Public Hearing, Acceptance of Donation to the Fire Department from Hooksett-ites Happy Helpers, per RSA 31:95-e.

Chairman M. Jolin opened the public hearing at 7:00 pm.

Chairman M. Jolin asked to recess the hearing until the presenter from the Hooksett-ites Happy Helpers arrived.

P. Loiselle moved to recess the hearing until the arrival of Bernadette Chevrette. Motion seconded by G. Longfellow. **Motion carried unanimously.**

The public hearing was resumed at 8:45 pm.

Bernadette Chevrette of the Hooksett-ites Happy Helpers presented a computer purchased for the Fire Department. She stated that in January, two other computers (laptops) were purchased for the Fire Department.

The public hearing was closed at 8:47 pm.

D. St. Pierre moved to accept the donation of three computers valued at \$14,909.00, per RSA 31:95-e. Motion seconded by P. Rueppel. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Fire Department, Purchase of Amkus Rescue Tool & Bullard Thermal Imaging Camera

Fire Chief Michael Williams stated that these items were originally included in their 2005-2006 budget but the Town Administrator recommended purchasing the items using the Impact Fees collected. The Town Administrator advised him to move forward with the purchase after getting a legal opinion from the Town's Legal Counsel. He asked for the Council's approval to purchase an Amkus Rescue Tool for \$14,651.00 and a Bullard Thermal Imaging Camera for \$12,598.00.

G. Longfellow said he thought a thermal imaging camera was just purchased. Chief Williams said that the Town has never purchased a thermal imaging camera. The Hooksett-ites Happy Helpers donated a thermal imaging camera to the Fire Department last year. The Department also got an old and outdated camera from Wal-Mart, which would be good as a back up camera. Another thermal imaging camera is needed for the Fire Station 1.

P. Loiselle moved to authorize the purchase of Amkus Rescue Tool for \$14,651.00 and Bullard Thermal Imaging Camera for \$12,598.00 for a total of \$27,249.00. Motion seconded by G. Longfellow. **Roll call vote carried unanimously.**

12.67 Acres Hooksett Land / Map 49 Lot 56, Bypass 28 Industrial Park

Richard Danais, read his letter to Councilor D. St. Pierre for the record. (Attached)

He introduced his lawyer, Attorney Jason Craven to the Council. Atty. Craven explained that Mr. Danais is offering to purchase a parcel of land at Bypass 28 Industrial Park. The Town took the land by tax deed in 2002. He stated that Mr. Danais would like to purchase the land for \$100,000.00 and use it to fill a 3-acre parcel of land he currently owns, which is poorly drained. He added that it is not clear whether the Town owns the land or the development rights, which expired. He asked for the Council's permission to engage the Town's Legal Council in looking into what the Town actually owns.

D. St. Pierre said they should have gone to the Planning Board first and asked them if the work has been done on the site. Atty. Craven said they came before the Council because they understood the Town owned the land. He added that Mr. Danais also wants to know how much should be spent in trying to determine what the Town owns.

P. Loiselle: "You want to know if we own the land. Assuming we did, do we want to sell it? Prior to selling the land, we have to ask every department if they are interested. If it went that far and no one is interested in it, we will then get competitive bids. That would be the process. If you're just trying to find out if the Town owns the land, we should be able to answer that."

M. DiBitetto moved to set up a meeting with the Town Counsel to discuss the matter and advise Mr. Danais on how the Town would like to proceed. Motion seconded by M. Ruel. **Motion carried unanimously.**

D. Belanger clarified that the Council cannot enter into a sales agreement.

Chairman M. Jolin suggested sending a memo to every town departments to ask if they have an interest in the property.

Repair of Fire Engine 1

Deputy Fire Chief Dean Jore presented three options as to how to handle the repair of Fire Engine 1:

- Option #1: Complete an in-frame top-end overhaul at NEDDA for \$21,250.00.
- Option #2: Replace motor with a factory Reliabuilt motor at NEDDA for \$30,950.00.
- Option #3: Purchase a new Fire Engine Pumper for a total of \$249,000.00.

G. Longfellow questioned the amount of money spent on the engine within the last years. He added that very little was spent on wear and tear and most money was spent on regular maintenance, including rebuilding the engine for \$10,000.00 in 2000. He added that \$1,000.00 was also spent looking for an oil leak. He said there is a lot money wasted on the engine.

D. Jore said that the engine is 20 years old. The truck has not had any rest except for when it was in the shop. Discussion ensued as to other options available. Adding another warrant article was mentioned. The option of renting until the town meeting is held was suggested, which would cost approximately \$2,000.00 - \$3,000.00 a month. D. Belanger suggested that the cost of repair should be taken from the paving line item.

Diane Savoie, Finance Director said with the default budget and the increase in the cost of snow removal, Highway Department's budget is a state of flux. She asked for the Council to give it at least two weeks prior to making a decision when she has a better idea on how much the department would need for snow removal.

M. DiBitto moved to authorize to repair engine 1, not to exceed \$30,000.00 (Option #2) to be taken out of paving line item. Motion seconded by P. Loiselle.

Further discussion ensued. P. Loiselle withdrew his second. **Motion died.**

M. DiBitto moved to authorize to repair engine 1, not to exceed \$30,000.00 (Option # 1) to be transferred from the paving line item to Fire Department Maintenance line item. Motion seconded by P. Loiselle.

D. St. Pierre moved to table the matter under the advise of the Finance Director. Motion seconded by M. Ruel.

Roll Call

G. Longfellow	No	P. Loiselle	No		
D. Belanger	No	Chairman M. Jolin	Yes		
P. Rueppel	No	M. DiBitto	No		
M. Ruel	Yes	P. Fitanides	No	3-6	<u>Motion failed.</u>
D. St. Pierre	Yes				

Roll Call (On the original motion to authorize to repair Engine 1 not to exceed \$30,000.00 (Option # 1) to be transferred from the paving line item to Fire Department Maintenance line item.)

G. Longfellow	Yes	P. Loiselle	Yes		
D. Belanger	Yes	Chairman M. Jolin	No		
P. Rueppel	Yes	M. DiBitto	Yes		
M. Ruel	Yes	P. Fitanides	Yes	7-2	<u>Motion carried.</u>
D. St. Pierre	No				

OLD BUSINESS:

Arc IMS – M. Sharma updated the Council on a proposal to make the GIS system available to the public. He said that Jo Ann Duffy, Planning Coordinator has learned that sensitive information was omitted from the data layers of other communities. M. Sharma recommended making the system available to the public subject to same conditions.

Chairman M. Jolin said he'd like to see which layers the Council is authorizing to make public and make that a part of the motion. Council consensus was to have all data layers presented to the Council for their review prior to authorizing to make the data available to the public.

NEW BUSINESS:

Approval of the Revised Safety Center Fitness Room Policy

Deputy Fire Chief D. Jore presented the proposed revised safety center fitness room policy. He said that the policy needed to be revised for clarification and to reflect the new workers' comp insurance carrier.

D. Belanger moved to adopt the new fitness room policy and replace the existing policy on the personnel plan. Motion seconded by P. Loiselle. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Public Access TV Warrant Article – ***To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for establishing Access TV in the Town of Hooksett and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000.00 (forty thousand dollars) to be placed in said fund, and to name the Town Administrator as agent to expend.***

P. Loiselle moved to place Public Access TV in the warrant article as presented. Motion seconded by D. Belanger.

Roll Call

G. Longfellow	No	P. Loiselle	Yes		
D. Belanger	Yes	Chairman M. Jolin	Yes		
P. Rueppel	Yes	M. DiBitetto	No		
M. Ruel	Yes	P. Fitanides	Yes	7-2	<u>Motion carried.</u>
D. St. Pierre	Yes				

M. Ruel moved to add a footnote, ***“Approximately \$40,000.00 is currently received from cable franchise fees.”*** to the warrant article. Motion seconded by D. St. Pierre.

Roll Call

G. Longfellow	Yes	P. Loiselle	Yes		
D. Belanger	No	Chairman M. Jolin	Yes		
P. Rueppel	Yes	M. DiBitetto	No		
M. Ruel	Yes	P. Fitanides	Yes	7-2	<u>Motion carried.</u>
D. St. Pierre	Yes				

Proposed Amendment to Article 9, Section 9.2 B of the Town Charter

The following is the proposed amendment to Article 9, Section 9.2 B of the Town Charter.

“At the second session of the Annual Town Meeting to be held on the second Tuesday in ~~May~~ **April**, all elected town officials shall be chosen; the voters shall vote whether to raise and appropriate the total sum of money for the town budget and other warrant articles as may have been amended and placed on the official ballot by the voters at the first session of the annual or special town meeting.”

This Charter amendment shall be contingent upon the passage of Article #6 to be voted on March 8, 2005 by the Hooksett School District.

(Article #6: Shall we change the date for elections and the second session from the second Tuesday in March to the second Tuesday in April, which would change the date of the first session to a date between the first and second Saturdays after the last Monday in March, inclusive?)

M. DiBitetto moved to schedule a public hearing on February 23rd, 2005 to amend Article 9, Section 9.2 B of the Town Charter. Motion seconded by D. Belanger. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Health Insurance for Elected Town Officials

P. Fitanides brought up his proposal for elected Town Officials to be able to obtain the same Health Insurance currently being offered to Town employees. Premiums are to be paid out of their own pockets. He said he would provide the Council with more information at a later date.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

M. Sharma reported on the following:

- 1) In response to G. Longfellow's request to look into the possibility of having a warrant article to combine all donations given to any Town departments in one public hearing, the Town Administrator said according to DRA this could not be done. A public hearing has to be held for every donation received by the Town.
- 2) Town Auditors have always commented on the total amount of property tax liens left unpursued and uncollected by the Town since 1999. Recently, the Town has invested approximately \$1,700.00 on research and collection of tax liens. So far, the Town has collected \$104,537.00 and is expected to collect several hundred thousand dollars more.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Sewer Commission

M. DiBitetto informed the Council that Sewer Commission is looking to solve the Wastewater Treatment problem with floating particles known as "Fixed Film Media". Aeration tanks would be filled with the floating particles. The bacteria would form around the particles. This process would increase the efficiency of the plant without increasing the number of tanks allowing the plant capacity to increase up to 1,700,000 gallons per day. He added that the process is being used in some parts of Canada, Asia, Europe and in the State of Colorado.

Southern NH Planning Commission

Chairman M. Jolin informed the Council that he would be attending the meeting with DOT regarding the I-93 project on Friday, February 11. He asked if the Council would give him any questions or input.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Harold Murray, Hooksett resident commented on the proposed Public Access TV warrant article. He said the process of taping a meeting could run up to \$2,000.00 a session. He asked what channel would be used.

P. Loiselle said Comcast Cable has already assigned a channel for Public Access TV.

Fire Chief Williams handed out informational packet regarding the Fire Department dispatch. He said he would like to have a presentation of the dispatch system for the Council. Chairman M. Jolin said this could be added to the March 9th, 2005 agenda.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn F. Horn
Administrative Assistant

Michael J. DiBitetto
Town Council Secretary