

Official

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES Regular Meeting Wednesday, September 28, 2005

PRESENT: Daniel Belanger, Philip Fitanides, Mike Jolin, Paul Loiselle, George Longfellow, Patricia Rueppel, Doug St. Pierre, Stuart Werksman, Chairman Michael DiBietto, David Jodoin (Town Administrator)

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman M. DiBietto called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION:

P. Loiselle moved at 6:01 pm to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II (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 G. Longfellow. **Roll call vote carried unanimously.**

D. St. Pierre moved at 7:02 pm to exit non-public session. Motion seconded by P. Loiselle. **Roll call vote carried unanimously.**

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

September 14, 2005 – Tabled.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Michael Sorel, 54 Cross Road, addressed the Council to clarify an article, which appeared in the Union Leader Sunday News on September 4th, 2005. The article referred to the Growth Management Ordinance, which was passed by the voters last May as "Mike Sorel's Law". He asked for the record to show that it is not "Mike Sorel's Law" but it is in fact, "Hooksett's Law". He stated that the Council, Planning Board and the Town should support the Growth Management Ordinance.

D. St. Pierre noted that the ordinance is a law of the land for the Town to enforce. He added that the voters should have lobbied for the Town to draft the Growth Management Ordinance to ensure passing a legitimate ordinance.

NOMINATIONS/APPOINTMENTS:

P. Rueppel nominated Sara Farrell to the Aesthetics & Beautification Committee.

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS:

Public Hearing, Acceptance of Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning (HMEP) Grant
Deputy Fire Chief Michael Hoisington explained that the Town was awarded a grant in the amount of \$7,920.00. The Department would use the grant money to purchase hand held computers, software and printers to be used for inspections. This is not a matching grant.

Chairman M. DiBietto opened the public hearing at 7:07 pm.

No public input.

Chairman M. DiBietto closed the public hearing at 7:08 pm.

D. St. Pierre moved to accept the grant. Motion seconded by P. Loiselle.

D. St. Pierre amended the motion to accept the grant under RSA 31:95 (b). Motion seconded by P. Loiselle. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Public Hearing, Acceptance of Donation from Wal-mart

Robin Boyd, Old Home Day Committee Treasurer presented a donation from Wal-Mart in the amount of \$500.00. The money would be deposited and used for next year's Old Home Day event.

Diane Savoie, Finance Director stated that the check is in hand. She would issue a check to the Old Home Day Committee as soon as the Council approves the donation.

Chairman M. DiBietto opened the public hearing at 7:12 pm.

No public input.

Chairman M. DiBietto closed the public hearing at 7:13 pm.

D. St. Pierre moved to accept the donation from Wal-mart in the amount of \$500.00 under RSA 31:95 (b). Motion seconded by D. Belanger.

The Council discussed if there was a conflict to accept donation from Wal-Mart while they are in the process of obtaining a permit from the Planning Board. It was determined there was no conflict.

Roll Call:

D. Belanger	Yes	P. Rueppel	Yes		
P. Fitanides	Yes	D. St. Pierre	No		
M. Jolin	Yes	S. Werksman	Yes		
P. Loiselle	Yes	Chairman M. DiBietto	Yes	8-1	<u>Motion carried.</u>
G. Longfellow	Yes				

The Council acknowledged the committee for a job well done at the Old Home Day celebration held on September 17th, 2005.

Public Hearing, Fireworks Ordinance

G. Longfellow moved to waive the reading of the ordinance. Motion seconded by P. Rueppel. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Chairman M. DiBietto opened the public hearing at 7:22 pm.

Fire Chief Michael Williams suggested further clarification under Section 4 "*All displays or discharges of fireworks shall be supervised by the Hooksett Fire Department.*"

The public hearing was continued until next meeting in order to obtain the final revision of the ordinance.

Charter School

Susan Hollins, Founder and Director of New Hampshire Center for School Reform made a presentation on charter schools. She is also the President of a consulting group, S. Hollins Associates, which specializes in charter schools and has developed guidebooks for starting independent public school. She explained that charter schools are public schools, which serve at-risk students not thriving in public schools. Under the 1995 district approved charter schools, the legislative authority, which approves the budget, approves the charter school. The budget comes out of the Town's portion of the State's school funding. Average grant from State is about \$500,000.00 for one school, which would be available for another year. It takes two years to open a charter school. There are about 3,500 charter schools around the country. The School Board, School Superintendent, the Town, a group of citizens or even a private company can initiate charter schools.

D. St. Pierre commented there is no available school building in Town. S. Hollins stated that charter schools do not have to be in a school building.

Solid Waste Department, Purchase of Skid Steer Loader

Diane Boyce, Solid Waste Department Superintendent presented the bids to purchase a Skid Steer Loader. The bids include the skid steer loader and 3 attachments, a bucket, a sweeper and pallet forks. The bids are as follows:

John Deere 320	\$29,400.00
Bobcat S185	\$25,126.00
Milton Cat226B	\$32,500.00
JCB190W	\$37,017.00

She recommended purchasing the S185 Bobcat in the amount of \$25,126.00. A warrant article for \$32,000.00 was passed to purchase the equipment.

G. Longfellow moved to purchase the S185 Bobcat in the amount of \$25,126.00. Motion seconded by P. Loiselle. **Roll call vote carried unanimously.**

Fire Department, Truck Bids

Fire Chief Michael Williams stated bid requests were sent out to 10 different vendors for the second time at the Council's request. Only one company submitted an actual bid. The bid came from Greenwood Emergency Vehicles in the amount of \$620,034.00 for (2) E-One Custom Pumpers.

At least two vendors indicated they refused to bid because the specifications on the bid request were almost verbatim to another manufacturer's. M. Williams explained that specifications were based on a truck they already have and found to perform the best.

Discussion ensued regarding specifications and how it may have been too rigid for other vendors to bid.

P. Loiselle moved to waive the 3-bid rule. Motion seconded by S. Werksman.

Roll Call:

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

D. St. Pierre moved to authorize the purchase of (2) E-One pumpers from Greenwood Emergency Vehicles, Inc. in the amount of \$620,034.00. Motion seconded by P. Rueppel.

Chairman M. DiBitetto stated that this is the second time the bids have gone out. The Council will have to make a decision, otherwise the trucks will never be purchased. He added that specifications would have to be modified to allow more vendors to bid in the future. D. Belanger stated that by accepting one bid the Council has cheated the taxpayers. There was no way to know if the Council could have saved money for the Town.

Roll Call (on the motion to authorize the purchase):

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

G. Longfellow moved to enter into a 7-year lease agreement with Baystone Financial Group at 4.39% and authorize the Chairman to sign the lease. Motion seconded by P. Fitanides.

Roll Call:

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Public Safety Impact Fees

Planning Consultant, Bruce Mayberry conducted a study at the request of the Council. The public hearing was held at a previous Council meeting.

D. St. Pierre moved to adopt table 3 of Bruce Mayberry's report dated July 29, 2005 (attached) to replace the existing public safety impact fee schedule. Motion seconded by P. Loiselle. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Municipal Solid Waste Contract

The Town is still in the process of reviewing its options.

NEW BUSINESS:

Roadway Impact Fees

Charles Watson, Town Planner presented a proposed roadway impact fees schedule. These fees would be used for new roads expenses resulting from new developments and not for maintenance on already existing roads and highways. The fees are to be kept in different zones. The use of impact fees collected is not restricted to zoning.

G. Longfellow asked if the Town should consider developing the schedule on a sliding scale, same as the public safety impact fees. C. Watson explained that the Town consultant could develop a sliding scale. The Council would have to set a policy to be able to tell developers and builders what fees they need to pay in order to build in Town. M. Jolin stated that roadway impact fees should not be compared to public safety impact fees as roadway impact fees should not be based on the size of the building and must also consider traffic due to particular use.

Further discussion on the matter ensued.

Council consensus was to continue the discussion at the next meeting.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

D. Jodoin reported on the following:

1. The Fire Department had come up with a list of items for the State Auction to be held on October 15, 2005. They would like to auction six (6) old Motorola radios and a box of radio and pager parts.

D. St. Pierre moved to authorize the Fire Department to auction six (6) old Motorola radios and a box of radio and pager parts at the State Auction. Motion seconded by P. Fitanides. **Motion carried unanimously.**

2. At the last meeting, he informed the Council of the Chester Turnpike clean up by the ATV Club. They could not access the entire strip of land because of wetlands. Dale Hemeon, Highway Manager has contacted DES to repair the culvert.

The Council consensus was to authorize the Highway Department to move forward with permitting to repair the culvert.

3. The next batch of tax deeds is a total of \$370,000.00 going back to 1996. Cora Moul of 9 Jacob Avenue would like to purchase the property. The Town's legal counsel suggested for the Town to draft a purchase & sales agreement and sell the property back to the owner for \$63,000.00, which includes interests and costs.

G. Longfellow moved to authorize the Town Administrator to sell the property (9 Jacob Avenue) back to the previous owner (Cora Moul) for \$63,000.00. Motion seconded by S. Werksman. **Roll call vote carried unanimously.**

2. He received a petition signed by five (5) abutters to add streetlights on Lincoln Street. He asked for the Council to refer the matter to the Street Lights Committee.

Council consensus was to refer the matter to the Street Lights committee.

3. The fixed asset statement under the audit report in the Annual Town Report makes it look like the Town's financial system is not up to par. The town is not complying with GASB #34 (*"Government Accounting Standards Board 34 establishes accounting and financial reporting standards for state and local governments, including cities, towns, villages and special-purpose governments such as school districts. It provides for better accountability by all governments."*) The Town could purchase the software for \$14,000.00-\$15,000.00 for the package. The Town's current software vendor is willing to provide the software for under \$7,500.00.

Council consensus was to move forward.

P. Loiselle asked about the status of in-house revaluation. The Town Administrator stated this would be done next year.

P. Rueppel requested for the Town Administrator to send a thank you letter to the Old Home Day Committee.

PUBLIC INPUT:

At a previous meeting, the Council asked how much trash was removed from the Chester Turnpike. Harold Murray, 311 Hackett Hill Road, said that the ATV Club removed over two truckloads of trash at the last clean up.

Chairman M. DiBitto suggested sending a thank you note to the ATV Club for their service to the Town.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn F. Horn
Administrative Assistant

Philip Fitanides
Town Council Secretary