

## OFFICIAL

### **TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES Regular Meeting Wednesday, November 2, 2005**

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

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

October 19, 2005 – P. Loiselle moved to approve the October 19, 2005 minutes. Motion seconded by G. Longfellow. **Motion carried.** D. Belanger, G. Longfellow and D. St. Pierre abstained, not present at the meeting.

October 26, 2005 – M. Jolin moved to approve the October 26, 2005 minutes. Motion seconded by S. Werksman. **Motion carried.** D. Belanger and D. St. Pierre abstained, not present at the meeting.

**PUBLIC INPUT:**

Doris Sorel, Aesthetics & Beautification Committee member read her resignation letter for the record. In her letter, she stated that, *“...it has become apparent that the Aesthetics & Beautification Committee no longer has the full and complete support of the Council...”*

Chairman M. DiBitetto stated he regrets receiving such a letter from Ms. Sorel and does not have an idea why there is an impression that the Council does not support the committee. The Council unanimously voted to create and support the committee. The committee was asked to submit a recommendation to the Council. Chairman M. DiBitetto also stated that he could not accept Ms. Sorel's resignation until the committee presents its findings and recommendation.

There was an error on the 9/14/05 minutes, which stated a motion to form the *“Aesthetics & Beautification Committee”*. It should have stated *“Aesthetics & Beautification Study Committee”*. The charge of the Study Committee was to come up with the number of members needed in the committee. Ms. Sorel stated that additional members are needed to do research for the committee to complete their report.

Council consensus was to invite the committee chair, Mr. Yervant Nahikian to the next council meeting.

**NOMINATIONS/APPOINTMENTS:**

Mary Farwell, Library Trustee informed the Council that they have a vacancy on the board. She recommended for the Council to appoint Mr. Francis J. Broderick to the Library Trustee position.

D. St. Pierre nominated Francis J. Broderick to the Library Trustee position.

D. Belanger nominated Molly Kelahan and Robert Duhaime to the Aesthetics & Beautification Study Committee.

G. Longfellow nominated D. Belanger to the Board of Assessors.

P. Loiselle moved to waive the rules of waiting period to appoint the Library Trustee. Motion seconded by S. Werksman.

**Roll Call:**

D. Belanger	Yes	G. Longfellow	Yes		
P. Fitanides	Yes	D. St. Pierre	Yes		
M. Jolin	No	S. Werksman	Yes		
P. Loiselle	Yes	Chairman M. DiBitetto	No	6-2	<b><u>Motion carried.</u></b>

P. Loiselle moved to appoint Francis J. Broderick. Motion seconded by G. Longfellow.

**Roll Call:**

D. Belanger	Yes	G. Longfellow	Yes		
P. Fitanides	Yes	D. St. Pierre	Yes		
M. Jolin	No	S. Werksman	Yes		
P. Loiselle	Yes	Chairman M. DiBitetto	Yes	7-1	<b><u>Motion carried.</u></b>

M. Farwell informed the Council that the board is considering expanding from a 3-member to a 5-member board. A charter revision would be required to change the number of library trustees. M. Farwell would be advised as to when this would be done.

P. Loiselle moved to waive the rules of waiting period to appoint the Aesthetics & Beautification Study Committee members. M. Jolin stated that this was out of order. The Council has not set up the committee's charge and composition. D. St. Pierre suggested waiting for the chairman to present the committee's recommendation prior to appointing more members.

The Council would speak to Mr. Nahikian to clarify what the Council is expecting from the study committee.

**SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS:**

Parks & Recreation Department, Playground Bids

Dale Hemeon, Parks & Recreation Department Director presented the bids for the Kids Kaboose playground set. The bids came from the following companies:

Premier Park & Play

Option 1 - \$58,900.00 (Includes installation.)  
Option 2 - \$50,000.00 (Includes installation assistance.)  
Option 3 - \$57,700.00 (Includes installation.)  
Option 4 - \$48,800.00 (Includes installation assistance.)

Childscape

\$49,178.00 (Includes installation assistance.)

Kompan

Option 1 - \$50,000.00 (Includes installation assistance.)  
Option 2 - \$50,000.00 (Includes installation assistance.)

D. Hemeon recommended accepting the bid from Childscapes in the amount of \$49,178.00.

In light of recent lawsuits against the Town involving the playground, the Council discussed whether there is a need for LGC to review the plans and equipment prior to purchasing the set. D. Hemeon stated that the equipment is up to code. Installation would have to be inspected for code compliance. The key to any playground is signage. Putting up the proper signage for age.

D. Belanger moved to accept the bid from Childscapes in the amount of \$49,178.00 for the reconstruction of Kids Kaboose. Motion seconded by P. Loiselle. **Roll call vote carried unanimously.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Street Lighting Request at Lincoln Drive

The Town Administrator received a petition signed by five abutters to add a street light at the cul de sac on Lincoln Drive. The Town has a policy in place for street lighting. Under this policy,

private area lights are permitted subject to the recommendation of the Street Lighting Committee, consisting of the Town Administrator, Highway Department Manager and Police Chief and approval of the Council.

D. Hemeon stated that in the past, the Town has installed lights on private roads. The resident paid for the pole and the Town paid for the lights. He drove by the area and found that every street has lighting except for Lincoln Drive. The area is very dark. D. Hemeon added that in his opinion, there should be a street light at the intersection of Monroe and Lincoln.

Discussion on the matter ensued.

D. St. Pierre moved to deny the request. Motion seconded by M. Jolin. **Motion carried unanimously.**

The Council asked to check into how much the Town pays for streetlights.

#### Street Sweeper/Catch Basin

D. Hemeon informed the Council that the new street sweeper/catch basin was delivered. Two highway personnel would be trained to use the machine.

#### Connector Road Project

A meeting was held on October 27, 2005 regarding the Connector Road project.

The Council discussed the matter with regards to the deed to the Cigna property. M. Jolin stated he thought this was completed when he signed the agreement. The Town Counsel, Bart Mayer is currently working on having the property deeded to the Town pursuant to the previously agreed and signed agreement.

There is a possible budget increase of \$667,000.00 of originally projected construction costs resulting from the pavement thickness being changed from 3.5 inches to 5.5 inches. P. Loiseau asked who would be responsible for the budget increase. Chairman M. DiBitetto, who attended the meeting, stated that developers would be asked to contribute. They are also looking into raising funds and changing the specifications without harming the end product.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

##### Village School Feasibility Study

The Town Administrator provided copies of previous studies done on the former Village School.

Chairman M. DiBitetto stated that the Town has an alternative to go back to the voters and propose the same scenario or look for a different alternative. One alternative was to scale back on renovations for less money. D. St. Pierre stated that according to Town officials, the building only needs to be handicapped accessible. A municipality is not required to comply with codes, sprinkler system is not required. There is also a study done by Bruce Mayberry, which shows how much room each department needs. The former Village School has the square footage to accommodate the Town offices. The biggest factors would be setting up the phone system, computer system, and air conditioning system.

Discussion on the matter ensued.

Chairman M. DiBitetto asked for a consensus. Does the Council wish to use the Village School as a permanent location for the Town Hall? D. St. Pierre stated that he does not see the Town using the building for more than 5 years as a town hall.

Council consensus was to move forward and develop a budget to move the Town Hall into the Village School building on a minimum budget and stay there for a minimum of 10 years. M. Jolin and D. St. Pierre would work with the Town Administrator on the project. The matter would be discussed at every meeting until the project is completed.

Fire Department, Engine #4

At the last meeting, the Town Administrator advised the Council that the Fire Chief suggested donating Engine #4 to an agency working with the hurricane-ravaged southern states. After careful research, the Fire Chief decided to send the pumper to the next State Auction, where the Town could get \$2,000.00-\$3,000.00. The pumper will be winterized and stored for the season. The next state auction is scheduled in May 2006.

D. Belanger moved to sell Engine #4 at the State Auction in May. Motion seconded by D. St. Pierre. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Councilor Health Insurance

P. Fitanides moved for the Councilors to be eligible for Town Health plans at no cost to the taxpayer. The Councilors would pay the total premium cost. Motion seconded by D. St. Pierre.

Discussion on the matter ensued.

The Town Administrator explained that payment would be handled the same way as retirees' health insurance. Payments would be made a month in advance.

D. Belanger moved to table the matter until more information is obtained. Motion seconded by M. Jolin.

**Roll Call:**

D. Belanger	Yes	G. Longfellow	Yes		
P. Fitanides	Yes	D. St. Pierre	No		
M. Jolin	Yes	S. Werksman	Yes		
P. Loiselle	Yes	Chairman M. DiBitetto	Yes	7-1	<b><u>Motion carried.</u></b>

Councilor Patricia Rueppel

The Council received Councilor Rueppel's resignation on October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2005. The Council regretfully accepted her resignation and expressed their appreciation for Councilor Rueppel's service to the Council and to the Town of Hooksett. The vacant position would have to be filled within 30 days from the new District 2. The position will be advertised with a closing date of November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

The Town Administrator reported on the following:

1. The 2004-2005 Hooksett Annual Town Report won second place in the LGC Town Report contest with population of 7,500 or higher category. He thanked the Administrative Assistant, Evelyn Horn who compiled all the reports and Mary Ruel, who took the barn pictures used for the cover.
2. The upper portion of the retaining wall, which extends out onto the road on Granite Street was taken down recently.
3. He received the street and speed limit signs report from the Police Department. He asked for a committee to be set up to review the report with the Police Department and determine which signs to put up.
4. Health insurance proposals from LGC were forwarded to the Council. Extensive research was done on health savings account. He asked the Council to review the proposals and come back at the next meeting with a recommendation. Health insurance plan for the year has to be signed by December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2005. The matter would be discussed at the next meeting on November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

M. Jolin moved to eliminate reimbursement of 50% of co-payment to employees. Motion seconded by D. St. Pierre. **Roll call vote carried unanimously.**

**SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Boat Ramp**

P. Loiselle updated the Council on the boat ramp issue. The interim report of the sub-committee was distributed to the Council. The matter would be discussed at the next meeting.

**NON-PUBLIC SESSION:**

P. Loiselle moved at 9:15 pm to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II (e) "Consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed against the body or agency or any subdivision thereof, or against any member thereof because of his membership in such body or agency, until the claim or litigation has been fully adjudicated or otherwise settled." Motion seconded by P. Fitanides. **Roll call vote carried unanimously.**

G. Longfellow moved at 9:45 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.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn F. Horn  
Administrative Assistant

Philip Fitanides  
Town Council Secretary