

OFFICIAL

**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, November 16, 2005**

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

ROLL CALL: Daniel Belanger, Philip Fitanides, Mike Jolin, Paul Loiselle, George Longfellow (arrived at 7:37 pm), Doug St. Pierre, Stuart Werksman, Chairman Michael DiBietto, David Jodoin (Town Administrator)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

November 2, 2005 – D. St. Pierre moved to approve the November 2, 2005 minutes as amended. Motion seconded by D. Belanger. **Motion carried unanimously.**

NOMINATIONS/APPOINTMENTS:

District 2 Councilor

P. Loiselle nominated Denise Pichette-Volk as District 2 Councilor.

D. St. Pierre nominated Jason Hyde as District 2 Councilor.

The Town Charter calls for an appointment within 30 days of a declared vacancy. Council consensus was to schedule a special meeting on Nov. 30th, 2005 at 6:30 pm solely for the purpose of appointing the District 2 Councilor.

P. Loiselle moved to appoint D. Belanger to the Board of Assessor. Motion seconded by D. St. Pierre. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Change of Meeting Schedule

Council consensus was to cancel the December 28th, 2005 meeting due to the holiday season.

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS:

Public Hearing, Acceptance of Grants from the Wal-mart Foundation

The Town of Hooksett has applied for and received two grants from the Wal-mart Foundation. One in the amount of \$2,000.00 given to the Fire Department for Safe Neighborhood Hero's grant and another in the amount of \$1,000.00 given to the Family Services Department (HERC) for needy families during the holiday season.

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

There was a discussion whether it is inappropriate for the Town to accept a grant from a company that is in the process of obtaining variances.

Harold Murray, 311 Hackett Hill Road asked if the Fire Department has authority to deny grants. D. St. Pierre responded they could be called in to the ZBA for guidance in decision-making.

Chairman M. DiBietto closed the public hearing at 7:10 pm.

P. Loiselle moved to accept the grant in the amount of \$2,000.00 for the Fire Department, per RSA 31:95(b). Motion seconded by D. Belanger.

D. St. Pierre stated that Wal-mart is currently in the process of obtaining several variances for a project on Route 3A. He added that he felt it was inappropriate for the Town to accept grants from a company that is trying to get variances through the Town.

P. Loiselle moved to table the motion. Motion seconded D. St. Pierre. **Motion carried with Chairman M. DiBitetto and M. Jolin opposed.**

Chairman M. DiBitetto opened the public hearing to accept the \$1,000.00 grant to the Family Services.

Diane Savoie, Finance Director explained that grants are given to organizations with tax identification numbers. Family Services (HERC) is a non-profit organization, therefore, does not have a tax identification number. The grant was given to HERC through the Town of Hooksett. The Town will then issue a check to the Family Services (HERC).

Chairman M. DiBitetto closed the public hearing.

P. Loiselle moved to accept the grant in the amount of \$1,000.00 on behalf of the Family Services (HERC), per RSA 31:95(b). Motion seconded by M. Jolin.

D. St. Pierre stated that it is inappropriate to relay money from Wal-mart through the Town. The Town should step clear off Wal-mart until the variances are resolved.

Chairman M. DiBitetto explained that all the money would be going to the needy, none is going to the Town.

Roll Call:

D. Belanger	Abstained (ZBA member)				
P. Fitanides	No	D. St. Pierre	No		
M. Jolin	Yes	S. Werksman	Yes		
P. Loiselle	Yes	Chairman M. DiBitetto	Yes	4-2-1	<u>Motion carried.</u>

Aesthetics & Beautification Study Committee

Yervant Nahikian, Aesthetics & Beautification Study Committee Chair, updated the Council on what the committee has accomplished. The committee met several times and was able to gather opinions from people like Dawn Stanhope of CEDCOH, Town Planner Charles Watson and local resident Molly Kelahan. They also have met with Dick Marshall of the Planning Board. It was suggested for the committee to start attending the Technical Review Committee meetings. The committee has developed two sets of guidelines under "New Projects" and "Existing Projects". Mr. Nahikian suggested forming an Architectural Plan Review Committee consisting of two members to be a part of the Technical Review Committee.

Discussion on the matter ensued.

D. Belanger moved to adopt the Architectural Plan Review Committee (2 members) to be a part of the Technical Review Committee. Motion seconded by P. Fitanides.

Chairman M. DiBitetto suggested for the committee to submit their recommendation in writing complete with the composition and qualification of each members, the charge for the committee and what department will they be reporting to. This should be done prior to adopting the review committee.

D. Belanger withdrew his motion. P. Fitanides withdrew his second.

M. Jolin clarified that the Council would like some guidance on what the qualifications of the two members for the Architectural Plan Review Committee should be.

P. Loiselle thanked Mr. Nahikian and all members of the committee for all the work they have done and reiterated that the committee has the Council's full support.

OLD BUSINESS:

Fire Dispatch 2005-2006 Expenditure

On March 9, 2005 the Council authorized the Fire Department to transfer dispatching to Capital Area Fire Compact. The invoice for the first annual fee in the amount \$91,038.00 was received on November 1, 2005.

D. Savoie explained that the Police Commission was under the impression that 66 2/3 % of the total amount due or \$60,692.00 would come out of the Communication budget and \$30,346.00, which represents benefits and payroll taxes would come out of the Administration Department budget. In order to properly account for the expenditure, the total expense must be recorded in the Communication line item. D. Savoie asked for a motion to over expend the Communication budget by \$30,346.00 and reserve said funds from the Administration Health Insurance budget. For subsequent years, the total costs would come out of the Fire Department budget.

D. Belanger moved to over expend the Communication budget by \$30,346.00 and reserve said funds from the Administration Health Insurance budget. Motion seconded by D. St. Pierre.

Motion carried unanimously.

Health Insurance Plan

D. Savoie presented various health plans being offered by the Local Government Center for 2006. The plans included Blue Choice Two Tier, Matthew Thornton Blue \$10 Co-pay, Matthew Thornton Blue \$15 Co-pay and Comp 1000. LGC would allow the Town to have up to 3 plans for employees to choose from. Health Insurance plan for the year 2006 through LGC would have to be signed by December 16th, 2005.

Discussion on the matter ensued.

The Council is looking to have employees contribute 10% of the total monthly premium of their choice plan. Currently, the Town is paying \$392.82 monthly for single person, \$785.64 for 2-person, and \$1,060.62 for family. Employee weekly contribution is \$3.00 for single, \$6.00 for 2-person, and \$9.00 for family.

Council consensus was to schedule a workshop on December 14th, 2005.

Village School Municipal Building Project

D. Jodoin stated that he is working on getting quotes for winterizing the building. He has received one quote and waiting for two more to come in. The leak on the roof has been identified and located. Some patchwork was done.

The next objective would be to come up with a revised scope of work and a budget to put in a warrant for next year.

NEW BUSINESS:

Veterans' Memorial Monument

G. Longfellow informed the Council that the American Legion Post 37 would like to place a monument in each of the Town's cemetery for Memorial Day ceremonies. The Cemetery Commission is against it. He asked for the Council to support designating a specific place at each of the Town's cemetery for a permanent monument, paid for by the Legion for Memorial Day ceremonies. Council consensus was to support the matter.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

The Town Administrator reported on the following:

1. On Saturday, November 12th, the Town of Hooksett auctioned off the two properties on Corriveau Drive. The minimum bid was met on one of the properties for \$140,000.00. An offer for \$130,000.00 for the other piece of property was accepted, under condition. In order to finalize and execute the Purchase & Sales Agreement, he asked for a motion to accept the bid, which was under the minimum amount the Council has set.

P. Loiselle moved to accept the offer of \$130,000.00 for the Corriveau Drive property, Map 22, Lot 46-15. Motion seconded by S. Werksman. **Roll call vote carried unanimously.**

2. The developmental rights to build (24 units) on Route 28 By-pass Condominium was auctioned off for \$315,000.00.
3. He thanked and congratulated Fire Chief Michael Williams for receiving confirmation by the Executive Council to be a member of the Fire Standards and Training Commission.
4. Per Council Chairman's request, he did a research on the number of communities with Town Council form of government and the number of councilors. This information was passed to each Councilor.

Arleigh Green

P. Loiselle asked for an update on the Arleigh Green matter. The Town Administrator stated that a letter has been sent to Mr. Green. No meeting has been scheduled.

Connector Road Project

Chairman M. DiBitetto informed the Council that the Town has received a zoning variance request from the developer, 3A Development. At a recent meeting with the DOT, it was explained that due to some changes in specifications of the road, extra pavement thickness is required. This resulted in \$600,000.00 road budget increase. The State of New Hampshire agreed to increase their portion of funding by \$300,000.00 to be applied towards the additional road expenses. The developer would match the funds.

The Council discussed the developer's variance request to the Growth Management Ordinance. D. Belanger recused himself, as he is a member of the ZBA.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Boat Ramp

D. St. Pierre stated that the sub-committee is far from reaching a final report. He asked for input from other members of the sub-committee and came up with the following recommendations:

1. Parks & Recreation Department should be given a schedule of all up-coming Amoskeag Rowing Club events. This would help Parks & Recreation to decide whether police and fire coverage is necessary.
2. All phases of Amoskeag Rowing Club and other rowers are to be covered by their insurance and the Town is protected.
3. Parking spaces would be assigned by the Town of Hooksett.

It was suggested to use the skating rink in the area, which is not being used, for parking spaces. The problem is funding. The sub-committee needs some guidance from the Council on issues, some of which are sensitive in nature. D. St. Pierre requested to schedule a non-public session. He also mentioned that the recent article on the Union Leader reflects his personal opinion. He was not speaking for the sub-committee.

P. Loiselle suggested developing a standard form for all organizations to use, not just the Amoskeag Rowing Club, to request use of any Town facility.

Planning Board

Chairman M. DiBitetto informed the Council that the Coastal Development project on Hooksett Road is moving forward. Traffic studies are being done. D. St. Pierre stated that the developer was supposed to add a detention pond with the State of New Hampshire and donate the pond to the Town of Hooksett. The prime wetlands were marked and re-delineated. He asked for the Planning Board and the ZBA to be careful, as a number of policies made over a year ago are not being followed.

CIP

There should be no Council representative on CIP. Chairman M. DiBitetto asked for the records to be corrected.

Solid Waste

G. Longfellow informed the Council that the Solid Waste Department is coming up with new price schedule for residential collection. On the subject of setting up recycling stations in Town, G. Longfellow stated that the problem is getting the location for the recycling stations and making them accessible for everyone to use. Another concern would be assigning personnel to monitor the stations.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Harold Murray, 311 Hackett Hill Road commented on a recent newspaper article regarding the Aesthetics & Beautification Committee with one of the Councilors stating, "I've wanted to do this for over 20 years, Hooksett is so ugly." He is hoping that the rest of the Council does not have the same mindset. On the boat ramp matter, he asked if permission from Parks & Recreation Department is needed to put a boat in the ramp. The answer is no.

Denise Pichette-Volk, 6 Highland Street stated that it seemed unclear to her that there was a written charge to the Aesthetics & Beautification Committee. Chairman M. DiBitetto stated that it was originally a study committee with a limited term.

On the Wal-mart grant acceptance public hearing, Ms. Pichette-Volk commented that the Town duly applied for the grant. That should be a factor in considering whether the Town should accept the grant. D. St. Pierre stated that had he known the Fire Department was applying for a grant, he would have asked the Council to stop the process until the variance application is resolved.

June Larkins, Amoskeag Rowing Club President stated that the club does not have any problems with the points D. St. Pierre mentioned. She also stated that the club might be able to help the Town with the skating rink. She requested for the boat ramp matter to be resolved before the club starts practicing in March. She asked to be kept informed and added that the club is ready to cooperate and be a part of the solution. She thanked the Council for their time.

Chairman M. DiBitetto said that the matter should be resolved soon.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION:

D. Belanger moved at 8:30 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 D. St. Pierre. **Roll call vote carried unanimously.**

D. Belanger moved at 9:28 pm to exit non-public session. Motion seconded by M. Jolin. **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 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn F. Horn
Administrative Assistant

Philip Fitanides
Town Council Secretary