

Official

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES Regular Meeting Wednesday, April 12, 2006

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

March 21, 2006 –

G. Longfellow motioned to approve the minutes of 3/21/06 with corrections. Seconded by P. Loiselle.

Corrections noted

Vote unanimously with M. Jolin and D. St. Pierre abstaining

March 22, 2006 –

Paul Loiselle motioned to approve the March 22, 2006 minutes with corrections. Seconded by G. Longfellow.

Corrections noted

Vote unanimously in favor with M. Jolin, D. Belanger and D. St. Pierre abstained

PUBLIC INPUT:

Harold Murray: On Hackett Hill, where the new development went in, there is a buffer and a resident of the neighborhood is harvesting the trees there. The wood, which is being harvested and cut into firewood, is in Hooksett. They are actually cutting a buffer.

M. DiBietto: Do we have authority to impose a buffer? We should refer this to the Planning Board. If there was a buffer, it was a voluntary issue. This is being referred to the Administrator.

D. Belanger: We should also notify the Manchester Building Department

P. Loiselle: Is this one individual or a developer.

H. Murray: I believe it is an individual.

H. Murray: We have been kicking around the Cabela's issue. The State wants to do something. If this doesn't get in the paper soon, it will be a mute subject. I think the State should be asked to make the statement on what they plan on doing.

P. Fitanides: I was upset the State held a meeting without including the town with the exception of D. Hess. We weren't privy to any of the information from that meeting.

NOMINATIONS/APPOINTMENTS:

2006-2007 Open Positions

The Council is currently accepting letters of interest for appointments.

The Deadline for submission of letters of interest is May 31st. Nominations will be made at the June 14th meeting. Voting on the nominations and appointments will be made on June 28th.

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS:

Heritage Commission, Preservation Month Proclamation

A proclamation by the Hooksett Town Council was read into the record by M. DiBietto. (See file)

***P. Loiselle motioned to proclaim May as Hooksett Preservation Month. Seconded by G. Longfellow
Voted unanimously in the affirmative.***

OLD BUSINESS:

Castle Drive Property

D. Jodoin: We received a letter that a real estate investor was interested in the purchasing of this property with the assistance of the prior owner. They are no longer interested, as the property is extremely wet. If after three years, it were still available, it could be offered to the Conservation Commission or put up for Auction.

M. DiBietto: The landowner has the right to redeem this property for back taxes, interest, attorney fees, penalty fees, and recording fees. They are requesting a forgiveness of the penalties?

D. Jodoin: Correct, They no longer feel it is of any value.

D. Jodoin: If you wait three years, you are allowed to keep all recovery costs. The town owns it now and may keep it. There is no requirement to auction it. The Conservation Commission could put a Conservation Easement on it.

Exit 11 TIF Boundaries

D. Jodoin stated that based on the public hearing on March 21st, there were concerns with parcels in the TIF district including the Town owned land on the Pinnacle and the land owned by Manchester Water Works, which is near the Sewer Department. David Jodoin read from letter from D. Savoie based on her conversation with Attorney's David Barnes and Bart Mayer (see file). D. Jodoin reviewed the proposed new boundaries.

D. Savoie met with David Barnes and Bart Mayer and asked if we need the Sewer Plant, Pinnacle and the Lilac Bridge in the TIF district. They suggested we include only the west side of the river.

P. Fitanides requested all recommendations and comments from the town's counsel be submitted to the Town Council in writing.

D. St. Pierre stated his concern with changing what has already been presented to taxpayer. That point was explained to the voters and to change at this point could cause confusion and convincing the voters would be difficult.

D. Hess feels it is a mistake to include the river front land. All that is needed is the length of the easement up to the Lilac Bridge. He did not agree with Mr. St. Pierre's concerns and would recommend deferring to bond counsel, David Barnes.

J. Hyde's understanding is the TIF districts don't change zoning, therefore, if you are going to give something to the voters, you should leave it. Consistency is preferred so the voter doesn't feel tricked.

M. Jolin stated that it is the infrastructure that makes it attractive, not if it's in a TIF district or not.

P. Loiselle asked if the town-owned land on the Pinnacle was taken out of the TIF district.

D. Belanger would rather take it out now so there is no inducement on any part to develop it.

D. Belanger motioned to hold public hearing on a revised TIF. Seconded by P. Loiselle.

Roll

D. Belanger Y
P. Fitanides N
J. Hyde N
M. Jolin N
P. Loiselle Y
G. Longfellow N
D. St. Pierre N
M. DiBitetto Y

Motion failed 3 – 5

***D. St. Pierre motioned to adopt the boundaries of the TIF district at exit 11 as presented at the public hearing on Feb. 22nd, 2006
Seconded by G. Longfellow.***

Roll

P. Fitanides Y
J. Hyde N
M. Jolin Y
P. Loiselle N
G. Longfellow Y
D. St. Pierre Y
D. Belanger N
M. DiBitetto Y

Motion passed 5 - 3

Street Signs/Speed Limits

D. St. Pierre reported there was limited information on street sign and enforcement signs. The police have said they will not get involved in setting the limits.

D. Jodoin stated that the Hooksett Police Department's position is they are not traffic engineers and the cost to bring in engineers is being researched.

D. Belanger suggested using SNHPC.

M. DiBitetto: We have neighborhoods posted at 15 mph and it is unenforceable. We need to correct that. I was under the impression the police would give us a report that because of the highly congested nature of our neighborhoods would have a letter stating a 30 mph town wide limit.

D. St. Pierre: The last correspondence with the Police Chief was that he wasn't going there. The Police Department will not recommend a speed limit. We don't even have authority on the main State roads. The traffic stops were less than 700 in 2004 and 4600 in 2005. Enforcement is stepping up.

P. Fitanides stated he has had complaints from his constituency regarding the speed bumps currently in place on River Road.

M. DiBitetto stated the Planning Board requested those bumps be put there and at that point it is a town road.

J. Hyde recommended a generic sign posted in Town: "The Speed Limit in the Town of Hooksett is 30 mph unless otherwise specified".

M. DiBitto: All of our efforts are going to get us to 30 mph at best on a town road not 15 mph. The question is do we wish to pursue that.

D. St. Pierre: We can go to 25 on town roads.

P. Loiselle recommended we go to SNHPC for input.

M. Jolin: They will not do the whole town for free. The engineer will look at the road and say what the road will support regardless of housing. They base it on the grade and width. Roads that won't support the speed are the narrow roads without shoulders. It's not that hard. You're going to spend a lot of money for nothing. They won't tell you what the residents want to hear to lower the limits.

D. St. Pierre is still working on a recommendation to be brought back to the board at a later time. This will include curfews on public parks. We currently have curfews in place. The issue is just signage.

NEW BUSINESS:

Exit 10 TIF Bond Reduction

Diane Savoie: When we did our TIF plan for exit 10 there was stipulation that there would be bond reduction each year. The reduction is for 264,550 for a total of \$1,852,500 that would be left on the line. That is the current outstanding exit 10 TIF bond plus 6 months of interest. We need to sign off on this form for the bank and we need a Council member to be authorized to sign for the reduction.

D. St. Pierre motioned to reduce Koffler/GID Hooksett Development LLC letter of credit by \$264,500 to \$1,852,500. Seconded by G. Longfellow.

P. Loiselle: Is there any interest on the part of the Council to allow the Administrator to negotiate the bond to zero. There may be money coming to the town and as we know the TIF district exceeded its expectation to produce revenue. Each year we will derive additional revenue for the general fund.

D. St. Pierre: This was established for the taxpayer at zero risk and I will not endorse the zero risk being removed. This is public tax dollars and this insures it is paid off.

M. DiBitto: We are already exceeding the bond by \$700,000.

M. Jolin: I approved this as a 10-year plan regardless of the economy. It is an insurance policy based on what we voted and approved.

Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Proposed changes to Personnel Plan

D. Jodoin explained the changes in the review and performance evaluation cycle.

D. St. Pierre motioned to approve the change. Seconded by D. Belanger

Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Rick Fink representing Cabela's requested permission to set up an information booth at the Transfer Station to distribute information regarding the TIF district to the public.

Two informational meetings are scheduled for April 20 and May 3rd at 7 PM at the Memorial School.

D. Jodoin stated that because the town receives federal funds, the Town needs to be careful what they allow on Town property. Information must be strictly informational and people cannot be solicited.

D. St. Pierre suggested Mr. Fink look into setting up at a shopping mall such as Home Depot where more patrons frequent.

M. DiBitetto suggested Robie's Store as a possible site to distribute information.

It was the consensus of the board that they do not set up a booth at the Transfer Station.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

- Last night Harold Murray received the Al Britton Award, which is given to an individual who has shown true dedication and service to the State Forest Fire division. Harold received the award from the State Forest Ranger.
- Hooksett Detective Paul Cecilio submitted a letter thanking Harold Murray and Al Dionne for conducting a class on GIS.
- The Town sent out 5 request proposals for 24/7 ambulance service as well as posting the ad in the newspaper. Three proposals came back and are as follows:
- Rockingham came back at \$265,000 a year, and would keep the revenue generated in Town, which would be approximately \$200,000. Rockingham could provide dedicated coverage 24/7.

Tri Town's proposal was \$260,000, and again they would keep the estimated revenue of \$200,000. Tri Towns proposal that was submitted did not list all the requested information and could not provide dedicated coverage to Hooksett and if a call came in for another Town they would respond.

Care Plus was \$65,000, and they would also keep the anticipated revenue of \$200,000. Care Plus provides a transport type service that would transport from hospitals to nursing homes and vice versa. They have not provided true 911 type of response service since 1999.

Based on the current information, the Hooksett Fire Department is the most cost efficient way to go for a 24/7 type of operation.

Tri-Town distributed a brochure at the Hooksett deliberative session on April 1st, which stated, "If Hooksett, needs an ambulance on scene quicker, is the capability of Hooksett Fire Rescue being questioned by your Town Administration". I want to state that I am appalled at this comment and others should be also. I have every faith in Hooksett Fire's ability to respond and provide exceptional care to the residents.

- St. Jean's Spring Auction will be coming up in May. Two of the old, out of service pumps will go up for auction.
- The Bridge report provided by the State of NH listing the problematic areas of the Lilac Bridge was distributed.

- Letter from Cabela's was distributed on how they will structure the bond. It will be done however the town wishes. They will give \$10,000 to the Sewer Department. The check for that study has been received by the Sewer Department.
- A Conservation Easement for Beaver Brook, submitted in January of 2005, should have been signed a long time ago. Looking for execution tonight of that easement. Bart Mayer and David Jodoin have a concern with easements with regard to who will be the caretaker for these parcels.

It is the consensus of the board that the Council craft a letter to the legislature addressing the boards concerns. This letter is to be presented to the Council for final review and approval.

***P. Loiselle motioned to table the issue on Beaver Brook Easement until the next meeting. Seconded by D. St. Pierre.
Voted unanimously in the affirmative.***

- Fire Department had a call to 1288 Smyth Road and damage was done to the driveway by the truck. The Highway department will be doing the repairs.
- The Pop Warner Jamboree will be coming to town again. There was a meeting that was scheduled for April 17th that had to be postponed. There will be approximately 85 football teams and 30 cheerleading teams participating. They would like to have it split to two days. The police and fire have major concerns with regards to parking and traffic. I do not like the idea of the event being spread over two days and am concerned with the number of teams and the parking situation as well as traffic. The Police and Fire have estimated that the details for proper coverage could cost up to \$5000 dollars. This is the third year for this event and is currently posted on the Pop Warner web site.

D. Belanger stated that this is run by HYAA and proceeds go to the program. Without HYAA, it would cost the town a lot of money to run the sporting program. All money raised should go to them.

This event should not be already listed on their website prior to Hooksett's approvals. D. Jodoin will contact the Pop Warner coordinator to discuss this.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Harold Murray stated that the NH ATV Club wants to know if the town will allow them to block the road at Chester turnpike due to illegal dumping. They would like to know if the Council would allow them to limit access by putting up gates. Harold stated that he would work with the Town Administrator on this.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION:

D. St. Pierre motioned to go into non-public under 91 - A: 3 II (b) at 9:01. Seconded by M. Jolin.

Roll

Vote unanimously in favor

Approved non-public minutes of January 11, 2006, January 25th, 2006, and February 8th, 2006.

M. Jolin motioned to come out of non-public and not to divulge at 9:50 pm. Seconded by D. Belanger.

Roll

Vote unanimously in favor

ADJOURNMENT:

The chairman declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Leeann Moynihan

Philip Fitanides
Town Council Secretary