

Official

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES Regular Meeting Wednesday, September 13, 2006

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman G. Longfellow called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

PRESENT: Michael DiBitetto, James Gorton, Jason Hyde, Mike Jolin (excused), Paul Loiselle (excused), David Ross, Patricia Rueppel, Stuart Werksman, Chairman George Longfellow, David Jodoin (Town Administrator)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

August 23, 2006 – D. Ross moved to approve the minutes as presented. Motion seconded by P. Rueppel. **Motion carried unanimously.**

PUBLIC INPUT:

Peter Farwell, 24 Grant Drive: There are three items I'd like to address. First, the Safety Center sign is in deplorable condition. There is a pile of dirt in front of it. It should be cleaned up. Maybe we should look into improving all Town signs. Second, there are rumors that once the Connector Road is done, Main Street will become a one-way street going South. The impact will be drastic. Everyone will have to cut into Beauchesne's Development. Before you make the final decision, please think about the impact on South Main Street. Last item I'd like to bring up is Public Access TV. The new contract with Comcast has provisions for public access. Comcast will provide the facilities at the Town's cost. We would like some directions from the Council. Will the Council consider paying a coordinator, go live, or tape? Please consider Public Access in this year's budget discussion.

Chairman G. Longfellow explained that Main Street will stay the way it is, going both ways. The only difference is that left turns will be prohibited from Route 3 going into Main Street.

D. Jodoin stated that there are discussions with NHDOT on whether left turns from Route 3 into Main Street will be prohibited and other traffic issues on Main Street.

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS:

Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission, Traffic Study

At the request of the Town of Hooksett, SNHPC reviewed the Town's current policy on local road signage and speed limits.

Mr. Timothy H. White, SNHPC Senior Transportation Planner presented his findings to the Council. It was determined that the establishment of speed limits lower than 25 mph is unenforceable under RSA 265:63 as it was not based on studies required by law. This hinders the Police Department's responsibilities to enforce the speed limits and safety regulations. Mr. White suggested addressing the traffic and efficiency on local roads by conducting engineering and/or traffic studies. He also suggested developing a Town by-law pursuant to RSA 41:11 to enforce RSA 265:60 and 265:63. He stated that the SNHPC is prepared to assist the Town in any way to address the issue.

Town Ambulance

Mr. Vincent Lembo, Jr., 56 Main Street questioned the Council's previous decision to purchase a rescue vehicle. He read a prepared statement for the record (Attachment #1).

M. DiBitetto explained that the Council did not vote to purchase an ambulance nor vote to start an ambulance service or anything of the like. The vote was to purchase a rescue vehicle. The Council made the same vote a year ago before there was any talk of a Town ambulance service.

Chairman G. Longfellow read the minutes of June 8, 2005 for the record (Attachment #2).

D. Ross stated that the rescue vehicle is not an ambulance. There is a need for the service. This is not coming from the taxpayers but impact fees.

P. Rueppel stated that she did not feel that this Council did its job to campaign for the warrant article. She added, "If it is 5:30 pm and someone in this Town has a heart attack. The ambulance is coming from Pembroke and that person dies because of the traffic. I will never forgive myself. That's why I wanted an ambulance or as you heard tonight it's going to be a rescue service."

Mr. Lembo: "I don't understand what the difference is."

S. Werksman: "The difference is this...I have had to call for an ambulance. The first one there is the big fire truck from Hooksett. Ten minutes later, the ambulance comes. That's the purpose of the rescue vehicle. Instead of the big fire truck, the rescue vehicle will be there."

Discussion on the matter ensued.

Mr. Lembo asked the Council to reconsider the vote.

J. Hyde moved to rescind the vote to purchase a rescue vehicle. Motion seconded by D. Ross.
Roll call vote failed unanimously.

Library HVAC System

Mary Farwell, Library Trustee introduced Heather Shumway (Librarian), Doug St. Pierre (former Councilor) & Barbara Davis (Library Trustee). She updated the Council on the status of the Library HVAC system.

On May 9, 2006, the voters passed a warrant article for Phase 2 of the Library HVAC system. Ms. Farwell explained that the Library is ready for Phase 2.

D. St. Pierre explained that Phase 2 is the completion of the job. Last year, the rooftop unit was installed. This year, the bottom floor will be done and the condenser unit will be replaced. The building will have variable air boxes and divided into separate heating zones.

Ms. Farwell stated they received three bids. Total cost for the project is estimated at around \$271,000.00.

The Library Trustees are the agents to expend, no need for Council approval.

OLD BUSINESS:

Littering Ordinance

On August 23, 2006, a public hearing was held on the proposed Littering Ordinance.

S. Werksman moved to adopt the ordinance. Motion seconded by D. Ross. **Roll call vote carried unanimously.**

Councilor Rueppel Case

A public meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, September 20, 2006 at 6:30 pm at the Town Hall. The purpose of the meeting is to take testimony from Councilor DiBitetto, Councilor Rueppel and

other individuals requested by the committee to provide testimony or information relating to the charges.

P. Rueppel handed a written request to have a copy of the questions the committee plans to ask by Monday, September 18, 2006. She informed the Council that her advisor, Mr. John Baldi, who would also give testimony as her witness would be present.

NEW BUSINESS:

2007-2008 Budget Goals

There was a discussion on whether the Council had set goals for the Administration Department or whether the Council was looking for directions from the Budget Committee.

Chairman G. Longfellow stated that the Town has had default budgets for several years. The Town has always attempted to minimize the number of warrant articles. He added that in his opinion, major expenses should be presented in warrant articles. When these expenses are included in the budget, they stand the risk of another default budget.

M. DiBitetto reminded the Council that one of this year's objectives is to have a zero dollar increase budget. The Council would have to consider restructuring the Town's operations and dropping some services.

Discussion on the matter ensued.

Impact Fees

At the last meeting there was a request for impact fees information. D. Jodoin provided the Council with spreadsheets showing the impact fees revenue funds.

D. Jodoin explained that the only problematic issue is with the recreation impact fees. Funds have to be spent within six years of collection or it goes back to the developers. Some accounts will expire in 2009.

When impact fees were set in 2003, national standards showed that the Town of Hooksett lacks in recreational facilities needed for the existing population. Impact fees could only be spent for growth impacts. Therefore, the Town will have to bring recreational facilities up to par prior to spending impact fees collected. A CIP account currently exists for recreational facilities improvements.

J. Hyde suggested creating a sub-committee to look into what the Town needs for recreational facilities and obtaining public's opinion if the Town is deficient in recreational facilities.

Council consensus was to consult with the Parks & Recreational Advisory Board to review the Town's recreational facilities.

Additional LGC Floor Proposals (Attachment #3)

M. DiBitetto moved to adopt floor proposals #s 1 through 8. Motion seconded by J. Gorton.

M. DiBitetto moved to amend the motion to exclude floor proposal #8. Motion seconded by J. Gorton. **Motion carried.**

Motion to adopt floor proposals #1 – 7 carried.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

D. Jodoin reported on the following:

1. The ATV Club and Manchester Water Works performed the annual clean up of the Chester Turnpike on Saturday, September 9th.

2. FF Wallace Spears of the Fire Department retired from service.
3. He received a request from the Finance Director to transfer school impact fees revenue fund to the Hooksett School District. The Town collects school impact fees and each year at this time, funds are transferred to the school. As of August 31, 2006, the balance is \$77,583.00. The request is to transfer \$70,000.00. He asked for a motion from the Council.

J. Gorton moved to transfer \$70,000.00 from school impact fees special revenue fund to the Hooksett School District. Motion seconded by D. Ross. **Roll call vote carried unanimously.**

4. The Annual State Auction is scheduled for Saturday, October 14th, 2006. All departments have been notified.
5. The Town Administrator had a meeting with NHDOT regarding the Connector Road. NHDOT had indicated that their goal is to prohibit left hand turns from Route 3 onto Main Street to push the traffic up to the Connector Road. He has similar concerns as to what was brought up during Public Input with regards to traffic being diverted into residential areas like Beauchesne's Development, Pleasant View and Grant Drive. He suggested waiting for the Connector Road to open up and see if it becomes a problem rather than moving forward and making a decision right now.

Discussion on the matter ensued.

The Council requested to get the number of accident calls on intersection of Route 3 and Main Street for the last five years.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Conservation Commission

There will be a DES presentation on Thursday, September 28th 6-8 pm at Memorial School Cafeteria regarding the economic benefits of open space.

ZBA

At the last meeting, the board heard a proposal for a golf car sales and service facility at the corner of Cross Road and Route 3A. It was continued as well as the condominium proposal behind Mount St. Mary's Apartments. There was a discussion on the possible use of the front lawn as a pond retention area if the proposal is approved.

There is also an effort taking place between the Code Enforcement Department and other departments in Town to review the current Zoning Codes.

Planning Board

The Board addressed the proposed revisions and reconstruction of the subdivision standards.

PUBLIC INPUT:

David Boutin, 1465 Hooksett Road: "It's my understanding that Tri-Town is not here on weekends. In October of 2005, I had a near fatal situation and was told that if I hadn't been picked by the ambulance when I was I wouldn't be standing here today. That was on a weekday. I support what the Council is doing and I support the idea of having our own ambulance service."

Harold Murray, 311 Hackett Hill Road: "I have been listening to this debate about the ambulance for the last two to three weeks. What is actually missing from the whole conversation is the letter that was sent 2 days after the voting informing the Town that Tri-Town is looking into cutting down their services. That letter should have been published in the papers. I also heard tonight that you're looking into a volunteer Fire Department. Today, I was listening and heard three different calls coming in for an ambulance in Webster, all volunteers. They never answered the calls. The next call was a code grey."

P. Rueppel explained that she used the wrong term, she meant on-call firefighters not volunteers.

V. Lembo: "I respect Mr. Boutin's position regarding the ambulance. The Council and the Budget Committee did not present the warrant article to the voters properly. Had the voters been informed, the warrant article would have passed. I take offense when my vote is just pushed aside."

Bob Ehlers, 14 Ardon Drive: "In support of the gentleman who spoke about Public access television. Public access television will give citizens an opportunity to communicate and express ideas."

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn F. Horn
Administrative Assistant

Jason M. Hyde
Town Council Secretary