

## Official

### **TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES Regular Meeting Wednesday, October 11, 2006**

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

**PRESENT:** Michael DiBitetto, James Gorton, Jason Hyde (arrived at 6:34 pm), Mike Jolin, Paul Loiselle, David Ross (arrived at 6:32 pm), Patricia Rueppel, Stuart Werksman, Chairman George Longfellow, David Jodoin (Town Administrator)

#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

September 27, 2006 – P. Loiselle moved to approve the minutes as presented. Motion seconded by M. Jolin. **Motion carried.**

#### **AGENDA OVERVIEW:**

Chairman G. Longfellow explained that the Councilor Rueppel Case under “Old Business” would be discussed first.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Complaints re: Councilor Rueppel

On October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2006, the sub-committee voted on the findings and recommendation to be presented to the Council. The committee voted to recommend dismissal of all charges. Chairman G. Longfellow read the committee’s recommendation (attached).

***J. Gorton moved for all charges to be dismissed. Motion seconded by D. Ross.***

M. DiBitetto stated that the Council should accept the committee’s findings prior to making a motion to dismiss.

***J. Gorton withdrew his motion. D. Ross withdrew his second.***

***P. Loiselle moved to accept the committee’s findings and recommendation. Motion seconded by D. Ross.***

M. DiBitetto: I’m looking at the report of the sub-committee and I understand we’ve got close to \$5,000 invested in it. I’d like to ask a couple of questions. Clearly, in my view, we had difficulty understanding how to proceed with this type of investigation. I don’t recall we’ve ever done one. Back in 2004 we did an inquiry for the Fire Department. This is the report of the committee (showed two large binders). This is the report that was handed to us from this committee (showed one-page report). I guess I was really hoping that I’d be pleasantly surprised this evening, that we were going to get some opinion from the Legal Counsel as to how to act in this procedure. This board is the board that needs to make a decision on whether the actions were grounds for removal, not the sub-committee assigned the role of finding facts. If this is the sub-committee report, I can only say that I am not prepared to vote to accept that. It’s not in any way adequate to the task that was assigned. We should have legal guidance as to what we were doing. I see nothing that would indicate we had any guidance from the legal department. There’s been no suggestion of what questions the committee set out to get answers to. And last but not least, I guess I’m led to assume that the investigation was conducted in its entirety on September 20<sup>th</sup>, with an interview of myself, Councilor Rueppel and the Town Administrator. That was the sum total of the investigation that was done. I’m a little bit lost for words. That’s the last word I would offer on the subject.

D. Ross: I've been very patient and long-suffering through this. Many people have asked me they couldn't understand how I've been so patient through all this. This all could have been dealt with on the night it was first read. It was not allowed to be addressed at the time. First of all, it was clearly found by the committee that she wasn't an elected official at that time. End of discussion at that point. There's been no evidence offered by Mr. DiBitetto as to any interference whatsoever. I highlighted this twice, first time when he read it that night. We were not allowed to discuss it since then. I don't find anything in here that shows me any kind of malfeasance by Pat Rueppel. Writing a letter to the Editor...I've written far worse letters many, many times. As far as how much trouble she caused, how many people were then. Less than a handful. That's the extent of the damage to that letter to the Editor caused. Have we heard anything back from Cabela's? I don't believe so. Interference. She did not interfere. Alienated the majority of the Council. I intend to make a motion tonight. Let's determine who in this Council declared to be persona non-grata. He made this claim with no validation and no evidence whatsoever. He has offered no evidence whatsoever. Nothing that validates any of these that we've blown all this time and all this money on. I'll accept this report because it's more than adequate.

J. Hyde: In direct response to Mike's assertion that the committee didn't do its job necessarily in that we need some sort of legal counsel. I would quote Section 3.2 of the Charter, which states, "The Council is the sole judge of the qualification of office". Quite frankly, we don't need legal counsel. We have all the legal counsel we need in that statement.

M. Jolin: I need a little bit of clarification on this one statement. It says on the report, "...*the release of the names of those in attendance at a non-public session, after it became common knowledge was not sufficient ground for removal*". Am I to imply that there was an established release of information that occurred in non-public session? Is there grounds for removal but just not sufficient? I'm confused.

Chairman G. Longfellow: The committee found that at the time that it was revealed, the only thing that was revealed were the names of the persons in attendance at the meeting. It was seven months after the meeting. By that time, it was common knowledge who attended. The Council was negligent in its own part by not publicizing those non-public minutes. There was no reason at that time to keep it non-public.

M. Jolin: That was a determination by the Council. There was a determination that there was a release of information that has not been released by the entire Council?

Chairman G. Longfellow: Yes.

J. Gorton: I'd like to address one particular point. The Hooksett Banner had an article dated March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2006, wherein it talked about the TIF District and the members involved, TF Moran, Jeff Larrabee, Cabela's, the Town Council, etc. On January 11<sup>th</sup>, the Town Council decided to release minutes of the non-public session in regards to Cabela's. All of these information has been published. Pat Rueppel's letter came out long after all of these information. I don't see where there is any information that she released. I believe I tried to make that comment during the committee meetings and I referenced the article on 3/16/06. I did mention that during the course of time the first article appeared in the Hooksett Banner on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2006. Up to June 12<sup>th</sup>, there were 12 articles in varying degrees of information being presented. There were a total of 18 letter to the Editor, 4 editorials, and 10 comments (blogs). All of these information were public knowledge before Councilor Rueppel's letter to the Editor was published. To me, it proves there was no release of private information. I can't find any name of any individual that she referenced in that letter, or any company, for that matter. Maybe she did mention Cabela's. Therefore, I cannot find any evidence that calls for dismissal.

D. Ross: According to the evidence or lack thereof, interference with contract lawsuit. There should have been something provided that would tell us what that entails, what evidence in such a lawsuit would be. None of these were provided. Disrupt the contractual obligations. There is no contract currently in effect. Completely undermine any presumption of a fair deal. This is unreasonable speech. Certainly not something you'd expect from the Town Council. This is reckless speech. Required to recuse. No, you're never required to recuse. You choose to

recuse. If you fail to recuse then yes, you can be charged for failing to recuse but you are never required. The details of a non-public meeting. No details were divulged. Everything she spoke about with people in attendance. That's commonly available information. Just as in Police investigation. If it's something to be found without a search warrant, it's perfectly admissible. Necessarily disqualifies...there's nothing that says she's disqualified. Participate in administrative affairs of the Town. What did she do? She did not participate, she did not sign the contract on any agreements. I don't think she cut any checks. Another preposterous statement. Did she do any negotiating with Cabela's? I don't think so. A shadow administration...we're going to address this later with the next letter. I consider this to be almost a libel statement. It would be nice if we knew the names of the shadow administration. And advocate for her constituents? How does Mr. DiBietto know what Pat Rueppel's constituents want or don't want. If all the constituents in Pat Rueppel's were the most constituents in her district. There would be nothing about her fighting this deal. Nothing at all. She's here to represent her constituents as I am as well.

**Roll Call on the motion to accept the committee's findings and recommendation:**

M. DiBietto	No	D. Ross	Yes	
J. Gorton	Yes	P. Rueppel	Abstained	
J. Hyde	Yes	S. Werksman	No	
M. Jolin	No	Chairman G. Longfellow	Yes	5-3-1
P. Loiselle	Yes			<b><u>Motion carried.</u></b>

***J. Gorton moved to have all charges against Pat Rueppel dismissed. Motion seconded by D. Ross.***

M. DiBietto: If I may address Mr. Ross' comments. It would have been properly dealt with at this point of the meeting. We were talking about accepting the findings of the committee. The problem here as I see it and no one ever wants to dismiss a Councilor. I've always had a lot of respect for Pat Rueppel and I continue to. I did see an issue here which has to be brought forth to the Council. I cited what I viewed to be a problem. It was the investigative committee that should have done some investigation beyond just interviewing myself, Councilor Rueppel and the Town Administrator. What investigation was that? And we spent \$5,000 on it? Mr. Hyde states to me that Section 3.2 says, "The Town Council is the sole judge of qualification for office." I've cited that same section and I agree. May I ask, what we spent \$5,000 on if we did not do any investigation and we did not get any legal counsel. What on earth was \$5,000 spent on? The matter is this, one of the very first issues was raised in the e-mail to Mr. Ewald was the question on overturning the election. To look for legal counsel to do it. And what did they sight as the basis for it. It was this alleged, elicited, private meetings. If there were elicited private meetings, I would agree 100% that was out of order. But we've learned there was no private meeting. If I was found e-mailing to Cabela's directions on how to do this or how to do that or getting directions from Cabela's, "This is what we need to do, we need to undermine the opponent by doing this or that..." I should be ran out of office. That would be a removable offense. I'd be the first one to admit it. The problem here is, Gander Mountain is the mirror image of Cabela's. They are for profit organization that came into this Town initially, with their hands on the table saying, "We're here to oppose public subsidies." I truly believe that they then decided that they would try to engage either Councilor elect or members of citizenry to then wage a war against this matter. And that, is where the problem lies. We have the same responsibilities to them as well as Cabela's, vice-versa. To be fair in our dealing. We did invite them here and they told their story and we all thanked them for it. They went beyond that. We have a situation that is essentially the mirror image of Cabela's and they have brought into question the Town of Hooksett and its ability to do business with people that come here in good faith and attempt to do so. I think it fails to recognize that May 27<sup>th</sup> e-mail which states that, "I hope we could stall this because if road blocks are put in Cabela's way, they will bolt. Manchester, Concord and Tilton want them." Does that not indicate, it may not, I may be reading more into this than you are. But does that not indicate to you that there was a plan of action laid on May 26<sup>th</sup>. Then I ask you this question, we have a Councilor-elect stating that dragging this out may have the effect of chasing this away. Does anyone argue that was just going to go on until July 1<sup>st</sup>? Once July 1<sup>st</sup> came up the delays would be over. Hopefully Cabela's would run away on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. It's preposterous to even suggest it. At that point, there was a plan to continue. I don't like to have to say it. As a Councilor, there

was a plan that as a Councilor we would continue to try to delay this until they finally threw their arms up and go away. Because of that, it's impossible for the Council to determine that, "Nope, it was done not as a Councilor." This is an ongoing pattern that cannot be denied.

J. Hyde: First, even if Councilor Rueppel quit being on the Town Council and became a paid consultant for Gander Mountain, and was working against the Cabela's deal. As long as she did all that while she was not on the Council, she did the right thing by stepping down. I don't think she became a paid consultant of Gander Mountain. I don't think anything like that happened. Even if it did, she wasn't on the Council when all these happened. Since she's been on the Council, unless, someone somehow got ahold of somebody's private e-mail, you have not presented any proof that she has done anything wrong since then. If you can prove to me that she has done something since she took her oath of office, then we've got an entirely different situation. Right now, there's nothing. All of these happened when she was not a Councilor.

D. Ross: This is just a comment. I found that the illusion to the possibility that Pat Rueppel stepped down for any other reason she stated clearly is totally outrageous. Unless, Councilor DiBitetto has evidence that Mrs. Rueppel did not take a plane to see her son. Then, he should have resisted saying such a thing. It's a reckless statement. As far as the e-mail he is quoting, the e-mail states to delay until the new Council is seated. I think Pat Rueppel was in a panic that something bad might happen that would put the taxpayers at risk. Motive...he keeps on going to this motive. He has no proof other than a presumption on his part that she was deliberately trying to tank the deal. The e-mail also mentioned to make it a better deal for the Town. There's nothing wrong with her receiving an e-mail. July 3<sup>rd</sup> is a legal date. Legally, she was not a Councilor. Investigation...he was talking about how we didn't do any investigation. What do we have to investigate. All we were provided was a couple of redacted e-mails. He never did produce the unredacted e-mails. My investigation was done the night he read it. If anyone tries to rescind a vote, there's nothing illegal or improper about that either.

P. Loiselle: For the record, all five charges brought by Councilor DiBitetto, none of them were denied by Councilor Rueppel throughout the investigation.

**Roll call vote to have all charges dismissed:**

M. DiBitetto	No	D. Ross	Yes	
J. Gorton	Yes	P. Rueppel	Abstained	
J. Hyde	Yes	S. Werksman	No	
M. Jolin	Yes	Chairman G. Longfellow	Yes	5-3-1 <b><u>Motion carried.</u></b>
P. Loiselle	No			

Chairman G. Longfellow: This has been a tough session for all of us. I hope now that it's over, this Council could pull together for the Town of Hooksett.

Councilor Rueppel was allowed by the Council to make a statement.

P. Rueppel: I would like to read from the 2005-2006 Town Report. Mr. DiBitetto, as Chair wrote this report for the Town Council.

***"The proposal by Cabela's Sporting Goods to build a destination retail facility on the Palazzi site has been the driving force behind the establishment of a TIF district at Exit 11. In addition to Cabela's, the current proposal also details a hotel and three potential restaurant sites. As part of the proposed TIF plan, Cabela's will provide ironclad guarantees to the Town that this bond will never be borne by the taxpayer. Along with this guarantee, Cabela's has also agreed to include, within their commitments, additional infrastructure repairs and upgrades that were not part of their original plan. That added infrastructure comprises approximately \$4 million of the total \$18 million bond."***

Also during the campaign for the warrant article, Cabela's stated that the TIF would lower the taxes. I ran for the District 1 seat in May to make certain the promises of this Town Report and the campaign were kept. Thank you very much.

Councilor Rueppel was excused for the remainder of the meeting.

**NOMINATIONS/APPOINTMENTS:**

Available Positions:

Budget Committee, Fill-in Full Member, exp. 6-2007  
Building Board of Appeals, Fill-in Full Member, exp. 6-2009  
Conservation Commission, (2) Fill-in Alt. Members, exp. 6/2008 & 6/2009  
Heritage Commission, (2) Fill-in Alt. Members, exp. 6/2008 & 6/2009  
Solid Waste Management Advisory Board, Fill-in Alt. Member, exp. 6/2009  
Trustee of the Trust Funds, Fill-in Full Member, exp. 6/2007

**PUBLIC INPUT:**

Mark Miville, 97 Locust Hill Road: What was the \$5,000 expense for?

Chairman G. Longfellow: It was for legal expenses, consulting with Legal Counsel.

**SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS:**

Donation of "Courage Under Fire" Statue at Fire Station #1

Michael Williams, Fire Chief, asked for the Council to accept the "Courage Under Fire" Statue.

Alpha and Bernadette Chevrette, Birch Hill Road, donated the statue worth \$350 for Fire Station #1. The donors' son, Victor Chevrette, transported it from Michigan.

M. Jolin moved to accept "Courage Under Fire" statue per RSA 31:95-e. Motion seconded by S. Werksman. **Roll call vote carried unanimously.**

**OLD BUSINESS (continued):**

Hackett Hill Road Signage

At the last meeting, the Council discussed a request from the Highway Department for Hackett Hill Road signage. The matter was tabled until the policy was reviewed.

M. Jolin moved to remove from table for discussion. Motion seconded by D. Ross. **Motion carried.**

M. Jolin researched the Council minutes and found that in 2004, there was a discussion suggesting the criteria used for signs, which is listed in the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices. It explains when and where to use the signs. How it should be placed, whether it is appropriate or not and grounds for installing signs. It also mentions there should be engineering back up for road signs. M. Jolin stated that the Council needs to establish a sign committee and a clear procedure on road signage. The matter keeps on coming up and never really settled.

D. Jodoin read from the minutes of 2/10/99, "There is a sign committee in Town that consist of the Highway Manager, Police Chief and the Town Administrator...".

D. Ross stated that to encumber the Town against doing something that is prudent is unreasonable. Installing dangerous curves signs at Hackett Hill Road is prudent.

Discussion on the matter ensued.

P. Loiselle suggested dissolving the current sign committee and re-establishing a new committee.

M. Jolin stated that when the previous committee was formed, it was intended to establish a basis/criteria to be used in making judgment. The criteria should be established. The manual should be the criteria. There should be a committee that reviews the requests and make recommendation to the Council.

The sign committee was re-established. The members are M. Jolin, P. Loiselle and S. Werksman.

Harold Murray, 311 Hackett Hill Road: A few years ago, a group from Campbell Hill requested for "Stop" signs. 26 "Stop" signs were installed. Half of the signs had to be removed. This would not have happened had an engineering study was done as Councilor Jolin suggested.

Council consensus was for all sign requests to be reviewed by the sign committee.

A committee meeting will be scheduled to discuss the Hackett Hill Road signage.

#### Cabela's

Previously, the Council discussed asking Cabela's to pay for the \$50,000. legal expenses related to bond structuring.

J. Hyde suggested holding off asking Cabela's for the \$50,000. They had made statements that they will guaranty the bond by purchasing it. The bond that will be issued is a general obligation bond, which obligates the Town to make payments not Cabela's, even if Cabela's purchase the bond, should they fold as a business. J. Hyde also suggested obtaining a letter from Cabela's Chief Finance Officer and the Board of Directors stating that they will in some way collateralize their guaranty in the form of Treasury Notes or Letter of Credit. The Town will have to get something in writing before going any further.

M. Jolin: With the previous TIF district (Exit 10), we had a surety bond to cover the bond payments. Cabela's can purchase the general obligation bond but we still need them to guaranty the payment through a third party. The \$50,000. is to get to that point of negotiation.

Chairman G. Longfellow: This discussion is premature. We haven't even got to that point yet. The Council should discuss the guaranty when they propose the bond. That's when this discussion should take place.

M. DiBietto: I agree that the guaranty should be the first item of business going forth. We should communicate that to Cabela's that this is the first item we need to ascertain. Without it we can't go forth.

D. Jodoin stated he received preliminary proposals from Capital Regional Development Corporation (CRDC). Part of their proposal is to work hand in hand with the bond counsel. They could also facilitate negotiations a lot easier and cheaper than the Legal Counsel. According to the Department of Resource and Economic Development, CRDC is the best organization to help assist as a fiscal agent. He added that the next step would be for the bond Counsel, David Barnes to contact Cabela's attorney to move forward and obtain a concrete guaranty from their CFO or Legal Counsel.

Michael Sorel, 54 Cross Road: I was a member of the task force formed for the proposed TIF district. Atty. David Barnes attended one of the meetings as a courtesy, to discuss the bond. He was very helpful. He advised that it would be prudent for the Town to collateralize the guaranty with a Letter of Credit. It would be very difficult to get \$18 million Letter of Credit for 20 years. He also suggested securing the bond with Treasury Notes or pledging the bond. From conversations with Cabela's, they haven't said they wouldn't do it but said they'd rather not. If Cabela's would agree on this fundamental core issue, then we could move forward.

M. DiBietto supported Mr. Sorel's statement and stated that it would also be in Cabela's interest to settle the issue.

J. Gorton requested for copies of task force minutes and non-public session minutes with regards to Cabela's. The Town Administrator would provide him copies.

J. Hyde moved to divulge all non-public minutes except those pertaining to personnel and pending legal matters. No second. The motion dies.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Councilor DiBietto Letter

The Council received a letter from Councilor DiBietto regarding his complaints against Councilor Pat Rueppel.

**D. Ross moved to waive the Council Rules for the purpose of discussing the letter. Motion seconded by J. Hyde.**

M. DiBietto recused himself and stated that he was doing so to set an example to fellow Councilors that when the matter is about the Councilor, one should recuse.

**Roll Call:**

M. DiBietto	Recused	D. Ross	Yes
J. Gorton	Yes	S. Werksman	Yes
J. Hyde	Yes	Chairman G. Longfellow	No
M. Jolin	No	4-3	<b><u>Motion failed (need 2/3 votes).</u></b>
P. Loiselle	No		

Council Minutes

**J. Hyde moved to record the Town Council and its sub-committee minutes verbatim. Motion seconded by D. Ross.**

J. Hyde: In the interest of transparency and public knowledge. Zoning Board and Planning Board minutes are recorded verbatim. We are the governing body of the Town, it should be verbatim.

D. Ross: If any board minutes should be recorded verbatim, it should be the Town Council.

Chairman G. Longfellow: I disagree with that, a meeting that lasts 3 to 4 hours could be at least 20 pages long if recorded verbatim.

J. Gorton: I agree with Councilor Hyde and Councilor Ross, we are the governing body, it should be verbatim.

**Roll Call:**

M. DiBietto	No	P. Loiselle	No
J. Gorton	Yes	D. Ross	Yes
J. Hyde	Yes	S. Werksman	No
M. Jolin	Yes	Chairman G. Longfellow	No
			4-4
			<b><u>Motion failed.</u></b>

Proposed Changes to Personnel Plan

D. Jodoin presented the proposed changes to Personnel Plan (attached).

J. Hyde questioned Section 7.5 and stated he does not believe the same policy is followed in the private sector. Standard practice in the private sector is not to make up the difference in pay. D. Jodoin explained it was unfair for employees, leaving their families, to make less when called to active military duty. This is out of their control.

On Section 7.8, J. Hyde questioned why the Town Administrator was crossed out and changed to Department Head. D. Jodoin replied the Department Head has a better idea of what is needed for personnel. J. Hyde suggested leaving Town Administrator and adding the Department Head.

M. Jolin questioned Section 7.6 and stated that the change covers a large group of people, which is unusual.

Chairman G. Longfellow asked the Town Administrator if the policy was compared to other Towns. D. Jodoin stated the changes are basically for clean up and commonly used.

J. Gorton moved to table the matter. Motion seconded by D. Ross. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

D. Jodoin reported on the following:

1. He presented the estimated figures for this year's tax rate. He reiterated that the figures are estimated and could change after meeting with Department of Revenue Administration to set the tax rate. He did not want to see the papers quote the rate because it was not final. Total tax rate is estimated to increase by \$0.62, from \$22.10 to \$22.72. The Town portion will increase by \$0.51, School will increase by \$0.16, State School will decrease by \$0.07 and County will increase by \$0.02. \$1,350,000 was applied to offset the increase. The reason for presenting an estimate is to give the Council an idea on where the tax rate would be.

Diane Savoie, Finance Director stated that the figures for county and school were verified today. She is waiting for the auditor's final audit entry. Last year, \$1.6 million was applied to offset the taxes. This year it will be \$1,350,000. The Town increase is due to various factors. In addition to approximately \$300,000 more warrant articles passed this year, which are now contractual obligations, the Town has had a lot a different issues it did not experience in the past. The Town encumbered \$300,000 for paving. If the Town does not use the \$300,000 it will be used to offset the tax rate next year. In the meantime, the funds have to be kept in the reserves. The Town is also waiting for funds coming from FEMA. \$500,000 for the new Town Hall is also taken out of reserves. The Town had put some money aside for 3A Development legal issues and abatements.

2. The Town Administrator received a letter of resignation from the Town Treasurer. This is an appointed position by the Council. The issue is the pay compared to other Towns. Currently, she receives \$6,240 a year. The last increase was in 2004. At the last internal audit, one of the highlights was the Town Treasurer's ability to maximize the revenue for the Town by following excellent investment procedures. D. Jodoin suggested increasing her pay by \$2,000.

***S. Werksman moved to increase the Treasurer's salary to a maximum of \$8,000. Motion seconded by P. Loiselle.***

D. Savoie stated that the current Treasurer does a much better job than other Treasurers the Town had in the past. She is efficient and does the work in a timely manner. The Town is making more money than it ever did with investments. She added that the past incident with check fraud was also handled well by the Treasurer.

Since the check fraud issue was mentioned. D. Jodoin explained that the fraud did not involve any Town employees. An individual knew someone in the printing company that prints the Town checks and obtained a plate of the Town's check. The individual has been apprehended. The Town has since changed its printing company and added watermarks on the checks.

**Roll Call vote on the motion to increase the Treasurer's salary to a maximum of \$8,000:**

M. DiBitetto	Yes	P. Loiselle	Yes		
J. Gorton	Yes	D. Ross	Yes		
J. Hyde	No	S. Werksman	Yes		
M. Jolin	Yes	Chairman G. Longfellow	Yes	7-1	<b><u>Motion carried.</u></b>

3. Heritage Commission has offered to do a site walk of the historic district.
4. FYI. The Highway Department backhoe is in need of repairs. This is used constantly. It would cost around \$2,000 to take it apart. It may need a new motor, which would extend the life of the machine. To put a brand new motor will not cost more than \$11,000. This was an item on the CIP. To rent a backhoe will be \$1,500. a week.

**SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:**



### Planning Board

At the last meeting, the board discussed trying to get the committees, without breaking any laws, to work together and hold a joint meeting. Specifically, they asked for the Council to appropriate funds to get various board members trained professionally and schedule workshops.

Another issue was that the Planning Board has been hearing more appeals than actual plans. They asked for directions from the Council.

D. Ross stated one member from each boards should attend other boards meetings.

### Conservation Commission

They intend to bring the issue of the current use funds back to the voters. They would like to revert to the original 100% of the collected funds to be deposited in the Conservation Commission account as opposed to \$100,000. maximum.

### ZBA

There were some issues with the waste oil treatment for the Golf Cart service proposal. Brady Sullivan failed to show up for the Mt. St. Mary's Apartments discussion. ZBA has denied their request.

### Budget Committee

The committee is getting organized and setting dates for the upcoming budget season.

### Heritage Commission

They are working on obtaining a grant for the Head's Chapel. They will do a walk through on Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **PUBLIC INPUT:**

Vincent Lembo, 56 Main Street asked for Connector Road updates.

D. Jodoin stated that according to DOT there are no plans or drawings to turn Main Street into a one-way street and to prohibit left turns onto Main Street from Route 3, only discussions. A meeting will be scheduled between the Town Administrator, DOT and the Highway Manager to address all issues and concerns. The general consensus is to wait for the Connector Road to be operational and see what changes need to be made and then set up a plan. Traffic lights will be installed around December or January. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. The official transfer will not happen until after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year.

M. Sorel: History and experience have shown us that it takes time, effort and money to manage large amounts of money. I would like to share this with Councilor Hyde although I respect his opinion. You won't find a good CPA for less than \$150. an hour. \$8,000. is a bargain for what the Treasurer does for the Town. Another subject, about a year and a half ago, the Library Trustees retained my services to look after the Library and the Town of Hooksett's best interest with respect to the real estate where the Library is located. There was a serious oversight when the deed from Mt. St. Mary's to Brady Sullivan omitted a very important paragraph, which was the integrity of the front lawn. That's been resolved. A corrected deed has been filed. The Library Trustees have been notified that the Library sign has to be moved. There is an easement for the sign. The developer is saying he's just going to move it. It's in the warranty deed. There will be a meeting with the developer in the next few days. That's the new issue with the Library.

Mary Farwell, Library Trustee: We need to do the research. We are being pressured very hard by this developer. I would also like to say how much of a debt the Town owes to Mike for all his hard work. We need our interest protected. Without Mike, we wouldn't be doing a good job.

Jim Levesque, Hackett Hill Road: Regarding the road sign committee, I can remember about 5 accidents. I don't think a 30 MPH sign is going to stop it. I've been there for 30 years. In the last month, I've seen more cruisers than in the last 29 years.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn F. Horn  
Administrative Assistant

Jason M. Hyde  
Town Council Secretary