

Official

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES Regular Meeting Wednesday, October 25, 2006

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

October 11, 2006 – P. Loiselle moved to approve the minutes as presented. Motion seconded by S. Werksman. **Motion carried unanimously.**

NOMINATIONS/APPOINTMENTS:

Available Positions:

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

J. Hyde resigned as the Planning Board Council representative. M. DiBitetto is the alternate Council rep.

Nomination for replacement is tabled.

OLD BUSINESS:

Proposed Changes to Personnel Plan (attached)

M. Jolin moved to accept the proposed changes to Section 3.1.4. Motion seconded by P. Loiselle. **Roll call vote carried unanimously.**

M. Jolin moved to accept the proposed changes to Section 6.2.2. Motion seconded by S. Werksman. **Roll call vote carried unanimously.**

M. Jolin moved to accept the proposed changes to Section 7. Motion seconded by P. Loiselle. (Motion A)

M. Jolin questioned amending the bereavement leave to include all in-laws (Section 7.6). He suggested a limit of one day bereavement leave for in-laws. Discussion on the matter ensued.

M. Jolin moved to amend the motion to include wife, husband or significant other; child, adopted child, grandchild or when a person is acting in loco parentis; brother, sister, son-in-law, daughter-in-law; parents, father-in-law, mother-in-law, stepparents, stepchild, stepbrother, stepsister; grandparent; brother-in-law, sister-in-law, aunt and uncle (same as Article 24.1 of the Fire Contract). Motion seconded by P. Loiselle. (Motion B)

There was a discussion as to what "significant other" entails.

J. Hyde moved to amend the amendment to exclude the term "significant other". Motion seconded by S. Werksman.

Roll Call:

J. Gorton	Yes	P. Rueppel	No		
J. Hyde	Yes	S. Werksman	Yes		
M. Jolin	Yes	Chairman G. Longfellow	Yes	5-2	<u>Motion carried.</u>
P. Loiselle	No				

M. Jolin moved to further amend Section 7.6 to allow one day bereavement leave for grandchild, grandparent, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, aunt and uncle. Motion seconded by J. Gorton.

Motion carried unanimously.

P. Loiselle moved to further amend Section 7.6 and add the paragraph, "*bereavement leave may be extended at the discretion of the department head and the Town Administration*". Motion seconded by M. Jolin.

Roll Call:

J. Gorton	Yes	P. Rueppel	No		
J. Hyde	No	S. Werksman	Yes		
M. Jolin	No	Chairman G. Longfellow	No	3-4	<u>Motion failed.</u>
P. Loiselle	Yes				

Roll call votes on Motions A & B carried unanimously.

Amended Section 7.6 Bereavement

Leave of absence with pay not to exceed three (3) days will be granted to employees in case of death of the immediate family (wife, husband, child, adopted child or when a person is acting in loco parentis, brother, sister, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, parents, father-in-law, mother-in-law, stepparents, stepchild, stepbrother, stepsister of the employee). In case of death of grandchild, grandparent, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, aunt and uncle, leave of absence with pay shall not exceed one (1) day.

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS:

Proposed Changes to Solid Waste Policy

Diane Boyce, Solid Waste Department Superintendent presented a proposed change to the Solid Waste Policy. Under the General Section, names of the condominiums covered by the policy are listed. She proposed to delete the names of the condominiums. This would eliminate having to amend the policy every time a condominium is added.

The Town reimburses condominium owners at a maximum of 31 pounds per unit per week.

J. Hyde suggested stopping reimbursement to condominiums. The condo associations should pay for trash collection.

P. Loiselle stated that when the agreement was drafted, he deliberately added that the policy could be rescinded or amended at any time.

Chairman G. Longfellow stated that the Council should address the matter at hand, which is to eliminate the names of the condominiums.

M. Jolin stated that eliminating the names of the condominiums and leaving the generic term "condominiums" could lead to any development calling themselves "condominiums" to be eligible for reimbursement.

J. Hyde moved to rescind the policy. Motion seconded by J. Gorton.

J. Hyde stated it is unfair to reimburse condominium owners simply because they live in a condominium.

J. Gorton suggested setting up a committee to look into whether the Town should keep on reimbursing condominium owners.

Discussion on the matter ensued.

P. Loiselle moved to table the motion to rescind the policy. Motion seconded by S. Werksman.

Roll Call:

J. Gorton	Yes	P. Rueppel	Yes		
J. Hyde	No	S. Werksman	Yes		
M. Jolin	No	Chairman G. Longfellow	Yes	5-2	<u>Motion carried.</u>
P. Loiselle	Yes				

P. Loiselle moved to amend the policy and eliminate the condominium names. Motion seconded by P. Rueppel.

M. Jolin moved to amend the motion to change the policy at a maximum of 25 pounds per unit per week to encourage recycling. Motion seconded by P. Rueppel.

Roll Call:

J. Gorton	Yes	P. Rueppel	Yes		
J. Hyde	Yes	S. Werksman	Yes		
M. Jolin	Yes	Chairman G. Longfellow	Yes	6-1	<u>Motion carried.</u>
P. Loiselle	No				

Roll call vote to eliminate the condominium names.

J. Gorton	No	P. Rueppel	Yes		
J. Hyde	No	S. Werksman	Yes		
M. Jolin	No	Chairman G. Longfellow	Yes	4-3	<u>Motion carried.</u>
P. Loiselle	Yes				

Rescue Vehicle

Harold Murray, Fire Department provided the Council with a list of events of October 18th 2006. At 7:19, a call was received for an incident at the Safety Center. Tri-Town was dispatched. Thirty (30) seconds later, a second ambulance was requested for a motor vehicle accident at Granite and Hooksett Road. Tri-Town did not have a second ambulance available. The first ambulance was re-routed to cover the accident and a call was made to Rockingham Ambulance to cover the Safety Center. A few minutes later, an emergency call on Goffstown Road was received. The only ambulance available was out of Concord and a Fire truck out of Manchester. After reviewing the log, H. Murray found that for several days last week, there was only one ambulance available to cover 3 towns, 24 hours a day. From October 6th until today (25th), there were 8 calls to Rockingham, one call to Concord and one call to Bow for a total of 10 ambulance requests for 20 days. Last year, an analysis showed that out of 52 weeks, there were 50 requests for outside ambulance for this Town, approximately 1 ambulance per week. The latest figures show, every 2 days a second ambulance is requested. H. Murray asked for the Council to authorize the rescue vehicle to be used as a back up to Tri-Town Ambulance as soon as it comes in. There are no additional costs. It will be staffed with the current Fire Department staff. It will be operated strictly as a back up to Tri-Town Ambulance. He asked to put this in writing in order to make necessary changes within the department including staff schedule.

The Town Administrator and the Fire Chief have discussed the matter briefly. The department is looking for some guidance from the Council.

Previously, the Council voted to purchase a rescue vehicle to be converted into an ambulance. D. Jodoin informed the Council since then, he found out that because of codes and specifications for transporting requirements, an ambulance could be converted down into a rescue vehicle but it would be difficult and may not be feasible to convert a rescue vehicle into an ambulance.

M. Jolin commented that the presumption was the function and use would be converted not the vehicle itself.

J. Hyde stated that the Council voted to purchase a rescue vehicle to be converted into an ambulance. Now the Council is finding out it cannot be done that way.

P. Rueppel suggested for the Town Administrator to check if this could be voted on at the same time as the school election in March.

Chairman G. Longfellow stated that there is no way to get an ambulance on board in less than six months. He suggested changing the rescue vehicle into an ambulance and hope that the residents vote to institute an ambulance service in May.

J. Gorton moved to authorize the Fire Department to purchase an ambulance. Motion seconded by S. Werksman.

Roll Call:

J. Gorton	Yes	P. Rueppel	Yes		
J. Hyde	No	S. Werksman	Yes		
M. Jolin	Yes	Chairman G. Longfellow	Yes	5-2	<u>Motion carried.</u>
P. Loiselle	No				

J. Hyde: Without getting too deep into it. This is why people don't like politicians. They voted a certain way and we just ran over them.

Library Sign

Mary Farwell, Library Trustee: The sign relocation for the Library has been accomplished. We went over easements and various issues with the Town Engineer regarding the sign. The Library is concerned with all the improvements going on at that intersection, that the Library sign will not be visible. We have an agreement with 3A Development. Belisle Granite, who donated the sign, will store the sign until all improvements are done. Will get some feedback from the Town Engineers in terms of site distance, whether the sign will be visible from the road. If needed, 3A Development will help with a more appropriate sign. They will also provide a temporary sign. She thanked the Council members involved in the process.

NEW BUSINESS:

Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee – Proposed Name Change

Chairman G. Longfellow informed the Council that Transfer Station would like to use "Recycling" as the predominant name of the department. They are hoping this will help encourage the Town to recycle. He suggested changing the name of the committee to "Recycling and Transfer Advisory Committee".

S. Werksman moved to change the name to "Recycling and Transfer Advisory Committee". Motion seconded by P. Loiselle. **Roll call vote carried unanimously.**

Economical Development Committee Study

P. Loiselle: There is an interest in establishing an economical development department for the Town of Hooksett, that would go out and solicit commercial businesses. I think the Council should address it in a formal manner. The first step would be to set up a study committee.

J. Gorton: In line with the study, I would hope that there are people who would be willing to serve on this committee. Will this be a full time Town department rather than a volunteer committee?

P. Rueppel: I would be willing to do research on this. I spoke to the Town Administrator. Do I have the Council's permission to work with the Town Administrator on this? I will find out what other communities are doing and will report my findings to the Council.

P. Loiselle: I would like to see the Town Planner involved.

J. Hyde: Is this all volunteer or a paid position?

P. Loiselle: This is just for a study if an economic development department will work with this Town.

Council consensus was to authorize P. Rueppel to do research. The Town Administrator will check if the Town Planner could help with the study.

OLD BUSINESS (continued):

Personnel Plan

M. Jolin moved to accept the proposed changes to Section 17. Motion seconded by J. Gorton.

Roll call vote carried unanimously.

M. Jolin moved to accept the proposed changes to Section 20 and add Section 20.5. Motion seconded by J. Gorton. **Roll call vote carried unanimously.**

Cabela's

As requested, the Town Administrator provided the Council with copies of the Task Force minutes. P. Rueppel stated there was a meeting held in March at Citizens Bank. She asked for a copy of the minutes of that meeting. D. Jodoin stated he does not believe anyone took minutes it was more of a luncheon. He will check into it.

J. Gorton requested for copies of the minutes of all Town Council non-public sessions held with regards to Cabela's. The Town Administrator is working on all non-public minutes that can be divulged.

Other Old Business Matters

D. Jodoin updated the Council on other old business matters.

1. Rowing Club Contract – will be discussed during non-public session.
2. Grist Mill Land – ongoing, no new updates.
3. Village School – 4 quotes for the alarm system were received, will be presented to the Council; some of the rooms were cleaned out.
4. Parks & Recreation Deficiency – a meeting will be scheduled to discuss a possible land at Hackett Hill.
5. Council Rules – a meeting need to be scheduled to resume discussion.
6. Tipping Floor at Transfer Station – Diane Boyce will present information to the Council.
7. Recycling Trailer – they spent \$1,500 for a proto-type.
8. Quimby Mountain Land – looking into incorporating some type of conservation easement to prohibit future development.
9. Wage Scale – finalized and was given to the Council for review. The Town Administrator asked the Council to prepare comments for next meeting.
10. Ambulance Situation – discussed tonight.
11. Assessing Position – will review RFP's received.
12. School Administration Move to Village School – being reviewed by SAU.
13. Traffic Situation After Connector is Open – a meeting will be held this week with DOT to address the traffic situation. Traffic signals will be installed sometime in January. DOT has some concerns with regards to accepting the road in the winter months.
14. Street Signage – discussed tonight.
15. Hackett Hill Perambulation with Manchester – Manchester is currently finalizing road projects, perambulation will be addressed as soon as road projects are finalized.
16. Growth Management Ordinance – the contract has been signed, will move forward with preliminary assessment.
17. Fire Station Land from Exit 10 – discussed under Town Administrator's report.
18. MOU with Conservation Commission – the Town's side of the agreement has been finalized, should come before the Council to be signed.
19. Staffing Boards and Commissions – Council item.
20. Town Budget – coming up.
21. Bond for TIF District – in the process of being structured.
22. Boiler Repairs – has been a bad month for all Town buildings. The Town Hall furnace let go, the bay heaters at the Safety Center let go as well as water heater tank.
23. Internal Controls – most changes have been made.

24. Library Sign – was discussed tonight, the contract is done.
25. Historical Society Building Repairs – have installed dehumidifier in the building.

P. Loiselle suggested reviewing the list for updates at least once a month.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

D. Jodoin reported on the following:

1. There will be a dedication of the first Historical sign on Saturday, November 4th at 2 pm at the location of the old ketchup factory on Route 3.
2. The next regularly scheduled Council meeting is on November 1st, which is in a week. So far, nothing is on the agenda. He asked if the Council would consider canceling the meeting.

S. Werksman moved to cancel the meeting scheduled on Nov. 1st. Motion seconded by J. Hyde. **Motion carried unanimously.**

The next Council meeting will be on Nov 15th 2006.

3. A letter was sent out to the State of NH with regards to a piece of surplus property on Route 3A near Exit 10. The Town has considered the property for a proposed Fire Station in the past. The State replied and stated that they are moving forward to determine the market value of the property. They will propose a price within the next few months.

4. Devine Strategies (a subsidiary of Devine Millimet) and Capital Regional Development Council (CRDC) have expressed interests in working with the Town with the Cabela's agreement. CRDC negotiated the TIF District in Concord, which has far exceeded its goals. Members of Devine Strategies negotiated the Verizon Wireless Arena for the City of Manchester. The first issue is to iron out the bond agreement to everyone's satisfaction. The Town's bond attorney, David Barnes of Devine Millimet, submitted a bond proposal cost. Mr. Barnes and the Town's Finance Director are communicating with Cabela's attorney with regards to bond structuring and the agreement with collateral/guaranty.

P. Rueppel stated that she is not comfortable with Divine Millimet handling both the bond counseling and consulting. She added that the Town should get different people involved in the project.

5. The Town Administrator received a "Thank you" letter from the Old Home Day Committee for the Parks & Recreation, Police and Fire departments.
6. The Town Administrator provided the Council with some information about street sign and the proposal from SNHPC. Members of the newly appointed sub-committee received binders of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Recycling and Transfer Advisory Committee

Chairman G. Longfellow informed the Council that the committee would like the Town to implement the "pay as you throw" system. This would encourage people to recycle, require less labor hours and decrease the waste stream by at least 10%. The Town would sell 33-gallon recycling bags to residents. It was suggested providing free bags for residents during the first year, 1 bag per week per household. It would cost around \$30,000 to be taken out of tipping fees. After the first year, residents will have to purchase the bags at \$1.25 each. Revenues from the bags would replace the tipping fees. Recyclables will not be picked up. Households that produce more trash will have to pay more.

The Council discussed other options available.

A study on the cost comparison for 3 different methods of trash collection (what is currently being done, private contract and "pay as you throw") will be presented to the Council.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Harold Murray: On "pay as you throw", is this going to be by the pound or volume.

Chairman G. Longfellow: Whatever you can put in the 33-gallon bag.

Harold Murray: On the economic development group, I strongly recommend whoever is doing the research to look into the previous group that was established in Hooksett. It cost a lot of money for the Town and it never went anywhere.

Mary Farwell: You have the potential to make good decisions. You also need to figure out a way to inform the public. I remember when we did "pay as you throw". The voters did not go for it and we ended up with a default budget. There wasn't enough public relations campaign to inform the voters why this is in their best interest. You have to utilize local press and show the numbers and explain why this makes sense for the Town of Hooksett.

Vincent Lembo, 56 Main Street: This Council came to a conclusion that they could not buy an ambulance and came up with a term "rescue vehicle". Mr. Jodoin even read a letter from DRA suggesting not to go that way. Now, you've changed your course of action again. Five out of seven Councilors are going against the voters who said "no" to the warrant article. I don't disagree that the Town needs an ambulance but I disagree with how the Council is going about it. I believe this is illegal. According to the RSA, if no appropriations were made for a warrant article that is defeated, you cannot spend money on it.

Chairman G. Longfellow: I disagree with you. We did not have the information that Tri-Town was going out of business. How can the Council give out information they did not have?

For the benefit of the press, M. Jolin explained that there was no money in the warrant article to buy the ambulance. Mr. Lembo implied there was. The voters voted against the personnel and the other items, not the ambulance. The Council voted to purchase the ambulance using impact fees.

V. Lembo: What happens if the voters vote against it in May? Is that ambulance going to sit in a barn, without being registered, insured, maintained?

Chairman G. Longfellow: In this position, you have to make those decisions.

P. Rueppel: I think if we campaign properly and enlighten the residents of this Town, they will vote for it.

J. Hyde: As far as the Town's public relations efforts, the Town Administrator has attempted to do that. The press is here every meeting. They have the information. It's up to them to report it. The minutes are public.

M. Farwell: Can the Council do a press release on their own?

P. Rueppel suggested sending Council newsletters more than once a year.

Sara Laplante, Union Leader, introduced herself as the newly hired news correspondent. She asked the Council and the public to let her know if there's anything they would like printed.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION:

P. Loiselle moved at 8:58 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 S. Werksman. **Roll call vote carried unanimously.**

P. Loiselle moved at 9:14 pm to exit the non-public session. Motion seconded by S. Werksman. **Roll call vote carried unanimously.**

The Council made a statement that they voted not to divulge the minutes of the non-public session.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn F. Horn
Administrative Assistant

Jason M. Hyde
Town Council Secretary