

Official

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES Regular Meeting Wednesday, November 15, 2006

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman George Longfellow called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

ROLL CALL

Chairman, George Longfellow, Michael DiBitetto, James Gorton, Jason Hyde, Michael Jolin, Paul Loiselle, David Ross, Patricia Rueppel and David Jodoin, Town Administrator.

Excused: Stuart Werksman

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

October 25, 2006

M. Jolin motioned to approve the minutes of October 25, 2006. Seconded by J. Gorton. Voted unanimously in the affirmative. (Abstain M. DiBitetto and D. Ross)

PUBLIC INPUT:

Allan O'Brien with Cedar Management Group representing Granite Hill Condominiums and Granite Heights Condominiums.

Submitted a handout to all Council members.

Mr. O'Brien presented a history of the tipping fee reimbursement and the factual information regarding the trash, which is generated.

Mr. O'Brien was authorized by the 458 homeowners at Granite Hills to represent their concerns. At the last Town Council meeting, the Council voted to adjust the tipping fee reimbursement from 31 to 25 pounds per week. This was unannounced and in the past, when there has been an adjustment there has been a public hearing. Originally, other condominiums in town were not reimbursed because Granite Hill was the only one that could monitor their exact trash. It was then changed to a flat 31 pounds per week.

The average home at Granite Hills, after tracking over the last 16 years, is now producing approximately 29 pounds per week not 31 and definitely not 25 pounds per week. Under the current arrangement, Granite Hills is reimbursed \$70.50 per ton. The new rate will be \$72.60 per ton. Last year the solid wastes' annual budget was \$949,000 which was an \$80,000 surplus which was given back to the town. Therefore the net budget was approximately \$869,000 processing 7500 tons of cold trash and recyclables by the town. This comes out to about \$116 per ton based on the whole tonnage over the annual budget. The reimbursement to all condominiums, as I understand it, in 2007 will be \$85,000 based on 72.60 per ton comes to 1170 tons of trash. I doubt there is very much being sent to the transfer station. I know that the Granite Hill trash, the 440 tons a year, doesn't go to the transfer station. That was part of the agreement that went back to the early 90's, when the agreement came that there was going to be an agreement with the town for reimbursements, we made arrangements with our waste hauler to take the trash to the Penacook incinerator. Prior to that station being open, some, not all of the trash, did go to the Hooksett Transfer Station. For over 10 years, these 440 tons of trash per year hasn't impacted the transfer station in any way. Even if you take it at the basic rate of \$116 per ton, if that additional 440 tons of trash hit the transfer station, it would be quite an impact. Further, if the additional 700-ton of trash from every other condo association in this town, hit the transfer station as well, the impact would be close to 1200 pounds of additional material and a burden that would be put upon solid waste and the transfer station. The tipping fee is based on 369 tons. There is no objection to this at this time because going back to 4 years ago when that

was changed; the tip fee amount was increased. So the impact to the association on an annual basis was negligible. The association didn't complain at that time because the bottom line was a break-even position. That is not the case now. This is different. That additional 70 ton that we are generating, we're not generating 369 ton a year, we're generating 440 ton a year. If reimbursements were asked for that, that's another \$5000 per year. What is being requested is fair treatment to all taxpayers, including the condominium owners. Two million dollars a year is generated in taxes from Granite Hill alone. The impact to the school system is negligible. You have 2 million dollars that your collecting and you have little impact.

The situation is who benefits; there is little impact, significantly less impact than the single-family homes. What's happening with these condominiums is they are subsidizing the tax for all other single-family homes in Hooksett. Substantially subsidizing them. Recycling is the point that's been raised. We want to reduce this amount of 25 or 31 pounds per week down to 25. We want to encourage recycling. I'm all for it. It will eventually reduce the cost to these condominium owners and everyone as well and benefit the town and the environment. My question is that I hear recycling is the key item here. What is being done to every single-family home in this town to encourage recycling? Is it being proposed now that each and every homeowner is only allowed to put out 25 pounds of trash per week and that's all that will be picked up? That's ridiculous because some of these single-family homes are generating between 50 and 75 pounds of trash per week minimum. So the situation is mandatory recycling. Mandatory recycling is inevitable. Is there voluntary recycling; yes. I spoke with Pat Rueppel who is a member of the Granite Hill Condominium Association, and we're going to take the initiative to set up our own recycling at Granite Hill. This proposal will be put forth to the homeowners at the annual meeting to reduce our solid waste. We will reduce. The town currently picks up in front of the homes and condominiums, as well as businesses (mom and pops). There are people running businesses out of their homes. I don't expect you or Diane's people to track them. Is there a proposed adjustment to them as well? Dale Road are condexes. They are a condominium. The town services the Hamlet. Are they being adjusted? Dove Road is a private road, are they being adjusted. Residents of Granite Hill are requesting the Council rescind the previous decision and at least reinstate the 31 pounds. If the situation is forced, the association may consider bringing the 440 tons that we have a legal right to, on an annual basis, to the transfer station. Do we want to go this route? Absolutely not. We simply want to reinstate where we are at the 31 pounds. Let us take the initiative on our own to start our own recycling program and I guarantee we will reduce our trash.

NOMINATIONS/APPOINTMENTS

Conservation Commission, (2) Fill-in Alt. Members, exp. 6/2008 & 6/2009

G. Longfellow nominated Dena Vaudrien to the Conservation Commission. Seconded by Jason Hyde

Dena Vaudrien stated that she has been a resident of Hooksett for 12 years. Originally from Auburn, New Hampshire, she is a lifelong resident of the area. She is also very familiar with the area and is concerned with protecting the environment. She is also a member of the Yacht Club at Massabesic and works as a professional buyer.

Heritage Commission, (2) Fill-in Alt. Members, exp. 6/2008 & 6/2009

G. Longfellow nominated David Boutin for the Heritage Commission. Seconded by J. Gorton

Solid Waste Management Advisory Board, Fill-in Alt. Member, exp. 6/2009

G. Longfellow nominated Charles Holt to the Solid Waste Advisory Board. Seconded Paul Loiselle

Planning Board Council Representative

P. Loiselle nominated Pat Rueppel to the Planning Board effective January 1st. Seconded by James Gorton.

Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

(M. DiBietto will remain on the board until that time)

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS

David Baker, re: K-Mart Plaza Flooding

David Baker, RK Associates (K-Mart) stated that he has been with the company for 7 years and since that time has dealt with 2 serious flood events including the Mother's Day flood which forced the closure of Route 28 bypass and Route 3, Benton Road and Merchant Motors. The focus has been on the infrastructure of the K-Mart property. Meetings were held with NHDOT district 3, Merchant Motors, and Engineers to get a handle on the water issues from Whitehall Road and the bypass. It became clear that the problem was at Benton Road where there was a single pipe causing a bottleneck.

Mr. Baker stated that his purpose for coming to the Council was to formally undertake the project of lowering the pipe under Benton Road.

Lou Caron stated that the pipe is too low and the ground goes up to get to the pipe. It is a four-foot pipe and had four feet of water in it. The proposal is to lower the culvert and put in two of them and regrade the channel. This is an obvious problem in the system.

D. Baker: K-Mart is acting as the overflow detention pond. Working with engineers, we literally walked from Holly Berry to Benton Road to see how the water flows and we could literally see drip lines along fences. We have plans that go back to 1984 that show Benton Road being lowered. The Mother's Day flood was the most significant flood. We had 15 inches of water inside the store. There was structural and personal property damage. Mr. Caron with DOT is working on a bypass pipe from Holly Berry to Route 3. No matter what I do on the K-Mart property, the problem won't be solved. This was submitted to Town Administrator and the Town Planner so that this project can be given to a contractor to be done.

D. Ross stated that the topo map showed the water flowing to Benton Road was already in a ditch and was concerned that lowering it would affect surrounding residents.

L. Caron: There will be a 10-foot wide channel with slopes. The cost is 150 to 200 thousand dollars depending on how much ledge needs to be blown out. We would just replace pipes under the road; the rest would be open channel. We have included doing a bioengineering channel to the solution. The work would be contained close to the existing streambeds.

D. Baker: We heard that this pipe was never lowered because of the ledge. If you look at the profile, the water is just cheating over the profile. We need to hammer away at the top of the ledge. The most significant cost involves that ledge

P. Loiselle asked if a more detailed cost breakdown would be provided.

D. Baker stated that an estimate had been submitted to Mr. Watson.

P. Loiselle: Are we looking at shared cost?

D. Baker: No we are asking the town to fix something that should have been done years ago and if not, there will be another flood. We are looking at tenant lawsuits due to the flooding. We've spent a significant amount of money on survey work. The history of this pipe needing to be lowered goes back a number of years.

Michael Sydney, Merchants owner: Benton Road has been an issue for years and years and we have brought it to the towns attention and nothing was ever done. The State has investigated and determined the water comes through Route 27 to K-Mart and travels into one small pipe, which is too elevated to keep the flow. My father-in-law started Merchants in the early 60's and this is not just us. Route 3 was closed down as well. The town must step up and get it fixed. These guys took a beating during the Mother's Day storm. The time is now to get it taken care of.

M. Jolin: In most towns in the state, you take care of all your own drainage. There's significant paving on your property. You contribute to the brook. All the new plans submitted to Planning Board require a detention pond. The property, when it started, added to the flow of the existing system. If you took care of your own site, we wouldn't have this problem.

D. Baker: We do have a retention pond. We've applied to DES to enlarge that detention pond. That pond has been there forever. Anyone upstream from me should have put in retention to hold that 100-year storm event. There is a debate if that is good or bad because the trickle comes all at one time. In 2004, the first flood got in the building and I was looking up stream to Whitehall. At that time, we asked DOT to extend the limits of the project to address the drainage and upgrade. The State said you'd loose the whole project so the town withdrew their request. We will do everything to hold our drainage, but this course of water is flowing down and I respectfully disagree that the water form Merchants and K-Mart are causing he problems. Every engineer is saying this pipe is too high.

M. Jolin: You said you needed to blast.

D. Baker: The Pipe itself is 3 ½ - 4 feet too high. The problem is if you lower this pipe three feet and don't lower back here, you will not solve the problem. There is no ledge at the beginning, but further back you need to drop the pipe and there is ledge.

M. Jolin: I'm saying the natural flow of the water is where the pipe is. You're asking us to unnaturally change the course of water if there is granite holding it back.

D. Baker: I would hope you would hire Lou Caron's services to prepare and price out the job and put it out for bid. We understood there were mitigation funds through FEMA. The cost for engineering would be \$23,000.

D. Ross: My concern is the original streambed. What was there first, K-mart and Merchants or the streambed? We need to research to see if we are responsible. That culvert was placed under that road and was operating. When did K-mart build and Merchant expand their parking lot? There was an existing condition. This is not something the town should be liable for. It's not our fault based on the age of the drainage. Getting water off your property is your responsibility. This is a big project.

D. Baker: The 1984 plans I'm referencing show the lot lines at Merchant and the pipe being lowered by 4 feet. My clear marching orders from my company are we'd rather spend money to fix it than spend money on litigation. There are two vacancies now at our plaza. I met with DOT and you're giving me this water from the bypass and they said, you bought it and you own it. I can make the same argument on Route 3 and they said yes, lets work together. We are willing to build a bypass channel from Holley Berry. Our desire is to spend money to fix the problem. We think the town should follow through and lower the pipe on Benton Road because it's town property.

M. Jolin: Your' not only asking us to lower the pipe, you're asking us to blast and lower the stream and it's not the town's problem to blast ledge. If we put a culvert that's too small, that's a different story.

L. Caron: In designing detention ponds we use 25-year storm event. Holly Berry was completely submerged during that flood and you had two major roads closed for 2 - 3 days.

M. Sorel: I worked for Armand Rivard across from Merchants and at that time Merchants established a new lot on Route 3 to sell on Sunday which was not allowed in Manchester. I remember water going into his lot in 1966 before the K-Mart plaza was there. The problem was there prior to K-Mart being built and prior to Merchant's expanding. The problem then, from Armand's standpoint, was at Benton Road because the culvert can't take the flow.

P. Rueppel: Will the reconstruction of CVS cause any other problems?

C. Watson: When CVS came to Planning it was of concern and our engineers made certain that the entire parking was for underground storage of runoff. There will be no more water leaving that site than what leaves there now.

M. DiBitetto: If this problem has been here for 40 years, someone was asleep at the switch. The roads are the responsibility of the town, and we are part of the solution. We don't have the funds to pay for this out of pocket, but we need to resolve this once and for all.

P. Rueppel motioned to go forward to solve this problem. Seconded by P. Loiselle.

Michael Sydney: I recommend that the town use the tax money that we (Merchants and Dave's company) paid to the town to solve this problem. The money we have paid either for registration of cars and taxes have built this town. We have paid millions and millions of dollars here, and I think the town needs to suck it up and find the money to fix this problem.

M. DiBitetto: There is an appropriation process that the government must go through. We need to go to the voters to get authorization. Is the motion suggesting we commit some money to this or have the staff start looking into it?

P. Rueppel: I think David Jodoin should look into this and try and resolve it. See where we can get money, see if we can take money from the budget, but I would like to help get this resolved.

M. DiBitetto: To clarify, we are directing the Town Administrator to start working on this and report back to the Council with his findings and authorization to proceed.

Roll Call vote unanimously in the affirmative.

Wal-mart/Lowe's Impact Fees & Resolution

Charles Watson, Town Planner (see letter to D. Jodoin dated 11/20/06)

C. Watson reviewed the background on impact fees, which included the adoption of a fee schedule. This project represents \$800,000. Assuming everything goes as planned, we would collect this money but it must be used in 6 years by law and within the zone that is the Route 3 corridor or west of the river. They will signalize the entrance to their site. The area in the middle forms the hourglass effect. It narrows and expands in front of the Wal-Mart site. The State, which has jurisdiction, has concluded that the traffic numbers are appropriate and required Wal-Mart and Lowe's to develop the ultimate plan that includes widening all the way down to Route 3 to the exit 10 intersection, but then you must realign and signalize Goonan Road. The total cost is 1.2 million and the State Department of Transportation has preliminarily agreed that if the town puts up 50% of the cost, that would break loose some 80/20 money and this project would be close to the completion of the Wal-mart project. This realigns Goonan Road and widens the entire area. These are all construction costs. To move Goonan road requires some takings and we don't know the cost of that. It includes at least 2 takings.

M. DiBietto: The Planning Board would like the Council to authorize the concept of using these impact fees.

P. Loiselle motioned to further the investigation of funding the project. Seconded by M. DiBietto

Authorize the Planning Board to talk about using those roadway impact fees with the property owners and the State toward the ultimate traffic solution pending final Council approval.

Roll Call Vote unanimously in the affirmative.

Manchester Chamber of Commerce Endorsement

M. Jolin motioned to sign the proclamation of the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce. Seconded by M. DiBietto

C. Watson stated the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce has operated for sometime and it is there hope that we work cooperatively. We depend on the city a great deal. The Chamber of Commerce has worked with surrounding communities and has a logo called the Metro. In order to make everything official, they drew up this proclamation with glowing language and there seems to be nothing that binds the town but a recognition that we are interested in the region and we participate in the region.

C. Watson read proclamation into the record (see file)

The Metro Center is a brand name that identifies this region from the Coastal Area or the North Country. It's a label that identifies the Great Manchester area.

D. Ross: Without a mission statement or officers, it's hard to sign onto something.

C. Watson: It is a facet of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce and I have been the town's representative.

J. Gorton: Are there geographic limits to this area?

C. Watson: The Metro Center personnel are putting together additional information. It's necessary to sign now. We don't want Hooksett to be the only community not involved.

M. DiBietto motioned to table until it's really needed.

C. Watson will report back to Mike Skelton in Manchester that the Council would like more information.

P. Rueppel recommended that the group from Manchester come to the meeting to answer questions.

P. Rueppel seconded to table.

Roll Call: Table

J. Gorton Y

J. Hyde Y

M. Jolin N

P. Loiselle N

D. Ross N

P. Rueppel Y

M. DiBietto Y

G. Longfellow N
4:4 motion fails

Roll Call : Original motion

M. Jolin Y
P. Loiselle Y
D. Ross Y
P. Rueppel N
M. DiBitetto N
J. Gorton N
J. Hyde N
G. Longfellow Y
4:4 motion fails

OLD BUSINESS

Wage Scale

D. Jodoin presented the wage study which took into consideration nine (9) communities including starting and ending rates as well as the high and low numbers.

The entire scale needs to be reviewed. The low end is low by about \$2.00. Because certain positions have reached the top of the scale, individuals may need to be moved.

M. Jolin: What I understand is that we may want to adjust the salary ranges to match these averages that you have for the start and the end. If we have to do that, we may want to look at how our employees fall into that. If I recall correctly, the reason we are discussing this is because some people are maxing out so this should give them the room to go a little further. I also want to be sure that by adjusting these minimums we're not giving someone a \$10 raise. The concept to change the salary ranges to match these averages is a good basis but you would then need to show us how everyone plugs into that.

D. Jodoin stated it is also important to understand how the job requirements and responsibilities correspond to the pay scales. We now have two individuals scheduled for review in December that will max out. If this is to move to the budget cycle, I should have time to look at individual towns and see how the job descriptions match up to Hooksett. I can then come back and present for example, these are the 26 positions that we have, this is the ranges that we should start and end and then go back and adjust the scale based on that.

J. Hyde recommended raises be given differently. They should match what is done in the private sector. Most private sector employees do not get an automatic raise every year. It could be three percent one year and six percent the next year. It depends on how much money the business or in this case the town, has and what their performance has been. Maybe they didn't deserve four percent. If we are going to go this far with the policy, which is excellent, we should take it all the way and base it on performance.

Also, with regard to the private sector, when you reach the top of a wage scale, you don't get a raise until you get a promotion, more responsibility, or more training. But once you reach the top of your wage scale, unless we adjust it to be higher, which we do not have to do, if we discover it's already too high, we can adjust it lower if that's appropriate in which case they'll never get another raise again. Whatever the top of that wage scale is, until that wage scale changes, whenever they reach the top of that, sorry, it is what it is and you're not going to get anything more.

D. Jodoin: This hasn't been changed in at least 5 years maybe longer. Between now and December, I can pick job descriptions from the communities that most mirror Hooksett and come back with a full-blown plan.

Trash Pick-up Condominiums

M. DiBitetto motioned to remove motion from the table. Seconded by J. Hyde. Roll Call unanimously in the affirmative

J. Hyde withdrew the motion. J. Gorton withdrew his second. The motion dies

P. Loiselle stated a committee was formed four years ago. In Manchester, if you live in a condo, you pay taxes and do not get a reimbursement. Hooksett did enter into an agreement with Granite Hill and some mobile home parks for reimbursement. Now we see a large number of condos going up all over Hooksett.

M. DiBitetto stated in the past, hearings were held at the library on this issue. Trash is also collected in many mobile home parks. We were picking upon private roads and some homes on private roads were not being picked up, and some condos were not being reimbursed. The Council tried to bring order to chaos. If we're in a position to revamp the trash collection program, we should do so. But to take one class and treat them differently isn't fair. The average condominium homeowner is paying \$4000 in property taxes. There are manufactured homes paying less in taxes and we're not talking about changing their status. Granite Hills plow and pave their own roads. This is one thing that the town can do for these homeowners. The 31-pound figure should be reinstated. If we go pay as you throw, we can look at everyone equally.

M. DiBitetto motioned that we move the 31-pound per household. Seconded by P. Rueppel.

M. Jolin: Because Granite Hills was a unique situation and therefore granted a unique reimbursement. We cannot allow everyone who calls themselves a condominium to be reimbursed. I think we should amend the motion to keep the naming of the condominiums

M. Jolin motioned to amend the motion to include reinstating naming the condominiums to be included in the reimbursement. Seconded by M. DiBitetto.

M. DiBitetto withdrew his motion and P. Rueppel withdrew the second.
(In order to rescind the action of the last meeting)

M. Jolin withdrew motion to reinstate and M. DiBitetto withdrew second.

M. DiBitetto motioned to rescind the action of October 25th regarding the trash collection policy. Seconded by P. Rueppel

P. Rueppel: Can we legally look at each new condominium and review them.

M. DiBitetto: I believe the entire policy needs review.

Roll Call:

J. Gorton Y

J. Hyde N

M. Jolin N

P. Loiselle N

D. Ross Y

P. Rueppel Y

M. DiBitetto Y

G. Longfellow Y

5:3 motion fails (2/3 needed)

M. DiBitetto motioned to reinstate the 31-pound reimbursement. Seconded by P. Rueppel.

Roll Call:

M. Jolin N
P. Loiselle N
D. Ross Y
P. Rueppel Y
M. DiBitetto Y
J. Gorton Y
J. Hyde N
G. Longfellow Y
5:3 motion carries

M. Jolin motioned to reinstall the policy of naming the condos that are affected by the reimbursement policy to those existing as of 2004. Seconded by M. DiBitetto.

P. Loiselle: What will we do for the entire town? You must address this from a legal standpoint.

G. Longfellow: We need to study this. We should set this aside.

D. Ross: By taking this vote now, we are affecting a policy that you don't agree with. By restoring it, not rescinding, we are putting ourselves in a legal situation.

J. Hyde: In regard to naming the condos, condos in the state of NH are a legally defined thing. There is common land, and state defined. It doesn't matter if it's a 1000 units or 2 family, so if you do for some, you do for all. If we set precedence you must be consistent.

Diane Boyce, Transfer Station Director: We have been reimbursing all condos. The reason it's before you is because we didn't want to keep adding each development. It's now in the budget. I wanted to eliminate those lines.

M. Jolin: That was never the intent. It wasn't to blanketly let all condo's get relief.

Diane Boyce: With the exception of Carrington Farms, most that are getting reimbursement are 55 and over.

M. DiBitetto: At one time, the transfer station was unclear on who was getting reimbursed, so we gave guidelines. I thought we did not wish to come up every time and define what to do. We gave clear directive on how we wanted this carried out.

Al. O'Brien, Granite Hills: A condo could be 2 units or 1000 units. Apartments could be the same. The Condo Association is not-for-profit association, which is different from apartments that are for profit. And those people shouldn't have their trash picked up. A not-for-profit vs. for profit should be the distinction.

M. DiBitetto motioned to table. Seconded by D. Ross

Roll Call:

D. Ross Y
P. Rueppel Y
M. DiBitetto Y
J. Gorton Y
J. Hyde Y
M. Jolin N
P. Loiselle N
G. Longfellow Y
6:2 motion carries

NEW BUSINESS

Sign Committee

P. Loiselle resigned from the sign committee.

D. Ross was appointed to the sign committee.

Regional Planning will do the study on the road signs.

We will start with the speed limit signs starting with 15 mph then going up to 20.

New Connector Road.

The Connector Road will open and the State will enter into an agreement to plow on an interim basis and the town will plow Main St. on an interim basis. The signal up on Rte. 3 must be in place. The legislation will stay until after January.

Police and Fire will come back with their recommendations as well.

Water Precinct Tax

J. Gorton has received a number of complaints regarding the precinct tax.

D. Jodoin stated that anyone within the precinct boundaries, whether they are on well tied to the water system, could be taxed by the precinct. This tax was a result of a shortfall by the precinct. All calls should be directed to the Village Water Precinct. The town has no control over this. We are required to place it on the tax bill to comply with State Statutes.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Health Insurance Rates

D. Jodoin handed out a list of other insurance plans within the Local Government Center.

In Dec. 2004 the town entered into a long-term agreement with the LGC to protect from rate increases for property liability and worker's compensation. Attached to that also was the health plan, which did not freeze percentage increases. That plan goes from Jan. 2005 to Dec. 2007 (3 year plan) if the town backs out of this plan; there would be substantial penalties (up to \$30,000) Other options were put together that are offered by the LGC. The town currently offers the two tier Blue Choice 10 Plan. The rate increase on a single plan went from \$429.00 to \$492.00.

The other unique thing with the government center, Primex, and Cigna, is they also cover Hooksett retirees. They must pay their own premiums but they remain part of the pool. Those people saw an 18% increase this year.

The increase this year was over \$190,000. Now the Hooksett town employees pay in 10% towards a portion of their premium.

Blue Choice two tier 10 is a prescription plan that goes up to \$10, \$20, or \$30 per prescription. Some of the others are comprehensive plans with deductibles.

The \$429 that the town is paying this year, the only thing that equates on this scale is the C1000 with the 10/20/30 prescription. That means a \$1000 deductible.

The town set aside money to look at alternatives with brokers for insurance, however when you look at the cost to hire a broker at \$5000 and a savings required of \$30,000 because that is what you'd be penalized, you are now looking at trying to find \$35,000 to substantiate switching policies. In July of next year, the LGC will be offering a Health Savings Account Plan and our agreement with them expires next December. It makes sense that in May of next year that we get the consultant in to start shopping around for plans. We should also look at the property liability, the workman's comp, and the health insurance every two years rather than locking in for long terms.

P. Loiselle motioned to extend the meeting. D Ross seconded.

Roll call:

D. Ross Y

P. Rueppel Y

M. DiBitetto N

J. Gorton Y

J. Hyde Y

M. Jolin N

P. Loiselle Y

G. Longfellow Y
6:2 motion carries

J. Hyde recommended increasing the amount the employee pays and reducing what the town pays. It is a benefit we supply to the employee and they should be willing to give to get. They should pay 20% and we pay 80%. It will make up for all except 5% of the increase.

J. Hyde motioned to change the amount the town employees contribute to 20% and the town will pay 80%. Seconded by M. Jolin.

G. Longfellow stated that it wasn't fair to only change the town non-union employees.

J. Hyde stated when the new fire contract comes up; it will be changed at that time.

P. Loiselle stated that is unfair to raise some employees and not others.

Roll call

P. Rueppel N

M. DiBitetto N

J. Gorton Abstain

J. Hyde Y

M. Jolin Y

P. Loiselle N

D. Ross Abstain

G. Longfellow N

2: 4 with 2 abstain motion failed

***This issue is to be placed on the next agenda to determine if we will open this up to other plans.**

PUBLIC INPUT

Bob Ehlers, 14 Arden Dr: With regard to Wal-Mart and Lowe's, were there people from the State explaining how we were going to have this Route 3 corridor. I heard the term millions of dollars mentioned and this would be brought into conjunction with Lowe's.

D. Jodoin: There are two separate phases; there is the phase at this end of town and the southern phase.

Bob Ehlers: I thought it was going all the way down to Manchester.

D. Jodoin: I think the first phase started in the Village and went down to Cross, in that area.

M. Farwell: With regard to the Main Street/Merrimack mess, think about the people that are on the west side who are at Donati and think about how they're going to get back over the bridge again. If you make Main Street one way...

G. Longfellow: Main Street will remain two-way with a restricted left turn from Route 3 only.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Longfellow declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Ann Moynihan

Jason M. Hyde
Town Council Secretary