

Official

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES Regular Meeting Wednesday, May 23, 2007

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

PRESENT: Michael DiBitetto, James Gorton, Jason Hyde, Mike Jolin (arrived at 6:38 pm), Paul Loiselle, David Ross, Patricia Rueppel, Stuart Werksman, Chairman George Longfellow, David Jodoin (Town Administrator)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

May 9, 2007 – P. Loiselle moved to approve the May 9, 2007 minutes as amended. Motion seconded by D. Ross. **Motion carried unanimously.**

May 15, 2007 – Tabled.

May 16, 2007 – Tabled.

NOMINATIONS/APPOINTMENTS:

Available Position:

Building Board of Appeals, Fill-in Full Member, exp. 6/2009

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS:

Growth Management Ordinance / School Board & RSA 162K:9 / School Board

Michael Sorel, Budget Committee member: I attended a Planning Board workshop, where Mr. Phillip Herr presented a review of the Growth Management Ordinance. He said it appears the Planning Board might go forward with a research on whether or not to implement a GMO. Mr. Herr also said to make sure that the School Board is involved. It prompted me to go back to the master plan. It stated that the School Board should be involved with the plan. It also stated that the School Board should meet with the Council once or twice a year. I spoke to the School Board regarding section 9 of RSA 162-K, under which Exit 11 TIF District will be operating. I was not aware that the School Board was aware that section 9 of the RSA provides that the School Board be brought into the process, financing and annual tax revenue from the TIF District. When Tom Barrett and I visited Cabela's in PA, they brought to our attention that in their TIF bond they would not receive any tax revenue for approximately 17 years. Their School Board was successful in negotiating 18% of the annual tax revenue that came from the TIF District. The Hooksett School Board receives less State aid because of the Exit 10 TIF District. If they do not receive an annual portion of the tax revenue from the TIF District, the tax rate will go up. For the record, I am pro Cabela's. They do an outstanding job. We should have them here. As much as I want them here I am also for the Town of Hooksett. I am very concerned that the School Board will receive less and less aid from the State because of how the State aid applies to that process. If you look at the analysis, the best-case scenario, we will not see any positive tax impact from Exit 11 TIF District for 13 or 14 years. In the meantime, the School Board will get less and less money from the State. Unless, they are successful in negotiating an annual tax revenue. The School budget has increased \$10 million in the last 7 years. It's gone from \$13 million to \$23 million in 7 years and will continue to go up. I just want to bring that to your attention this evening.

P. Loiselle: The School Board will have to come up with the actual reduction in State aid because of the TIF District. That will have to be addressed with regards to monies coming into the TIF District to consider allocating it for the School.

Discussion on the matter ensued.

Note: The Planning Board has scheduled a forum on Growth Management on Monday, June 25th, 7 pm at the Library to review the findings and recommendations of Mr. Philip Herr. Public comments will be accepted.

OLD BUSINESS:

Cabela's

D. Jodoin: We had that workshop last week. Marc Hughes and David Barnes made their presentations. We're looking at possibly, some other ways of financing with the least limitations and impact on the community. We're looking at how the State of Maine is financing a similar project. David Barnes is working on that with Marc Hughes to see if it could be done in New Hampshire. I'm not sure where things stand at a State level with regards to Hackett Hill Road and the Senate Bill 56 issue.

Chairman Longfellow: I got a call from Charles Humphries today. They missed the deadline for the amendment. The next step is to go to the Senate and see if they could attach it to one of their bills coming through or they'll have to wait until January 2008 to vote on SB 56.

D. Ross: It was made known at the public hearing that State funds have already been allocated through 2009. Cabela's couldn't have expected any funds from the State until 2010.

D. Jodoin: I had a conversation with Ed Eckmann of Cabela's as well as Marc Hughes and David Barnes with regards to how the Council was blindsided with the SB 56 issue. Our side of the equation had a nice outline of steps and procedures that need to be followed. My comment to them was, basically, they need to do the same thing on Cabela's side. They understood and apologized. That should be coming forward hopefully within the next week.

Employees' Health Insurance Contribution

S. Werksman moved to rescind the original vote to raise the employees' health insurance contribution to 20% and bring it back to 10%. Motion seconded by P. Loiselle.

D. Jodoin: We took the numbers we currently have for 6 months and factored in a 15% possible increase for next year. The Police Department's 3 vacant positions were also considered at a worst-case scenario with family plans. It looks as though the \$100,000 is more than enough to cover the total costs for the 10% portion of the employees. We're working with insurance companies as well as consultants and looking at different options. I invited the School Department to join the group. National trend on health costs is escalating.

Discussion on the matter ensued.

D. Ross: I think we need to revisit this matter. Increases on health care hits everyone. It should be borne by everyone equally.

Vincent Lembo, Jr., Budget Committee member: I talked to Mr. Jodoin today. He assured me that the \$100,000 is enough to cover the increase until June 30, 2008. Why do you need to revisit? The voters said to increase the budget by \$100,000 for the employees' health insurance.

D. Jodoin: Our fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30. The health insurance rate is from January to December. We have the money budgeted for 6 months. We won't know the health insurance budget until October or November. We always budget for a 15% increase but what happens if it goes up 20%? That's when it goes back to the Council for decision.

D. Ross: We need to revisit the issue. We cannot decide on a budget before it is set. If we don't have a dollar amount, how can we budget? We can open ourselves to a potential increase that we cannot see.

V. Lembo: I'd like to add for the record, the voters said to put \$100,000 in the line item for the employees' health insurance. I'd like to see it in there and use it wisely. Use it the best way the Council can.

Roll Call:

M. DiBietto	No	D. Ross	Yes
J. Gorton	Yes	P. Rueppel	Yes

J. Hyde	No	S. Werksman	Yes		
M. Jolin	No	Chairman G. Longfellow	Yes	6-3	<u>Motion carried.</u>
P. Loiselle	Yes				

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- D. Jodoin received a letter from Mr. Dwight Mitchell thanking the Fire Department (Lt. James Anderson, FF R. S. David and FF Tobey Gamache) for their timely response at their home on April 28th.
- He received a letter from the City of Manchester regarding the site plan application submitted to the Manchester Planning Board for a Solid Waste transfer station. The Planning Board discussed the application on April 12th, 2007. It was determined that the proposal may have a potential regional impact.
- At a previous meeting, the Council voted to reduce the Koffler/GID Letter of Credit. Koffler/GID would pay \$30,000 to reduce the LOC. The paperwork has been received and reviewed by the legal council.

D. Ross moved to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the agreement to receive the money. Motion seconded by S. Werksman. Roll call vote carried unanimously.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Police Commission

S. Werksman: The Police Commission approved to purchase cameras in every police car. They had a demonstration of a taser gun, which immobilizes the subject instantly. It's been proven to reduce injuries to the force and the public.

Conservation Commission

D. Ross: They re-scheduled the joint meeting with the Planning Board and Manchester Sand & Gravel on May 30th at 6 pm at the Library.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Philip Fitanides, 1407 Hooksett Road: All the money from Exit 10 TIF District is still being used to payoff the bond. None is applied to reduce taxes at this point. I'd like for someone to explain to me how that works because it's too complicated.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION:

M. DiBitto moved at 7:45 pm to enter into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3, II. (a), (c) and (e).

(a) The dismissal, promotion or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted.

(c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the body or agency itself, unless such person requests an open meeting; and

(e) Consideration or negotiation of pending claims of 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 J. Gorton. Roll call vote carried unanimously.

D. Jodoin recused himself from the non-public meeting.

P. Loiselle moved at 9:15 pm to exit non-public session. Motion seconded by D. Ross. Roll call vote carried unanimously.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Evelyn F. Horn
Administrative Assistant

Jason M. Hyde
Town Council Secretary