

Official

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES Regular Meeting Wednesday, November 7, 2007

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman P. Loiselle called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

PRESENT: David Dickson, William "Bill" Gahara (excused), James Gorton, Jason Hyde, George Longfellow, David Ross (excused), Patricia Rueppel, Stuart Werksman, Chairman Paul Loiselle, David Jodoin (Town Administrator)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

October 24, 2007 – ***G. Longfellow moved to approve the October 24, 2007 minutes as presented. Motion seconded by S. Werksman. Motion carried.*** J. Hyde and P. Rueppel abstained, not present at the meeting.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Harold Murray, 311 Hackett Hill Road: I was at Cabela's in Connecticut on Friday. On my way out, I overheard a couple say, "Oh, my God, this is coming to Hooksett!". I was unable to catch up to them as I was in crutches.

NOMINATIONS/APPOINTMENTS:

Robert Garand withdrew his nomination.

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS:

Public Hearing re: Acceptance of \$11,375 Federal Funds for Digital In-Cruiser Video Systems per RSA 31:95(b)

Chairman P. Loiselle opened the public hearing at 7:03 pm.

Les McDaniel, Police Department: The cameras were purchased for \$28,000 after some concerns about the shootings that occurred up North. We applied for a matching grant through NH Department of Safety. We bought 12 cameras, 10 will be installed starting next week and a couple on stand-by. The cameras should be fully operational by mid-January.

G. Longfellow: Was this purchase in the budget?

L. McDaniel: It wasn't in the budget but it came out of last year's budget.

J. Hyde: What kind of media will this be recorded into? Is this considered public information?

L. McDaniel: We looked into digital systems. I would think it is public information. Our policy will be to keep the tapes for 30 days. If it will be used for evidence, it will be put aside and kept as long as we need to. If someone asks for a copy, we will charge for it.

Chairman P. Loiselle closed the public hearing at 7:12 pm.

G. Longfellow moved to accept federal funds in the amount of \$11,375 for digital in-cruiser video systems per RSA 31:95(b). Motion seconded by P. Rueppel. Roll call vote carried unanimously.

Public Hearing re: Various Donations received for the Village School Renovation Fund

Due to an incident in Town (gas leak), donors were unable to attend the meeting. D. Jodoin requested for this agenda item to be continued.

Village Development

Alden Beauchemin, Keyland Enterprises, LLC: I'd like to bring the Council up to speed on some of our development ideas. I've met with Conservation Commission and the Planning Board. Steve Korzyniowski will meet with the Jordan Institute to discuss some ideas for preserving some areas in Hooksett, particularly the Village area.

He presented the proposed development for the Village area, which includes improvements to Robie's Country Store, deck and boat docks around Robie's, round-about at intersection of Route 3A and Main Street, Village common area with a gazebo, river walk alongside River Drive, a museum, riverboat and a number of family friendly attractions.

P. Rueppel: I love the Village concept. Is there any federal funding available for the Town?

A. Beauchemin: They are looking to see if the Town could be qualified for some federal funding.

Other development ideas were discussed as well as improvement to Hooksett gateways/entrance. On the subject of gateways, J. Gorton mentioned that the grass at Exit 9 & 10 hasn't been mowed for a long time.

S. Korzyniowski: I'd like to invite all of you to attend a community meeting on the 15th at the Library. The intent is to start bringing all these ideas to the public and get some feedbacks.

OLD BUSINESS:

Town Ambulance

At the last meeting, Fire Chief Michael Williams presented a proposed agreement with an ambulance billing company (Comstar). The motion to accept the rates was tabled. The Town Council requested to revise the rates and collection policy.

G. Longfellow moved to remove the matter from table. Motion seconded by J. Gorton. Motion carried unanimously.

Harold Murray, Fire Department presented the revised Ambulance Service Rates/Collection Policy (attached), which includes the following:

- Billing rate = 2007 Medicare rates plus 10%.
- No more than 2 bills will be sent.
- The Council or their designee will address any hardship issues.
- The Town of Hooksett will not aggressively bill anyone transported by the Fire-Rescue ambulance.

S. Werksman moved to accept the revised ambulance service rates and collection policy. Motion seconded by J. Gorton. Roll call vote carried unanimously.

Cabela's

Debra Brewster, TF Moran/New England Expedition Hooksett, LLC (Feldco): The first step of the process is the application for the State Aid Highway program. It is submitted to the State. Once they receive the application, two documents need to be prepared, one to be prepared by the State and the other to be prepared by the Town with the developer. The Council has to authorize the application. By next month, drafts of the agreements will be presented to the Council.

The total funds needed for the project is \$4.5 million, 1/3 (\$1.5 million) to be applied for by the Town and reimbursed by the developer and 2/3 (\$3 million) to be funded by the State. The project consist of a signalized intersection at NH Route 3A and Hackett Hill Road, a signalized intersection at Hackett Hill

Road and Exit 11 and lane widening associated with Hackett Hill Road from NH Route 3A to I-93 bridge overpass.

D. Brewster asked the Council to authorize and sign the application (attached).

Discussion on the matter ensued.

J. Hyde: I think we need to consult our attorney and consultant before we approve this.

D. Brewster: This is just the application for the State Highway Aid to get the process started. The agreement will come back to the Council for approval. At that point, your legal Counsel and consultant could review the documents.

J. Gorton moved to authorize the Chair and the Town Administrator to sign the application. Motion seconded by S. Werksman.

Roll Call:

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Town Residency

J. Hyde: I have two issues I'd like to bring to the Council's attention. First, I'm going to write a proposed tax credit for residents who do not have kids going to school. Second, for our local election only, to start requiring ID's and proof of residency. We don't want people from other states to vote here just because they go to school in Hooksett for 6-9 months out of the year.

S. Werksman: We've been through this at one of the elections. You cannot stop students from voting. We have no choice. There's a state law on it. In fact, this coming Saturday the Supervisors of the Checklist will be at the College to register students.

David Boutin, Representative to General Court: If they declared to be NH residents, you can't stop them from voting.

Incentive Program for Businesses

P. Rueppel: In August 2005, I made a motion to create an aesthetics committee. It didn't go too far but they now have an architect on the Planning Board. The new projects that are coming in look a lot better than 10 years ago. Can we encourage businesses to make their place of businesses look better by setting up some type of an incentive program?

Council consensus was to look into the matter.

Current Use Tax

Chairman P. Loiselle brought up the issue with current use tax. The Town needs to clarify what amount to use to figure out the current use tax, the fair market value (with improvements) or the undeveloped value.

Discussion on the matter ensued.

Council consensus was to seek legal advice.

Council Meeting

Council consensus was to cancel the December 5th meeting.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

D. Jodoin informed the Council of the following:

1. We found some Money belonging to the Town on the State's listing of abandoned properties. We filed a claim and received a check in the amount \$2,885.47.
2. Tax bills will be going out by the end of the week. The new tax rate stayed the same at \$22.68 (Municipal - \$6.20; Local School - \$11.21; State School - \$2.72; County - \$2.55).
3. A committee (Town Administrator, Christine Soucie/Finance Director and Jodi Pinard/Highway) was set up to look into Health Insurance. A consultant was hired. The paperwork is all set and ready to go. We will eliminate some of the plans. The Town is looking at 0.2% increase for this year. It looks like the Town will sign on for this plan.
4. We received a letter from the Old Home Day Committee to thank the Council for their support.
5. The Fire Department received a commendation letter from a resident (Melissa Shaw).
6. The treasurer's last day is November 30th. We reviewed all resumes received and interviewed candidates. The Financial Director is recommending that the Council appoint Mary Ellen Emmerling. Ms. Emmerling was unable to attend the meeting tonight for personal reasons.

S. Werksman moved to appoint Mary Ellen Emmerling. Motion seconded by D. Dickson. Roll call vote carried unanimously.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Police Commission

The Police Department wants to put a 5-6 feet seal at the top of the peak on the entranceway of the safety center. They also would like to light up the walkway for safety and light up the sign and the seal. The cost will not exceed \$5,000. This is not in the current budget. There is a granite sign with the new name (James Oliver).

J. Hyde: This is not important. It is not critical to keep the place running. This is something they could add in their budget next year.

S. Werksman: This includes the lighting in the back of the building. During the winter, the walkway is dark and unsafe. This is not something new. When the Safety Center was built, it was noted, there had to be lighting at the walkway and the seal at the peak of the building.

D. Jodoin: Since it was the Council's decision to change the name of the building, the Town should pay to install the new sign.

Discussion on the matter ensued.

G. Longfellow moved to authorize the Town Administrator to expend no more than \$5,000 for the signage and lighting. Motion seconded by S. Werksman.

J. Hyde: I don't understand why there is a rush to get this done. This is not an emergency. They can add this to their budget next year.

P. Rueppel: The Police Department always gives money back. Can we encumber that money for this expense?

D. Jodoin: We'll find the money somewhere. The lighting is a critical safety issue and the Council named the building and should finalize this issue to move on to other buildings that are in need of repairs.

Roll Call:

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

Planning Board

Manchester Sand & Gravel came in at the last meeting. There was a substantial change on their plan that will have regional impact. The abutting towns would have to be notified.

MSG met with the school and they have identified a possible property for the school.

Sewer

The Sewer Department had concerns on the road construction at Berry Hill and Whitehall Road regarding the sewer lines. They were not notified by the State.

D. Jodoin: This is a State Road.

PUBLIC INPUT:

David Boutin, 1465 Hooksett Road, #80: We just had the Old Home Day. Now that the Village School is about ready to open, will the Lion's Club be able to use the gym and the kitchen for the Old Home Day chicken dinner next year?

D. Jodoin: The gym and the kitchen will not be renovated at this time. The gym will stay as it is except for the lighting, which was changed into efficient lighting. Al Dionne of the Emergency Management is looking for federal funding to possibly use the Village School for a shelter instead of the Cawley School. The gym and the kitchen should be available for use, but the appliances do not currently work. It can only be used for storage and preparation

The Council will send a letter to OHD Chair, Nancy Van Scoy.

D. Boutin: I'd like to bring up two issues at Donati Park. First, there is no bathroom facility. There is a bathroom next to the concession stand but it's always locked. We need a porta-potty or something. Second, we need a water bubbler at the park.

G. Longfellow: Way back when, there used to be a bathroom out there. We used to pay someone who lived next door to unlock the bathroom. It was vandalized and destroyed.

D. Jodoin: The problem with the porta-potty idea is that this is a secluded area and it will be subject to vandalism.

D. Dickson: HYAA has left bathroom open and the toilets have been destroyed with people putting rocks in them. They are open when there is a function but closed when the programs end.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION:

G. Longfellow moved to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (b), "The hiring of any person as a public employee."

Motion seconded by J. Gorton. Roll call vote carried unanimously.

G. Longfellow moved to approve the October 24, 2007 non-public minutes. Motion seconded by J. Gorton. Roll call vote carried unanimously.

G. Longfellow moved to divulge the minutes of the non-public session. Motion seconded by S. Werksman. Roll call vote carried unanimously.

P. Rueppel moved to exit non-public session. Motion seconded by J. Gorton. Roll call vote carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Evelyn F. Horn
Administrative Assistant

David F. Dickson
Town Council Secretary