

Official

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES Regular Meeting Wednesday, May 14, 2008

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

April 23, 2008 – *G. Longfellow moved to approve the April 23, 2008 minutes. Motion seconded by S. Werksman. Motion carried.* P. Rueppel abstained, not present at the meeting.

PUBLIC INPUT

Pete Farwell, 24 Grant Drive: We failed in our attempt to convince the voters to vote for the public access TV. We'd like to officially resign the ad hoc committee. We are asking you to seriously consider what you're doing with the franchise fees. It looks like we can remove it but once it's removed you won't be able to put it back until the contract is negotiated. We appreciate your support.

The Council thanked Mr. Farwell for all his work in trying to pass the public access TV.

Marc Miville, 42 Main Street: At the deliberative session, I asked the Council if there were any dissenting opinions, to state the opinions, who made them and why to help voters make an informed decision. The response was that opinions are not allowed on the Warrant articles. We received the Council newsletter in the mail. This is the voters' guide. I found the newsletter to contain partisan opinions. The Council newsletter should have both opinions. The voters' guide is very partisan. I suggest from now on, to include both sides of opinions. If one opinion is quoted on the newsletter the opposing opinion should also be quoted. For the future, both opposing opinions should be stated or no opinions at all.

Discussion on the matter ensued.

Joanne McHugh, 14 Jefferson Drive: When I was in the School Board, we were advised by the Legal Counsel not to offer an opinion on any warrant when taxpayers dollars are being used.

Chairman Loiselle: All we were trying to do is to give the taxpayers as much information as possible to help them with their decision. Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention. In the future, the Council Newsletter will include only factual information.

NOMINATIONS/APPOINTMENTS

W. Gahara informed the Council that Mike Horne intends to be re-appointed on the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. Nominations will be done on June 11th and appointments on June 25th.

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS

Heritage Commission - Acceptance of various donations to the Heritage Commission for erection of a historic marker at Martin's Corner School per RSA 674:44(b).

Kathleen Northrup, Heritage Commission Chair: This is the 50th year the Martin's Corner School has been closed. I contacted former students who were able to contact other former students and collected donations for the marker. I ask the Council to accept the total donation of \$1,825.

P. Rueppel thanked K. Northrup for all she does for the Town. The Council also thanked for the record, Bev Morrison of 23 Heritage Drive, Cynthia A. Sullivan of 2 Trent Road and Joan B. Holleran of 42 Whitehall Road for their help in collecting donations.

D. Ross moved to accept the donation in the amount of \$1,825 per RSA 674:44(b). Motion seconded by S. Werksman. Motion carried unanimously.

Head School Project bids.

K. Northrup introduced David Bernard, a member of the Heritage Commission. They presented the following bids for the renovation of shed and roof of the Head School.

Sun-Ray Builders	\$14,514.00
Russell Pelletier Construction	\$15,969.00
Superior Architectural Renovation	\$25,595.15
Cobb Hill Construction	\$33,734.00

When preparing the RFP's, the Heritage Commission received advise from NH State Architectural Historian, Jim Garvin and Allen Charles Hill, a Historic Preservation Consultant. After reviewing the proposals and discussing the project with two of the bidders being considered, Sun-Ray and Pelletier, the board is recommending to award the bid to Sun-Ray Builders.

D. Ross moved to award the bid to Sun-Ray Builders for the total amount of \$14,514.00 for the renovation of shed and roof of the Head School. Motion seconded by G. Longfellow. Motion carried unanimously.

W. Gahara moved to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the contract. Motion seconded by S. Werksman. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing - Acceptance of donation from The Home Depot for sump pumps in the amount of \$539.26 per RSA 31:95(b).

Chairman P. Loiselle opened the public hearing at 7:05 pm.

Harold Murray, Emergency Management Deputy Director informed the Council that The Home Depot donated 5 sump pump kits to the Town. These kits will be used to pump basements in case of flood.

The public hearing was closed at 7:11 pm.

S. Werksman moved to accept a donation from The Home Depot in the amount of \$539.26 in the form of sump pumps per RSA 31:95(b). Motion seconded by G. Longfellow. Motion carried unanimously.

UNH Technology Center - GIS CTAP Pilot Project

Charlie Goodspeed, UNH/T2 Center: State DOT is willing to pay for this pilot project and has contracted UNH T2 Center. DOT chose (3) adjacent communities, namely, Hooksett, Deerfield and Bow because of their proximity with I-93. We are asking for the Town's permission to add the tax maps and put them all up on our GIS system. We'll come up and we'll help you download and get set up. The map will have many layers. Every potential change, i.e. approved new developments, building permits, etc. will be integrated into the system. Tax maps will be integrated to the state line, wetlands and political boundaries, etc. It will start with the parcel map and will be superimposed on aerial photography. The maps will get updated regularly. We will not touch your maps. We'll only take what you give us. Limitations and access securities could be set. Names and other information could be blocked out. I don't think the Town has anything to lose on this project. The Town of Moultonboro is up and running. You can log onto www.smsgis.com to check it out.

Discussion on the matter ensued.

The Council asked the Town Administrator's opinion on the proposed pilot project.

D. Jodoin: We have been struggling for many years to get the maps updated and GIS system running. I think this will be something good and one less expense for the Town.

D. Ross motioned to move forward to allow the Town to be included in the GIS CTAP pilot project. Motion seconded by D. Dickson. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Complaint re: Comcast

At the last meeting, a complaint from a constituent was discussed. J. Hyde forwarded the matter to the Town's Comcast representative, Bryan Christensen.

NEW BUSINESS

Police Department Sign on Route 3

The Police Department would like to get permission from the Council to place a sign on Hooksett Road/Route 3 to be taken out of their budget.

S. Werksman: I spoke to the Police Chief and the Highway Department. The Commission can pay for it and get it done. All they need is authorization from the Council.

P. Rueppel moved to authorize the Police Commission to assume responsibility for the completion of a Safety Center Hooksett Road sign project to be paid for by the Police Commission and to assemble a sign committee for the project. Motion seconded by S. Werksman. Motion carried unanimously.

Town Election - Warrant Article # 6 Tie Vote

The Town Election was held on Monday, May 13th. The vote for Warrant Article #6 resulted in a tie (Yes-488; No-488).

Article #6

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 (Fifty Thousand Dollars) to be placed in the Assessing Certification Capital Reserve Fund already established. (\$.04 estimated tax rate increase).

D. Ross moved to request for a re-count of the votes. Motion seconded by W. Gahara. Motion carried unanimously.

Leslie Nepveu appointed to the Volunteer NH Board of Directors

The Council congratulated Leslie Nepveu, Town Clerk/Tax Collector, who was appointed by the Executive Council to the Volunteer NH Board of Directors.

Ethics Policy

Chairman P. Loiselle presented the initial draft of the Ethics Policy to the Council for their review. The policy was put together by the Town's Human Resource Coordinator, Liz Dionne. He explained that the policy is intended for Town employees, elected officials and committee members.

J. McHugh: I'd like to applaud the Town for doing this. I'm not saying people intentionally violate the rules but there are times when people need to recuse themselves or say inappropriate things. The Town needs something in place to say what is appropriate and what is not appropriate. I had an opportunity to review the policy. Some of these deal with code of conduct as opposed to ethics. Those should be included in the employee handbook and not in the ethics policy. If you have employees under contractual obligation, you have to follow certain procedure. This is a good first draft, it encompasses a lot. Some of these items however should be taken out.

J. Hyde: This should mirror the Charter. I don't think it does. There should be separate policies for elected officials, appointed officials and employees.

W. Gahara suggested asking the Town Legal Counsel and/or a sub-committee to review the policy and present another draft to the council.

Discussion on the matter ensued.

J. Gorton moved to ask the Town Administrator to direct the Human Resources Coordinator to obtain copies of existing ethics policies from LGC. Motion seconded by P. Rueppel. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman P. Loiselle asked the Council to review the policy and submit comments.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

D. Jodoin informed the Council of the following:

1. The Town Hall has started to pack. The movers will be here on Thursday, May 15th to start the move. The Town Hall will be closed for business on Thursday, May 22nd and Friday, May 23rd prior to Memorial Day for the move. Notices will be posted on the website and the newspapers. The Town Hall will re-open on Tuesday, May 27. The permanent sign will be in place in 4 weeks. A temporary sign will be placed in front of the building. There is not enough money left to complete the air conditioning system. Total estimated cost for the entire building's air conditioning system is about \$150,000 - \$200,000. The balance left on the account after all bills are paid will be around \$75,000. The Town Administrator suggested adding the air-conditioning system in phases. The balance of \$75,000 will be used to start on the south side, first floor of the building. The Town will try to encumber money to roll over into the new fiscal year to finish the rest of the building.

P. Rueppel suggested installing window air conditioning units in the meantime. D. Ross stated the units would damage the vinyl windows. The Council decided against the window units.

2. With the default budget, there will be some issues with budget items. Highway Department will need to fill up the sand and salt sheds. Paving will have to be done as well. Fuel was budgeted at \$2.50 per gallon as part of the operation budget last year. The State fuel is currently at \$3.10 per gallon. The Town foresees fuel to be an ongoing problem.

The Council had a discussion on steps the Town could take to minimize fuel consumption. J. Hyde suggested for the Town Administrator to ask employees to be conscientious on using Town vehicles.

ADJOURNMENT

J. Gorton moved to adjourn at 8:41 pm. Motion seconded by S. Werksman. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn F. Horn
Administrative Assistant

David F. Dickson
Town Council Secretary