

OFFICIAL

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES Regular Meeting Wednesday, January 14, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

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

ATTENDANCE

Chairman D. Dickson, G. Longfellow, J. Gorton, D. Ross, P. Rueppel, W. Gahara, and N. VanScoy
C. Granfield, Interim Town Administrator
P. Loiselle – excused
M. Pischetola arrived at 6:55 pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

09-01

December 3, 2008

G. Longfellow motioned to approve the minutes of December 3, 2008. Seconded by J. Gorton.

Vote unanimously in favor

December 17, 2008

B. Gahara motioned to approve the minutes of December 17, 2008. Seconded by G. Longfellow.

Correction: page 5 -D. Dickson stated lesson learned.

Vote unanimously in favor

January 3, 2009 (Budget Workshop)

G. Longfellow motioned to table. Seconded by D. Ross

PUBLIC INPUT

None

NOMINATIONS/APPOINTMENTS

09-02 a. Planning Board Council Representative

P. Rueppel nominated N. VanScoy to replace her on the Planning Board. Seconded by G. Gahara.

P. Rueppel motioned to waive the rules for nominations. Seconded by W. Gahara.

Roll Call unanimously in favor

J. Gorton nominated D. Ross. Seconded by B. Gahara

D. Ross: I approved my nomination to the Planning Board because the Town is at a critical time and I don't know that others on the board have the expertise that I have to read topographic, drainage and easement plans. It is important to have someone who knows how to read plans and understand the inner workings of planning.

N. VanScoy: I have no concerns with the time constraints involved in attending the meetings.

D. Ross: I have concerns with time being self-employed. I believe the meetings are Monday nights and I'm not committed to any other meetings on that night.

G. Longfellow: Are you planning on remaining on the Conservation Commission, because I don't believe you can serve on both boards.

D. Ross: If I must resign from Conservation, I would remove my name from nomination because I would like to remain on the Conservation Commission. I therefore respectfully decline the position.

Roll Call unanimously in favor of Nancy VanScoy

b. Available Positions - Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, (1) Full member, exp. 6/2009 & (1) Alt. member, exp. 6/2010.

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS

09-03– Public Hearing, re: Charter Amendments

Open Public Hearing at 7:00 PM

Charter amendments 3.2 read into the record by N. VanScoy

D. Ross: Questioned the use of *his* in the charter. This should be corrected to say his/her. Those changes will be made.

N. VanScoy stated that it should read counsel disqualifies a Councilor per recommendation. The third recommendation by counsel, clarify that a conviction of a state or federal crime must be a felony. This seems to be keeping the five (5) years in it while the proposal seems to want to remove the 5-year notation.

G. Longfellow stated that the purpose is if you are convicted of a felony, you can't serve.

The deadline for this change is the end of the week and you will need a public hearing.

This will appear on the ballot as a two separate warrant articles.

M. Sorel: For clarification, will you repeat the proposed change and read what the change is?

Marc Miville: I'm wondering what the pay grade has to do with it. And shouldn't the five (5) years be an Attorney General decision. And shouldn't a felon be excluded from being appointed, that felon must be elected.

D. Ross: For clarification, the concept is to avoid the possibility of a past Councilor getting a job from the Town for at least a year. The reality is we cannot fill boards and commissions and as the year passes, that volunteer becomes disenfranchised. We simply want no financial gain from the Town after serving on Council.

The felon; the Council is final arbiter. This puts in writing no felon will serve on this Council.

N. VanScoy: I am taking the original intent of the appointed office into consideration.

G. Longfellow: I was on the original Charter Commission and the Council interpreted that they couldn't serve on any position and in speaking to the original members of the commission, the intent was paid positions only.

N. VanScoy read from amendment 3.4 (see file)

G. Longfellow: The \$1500 was put in place 20 years ago. We have since wanted to increase compensation for boards and we found we could change other boards but not the Council's. We decided to take the fixed amount out and let the voters decide each by placing it in the budget.

M. Pischetola: Who will decide on the amount to be placed in the budget?

G. Longfellow: This will be included in the budget and go to the voters on the ballot annually.

M. Farwell, 24 Grant Drive: It sounds like we will have a warrant article each year to decide on the amount. When you say the voters will get to vote, it sounds a lot more direct than being placed in the budget. It should be clearer. It sounds like a warrant article.

D. Dickson: We are all serving three (3) year terms and therefore you could get compensation one year and not another.

D. Ross: I had a problem with it because it is in the Charter and it should be changed as a charter amendment and not a continual budget change. A little compensation is better than nothing. I don't think it should be made part of the budget process. I would like to take this part out.

P. Rueppel: What about a percentage increase in the wages of the Councilors each year?

Close Public Hearing.

3:2 P. Rueppel motioned to approve the Charter amendment to 3:2. seconded by G. Longfellow.

J. Gorton: Could we make that motion as accepted by Upton and Hatfield. It is much clearer so there is no misunderstanding.

N. VanScoy: Did I misunderstand that we can't change it this year because of what was posted and we can accept the changed and make the changes next year?

N. VanScoy: The comment, as it is written from legal is not identical to what was in the paper and the things he added were underline and it does not include his/hers. What was in the legal notice does not include the his/hers.

Roll call unanimously in favor

G. Longfellow motioned to approve the amendment 3.4. Seconded by M. Pischetola

D. Ross: This change will open a can of worms and I don't think this is a wise change and any change should include a dollar amount.

J. Gorton agrees with D. Ross.

G. Longfellow: We know the dollar value has changed over 20 years and I don't think this is an amount we should lock in.

Roll Call:

P. Loiselle	-	G. Longfellow	Yes
J. Gorton	No	D. Ross	No
D. Dickson	No	P. Rueppel	No
W. Gahara	No	M. Pischetola	No
N. VanScoy	No		

1:7 motion fails

09-03 7:10 pm - Kathy Northrup, Heritage Commission Chair, re: Acceptance of Donation to the Heritage Commission per RSA 674:44-b.

K. Northrup: Chair of the Heritage Commission. An update on the Head's School Project
The exterior work: We were allocated \$14,000 for the shed and the new roof for both buildings. There is a wooden and a brick building on the grounds of Head Cemetery. There were two (2) contracts issued.

1. Calls for the jacking up and putting on cribs so that work can be done under the wooded building to replace rotted boards. Clapboards are removed from all four (4) sides and primed, installed and painted before the building was put back.
2. Repairing roofs of both buildings, with plywood and flashing. There was restoration that had to be adhered to because of its historical significance. Kathy Northrup and David Bernard visited the site daily to ensure the quality and completion of works. We feel the contracts were completed to our satisfaction.

K. Northrup: We carefully followed the progress of the building and treated it as if it was our own. We took many photographs for posterity. We saved the old and new materials for educational displays. We replicated the features to tell the story of the building. The work was done over four (4) months. Kathy publicly thanked Dave Bernard for his work on the project.

G. Longfellow: Is this matching funds?

K. Northrup: The \$14,800 is town money.
In March of last year, you approved for a filing under conversation for a Moose Plate conservation program and Hooksett was awarded \$10,000, which are not matched funds. This will be used for the interior work. We want to remove carpeting and restore floors. We want to repair the tin roof and the plaster walls. The windows need repair. And the interior needs paint of. Because there is no heat, the work will be done in the summer. We have until 2010 to complete the work. There were only six (6) Moose Plate grants awarded and we were pleased to be granted one. We have received \$5000 and the balance will come when the work is complete and we submit invoices.

Close public hearing

N. VanScoy thanked K. Northrup for her work.

D. Ross motioned to acceptance the donation of \$10,000 for interior work at the Head's School to the Heritage Commission per RSA 674:44-b. Seconded by G. Longfellow. Roll Call vote unanimously in favor

D. Ross motioned to a have a letter of commendation drafted to thank both Kathy Northrup and Dave Bernard. Seconded by J. Gorton. Vote unanimously in favor

OLD BUSINESS

09-05 MRI Contract

C. Granfield: In order to address the expenditure cap for the Administrator, D. Jutton generated a modified contract, which proposes a supplemental agreement with a cap of \$7000.00/month unless circumstances approve to go beyond this amount. This is available for discussion. If you go forth, the original supplemental amendment and the original contract are ready for signature if you so wish.

Application for Administrator close tomorrow. Mr. Jutton will be away for two (2) weeks in February but will come to speak to Council in March and will have good information on March 11th.

P. Rueppel asked if he spoke of the recommended members to the selection committee.

N. VanScoy: For clarification, that is \$7000, not including travel or expenses.

09-06 2009-2010 Budget

C. Granfield: There are a few items remaining from the Budget meeting.

The Sewer Commission Budget was not reviewed and the Building budget was tabled. The Sewer budget has no tax impact.

The Highway Department, subsequent to the meeting, was reviewed with respect to the new phones. In discussions with D. Hemeon, it was determined that it would be more productive and cost effective not to purchase the phones and to utilize the Police Dispatch services. In lieu of the purchase of Nextel cell phones, with an on going cost each year, the Department prefers to install radios in three (3) trucks with funds allocated for the cell phones. Additional costs will not be incurred annually, and this along with services from Police Dispatch will take care of the Department's needs.

There was discussion at the budget meeting for establishing a contingency account within the operating budget for unanticipated issues not originally budgeted for. Most items that will fall in this category would be building costs, however, other unanticipated items could occur as a result of legislation with new requirements, road issues etc. The Town currently has such an account in Administration titled "Unanticipated Expenses" in the amount of \$5,000. If the Council addresses increased building funds via a warrant article, this may not need to be increased.

The Building budget needs action as a result of a subsequent meeting held with relevant departments regarding the development of more information to evaluate and prioritize building costs. This has been done. With the change of the Maintenance position from part time to full time, a priority plan can be implemented next year. It is recommended to adopt the budget, as presented and additional needs will be addressed via an increase in the Building Maintenance Warrant Article.

There is an additional reduction in gasoline savings as a result of a fixed rate of 1.94 per gallon for unleaded gas. The diesel fixed rate will not be finalized until next week. This figure can be provided to the Budget Committee for incorporation.

D. Ross motion to approve the Town Building budget in the amount of \$462,876.00.

Seconded by N. VanScoy

Roll Call Vote unanimously in favor

B. Gahara Motion to reduce the departments for fuel savings as follows: Fire, \$1,725.00; Highway, \$4,423.00; Parks, \$150.00; Police, \$20,000.00; Solid Waste, \$600.00. Seconded by M. Pischetola

Roll Call unanimously in favor

B. Gahara motioned to approve the total Operating Budget excluding Sewer in the amount of \$14,608,499.00. Seconded by M. Pischetola

N. VanScoy: I'm disappointed we could not keep the budget to 2.5% requested. Although \$100,000 is in capital purchase, I wish we could have brought it down to 2.5%. I think we could have reined in a little spending by the highway department and made our 2.5% goal.

Roll call vote unanimously in favor.

09-07 Warrant Articles

A

Shall the Town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amount set forth on the budget posted with this warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set

forth therein, totaling \$XX,XXX.00? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$XX,XXX.00, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of Town Meeting or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. Note: This Article does not include special warrant articles #X through #XX.

No action taken. This will be the Budget Committee's number.

D. Ross motioned to have Article A placed on the Town Warrant. Seconded by G. Longfellow.

Roll call vote unanimously in favor. 8:0

B

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$75,918 (Seventy Five Thousand Nine Hundred Eighteen Dollars) for salaries and benefits to be set aside in a merit wage pool for non union full-time and part-time Town personnel.

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Salaries</u>	<u>Benefits</u>
2009-10	\$64,972	\$10,946

B. Gahara motioned to have Article B placed on the Town Warrant. Seconded by J. Gorton. Roll call vote unanimously in favor

C

To see if the Town will vote to approve the cost item included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Town of Hooksett and the Hooksett Permanent Firefighters Association Local 3264, IFFA which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Salaries</u>	<u>Taxes</u>	<u>Benefits</u>
2009-10			
2010-11			

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$XXX,XXX () for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs.

C. Granfield: This is a result of the Fire collective bargaining, which will be addressed at a later date.

Action to be taken at the January 28th meeting.

C-1

Shall the Town of Hooksett, if article #C is defeated, authorize the governing bony to call one special meeting, at its option, to address article #C cost items only?

This is a result of the Fire collective bargaining, which will be addressed at a later date.

Action to be taken at the January 28th meeting.

D

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$31,955 for the salary, benefits and taxes for a full-time Children's Librarian for the Hooksett Public Library. This appropriation is for six months of the first year's wages, as the employee will be hired in the last six months of the 2009-10 fiscal year.

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Salaries</u>	<u>Taxes</u>	<u>Benefits</u>
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2009-10 \$19,500 1,492 10,963

B. Gahara motioned to have Article D placed on the Town Warrant. Seconded by D. Ross.

G. Longfellow: We are talking about a tight economic year. I think it is the wrong time to be expanding in this area.

P. Rueppel: I disagree. If you read the Union Leader, in Manchester, with the economic strains, the library is being used more and more.

N. VanScoy: I speak in support of this warrant article because the library serves everyone in the community. Technology is growing at a rapid rate and with that we are incurring more expense and with more people using it we need to support those people. The person should have a technical background to support the children.

The salary for this librarian will be \$64,000 including benefits.

M. Farwell: The salary is \$38,000, but the benefits include a family plan, which must be assumed until someone is hired. The actual salary is \$38,000, which is comparable to most salaries paid to town employees, and this person would come with technological expertise.

H. Shumway: This is for the children's room, which is 40% of our usage. We have one person doing 20 hours a week now. Most of the time the room isn't staffed.

I. Roll Call:

P. Loiselle	-	G. Longfellow	No
J. Gorton	No	D. Ross	Yes
D. Dickson	Yes	P. Rueppel	Yes
W. Gahara	Yes	M. Pischetola	Yes
N. VanScoy	Yes		

Vote 6:2 motion carries

E

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 (Ten Thousand Dollars) to be placed in the Town-Wide Computer Development Capital Reserve Fund already established.

B. Gahara motioned to have Article E placed on the Town Warrant. Seconded by M. Pischetola.

Roll call vote unanimously in favor 8:0

F

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000 (Thirty Thousand Dollars) to be placed in the Town Building Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund already established.

Needs further review and we recommend increasing \$100,000 to \$130,000 to come from fund balance? The Finance Director will review this.

C. Soucie: It will be one Warrant Article. I recommend increasing \$100,000 and having the whole amount from surplus so it would be cleaner and easier to understand. There would be zero impact on the tax rate.

D. Ross motioned to have Article F in the amount of \$130,000 to be raised from the general fund balance (No amount raised from taxes) and place on the Town Warrant. Seconded by J. Gorton

Roll call vote unanimously in favor 8:0

G

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000 (Forty Thousand Dollars) to be placed in the Assessing Certification Capital Reserve Fund already established.

J. Gorton motioned to have Article G placed on the Town Warrant. Seconded by N. VanScoy.

Roll call unanimously in favor 8:0

H

To see if the Town will vote to establish a capital reserve fund under the provision of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of updating the Town of Hooksett's Master Plan and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 (Ten Thousand Dollars) to be placed in this fund, and to name the Town Administrator as the agent to expend.

J. Gorton motioned to have Article H placed on the Town Warrant. Seconded by B. Gahara.

N. VanScoy: It seems that we vote for this each year and the Master Plan hasn't been updated for 4 years.

C. Soucie: the voters have never passed it.

Roll call Vote unanimously in favor 8:0

I

To see if the Town will vote to establish a capital reserve fund under the provision of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of a Road Impact Fee Traffic Study and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$34,000 (Thirty-four Thousand Dollars) to be placed in this fund, and to name the Town Administrator as the agent to expend.

B. Gahara motioned to have Article I placed on the Town Warrant. Seconded by J. Gorton.

D. Ross: This is needed to establish the intersection where the impact fees can be used and expended. These fees must be used within six (6) years.

C. Soucie: We have collected impact fees for roads for the past three (3) years. The town did approve \$33,000 so far for this project.

Roll call Vote unanimously in favor 8:0

J

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 (Twenty Thousand Dollars) to be placed in the Fire Air Packs & Bottles Capital Reserve Fund already established.

M. Pischetola motioned to have Article J placed on the Town Warrant. Seconded by B. Gahara

J. Gorton: I understand that the CIP had recommended not including this in the budget this year because of the economy; we could skip a year since it's not needed for 15 years.

G. Longfellow: It cost about 350,000.

M. Sorel: The air packs we have now are three (3) years young. The life expectancy is 15 years, therefore the CIP committee felt this could be put off for another year. The Planning Board felt it should be put back in.

P. Rueppel: The CIP committee also recommended putting \$20,000 in the future to catch up.

D. Ross: It passed last year overwhelmingly. My memory is that the chief did not seem adamant that it was a necessity this year.

Roll call

P. Loiselle	-	J. Gorton	No
G. Longfellow	Yes	D. Dickson	Yes
D. Ross	Yes	B. Gahara	Yes
M. Pischetola	Yes	P. Rueppel	Yes
N. VanScoy	No		

6:2 passes

K

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Council to enter into a seven year lease/purchase agreement for \$480,000 for the purpose of leasing a Fire Engine, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$58,380 (Fifty Eight Thousand Three Hundred Eighty Dollars) for the first year's payment for that purpose. This lease agreement contains an escape clause.

N. VanScoy motioned to have Article K placed on the Town Warrant. Seconded by D. Ross.

C. Soucie: This is to replace Engine #1.

G. Longfellow: Was this removed by the CIP Committee?

M. Sorel: The CIP Committee was concerned with the lease portion. When you examine leasing, it is very expensive and that is one reason why the CIP zeroed out that article and recommended we revisit this next year when they have more time to review lease/purchase.

G. Longfellow: We are paying for two (2) engines on the lease program and recommend moving this to another year.

D. Dickson: The CIP Committee feels the equipment can be delayed for another year?

M. Sorel: Yes, at this point in time we are comfortable with zeroing this out.

D. Ross: The chief was intent that this was a needed item. Engines take a while to acquire.

C. Soucie: I got a rate of 4.05% this year, which is a little cheaper.

Roll Call Vote:

P. Loiselle	-	G. Longfellow	No
J. Gorton	No	D. Ross	Yes
D. Dickson	Yes	P. Rueppel	Yes
W. Gahara	Yes	N. VanScoy	No
Pischetola	No		

4:4 motion fails

L

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 (Ten Thousand Dollars) to be placed in the Fire Cistern Capital Reserve Fund already established.

B. Gahara motioned to have Article L placed on the Town Warrant. Seconded by G. Longfellow.

Roll call vote unanimously in favor

M

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$140,000 (One Hundred Forty Thousand Dollars) to purchase a Plow Dump Truck for the Highway Department.

M. Pischetola motioned to have Article M placed on the Town Warrant. Seconded by G. Longfellow.

D. Hemeon: This would be similar to the one we have now. This year that truck went for \$127,000. Hopefully this one will come in between \$125,000 and \$135,000 and the automated salt distribution system will save money.

Roll Call Vote:

P. Loiselle	-	G. Longfellow	Yes
J. Gorton	Yes	D. Ross	Yes
D. Dickson	Yes	P. Rueppel	Yes
W. Gahara	Yes	N. VanScoy	No
Pischetola	Yes		

7:1 motion carries

N

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$64,000 (Sixty Four Thousand Dollars) for the completion of repairs to the northeast retaining wall located at the corner of Martins Ferry Road and North River Road. This sum to come from the General Fund balance and no amount to be raised from taxation.

J. Gorton motioned to have Article N placed on the Town Warrant. Seconded by N. VanScoy

C. Soucie: The amount originally requested was \$60,000. At CIP, there was a piece of land associated and therefore increased by \$4000. You don't need to have the warrant article to buy the piece of land. We don't want to tie that land purchase to this warrant article. This article is not reflective of the land.

G. Longfellow amend to \$60,000. Seconded by B. Gahara.

The land will be dealt with separately.

D. Ross: I don't see the problem with leaving the figure at \$64,000 because it will go to the cost of the project. \$60,000 may not cover the cost. We could use the extra \$4000 for the project.

D. Hemeon: I met with FEMA on Monday, and originally we applied for funds and were denied. Someone appealed it and won so we could receive funds. I don't know if that will pass. Hopefully, we will get money for both sides of the bridge. The appeal for Merrimack County went through so we should be getting something. I think it's important to buy the land regardless. If we have to move the bridge then barter for the land, the price may go up. We should buy that land

quickly. According to our tax rolls, it is a useless piece of land except for the town and the owner wants the base value.

C. Soucie: You will not be able to buy a piece of land from this article the way it is written and we don't want to tie the land to this article passing or failing.

D. Dickson: The land will be handled as a separate item.

D. Ross: My concern is lets make sure there is enough money to do this repair.

Vote on Amendment (\$60,000)

Roll Call Vote:

P. Loiselle	-	G. Longfellow	Yes
J. Gorton	No	D. Ross	No
D. Dickson	No	P. Rueppel	No
W. Gahara	No	N. VanScoy	No
Pischetola	No		

1:7 amendment fails

Vote on original motion (\$64,000)

Roll Call unanimously in favor 8:0

O

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 (Ten Thousand Dollars) to be placed in the Parks and Recreation Facilities Development Capital Reserve Fund already established.

D. Ross motioned to have Article O placed on the Town Warrant. Seconded by B. Gahara.

M. Pischetola: How much is in the fund now?

C. Soucie: \$7900 as of October.

D. Hemeon: The last purchase we made was for lights at Peterbrook and HYAA paid half of the cost. The point was to get the Park & Rec up to where the deficit is eliminated. We have collected park impact fees for six (6) years and we will have to return funds this March. Mike Horn will be coming to the Council to inform that we are now up to speed and will not need to return any impact fee money.

Roll call Vote unanimously in favor. 8:0

P

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 (Ten Thousand Dollars) to be placed in the Emergency Radio Communication Development Capital Reserve Fund already established.

B. Gahara motioned to have Article P placed on the Town Warrant. Seconded by N. VanScoy.

Roll Call Vote unanimously in favor. 8:0

Old Business

Safety Sign Donation - \$1500 donation

M. Pischetola asked if there was any information regard that money.
No information at this time.

Old Town Hall

C. Granfield reported that the old town hall has been winterized.

Letter to Arleigh Greene

C. Granfield reported that a letter has been sent to Mr. Greene regarding the Fire Station land at Exit 10. No response has been received.

Beauchesne

C. Granfield will address this issue in the Administrator's report

Alternative Energy Tax

C. Granfield stated that this is on the agenda for the next meeting.

Single Stream Recycling

N. VanScoy requested that Single Stream Recycling be placed on the agenda as soon as possible.

D. Boyce asked to be on the next agenda. They don't need a commitment until May but would like a letter of support sooner.

Budget Process

J. Gorton: I feel strongly that we should have more workshops for budget considerations rather than covering everything in one day. It is overwhelming to make those decisions in one day. I feel the Councilors should be more involved in the budget process. It is difficult to read columns of numbers and glean all the information we should have and then come in one day and discuss all departments in one day.

J. Gorton motioned to have the Council consider an additional workshop or have the Council more involved in the budget development, through meetings or additional workshops. Seconded by N. VanScoy.

G. Longfellow: I feel the best way to do this is at home by reviewing the numbers. I sit down at night and look at individual budgets a few weeks before the workshop. I feel the Council is lax in doing this. I would push this Council to be cautious in Diane's Single Stream thing. I have shared these figures with Diane. Over 7-8 years, we have averaged \$47 a ton. It would cost us \$10 to \$20 a ton to bring our recyclable to Concord. We would be losing over \$60 per ton by joining the coop.

N. VanScoy: If we are going to discuss Single Stream Recycling, we should discuss it.

B. Gahara: I feel we could set up time over a few weeks to review this with the input of department heads.

M. Pischetola: I thought the budget process was overwhelming. I was hoping it could be spread out so more in depth questions could be asked.

H. Murray: In the past, Councilors were assigned to various departments and work as a liaison between the department and the Council for budget review.

N. VanScoy: I only had five (5) days to review the budget books, which were during the holiday season. The Saturday workshop, being my first experience, was very fast pace and quick decisions were made. We need to talk to the department heads. I am interested in what Harold proposed of a Councilor being a liaison.

Vote unanimously in favor

NEW BUSINESS

09-08 Bond Release Request on SJB Project

***N. VanScoy motion to release the surety of \$1000.00 to SJB. Seconded by J. Gorton.
Roll call Vote unanimously in favor***

M. Pischetola: Can we ask the CEO to address the signs in town.

N. VanScoy: I don't know if there is a differentiation as to those that are decent and those that are littering.

J. Gorton: I want to address a recent article in the Leader and the Banner where charges were made against five (5) members of the Council. I would like a list provided by the individual who raised these charges. I am sick of being accused of back room smoke filled shenanigans. I would like to see an apology. This must be raised because there were charges and it cast a shadow over members of this Council.

P. Rueppel: I have been on this Council for eight (8) years. There have been things that have gone on for years. Faces change but things still go on. I will not apologize. I told David that I supported him as Chair, but on Dec. 3rd, David said we would bring the contract back on Dec. 17th and it did not happen. I took the whole nine (9) years into account. The five (5) people who signed the contract without a discussion and without a vote were the names named. I asked Mr. Jutton to send the contract to me. Why wasn't it brought back to us? Three (3) of us wanted to discuss it.

N. VanScoy: Related to my recent appointment to the Planning Board and a conversation with Chief Agrafiotis, it has to do with a speed limit minimum that is unenforceable. I'm concerned because Planning is often making waivers based on a lower speed limit. There was one relative to driveways. My community has a posted speed limit that I've been told is unenforceable. As I understand this has been an issue for years. Can we ask Chief Agrafiotis to speak to that limitation?

Chief Agrafiotis: Over the last 7-8 years, we have done a study of roads and signage. We have a 15 mph speed limit sign that is not legal under NH law. The Police Department has been concerned that they see the posting and expect the police to enforce it. We can't enforce an illegal sign. Many years ago, the Council hoped these signs would deter speeding. If it's an illegal sign, it is unenforceable. There are streets that have 15 mph speed limit signs. All we can do is enforce the law. It is an issue when people ask "why we are not enforcing the signs"? We thought that maybe the town, through the Council, could do a study of the roads. From the Police Department's view, we can only enforce the legal limits. We should consider stop signs and yield signs and look at all the roads and have an engineer look at all the roads and determine what the limits should be so all streets have what the proper signs should be. We are not traffic engineers. Some streets have no signs and some have signs that are not legal. As the town grows, we have subdivisions that are not in tune with the town. There are neighborhoods that have signs that were adequate 8-10 years ago, which are not practical now.

N. VanScoy: If there is an illegal sign, is there an assumed maximum speed?

Chief Agrafiotis: There is a minimum speed through the RSA's. Speeds can be reduced to 25 mph after a traffic study has been done. It can be reduced by 5 mph after a proper study has been done. A mechanism is needed to catch up with deficiencies and keep up with the town growth.

***N. VanScoy motioned to extend the meeting 30 minutes. Seconded by P. Rueppel.
Vote unanimously in favor***

N. VanScoy: The Planning Board should ring in on this. I've heard developers state that the lower speed limit is taken into consideration. As we add more of these signs, it becomes harder to handle.

M. Pischetola: I caution changing speeds to 20 MPH. Children or no children, everyone will want 20 mph signs and it will be impossible to enforce.

D. Hemeon: On a lot of subdivisions on the Planning Board side, the road speed limit was 30 mph and we recommended 25 but we had traffic engineers involved. The Council was told clearly they couldn't put up a 15 mph sign on Dale Road but they went ahead anyway.

P. Rueppel: Years ago, they were having problems with speeding on Lindsay Road and they were constantly in front of us and we agreed to place Stop signs at every intersection. I agree that you must move cautiously.

H. Murray: It was 26 signs that went placed on Lindsay and a week later 27 signs were removed.

N. VanScoy: You said in that development it was recommend to make it 25?

D. Hemeon: We recommended 25 mph in the development with a traffic study. That makes it a legal sign.

N. VanScoy: That is legal even though the Council hasn't adopted the 25 mph limit? It doesn't have to be adopted as a whole town? I think this should be looked into.

D. Ross: My first political issue was to have a school zone sign. We did have a sign committee formed, which was a cumbersome task. I have the manual on State regs in order to have signs put up. We have disbanded that committee.

M. Miville: I'm concerned about the process. Is it my understanding that speed signs are illegal and is there a process that the Council can lower the signs below the RSA and the residents are unaware of that. Is the process being followed? I'm hearing there are signs in the town that are not legal and I'm shocked.

D. Dickson: We have not taken up signs in my nine (9) months on Council.

M. Miville: Are you looking at setting up a committee to review the legal and illegal signs?

N. VanScoy: I will look at what is out there to bring it back to the Council.

Chief Agrafiotis: I will bring the result of the two (2) past studies to the Council.

D. Hemeon: The number of illegal signs is small.

Chief Agrafiotis: The officers are aware of the illegal signs and would never stop anyone for exceeding those speeds.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

C. Granfield: This Monday, January 19th, the Town Offices will be closed. PSNH helicopter services have been gathering damage assessment from the ice storm. Previously, Mr. Miville presented a series of question to the Council regarding transparency. We will provide the answers at an upcoming Council meeting.

Update on Beachesne drainage: Stantec is in the process of collecting the old plans and will soon begin the analysis. The study is scheduled to be complete by the end of January.

The Economic Stimulus, which addresses infrastructure: LGC asked all communities for information and will be following up with commissioners and senators. Projects provided were Benton Road \$356,445. That project is 22,000 feet of roadway and drainage. Town office emergency generator \$86,250. Emergency management includes utilizing the town office as emergency shelter. Water connect from Main to Memorial drive and an emergency interconnect with central water.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

N. VanScoy – Planning Board

The board raised a question on whether the code of ethics was applicable to Council. It appeared exempt.

D. Dickson: I think we fall under the policy of the employees when that is drafted.

J. Gorton: It is a fine line; other board and commissions receive stipends as well.

N. VanScoy: I assumed it did include the Council. I would like it as an agenda item at the next meeting.

Planning Board – MS&G presented a number of things and focused on donation of land. One is the commons, which is being set up in the Heads Pond project. This is yet to go before the Planning Board. It is a generous donation. They are also donating land for a High School and a park area. Part of the discussion regarding the donation of the land was a need for an agreement between the town and MS&G for consideration for the development. Mr. Sorel has provided information but it has to do with whether there is a need for an agreement. The donation is being made with the Council so it is up to the council to enter into such an agreement.

M. Sorel: They want an agreement that they will not be affected by any future zoning changes.

N. VanScoy: The other item is the School Board has asked for the land to be donated to the school and not the Town. I think that needs further discussion. The ZBA and the Conservation Commission Committee have been invited to a Planning Board meeting on January 29 to review zoning amendment proposals.

Union Negotiations – D. Dickson

The next scheduled meeting is February. Safety Center union lawyer meeting tomorrow.

ZBA – J. Gorton

At last night's meeting, both applicants were continued. There was discussion on how many continuances can be granted. Since there was no applicant activity, there was discussion on Variances and Special Exception requirements as well as Rules and Procedures for the ZBA. There was discussion regarding requirement for a clerk, which is appointed by the Town Council. I recommended living by the rules or changing them.

N. VanScoy: I was disturbed by something in the reading file which was the letter from the person coming to our town and litter which is breaking the law. Our police department should address this.

C. Granfield: That letter was received and there was no name and no address.

N. VanScoy: At a minimum, it should be brought to the police department's attention.

PUBLIC INPUT

M. Sorel: In 2005, the Council passed a resolution that they could purchase and sell land. I point that out with respect to the Benton Road issue. It is assessed at \$9500 and the owner is willing to accept \$4000 to \$5000, so I advise the Council to be pro active in pursuing this. I think the resolution is on file. The opportunity is there now.

B. Gahara motion, providing the resolution is in place, to move forward on the land.

There is a parcel at the intersection of Route 3A and Main, which has a "Welcome to Hooksett" sign. There is a Jeanne Shaheen sign since the election and I believe that is town property.

N. VanScoy motioned to extend the meeting 20 minutes. Seconded by G. Longfellow. Vote unanimously in favor

Chief Agrafiotis: There are numerous leaks at the Safety Center and ceiling tiles are falling.

D. Sullivan: Regarding the Shaheen sign, you could call her office and I'm sure they will remove it.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Ann Moynihan

Nancy VanScoy
Town Council Secretary