

## OFFICIAL

### TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES Regular Meeting Wednesday, February 18, 2009

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Dickson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

#### **ATTENDANCE**

Chairman D. Dickson, B. Gahara, J. Gorton, G. Longfellow, P. Loiselle, D. Ross, N. VanScoy  
Excused: M. Pischetola and P. Rueppel

#### **NON-PUBLIC SESSION**

***B. Gahara motioned to enter into non-public session under Per RSA 91-A:3, II (e). Seconded by J. Gorton.***

***Roll Call Vote unanimously in favor***

***B. Gahara motioned to exit non-public session at 6:30 pm. Seconded by J. Gorton.***

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

February 4, 2009

***P. Loiselle motioned to approve the minutes of February 4. Seconded by N. VanScoy.***

D. Dickson asked if Mr. Miville's comments should be attached to the minutes.

G. Longfellow stated that they should be included.

M. Miville's comments will be included as an attachment.

***Vote unanimously in favor as amended.***

#### **PUBLIC INPUT:**

S. Baines: I would like a clarification of what happens when Warrant Articles are presented to the Council. We brought up a Warrant two (2) weeks ago and we were told there would be no input. Two (2) weeks later there is an article in the paper that the Council said this is a long shot. You said you weren't going to take testimony and then you are speaking to the newspaper.

D. Ross: I didn't speak to any newspaper. Any quote was made public session.

S. Baines: We were told there would be no discussion or input.

D. Ross: We always discuss any thing presented to us.

S. Baines: We were dealing with the State and didn't know what we were going to get from them. I want to know the procedure for the future. If an article is going to be discussed, we want to be here to defend it. I want you to know that I'm disturbed and didn't have an opportunity to rebut and I feel we need an apology. The Town Administrator told us that it wouldn't be discussed.

C. Granfield: At the time, I was told there was no information to be presented and a public hearing was required. I didn't anticipate discussion because no information was being presented. I apologize if there was discussion, which I didn't anticipate. The intent was just to schedule the public hearing.

S. Baines: These articles are difficult to pass at all and to start in the negative makes it even more difficult. The State doesn't even know what they are going to do today.

P. Loiselle: When something of this magnitude comes before the Council, it would have been advantageous for the Sewer Department to be here to present it to us.

G. Longfellow: It is this Council's responsibility to place warrants on the ballot and have a public hearing. We need to know what we are talking about before a public hearing.

S. Baines: We went to two (2) hearings at the State and they don't know what the split will be for the stimulus money. In order to get into the game, we had to have an article. The Finance Administrator helped us put it together. We needed to put the article in to get in line for the stimulus money.

Jim Maloney, 18 Coaker Avenue: Hooksett has been spending a lot of time in the paper regarding the Safety Center with regard to leaks and no one did anything to the original contractor until now. Most people who build a home and have those issues go back to the contractor. Why didn't that happen? When I checked on the Town Ambulance referendum, we voted down the ambulance and you went ahead anyway. Now the Sewer went from \$1.5 to \$2.4 million. You got into a situation of signing labor contracts without a quorum of Council. How do you answer the Safety Center and Ambulance issues? The newspaper is in charge of muckraking but I would like some answers.

D. Dickson: Some of the things mentioned will be addressed tonight. We are not going to get into a dialogue on prior Council decisions. Tonight, we will have a Safety Center report and we will be discussing the ambulance tonight as well.

### **NOMINATIONS/APPOINTMENTS**

Available Positions:

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

G. Longfellow stated that he is removing himself as a Councilor from the Sewer commission effective today.

### **SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS**

Public Hearing re: Sewer Bond – Open Public Hearing at 7:00 PM

Bruce Kudrick, Superintendent: This all started with the stimulus package from the President. We learned in January there would be a million dollars coming to NH. You had to get a warrant article out even though we knew it would need to be changed. The Board took the recommendation of DES and went to the form of the '70's when they gave grant money. The 80's were all loans. The first thing is to write the warrant knowing it will be changed at the deliberative session as more information is obtain. They will not have an answer to us until April. We ask for what you needed, which is 9 million dollars. This would be for a compost and bio salt removal. We had to also be "shovel-ready". We have already gone out to bid and we are ready to go. The compost operation is designed and approved by DES. All we need to do is go out for bid. You need a pre-application by February 27<sup>th</sup> that is done. On April 1, they will read the application and those under administrative order to clean water will be the first to receive funds. The others are those that are at 100 % capacity and third are those that are "shovel ready". We are both 100% capacity and "shovel ready". This has fallen into our lap but we need to have a warrant article. It is 75% of the 9 million and 25 % through user fees. When the Commission finds out what they will get for money, they will decide on what will be done. Whatever money we get, we have a plan to improve the wastewater treatment plant. I was told we will know on April 4<sup>th</sup> what we will get. The 25% local money is just to get the article started.

S. Baines: The \$39,000,000 is just the sewer. The full stimulus package is \$830 million.

P. Loiselle: The 25% is strictly ratepayers?

B. Kudrick: Yes and the Council must raise the money and using 4% for 30 years it would be an average of \$4.50 a month. If you use less than average, it will be less than \$4.50 per month. We are still getting people wanting sewer. The Sewer Commission has it written in the article that the income from those new customers would bring down the loan.

EDC are always looking to bring business to town and to improve the infrastructure would be a positive step in that direction.

N. VanScoy: What is the amount of the increase capacity in percentages?

B. Kudrick: To do the complete project we can go from 1.1 million (today) to 2.2 million. We would reduce the suspended solids, nutrients and phosphorous to the river.

N. VanScoy: The 25% would be raised with users and system development fees?  
Are you looking at a rate increase?

B. Kudrick: The rate would go up 60 cents per thousand for 30 years.

N. VanScoy: Thank you and I hope the Town and the departments and the Council work more closely with the Sewer Department and the Sewer Commissioners to get this passed for the Economic Development of the town.

D. Dickson: The last sentence of the warrant article was read:  
"This article is contingent on the stimulus grant and if the Grant is not received, this article will be null and void"

D. Ross: It doesn't specify the grant size.

B. Kudrick: They don't use the word grant they call it "Principal Forgiveness". We have a back up contingently plans for this no matter what money we get. We won't know the bond amount until April and at the Deliberative Session, the Commission will change the warrant article to reflect what we actually receive. This is unusual but these are unusual times. The State is trying to figure out how to divide the money and they will need to defend it. If the information is not available, we are considering a special town meeting. The State is trying to work with the towns to get this done.

M. Farwell: If you don't have a number on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April, you will withdraw the Article?

C. Granfield: You need a number.

M. Farwell: The Commissioners have the option to use System Development fees to retire this bond. I would like the Commissioners to be required to take the System Development fees to reduce the bond. As a user, if we increase capacity, it is only fair that the new users should be paying to reduce the bond. As new ratepayers come on, any system development fees will go to reduce the bond. The 75/25, is it your intent that will hold as a percentage regardless of the money received? So if you get 2 million, would you still ask the users for 2 million?

B. Kudrick: No, they would look at a new plan. Until we get an exact number, we don't know what we will do. Whatever comes in, the Commission will build to that level. We will hopefully know by the 4<sup>th</sup>. The Board has contingency plans.

P. Loiselle: What is the total cost of the project?

S. Baines: The whole project is \$15 million. The original price tag was \$9 million.

James Maloney: I would like to see that there be a stipulation that if they go on line, those fees go to paying off the bond. If we are essentially building this for capacity, I don't want a \$20 million TIF district where the fees are waived and the residents are paying the fees and not the commercial developers. The other question is if we only get \$2 million, will you ask for more than \$2.4 million from the residents. I don't know the phases of the project. Could you drop the solids and move forward with that or must you finish.

B Kudrick: That is not the intent. Whatever money comes in, they will try to get everything paid for by developers. The Sewer Department doesn't waive fees. That is how the Commission collected \$3 million dollars. We need that money to pay off this money. The intent is they don't want to hit the ratepayers any harder than they have to. This is the worst-case scenario. We do not want to go up on our rates. The Commission works very hard on that.

M. Miville: Are the Council and the Budget Commission voting to recommend this article in theory only? You must vote to recommend for the deliberative session? You are voting on theory without a total on it. Before deliberative session, it must be recommend, correct?

B. Gahara: What Bruce is trying to do is pave a way so that come April 4<sup>th</sup>, if the number changes, we can make the change on the floor. It is written very well and allows us to make the adjustment at the deliberative session. I hope we get the \$9 million.

Close Public Hearing at 7:30 pm.

### **Cemetery Commission update**

Sharon Champagne and Tina Paquette, Cemetery Commissioners

Tina Paquette: I have been on the Cemetery Commission for 4 ½ years and I am currently the chair. We meet four (4) times per year. We sold 18 lots this year. We take calls for burials and historical inquiries. We issue deeds and show lots. Jo Ann shows the lots in the day. We discuss Commission issues with regard to legal concerns and transfer of lots. The State Cemetery is directed by Terry Knowles. Classes are given once a year for updates. We do a spring clean up. We place notices in the paper. We take care of town citizen complaints and we have posted signs regarding dumping. Our budget and our annual reports are done. We attend meetings with the State. We have lowered our budget this year from \$3000 to \$1500. In the future, we will need to put a line item for maintenance at Martin and Head's Cemetery. Some stones need to be up righted. Surveys are need at Martin and Head Cemetery to compare to the data in the computer and on our maps. At Head Cemetery, there is an iron marker, which needs to be refurbished at the suggestion of Kathy Northrup. Clay Cemetery needs to be addressed and there is no sign. We are looking into how we can help the Highway Department with burials. Dale knows someone that may be able to give us some prices. We need the cost from the Highway Department so we have something to compare. We need to learn more about the death certificates because we don't get involved with that now. The American Legion has requested installing a monument at Heads Cemetery to honor those in the armed forces. We hope to have that installed this spring. Jo Ann Burwell is also a commissioner but is leaving at the end of this year, which will leave one term to fill.

N. VanScoy: In the middle of the summer, the trail at Head's Pond was extended to the cemetery. The Commission expressed some concerns. Have there been any problems?

T. Paquette: They wanted the trail to go through the cemetery and out the back and the State agreed with the Commission and felt it was not a place to be traversed.

D. Dickson: To what extend does Park and Rec and the Highway Department support the Cemetery?

D. Hemeon: We cut the grass and dig the graves. We have a \$2000 budget to fertilize and mow.

We have a form that tells us the lot. The rules state that the Cemetery Commissioners must meet the people at the cemetery but that isn't being done. Mark Hubbard does this in other towns. I don't mind digging but we charge \$300 and the money goes to the Town. The marking system at the cemetery is so bad that we don't know where we should be digging.

**Michael Williams, Fire Chief re: Impact Fee Purchase**

Chief Williams: Currently, Hooksett Fire-Rescue operates advanced life support with one (1) ambulance and two (2) engine companies providing first response to all EMS incidents in Hooksett. We are looking to purchase five (5) new defibrillators to outfit the majority of our fleet with this lifesaving equipment. We have three (3) defibrillators/monitors and 4 AED devices. We are looking at purchasing another three (3) AED devices and two (2) defibrillator monitors.

P. Loiselle: Why are we not conforming to the three (3) bid rule?

Chief Williams: We only received one (1) quote, which is in your packet, because we are standardizing this new equipment with our current equipment and this is a sole source provider. The total purchasing price is \$43,340.61 and we have \$352,032.00 currently in the impact fee account.

***D. Ross motioned to waive the 3-bid rule. Seconded by B. Gahara.***

**Roll Call:**

P. Loiselle	N	G. Longfellow	Y
J. Gorton	Y	D. Ross	Y
D. Dickson	Y	P. Rueppel	-
W. Gahara	Y	N. VanScoy	Y
M. Pischetola	-		

***6:1 motion carries***

***D. Ross motioned to authorize the Fire Chief to purchase the defibrillators and AED devices for 43,340.61 utilizing impact fees. Seconded by B. Gahara.***

N. VanScoy: Why not purchase 2 and 1 rather than 3 and 2?

Chief Williams: That will cover everything that should be on the road at any given time.

N. VanScoy: What is the life span of this equipment?

Chief Williams: I'm not sure of the life expectancy. We have some now that are difficult to find parts for due to their age.

**Roll Call:**

P. Loiselle	N	G. Longfellow	Y
J. Gorton	Y	D. Ross	Y
D. Dickson	Y	P. Rueppel	-
W. Gahara	Y	N. VanScoy	Y
M. Pischetola			

***6:1 motion carries***

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Warrant Articles**

Union Contract

C. Granfield: The Union Contract was ratified on Monday and can be placed as a warrant article. (See attached)

**B. Gahara motioned to move the article. Seconded by P. Loiselle  
Roll call vote unanimously in favor.**

Children's Librarian

C. Granfield: The Town Council already approved this Warrant Article. (See attached)  
The change is adding a sentence for clarification and this has the blessing of the Budget Committee

**D. Ross motioned to add the sentence for clarification. Seconded by J. Gorton.**

**Roll Call:**

P. Loiselle	Y	G. Longfellow	N
J. Gorton	Y	D. Ross	Y
D. Dickson	Y	P. Rueppel	-
W. Gahara	Y	N. VanScoy	Y
M. Pischetola	-		

**6:1 motion carries**

Sewer Commission

**G. Longfellow motioned to place the sewer warrant article on the ballot. Seconded by P. Loiselle.  
Roll Call Vote unanimously in favor**

### **Town Ambulance Update**

C. Granfield: Currently, Hooksett Fire-Rescue provides back up ambulance service to Tri Town Ambulance, which Hooksett has an agreement with. In discussion and review, if we go forward with a full time ambulance, we need to notify Tri Town as well as the other towns. The Town of Hooksett will pay our ambulance provider \$79,788 on July 1, 2009. The money would need to be available to the Fire Department to cover fuel, billing, paramedic intercepts and overtime staff. It is recommended, if we go forward, to write a letter to the current ambulance service provider advising them when Hooksett Fire-Rescue will assume this transporting service full time. I would also request approval to purchase a backup ambulance utilizing the Fire Department Impact Fees. There is sizable revenue of approximately \$200,000 if the Town goes forward.

Chief Williams: At the January 3<sup>rd</sup>, meeting, the Council inquired when we would go forward with this service. The revenue projections are attached to the staff report for collection rates; one at 75 % and one at 80%.

B. Gahara: I think the department did their due diligence by meeting and discussing it. We developed questions and answers. We are equipped and ready and can save the town a lot of money. We are looking for support on a motion to take this over as of July 1, 2010.

**B. Gahara motioned for the Fire Department to provide full time ambulance service as July 1, 2010 and notify the current provide in the form of a letter and to approve the purchase of a backup ambulance utilizing the Fire Impact fees. Seconded by J. Gorton.**

N. VanScoy: We need to consider how this will affect our neighbors and how that will effect their agreement with Tri Town. The Town did vote down the purchase of an ambulance and a prior Council over ruled that and purchased an ambulance. We need further consideration of this decision.

D. Ross: Article 25 was an appropriation Article for \$126,000 to fund the hires and maintenance and not to purchase an ambulance. The purchase that the Council made was for the ambulance using impact fees. Impact fees, if not spent will lapse. I did defend the purchase. Establishing a full time ambulance service is a sticking point. That was in the article. If we tried to do this without going before the voters... We have to be careful when a specific wording is in the article, which it didn't say buy an ambulance. Will we hire more staff to support additional staff?

Chief Williams: There would be no new hires.

B. Gahara: The \$79,000, which we wouldn't pay to Tri Town on July 1, 2010, would be use to support the billing and fuel and we will also collect revenue. We are looking at \$263,000 in revenue.

Chief Williams: When the rescue vehicle was purchase with impact fee, we did get legal counsel.

P. Loiselle: How would this enhance the service for the community. In the past, there have been issues with lapse times. That was the catalyst for looking down the road at our own service.

Chief Williams: That has improved with the back up service. In a cardiac arrest, minutes are critical.

B. Gahara: Tri Town ambulance is only in Hooksett days, Monday through Friday. Nights and weekends, it is housed in Allenstown.

B. Gahara: The residents at the south end of Hooksett are most affected.

D. Ross: I'm fully supportive of this and Hooksett has outgrown the other situation. Even if we can do something, doesn't mean we should without the voters weighing in on it. I think it is an easy sell without the personnel and I think it will pass. Fire and Police are the top dogs in this town and the safety of our citizens is primary. This will make Hooksett more attractive to people looking to come to Hooksett. We want to do this the right way.

N. VanScoy: You can't purchase an ambulance without gas and maintenance and those were in the article. Even if the Council could purchase the ambulance, you do need to provide the support. We do have services now and we are doing billing.

Chief Williams: We contract the billing service with a company in Concord. We pay per ambulance bill. It is \$20.00 per ambulance bill. If we go with this full time service, I recommend changing to a service like Com Star.

N. VanScoy: You have your collection percentage. Do we pursue non-collected funds?

Chief Williams: The collection policy is non aggressive. If they can't pay, we don't pursue it.

N. VanScoy: What is our collection percentage now?

Chief Williams: I don't know. There is still some back billing going on.

N. VanScoy: Do you know the portion of the calls that we are responding to vs. Tri Town both as primary and as back up?

Chief Williams: We assumed 100 transports as a back up. We are doing more and more. I think over the first year, it will be over 100. We do over 700 EMS responses.

There is just over \$300,000 in impact fees available after the purchase of the defibrillators. We need a little over \$150,000 for the ambulance

***Roll Call Vote unanimously in favor***

**Inventory Forms**

The Assessor's office has requested the Town consider discontinuing the use of the inventory forms. The Board of Assessors discussed this at a prior meeting.

G. Longfellow: There are two (2) separate issues, the Business Income and Expense form and the Inventory form.

**P. Loiselle motioned to maintain the Inventory Form as in the past without the Business Income requirements. Seconded by D. Ross.**

D. Ross: The State Statute states you can't change your decision to send this out after October 1<sup>st</sup>. It should be discussed. I think we should look into an alternate form sometime between now and next October.

D. Dickson: After the last Assessor's meeting, I thought that they had to be mailed by a certain time. In the past two (2) years, the school district is the only one who has asked for the information. We only get 50% response, so if 25% of the data is missing, it's flawed and it puts hardship on the staff. We did generate \$60,000 in penalties, but are we in the business of collecting penalties or getting data?

G. Longfellow: Many years ago, I did the town districts based on the Inventory forms, and I got 90%. I had to add 10% in after it was complete.

P. Loiselle: Can we enhance the return by increasing the penalty?

D. Dickson: No, it is set by state statute.

J. Gorton: Most residence I spoke to see no reason to respond to this request and if there is no change to their property, there is no significant change to their value for the time and effort to respond and the time to input the information. I never heard anyone in favor of the Inventory forms.

G. Longfellow: In 2010, we need to do a complete redistricting and the only tool is the State Census, which is not a fair number. We have this job to do and we won't have any tools to do it with.

B. Gahara: I do agree with J. Gorton, the people I spoke to weren't in favor but since we need a census to do the districts in 2010, is there an alternative?

D. Dickson: I would think the Federal Census Data is more accurate than the 25% we are missing and the school is the only one requesting the data.

**Roll Call:**

P. Loiselle	Y	G. Longfellow	Y
J. Gorton	Y	D. Ross	N
D. Dickson	N	P. Rueppel	
W. Gahara	Y	M. Pischetola	
N. VanScoy	Y		

5:2 motion carries

**Renewable Energy Property Tax Exemptions**

C. Granfield: This was tabled at the last meeting. Currently the Town doesn't assess for solar or wind energy equipment so there is no added assessed value; thus the revenue impact of this exemption would be zero. It doesn't have impact and the exemption is not recommended to be implemented because it is not being assessed.

N. VanScoy: I was under the impression that we would look into making it a policy not to assess Solar Energy Systems and that is what we were going to discuss.

D. Ross: I think what is happening now is if we were to adopt this RSA and this exemption, it would cost the town money. It is not assessed now so this issue is mute. I don't feel it is proper to put the burden on the Town to assess this. I encourage future Councils to continue not to assess Solar Panels.

N. VanScoy: I would like to point out that at the last meeting Mr. Haywood said it wouldn't be an additional cost because we rotate assessment but it would take five (5) years and no additional cost.



***N. VanScoy motioned to make it a policy to not assess Solar Energy Systems as part of property Tax Assessment. Seconded by G. Longfellow.  
Roll call vote unanimously in favor***

**Disabled Property Tax Exemption**

C. Granfield: To move forward, the Town would need to establish the income and asset limit. The taxpayer cannot receive this exemption and the elderly exemption; they would receive whichever one is greater. The minimum amount imposed by NH law is 728.00 per year. 30 recipients would relate to an impact of \$21,800 annually.

D. Ross: Adopting this regulation puts a burden on the taxpayer. There is a mechanism for hardship abatements. If someone were seeking an exemption or a discount in his or her tax rate, we would allow for this consideration. We already have elderly and people deeding over their property to the town for taxes. This would encumber us with more duties and establish forms and guidelines. If someone has a disability, we could establish a policy that says if you make a request in writing, the Council will review on a case-by-case basis. This would be a policy we could create.

D. Dickson: Would this be up to the Council or the Assessor to develop?

D. Ross: I think the Assessors.

G. Longfellow: We give a \$50,000 exemption for the blind without showing any income. We have veterans that get \$250. We give elderly exemptions. When you put a limit, it is considered a hardship exemption. I suggest we think about setting an income limit similar to the elderly and let it go at that.

P. Loiselle: We do not have a disability exemption but we have a hardship exemption on a case-by-case scenario and I think that is a more cautious way to go. If you have assets over \$250,000, they can be moved to children for example. I think Assessors could take them up on an individual basis.

B. Gahara and J. Gorton agree with Council Loiselle to handle it as a hardship.

P. Loiselle: It should start with the Assessors office and then they should bring it to the Council for final approval.

Rich Belanger friend of Dennis Couture: This is like a vicious circle. We already went to the Assessors and they said we need to go to the Council. I already did that, I went to Assessors and they sent me here.

N. VanScoy: I agree with my fellow Councilors, my experience in speak with the Coutures, if this is the policy, it is important that the Assessing Department knows the process and should say we don't have an exemption but we have a hardship, This is a communication issue and a document issue that states here are your rights and here is a form to file for a hardship.

D. Ross: It will become a policy that the Board of Assessors will consider a hardship a qualification for an abatement at the discretion of the board.

R. Belanger: They told us we had to canvas the town and find 25 voters.....that is putting road blocks up.

D. Ross: We want to simplify the matter. How long have you lived in town? How long have you qualified for Title 16? This will give you the opportunity to apply for an abatement for a hardship.

G. Longfellow: I disagree with David. You are fooling around with taxpayer money and we don't have the authority to give abatements without backup.

P. Loiselle: You stated there is a program called "Home of Your own". How long did it take to get into place?

R. Belanger: It gave discounted loans through HUD. It provided opportunities. This property goes back to Medicare and Medicaid.

P. Loiselle: This is a Federal Program that was discontinued?

N. VanScoy: The reason I believe that this is a better solution, with the adoption of the RSA, we would need to put limits like we will give \$500 off the tax bill. This will allow us to look at each case individually. It would be useful in keeping those faced with a hardship a means to get it and those that have the funds could not take advantage of the system.

***D. Ross motioned to include any physical or developmental disabilities as a factor in determining hardship abatements. N. VanScoy seconded.***

D. Ross: For residents who need help, they will have an avenue to go.

Albert Couture, 55 River Front Drive, Unit 114, Manchester: Denis is 2 ½ years old mentally due to a DPT inoculation. He has never worked and is non-verbal. How disabled do you have to get? I understand you are trying to protect the Town of Hooksett for money. There are some who take advantage, but this guy is 37 years old and 2 ½ mentally and has been to Spaulding Youth Center, Crotchet Mountain... This letter describes what Denis is all about.

***Roll Call Vote unanimously in favor***

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **Bond Release for SAMCO Site**

C. Granfield: This is a request for the release of \$20,000 plus interest to Samco for site compliance based on site visit completed by Stantec.

***J. Gorton motioned to release the site compliance surety in the amount of \$20,000 plus interest to Samco. Seconded by P. Loiselle.  
Vote unanimously in favor***

#### **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

C. Granfield: This Friday we will meet with the manager of the LGC for the impact and the status of the State Budget. The Governor is moving forward to remove revenue sharing. (\$797,000 impact to Hooksett)

Report regarding the Facility Assessment of the Safety Center. Three (3) proposals were received from \$6940. to \$11,980. Each would provide a final report on levels of work. The Final report will include short and long term issues and cost. This would be complete by April.

I am in the process of awarding the contract to HL Turner from Concord. They are professional architect services.

D. Ross: My concern is at this time, when there are plenty of contractors looking for work, we are creating a big inspection process and we will take a lot of time getting reports. Could we get contractors that do roofing and windows to look at the process and give recommendations?

C. Granfield: I think that's what has been done in the past and all contractors have a different opinion. That is why we decided to go with architects and engineers.  
The cost \$6940.00

J. Gorton: In the future, any contract given by this town should have a performance contract to make sure it is done correctly. It would have solved a lot of problems had this been done. A performance contract still applies to a low bid.

C. Granfield: We have been in discussion with St. Anselms for interns.

NH Metro Center, Chair Bill Sirak with SNHPC and the Chamber to regionalize efforts in the region.

***N. VanScoy motioned to extend to 9:45 PM. Seconded by J. Gorton.  
Vote unanimously in favor***

#### **SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**

N. VanScoy (Planning Board): I wanted to inform the Council that the Planning Department is putting together a Village Study Group. They have met three (3) times and have been meeting in the late afternoon to accommodate my schedule.

In conjunction with Carol's report on the Metro, we had a person at the Planning Board report on the rail service project and I recommend we bring him to speak at a Council meeting. He was very brief but provided a lot of information. I recommend we ask Mark Richardson to address the Board with his Rail Proposal.

(Work it out with the Administrator)

The Beachesne development residents have submitted letters, which include personal experiences regarding their water issues. The study is scheduled to be completed by the end of the month. Another development with similar concerns is Ravenwood. It may be of interest to the Council to read the minutes so the Council is aware of the issues.

P. Loiselle (Police Commission): Police Commissioners met last night and they were looking for an update on the phone system from the Administrator.

#### **PUBLIC INPUT**

Judith Bergeron, 319 Londonderry Turnpike

Eileen Romanoski, 319 Londonderry Turnpike

Judith Bergeron: I sent two (2) letters to inquire about lower my Comcast bill. When I called them they said this had to be done through the town. I'm trying to do this for the seniors. I live at Holly Berry. Comcast told us we could petition the town and they could get a lower rate.

J. Gorton: That may be tied to the franchise rate. Once we sign the contract, we agree to the franchise fee, which is cents on the \$15.00 rate. The town can't say what service is provided for what rate.

Judy Bergeron: You are the only people they said that can get us a discount.

C. Granfield: I got a petition today from people to meet with the Council to reduce the rate. I was going to contact Comcast to see what the issue was.

James Maloney: I'm encouraged that the Council addressed some topics I raised earlier. I do think there are trust issues with the Council and going behind the backs of the public's wishes is a problem. I don't have an issue with the Sewer Department. They have a mission and will do a good job. I have three (3) children and I don't have a problem with the ambulance. In the past, Tri Town made a better case in the past for stating they could provide mutual aid if they were not available. The other thing is if you burn the ties with other communities with the ambulance, it will be difficult to look at a regional high school with other communities. The firemen do a great job and I'm sure they will do a good job. That wasn't my point.

J. Gorton: As one who voted for the rescue vehicle to be purchased with Impact fee, I listened to testimony that said that the Town of Hooksett was suffering due to lack of service by Tri-Town and violations of the contract. There were many times when a call was made and they couldn't respond due to broken down vehicles or manpower.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Ann Moynihan