

Official

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES Regular Meeting Wednesday, December 2, 2009

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Gahara called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

PRESENT: David Boutin, David Dickson, Chairman William Gahara, Paul Loiselle, George Longfellow, Michael Pischetola, David Ross, Nancy VanScoy and Carol Granfield (Town Administrator)

EXCUSED: Jim Gorton

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 18, 2009

D. Boutin motioned to approve the minutes of November 18, 2009. Seconded by N. VanScoy. Vote unanimously in favor (2 abstained)

PUBLIC INPUT

M. Miville, 42 Main: I have a suggestion regarding the street signs. Main Street, where I live and several residents are concerned and want to know if the Council has authority to change the sign for Main Street to say "No Trucks", particularly for anything over two axils. There are tractor-trailers and construction vehicles using air brakes, which means they are not observing the speed limit. Can the Council authorize a "No thru traffic for trucks"?

P. Loiselle stated that Main Street, which is currently a State road, was to be taken over by the town once the Connector Road is turned over to the State.

NOMINATIONS/APPOINTMENTS

Available Board Positions

1. Planning Board, alternate member, exp. 6/2012
2. Zoning Board of Adjustment, alternate member, exp. 6/2010
3. Zoning Board of Adjustment, alternate member, exp. 6/2012

Appointment

1. Town Hall Preservation Committee, no expiration – Russell Young
Tabled to next meeting.

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS

Recognition of Firefighters

Members of Engine 5 and Ladder 1 were recognized for their actions at a recent fire at Mow Town Power Equipment located at 242 West River Road. Firefighter Jesse Gayer suffered 2nd and 3rd degree burns and spent a week in MA General Hospital.

Engine 5 Team: Lt. John Drew, FF Jesse Gayer and FF Jeremy Doyle.

Ladder 1 Team: Capt. James Anderson, FF Toby Gamache, FF Dennis Desrochers and FF Scott Lewandowski.

HawkBots, Hooksett Lego Robotics Team Presentation

Cawley Middle School Students Robotics Team presented their Project "Fox-e-Fumes".

Team members: Noah Cote, Conor Hunt-Bull, Brady L'Heureux, Alex Legere, Jacob Tilton, Bobby Wells, Creighton Yanchar. Jacob Huppe, was unable to attend due to illness.

OLD BUSINESS

Automated Collection & Single Stream Recycling

D. Boyce responded to the issue raised at the last Council meeting regarding the cost savings reflected in other communities. These figures were not available but workman's compensation cost should be reduced using the automated collection system. Goffstown has been using Automated Recycling for 20 years.

Discussion ensued.

G. Longfellow: I'm not anti-recycling or automation, I'm anti spending of taxpayer's money. There are two analyses out there. There is mine and a combination of Carol, Christine and Diane's. I have nine (9) items to address. In the automated system, they're using a 3% growth factor. I can't remember a time where they built 120 homes in one (1) year. That would be a \$36 million increase in tax base. Last year, we had a \$33 million increase in the tax base. The gross tonnage was used and it should have been only actual packer tonnage 20 % less than gross. The present system, using a 3% growth and an additional crew for additional stops would leave the second crew with 3.6 hours of work. What would they do the other hours?

D. Boyce: Last meeting, I conceded that you were correct that the growth won't move as fast as we thought but we still need a new truck in the next few years. We can stay with the old system and we will need more crew or we can go with the new automated system and we won't need any additional employees.

G. Longfellow: It will take us 10 years to get to where we need another crew, so buy a new packer which has an average life of 10 years.

D. Boutin: Who buys the barrels?

D. Boyce: If we have the residents buy the barrels, we can buy the truck right away, otherwise we must start to put money away for the barrels.

G. Longfellow: Either way, it is all taxpayer money.

P. Loiselle: Would there be any tax impact on the homeowners in purchasing the new vehicle?

D. Boyce: I currently have half the money. I can buy the trucks without an increase in taxes if the residents buy the barrels.

D. Boutin: In the paper recently, there were two (2) towns that have pulled out of the single stream recycling. Can we ask for more information regarding those circumstances?

D. Ross: The money you have is taxpayer money. You just wouldn't have to raise more money through taxes. Georges' concern is the money that could be used for other purposes like removing the diesel tanks which is very expensive.

D. Dickson: We have reviewed this for a while. This should be a two-phase project. What would be the cost to go to single stream?

D. Boyce: Very few.

D. Dickson: That is the first phase, very turnkey. That can be started with just Council's approval. Then we need to continue to educate the public.

G. Longfellow: Diane has been selling the recycling at \$47.97 per ton, which gave us \$18,000 per year in revenue. You would be giving that up if you went to Single Stream. There is no benefit to go to Single Stream unless you get automation. To go to single stream, we must pay someone to accept it.

M. Pischetola: Currently, do you make money or lose money under George's theory?

D. Boyce: We have brought in \$16,000. We would lose some money in single stream. We currently are running at 10%.

G. Longfellow: For some reason, on the comparison, it doesn't include any income for recycling assuming we have already gone to single stream. That is a \$200,000 a year figure over a 10-year period. The overtime cost for the crew with 3% growth would only be \$150,000. A second crew would cost \$1.8 million over the next 10 years with the automation. I say we can go the next 10 years without automation. We are just not big enough in this town.

N. VanScoy: Would we need a third truck with the automated system for maintenance and repair.

D. Boyce: We currently have two (2) trucks and we would eventually need a third. We plan to retrofit current trucks for backup.

D. Dickson suggested this be placed on the January agenda to accommodate more time for the Councilors to do more research and I suggest we look at a two-phase approach.

D. Boutin: I want real numbers and I need to know if we go to Single Stream will we lose the 16,000. I don't have those numbers and I won't vote until I have all the numbers.

G. Longfellow: Another option we previously looked at is "Pay As You Throw". Many towns have gone that route. You start saving money in the first year.

D. Boyce: "Pay As You Throw" is good if you can provide the recycling option.

This will be placed on the Agenda for the second meeting in January.

Street Signs/Speed Limits

D. Hemeon stated that the inventory list has been updated and all missing signs have been ordered. Goffstown Road will be posted at 25 mph. The town has been plowing Wedgewood Circle, which is a private road and will discontinue that practice after this year. The only private road that the town plows is the Library.

Kim Chabot, Prosecutor for the Town came forward with Chief Agrafiotis to respond to any legal questions regarding the enforcement of the speed limit signs.

D. Ross asked if Ms. Chabot was aware of the number of towns that have been sued over an improperly posted signs.

K. Chabot: I have no idea. You cannot enforce something that is not lawfully posted.

D. Ross: Can the Council appoint Dale Hemeon or the police chief to determine whether the speed limit should be lower?

K. Chabot: No, you need a controlled traffic study as is done by DOT. You can go to DOT to see how they determine the speed limits. To go from the prima facie limit, you must do so based on a study.

N. VanScoy read RSA 265:63 Alterations of Limit, into the record.

265:63 Alteration of Limits. –

I. Whenever local authorities in their respective jurisdictions determine on the basis of an engineering or traffic investigation that the prima facie speed permitted under this chapter is greater or less than is

reasonable and safe under the conditions found to exist upon a way or part of a way, the local authority may determine and declare a reasonable and safe prima facie limit thereon which:

- (a) Decreases the limit at intersections;
- (b) Increases the limit within an urban district but not to more than 60 miles per hour;
- (c) Decreases the limit outside an urban district but not to less than 25 miles per hour; or
- (d) Decreases the limit within any business or urban residence district but not to less than 25 miles per hour.

II. Local authorities in their respective jurisdictions shall determine by an engineering or traffic investigation the proper prima facie speed for all arterial streets and shall declare a reasonable and safe prima facie limit thereon which may be greater or less than the prima facie speed permitted hereunder for an urban district.

II-a. Local authorities shall not be required to hire outside consultants to determine the proper prima facie speed limits as provided in paragraphs I and II if the local community has sufficient staff to conduct the required engineering or traffic investigation.

III. Any altered limit established as hereinabove authorized shall be effective at all times or during hours of darkness or at other times as may be determined when appropriate signs giving notice thereof are erected upon such street or way.

IV. Any alteration of limits on state highways or extensions thereof in a municipality by local authorities shall not be effective until such alteration has been approved by the commissioner of transportation.

V. Notwithstanding the other provisions of this section, local authorities shall modify the speed limits authorized herein so that said speed limits shall not exceed the temporary prima facie speed limits established for the state highway system under RSA 265:62, II, so long as the same are in effect.

D. Boutin raised the issue of safety and traffic at SNHU.

D. Dickson motioned to change two (2) of the current sign on Goffstown Road to 25 mph. Seconded by P. Loiselle. (Study done by Chief Agrafiotis and Dale Hemeon)

C. Granfield: In another community where I worked previously, we had a Safety Committee, which did not include any engineers, approve the placement of speed signs.

Roll Call:

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

7:1 (M. Pischetola) motion carried.

P. Cecilio requested the Council authorize six (6) Crime Watch signs to be placed in Hooksett. The cost to the Town will include the post and the labor for the Highway Department to install the signs.

D. Ross motioned to approve the signs to be placed at the locations identified by Captain Cecilio. Seconded D. Boutin. Vote unanimously in favor.

D. Hemeon stated that he has received complaints from residents that the streetlights on the Connector Road (College Park Drive) are not lit. Since College Park Drive has not been taken over by the State, the electric bill to PSNH was not been paid.

C. Granfield will address the issue with Nancy Mayville at the State level.

NEW BUSINESS

Facility Advisory Committee Report

Mike Reed, Chairman of the Facility Review Committee: Matt Comai, Russ Pelletier, Carol Granfield, and David Boutin.

M. Reed reviewed the findings of the report, which include the committee's charge, and scope of work, the inventory of existing conditions, a questionnaire completed by all Department Heads, and recommendations. The recommendations are primarily in relation to immediate safety issues. The cost associated with the work was not part of this study. The Safety Center was found to be in need of immediate attention. The report from Harvey Construction was attached to the study. The Old Town Hall was not part of this committee's work.

***P. Loiseau motioned to accept the report as presented. Seconded by G. Longfellow.
Vote unanimously in favor***

Chairman Gahara stated that this will be a future agenda item and encouraged all Councilors to review the report.

Health Insurance Bid Award/Analysis Melcher & Prescott did a power point presentation

Melcher & Prescott was contracted by the Town to issue a request for proposals for Health Insurance and analyze the results. Bill Bald provided a power point presentation of the analysis. The drivers for the increase in cost were a result of the increase in claims. The bids resulted in a validation of the current costs. The recommendation was to award the contract to LGC.

C. Granfield recommended the bid be awarded to LGC and the Matthew Thornton Plan be modified for prescription coverage.

B. Gahara led a discussion on preventative health. He discussed the fact the smoking and obesity are the largest contributors to health care costs because of the underlying diseases that accompany these issues. People (employees) that work on preventative health measures and eliminate smoking and control weight gain can help reduce employer insurance costs and reduce personal co-pays and deductibles. He asked Bill Bald about health risk assessments that employees could participate in to get healthy and be rewarded with reduced costs insurance incentives on an annual basis.

Bill Bald advised the Council that Health Risk Assessments could be given with an incentive for a reduced deductible.

D. Boutin suggested a committee similar to the facilities committee be established to look into these issues.

***P. Loiseau motioned to award the contract to LGC. Seconded by D. Boutin.
Roll call vote unanimously in favor***

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- The Hooksett Service Center project will be issuing RFPs. The positive benefit is the town will receive tax and building permit fees.
- Holiday Closures
The Town Hall will close at noon on December 24th and reopen on December 28th.
The Town Hall will close at 3:00 pm on December 31st and reopen on January 4th.
- Harvey Construction will be making a proposal for the Safety Center.
- CIP Committee has completed their work and will present their recommendations to the Planning Board on December 7th. Once adopted, it will be presented with the budget.
- The Budget is being finalized and will be presented to Council on December 16th.

The Police and Library budgets will go to the Council directly from the Commission and the Trustees.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

N. VanScoy - Council Rules meeting is rescheduled for December 16th at 6:00 pm.
Planning Board – CIP is complete and well present at the next Planning Board meeting.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

***D. Ross motioned to enter into non-public session at 9:15 pm. Seconded by D. Boutin.
Roll Call unanimously in favor***

P. Loiselle motioned to exit non-public session 9:20 pm. Seconded by D. Boutin.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 9:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Ann Moynihan

Nancy VanScoy
Town Council Secretary