

Official

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES Special Meeting David R. Cawley Middle School Wednesday, April 13, 2011

Note: The Council held a meeting at the middle school as a part of the 8th Grade Government Program initiated this year, which started in February. Two groups of 8th Grade students observed the meeting in two separate sessions. The Council discussed half of the agenda at each session to give all students a feel for how a Council meeting is conducted.

Mr. Stephen HARRIS, David R. Cawley Middle School Principal gave a brief introduction to each class and introduced the Councilors. He thanked the Councilors for coming and holding a meeting at the school.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Gahara called the meeting to order at 8:15 am.

PRESENT: Vincent Lembo, James Levesque, Daniel Paradis, Michael Pischetola, Nancy VanScoy, Carol Granfield (Town Administrator) and Chair Bill Gahara.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Gahara stated the Council is pleased to hold a meeting at the school this morning. He gave a brief explanation of how the meeting will be conducted.

OLD BUSINESS

Amended Warrant Articles

Warrant Article #'s 4, 5, 16 and 18 were amended at the Deliberative Session held on April 9th.

Article #4

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 \$ 15,996,789? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$16,039,629.00, 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 #5 through #17. RECOMMENDED BY THE BUDGET COMMITTEE (5-0)

Article #5

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Council to enter into a seven year lease agreement for \$ 340,000.00 the purpose of leasing a tanker for the Fire-Rescue Department, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 56,712.00 for the first year's payment for that purpose. This lease agreement contains an escape clause. RECOMMENDED BY THE BUDGET COMMITTEE (5-0)

Article #16

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 24,500.00 to be placed in the Road Impact Fee Traffic Study Capital Reserve Fund already established. RECOMMENDED BY THE BUDGET COMMITTEE (5-0)

Note: Balance held by the Trustees as of November 30, 2010 for this fund is \$37,535.52

Article #18

To see if the Town will vote to establish a revolving fund pursuant to RSA 31:95-h, for the purpose of ambulance services. All revenues received for ambulance services will be deposited into the fund, and the money in the fund shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year, and shall not be considered part of the Town's general fund unreserved fund balance. The Town Treasurer shall have custody of all moneys in the fund, and shall pay out the same only upon order of the Town Administrator and the majority of the Town Council with authority to expend. Such funds may be expended only for the purpose for which the fund was created.

Article #4

M. Pischetola moved to recommend as amended. Motion seconded by N. VanScoy. Roll call vote carried unanimously

Article #5

V. Lembo moved to recommend as amended. Motion seconded by D. Paradis. Roll call vote carried unanimously.

Article #16

N. VanScoy moved to recommend as amended. Motion seconded by M. Pischetola. Roll call vote carried unanimously

Article #18

M. Pischetola moved to recommend as amended. Motion seconded by V. Lembo.

C. Granfield explained this warrant article was amended at the Deliberative Session. This was changed in a way that the Fire Department would have to get approval from the Town Administrator as well as the Town Council for all expenses. From the staff's perspective, it is not recommended. If the Warrant Article does not pass, revenue from the ambulance service will go to general funds.

Roll call vote failed unanimously.

N. VanScoy left the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

April 6, 2011 – M. Pischetola moved to approve the April 6, 2011 minutes. Motion seconded by D. Paradis. Motion carried unanimously.

April 6, 2011 Non-Public – J. Levesque moved to approve the April 6, 2011 non-public minutes. Motion seconded by V. Lembo. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Selection of Financial Institution for Safety Center Bonding

V. Lembo moved to approve the consent agenda. Motion seconded by D. Paradis. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC INPUT

Chair Gahara stated normally, the Council does not entertain questions during public input but will make an exception for this special meeting.

Student, 45 Virginia Court asked about the process involved in creating Warrant Articles and the affects if they pass.

Chair Gahara explained all Town departments determine their needs for services they provide for the Town and put a budget together. Items not included in the departments' budgets are called Warrant

Articles. The Town raises funds by collecting property taxes from the residents of Hooksett. The citizens vote on the warrant articles, which has a direct effect on the taxes they pay.

Student, 43 A Dale Road asked how a resident becomes a Councilor.

M. Pischetola explained residents may run as Councilors for their District. At-Large Councilors such as himself represents the whole Town, not a particular District. Candidates must be at least 18 years of age and have been a Hooksett resident for at least a year.

Student, 18 Martins Ferry Road asked if a College degree is necessary to become a Councilor.

Chair Gahara explained College education is not necessary but Councilors do need to be educated about Town issues. They need to be prepared for each meeting and understand what they are voting on. Each Councilor has one vote on the Council.

V. Lembo added being a Councilor is very time-consuming. Most Councilors wait until retirement or until their children are grown to run for office.

D. Paradis also added Councilors are paid only \$1,500 a year. They do not serve for the money but for the good of the Town.

Student, 45 Virginia Court asked if Councilors can serve more than one term.

D. Paradis stated Councilors can serve as many terms as they want. They just have to be reelected.

Student, 28 Dale Road asked when the gas station in his neighborhood will be done.

Chair Gahara stated it depends on the developer. All new development in Town goes through the Planning Board. The Council does not usually know details of development projects.

Student, 19 Ridgeview Drive asked how long Council meetings go for.

Chair Gahara stated the Council meets twice a month at the Town Hall, usually on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays. It starts at 6:30 pm. It depends on what the discussion is about sometimes the meeting could go as late as 11:30 pm. Discussion could be continued to the next meeting, if necessary.

Student, 62 Dale Road asked about the proposed High School in Hooksett.

Chair Gahara explained that it was not a definite proposal. The School Board is looking into the possibilities of having a High School in Town.

Student, 4 Casey Drive asked what is being done to prevent the flooding in Hooksett.

Chair Gahara stated the Town is trying to resolve this problem with the help of the State and businesses around the area. The Town is hoping to have a resolution soon.

Student, 2 Francis Avenue asked if anything other than a firehouse is being built at the corner of Alice and Stearns where an old firehouse used to be.

The Council informed him that anything being built in Town goes through the Planning Board for approval. It is most likely a residential building.

Student, 329 West River Road asked about the change in zoning from residential to commercial.

C Granfield explained that zoning along Route 3 was changed some time ago to the Performance Zone (PZ). The PZ primarily takes out the residential along this area and emphasizes commercial in a more

planned, attractive manner. The purpose of the zone is to improve the look along Route 3. She further noted that the Planning Board has the ability to grant some waivers to the requirements in the PZ and the intent is to have better planned zoning of properties along this area.

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS

Heritage Proclamation

Kathie Northrup, Heritage Commission Chair requested to adopt a proclamation designating May as Heritage Month and May 28th as Heritage Day. The Heritage Commission, Historical Society and Robie's Country Store Historic Preservation Corporation will sponsor Hooksett Heritage Day on Saturday, May 28, 2011.

D. Paradis moved to adopt the proclamation. Motion seconded by M. Pischetola. Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Gahara read the proclamation for the record (see file).

Heritage Commission Update

K. Northrup gave an update of the Heritage Commission and highlighted some of the commission's major projects, i.e., Head School, Oral History Project, Historic Markers, State Register of Historic Places, Hooksett Heritage Day, fundraising and education.

Pinnacle Park Update

K. Northrup gave an update on the Pinnacle Park. They have a 5-year plan for the development of the area. Part of the plan is to clear and improve gravel area for parking, design and construct a map of the trail, an Informational kiosk with historical facts about the area and the Locke Family. They will set up "Friends of Pinnacle Park" to do maintenance. K. Northrup started research on historical registration application.

NEW BUSINESS

Tax Interest Policy

Kim Blichmann, Tax Collector presented the proposed Tax Interest Policy.

This is a housekeeping policy. Per RSA 76:13 the Tax Collector may waive tax interest in the amount of up to \$25.00. K. Blichmann recommended the Tax Collector be allowed to waive interest in any amount up to \$1.00 on tax payments received by mail.

D. Paradis moved to adopt the Tax Interest Policy. Motion seconded by J. Levesque. Motion carried unanimously.

Prepayment of Property Taxes Policy

K. Blichmann presented the proposed Prepayment of Property Taxes Policy.

This is another housekeeping policy. Per RSA 80:52-a, "*Taxpayers shall be allowed to prepay taxes no more than one year in advance of the due date of taxes. No interest shall accrue to the taxpayer on any prepayment, nor shall any interest be paid to the taxpayer on any prepayment, which is later subject to rebate or refund.*"

K. Blichmann explained this policy will enable the Tax Collector to allow taxpayers to prepay property taxes up to a year in advance. It will also allow the Tax Collector to create a credit balance on prepaid accounts. The Town will not be required to pay interest on prepaid taxes.

V. Lembo moved to adopt the Prepayment of Property Taxes Policy. Motion seconded by D. Paradis. Motion carried unanimously.

M. Pischetola requested to check into possibly giving a discount for prepayment of taxes.

Farmers' Market Committee

Joan Lydon, Peggy Teravainen, Jo Ann Duffy and Cynthia Wright, members of the Farmers' Market Committee asked for permission to add a web page on the Town's website specifically designed for Farmers' Market.

C. Granfield advised to take under advisement until more information is obtained. This may create a precedent for other organizations to ask for a web page.

Farmers' Market will be open this year from July 6th until Sep 28th.

V. Lembo moved to table the matter. Motion seconded by D. Paradis. Motion carried unanimously.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

C. Granfield informed the Council of the following:

1. Saturday, April 23rd is Earth Day. There will be a variety of activities at the Transfer Station, which includes a mobile shredder available that will shred and dispose of printed materials.
2. The Deliberative Session was held on Saturday, April 9th. A total of 134 voters were in attendance. Four Warrant Articles were amended. The amended Warrant Articles are now posted on the website.
3. Town Board positions for FY 2011-2012 were advertised and posted on the website and will be published on the local paper.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Zoning Board of Adjustments

The board granted Market Basket their signs with a 3-2 vote on all three signs.

Budget Committee

The board met after the Deliberative Session to vote on recommendations for the amended warrant articles. They voted (5-0) to recommend all amended warrant articles.

Economic Development Committee

They will meet today at noon.

PUBLIC INPUT

Student, 4 Scott Avenue asked when the McDonalds renovation will start.

Whitehall Terrace asked if there are any plans for a sporting goods store, i.e., Modell's.

Chair Gahara stated any businesses are welcome in town but he does not know of any sporting goods store being planned.

A Student asked if the taxpayers would be affected by the sewer disks incident.

C. Granfield stated the Sewer Commission just signed a contract for a long-term clean up. Currently, funds are being expended from the Sewer budget. The Town was notified by insurance of coverage up to \$10,000. This could be appealed. There are other parties to this incident and potential legal litigation is being considered. Costs will be shared by other companies involved. At this point, the Town does not envision the taxpayers will be affected. That will be the last resort.

Student, Helen Drive asked what is being built behind K-Mart.

Townhouses/work-force housing is currently being built at that location.

Student, Garden Song Drive asked if there are any plans for a YMCA in Hooksett.

Chair Gahara stated it is up to the YMCA whether they would like to come to Hooksett. He does not believe there are any plans.

A student asked if the old Town Hall is going to be considered a Historic landmark in Hooksett.

K. Northrup stated a group of Hooksett citizens is looking into what could be done with the old Town Hall and how to preserve it. They are looking for suggestions from the public.

The Councilors introduced themselves to the group and explained which District they represent. Students were handed copies of the District Voting maps and a list of streets with corresponding voting district numbers.

C. Granfield introduced herself to the group. She is the Town Administrator and was hired by the Council. The Town Council adopts policies and the Town Administrator oversees implementation.

The students also received a copy of the agenda.

Chair Gahara explained what a non-public session entails.

ADJOURNMENT

J. Levesque moved to adjourn at 10:11 am. Motion seconded by D. Paradis.

Respectfully submitted by,

Evelyn F. Horn
Administrative Assistant

Vincent F. Lembo, Jr.
Town Council Secretary