

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – JANUARY 27, 2016

Unapproved

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES Regular Meeting Wednesday, January 27, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

J. Sullivan called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

ROLL CALL

Chairman James Sullivan, Nancy Comai (arrived at 6:58 pm), Rob Duhaime, Marc Miville, David Ross, Tim Tsantoulis, and Donald Winterton,
Excused: James Levesque and Adam Jennings
Town Administrator Dr. Dean Shankle

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Public: 01/13/2016

T. Tsantoulis motioned to approve the minutes of January 13, 2016. Seconded by D. Winterton.

***D. Ross motioned to table the minutes. Seconded by M. Miville
Vote unanimously in favor.***

Non-Public 01/13/2016

D. Winterton motioned to approve the Non-public Minutes of January 13, 2016. Seconded by T. Tsantoulis.

Vote unanimously in favor.

***D. Winterton motioned to unseal the minutes of January 13, 2016. Seconded by T. Tsantoulis.
Vote unanimously in favor***

AGENDA OVERVIEW

J. Sullivan provided an overview of the agenda.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public Hearing for the Town Council to accept a Land & Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) Grant to restore the windows at old Town Hall in the amount of \$19,000 per RSA 31:95-b,III

Dr. Shankle: You voted at the last meeting to have the Administrator sign this grant. It requires a public hearing. Hopefully at the end of the night, the Council will suspend the rules and vote in favor of this Grant so that it can be submitted.

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J. Sullivan: The Preservation Committee submitted an application for a grant for windows at the old town hall in the amount of \$19,000.

D. Ross: I want everyone to understand this is a matching grant and the town is required to put up matching funds.

J. Sullivan : The town will need to pay \$9,765.

J. Sullivan opened the public hearing at 6: 50 pm.

Public Hearing for the Town Council to accept donations in items (gates) valued at \$6,000 from Blue Ribbon Fence for the Hooksett Clay Pond Stewardship Plan per RSA 31:95-e, II.

J. Sullivan opened the public Hearing at 6:51 pm.

Steve Couture, Chair of the Conservation Commission: We are fortunate to receive this donation from Blue Ribbon Fence. We developed a Stewardship Plan for Clay Pond and installed gates. Three gates were installed at their cost and this partnership was created with the Intern we hired this year. The Intern ended up paying for itself with this donation.

M. Miville: I understand some of the gates are already damaged.

S. Couture: North Candia Road is the east-west connection. It has been used for 4 wheel drive. I went out to look at the gates which were not yet locked had been damaged by a 4 wheel ATV. One was bent and one was dislodged. One is still usable. One will need to be replaced, at least the post. A report was filed with the police. Working with Bear Paw we got suggestions on how to handle this situation which is not uncommon on these trails.

R. Duhaime: The invoice was for 5 gates, are they putting in future ones?

S. Couture: It is difficult to access the other locations. We will have conversations with them. With the timber harvest, we may work with them to have them installed.

D. Ross: We as a Council should send a thank you to Blue Ribbon Fencing. We should publicize that it is a felony to destroy public property.

CONSENT AGENDA

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Dr. Shankle

- Press release sent out the attached press release. (See attached Press Release)
At the last non-public session, the Council interviewed Chief Burkush for Fire Chief. The Charter states the Administrator with the agreement of the Council hires the Chief.

James Burkush: Thank you to the Administration and Council for their confidence and I look forward to working with the staff and residence of the town.

- The Lilac Bridge- The engineers would like to meet with Council, Sewer Commission, Water Precinct and Heritage Commission. They say it will take an hour and half. I

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recommend doing it on February 17th at 6:30 pm which is an off night. It could be set up as a workshop. We could then put it on the agenda for the following week to take any action. It will be taped for anyone that cannot make the meeting.

A Special Meeting will be posted for Feb. 17 at 6:30 pm.

- The elevator at the Library isn't working. It came up as an issue at a Hooksettites meeting last week. An RFP is being put together. It appears the cost could be \$100,000. There is a question of ADA compliance with and without the repairs. We are moving forward with that. The people at the library are hoping to do it this year but it could be a Warrant Article. The Library is scheduled to come in to the Council on February 10th to discuss this issue.
- There was a problem with material being dumped at Hackett Hill Road. There were plastic liners on dump trucks and that is what slid off the truck. They are aware of the problem and it will not happen again.
- We have been working on a house on Benton Road with issues related to cleanliness. The owner passed away last year. We had to advertise for 4 weeks and we are now contacting the bank. We are contacting the people who inherited the house. They appear to be unable to do the cleanup. The next step is for the town to clean it up and put a lien on the house for the cost. The attorney sent out orders to all parties including the bank which is in Pennsylvania.
- Martin's Ferry Road, I spoke with the town engineer today. The Safety Committee is looking at putting together a paving improvement project this spring which will include sidewalks with a cross walk at Sherwood Forest. The committee is concerned with putting a crosswalk now with no sidewalks.
- Robies does have a new business going in the building.
- Jackie Marsh who works in the Tax Clerks office is retiring after 14 years with the Town. J. Sullivan on behalf of the Council thanked Jackie Marsh for her years of service.
- Moving ahead with some of the Tech. stuff for the meeting. Katie will talk about the Councilors' training for the tablets.

Katie: The Library has created training for the tablets. Wednesday evenings or Thursday morning would work at the Library. Everyone could attend or 3 or 4 that will be getting the first 3 tablets. J. Sullivan, R. Duhaime, A. Jennings, D. Winterton, and J. Levesque have expressed interest in having a tablet.

The Council expressed a preference for Wednesday evening.

D. Winterton: I suggest only training those that are getting the tablets and then have training when more tablets are available.

N. Comai: If I have a tablet, can I get material sent to that device and I will not need a new one.

K. Ambrose: Yes, you will access on the website and use an Adobe Reader.

J. Sullivan asked if they would be available for other Boards like Planning, Zoning and Budget.

K. Ambrose: We have budgeted for 9 so they would be available.

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M. Miville: I thought we were going to test the tablets and then decide on recommended use. That was the reason for the beta test.

M. Miville: Can you still send information to a laptop?

K. Ambrose: Yes, we can do that at any time.

T. Tsantoulis: If we are using our own iPad, there is no need for training. I could just get the information?

K. Ambrose: Yes

Discussion:

Fire Chief

N. Comai: Chief Burkush's starting date of May 1st; is he going to walk through earlier than that?

Dr. Shankle: Yes, we will discuss with him what is going on down there.

I would like to point out, through my discussions with him regarding the Public Safety Consolidation, we said if he can solve the problems, it will be off the table.

Martin's Ferry

M. Miville: I heard from two (2) people regarding the safety of walkers on that road. There are more speed limit signs, they trimmed the trees, but they say there are people walking on that road. All they are asking for is a cross walk. They just want the grid on the pavement. Whether it goes from no sidewalk to no sidewalk, they want those lines. They are not looking for lights.

They want an additional safety measure for those pedestrians walking on that road.

Jim Donison: I suggest as part of the work being done for roadway improvement over the next 5 years that we make Martin's Ferry a priority. We talked about adding sidewalks and using impact fees from Zone 2. This project could go out to bid in March/April and the construction could start in June with completion in this fiscal year.

J. Sullivan: You are suggesting waiting for the sidewalks for the cross walk. If we don't put the sidewalks in, would that prevent us from putting in the cross walk anyway?

Jim Donison: I'm not familiar with any crosswalks that we have without sidewalks. Nothing prevents anyone from putting crosswalk signs and painting the pavement.

D. Ross: People are going fast on the road and people are walking on the road. When there's snow, people are not going to walk on the grass. You have to put signs. People are going faster since the 30 mph sign.

R. Duhaime: There is a process to look at that road. Put the sign on the north side. The intersection of Underhill and Sherwood, there is a strip for the cemetery and you could do study and put a turn lane. This is something you could put more detail to the plan before you throw something out.

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J. Donison: You could also look at bump outs and we would present a plan to Council.

R. Duhaime: There is no sidewalk coming down from Sherwood and Underhill. We could consider that. You are going from a sidewalk to nowhere.

J. Donison: There is a small bridge crossing which could get expensive. We would include that as part of the cost options and maybe SNHU would participate in the costs.

N. Comai: It seems like SNHU residence would benefit from these sidewalks as well.

M. Miville: They talked about a barrier island and I heard SHU is restructuring that as well.

J. Donison: I have seen the plan as part of Depot Road to the parking lot with a barrier island and landscaping. That was conceptual. I don't know if they have voted to do that. That is part of SNHU's plan on Depot Road.

D. Winterton: Do we know who the contact person is at SNHU to have our Safety Committee meet with to start that conversation?

J. Donison: We deal with the Director of Facilities. We can contact him.

D. Winterton: If it is part of the conversation here, we should include them in these conversations because they may be thinking the same thing.

M. Miville: I spent a few hours this week answering phone calls about work that was done on SNHU and trucks taking those loads of sand to an empty property. Residents of Martin's Ferry called and took videos of these trucks going across the bridge. I went down and saw that they were not crossing the bridge and there was no issue.

J. Donison: They asked for permission to go over the bridge and we said they could not.

D. Ross: Additional signage wouldn't hurt and doesn't cost much money. Even if it is an orange sign, as a caution sign, it helps. There are people that would be happy to put a sign in front of their house. They just want people to slow down.

PUBLIC INPUT

No comment

NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Nomination for Planning Board Alternate – Christopher Stelmach

There are two people that applied for this position. Only one was at the last meeting of the Planning Board. As a courtesy, before making a decision, we would like to talk to both individuals.

Dr. Shankle mentioned the Planning Board opening at the Hooksettites meeting and it is one of those members that came forward with interest.

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M. Miville: The Budget Committee has sent out notices for two opening which anyone interested should submit a letter of interest by February 4th.

D. Winterton was invited to Kiwanis to speak about the Municipal Budget along with Mr. Pieroni.

OLD BUSINESS

Budgets, CIP and Warrant Articles

Capital Reserve Funding - Planning

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000.00 to be added to previously established Capital Reserve Funds and to apportion the sum among several funds as listed below.

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Revaluation</i> | <i>\$ 30,000.00</i> |
| <i>Master Plan</i> | <i><u>10,000.00</u></i> |
| <i>Total</i> | <i>\$ 40,000.00</i> |

Revaluation Reserve: Total project cost is on-going. There is \$30,123 in account as of October 31, 2015. This project is to set aside funds for the next update in 2018. The 2009 revaluation cost was \$161,231, the cost for 2013 is \$137,300, and the estimated cost in 2018 is \$149,703. Every five years the Town is required to reappraise all property values for assessment equity property tax purposes per NH State Constitution Article 6.

Master Plan Reserve: Total project cost is \$60,000. There is \$22,428 in account as of October 31, 2015. The fund is to provide a savings account, to be added to every year, that will allow the Town to update its Master Plan in a manner compliant with RSA 674:3 “Master Plan Preparation”, which states in Sec II that revisions to the plan are recommended every 5-10 years. The Master Plan was last updated in 2004. Several areas of the plan are outdated. The following chapters have recently been updated: Economic Development and Energy. The update of the plan is critical to the long-term development of the Town. The Planning Board, ZBA, Conservation Commission, and Town Council need clear, accurate information upon which to base their decisions. Period studies that bring this new information into the Master Plan create an atmosphere of good planning, informed decision making, and provide critical data for the voter.

Estimated cost \$40,000.00 Estimated tax rate impact is \$0.03.

M. Miville motioned to place the Capital Reserve Fund- Planning Warrant Article on the Ballot. Seconded by D. Ross.

M. Miville: My understanding is the revaluation comes up every 5 years. It is my understanding that even if this doesn't pass, the town is still required to conduct the revaluation and fund it out of the general fund.

The Master plan is supposed to be updated every 10 years. The last time it was updated was in 2004.

Dr. Shankle: Jim Donison is doing a good job working with committees to get the Master Plan updated.

Vote unanimously in favor.(7:0)

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Capital Reserve Funding - Conservation

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of Infrastructure Improvements on Conservation Land and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 to be placed in this fund, and to name the Town Administrator as the agent to expend.

Improvements and Maintenance of Town-Owned Conservation Land Reserve: Total project cost is ongoing. Estimated year of purchase is as needed. The fund is to begin to plan for improvements, and developments that may be needed for all of the conservation lands/easements currently held by the Town. Over the past few years, the Commission has continued its pursuit of acquiring land to conserve for future residents to enjoy, consistent with the mandates of the Master Plan. The conservation easements, pertaining to such property, require the Town to maintain the property and make repairs or improvements as necessary. In order to meet this legal obligation, it is necessary for us to create a capital reserve fund to ensure that the Town will be prepared for any planned or unexpected maintenance issues that may arise. Over the last 3 years alone, the Commission has acquired over 1,294 acres of land that we would like to see used for passive recreational purposes. This year, the Commission added 584 acres, known as the Great Marsh Preserve, as part of the Head's Pond Development. The stewardship of the Town's Conservation properties includes the requirement of maintaining existing trails and the right to develop new trails.

Estimated cost? \$10,000.00 Estimated tax rate impact is \$.01.

D. Ross motioned to place the Capital Reserve Funding – Conservation Warrant Article on the Ballot. Seconded by N. Comai.

D. Ross: We have to do this. This is a legal obligation.

Conservation property accounts for 25% of the town land.

Vote unanimously in favor.(7:0)

Capital Reserve Funding - Sidewalks

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of installing and maintaining sidewalks and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$_____ to be placed in this fund, and to name the Town Administrator as the agent to expend.

M. Miville: I believe we had an initial conversation and the Administrator was going to look at the basic cost of sidewalks.

J. Donison: Depending on the type of curbing, the cost is about \$25 per linear foot for paved sidewalk. That is a 5 foot standard width. One mile (5280 ft.) would cost \$132,000.

N. Comai: We are only looking to start a Capital Reserve Fund for sidewalks. I think \$25,000 would be a good start. That would buy 1000 feet of sidewalk.

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Dr. Shankle: When we held the workshop on the Village, the number one request was sidewalks and walkability. It also came up at the Community Profile.

R. Duhaime: We are looking at parking for parks which now have no sidewalks. If the Connector Road gets sidewalks, this would enable people to walk to the park.

N. Comai motioned to request \$25,000 for the Capital Reserve Fund – Sidewalks and place the Warrant Article on the Ballot. Seconded by R. Duhaime.

M. Miville: I think it will take 5 years at \$25,000 to put them on what road. I think we should put \$50,000.

N. Comai: I think \$50,000 would scare people away.

R. Duhaime: I think there are funds elsewhere, like impact fees to add to this fund.

D. Winterton: I support \$25,000 and then suggest looking at how enthusiastic the voters are at supporting this, then we can look at increasing the contribution next year.

D. Ross: My concern is the town needs to be doing a lot of things. There are other capital reserve funds not expended yet. We are tying up the taxpayer's money and we shouldn't take this money if we are not going to use it. It is \$25,000 that will sit somewhere for years. Let's take ask the taxpayers for what we really need to run the town. How much are we going to ask them for? Let's focus on what we need to get done and can get done.

Vote 6:1 motion carried.

Capital Reserve Fund to build a Town Pavilion

J. Donison: At the request of Dr. Shankle, I looked into the cost of a Pavilion. One quote was for a Pre-fab structure built by the Amish (30 x 60) with electrical and concrete pad for \$150,000. The Pavilion in Allenstown is 40 x 80.

M. Miville: This idea was initiated by the Community Profile last year and the Hooksettites that I visited last year. They didn't want a Senior Center, they wanted a Pavilion because now they rent out the one in Allenstown. They thought the town would benefit from a Pavilion and it could be rented out by the town.

Dr. Shankle suggested sending this to the Park and Recreation Committee. My concern is the area being proposed may already be allocated for other purposes such as water parks and fields.

J. Sullivan stated they should schedule the Park and Recreation Committee to report to the Council as stated in the Charter.

Sale of Timber to Conservation

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000.00 to be placed in the Conservation Fund, said funds to come from the sale of timber on conservation land. No amount to be raised from taxation.

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2. What is the intent and purpose of article?

The Conservation Commission will be conducting a timber harvest in accordance with its Stewardship Plan for the Clay Pond Conservation Area (CPCA). The intent of this warrant article is to allow revenue from the harvest to be appropriated to the Conservation Fund to support future stewardship of the CPCA. Stewardship actions identified for the CPCA include parking area and limited trail development, installation of access gates, clean ups, and monitoring of the property.

J. Sullivan motioned to place the Sale of Timber to Conservation Warrant Article on the Ballot. Seconded by T. Tsantoulis.

J. Sullivan: The Conservation Commission has taken the lead on Foresting our trees and we should take advantage of the timber being removed properly.

D. Winterton: What if the Conservation Commission doesn't sell \$25,000 worth of lumber. We already have committed to pay them \$25,000. What if we don't raise that from the sale of timber?

D. Ross: For this year, I would like to see an ongoing policy of the town that any timber for other agricultural product should remain in the Conservation Fund for maintenance. A sum not to exceed \$25,000 would make it clear.

S. Couture: The \$25,000 is a conservative estimate. The estimate was \$15,000 and \$25,000 gives a buffer. This is a legal issue; the money can't come directly to the Conservation Fund. The other \$10,000 is for the maintenance of other properties which there are hundreds of acres and we need to be good stewards.

The intent as written is for the timber from Clay Pond funds be to maintain and be stewards of Clay Pond and not for additional land acquisition.

C. Soucie: If we only raise \$10,000 from the sale of timber, only \$10,000 goes to Conservation and no funds from taxes.

J. Sullivan: I'm concerned that the funds could be used in other areas because it doesn't specify Clay Pond only.

Dr. Shankle: This warrant article is the legal terms suggested and we need to trust that it will be used as intended for Clay Pond.

Vote 6:1 motion carried

Discontinue Capital Reserve Funds

To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the following Capital Reserve Funds with said funds with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, to be transferred to the municipality's general fund. (Majority vote required).

Name of Capital Reserve

Established

Balance

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| | | |
|---|------|-----------|
| <i>HVAC System Development (Library)</i> | 2003 | \$ 15.04 |
| <i>Plow Dump Trucks</i> | 2012 | 0.00 |
| <i>Police Computer System Development</i> | 2003 | 13.91 |
| <i>Road Impact Fee Traffic Study</i> | 2009 | 33,046.68 |
| <i>Town Wide Computer Development</i> | 2006 | 23.79 |
| <i>Town Wide Opti-Com System</i> | 1996 | 0.00 |
| <i>Upgrading Diesel Tank & Fuel Dispenser</i> | 2012 | 9,531.67 |

What is the intent and purpose of article?

This is a housekeeping article to close reserves that are no longer necessary. All Capital Reserve ***funds are held by the Trustees of the Trust Funds. Per RSA 35:16-a any funds remaining in*** these reserves will be transferred to the General Fund.

Per RSA 35:3, a municipality shall include a warrant article to discontinue a CRF. It is a good housekeeping measure to discontinue CRFs as soon as they become unnecessary. Discontinuing a CRF may be done at an annual or special meeting and only requires a majority vote. The termination of a CRF authorizes the trustees of trust funds to transfer the monies to the municipality's general fund (RSA 35:16-a). The law doesn't specify when the money should be transferred out but it should be by the end of the budget year. The monies cannot be "transferred" to another CRF or expendable trust without the inclusion of an article authorizing the funds to be raised and appropriated into the new fund. The next example is for the discontinuance of one CRF, however if there are many CRFs that need to be discontinued it can be done in one warrant article.

C. Soucie: This is a housekeeping article to discontinue funds.

***M. Miville motioned to place Discontinued Capital Reserve Funds Warrant Article on the Ballot. Seconded by T. Tsantoulis.
Vote unanimously in favor.***

The Final Draft of the Warrants will be presented at the next Council meeting for recommendation by the Council.

Stipend for Trustee of Trust Fund (Letter)

A letter was sent to the Council from the Trustees of the Trust Fund asking the Council to reconsider their decision to cut the stipend 50%.

D. Ross motioned to increase the stipend by \$900. Seconded by N. Comai.

D. Ross: People were elected with a known stipend and it is unfair to change that while they are still fulfilling their term. If we want to make that change, we should change it for the next election.

J. Sullivan: If we are going to cut stipends, we should do it before people run for positions. If we do this, we could do it starting next year. There is one position coming up next year; then we could add \$600 back in.

D. Winterton: The reason I suggested cutting the funds was five (5) of the reports are for the school district. The School contributes 0. The meetings are quarterly. I suggest you look at the

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minutes of the meetings which last less than half an hour. Budget and Planning Board members meet 24 times a year. One duty mentioned in the letter is to check email. In the past some Trustees that didn't have qualifications and made bad decisions. Now they use an outside contractor. This is only \$900 but I looked at this budget to find decreases. We all ran for office; if this is about money and pay, then I will at some point calculate my hours working for the town. Thank you for the letter and I understand the importance of it but I don't buy it.

N. Comai: You raise a good point about the School District reports.

D. Winterton: When the accounts are reconciled, who does it?

C. Soucie: The Trustees insure that the documentation I give them left the right account at the investment firm. I provide the documents.

D. Winterton: How many times has the reconciliation resulted in a change?

C. Soucie: Once, the Water District mis-deposited funds. I don't know who found it.

C. Soucie: They handle all the trusts of the town including the 2 water precincts, the sewer and the school. It is similar to the Budget Committee, they are paid by town but they serve all the governments within the town.

J. Sullivan: If we are going to do this, we should phase it out with newly elected Trustees.

C. Soucie: They are still responsible for investing the funds, they have hired a firm to advise them.

M. Miville amended the motion to \$600. Seconded by J. Sullivan.

D. Ross: These people have a fiduciary responsibility. This is something that has been there for a long time. We are talking about \$900. I'm glad we had people who stepped up and want to serve. It is an insult.

R. Duhaime: \$900 is still \$900. If they are doing less work and it is a volunteer position, I don't think they are doing it for the stipend.

T. Tsantoulis: Improper investing can cost the town a lot of money. I would think the people doing that type of work are professional people. They are probably accountants or skilled individual. They are required to sign their name on a legal document. Keep that in mind.

Vote on amendment 3:4 motion failed

Vote on original motion 5:2 motion carried.

Final Approved Operating Budget - \$17,261,292

R. Duhaime motion to approve the Operating Budget in the amount of \$17,261,292. Seconded by D. Winterton.

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C. Soucie: This Budget is \$27,000 more than last year and approximately \$14,000 lower than the default.

Vote unanimously in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Town Personnel Plan Updates

Donna Fitzpatrick presented the following recommended changes

1. Drug and Alcohol screening in the workplace and testing
DOT random from 50% to 25% (effective 01/01/16)
2. Health Insurance- Annual stipend for full time employee who opt out is increased to \$5000.
3. Disability & Life switched from Boston Mutual to Standard Insurance

D. Ross motioned to adopt the amendments to the Personnel Plan as presented effective 01/01/16. Seconded by N. Comai.

Vote unanimously in favor

IAFF Local 3264 (Firefighters) Union Contract

Dr. Shankle: The negotiating team spent a lot of time over the past months negotiating a contract with the firefighters. On December 17th the firefighters declared impasse. According to the ground rules, it became ok to discuss this in public but we didn't do that because they requested mediation. We went into mediation. We spent time getting ready for mediation and then the entire day in mediation. We reached a tentative agreement with their negotiation team and they went to their membership with that agreement. The membership voted it down, however I would like this Council to listen to Donna who will present the tentative agreement. We would like to know if you would support this, although it doesn't matter because they did not agree. We would like to see if we are on the right track.

Article 1 – A 3 year contract with a 3% increase each year.

Article 7 – Incentives – Before July 2016 the incentives remain the same as current.

New hires, get it once but not ongoing

Article 8 – As of July 1, 2016 employee portion of the health insurance will increase from 10% to 12%. As of July 1, 2017 through 2018, the employee share will increase to 15%.

Article 12 – Work and overtime – before it read for staffing members there would be 2 firefighters and one supervisor at each station. We took out at each station and 4 firefighters and 2 supervisors total.

Agree to convert units to workable hours which is consistent with the rest of the town.

Dr. Shankle: I think it was a good contract. The mediator did a good job. I want to thank the member of the negotiating team on the Council because it was a long day. I thought it was a good agreement for everyone. I haven't heard why the union turned it down. I want to know if you agree with those changes, and would approve that.

N. Comai: Also, the attorney was excellent.

Dr. Shankle: With the new firm, we got Mark Rothe who is one of the top negotiating attorneys in the State. He guided the process and his ability to communicate with the mediator was effective and he explained things well to us. He thought this was a good contract.

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R. Duhaime motioned to approve the tentative agreement with the Fire Union as negotiated and agreed upon in mediation. Seconded by N. Comai.

Dr. Shankle: The reason for approval is because we will go somewhere with this and taking this vote tells us what direction you want. It will also let them know your views on the contract.

D. Winterton: Does this vote obligate us to any agreed upon items?

Dr. Shankle: Per our attorney, there is no effect because they turned it down already.

T. Tsantoulis: I don't think there is a point to this vote and I'm inclined to let the process play out. We don't know why they turned down the agreement.

M. Miville: We are just voting to say we support the negotiation and agreements reached by our team.

D. Winterton: As someone that has been on the negotiation committee and paid our attorney and come to a total 3 agreements that have all been turned down. We paid half of the negotiators fee and we agreed with their leadership and their negotiating team. I'm not in a hurry to sit down and be manipulated again. If they can't put together a negotiating team that represents them, I'm sorry. When social security gets 0% increase and the health costs increase, and we offer 3% to this bargaining group, I don't know where we go. I'm anxious to hear what this group wants. I'm glad our offer is in public. I am very, very disappointed in having spent so much time and worked so hard to be at this point at this time.

D. Winterton: There were firefighters that were on the negotiation team that were on the clock and some were not.

Dr. Shankle: February 25th is the last day we can place a warrant article on the ballot. The Town is not going to do anything to delay negotiations. Our attorney has reached out to their attorney to find out what they want and possibly get a counter proposal. With this vote, they will know what the Council wants. We are now waiting for their attorney to get back to us.

T. Tsantoulis: The cost that are incurred by the town; the firefighters incur costs as well. The practice is protected by the federal law and they are exercising their rights. They are doing what we are trying to do, and that is make a living. It is what it is.

R. Duhaime: With new leadership in the new Chief, we may reach an agreement next year.

D. Winterton: I understand fair labor, but for 3 times the negotiating team couldn't get a membership that agreed. They need to understand what the membership is looking for.

J. Sullivan: We need to find common ground. I think we have done a good job and we need to find balance.

D. Winterton: I don't think it is good for the town to operate without an agreement.

N. Comai: I think we went into this with the intent of parity and 3% is a good deal for 3 years. I hope that the Council will remain united on that issue.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – JANUARY 27, 2016

Vote 6:1 motion carried.

*J. Sullivan motion to extend the meeting 10 minutes. Seconded by D. Winterton.
Vote unanimously in favor*

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

M. Miville: The Budget Committee recommended the School Budget to be sent to the Deliberative Session. The original reductions were changed and the final budget recommended to the citizens is presented on February 5th.

Economic Development Committee: We reconvened on the 19th and continuing with the business survey started last fall. There are 20 surveys completed and we would like to get to 50.

J. Sullivan: The Old town Hall will have a site visit on the 2nd with an assessment review at 10 am.

J. Sullivan closed the two hearings at 9:43 pm.

*D. Winterton motioned to suspend the rules to vote on the LCHIP Grant. Seconded by R. Duhaime.
Vote unanimously in favor.*

*J. Sullivan motioned to accept the LCHIP Grant in the amount of \$19,000 for window restoration at Old Town Hall, and authorize the Town Administrator to sign all necessary LCHIP grant agreements and documents. Seconded by T. Tsantoulis.
Vote unanimously in favor.*

PUBLIC INPUT

ADJOURNMENT

*J. Sullivan motioned to adjourn at 9:48 pm. Seconded by D. Winterton.
Vote unanimously in favor.*

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Ann Moynihan

Town of Hooksett, NH
Press Release

For Release AFTER 8:00 pm on Wednesday, January 27, 2016

For more information: Dean Shankle 485-8472 or 440-8248

At Wednesday's Town Council meeting Town Administrator Dean Shankle announced that he has appointed James Burkush as Hooksett's new Fire Chief. Burkush presently serves as the Fire Chief/ Emergency Management Director in Manchester and has worked there since 1977. He will be starting work in Hooksett on May 1.

"I am very pleased to have someone with the experience and knowledge of Chief Burkush coming to Hooksett," Shankle said. "We have been moving forward on many fronts over the last few years and I expect him to help us significantly in his primary areas of expertise: administration of fire/ rescue services and emergency management."

Chief Burkush has expressed his eagerness to undertake this new phase in his career. He explained that he was "looking forward to working with the firefighters and residents of the Town of Hooksett as they face the challenges associated with rapid growth, commercial expansion and efficient delivery of services".


Chief Burkush will be retiring from the City of Manchester and entering into an employment agreement with the Town of Hooksett. The contract will call for Burkush to work 30 hours per week at an annualized rate of just under \$99,000. He will not receive insurance or retirement benefits.

"Although this is a somewhat unusual arrangement, the fact is that if we hired a full-time chief the cost including benefits would be over \$150,000. We are getting a highly respected and experienced Chief for 3/4 of the normal time for about 3/4 of what we would need to pay someone else. I think this is a very good deal for the town," explained Shankle. "He has assured me he feels very comfortable he will be able to provide outstanding service to the town under this arrangement, or he wouldn't be taking the job."



Town of Hooksett

FINANCE MEMORANDUM

To: James Sullivan, Town Council Chairman
From: Christine Soucie, Finance Director 
Date: January 13, 2016
Subject: Requests for your signature as Agent to Expend

The following is a summary of the requests for you to sign as the agent to expend on January 27, 2016:

| <u>Fund</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Ambulance Service | \$124,837.26 |
| Fire Details | 3,736.29 |
| Police Impact Fees | 5,217.55 |
| Public Recreation Impact Fees | 146.03 |
| Police Details | 50,304.05 |
| Roadway Impact Fees | 11,674.26 |
| Sanitary Landfill Capital Reserve | 270.35 |

Each request includes copies of invoices and other supporting documents, if applicable. As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thanks