

**MINUTES**  
**2022 TOWN OF HOOKSETT DELIBERATIVE SESSION**  
**CAWLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**FEBRUARY 5, 2022**

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**CALL TO ORDER:** Moderator Pro Tem LeeAnn Moynihan called the meeting to order at 9:11 am at the Cawley Middle School on February 5, 2022.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Members of Boy Scout Troop 292 led the Pledge of Allegiance, and their Color Guard displayed the flags.

**INTRODUCTIONS:** Moderator Pro Tem Moynihan introduced the Town Councilors in attendance: Chair James Sullivan, Vice Chair Timothy Tsantoulis, Secretary Randall Lapierre, Alex Walczyk, David Boutin, Clark Karolian and John Durand. She then introduced Town Administrator André Garron, Town Counsel Matt Serge, Project Coordinator Leann McLaughlin and Finance Director Christine Tewksbury. Next, Moderator Pro Tem Moynihan introduced members of the Budget Committee in attendance: Chair Brian Soucy, Jillian Godbout, Luis Amades and Ernie Bencivenga.

Council Chair Jim Sullivan: This year marks the 200<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Town of Hooksett, and we have planned a full year of activities in honor of the Bicentennial. These events are on the Bicentennial Facebook page and on the town website. I would like to share with you a five-minute slide show featuring the Town Reports of Hooksett from the last 100 years.

Town Administrator André Garron: I am honored to serve as the Town Administrator for Hooksett. I am approaching my third year and time is flying, so I guess we are having fun. Over the past two years, COVID has challenged our citizens, the workforce, and our town employees. I am encouraged by the fact that Hooksett has a 74.7% vaccination rate, as compared with the State of NH rate of 56.5%. According to the 2020 census, Hooksett, at 10.56%, is the second fastest growing community in Merrimack County. The first is Henniker at 27.89%. To balance this growth, we have presented a budget which maintains services, adjusted for growth. Departments take the budget process seriously. We work on it from July of one year into January of the next. The proposed Administration budget is up 1.59%; the Town Council budget is up 2.5%, including the increase in health care costs. A fair and admirable contract was negotiated with the Mid-Management union this year. Based on a wage study conducted by MRI, Inc., our non-union wage scale was increased. Hooksett is behind many of the 12 comparable communities used in the study. This is a three-part process: The first part was the study and development of a wage scale. Next is the adjustment of pay rates and third is the ongoing process of keeping wages in line with comparable communities. The Tax Increment

Financing (TIF) district – Route 3A at the Exit 10 area - continues to move forward, as it is being expanded to the east side of the Merrimack River. We are also exploring financing options, including private sources. I am pleased to report that the Hackett Hill/Route 3A project is back on the ten-year DOT plan; it was removed previously. This project will now be funded at \$4 million, compared with the \$2.4 million previously earmarked. The Route 3A/Main Street intersection has been added to the project. We are actively looking at placing a solar farm on town land. Councilor Walczyk and town staff have been working on this project. I want to thank the employees at Town Hall and all town employees for all of their hard work. The Police and Fire departments are fully staffed. The Department of Public Works is doing a fantastic job as they struggle with a shortage of workers. The Library has expanded and modified its services in response to the COVID pandemic, and the Wastewater Department continues its efficient operation. I also wish to thank the Town Council for its hard work and the citizens of Hooksett who volunteer and participate to make this a better community.

**Article 1**

To choose all necessary Town officers for the year ensuing.

**Article 2**

Shall the municipality approve the Hooksett Town Charter amendment summarized below?

Article 8.2 Initiative Petitions “The Supervisors of the Checklist shall verify the number of registered voters signing the petition and shall attach thereto a certificate showing the result of such examination.”

*The purpose of this amendment is to align the Charter with state law by replacing Town Clerk with Supervisors of the Checklist.*

**Article 3**

Shall the municipality approve the Hooksett Town Charter amendment summarized below?

Article 8.6 Recall of Officeholders. Remove entire section.

*The purpose of this amendment is to follow RSA 49 that does not grant municipalities authority to remove elected officials without cause.*

***Moderator Pro Tem Moynihan read Article 4:***

**Bond to perform Martins Ferry Pump Station and Force Main Upgrades**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$4,300,000.00** (gross budget) for the purpose of performing Martins Ferry Pump Station and Force Main Upgrades that will qualify the Town for federal and state funds, such sum to be raised by the issuance of serial bonds and notes not to exceed \$1,960,000.00 under and in compliance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (NH RSA 33) and to authorize the Town Council to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes to determine the rate of interest thereon, and to take such actions as may be necessary to effect the issuance, negotiation, sale and delivery of such bonds or notes as shall be in the best interest of the Town, additionally to authorize the Town to apply for and accept grants or other funds that may reduce the amount to be repaid and participate in the State Revolving Fund (SRF) RSA 486:14 established for this purpose, and to allow the Town to expend such monies as become available from the federal and state governments or other sources and pass any vote relating thereto. It is anticipated that the Town will receive up to \$840,000.00 in grants, \$1,200,000.00 from Wastewater Capital Reserves, and \$300,000.00 from Town of Hooksett Tax Increment Finance District funds. The bond will be paid for utilizing wastewater funds. (3/5 ballot vote required). Recommended by Town Council (6 Yes – 2 No); Recommended by Budget Committee (10 Yes – 0 No).

Chair Sullivan motioned that Article 4 as read be placed on the Town of Hooksett Official Ballot. Councilor Boutin seconded the motion.

Superintendent Ken Conaty: We did not plan to have any warrant articles this year, but then ARPA money came to us in a generous way. This warrant article is to upgrade the Martins Ferry pump station and force main, relocating it away from the river. The facility is 52 years old and in need of these upgrades.

Jason Hyde, 36 Edgewater Drive: I came to Hooksett in 2004 and have served on the Town Council and various committees. We were offered a \$15 million bond for infrastructure improvements several years ago, and we didn't move forward with that. "It would be good for the taxpayers," was the argument. The Sewer Department should have anticipated these needs. Now they want our money and our credit to float bonds. I and others in town don't have sewer. The TIF district was not meant to be expanded so the Sewer Commission could take our money. And now they are slapping us with a lawsuit, claiming that we don't have purview over their budget. It is outrageous and shocking. It is beyond the pale. These are the Sewer Commissioners you elected. It is not right.

Mr. Hyde motioned to reduce Article 4 to zero dollars (\$0). Councilor Karolian seconded the motion.

Sewer Commission Chair Sid Baines, 59 Farmer Road: I have been in town since 1960 and have served on the Sewer Commission, the Planning Board and other committees. This is insulting. Listening to this makes it sound like the Sewer Department is a private company. This is not taxpayer dollars.

Councilor Tsantoulis: Sewer and water services are the foundation of our community and well-being. It's like the haves and the have nots. Moving this away from the river makes good sense, environmentally. The plant is well-run.

Moderator Pro Tem Moynihan called for a voice vote on the motion to reduce Article 4 to zero dollars (\$0). The motion failed, and Article 4 was moved to the ballot.

***Moderator Pro Tem Moynihan read Article 5:***

**Bond to perform Sludge Handling Upgrades at the Wastewater Treatment Facility**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,500,000.00** (gross budget) for the purpose of performing Sludge Handling Upgrades at the Wastewater Treatment Facility that will qualify the Town for federal and state funds, such sum to be raised by the issuance of serial bonds and notes not to exceed \$1,050,000.00 under and in compliance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (NH RSA 33) and to authorize the Town Council to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes to determine the rate of interest thereon, and to take such actions as may be necessary to effect the issuance, negotiation, sale and delivery of such bonds or notes as shall be in the best interest of the Town, additionally to authorize the Town to apply for and accept grants or other funds that may reduce the amount to be repaid and participate in the State Revolving Fund (SRF) RSA 486:14 established for this purpose, and to allow the Town to expend such monies as become available from the federal and state governments or other sources and pass any vote relating thereto. It is anticipated that the Town will receive up to \$450,000.00 in grants. The bond will be paid for utilizing wastewater funds. (3/5 ballot vote required). Recommended by Town Council (7 Yes – 0 No); Recommended by Budget Committee (10 Yes – 0 No).

Chair Sullivan motioned that Article 5 as read be placed on the Town of Hooksett Official Ballot. Councilor Boutin seconded the motion.

Superintendent Ken Conaty: This warrant article is for the replacement of parts in order to produce drier cakes. Cakes with less water weigh less and will reduce sludge removal costs. One plant reports an increase from \$85 per ton to \$140 per ton in sludge removal costs.

Jason Hyde, 36 Edgewater Drive: This is to upgrade their plant. They have the money. They have millions. They should use their own credit and their own ratepayers for this. It is more odious than Article 4.

Mr. Hyde motioned to reduce Article 5 to zero dollars (\$0). Councilor Durand seconded the motion.

Sewer Commission Chair Sid Baines, 39 Farmer Road: This will lower the weight of sludge to be carried over the highway and disposed of. It will be better for various uses such as golf courses and lawns. It will improve our ability to run a good, productive wastewater system. The town has only ever spent \$40,000 on our plant.

Councilor Tsantoulis: Many articles have been written on the positive effects on the environment of drier sludge.

Councilor Karolian: If the town votes in favor of this, is the payback strictly from the ratepayers and the pockets of the Sewer Department?

Mr. Baines: Yes, except for money from the state and federal governments.

Mr. Hyde: I don't believe this is money from my pocket directly. It's the concept; it's the town's credit being used, yet you don't want the town to have authority over your budget.

Moderator Pro Tem Moynihan called for a voice vote on the motion to reduce Article 5 to zero dollars (\$0). The motion failed, and Article 5 was moved to the ballot.

***Moderator Pro Tem Moynihan read Article 6:***

**Bond to perform Merrimack Street and Golden Gate Drive Pump Station Upgrades**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,100,000.00** (gross budget) for the purpose of performing Merrimack Street and Golden Gate Drive Pump Station Upgrades that will qualify the Town for federal and state funds, such sum to be raised by the issuance of serial bonds and notes not to exceed \$770,000.00 under and in compliance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (NH RSA 33) and to authorize the Town Council to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes to determine the rate of interest thereon, and to take such actions as may be necessary to effect the issuance, negotiation, sale and delivery of such bonds or notes as shall be in the best interest of the Town, additionally to authorize the Town to apply for and accept grants or other funds that may reduce the amount to be repaid and participate in the State Revolving Fund (SRF) RSA 486:14 established for this purpose, and to allow the Town to expend such monies as become available from the federal and state governments or other sources and pass any vote relating thereto. It is anticipated that the Town will receive up to \$330,000.00 in grants. The bond will be paid for utilizing wastewater funds. (3/5 ballot vote required). Recommended by Town Council (7 Yes – 0 No); Recommended by Budget Committee (10 Yes – 0 No).

Councilor Boutin motioned that Article 6 as read be placed on the Town of Hooksett Official Ballot. Councilor Lapierre seconded the motion.

Councilor Boutin: The intent of this Article is to improve the pump stations at Merrimack Street and Golden Gate Drive by installing new pumps, generators and electrical panels. These facilities are 52 years old, and it is incumbent on us to make these improvements.

Mr. Hyde: The Sewer Commission has waited a long time to make these improvements. It is an inappropriate use of our credit. They have millions of dollars set aside. This is not taxpayer dollars directly, but it is on us.

Mr. Hyde motioned to reduce Article 6 to zero dollars (\$0). Councilor Durand seconded the motion.

Chair Sullivan: The Sewer Department was started in 1967. These types of warrant articles aren't new. There was a similar article during my first term of 1989-1990 for Castle Drive and Golden Gate Drive. I am in favor of this.

Mr. Baines: Mr. Hyde alluded to millions. This is true. We won a lawsuit on evacuations of disks to the river. This interrupted improvements. The \$5.5 million we have has already been allocated.

Moderator Pro Tem Moynihan called for a voice vote on the motion to reduce Article 6 to zero dollars (\$0). The motion failed, and Article 6 was moved to the ballot.

***Moderator Pro Tem Moynihan read Article 7:***

**Operating Budget**

Shall the town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant, for the purposes set forth therein, and other appropriations voted separately totaling **\$21,657,131.00**? Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be \$20,915,015.00, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town meeting, or by law or the Town Council may hold one special meeting to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. Estimated tax rate impact \$5.85. Recommended by Town Council (7 Yes – 1 No); Recommended by Budget Committee (9 Yes – 1 No).

Brian Soucy motioned that Article 7 as read be placed on the Town of Hooksett official ballot. Ernie Bensavage seconded the motion.

Mr. Soucy: The Budget Committee worked really hard again to make this budget as good as it could be. The town presented a good budget. The Town Administrator, Town Council and department heads did a wonderful job with great explanations. There were very few changes, with more additions than reductions.

Donna Fitzpatrick, 47 Lindsey Drive: I will be making an amendment to the operating budget and then would like to speak on it. If you look at Article 7 in the Voters' Guide, and specifically at the Administration budget, I am asking that funding be put back in for a full-time Executive Assistant for the Town Administrator. The Town Council voted in favor of this. It was removed after several votes by the Budget Committee. They did their due diligence, and I am hoping you will consider adding it back in. My amendment is to add \$56,160.00 for wages and \$34,412.00 for taxes and insurance, for a total of \$90,572.00. To be transparent, I am a resident of Hooksett, and I am also the Human Resource Coordinator and I work in the Administration Department. The Town Administrator has 167 employees – including Wastewater and the Library – all under his guidance and authority. A quick turnaround is needed on employment matters such as Workers Comp and Short Term Disability. The Town Administrator should be hired to do what he is hired to do. In 2018, the Town Administrator at that time added the Community Development department head and the Economic Development Director to the

responsibilities of the Town Administrator. He then resigned. The town is growing now and moving forward with Route 3 construction. You will hear more about the TIF district later this morning. André Garron started in 2019 and has been multitasking to keep up with all of the activity and projects. He is responsible for guiding the development of a Master Plan, as the town grows. We have four (4) unions now, and the Town Administrator takes the lead in all negotiations. About 90% of his time is taken up with meetings. The Town Council packets, which used to be about 35 pages long, now average 100 pages. He must go through the entire packet to make his recommendations. Risk management is also his responsibility. He must act to minimize liability, which keeps legal fees down and saves taxpayer dollars. The budget presented is a good document. The Administration Department has 46 lines in its budget, 20 of which are town-wide items such as internet, software and legal services. It includes the town's boards and committees.

Moderator Pro Tem Moynihan: Do you have a motion?

Mrs. Fitzpatrick: I submitted it to you.

Moderator Pro Tem Moynihan: Please read it.

Mrs. Fitzpatrick: My amendment is to add \$90,572.00 to the budget in wages and other costs for an Executive Assistant for the Town Administrator. The amount of the operating budget would increase from \$21,657,131.00 to \$21,747,703.00.

Don Winterton, 10 Prescott Heights: I have served on the Budget Committee, the Town Council and as Acting Town Administrator. After my first day as Town Administrator, I went home and told my wife that I did not have an Administrative Assistant. The Police Chief, Fire Chief, DPW Director, Code Enforcement Officer, School Superintendent and three school principals all have administrative assistants. Regarding union negotiations, the Town Administrator is expected to be there. One session with the Fire-Rescue Department lasted 12 hours. I totally support this amendment and thank everyone for your work on the budget.

Germano Martins, 17 Stevens Drive: The Budget Committee did a fantastic job. This is a very small amount of money. It is very important. This is a savings we can't afford to take. Administration is not operating as it should be. I support this amendment. It won't break the bank.

Councilor Tsantoulis: I support this amendment as presented. I have faith in the Town Administrator and his staff. The Town Council made the right decision. I would like to see the additional funds added. I don't agree with the Budget Committee decision to remove the position.

Mr. Soucy: I made the motion to remove the position. Looking at the overall budget, it was the right move at the time. Since then, I have spoken with several people in town, which swayed my opinion. These are dollars prudently spent, and I now support the amendment.

Moderator Pro Tem Moynihan called for a voice vote on the motion to amend Article 7 to include funding of a full-time Executive Assistant for the Town Administrator. The motion passed and Article 7 was moved to the ballot as amended.

Mr. Soucy: It is a lot of money. We take every dollar very, very seriously.

***Moderator Pro Tem Moynihan read Article 8:***

**Preservation and Improvement of Town Roads**

To see if the town will vote, pursuant to RSA 32:7-a, to approve the Preservation and Improvement of Town Roads at a cost not to exceed **\$3,000,000.00** payable over a term of 5 years with an annual appropriation of \$600,000.00, and further to raise and appropriate \$600,000.00 for the first year's payment. In each of the following 4 years the appropriations of \$600,000.00 will be contained in the operating budget and the default budget. (3/5 ballot vote required). Estimated tax rate impact is \$0.29. Recommended by Town Council (7 Yes – 1 No); Recommended by Budget Committee (10 Yes – 0 No).

Chair Sullivan motioned that Article 8 as read be placed on the Town of Hooksett official ballot. Councilor Walczyk seconded the motion.

Chair Sullivan: The town hired a company to review road conditions and develop a plan for maintenance. This is an appropriate amount to spend. The chart is on page 9 of the Voters' Guide.

Councilor Walczyk: The company developed a plan covering a little more than five years which mapped out the condition of all roads and a budget for completion of repairs, based on priority.

Moderator Pro Tem Moynihan declared Article 8 moved to the town ballot.

***Moderator Pro Tem Moynihan read Article 9:***

**Purchase Auto Collection Truck**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$300,000.00** to purchase an Auto Collection Truck to haul trash to the Recycling and Transfer Division of Public Works, with said funds to come from the Solid Waste Disposal Special Revenue Fund. No amount to be raised from general taxation. Recommended by Town Council (8 Yes – 0 No); Recommended by Budget Committee (10 Yes – 0 No).

Councilor Tsantoulis motioned that Article 9 as read be placed on the Town of Hooksett official ballot. Councilor Boutin seconded the motion.

Councilor Tsantoulis: This is the vehicle which comes once a week to take away trash. The auto collection truck is safer than the manned trucks, but the downside is that more equipment is needed and it takes a beating, therefore not lasting as long.



Moderator Pro Tem Moynihan declared Article 9 moved to the town ballot.

***Moderator Pro Tem Moynihan read Article 10:***

**Capital Reserve Funding – Fire Apparatus**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$250,000.00** to be added to the Fire Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Estimated tax rate impact is \$0.12. Recommended by Town Council (6 Yes – 2 No); Recommended by Budget Committee (10 Yes – 0 No).

Chair Sullivan motioned that Article 10 as read be placed on the Town of Hooksett official ballot. Councilor Boutin seconded the motion.

Chair Sullivan: This is the prudent way to put funds aside for large purchases. The last ladder truck purchase was assisted by a generous donation from SNHU.

Moderator Pro Tem Moynihan declared Article 10 moved to the town ballot.

***Moderator Pro Tem Moynihan read Article 11:***

**Capital Reserve Funding – Town Building Maintenance**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$200,000.00** to be added to the Town Building Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Estimated tax rate impact is \$0.10. Recommended by Town Council (6 Yes – 2 No); Recommended by Budget Committee (10 Yes – 0 No).

Councilor Tsantoulis motioned that Article 11 as read be placed on the Town of Hooksett official ballot. Councilor Boutin seconded the motion.

Councilor Tsantoulis: Capital reserve funding works well for these types of expenses.

Moderator Pro Tem Moynihan declared Article 11 moved to the town ballot.

***Moderator Pro Tem Moynihan read Article 12:***

**Capital Reserve Funding – DPW Vehicles**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$200,000.00** to be added to the Public Works' Vehicles Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Estimated tax rate impact is \$0.10. Recommended by Town Council (7 Yes – 1 No); Recommended by Budget Committee (10 Yes – 0 No).

Councilor Walczyk motioned that Article 12 as read be placed on the Town of Hooksett official ballot. Councilor Tsantoulis seconded the motion.

Councilor Walczyk: This is the correct thing to do to prepare for any emergency.

Moderator Pro Tem Moynihan declared Article 12 moved to the town ballot.

***Moderator Pro Tem Moynihan read Article 13:***

**Non-Union Raises**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$194,014.00** for an increase in salaries and benefits for non-union full-time and part-time Town personnel.

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Salaries</u>	<u>Benefits</u>	<u>Total</u>
2022-23	\$160,097.00	\$33,917.00	\$194,014.00

Estimated tax rate impact is \$0.09. Recommended by Town Council (5 Yes – 3 No); Recommended by Budget Committee (10 Yes – 0 No).

Chair Sullivan motioned that Article 13 as read be placed on the Town of Hooksett official ballot. Councilor Walczyk seconded the motion.

Chair Sullivan: This provides a Cost of Living increase for 61 full-time employees and an equity adjustment for 23 employees, as determined by a wage & scale study conducted by MRI, Inc.

Moderator Pro Tem Moynihan declared Article 13 moved to the town ballot.

*Moderator Pro Tem Moynihan read Article 14:*

**Capital Reserve Funding – Town Wide Digital Mapping System**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$100,000.00** to be added to the Town Wide Digital Mapping Systems Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Estimated tax rate impact is \$0.05. Recommended Town Council (6 Yes – 2 No); Recommended by Budget Committee (10 Yes – 0 No).

Councilor Walczyk motioned that Article 14 as read be placed on the Town of Hooksett official ballot. Councilor Tsantoulis seconded the motion.

Councilor Walczyk: Our GIS system is out of date and needs to be updated. This is very important for infrastructure projects.

Moderator Pro Tem Moynihan declared Article 14 moved to the town ballot.

***Moderator Pro Tem Moynihan read Article 15:***

**Update Hooksett's History Book**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$75,000.00** to research, write, edit, design, and publish an updated local history book. The sum to come from fund balance and no amount to be raised from general taxation. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the updated local history book is completed or by June 30, 2027, whichever is sooner. Recommended by Town Council (8 Yes - 0 No); Recommended by Budget Committee (10 Yes – 0 No).

Chair Sullivan motioned that Article 15 as read be placed on the Town of Hooksett official ballot. Councilor Walczyk seconded the motion.

Chair Sullivan: The last local history book was published in 1967. Kathie Northrup, the Heritage Commission chair who recently passed away, felt it was important to have an update of the dramatic past 55 years, including the infamous crimes and controversial items. The current history covers the early days of Hooksett, up to 1967. It is fitting that the Town gives itself a birthday gift on its 200<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Wayne Goertel, 33 Park Lane: I appreciate this effort. The archives at UNH are currently the only source of Hooksett's recent history.

Mr. Soucy: In my 20 years in Hooksett, this is the first 'feel good' item on the ballot.

Moderator Pro Tem Moynihan declared Article 15 moved to the town ballot.

***Moderator Pro Tem Moynihan read Article 16:***

**Purchase K9 Vehicle**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$71,000.00** to be used to purchase and outfit a vehicle for the Hooksett Police Department K9 Unit. Estimated tax rate impact is \$0.03. Recommended by Town Council (7 Yes – 1 No); Recommended by Budget Committee (8 Yes – 2 No).

Councilor Lapierre motioned that Article 16 as read be placed on the Town of Hooksett official ballot. Chair Sullivan seconded the motion.

Councilor Lapierre: When the K-9 program was reestablished in 2018, a repurposed vehicle was used. That vehicle is now at end of life and a larger vehicle is more appropriate for a K-9 unit.

Moderator Pro Tem Moynihan declared Article 16 moved to the town ballot.

**Moderator Pro Tem Moynihan read Article 17:**

**Capital Reserve Funding – Fire**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$62,500.00** to be added to the previously established Capital Reserve Funds and to apportion the sum among several funds as listed below:

Air Packs & Bottles	\$ 27,500.00
Fire Rescue Tools & Equipment	<u>35,000.00</u>
Total	\$ 62,500.00

Estimated tax rate impact is \$0.03. Recommended by Town Council (7 Yes – 1 No); Recommended by Budget Committee (10 Yes – 0 No).

Councilor Lapierre motioned that Article 17 as read be placed on the Town of Hooksett official ballot. Councilor Tsantoulis seconded the motion.

Councilor Lapierre: This is a reoccurring item. The Capital Reserve Fund was established so that equipment could be purchased when needed.

Moderator Pro Tem Moynihan declared Article 17 moved to the town ballot.

**Moderator Pro Tem Moynihan read Article 18:**

**Mid-Management Union Contract Local 633**

To see if the town will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Hooksett Town Council and the Mid-Management Employees Local 633, Teamsters, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

**Estimated increase over prior year**

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Salaries</u>	<u>Benefits</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
2022-23	\$48,399.00	\$12,951.00	\$61,350.00
2023-24	\$36,829.00	\$9,715.00	\$46,544.00
2024-25	\$31,588.00	\$8,240.00	\$39,828.00

and further to raise and appropriate **\$61,350.00** for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels. Estimated tax rate impact is \$0.03. Recommended by Town Council (8 Yes – 0 No); Recommended by Budget Committee (7 Yes – 3 No).

Councilor Lapierre motioned that Article 18 as read be placed on the Town of Hooksett official ballot. Councilor Tsantoulis seconded the motion.

Councilor Lapierre: I had the pleasure of participating with Mr. Garron on the negotiating team for this contract. Everyone worked diligently and creatively.

Councilor Tsantoulis: Being staffed with the proper people is half the battle; seeing that they are adequately compensated is a step in the right direction for the second half of the battle.

Moderator Pro Tem Moynihan declared Article 18 moved to the town ballot.

***Moderator Pro Tem Moynihan read Article 20:***

**Parks Upgrades**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$53,600.00** for the purpose of upgrading the Arthur Donati Memorial Park restrooms, resurface tennis courts and the track with \$25,000.00 to come from the Parks and Recreation Facilities Development Capital Reserve Fund, \$10,000.00 to come from the Recreation Revolving Fund and \$18,600.00 from general taxation. Estimated Impact is \$0.01. Recommended by Town Council (8 Yes – 0 No); Recommended by Budget Committee (10 Yes – 0 No).

Councilor Lapierre motioned that Article 20 as read be placed on the Town of Hooksett official ballot. Councilor Walczyk seconded the motion.

Councilor Lapierre: This is part of the CIP.

Councilor Walczyk: Use of Donati and other parks has increased a lot in recent years.

Mr. Soucy: I am the Chair of the Hooksett Youth Athletic Association and upgrades are needed. There is an incredible need for these upgrades. Having the restrooms renovated and ADA compliant is fantastic.

Moderator Pro Tem Moynihan declared Article 20 moved to the town ballot.

***Moderator Pro Tem Moynihan read Article 21:***

**Capital Reserve Funding – Emergency Radio Communications**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$50,000.00** to be added to the Emergency Radio Communications Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Estimated tax rate impact is \$0.02. Recommended by Town Council (8 Yes – 0 No); Recommended by Budget Committee (10 Yes – 0 No).

Councilor Lapierre motioned that Article 21 as read be placed on the Town of Hooksett official ballot. Chair Sullivan seconded the motion.

Councilor Lapierre: Radio technology is ever-changing and Hooksett must keep up. This is a previously established Capital Reserve Fund.

Moderator Pro Tem Moynihan declared Article 21 moved to the town ballot.

***Moderator Pro Tem Moynihan read Article 22:***

**Capital Reserve Funding – Drainage Upgrades**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$50,000.00** to be added to the Drainage Upgrades Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Estimated tax rate impact is \$0.02. Recommended by Town Council (7 Yes – 1 No); Recommended by Budget Committee (10 Yes – 0 No).

Councilor Boutin motioned that Article 22 as read be placed on the Town of Hooksett official ballot. Chair Sullivan seconded the motion.

Councilor Boutin: There are advantages to these Capital Reserve Funds. I support this.

Moderator Pro Tem Moynihan declared Article 22 moved to the town ballot.

***Moderator Pro Tem Moynihan read Article 23:***

**Capital Reserve Funding – Conservation Land Improvements**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$30,000.00** to be added to the Conservation Land Improvements Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Estimate tax rate impact is \$0.01. Recommended by Town Council (7 Yes – 1 No); Recommended by Budget Committee (10 Yes – 0 No).

Councilor Walczyk motioned that Article 23 as read be placed on the Town of Hooksett official ballot. Councilor Lapierre seconded the motion.

Councilor Walczyk: This fund is for the maintenance of existing trails. Also, the Conservation Commission is looking for volunteers to help with the maintenance of these trails.

Moderator Pro Tem Moynihan declared Article 23 moved to the town ballot.

***Moderator Pro Tem Moynihan read Article 24:***

**Capital Reserve Funding – Automated Collection Equipment**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$30,000.00** to be added to the Automated Collection Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Estimated tax rate impact is \$0.01. Recommended by Town Council (8 Yes – 0 No); Recommended by Budget Committee (10 Yes – 0 No).

Chair Sullivan motioned that Article 24 as read be placed on the Town of Hooksett official ballot. Councilor Tsantoulis seconded the motion.

Sullivan: This is for automated collection and recycling bins. It is self-explanatory.

Moderator Pro Tem Moynihan declared Article 24 moved to the town ballot.

***Moderator Pro Tem Moynihan read Article 25:***

**Capital Reserve Funding – Revaluation**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$30,000.00** to be added to the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Estimated tax rate impact is \$0.01. Recommended by Town Council (8 Yes – 0 No); Recommended by Budget Committee (8 Yes – 2 No).

Councilor Tsantoulis motioned that Article 25 as read be placed on the Town of Hooksett official ballot. Councilor Lapierre seconded the motion.

Councilor Tsantoulis: This fund is for the property revaluation. The numbers are in the Voters' Guide.

Moderator Pro Tem Moynihan declared Article 25 moved to the town ballot.

***Moderator Pro Tem Moynihan read Article 26:***

**Capital Reserve Funding – DPW Parks & Recreation Facilities Development**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$25,000.00** to be added to the Parks & Recreation Facilities Development Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Estimated tax rate impact is \$0.01. Recommended by Town Council (8 Yes – 0 No); Recommended by Budget Committee (10 Yes – 0 No).

Councilor Walczyk motioned that Article 26 as read be placed on the Town of Hooksett official ballot. Councilor Lapierre seconded the motion.

Councilor Walczyk: This is similar to Article 20. It is for the maintenance and improvement of our parks.

Mike Horn, 1 Monroe Drive: I just want to thank all of you for your hundreds of hours of work. I am happy that the town is in the good hands of its employees, Town Council and committees.

Moderator Pro Tem Moynihan declared Article 26 moved to the town ballot.

Virginia Kzlowski, 22 Julia Drive: I support all of these items but would like to know what they are going to cost me.

Christine Tewksbury, Finance Director: That information is in the Voters' Guide. The current rate is \$6.19; the new rate will be \$6.78, with a few unknowns.

Moderator Pro Tem Moynihan thanked Town Clerk Todd Rainier and the Checklist Supervisors for all of their assistance. She declared the meeting adjourned at 10:54 am.

Respectfully submitted

*Kathleen Donnelly*

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