

HOOKSETT DELIBERATIVE SESSION- April 4, 2015

TOWN OF HOOKSETT DELIBERATIVE SESSION MINUTES Cawley Middle School Saturday April 4, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

Moderator, Don Riley called the First Deliberative Session to Order at Hooksett Cawley Middle School Cafeteria Center at 9:02 AM.

Boy Scout Troop led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE

James Sullivan, Chair, Adam Jennings, Susan Loves Orr, Don Winterton, Nancy Comai, Rob Duhaime, and Todd Lizotte
Town Administrator Dr. Dean Shankle
Finance Director Christine Soucie
Moderator, Don Riley
Supervisor of the Checklist Mike Horne and Sally Humphries
Town Clerk, Todd Rainier
Legal Counsel- Jay Hodes
Registered voters – 40 in attendance

PROOF OF POSTING

Proof of posting was provided by the Dr. Dean Shankle.

The Moderator introduced the members of the Town Council in Attendance as well as the Town Staff.

The Moderator thanked the Cawley Staff and the Town Staff for all the work in setting up the meeting.

The Moderator recognized all veterans for their service.

A general overview of the rules and procedures were given by the Moderator and are available in writing in the voters guide.

BUSINESS

Moderator Don Riley read the Warrant Articles into the record:

Article 3

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 \$16,833,908.00. Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be \$16,779,749.00, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town meeting, or by law or

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the Town Council may hold one special meeting, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. Estimated tax rate impact \$6.43. Recommended by Town Council (8-0), Recommended by Budget Committee (5-3).

Note: If article 15 passes, the operating budget will be reduced by \$72,454.00 in the Fire-Rescues overtime line.

Don Winterton motioned to place Article 3 on the Town Official Ballot. Seconded by Todd Lizotte.

D. Winterton: The Town Council and Budget Committee put in a great deal of time preparing this budget. There were increases in the Health insurance. The important thing about the budget was to remove money from Fire Rescue and add a police officer. We did not increase the Fire and Police Budget in total. The budget came in close to the default budget by \$54,000. I ask that you support this budget.

J. Michaud: Where is the Ambulance Service Fund found in the booklet? It is a revolving fund so there is no tax impact?

D. Shankle: The information is found on page 32 in the booklet.

J. Michaud: Is it correct to say the two (2) firefighters are not in the budget but booked against that revenue?

D. Shankle: Yes, that is the intent.

J. Michaud: There is an additional officer in the budget and two (2) officers in a warrant. Why?

T. Lizotte: My perspective was the fact I was willing to look at the needs and adjust the needs and be creative and look at what is available for funding to add an officer that we know we need. In regard to the additional two (2), it would be put to the citizens to see if they believe we need the additional officers.

The Moderator declared Article 3 passed to the Official Town Ballot.

Article 4

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 \$0.13. Recommended by Town Council (6-0), Recommended by Budget Committee (8-0).

Rob Duhaime motioned to place Article 4 on the Town Official Ballot. Seconded by Todd Lizotte.

R. Duhaime: Vehicles are aging and the town roads experienced a record winter. There is more traffic on the roads and improvements will help future development.

The Moderator declared Article 4 passed to the Official Town Ballot.

Article 5

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To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$194,293.00 for the salaries, overtime, benefits, including uniforms and equipment to hire two (2) new full-time police officers.

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Salaries</i>	<i>Benefits</i>	<i>Estimated Increase</i>
2015- 2016	\$109,293.00	\$85,000.00	\$194,293.00

Estimated tax rate impact \$0.12. Recommended by Town Council (6-0), Recommended by Budget Committee (8-0).

Nancy Comai motioned to place Article 5 on the Town Official Ballot. Seconded by Jim Sullivan.

N. Comai: The Police Department has struggled to protect our town efficiently. There have been increased in calls and arrests in 2014. I ask your support for this Article.

The Moderator declared Article 5 passed to the Official Town Ballot.

Article 6

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$160,000.00 to be added to previously established Capital Reserve Funds and to apportion the sum among several funds as listed below.

<i>Automated Collection Equipment</i>	<i>\$ 20,000.00</i>
<i>Drainage Upgrades</i>	<i>50,000.00</i>
<i>Parks & Recreation Facilities Development</i>	<i>15,000.00</i>
<i>Town Building Maintenance</i>	<i>75,000.00</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$ 160,000.00</i>

Estimated tax rate impact \$0.10. Recommended by Town Council (6-0), Recommended by Budget Committee (8-0).

Rob Duhaime motioned to place Article 6 on the Town Official Ballot. Seconded by Todd Lizotte.

R. Duhaime: This is to replace Collection equipment over time. We have had drainage upgrades that will help the town with storm events. The Park and Recreation Facility Development is to address aging structures. We need to change the way we use some of those facilities. Town Hall is in need of a new roof as a result of the water issued on the second floor.

Marc Miville, 42 Main Street: This is the first article with multiple warrants in one warrant. The thought was that there has always been an expression by citizens that there are too many warrants on the ballot; so the Council decided to bunch up some of these warrants. Each item individually is needed to keep up with the Town's infrastructure.

N. Comai: If this Article passes the tax rate impact is .10.

The Moderator declared the Article 6 passed to the Official Town Ballot.

Article 7

To see if the town will raise and appropriate \$100,000.00 to be placed in the Conservation Fund to assist in the development of a Merrimack Riverfront Trail System. Estimated tax rate impact is \$0.06. Recommended by Town Council (6-0), Recommended by Budget Committee (7-1).

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Todd Lizotte motioned to place Article 7 on the Town Official Ballot. Seconded by Adam Jennings.

T. Lizotte: This Article is unique and asks the taxpayers to look at this as an investment. This is to share the cost. If you look at what is requested, the Conservation Commission acquired a 38 acre parcel with river frontage. When you look at this parcel from the shore, it is the vantage point of the town seal. The Conservation Commission brought this forward to create 2 miles of trails leveraged from two Rail Road cores. The estimated cost is \$1,440,000. There is \$688,000 from grants and \$56,000 in donations. Ten percent is actually being requested from taxpayers. This is a one-time investment for the town. It specifically will be the first area with riverfront vantage in this town. I urge you to support this article.

J. Michaud: The current balance of the Conservation Commission Fund is on page 32. I assume this will go into the Conservation Commission current use fund. Why didn't the Council just allocate these funds?

T. Lizotte: The Conservation Commission is a commission and responsible for their funds. They are allocating \$100,000 from that fund and are asking to augment these funds to finish the balance to get to 1 million for the project.

Terry Pfaff: Are these part of a match from Transportation Enhancement Funds to attain those grants?

T. Lizotte: I don't think any are tied to fund matching.

Terry Pfaff: Were they matched from Transportation Enhancement funds?

T. Lizotte: All those funds are related to enhancements of Conservation.

T. Pfaff: Transportation matches are available for sidewalks, trails and paths.

Frank Kotowski: For clarification, for years the town has tried to connect the trail system. The first was Head's Pond which was done with private funding. This takes it steps beyond. This will develop the Heritage Trail. There is one missing link between Manchester and Concord. The Conservation Commission members past and present worked for years to put this in place and worked with the L CHP Program and worked with properties that were taken out of current use to put in good use. They purchased property and are seeking to connect the Heritage Trail with the Head's Pond Trail and make this a reality. I ask everyone to support this article.

The Moderator declared Article 7 passed to the Official Town Ballot.

Article 8

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$88,423.00 for salaries and benefits for non-union full-time and part-time Town and Library personnel at the current staffing level.

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Salaries</i>	<i>Benefits</i>	<i>Estimated Increase</i>
<i>2015-2016</i>	<i>\$86,418.00</i>	<i>\$2,005.00</i>	<i>\$88,423.00</i>

Estimated tax rate impact \$0.05. Recommended by Town Council (5-1), Recommended by Budget Committee (8-0).

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Jim Sullivan motioned to place Article 7 on the Town Official Ballot. Seconded by Rob Duhaime.

J. Sullivan: With all the Warrant Articles there is a written explanation. This is the full time and part time non-union employees' 3% salary increase. With the Health Insurance increase, the contribution request is an increase from 10% to 12% paid by the employees. This is comparable to the union contracts which were negotiated.

The Moderator declared Article 8 passed to the Official Town Ballot.

Article 9

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$70,000.00 to be added to the previously established Capital Reserve Funds and to apportion the sum among several funds as listed below:

<i>Air Packs & Bottles</i>	<i>\$ 20,000.00</i>
<i>Fire Apparatus</i>	<i>50,000.00</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$ 70,000.00</i>

Estimated tax rate impact \$0.04. Recommended by Town Council (6-0), Recommended by Budget Committee (8-0).

Todd Lizotte motioned to place Article 9 on the Town Official Ballot. Seconded by Don Winterton.

T. Lizotte: This comes up every year in terms of going to the basic life support for the firefighter's air packs and replacement bottles. The cost is \$300,000 which will be replaced in coming years. Fire apparatus is expensive and can cost up to a million dollars. This is to incrementally place that money in the fund.

The Moderator declared Article 9 passed to the Official Town Ballot.

Article 10

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 \$0.02. Recommended by Town Council (6-0), Recommended by Budget Committee (8-0).

Susan Orr motioned to place Article 10 on the Town Official Ballot. Seconded by Nancy Comai.

S. Orr: The state of NH Constitution Article 6 requires the town to reevaluate properties every 5 years. The Town is obligated to fulfil this requirement. We last reevaluated in 2013 and will be required to do it again in 2018. There is no money in this account currently. We will need \$160,000 to do this. We need to start putting this money aside now.

The Town Moderator declared Article 10 passed to the Official Town Ballot.

Article 11

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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 Hooksett Police Union Local 46, NEPBA which calls for the following increase in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

Estimated increase over prior year

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Salaries</i>	<i>Benefits</i>	<i>Estimated Increase</i>
2015-2016	\$26,708.00	\$2,619.00	\$29,327.00
2016-2017	\$28,871.00	(\$494.00)	\$28,377.00

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$29,327.00 for the current fiscal year, such sum represents 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 \$0.02. Recommended by Town Council (6-0), Recommended by Budget Committee (8-0).

Don Winterton motioned to place Article 11 on the Town Official Ballot. Seconded by Todd Lizotte.

D. Winterton: This is a 2 year contract which was the result of lengthy negotiations with their union. It is a small impact on the tax rate. The increase will be 3% a year and the union has agreed to pay a larger portion of their health insurance. They will go from 10% to 12% in health costs. In the second year they will pay 15% of the health insurance which is another 3% increase. I appreciate the professionalism from the union side and the Town Staff and I hope you agree this is a good agreement for the employees and the town.

J. Michaud: Is it possible to have the contract put on the town's website?

T. Rainer: It is already posted on the website.

J. Michaud: Does this address the Cadillac tax?

D. Winterton: The town is establishing a Health Insurance Committee made up of employees to look at all aspects of the contract. If the finding of that committee is not agreeable to the union, they can opt out after one year. This committee will address the Cadillac tax issue as well.

The Moderator declared Article 11 passed to the Official Town Ballot.

Article 12

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 Public Works\Recycling Union Local 1580, AFSCME Council 93 which calls for the following increase in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

Estimated increase over prior year

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Salaries</i>	<i>Benefits</i>	<i>Estimated Increase</i>
2015-2016	\$22,631.00	(\$2,601.00)	\$20,030.00
2016-2017	\$23,310.00	(\$6,345.00)	\$16,965.00

and further to raise and appropriate \$20,030.00 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 \$0.01. Recommended by Town Council (6-0), Recommended by Budget Committee (8-0).

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Nancy Comai motioned to place Article 12 on the Town Official Ballot. Seconded by Don Winterton.

N. Comai: The Council chose to work with all three unions to save the town benefits. We found it very long. The 3% is offset with the 2% increase in employee contribution to the health insurance. This union being the first to pass helped to bring this together for the town. The 3% helps us to become on par with the other towns. I want to applaud the work of the Town Administrator and Donna Fitzpatrick for the time put in to do this work. At the end of the day, the Health Insurance Committee formed puts our town in the forefront. Please support this Article.

Marlene Lein, 15 Coaker Ave: What if these Articles don't pass; do you go back to the bargaining table?

Dr. Shankle: Yes

Rob Hebert, Dundee Ave: I am an employee of the Highway and both sides have agreed this is a good and fair contract and I ask for your support.

The Moderator declared Article 12 passed to the Official Town Ballot.

Article 13

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$18,657.00 for the purpose of hiring a part time clerk/receptionist in the police department to work no more than twenty four (24) hours per week.

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Salaries</i>	<i>Benefits</i>	<i>Estimated Increase</i>
2015- 2016	\$18,657.00	\$0.00	\$18,657.00

Estimated tax rate impact \$0.01. Recommended by Town Council (6-0), Recommended by Budget Committee (8-0).

Rob Duhaime motioned to place Article 13 on the Town Official Ballot. Seconded by T. Lizotte.

R. Duhaime: The police chief would like to increase staff to add a clerk for assistance with administrative support.

T. Lizotte: One of the things that Chief Bartlett has done to modernize the Police Department is to streamline the paperwork. They are also working to inventory evidence. There are space constraints. This person will also cover for evidence duty to store and catalogue evidence. It is a worthwhile article.

The Moderator declared Article 13 passed to the Official Town Ballot.

Article 14

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 to be added to the Master Plan Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Estimated tax rate impact \$0.01. Recommended by Town Council (6-0), Recommended by Budget Committee (8-0).

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Adam Jennings motioned to place Article 14 on the Town Official Ballot. Seconded by Rob Duhaime.

A. Jennings: RSA 674 says you have to have a Master Plan in place.

The Moderator declared Article 14 passed to the Official Town Ballot.

Article 15

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$71,997.00 For the salary, benefits, taxes and equipment for a full time Firefighter/EMT for the Fire-Rescue Department. If this article passes the operating budgets will be reduced by \$72,454.00 in overtime costs for the Fire Rescue Department. This will create a savings in our daily operating costs.

Salary	\$ 38,045.00
Benefits	30,952.00
Gear	3,000.00
Total costs	\$ 71,997.00

Estimated tax rate impact \$0.00. Recommended by Town Council (4-2), Recommended by Budget Committee (7-1).

Adam Jennings motioned to place Article 15 on the Town Official Ballot. Seconded by Jim Sullivan.

A. Jennings: This will allow the Fire Department to have a full staffing of 7 firefighters for each shift and reduce the overtime as indicated in Article 3.

Richard Boisvert: Why do they have \$72,000 in overtime costs?

Dean Jore: We have minimum staffing of 6 and this brings all shifts to 7. We had one shift that was not at 7. One shift met the minimum standard but whenever there was sick or vacation time, we had to bring in personnel to bring the shift up.

Richard Boisvert: With 6, what was the result?

Dean Jore: With running the ambulance, there were 4 at our central station with 2 to go for the ambulance leaving 1 for the fire call and one left at the station.

Richard Boisvert: How often does that happen?

Dean Jore: We believe it happens 35% of the time on that shift.

J. Michaud: The interplay of this with the Operation budget article; is this only reduced if the budget passes or the default?

Dean Shankle: It doesn't matter whether Article 3 passes, only if this article passes.

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Richard Boisvert: Each shift having the same amount of personnel is saying you get the same amount of calls for each shift?

Dean Jore: The calls are pretty even between shifts.

Terry Pfaff: Is that related to firefighter safety as well?

Dean Jore: When you run a pump with one person, you can't get much done. They are limited.

T. Pfaff: Will that additional person help give service to the citizens?

Dean Jore: Yes.

The Moderator declared Article 15 passed to the Official Town Ballot.

Article 16

To see if the town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$49,744.00 this sum represents the additional costs over the current compensation rates attributable to an increase in salaries and benefits to address pay equity issues for library employees when compared with the salaries and benefits of other Hooksett municipal employees. The passage of this article will establish pay parity between Hooksett library employees and other Hooksett municipal employees.

Estimated increase over prior year

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Salaries</i>	<i>Taxes</i>	<i>NH Retirement</i>	<i>Estimated Increase</i>
2015- 2016	\$43,902.00	\$3,358.00	\$2,484.00	\$49,744.00

PETITION ARTICLE Estimated tax rate impact \$0.03. Recommended by Town Council (6-1), Recommended by Budget Committee (8-0).

Mac Broderick motioned to place Article 16 on the Official Town Ballot. Seconded by Barbara Davis.

M. Broderick: This Article is a petition submitted by over 100 residents. (Read a statement)

The Moderator declared Article 16 passed to the Official Town Ballot.

Motion to adjourn at 10:30 am

Lee Ann Moynihan
Minute Clerk

