

MINUTES
2021 TOWN OF HOOKSETT DELIBERATIVE SESSION
FEBRUARY 6, 2021

CALL TO ORDER: Assistant Moderator Don Riley called the meeting to order at 9:01 am, at the Cawley Middle School on February 06, 2021.

Assistant Moderator Riley: I would like to welcome all of you to Hooksett's annual Deliberative Session on February 6, 2021 at 9:01 am. I am the Assistant Moderator, a position I have held since August of 2020. Cindy Robertson is the appointed moderator. She is not here because she just returned from a trip and is quarantining for two weeks.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Assistant Moderator Riley called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Assistant Moderator Riley: To the inhabitants of the Town of Hooksett, New Hampshire, in the County of Merrimack in said state, qualified to vote in town affairs, you are hereby notified to meet at Cawley Middle School on Saturday, February 06, 2021 at 9:00 am for the first session of the Town Meeting to discuss and amend as required Warrant Articles #3 through #23. The final ballot vote for all Warrant Articles will take place here at Cawley Middle School on Tuesday, March 09, 2021. The polls will be open from 6:00 am until 7:00 pm. Mr. Nick Germain has provided proof of posting at Town Hall, the Library and on the Town Website. This was done on January 25, 2021.

INTRODUCTIONS: Assistant Moderator Riley introduced the Supervisors of the Checklist: Chair Barbara Brennan, Kim Daggett and Javier Olivarez. They report 26 voters present. Next, he introduced Town Clerk Todd Rainier and Town Administrator André Garron. The Town Council Chairman Jim Sullivan introduced the members of the Town Council in attendance: Vice Chair Timothy Tsantoulis, Secretary John Durand, Councilor Clifford Jones, Councilor David Boutin and Councilor Randall Lapierre. (Councilor Roger Duhaime arrived at 9:26 pm.) Next, André Garron introduced the Hooksett employees in attendance: Fire Chief James Burkush, Assistant Fire Chief Steven Colburn, DPW Director Earl Labonte, Tax Collector Kim Blichmann, Assessor Jon Duhamel, Deputy Town Clerk Billie Hebert, Family Services Director Abby Reeves, Human Resources Coordinator Donna Fitzpatrick, Projects Coordinator Nick Germain, Finance Director Christine Soucie, Town Engineer Bruce Thomas, former Sewer Department Superintendent Bruce Kudrick and Police Chief Janet Bouchard. He next introduced Steven Whitley from Drummond Woodsum, filling in for Matt Serge, the Town Attorney. The Assistant Moderator next asked Budget Committee Chairman Jason Hyde to introduce the members of the Budget Committee. Chair Hyde introduce Vice Chair Chris Morneau, Secretary Brian Soucy, Michael Yakubovich, Rick Ross and Germano Martins. Members not present include Luis Amadeo and Kara Salvas, School Board Representative. (Elliot Axelman arrived late.)

Assistant Moderator Riley: I would be remiss if I did not express deep and sincere thanks to the Hooksett School Department, with special thanks to Superintendent William Rearick, Maintenance Director Dean Farmer, and Technology Director Daniel Roma, who helped tremendously with setting up, which was challenging due to the pandemic. Many Town employees assisted as well. All registered voters in

attendance should have checked in with the Supervisors of the Checklist. Going back to September, everyone did an exemplary job for the two elections – the Primary in September and the Presidential in November. I now ask all veterans present to stand and be recognized. Thank you for your service.

Assistant Moderator Riley: Regarding the setup for today, the gymnasium, where we are now, is the main room. The cafeteria is set up as an overflow room and the Media Center is for non-residents and non-registered voters, other than non-resident Town employees. A fourth location, the Band Room, is for those unable or unwilling to wear a mask. All four locations have sound and video, as well as the ability to communicate during the session. Cell phones should be turned off or silenced during the session.

Assistant Moderator Riley indicated the fire exits for all four room. He then briefly reviewed the purpose and rules for the meeting. RSA 40:13 IV defines the purpose of the Deliberative Session as a forum to explain, discuss, debate and amend the Town’s Warrant Articles and move them to the ballot. The Moderator (or Assistant Moderator) facilitates this, but the voters may override any decision of the Moderator. Speakers should use one of the two microphones, which will be sanitized between speakers. Comments are to be addressed to the Moderator. Speakers and non-speakers shall be courteous; disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. The Assistant Moderator will read each article and then entertain a motion and a second on that article. Discussion of issues not on the Warrant is not allowed. Only one amendment at a time will be considered, and the subject matter cannot be changed. A motion to call or move the question stops debate. Voice votes will be used unless it is deemed that another method is needed.

Town Administrator Garron: I would like to provide a brief overview of the events, decisions and actions leading up to this session. This is the second Deliberative Session which I have participated in, and I am grateful to serve as your Town Administrator. The COVID-19 virus has taken a toll on Hooksett, on our state and on our whole country. With vaccines available and being distributed, we can be encouraged. Early in the pandemic, we closed Town Hall for 2.5 months in an effort to minimize the spread of the virus. We know that the pandemic has had a negative financial impact on Hooksett and its residents. Our department heads aggressively pursued grants to offset the extra expenses incurred, including funds from FEMA, DOJ, the CARES Act, and GOEFFR. These funds were put to good use for plexiglass, distancing signage, sanitizer, air filtration and masks. Some funds were used to retrofit the gymnasium at Town Hall in order to accommodate groups of people, while providing the means to social distance. The budget process was rigorous this year; some planned initiatives were postponed because of the financial impact of COVID. We did negotiate two union contracts this year – one with the DPW and a new one in December for middle management. The Route 3A Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District project has been delayed but will still go forward. To the hardworking staff which always has the best interest of the Hooksett residents in mind, the Town Council with its steady leadership, and the residents here today, I thank you for your cooperation, dedication and patience.

Article 1

To choose all necessary Town officers for the year ensuing.

Article 2

Zoning Amendments.

Assistant Moderator Riley read 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 **\$20,805,931.00**? Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be \$20,788,150.00, 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 is \$5.82. Recommended by Town Council (5 Yes – 3 No). Recommended by Budget Committee (7 Yes – 3 No).

Budget Committee Chair Hyde motioned to move Article 3 to the official ballot. Budget Committee Vice Chair Morneau seconded the motion.

Chairman Hyde: I would like to thank the members of the Town Council, André Garron, the School Board Rep, Leeann Moynihan, Christine Soucie and all of the department heads for the time and effort they put into this budget. There were many late nights. What happened this year is rarely seen: The Town Council’s initial ask was less than the 2020 actuals. It is a responsible budget. We know that folks are struggling. We added a couple of things to the Police and Fire budgets. We reduced the Wastewater budget a bit, and we also reviewed the budgets of the Water Precincts.

Assistant Moderator Riley declared Article 3 moved to the official ballot.

Assistant Moderator Riley read Article 4:

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’ Employees’ Local 633, Teamsters, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

	<u>Estimated increase over prior year</u>		
<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Salaries</u>	<u>Benefits</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
2021-22	\$62,326.00	\$16,462.00	\$78,788.00
2022-23	\$25,067.00	\$ 5,129.00	\$30,196.00
2023-24	\$25,439.00	\$ 5,154.00	\$30,593.00

and further to raise and appropriate **\$78,788.00** 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 \$0.04. Recommended by Town Council (8 Yes – 0 No). Recommended by Budget Committee (5 Yes – 4 No). (Majority vote required)

Councilor Lapierre motioned to move Article 8 to the official ballot. Councilor Durand seconded the motion.

Councilor Lapierre: I was part of the union negotiations...

Budget Committee Chair Hyde: Point of Order. This is Article 4, not Article 8.

Councilor Lapierre: I will correct my motion to say Article 4.

Assistant Moderator Riley declared Article 4 moved to the official ballot.

Assistant Moderator Riley read Article 5:

Shall the town, if ARTICLE #4 is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address ARTICLE #4 cost items only? (Majority vote required)

Assistant Moderator Riley: Attorney Whitley, is it necessary to move Article 5 to the ballot?

Attorney Whitley: It is not necessary to do so because it will automatically go to the ballot, but you may do so if you want to.

Assistant Moderator Riley read Article 6:

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 Employees of Local 633, Teamsters, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

	<u>Estimated increase over prior year</u>		
<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Salaries</u>	<u>Benefits</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
2021-22	\$14,213.00	\$3,026.00	\$17,239.00

and further to raise and appropriate **\$17, 239.00** 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 \$0.01. Recommended by Town Council (9 Yes – 0 No). Not recommended by the Budget Committee (4 Yes – 5 No). (Majority vote required)

Councilor Durand motioned to move Article 6 to the official ballot. Councilor Lapierre seconded the motion.

Assistant Moderator Riley declared Article 6 moved to the official ballot.

Assistant Moderator Riley read Article 7:

Shall the town, if ARTICLE #6 is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address ARTICLE #6 cost items only? (Majority vote required)

Assistant Moderator Riley read Article 8:

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$320,950.00** for the purpose of constructing Phase III of the Merrimack Riverfront Trail, with \$20,000.00 to come from the Conservation Fund; \$20,950.00 to come from the Conservation Land Improvements Capital Reserve Fund; \$80,000.00 from NH Parks and Recreational Trail Program Grant and \$200,000 from general taxation. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the Phase III of the Merrimack Riverfront Trail is completed or by June 30, 2026, whichever is sooner. Estimated tax rate impact is \$0.10. Recommended by Town Council (6 Yes – 1 No). Recommended by Budget Committee (6 Yes – 3 No).

Councilor Lapierre, for Councilor Walczyk in his absence, motioned to move Article 8 to the official ballot. Council Vice Chair Tsantoulis seconded the motion.

Assistant Moderator Riley declared Article 8 moved to the official ballot.

Assistant Moderator Riley read Article 9:

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 \$125,000.00 to come from the Solid Waste Disposal Special Revenue fund and \$175,000.00 to come from the Automated Collection Equipment Capital Reserve. No amount to be raised from general taxation. Recommended by Town Council (7 Yes – 0 No). Recommended by Budget Committee (9 Yes – 0 No).

Council Vice Chair Tsantoulis motioned to move Article 9 to the ballot. Council Chair Sullivan seconded the motion.

Budget Committee Vice Chair Morneau: We received an amendment to this motion which was not included in what the Assistant Moderator read.

Vice Chair Tsantoulis motioned to amend Article 9, adding “with the 2012 Auto Collection Truck used as a trade-in.” Council Chair Sullivan seconded the motion to amend Article 9.

Council Chair Sullivan: The trade-in would offset the cost of the new truck.

Donna Fitzpatrick, 47 Lindsay Road: I would ask the Public Works Director to tell us what the impact of this amendment would be.

Public Works Director Labonte: The amount we get for the trade-in would reduce the amount we would have to take from the Capital Reserve fund. We do not expect a very good trade-in amount.

Assistant Moderator Riley read Article 9, including the amendment.

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

\$125,000.00 to come from the Solid Waste Disposal Special Revenue fund and \$175,000.00 to come from the Automated Collection Equipment Capital Reserve; **with the 2012 Auto Collection Truck used as a trade-in.** No amount to be raised from general taxation. Recommended by Town Council (7 Yes – 0 No). Recommended by Budget Committee (9 Yes – 0 No).

Assistant Moderator Riley called for a voice vote on the amendment, which carried unanimously.

Assistant Moderator Riley declared Article 9 as amended moved to the official ballot.

Assistant Moderator Riley read Article 10:

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 (7 Yes – 1 No). Recommended by Budget Committee (9 Yes – 0 No).

Council Chair Sullivan motioned to move Article 10 to the official ballot. Councilor Boutin seconded the motion.

Council Chair Sullivan: The Voters' Guide provides the detail on this Article.

Assistant Moderator Riley declared Article 10 moved to the official ballot.

Assistant Moderator Riley read Article 11:

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 – 0 No). Recommended by Budget Committee (9 Yes – 0 No).

Council Vice Chair Tsantoulis motioned to move Article 11 to the official ballot. Council Chair Sullivan seconded the motion.

Council Vice Chair Tsantoulis: As explained in the Voters' Guide, we set aside money in Capital Reserve accounts to offset large purchases.

Assistant Moderator Riley declared Article 11 moved to the official ballot.

Assistant Moderator Riley read Article 12:

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$150,000.00** to purchase a Front-End Loader to process, load and haul trash for 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 (7 Yes – 0 No). Recommended by Budget Committee (9 Yes – 0 No).

Council Chair Sullivan motioned to move Article 12 to the official ballot. Council Vice Chair Tsantoulis seconded the motion.

Council Chair Sullivan motioned to amend Article 12 adding “with the 2012 Auto Collection Truck used as a trade-in.” Councilor Secretary Durand seconded the motion.

Council Chair Sullivan: This is similar to the amendment for Article 9. The trade-in will offset the cost of the new Front-End Loader and therefore reduce the amount we will need to take from the Special Revenue fund.

Council Vice Chair Tsantoulis: This provides a means of disposing of old vehicles which are not needed. Also, I would note that the funds for this article are not from general taxation. Revenues from fees gathered at the Solid Waste Department have been placed in a Special Revenue fund for more than 20 years. The fund has a balance of \$525,742.00.

Assistant Moderator Riley read Article 12, including the amendment.

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$150,000.00** to purchase a Front-End Loader to process, load and haul trash for the Recycling and Transfer Division of Public works with said funds to come from the Solid Waste Disposal Special Revenue Fund; **with the 2000 Cat Front-End Loader used as a trade-in.** No amount to be raised from general taxation. Recommended by town Council (7 Yes – 0 No). Recommended by Budget Committee (9 Yes – 0 No).

Assistant Moderator Riley called for a voice vote on the amendment, which carried unanimously.

Assistant Moderator Riley declared Article 12 as amended moved to the official ballot.

Assistant Moderator Riley read Article 13:

To see if the town will vote to establish a Retirement Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 31:19-a, for payments paid out to retiring employees and to raise and appropriate **\$150,000.00** to put in the fund, with the amount to come from unassigned fund balance; further to name the Town Administrator as agent to expend from said fund. No amount to be raise from general taxation. Recommended by Town Council (6 Yes – 1 No). Recommended by Budget Committee (9 Yes – 0 No).

Council Chair Sullivan motioned to move Article 13 to the official ballot. Councilor Boutin seconded the motion.

Council Chair Sullivan: This is a new type of warrant article, which eliminates the need to budget for unanticipated retirements.

Budget Committee Chair Hyde: Finance Director Soucie explained this to us clearly. This is a good move. The Town is taking the time to plan ahead, which saves the residents from spikes in the tax rate.

Assistant Moderator Riley declared Article 13 moved to the official ballot.

Assistant Moderator Riley read Article 14:

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$140,387.00** 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>
2021-22	\$112,618.00	\$27,769.00	\$140,387.00

Estimated tax rate impact is \$0.07. Recommended by Town Council (8 Yes – 1 No).

Recommended by Budget Committee (9 Yes – 0 No).

Councilor Durand motioned to move Article 14 to the official ballot. Councilor Boutin seconded the motion.

Assistant Moderator Riley declared Article 14 moved to the official ballot.

Assistant Moderator Riley read Article 15:

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$100,000.00** to be added to the Town Building Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Estimated tax rate impact is \$0.05. Recommended by Town Council (7 Yes – 1 No). Recommended by Budget Committee (9 Yes – 0 No).

Council Vice Chair Tsantoulis motioned to move Article 15 to the official ballot. Councilor Boutin seconded the motion.

Council Vice Chair Tsantoulis: This is a budgeting mechanism we use frequently as a means of tackling large purchases over time.

Assistant Moderator Riley declared Article 15 moved to the official ballot.

Assistant Moderator Riley read Article 16:

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$65,000.00** to purchase a Fire Command vehicle for the Fire-Rescue Department with \$50,000.00 to come from unassigned fund balance and \$15,000.00 from general taxation. Estimated tax rate impact is \$0.01. Recommended by Town Council (5 Yes – 3 No). Recommended by Budget Committee (9 Yes – 0 No).

Council Chair Sullivan motioned to move Article 16 to the official ballot. Council Vice Chair Tsantoulis seconded the motion.

Council Chair Sullivan motioned to amend Article 16, adding “and equip” after the phrase “to purchase” in the first sentence. Council Secretary Durand seconded the amendment.

Council Chair Sullivan: The amendment will allow the Fire-Rescue Department to outfit the Command vehicle with the tools needed. The current Command vehicle is 14 or 15 years old.

Assistant Moderator Riley read Article 16, including the amendment.

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$65,000.00** to purchase **and equip** a Fire Command vehicle for the Fire-Rescue Department with \$50,000.00 to come from unassigned fund balance and \$15,000.00 from general taxation. Estimated tax rate impact is \$0.01. Recommended by Town Council (5 Yes – 3 No). Recommended by Budget Committee (9 Yes – 0 No).

Assistant Moderator Riley called for a voice vote on the amendment, which carried unanimously.

Budget Committee Chair Hyde motioned to amend Article 16 to read that \$65,000.00 is to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance and no amount is to come from general taxation. Budget Committee Secretary Soucy seconded the amendment.

Assistant Moderator Riley: Attorney Whitley, is this a valid amendment?

Attorney Whitley: It is a valid amendment.

Budget Committee Chair Hyde: Even though \$15,000.00 is a small amount, there is lots of money in the Unassigned Fund Balance, so we can avoid adding to general taxation and to the tax rate.

Assistant Moderator Riley read Article 16, including the second amendment.

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$65,000.00** to purchase and equip a Fire Command vehicle for the Fire-Rescue Department **with \$65,000.00 to come from unassigned fund balance. Estimated tax rate impact is \$0.00.** Recommended by Town Council (5 Yes – 3 No). Recommended by Budget Committee (9 Yes – 0 No).

Assistant Moderator Riley called for a voice vote on the amendment. Councilor Jones voted no.

Budget Committee Secretary Soucy: Do we need a motion to change the tax rate impact?

Finance Director Soucie: The tax rate impact can be changed to \$0.00 without a motion.

Assistant Moderator Riley declared Article 16 as amended moved to the official ballot.

Assistant Moderator Riley read Article 17:

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$55,000.00** to be added to the previously established Capital Reserve Funds noted below and to apportion the sum among them as listed below:

Air Packs & Bottles	\$ 20,000.00
Fire-Rescue Tools & Equipment	<u>35,000.00</u>

Total \$ 55,000.00

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

Recommended by Budget Committee (9 Yes – 0 No).

Council Vice Chair Tsantoulis motioned to move Article 17 to the official ballot. Councilor Boutin seconded the motion.

Budget Committee Chair Hyde: There are many of these Capital Reserve funds, which help us avoid tax rate spikes. The only change for this one is that it is lower than in the past.

Assistant Moderator Riley declared Article 17 moved to the official ballot.

Assistant Moderator Riley read Article 18:

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 (7 Yes – 1 No). Recommended by Budget Committee (9 Yes – 0 No).

Council Chair Sullivan motioned to move Article 18 to the official ballot. Council Vice Chair Tsantoulis seconded the motion.

Assistant Moderator Riley declared Article 18 moved to the official ballot.

Assistant Moderator Riley read Article 19:

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 (9 Yes – 0 No).

Council Secretary Durand motioned to move Article 19 to the official ballot. Council Chair Sullivan seconded the motion.

Assistant Moderator Riley declared Article 19 moved to the official ballot.

Assistant Moderator Riley read Article 20:

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 previously established. Estimated tax rate impact is \$0.01. Recommended by Town Council (7 Yes – 1 No). Recommended by Budget Committee (9 Yes – 0 No).

Council Vice Chair Tsantoulis motioned to move Article 20 to the official ballot. Councilor Boutin seconded the motion.

Assistant Moderator Riley declared Article 20 moved to the official ballot.

Assistant Moderator Riley read Article 21:

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 (7 Yes – 1 No).

Recommended by Budget Committee (9 Yes – 0 No).

Council Vice Chair Tsantoulis motioned to move Article 21 to the official ballot. Council Secretary Durand seconded the motion.

Council Vice Chair Tsantoulis: Again, this is a capital reserve fund, which helps us fund large items by setting aside small amounts each year.

Assistant Moderator Riley declared Article 21 moved to the official ballot.

Assistant Moderator Riley read Article 22:

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$20,000.00** to be added to the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Estimated tax rate impact is \$0.01.

Recommended by Town Council (7 Yes – 1 No). Recommended by Budget Committee (8 Yes – 1 No).

Council Chair Sullivan motioned to move Article 22 to the official ballot. Council Vice Chair Tsantoulis seconded the motion.

Budget Committee Chair Hyde: A revaluation is required by the state every five years. Because of advances in technology, the cost has been coming down. This fund enables the town to spread the cost over five years instead of having a tax spike every five years.

Assistant Moderator Riley declared Article 22 moved to the official ballot.

Assistant Moderator Riley read Article 23:

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$10,000.00** to be added to the Conservation Land Improvements Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Estimated tax rate impact is less than \$0.01 Recommended by Town Council (6 Yes – 1 No). Recommended by Budget Committee (9 Yes – 0 No).

Council Chair Sullivan motioned to move Article 23 to the official ballot. Council Vice Chair Tsantoulis seconded the motion.

Councilor Duhaime: This amount should be \$20,000.00. This is a pitiful amount to spend on conservation. Land is growing more valuable, and there is not much left for conservation. Next year, I would like to see this go up.

Assistant Moderator Riley declared Article 23 moved to the official ballot.

Council Chair Sullivan: We will see you next year as we celebrate the 200th anniversary of Hooksett.

Assistant Moderator Riley: It has been a pleasure working with you this morning. You are all wonderful people. I will see you on March 9th when we will have another great election. I declare this session adjourned at 10: 17 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Donnelly
Recording Clerk