

**BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING – January 18, 2024
Public Hearing – Water Precincts**

**BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
Hooksett Town Hall
35 Main Street
Thursday, January 18, 2024
6:30 pm
Public Hearing – Water Precincts
7:00 pm**

CALL TO ORDER

B. Soucy called the meeting to order at 6:30

Pledge of Allegiance

ATTENDANCE

B. Soucy, Chair, A. Shaine, G. Martins, C. Gurung, D. Greenberg, M. Kowack, W. Lynch, E. Baker, and E. Bencivenga

Excused: R. Ross

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of January 11, 2024

***B. Soucy motioned to approve the minutes of January 11, 2024. Seconded by C. Gurung
Correction Article 32 add M. Kowack Yes (page 21)***

Vote unanimously in favor

PUBLIC INPUT

Chief Sargent spoke regarding the recommendation for the Police Union contract.

Four of the 5 contracts were recommended. The Police was the least expensive and the % per year was among the lowest. Everyone was scheduled for a 3.6% over 3 years. That is similar to the mid management group contract which past a few years ago with 5%, 3%, and 3%. We worked on the contract and believed it was fair and it was recommended unanimously by the Council. This is the group that runs the day to day operation of the department. We are lucky to have the group we have. They are caring, smart and good to the people they supervise. We need to be competitive with other departments. We all worked together, both sides, and felt it was fair. Beyond that, we have another union, the patrolman's union; and we need to encourage them to stay and become part of the supervisory group. We want to stay competitive with the other unions in town. I wanted to give you the information so you may reconsider your recommendation.

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B. Soucy stated that they will discuss this Article under Other Business.

Central Water Precinct - Presentation

Article 5 – Operating Budget

To see if the Central Hooksett Village District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,235,705 for general municipal operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. (Recommended by Precinct Commissioners) (Majority vote required)

Chris Culberson, Superintendent Central Water:

We are self sufficient, and our revenue comes from our sale of water.

There are no planned capital expenditures.

One person retired in June and they were not replaced. A part time bookkeeper was made full time. There is a 3% pay increase and 15.6% increase in medical and 4.7% increase in dental.

B. Soucy asked about line 1170 vehicles?

C. Culberson stated they have two (2) pick-ups which have 130,000 and 140,000 miles.

B. Soucy asked about line 1131 which was an increase in liability insurance.

C. Culberson stated there was a large increase on worker's comp. We think we were not correctly quoted.

B. Soucy asked about line 1141 for \$5000 where only \$194 was expended in 2022 and \$150 to date for office equipment.

C. Culberson: We need to replace hard drives for office computers.

D. Greenberg: Line 1153 is also tech?

C. Culberson: This is for software and communication at the pump station.

B. Soucy: The total increase to the budget is \$35,000.

Article 06 Source Development

To see if the Precinct will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000 to be added to the Central Hooksett Water Precinct Capital Reserve Fund entitled Source Development & Infrastructure Preservation Fund, with said funds to come from Capital Improvement Fees and Water Rents (Recommended by the Precinct Commissioners.) ((Majority vote required.))

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That is a fund for service connection for source development fees.

Article 07 Water Storage

To see if the Precinct will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to be added to the Central Hooksett Water Precinct Capital Reserve Fund entitled Water Storage Capital Reserve Fund previously established, with said funds to come from Capital Improvement Fees and Water Rents (Recommended by the Precinct Commissioners.) (Majority vote required.)

There are 5 standpipe water tanks. That is money for any work to be done on those.

Request for balances in those Funds and what they have been used for over the last 5 years.

Article 08 New Construction

To see if the Precinct will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000 to be added to the Central Hooksett Water Precinct Capital Reserve Fund entitled New Construction and Capital Improvements Capital Reserve Fund previously established, with said funds to come from Water Rents (Recommended by the Precinct Commissioners.) (Majority vote required.)

This is for water main work or new mains.

Article 09 Repair & Replacement

To see if the Precinct will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$22,500 to be added to the Central Hooksett Water Precinct Capital Reserve Fund entitled Repair and Replacement of Main and Equipment Reserve Fund, previously established, with said funds to come from Capital Improvement Fees and Water Rents. (Recommended by the Precinct Commissioners.) (Majority vote required.)

Upgrade to a pump station or anything in the system that move water.

Article 10 Standpipe

To see if the Precinct will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to be added to the Reserve Fund entitled Standpipe Relining Capital Reserve Fund, previously established, with said funds to come from Water Rents (Recommended by the Precinct Commissioners.) (Majority vote required.)

This is specifically for steel tank exteriors that need a special coating.

Village Water Precinct -Presentation

Article 05 Operating Budget

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To see if the Hooksett Village District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,610,531 for general municipal operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. (Recommended by Precinct Commissioners) (Recommended by the Budget Committee) (Majority vote required)

Mike Heirdorn and Todd Smith, Commissioner

M. Heirdorn: There is a lot going on with construction and design of old infrastructure. In 2016 we had our first capital improvement plan. Every year we review that and look out and predict our rates.

We provide water from Granite Hill north to the Allenstown line and on the west side of the river to the Northeast Record Retention Center and the Bow town line.

We have four (4) large wells at Pinnacle Pond and tanks. We have 30 miles of water main; 1200 services and hydrants. It is a small system in the State's view but a lot of equipment to maintain.

We have done a lot of water main construction. We are working on the Highland St. project. We are doing planning and design for the Town's TIF project and we have our own TIF project.

Our TIF project is 18 ft from Vista Drive to 3A and provides better hydrolics. We are working on replacing a tank from the 1950's. There are a lot of services to hydrants and repairs.

We are looking for new water sources. All wells are near the highway and we are always concerned about spills from there.

We are at the end of our meter initiative, and we sold parts for scrap metal to make up some money.

There is a million dollars in the trust fund

Village Water District Budget Review

M. Heirdorn: The revenues came in a little over what was anticipated.

For Staff – we looked at increasing the staff from 5 -6 but we had someone that didn't work out. Then someone left and someone had to take time for a medical issue. We hope to bring someone on in 2024.

The water service work increased costs.

We did a lot of survey work with the wells an I93 and the potential impact of a diesel spill and looking at solar.

Water main-there is a lot going on and engineering assistant for Highland St. Project.

The total budget increased \$54,730 or 3.5% increase over last year.

B. Soucy in 2023, the GIS was double.

M. Heirdorn: WE use GIS and we have an initiative to map out easements in town and property. Mapping property, easements, placing markers and adding it to the GIS.

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Article 06 Transfer to Source Development & Infrastructure Preservation Trust Fund

To see if the Village District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to be added to the HVWP Source Development & Infrastructure Preservation Fund previously established. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. (Recommended by the Precinct Commissioners.) ((Majority vote required.)

M. Heirdorn: This is money from Source Development.

Article 07 Water Storage

To see if the Precinct will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to be added to the Central Hooksett Water Precinct Capital Reserve Fund entitled Water Storage Capital Reserve Fund previously established, with said funds to come from Capital Improvement Fees and Water Rents (Recommended by the Precinct Commissioners.) (Majority vote required.)

Article 10 – Transfer to HVWP Tank Maintenance

To see if the Village District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$28,500 to be added to the Hooksett Village Water Precinct Storage Tank Trust Fund previously established. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. This article is contingent upon the passing of Article #8 and Article #9. (Recommended by the Precinct Commissioners.) (Majority vote required.)

M. Heirdorn: We have two (2) tank trust funds – one is maintenance and on is tanks. It has been confusing in the past so the board has decided to combine them.

Article 11 – Establish Facility CRF, Add Funds & Name Agents

To see if the Village District will vote to establish a Hooksett Village Water Precinct Facility Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA35:1 for the purpose of expending funds for costs including, but not limited to, the purchase, construction, permitting, preservation, repairs, additions and/or replacements of any Hooksett Village Water Precinct buildings, lands and appurtenances, standpipes and/or water works and administrative costs and expenses associated therewith and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to be placed in this fund to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to come from taxation. Further, to name the Hooksett Village Water Precinct agents to expend said funds.

M. Heirdorn: We have been discussing the office facility and decided to start a trust fund to maintain and establish a fund to address the issues.

Budget Committee Discussion

Central Village Water Precinct

Operating Budget - \$1,235,705

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B. Soucy motioned to accept the Central Hooksett Water Precinct budget as presented and move it to public hearing. Seconded by D. Greenberg.

Roll Call

C. Gurung Yes
M. Kowack Yes
E. Baker Yes
W. Lynch Yes
E. Bencivenga Yes
D. Greenberg Yes
G. Martins Yes
A. Shaine Yes
B. Soucy Yes
9:0 unanimously in favor

Village Water Precinct
Operating Budget – 1,610,531

B. Soucy motioned to accept the Hooksett Village Water Precinct budget and move it to public hearing.
Seconded by G. Martins

Roll Call

E. Baker Yes
M. Kowack Yes
E. Bencivenga Yes
W. Lynch Yes
C. Gurung Yes
D. Greenberg Yes
G. Martins Yes
A. Shaine Yes
B. Soucy Yes
9:0 unanimously in favor

PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Soucy opened the public Hearing for Central Water Precinct at 7:46 pm.

B. Soucy read the following articles in to the record
Central Water Precinct
Article 5 – Operating Budget

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To see if the Central Hooksett Village District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,235,705 for general municipal operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. (Recommended by Precinct Commissioners) (Majority vote required)

No public comments

Article 06 Source Development

To see if the Precinct will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000 to be added to the Central Hooksett Water Precinct Capital Reserve Fund entitled Source Development & Infrastructure Preservation Fund, with said funds to come from Capital Improvement Fees and Water Rents (Recommended by the Precinct Commissioners.) ((Majority vote required.)

No public comments

Article 07 Water Storage

To see if the Precinct will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to be added to the Central Hooksett Water Precinct Capital Reserve Fund entitled Water Storage Capital Reserve Fund previously established, with said funds to come from Capital Improvement Fees and Water Rents (Recommended by the Precinct Commissioners.) (Majority vote required.)

No public comments

Article 08 New Construction

To see if the Precinct will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000 to be added to the Central Hooksett Water Precinct Capital Reserve Fund entitled New Construction and Capital Improvements Capital Reserve Fund previously established, with said funds to come from Water Rents (Recommended by the Precinct Commissioners.) (Majority vote required.)

No public comments

Article 09 Repair & Replacement

To see if the Precinct will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$22,500 to be added to the Central Hooksett Water Precinct Capital Reserve Fund entitled Repair and Replacement of Main and Equipment Reserve Fund, previously established, with said funds to come from Capital Improvement Fees and Water Rents. (Recommended by the Precinct Commissioners.) (Majority vote required.)

No public comments

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Article 10 Standpipe

To see if the Precinct will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to be added to the Reserve Fund entitled Standpipe Relining Capital Reserve Fund, previously established, with said funds to come from Water Rents (Recommended by the Precinct Commissioners.) (Majority vote required.)

No public comments

Chairman Soucy opened the public Hearing for Hooksett Village Water Precinct at 7:52 pm.

B. Soucy read the following articles in to the record

Article 05 Operating Budget

To see if the Hooksett Village District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,610,531 for general municipal operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. (Recommended by Precinct Commissioners) (Recommended by the Budget Committee) (Majority vote required)

No public comments

Article 06 Transfer to Source Development & Infrastructure Preservation Trust Fund

To see if the Village District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to be added to the HVWP Source Development & Infrastructure Preservation Fund previously established. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. (Recommended by the Precinct Commissioners.) ((Majority vote required.)

No public comments

Article 07 Transfer to Repair & Replacement Trust Fund

To see if the Village District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$108,186 to be added to the Hooksett Village Water Precinct Repair & Replacement Trust Fund previously established. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from (Recommended by the Precinct Commissioners.) (Majority vote required.)

No public comments

Article 10 – Transfer to HVWP Tank Maintenance

To see if the Village District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$28,500 to be added to the Hooksett Village Water Precinct Storage Tank Trust Fund previously established. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. This article is

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contingent upon the passing of Article #8 and Article #9. (Recommended by the Precinct Commissioners.) (Majority vote required.)

No public comments

Article 11 – Establish Facility CRF, Add Funds & Name Agents

To see if the Village District will vote to establish a Hooksett Village Water Precinct Facility Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA35:1 for the purpose of expending funds for costs including, but not limited to, the purchase, construction, permitting, preservation, repairs, additions and/or replacements of any Hooksett Village Water Precinct buildings, lands and appurtenances, standpipes and/or water works and administrative costs and expenses associated therewith and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to be placed in this fund to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to come from taxation. Further, to name the Hooksett Village Water Precinct agents to expend said funds.

No public comments

Chairman Soucy Closed Public Hearing at 7:59 pm

Budget Committee Recommendation

Central Water Precinct

Article 5 – Operating Budget

B. Soucy motioned to recommend Article 5 – Operating Budget. Seconded by M. Kowack

Roll Call

<i>G. Martins</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>C. Gurung</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>W. Lynch</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>E. Bencivenga</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>A. Shaine</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>M. Kowack</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>D. Greenberg</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>E. Baker</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>B. Soucy</i>	<i>Yes</i>

9:0 unanimously in favor

Article 6- Source Development

B. Soucy motioned to recommend Article 6 – Source Development. Seconded by D. Greenberg

Roll Call

<i>W. Lynch</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>D. Greenberg</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>C. Gurung</i>	<i>Yes</i>

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M. Kowack *Yes*
G. Martins *Yes*
E. Bencivenga *Yes*
A. Shaine *Yes*
E. Baker *Yes*
B. Soucy *Yes*
9:0 unanimously in favor

Article 7 – Water Storage

B. Soucy motioned to recommend Article 7 – Water Storage. Seconded by C. Gurung
Roll Call

M. Kowack *Yes*
E. Baker *Yes*
C. Gurung *Yes*
G. Martins *Yes*
W. Lynch *Yes*
E. Bencivenga *Yes*
D. Greenberg *Yes*
A. Shaine *Yes*
B. Soucy *Yes*
9:0 unanimously in favor

Article 8 – New Construction

B. Soucy motioned to recommend Article 8 – New Construction. Seconded by W. Lynch
Roll Call

G. Martins *Yes*
E. Baker *Yes*
D. Greenberg *Yes*
W. Lynch *Yes*
E. Bencivenga *Yes*
C. Gurung *Yes*
M. Kowack *Yes*
A. Shaine *Yes*
B. Soucy *Yes*
9:0 unanimously in favor

Article 9 Repair & Replacement

B. Soucy motioned to recommend Article 9 – Repair & Replacement. Seconded by D. Greenberg.

Roll Call
W. Lynch *Yes*

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C. Gurung *Yes*
D. Greenberg *Yes*
M. Kowack *Yes*
E. Bencivenga *Yes*
E. Baker *Yes*
G. Martins *Yes*
A. Shaine *Yes*
B. Soucy *Yes*
9:0 unanimously in favor

Article 10 – Standpipe

B. Soucy motioned to recommend Article 10 – Standpipe. Seconded by W. Lynch

Roll Call

E. Bencivenga *Yes*
M. Kowack *Yes*
A. Shaine *Yes*
W. Lynch *Yes*
C. Gurung *Yes*
G. Martins *Yes*
D. Greenberg *Yes*
E. Baker *Yes*
B. Soucy *Yes*
9:0 unanimously in favor

Village Water Precinct

Article 5- Operating Budget

B. Soucy motioned to recommend Article 5 – Operating Budget. Seconded by D. Greenberg

Roll Call

C. Gurung *Yes*
W. Lynch *Yes*
A. Shaine *Yes*
M. Kowack *Yes*
G. Martins *Yes*
E. Bencivenga *Yes*
D. Greenberg *Yes*
E. Baker *Yes*
B. Soucy *Yes*
9:0 unanimously in favor

Article 6 – Transfer to Source Development & Infrastructure Preservation Fund

B. Soucy motioned to recommend Article 6 – Source Development. Seconded by C. Gurung

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Roll Call

M. Kowack ***Yes***
C. Gurung ***Yes***
G. Martins ***Yes***
W. Lynch ***Yes***
E. Bencivenga ***Yes***
E. Baker ***Yes***
D. Greenberg ***Yes***
A. Shaine ***Yes***
B. Soucy ***Yes***

9:0 unanimously in favor

Article 7 – Transfer to Repair & Replacement Trust Fund

B. Soucy motioned to recommend Article 7 – Repair & Replacement. Seconded by W. Lynch

Roll Call

W. Lynch ***Yes***
G. Martins ***Yes***
E. Baker ***Yes***
A. Shaine ***Yes***
E. Bencivenga ***Yes***
C. Gurung ***Yes***
M. Kowack ***Yes***
D. Greenberg ***Yes***
B. Soucy ***Yes***

9:0 unanimously in favor

Article 10 – Transfer to HVWP Tank Maintenance

B. Soucy motioned to recommend Article 10 – HVWP Tank Maintenance. Seconded by W. Lynch.

Roll Call

C. Gurung ***Yes***
M. Kowack ***Yes***
E. Baker ***Yes***
W. Lynch ***Yes***
E. Bencivenga ***Yes***
D. Greenberg ***Yes***
G. Martins ***Yes***
A. Shaine ***Yes***
B. Soucy ***Yes***

9:0 unanimously in favor

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Article 11 – Establish Facility CRF, Add Funds & Name Agents.

B. Soucy motioned to recommend Article 11 – Facility CRF. Seconded by G. Martins

Roll Call

E. Baker ***Yes***

M. Kowack ***Yes***

E. Bencivenga ***Yes***

W. Lynch ***Yes***

C. Gurung ***Yes***

D. Greenberg ***Yes***

G. Martins ***Yes***

A. Shaine ***Yes***

B. Soucy ***Yes***

9:0 unanimously in favor

OTHER BUSINESS

D. Greenberg motioned to reconsider motion to recommend Supervisors Union Contract. Seconded by G. Martins.

D. Greenberg stated that new information was brought forward.

G. Martins stated that he believes this should be supported.

M. Kowack stated that he believes that this should not be reconsider since there is not a full board and this does that member a dis-service

B. Soucy does not feel it is appropriate because the Board did do their work and if they had questions they should have been asked.

E. Bencivenga stated that this will set a bad precedents, that everyone who did not get a favorable vote could ask for reconsideration. Also there is not a full board here.

Roll Call

G. Martins ***Yes***

C. Gurung ***Yes***

W. Lynch ***No***

E. Bencivenga ***No***

A. Shaine ***Yes***

M. Kowack ***No***

D. Greenberg ***Yes***

E. Baker ***Yes***

B. Soucy ***No***

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Vote 5:4 motion carried

Reconsideration Vote to recommend Police Union Contract, Article 11

Roll Call

<i>W. Lynch</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>D. Green</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>C. Gurung</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>M. Kowack</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>G. Martins</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>E. Bencivenga</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>A. Shaine</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>E. Baker</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>B. Soucy</i>	<i>No</i>

Vote 6:3 motion carried

A. Shaine motioned to refer the letter regarding the residency of a Budget Committee member to Town Clerk. Seconded by G. Martins.

Roll Call

<i>E. Baker</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>C. Gurung</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>G. Martins</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>W. Lynch</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>E. Bencivenga</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>M. Kowack</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>D. Greenberg</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>A. Shaine</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>B. Soucy</i>	<i>Abstained</i>

Vote 8:0:1 motion carried

Next meeting February 3 at 9:00 am at Cawley School for Deliberative Session

PUBLIC INPUT

No public comments

ADJOURNMENT

D. Greenberg motioned to adjourn. Seconded by E. Baker
Vote unanimously in favorable

Respectfully submitted,

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Lee Ann Moynihan