

**Town of Hooksett
Town Council Meeting Minutes - Official
Wednesday, March 27, 2019**

The Hooksett Town Council met on Wednesday, March 27, 2019 at 6:00 in the Hooksett Municipal Building.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Sullivan called the meeting of 27 Mar 2019 to order at 6:05 pm.

PROOF OF POSTING

D. Fitzpatrick provided proof of posting.

ROLL CALL

In Attendance: Councilor James Sullivan, Councilor Robert Duhaime, Councilor John Durand, Councilor John Giotas, Councilor James Levesque, Councilor David Ross, Councilor Timothy Tsantoulis, and Councilor Alex Walczyk

Missing: Councilor Donald Winterton

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Sullivan called for the Pledge of Allegiance

PUBLIC INPUT – 15 MINUTES

Vincent Lembo, 56 Main Street: At the last Town Council meeting, the Town Clerk and Town Moderator explained the results of the town election. They said that only four warrant articles did not pass, one of which was the one for a recreation director, which was voted down for the third time. However, the voice of the people was not heard because the Acting Town Administrator announced that he had hired a part-time recreation coordinator. I am discouraged that this happened. I am a veteran. I and other veterans are upset that the voice of the voters was not honored.

Ray Miclette, 9 Evelyn Street: I also feel strongly about the issue of a recreation director. To overturn the vote of the people is a slap in the face to the voters. I would like to have this position eliminated. There are a lot of people who are not here who would be here if they knew what had happened. I am a former board member of HYA. I have questions about what is going on with Parks & Recreation. The Parks Department went to an HYA meeting to ask them for money to take care of the town fields. HYA is non-profit and all volunteer. This is beyond me. They have also collected money for a piece of equipment. These are things the town should be paying for. You can fill out a form to use a field. Some groups such as travel soccer and lacrosse teams are doing this. We should charge them to use the field. Bedford rents its turf fields for \$175 per hour.

Bob Ehlers, 14 Arden Drive: I want to share my feelings about what happened at the last meeting. There were political mechanizations going on. The position of recreation director was not voted in for the town, but a similar position was filled anyway. I would like to see that vote overturned.

Alan Leborgne: (Mr. Leborgne could not be at the meeting but sent the following letter which was read into the record by Councilor Durand.)

“Hello, my name is Alan Leborgne. I’ve been a homeowner at 8 Carmel Way in Hooksett, NH for over 21 years and I’ve been an active voter for all of them. I am writing to make a formal complaint regarding

the hiring of a part time Recreational Coordinator. We voted on March 12, 2019 for Recreational Director. This article (12) got shot down 600 to 406 votes. Now, I understand that one week prior to the vote, someone was hired as a part time Recreational Coordinator. I want to go on record to say this position should be terminated as soon as possible. Yours Truly, Alan Leborgne.”

D. Ross motioned to overturn the Acting Town Administrator’s decision to hire a part-time Recreation Coordinator. J. Durand seconded the motion.

D. Ross: These things should not be happening. We heard about this after the fact. The hire took place after the voting. This is an affront to the voters. I was so stunned I didn’t say anything. We tried to have a meeting last week, but it did not happen.

J. Durand: My phone rang off the hook the next day with citizens who were irate. They were upset with me because I didn’t say anything. Like Councilor Ross, I was in shock. This was shot down for the third time. I had no idea what was going on. The Acting Town Administrator said a liaison was needed with the YMCA, but when his friend, the representative of the YMCA was here, he said they did not need a liaison.

D. Fitzpatrick: First, I want to state that I am not speaking for the Acting Town Administrator. My role is to explain policy. Reading from the Hooksett Personnel Plan, under the section, **Creating an additional full-time permanent position**, I quote, “Additional part-time and temporary full-time positions may be added by the Town Administrator within the scope of the same fiscal year without the approval of the Town Council.” This Hooksett Personnel Plan is, and has been, available to all public on our town website, www.hooksett.org. The Acting Town Administrator also wanted to have in this packet an excerpt from the Administrative Code. Under **Section 3.7 Public Works Department**, it says, the Parks, Recreation & Cemeteries Division, and I quote, “...is responsible for the planning and coordination of recreational activities.” The Administrative Code is also, and has been, available on the town website. The next document in this packet is the actual posting of the Recreation Coordinator part-time, seasonal position. This was on the town website for the required seven days. This was an external posting because we only post internally-only when we believe there could be a promotion or transfer of an internal candidate. This was also posted on all department bulletin boards for seven days and on the website of the NHMA. We used to post with the Union Leader but that became costly and the electronic postings involve no cost and meet all legal requirements. The next page is a description of the position, approved by the Acting Town Administrator on March 5, 2019. The final document, which is not related to the part-time, temporary position in question, was approved by the Town Council on May 20, 2016, and it describes the job of a **Contracted Temporary Full-time “Recreation Director”**. This is the last job description of this type presented to the Council for approval because the Council gave the Town Administrator authority to create or amend job descriptions on January 24, 2018. The Town Council has the authority to amend the town personnel plan.

D. Ross: Speaking to the motion, all of that has nothing to do with what we are talking about here. We have the authority to override any decisions or actions of the Town Administrator. We are the boss. It is our duty to honor the voters. The Acting Town Administrator is the administrator, not the manager. His job is to carry out the will of the Council. This wasn’t even mentioned to us. We were told after the fact. His predecessor did this a couple of times too, but it’s not going to happen now, not if I have anything to say about it. This is sticking our fingers in the eyes of the voters.

T. Tsantoulis: I don’t care to sit here and participate in what appears to be a public lynching. Acting Town Administrator Winterton is on a pre-planned vacation. It appears that he did what he was allowed to do. If we need to argue the point, it should be done in his presence. This doesn’t have to be done tonight. I believe we would all be better served if the Acting Town Administrator were here to tell us why

he decided to do what he did. It is questionable that we are not acting upon the will of voters. This is a part-time, temporary position without benefits. The warrant article which was voted down was for a full-time position with benefits. There is a considerable amount of difference in what it will cost the town. I will be voting 'no' on the motion.

R. Duhaime: I would like to point out to the voters that this position only runs from April 1st to June 30th, which is within this fiscal year. Technically, it does not go against the will of the voters. The voters were considering an item for the next fiscal year. The intent was that we would not be looking for a full-time director on July 1st. We can wait and find the intent of the Town Administrator.

J. Durand: This is about how it looks. It was a week prior to the vote. What you said gets my goat. The part-time person would slide into the new position, never giving anyone else a chance for the job. It was snuck in. Councilor Winterton said it. Because of the timing, it looks bad. The Acting Town Administrator has already said that he will talk to the new Town Administrator about the need for this position to be more permanent. We tried to have a meeting last week.

D. Ross: We wanted to do this quietly. It wouldn't be interfering with the work we have to do tonight.

Chair Sullivan: It would not have been done quietly because meetings have to be posted publicly. We have not violated any rules of the charter. In the past, we have not been informed of other part-time positions. Is that correct, Ms. Fitzpatrick?

D. Fitzpatrick: That is correct. You are not informed about any positions except department heads and full-time positions approved by the voters.

Chair Sullivan: If the position had been approved by the voters...

D. Ross: That's a hypothetical question. I want to move the question and have a roll call vote.

Chair Sullivan: The consensus is not to move the question. Please speak one at a time. What we are doing is within the rules of the Charter. Would a new posting be made if the warrant article had passed?

D. Fitzpatrick: Yes. It is a totally different position than what this one is. My responsibility is to the process, following the policy. I look at the black and white. The Town Administrator determines the complement.

J. Giotas: Should we put this on the agenda for the next meeting when the Town Administrator is present?

Chair Sullivan: There is nothing stopping us from voting now.

T. Tsantoulis: Common courtesy would stop me.

J. Durand: Common courtesy stops when he hires people without telling anybody.

T. Tsantoulis: He has the authority to do that.

Chair Sullivan: We have the authority to change the personnel plan.

D. Fitzpatrick: You also have the option of adding an addendum to the contract with the Acting Town Administrator.

J. Giotas: If we want to know about all full-time and part-time openings, maybe we should change the personnel plan to require all of these to come before the Council.

J. Levesque motioned to table this item. J. Duhaime seconded the motion.

D. Ross: Councilor Winterton was appointed as a temporary, interim administrator just to keep the train on the track. This is the second time he has created/filled a part-time position after the fact. We should be focusing on hiring a new Town Administrator. He doesn't have to be here because he doesn't have a vote on the Council. If he had something to say, he could have said it in writing.

T. Tsantoulis: This is a common courtesy. If I go away on vacation, I would expect the same courtesy. Mr. Winterton has served as a Councilor without pay, as we all do. This is not a dire emergency at this time.

R. Duhaime: It's interesting to see how adamant and passionate Councilors Durand and Ross are. Sometimes we are passionate about issues that aren't as important to you. It's about mutual respect. Per Roberts Rules of Order, we should be addressing the Chair. We need to respect that.

J. Durand: Personally, I lost a lot of respect on the vote in December when you reversed a legitimate vote.

Chair Sullivan called for a roll call vote on the motion to overturn the Acting Town Administrator's decision to hire a part-time Recreation Coordinator.

Roll Call Vote #1

J. Giotas No

T. Tsantoulis No

J. Levesque No

A. Walczyk: I would like clarification as to whether we are voting on the original motion or the motion to table.

Chair Sullivan: I had asked for guidance regarding procedure and did not get a response. I am going to rule that we will not vote on tabling the motion because we are halfway through the roll call vote. If someone wants to overrule me on that, they can. I apologize for missing that.

J. Levesque: I have Roberts Rules of Order here which says that a motion to table can be made at any time.

A. Walczyk Yes

R. Duhaime No

J. Durand Yes

D. Ross Yes

J. Sullivan No

Motion defeated (3-5).

J. Giotas: I would like to hear more from Mr. Winterton before making a decision.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Hooksett Municipal Employee - New Hire (Postponed)

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS

Appointment with the Village & Central Hooksett Water Precincts

Chair Sullivan: Both of these precincts have recently made presentations to the Economic Development Advisory Committee and we welcome them here tonight.

Commissioner Todd Smith: Thank you for having us here. I am the Chairman of the Hooksett Village Water Precinct. We have made a lot of good infrastructure changes in the three years I have been with the Village Precinct and are working hard to provide quality water.

Superintendent Mike Heidorn, Village Precinct: I have a brief presentation for you, and I thought a few pictures might help. Our precinct has 1,200 water services, providing water for between 3,000 and 4,000 people. We have a low pressure zone in the village and a high pressure zone up on the hill behind the library. We have four large gravel wells which produce hundreds of gallons per minute, three water treatment plants and two water storage tanks. A pond provides an artificial source for recharge. We add a minimum amount of chemicals such as chlorine, soda ash and mixed phosphate. Corrosion and iron and manganese are what we are most concerned with. We do not add fluoride to the water. We are trying to make things better. One of our tanks is fairly new and the other is from the 1950's and needs to be replaced. We have an emergency connection with Central. Our storage area is messy, so we are starting to digitize everything. We are working on a mapping project, thanks to a grant from DES. We can now start to look on our cell phones to see what is going on at the wells. We have a new 12-inch water main under the Lilac Bridge, and are grateful for your support on that project. We now have a Capital Improvement Plan for addressing the projects we need to complete. We have hydrants which need to be repaired or replaced, and we have meters to be upgraded.

D. Ross: Do you get revenue from the cell towers on your property?

Mr. Heidorn: We don't get much. That was done with developer funds and a deal was made at that time.

Superintendent Jay Smith, Central Water Precinct: Unlike the Village Water Precinct, Central just purchases water from Manchester Water Works. Our water is fluoridated. We have two interconnection agreements with Manchester and one with the Village. We have 2.8 million gallons of storage capability. We have upgraded a lot of meters, and we just paid off a bond in January, so we will now have approximately \$40,000 a year for capital improvements.

Chairman Todd Smith: We have a lot of old pipes which need to be replaced. One initiative we took was the development of our Capital Improvement Plan. We need to work together to keep costs down. We plan to have monthly meetings of all of the utilities. As an example of what happens without communication, if we had known that the Sewer Department was planning a river crossing, we could have worked with them and saved a lot of money. We need communication. It was sticky with the hydrant fees, but we are as transparent as they come. We have projected our rates out for the next five years and shared this schedule with our customers.

Chair Sullivan: Thank you. We should have the water and sewer utilities report to us like this at least once a year.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were no minutes presented for approval.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to accept the donation of five bags of dog food for K9 Timber valued at \$229.95 from Osborne's Farm & Garden Center, to the Town of Hooksett for the Hooksett Police Department (K9 program) per RSA 31:95-e: II.

R. Duhaime motioned to approve the Consent Agenda item. T. Tsantoulis seconded the motion. Voted unanimously in favor.

Chair Sullivan: Thank you for the donation. An appropriate note will go out.

NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Nominations and Appointments March 2019

N. Germain: We have a request to nominate Brett Scott as an alternate to both the Economic Development Advisory Committee and the Planning Board. Also, at the last Town Council meeting, you nominated Mr. John Pieroni as an alternate to the Conservation Commission.

D. Ross motioned to appoint John Pieroni as an alternate to the Conservation Commission, term expiring June 30, 2022. J. Giotas seconded the motion. Voted unanimously in favor.

Brett Scott: In my business, I have dealt with quite a few towns, flipping properties on the seacoast and throughout the State. I have been self-employed since I was 12 years old, and I make a point of getting involved in the communities I work in. Hookset is my home town and I have always planned to get involved here. Now is the time.

A. Walczyk nominated Brett Scott as an alternate for the Economic Development Advisory Committee and the Planning Board.

N. Germain: I have a letter from Nicholas Williams in which he says that on March 20, 2019 the Economic Development Advisory Committee approved creating an alternate position. He requested that the Town Council waive the rules and appoint Mr. Scott at this meeting.

D. Ross: Why do we need to appoint at this meeting.?

N. Germain: I understand they have had quorum issues.

Chair Sullivan: The consensus is not to waive the rules, so we will vote on this nomination at our next meeting on April 10, 2019.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

D. Fitzpatrick: I want to read into the record a letter from the Hooksett Community Food Pantry. It is dated February 2, 2019 and addressed to Mr. Winterton and the Hooksett Town Council.

“The Hooksett Community Food Pantry (HCFP) operating committee would like to extend our appreciation for the continued generosity of the Town of Hooksett for use of space within the Town Hall facility and hosting the Hooksett Community Food Pantry, which is a huge part of the success of the HCFP in our mission to provide food assistance to our neighbors needing help. Hosting a collection bin in the Town Hall lobby and allowing us to extend our workspace into the gymnasium and kitchen areas during the holiday food basket programs are also invaluable.

Hunger takes no specific form and unpredictably affects many in our community. In 2018, HCFP distributed over 62,000 items to our Hooksett neighbors in need and 2019 is initially trending to be similar. We regularly provide food to 150-160 individuals each month, with approximately 45-50 being children. We additionally provide 99 Hooksett families with Thanksgiving food baskets and 103 families with Holiday food baskets in December.

We genuinely value the Town of Hooksett’s endorsement and provisions to this program. Your continued support of the HCFP demonstrates a true investment for our community neighbors.

Food donations to the HCFP are distributed in Hooksett and all financial donations are used in Hooksett stores to obtain food items and to cover our other operating expenses as we continually help our Hooksett neighbors in need.

Thank you from all of us.

Sincerely,

The HCFP Operating Committee

Barb Brennan, Deb Sgro, Kevin Lane, Elmer Lajoie, Randy Evans and Sally Gehris”

OLD BUSINESS

2019 MS-232 Report of Appropriations Actually Voted

C. Soucie: The Town is required to complete the State Form MS-23, Report of Appropriations Actually Voted. This informs the State of the gross appropriations passed at town meeting. The total is \$22,923,397. We have \$9 million in revenue to offset this.

***T. Tsantoulis motioned to sign the “2019 MS-232 Report of Appropriations Actually Voted” totaling \$22,923,537. J. Giotas seconded the motion.
Voted unanimously in favor.***

NEW BUSINESS

Establish New Banking Relationship with Primary Bank

C. Soucie: The Town Treasurer, Carol Anderson, would like to open a new relationship with Primary Bank to be able to invest excess funds. Primary Bank is a chartered bank and will provide 100% FDIC insurance coverage as collateral.

C. Anderson: Primary Bank has a 180-day CD rate of 2.55%, the highest of any of the banks with which we have relations.

***T. Tsantoulis motioned to authorize the Town Treasurer to establish a banking relationship with Primary Bank for the Town of Hooksett. D. Ross seconded the motion.
Voted unanimously in favor.***

Town Administrator Search Update

D. Fitzpatrick: As reported to us by Municipal Resources Inc. (MRI), they received 27 applications for the Town Administrator position. Of these, MRI moved eleven applicants to next step, which is the essay. Two candidates dropped out, so nine will participate in interviews scheduled for April 8th with Acting Town Administrator Don Winterton, Chair Sullivan and myself. I need to know how many the Council would like to interview.

R. Duhaime: I would suggest a minimum of four and up to six.

D. Fitzpatrick: The meeting will be posted in terms of where and when, but it will be a non-public session.

D. Ross: It would be good if we could get packets, including the essays, ahead of time.

Mini Excavator

E. Labonte: We are looking at a vehicle item to be paid for out of the DOT grant received in 2016. We reviewed our currently assigned assets and our projected workload and determined that acquiring a mini excavator would be beneficial to the town. It would enhance our ability to do certain repairs, use our time more efficiently and do less collateral damage to the sites we are working on. We called four manufacturers and chose the one with the best price. We added a couple of options and extended the warranty. This brought the machine to \$72,177. We are looking for permission to purchase this vehicle and to use the DOT grant money. The vehicle is a track machine with rubber pads, as opposed to solid rubber, which deteriorates fairly quickly. The rubber pads will protect our roads and town property.

R. Duhaime motioned to approve and consent for the purchase of the mini excavator for \$72,177 from Chadwick Baross using the NH DOT Highway Block Grant. T. Tsantoulis seconded the motion.

J. Giotas: What is the purpose of the hot box?

E. Labonte: That is not part of this request, but it will be put forward at a future meeting. It would allow us to keep two tons of asphalt at the proper temperature for up to two days. It can be used to re-heat old asphalt for patching, and since there is a plant in Massachusetts which makes asphalt year-round, we could pick up a load and patch potholes with hot, not cold asphalt.

J. Durand: Does this have tracks or wheels?

Labonte: It has tracks, but the one in the brochure has wheels.

D. Ross: How often will this be used?

E. Labonte: We will use it enough in the summer to make it worthwhile. We have a large excavator which we can't use. The cost to transport the large one to a work site is \$500. Since we have a back hoe, with the mini excavator, we could work on two projects at the same time.

D. Ross: Even though there is no cost to the town for this purchase, there will be expenses for insurance and maintenance. We have lots of equipment in this town. I see this as a 'want' not a 'need.' Won't this vehicle require transportation to work sites?

E. Labonte: Yes, but it can be transported on a town-owned trailer.

D. Ross: I'm concerned about cost/benefit analysis. It is easy to rent these and doesn't cost much.

E. Labonte: The Highway Block Grant is restricted to uses which support highways. The funds have been sitting since 2016.

D. Ross: Another need may arise and the funds will not be available.

J. Giotas: Is there a deadline by which the funds must be used?

E. Labonte: There is not.

R. Duhaime: What is the weight of this vehicle?

E. Labonte: It is about five tons.

R. Duhaime: This vehicle is employee friendly, stable, and flexible. It has good balance and is safe.

J. Giotas: Do you have a plan to reduce the fleet?

E. Labonte: We are working on a plan, and part of that will be a decision about the large excavator. I am concerned that if we rent instead of buy the mini excavator, there might be a time that we need one and there will not be one available.

Chair Sullivan: We want you to come back to us when your fleet plan is complete, preferably before the next budget cycle.

A. Walczyk: Thank you for putting this together. What does your current workload include?

E. Labonte: I don't yet know all that needs to be done because I have been here only five months. I know we have catch basins and storm basins. With the mini excavator, we could probably do more inhouse repairs.

T. Tsantoulis: Mr. Labonte was brought in to run his department. On this Council, only Councilor Duhaime has knowledge and experience in this area. I don't like to pick apart the thoughts and processes of those we have hired for their expertise. We expect department heads to spend reasonably. We need to be careful, especially with vague statements about renting a vehicle 'pretty cheap.'

D. Ross: I am not pleased with the people who talked us into buying the large excavator which isn't getting much use.

Chair Sullivan: There must be a balance between the Council asking questions and respecting the abilities of department heads to make good decisions.

D. Ross: Mr. Labonte acknowledged that this is more of a 'want' than a 'need.' We can't say 'yes' all of the time.

R. Duhaime: I wish we had gotten rid of the big one.

Chair Sullivan called for a roll call vote.

Roll Call Vote #2

R. Duhaime Yes

J Durand No

D. Ross No

J. Levesque Yes

A. Walczyk Yes

J. Giotas Yes

T. Tsantoulis Yes

J. Sullivan Yes

Voted in favor (6-2)

Police Emergency Radio Communication upgrade and replace end of life radio equipment

This item will be taken up at the next meeting. The bids are coming in March 29, 2019.

Town Personnel Plan Updates

D. Fitzpatrick: Since the Police Commission was dissolved in 2014, we have been working on combining Police Department policies with Town policies for non-union employees. After several meetings, we have come up with the proposals before you tonight. The first item under Section 3 Employment Conditions is about call-back. The Police Department has agreed to change from four to three the number of hours paid when called back.

Captain Robie: This is fair. We are willing to compromise. When promoted out of the union, employees go from four to three hours, but this is a concession we are willing to make.

D. Fitzpatrick: We have noted the fiscal impact for each change; this one results in a reduction of fiscal impact. The next change is a new section regarding overtime and relates only to sergeants. It says that hours paid but not worked, except for unscheduled sick leave, shall be considered hour worked for the purpose of computing overtime. This has no fiscal impact. The third item under Employment Conditions is a new section regarding Detail Rate. It states that non-union, sworn employees will earn \$50.00 per hour for a detail assignment; time and a half for a detail longer than eight hours and holidays. Since details are paid by outside sources, this change has no fiscal impact. Moving to changes under Section 9 Leaves of Absence, the first is a change regarding vacation time. It states that Town non-union employees will match the Police Department union accrual rate, which is higher. Of the 47 non-union full-time employees, 32 are not Police Department employees.

J. Giotas: Did the employees have a say in this?

D. Fitzpatrick: At a Management Team meeting, which includes department heads and other management personnel, Ms. Soucie presented a great information chart which she had created. She wanted to know how increasing the amount of vacation time would affect workloads in the various

departments, aware that some positions have fill-ins while others do not. Where there is no fill-in, there is no fiscal impact; where fill-ins are needed, such as in the Police Department, there is additional cost.

C. Soucie: Employees will have more vacation time, based on years of service. This is not been presented to all employees, but we have heard back from a lot of them.

J. Giotas: Does this affect when they can take vacation?

C. Soucie: There are no restrictions except for those on the seven DPW employees during the winter, which is not new.

R. Duhaime: What about the change from annual to monthly vacation accruals?

C. Soucie: Town employees have always had monthly accruals; it is the 15 Police Department non-union employees who will now have monthly versus annual vacation accruals.

J. Giotas: I would like to table this because I am concerned about the seven employees who cannot take vacation when they want to.

C. Soucie: This is not a change. It has always been this way for DPW workers.

Captain Robie: It is my understanding that department heads have the right to approve or disapprove vacation time at their discretion.

D. Fitzpatrick: The Teamsters will be at the next Council meeting. We are hoping that allowing more flexibility will aid in recruitment and retention.

C. Soucie: These changes bring all non-union employees onto the same plan. It benefits the Police and Fire Departments because now, when being promoted from a union to a non-union position, they lose benefits. When we interview candidates for positions, we often hear that they want more vacation time.

J. Giotas: I just want more information.

J. Durand: Almost any job has restrictions on when vacations can be taken.

C. Soucie: The current vacation bank will be frozen; the time can be used or taken with the employee. The new bank only allows 80 hours to be carried over. This encourages employees to use their vacation time. If the Council wishes to table parts of this proposal, I would suggest tabling the entire item to avoid having two updates.

D. Fitzpatrick: You could table the vacation section and I could email employees with the other changes and then do a formal acknowledge/receipt once the vacation change is made.

Captain Robie: Our six sergeants work eight and a half shifts and accrue sick leave based on eight and a half hour days. This action just adds this to the policy.

***R. Duhaime made a motion to approve Section 3 changes and Section 9 sick leave changes only. D. Ross seconded the motion.
Voted unanimously in favor.***

Chair Sullivan: Please let Ms. Fitzpatrick know if you have questions you want answered at the next meeting.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

T. Tsantoulis: Tonight, we received a youth achiever application.

J. Giotas: I attended the Transfer Station meeting. The bins at the transfer station all are going to trash, except for metal, aluminum cans, and cardboard. They are still taking no brush. The trash rate is \$71.77 and the recycle rate is \$133; it may hit \$150. The Transfer Station will be closed April 25, 26 and 27 for the scale replacement. They are planning to buy new barrels and recycling containers.

R. Duhaime: The Planning Board approved the new Osborne Agway in front of Cinemagic. There will be a row of pear trees. The old building there will be taken down. Prior to this, CMC couldn't have a sign because Cinemagic took all the space. Now there is extra frontage and they can have signage. I see the Route 28 By-Pass as a commercial zone, whereas DW Highway is getting re-developed. When properties are being demolished, that is the only opportunity to do an update. Some regulations have been enforced and some have not. We need consistency. For example, where four feet of masonry is required, if one property adheres to that and another does not and is not forced to, the one following the rules will be looking for an abatement.

Chair Sullivan: We can try to make sure they follow through. I told the Economic Development Advisory Committee that the water companies were coming to make presentations before the Town Council. We had a good meeting when Central Water came to the EDAC to give us an update. We need additional members and now have an alternate. The committee will continue its visitation program and continue to encourage development in certain areas by advising developers of federal and state programs with incentive funding.

PUBLIC INPUT

Vincent Lembo, 56 Main Street: I want to thank the Councilors who voted to overturn the hiring of a Parks and Recreation Coordinator. Thanks for standing up for the voters. I am disappointed in the other Councilors who want to hold off and have it happen. In December, I was talking to a Councilor about your December 19th meeting. Two Councilors voted not to appoint Don Winterton. It was a legitimate vote. That Councilor said that only a Councilor who voted in the affirmative could ask for another vote. The original vote was overturned wrongfully. Everything mushroomed after December 19th. If Mr. Winterton had not been chosen to be the Acting Town Administrator, this issue regarding the Recreation Coordinator would not be happening. You don't have time to wait until the next meeting because I am going to the Superior Court sometime this week and have it overturned. It was illegal because it was on the ballot. No means no. This is similar to when the voters voted down an article for an ambulance. The Council used impact fees to purchase a medical transport vehicle instead. I feel like I am living in a third world country where a dictator overturns the decisions of the voters and does what he wants to do. It is a problem for me and for 600 other people. You could have overturned the action tonight. I am disappointed in the action of the Council. Mr. Winterton had the right to hire an employee, but when this item was on the ballot, that right was taken away. One other item, when one councilor was questioning the DPW employee tonight, another councilor reprimanded him. That bothers me. It is the job of the councilors to ask questions and make sure tax dollars are wisely spent.

ADJOURNMENT

**Chair Sullivan motioned to adjourn. T. Tsantoulis seconded the motion.
Voted unanimously in favor.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Donnelly

Kathleen Donnelly