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**Town of Hooksett  
Town Council Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, October 9, 2019**

1  
2 The Hooksett Town Council met on Wednesday, October 9, 2019 at 6:00 in the Hooksett Municipal  
3 Building.  
4

5 **CALL TO ORDER**

6 Chair Sullivan called the meeting of 09 Oct 2019 to order at 6:00 pm.  
7

8 **PROOF OF POSTING**

9 Administrative Services Director Donna Fitzpatrick provided proof of posting.  
10

11 **ROLL CALL**

12 **In Attendance:** Councilor James Sullivan, Councilor Robert Duhaime, Councilor John Durand,  
13 Councilor Avery Comai, Councilor James Levesque, Councilor Timothy Tsantoulis, and Councilor Alex  
14 Walczyk  
15

16 **Missing:** Councilor Clifford Jones and Councilor Clark Karolian  
17

18 **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

19 Chair Sullivan called for the Pledge of Allegiance.  
20

21 **CONSENT AGENDA**

22 Donation to the Town of Hooksett for the 2019 Hooksett Employee Appreciation Picnic per RSA 31:05-  
23 b III (b) and RSA 31:95-e II  
24

25  
26  
27 Motion to accept the donation of \$2,760.20 from the Bureau of Justice Assistance; Bulletproof Vest  
28 Partnership, to the Town of Hooksett for the Hooksett Police Department per RSA 31:91-b: III(b) and  
29 return the funds to the Police Department's 2019-2020, 2020-2021 and/or 2021-2022 fiscal budgets  
30 under the uniform equipment line.  
31

32 ***T. Tsantoulis motioned to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. J. Levesque seconded the***  
33 ***motion.***

34 ***Voted unanimously in favor (7-0).***  
35

36 **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

37 A. Garron: I have invited Mr. Brandon Kernen from NHDES to provide us with an update regarding the  
38 well issues along the Londonderry Turnpike in the area of Prescott Heights and Auburn Road. There  
39 were increased levels of uranium at the pre-blasting stage of a construction project in the area, and the  
40 construction company notified DES and the neighbors. This past summer, a question and answer  
41 session held here in the Council Chambers included people from DES and residents of the Prescott  
42 Heights neighborhood.  
43

44 B. Kernen: I am a hydrologist, and I manage the Hydrology and Conservation division of DES. We were  
45 asked on short notice to give an update tonight regarding ongoing private well sampling projects in  
46 Hooksett. Sampling is ongoing and only partial data is available. Data has been sent to multiple labs  
47 and some of this data is pending. We expect to get reports from these labs within four to six weeks.  
48 Sampling will likely be finished by the end of October. Data will be summarized in reports, and NHDES,  
49 in coordination with the Town, will have a public meeting when all of the results are in. We hope to be

50 ready for a public meeting by January, but in the meantime, we can have more informal meetings.  
51 Various subject experts will be at the public meeting, and homeowners will be mailed the results  
52 sooner. To provide you with some history, about ten years ago nitrogen-related compounds were found  
53 in the area of Exit 3 on Route 93 as a result of well testing in the area prior to blasting. As a result,  
54 NHDES requires monitoring of a representative number of private wells within 2,000 feet of large rock-  
55 blasting operations. These are defined as operations involving greater than 5,000 cubic yards. The  
56 tests look for nitrate and nitrite. Blasting agents contain large amounts of chemicals containing nitrogen.  
57 This past summer, rock blasting and associated private well testing occurred in two different areas of  
58 Hooksett. In both areas, blasting did not cause violations of any groundwater/drinking water standard to  
59 our knowledge. However, the testing inadvertently led to the discovery of other groundwater issues not  
60 related to blasting. The first area, Sampling Area 1, is Cornerstone Park in the area of Prescott Heights  
61 and Smyth Road. Industrial condos are being constructed at 138 Londonderry Turnpike and 1298  
62 Smyth Road, and testing was done both before and after the blasting. Nitrates increased slightly in a  
63 couple of wells and a lot in one other well – above the federal and state limit of 10mg/L. The initial  
64 sampling was performed by consultants working for the developer. NHDES then sampled many homes  
65 in the area of the blasting site and the home with increased nitrates. It appears the nitrate increase may  
66 be associated with the use of a pool chemical near the well, and concentrations are already decreasing.  
67 Although we do not routinely check private wells, we cobbled together some resources to help with  
68 testing and found staff willing to work on this. We used federal labs, a lab in Massachusetts and some  
69 DES resources. We tested well water for Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) and Poly &  
70 Perfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) while sampling for nitrates. All results for VOCs were non-detect.  
71 Most PFAS results are still pending. I would add that there are many domestic sources of PFAS –  
72 Scotchguard, Gortex, cookware, septic systems, and garden soil, to name a few. Three results exceed  
73 New Hampshire’s recently-adopted standard of 12 parts-per-trillion (ppt) for PFOA. Two wells on  
74 Prescott Heights were at 13 & 14 ppt; another on Smyth Road was at 67 ppt. These wells are not near  
75 each other; the property on Smyth Road is in a wetlands area. Homeowners were notified and advised  
76 not to consume the water until data testing is complete. Property owners within 500 feet of  
77 exceedances will be notified; this is required by state law for man-made contaminants. Once all of the  
78 data is available, the information will be summarized in a report, and future actions will be determined.  
79 The Council can get the raw data prior to the completion of the reports, if desired.

80  
81 Chair Sullivan: In 2016, the area where I live was advised to test for MTBE in wells. Is this different?

82  
83 B. Kernen: Yes, that is different. At that time, testing for nitrogen compounds was not an option.

84  
85 R. Duhaime: I remember an issue with the junkyard on Mammoth Road involving bio-remediation.

86  
87 J. Durand: If remediation is required, will the state put in the necessary equipment or will the  
88 homeowner need to do it?

89  
90 B. Kernen: If the state has the resources, they will treat the water if the source is manmade and  
91 unknown.

92  
93 J. Durand: How will this be done? With carbon?

94  
95 B. Kernen: Granulated, activated carbon is great. Reverse osmosis is great too, and more cost-  
96 effective. A do-it-yourself installation would cost about \$200; hiring someone would cost about \$1,000.

97  
98 T. Tsantoulis: Thank you for this information. As the governing body, can you give us the worst-case  
99 scenario?

100  
101 B. Kernen: That would be a few more wells than the three we know of having higher PFAS levels. If the  
102 state cannot help, the homeowner will have to put in the treatment equipment.  
103  
104 B. Kernen: Turning to Sampling Area 2, SJB Development Commercial Site – Auburn  
105 Road/Londonderry Turnpike area, the contractor sampled private wells due to nearby blasting. No  
106 nitrate impacts occurred. The samples were analyzed by a private company for parameters beyond  
107 NHDES requirements. Uranium levels occurred well above the federal/state standard of 30 parts per  
108 billion (ideal is 0 ppb) as follows: 36, 58, 128, 165, 171, 212, 538, 761, and 1220 ppb. Elevated uranium  
109 in water is not unheard of. The cluster of very high levels is not very common, however. Uranium in  
110 water in New Hampshire is generally naturally occurring due to the chemistry of the bedrock. New  
111 Hampshire does not fund a program to sample private wells when naturally occurring contamination is  
112 suspected. Sampling of approximately 100 homes is occurring for metals (including uranium), radon in  
113 water, PFAS and VOCs. We have cobbled together resources from many areas to complete this work.  
114 USEPA is completing the metals analysis and various NHDES programs are assisting with other  
115 analyses. Testing is at no charge to the homeowner, but they have an option to pay for a few additional  
116 parameters.  
117  
118 Chair Sullivan: Looking at this map, the area in white is assumed to have public water, and a circle was  
119 drawn around the blasting area for testing. Is this correct?  
120  
121 B. Kernen: Yes. By the way, we are one of the few states which addresses private wells.  
122  
123 Chair Sullivan: Is it true that wells close to the blasting site could be lower and those further from the  
124 blasting site could be higher?  
125  
126 B. Kernen: That is true.  
127  
128 J. Durand: Wells can change because the earth moves.  
129  
130 B. Kernen: They are somewhat steady, but they can change. In my opinion, blasting is not the cause.  
131 The depth of the wells and the type of rock in the area are factors. We will know more when we have all  
132 of the data. Monitoring started because of the blasting, but blasting is not the cause. At this point 40  
133 homes have been sampled and 40 more are scheduled for sampling as of October 9<sup>th</sup>, today. All results  
134 except radon in water are pending at the labs. Radon in water is generally very elevated. The general  
135 guideline is 2,000 pCi/L. Inhalation, not ingestion, is the concern. Most results are greater than 20,000  
136 pCi/L. Homeowners will be strongly encouraged to complete indoor air testing for radon. Kits may be  
137 offered for sale at the public meeting. Radon in air poses a greater risk than in water and is  
138 dangerous, even though there are no standards. Actually, standards have been proposed but are  
139 controversial because of cost. Other states have lower guidelines than New Hampshire does.  
140  
141 R. Duhaime: When you find uranium, will it lead to radon?  
142  
143 B. Kernen: Probably. The report should be ready for January, but the town can get the raw data much  
144 earlier. We want people to be educated, and we want to be transparent. The Town Administrator will  
145 probably get calls and will want to be informed.  
146  
147 Chair Sullivan: When will the report be ready?  
148

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149 B. Kernen: It should be ready in January. In closing, I emphasize that NHDES is committed to  
150 coordinating with the town and will continue to provide updates. However, NHDES cannot commit to  
151 sampling beyond the current study area at this time. Options to complete additional sampling can be  
152 discussed with the town after these initial efforts are completed. As for blasting, municipalities have the  
153 authority to establish local requirements for groundwater monitoring via site plan regulations and  
154 ordinances. They also have authority to retain third party experts. NHDES has developed guidance  
155 documents to assist with this.  
156

157 A. Garron: The best we can do is to keep the people informed and encourage them to participate in  
158 testing, which is at no cost. This was inadvertently brought to light but I am glad that it was. We  
159 appreciate the NHDES for bringing this to our attention and for their assistance with testing and  
160 providing valuable information.  
161

162 T. Tsantoulis: There does not seem to be a need to panic. For the homeowners in the Prescott Hill  
163 area, they should be drinking bottled water.  
164

165 B. Kernen: Radon and uranium are totally manageable.  
166

167 Chair Sullivan: Mr. Garron can meet with the Councilors representing the constituents who have not  
168 responded to the test offers.  
169

170 B. Kernen: We can provide the names and addresses of those who have received two letters and have  
171 not yet responded. We also have a link to Be Well Informed, which could be helpful.  
172

173 A. Garron: One homeowner in Councilor Karolian's district has contacted him and also the Town  
174 Engineer, Bruce Thomas.  
175

176 R. Duhaime: Currently, there is a development going in where there is no town water, so I assume  
177 these new wells will be tested.  
178

179 B. Kernen: There is no testing required for developments with fewer than 25 employees. Currently,  
180 there is pending legislation to address that. Water quality testing for private wells can be required  
181 locally. The towns have that authority, but it is not required at the state level.  
182

183 Chair Sullivan: Anyone with questions or concerns should call the Town Administrator or NHDES.  
184

185 A. Garron: Continuing with my report, I have asked Town Clerk Todd Rainier to address the Council  
186 tonight regarding the Presidential Primary.  
187

188 T. Rainier: Last week we received information from the Secretary of State's office. There is no date yet  
189 for the Presidential Primary, but the Supervisors of the Checklist have a mandatory date of Friday,  
190 October 25<sup>th</sup> to hold a session for correction of the checklist. This will be held from 7:00 to 7:30 pm, at  
191 later, here in the Council Chambers, and will be the last opportunity for registered voters to change  
192 political parties prior to the primary. The Checklist Supervisors will also be meeting tomorrow, October  
193 10<sup>th</sup>, in Room 204 from 7:00 to 7:30 pm, or later, for checklist corrections. We have posted notices of  
194 these sessions the usual places. These are posted in the Library's newsletter, which is in the Hooksett  
195 Banner.  
196

197 A. Garron: Regarding flushing fees, which I was asked to look into at the last meeting, the town does  
198 not get charged these fees, but private entities do, per the Village Water Precinct.

199  
200 Chair Sullivan: I have two questions regarding the warrant article for \$49,000 which passed at the Town  
201 Meeting. First, why do we need another warrant article? Can't the Council handle this?  
202

203 A. Garron: I have been working with the Finance Director and with Legal on the wording, since the  
204 \$49,000 was appropriated but it is not clear how it is to be administered. I will get clarification for you as  
205 to why another warrant article is needed.  
206

207 Chair Sullivan: My second question is how to deal with it this year.  
208

209 A. Garron: There is no look-back on this. If there is a clarifying warrant article and it passes, it will be  
210 effective on July 1, 2020.  
211

212 A. Garron reported that Trick or Treat is scheduled for October 31<sup>st</sup> from 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm.  
213

214 ***J. Levesque motioned to acknowledge Trick or Treating on October 31<sup>st</sup> from 6:00 pm until 8:00***  
215 ***pm. T. Tsantoulis seconded the motion.***  
216 ***Voted unanimously in favor (7-0)***  
217

218 A. Garron: At the last meeting, the Council voted to keep in place a bond related to a well radius issue.  
219 The abutting homes are now in private hands, no longer owned by the developer. Can we move  
220 forward with the release? That is, if the Planning Board again asks for the release of the bond, will the  
221 Council be comfortable releasing it?  
222

223 T. Tsantoulis: If the developer is no longer the owner of the abutting properties, speaking for myself, I  
224 would be okay with it.  
225

226 Chair Sullivan: The consensus of the Council is that our concerns have been addressed.  
227

## 228 **PUBLIC INPUT**

229 David Ross, 56 Sherwood Drive: I am looking for a motion to accept a minor change in the Phase Two  
230 Riverfront Trails project. Stantec put in gravel so they could bring equipment to the access area and  
231 would like to leave it there on town property. It would save money by not removing it. They will loam  
232 and seed the area, and place a gate where the property starts. The gate will have the traditional locks,  
233 allowing access for emergency vehicles.  
234

235 Chair Sullivan: We usually don't respond to public comments during the meeting, and this is not an  
236 agenda item. Maybe the Town Administrator can handle this for you without a Council vote.  
237

238 D. Ross: This is an ongoing project, so the request is to leave the fill on town property  
239

240 T. Tsantoulis. I believe the Town Administrator can allow this, verifying the plan with the Town Engineer  
241 and with the DPW Director.  
242

## 243 **NEW BUSINESS (moved up to accommodate an audience member)**

244  
245 **Granite YMCA Day Camp of Hooksett - Summer 2020 Contract**

246 A. Garron: At the last Council meeting, we had an update on the YMCA Summer Day Camp. Mr. Tom  
247 Archer is with us tonight as we discuss updating and renewing the contract. Memorial Elementary  
248 School (Grades 3 through 5) was a fantastic venue.

249  
250 T. Archer: We are suggesting one change to the program for next year. We will extend the maximum  
251 age from 13 to 16 because we would like to offer leadership in training and counselor in training  
252 programs.

253  
254 A. Garron: There is one other change. Last year, there was a request for \$25,000 for capital equipment  
255 and supplies. This year, the request is for only \$10,000, as most of the equipment purchased last year  
256 can be used for this year, including picnic tables, for example. Family Services will again offer \$20,000  
257 to assist families in need.

258  
259 ***R. Duhaime motioned to have the Council Chair and the Town Administrator sign a contract***  
260 ***with Granite YMCA for the Hooksett Day Camp for the summer of 2020. T. Tsantoulis seconded***  
261 ***the motion.***

262 ***Voted in favor (6-0). Councilor Durand abstained, as his wife is the membership director for the***  
263 ***Granite YMCA.***

264  
265 T. Tsantoulis: We were faced with the possibility of litigation against the town, so this is the right step.  
266 The program has a better venue at virtually the same cost.

267  
268 Chair Sullivan: Thank you, Mr. Archer, and we also thank former Councilor Winterton who made this  
269 happen. We have had no negative comments on the YMCA program.

270  
271 **OLD BUSINESS**

272 **FY 2020-21 Budget and Warrant Articles**

273 C. Soucie: I have no additional information on the warrant articles. Tonight, it would be good if you  
274 could start making decisions on them. There is no tax rate yet, so we do not have exact figures  
275 regarding the tax rate impact. What we have is good estimate. Also, you can skip the step of voting to  
276 place warrant articles on the ballot, if you wish. If you vote in favor of an article, that automatically  
277 moves it to the ballot.

278  
279 ***R. Duhaime motioned to see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$250,000 to***  
280 ***be added to the Fire Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund. T. Tsantoulis seconded the motion.***

281  
282 **Roll Call Vote #2**

283 ***R. Duhaime Yes***

284 ***J Durand Yes***

285 ***C. Jones Not present***

286 ***J. Levesque Yes***

287 ***A. Walczyk Yes***

288 ***A. Comai Yes***

289 ***C. Karolian Not present***

290 ***T. Tsantoulis Yes***

291 ***J. Sullivan Yes***

292 ***Voted unanimously in favor (7-0).***

293

294 ***R. Duhaime motioned to see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$200,000 to***  
295 ***be added to the Public Works' Vehicles Capital Reserve Fund. J. Levesque seconded the***  
296 ***motion.***

297

298 **Roll Call Vote #3**

299 ***A. Comai Yes***

300 ***C. Jones Not present***

301 ***A. Walczyk Yes***

302 ***J. Durand Yes***

303 ***R. Duhaime Yes***

304 ***T. Tsantoulis Yes***

305 ***J. Levesque Yes***

306 ***C. Karolian Not present***

307 ***J. Sullivan Yes***

308 ***Voted unanimously in favor (7-0).***

309

310 ***R. Duhaime motioned to see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$150,000 to***  
311 ***purchase a Truck Tractor to haul trash for the Recycling and Transfer Division of Public works,***  
312 ***with said funds to come from the Solid Waste Disposal Special Revenue Fund. T. Tsantoulis***  
313 ***seconded the motion.***

314

315 **Roll Call Vote #4**

316 ***A. Walczyk Yes***

317 ***J. Levesque Yes***

318 ***C. Jones Not present***

319 ***R. Duhaime Yes***

320 ***J. Durand Yes***

321 ***C. Karolian Not present***

322 ***T. Tsantoulis Yes***

323 ***A. Comai Yes***

324 ***J. Sullivan Yes***

325 ***Voted unanimously in favor (7-0).***

326

327 ***R. Duhaime motioned to see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$115,000 to***  
328 ***purchase and install a salt storage facility for the Highway Division of Public Works. A. Walczyk***  
329 ***seconded the motion.***

330

331 ***A. Walczyk: Under #3, "possible" is misspelled in the third line. I would like it to be corrected before it***  
332 ***goes into the Voters' Guide.***

333

334 **Roll Call Vote #5**

335 ***T. Tsantoulis Yes***

336 ***C. Jones Not present***

337 ***R. Duhaime Yes***

338 ***A. Walczyk Yes***

339 ***J. Levesque Yes***

340 ***C. Karolian Not present***

341 ***J. Durand Yes***

342 **A. Comai Yes**  
343 **J. Sullivan Yes**  
344 **Voted unanimously in favor (7-0).**  
345  
346 C. Soucie: This information usually does not go into the guide, but we can if you would like to.  
347  
348 R. Duhaime: In this case, I think we should.  
349  
350 Chair Sullivan: It would also be good to report the balance in each fund.  
351  
352 C. Soucie: I agree. These amounts are included.  
353  
354 ***R. Duhaime motioned to see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 to***  
355 ***be added to the Town Building Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund. J. Levesque seconded the***  
356 ***motion.***  
357  
358 **Roll Call Vote #6**  
359 **J. Durand Yes**  
360 **J. Levesque Yes**  
361 **C. Karolian Not present**  
362 **A. Comai Yes**  
363 **C. Jones Not present**  
364 **T. Tsantoulis Yes**  
365 **A. Walczyk Yes**  
366 **R. Duhaime Yes**  
367 **J. Sullivan Yes**  
368 **Voted unanimously in favor (7-0).**  
369  
370 ***R. Duhaime motioned to see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$80,000 to***  
371 ***be added to Capital Reserve Funds as follows: Air Packs & Bottles - \$25,000; Fire Rescue Tools***  
372 ***& Equipment \$35,000; and Fire Cistern - \$20,000. J. Durand seconded the motion.***  
373  
374 **Roll Call Vote #7**  
375 **C. Jones Not present**  
376 **C. Karolian Not present**  
377 **J. Levesque Yes**  
378 **R. Duhaime Yes**  
379 **A. Walczyk Yes**  
380 **J. Durand Yes**  
381 **T. Tsantoulis No**  
382 **A. Comai Yes**  
383 **J. Sullivan Yes**  
384 **Voted in favor (6-1).**  
385  
386 ***R. Duhaime motioned to see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to***  
387 ***be added to the Emergency Radio Communications Capital Reserve Fund. A. Walczyk seconded***  
388 ***the motion.***  
389



390 **Roll Call Vote #8**

391 **J. Levesque Yes**  
392 **R. Duhaime Yes**  
393 **T. Tsantoulis No**  
394 **A. Walczyk Yes**  
395 **J. Durand Yes**  
396 **C. Jones Not present**  
397 **A. Comai Yes**  
398 **C. Karolian Not present**  
399 **J. Sullivan Yes**  
400 **Voted in favor (6-1).**

401  
402 ***R. Duhaime motioned to see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to***  
403 ***be added to the Drainage Upgrades Capital Reserve Fund. T. Tsantoulis seconded the motion.***  
404

405 **Roll Call Vote #9**

406 **J. Durand Yes**  
407 **A Comai Yes**  
408 **C. Jones Not present**  
409 **R. Duhaime Yes**  
410 **C. Karolian Not present**  
411 **A. Walczyk Yes**  
412 **T. Tsantoulis Yes**  
413 **J. Levesque Yes**  
414 **J. Sullivan Yes**  
415 **Voted unanimously in favor (7-0).**

416  
417 Chair Sullivan: It would be good if the DPW would provide a list of drainage upgrade projects planned  
418 for the next budget year.  
419

420 ***A. Walczyk motioned to see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$39,148 for***  
421 ***salary and benefits to hire a full-time DPW Recycling & Transfer Administrative Assistant and***  
422 ***replace the current part-time secretary position. R. Duhaime seconded the motion.***  
423

424 **Roll Call Vote #10**

425 **C. Karolian Not present**  
426 **T. Tsantoulis Yes**  
427 **J. Levesque Yes**  
428 **C. Jones Not present**  
429 **A. Comai Yes**  
430 **J. Durand Yes**  
431 **A. Walczyk Yes**  
432 **R. Duhaime Yes**  
433 **J. Sullivan Yes**  
434 **Voted unanimously in favor (7-0).**  
435

436 **A. Walczyk motioned to see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000 to**  
437 **be added to the Automated Collection Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. J. Levesque seconded**  
438 **the motion.**

439

440 **Roll Call #11**

441 **T. Tsantoulis No**

442 **J. Levesque Yes**

443 **J. Durand Yes**

444 **C. Jones Not present**

445 **C. Karolian Not present**

446 **A. Walczyk Yes**

447 **R. Duhaime Yes**

448 **A. Comai Yes**

449 **J. Sullivan Yes**

450 **Voted in favor (6-1).**

451

452 **A. Walczyk motioned to see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000 to**  
453 **be added to the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund. R. Duhaime seconded the motion.**

454

455 Chair Sullivan: I want to verify that this is for trash and/or recycling collection vehicles and barrels.

456

457 C. Soucie: Yes, that is stated in #2 – the Voters' Guide Explanation.

458

459 **Roll Call Vote #12**

460 **A. Comai Yes**

461 **A. Walczyk Yes**

462 **J. Durand Yes**

463 **C. Karolian Not present**

464 **J. Levesque Yes**

465 **T. Tsantoulis Yes**

466 **R. Duhaime Yes**

467 **C. Jones Not present**

468 **J. Sullivan Yes**

469 **Voted unanimously in favor (7-0).**

470

471 **A. Comai motioned to see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to be**  
472 **added to the Conservation Land Improvements Capital Reserve Fund. J. Durand seconded the**  
473 **motion.**

474

475 **Roll Call Vote #13**

476 **C. Karolian Not present**

477 **A. Comai Yes**

478 **T. Tsantoulis No**

479 **J. Levesque Yes**

480 **A. Walczyk Yes**

481 **R. Duhaime Yes**

482 **J. Durand Yes**

483 **C. Jones Not present**

484 **J. Sullivan No**  
485 **Voted in favor (5-2).**

486  
487 Chair Sullivan: Could the Parks & Recreation Facilities Capital Reserve Fund be used to pay for the  
488 Pavilion?

489  
490 C. Soucie: Yes, it could.

491  
492 Chair Sullivan: I think we should explore that. We can put off a decision on these two proposed articles  
493 until the next meeting.

494  
495 C. Soucie: There are only five items left to deal with, including non-union wages, the Fire Department  
496 contract, the Police Department contract, Parks & Recreation Facilities, and the Pavilion.

497  
498 **Resource Management Inc. - bio solids on farmland - DES Permit (tabled at 09/25/19 Town**  
499 **Council Meeting)**

500 This item remained tabled.

501  
502 **Removal of Taxi Cab Ordinance, Other Ordinances, #00-20.**

503  
504 **Chair Sullivan motioned to table this item. T. Tsantoulis seconded the motion.**  
505 **Voted unanimously in favor (7-0).**

506  
507 **Health Insurance Renewal Rates Effective January 1, 2020**

508  
509 A. Garron: This week we got the update on health and dental insurance rate adjustments, and I am  
510 pleased to say that while last year's health increase was nine percent, this year's is 7.1%. Hooksett's  
511 increase is 3.6%. The new rates are effective January 1, 2020.

512  
513 D. Fitzpatrick: For our membership of 300 in the pool, last year was 12% and we were below the pool of  
514 nine percent. This year the pool is 7.1% and our rate increase is 3.6%. Something is working. We are  
515 trying to choose plans that have consumerism. Health care choices being made are showing in the  
516 plans.

517  
518 A. Garron: Dental is an increase of 3.9%

519  
520 D. Fitzpatrick: Dental was 2.9% last year, and I would like to check into other plans during 2020 for  
521 2021. We are still within the pool.

522  
523 Chair Sullivan: Do we need motions?

524  
525 D. Fitzpatrick: Yes, we do need motions. They can be made tonight or at the next meeting. You can just  
526 ask questions tonight and vote next time, or you can vote just on the non-union employees tonight. It is  
527 up to you. The contracts must be signed with Health Trust by November 15, 2019. The union contracts  
528 are effective July 1, 2020. My recommendation is to keep the same plans for 2020.

529  
530 **T. Tsantoulis motioned to continue the current health and dental plan options and contributions**  
531 **for 2020 for non-union Hooksett employees. J. Durand seconded the motion.**  
532 **Voted unanimously in favor (7-0).**

533

534 The details are as follows, effective January 1, 2020:

- 535 1. HealthTrust-Anthem Blue HMO AB201PDED (01L)-R10/25/40M10/40/70/3K(L) - \$250/\$750
- 536 a. 15% employee premium contribution
- 537 b. allow the employee to establish their own FSA account
- 538
- 539 2. HealthTrust-Anthem Blue HMO ABSOS20/40/1KDED (01L)- R10/25/40M10/40/70/55K(L)-
- 540 \$1,000/\$3,000
- 541 a. no employee premium contribution
- 542 b. allow the employee to establish their own FSA account
- 543 c. Town pays 50% of deductible through HRA account after the first \* below is paid by the
- 544 employee
- 545 i. \*Single plan =- \$400
- 546 ii. \*Two-person plan = \$750
- 547 iii. \*Family plan = \$1,000
- 548
- 549 3. HealthTrust-Anthem Lumenos 2500 (01L) \$2,500/\$5,000
- 550 a. no employee premium contribution
- 551 b. allow the employee to establish their own HSA account
- 552 c. allow the employee to establish their own limited FSA account (dental and vision only)
- 553

554 ***T. Tsantoulis motioned to continue the current health and dental plan options and contributions***

555 ***for 2020 for Hooksett retirees under 65 years of age. J. Durand seconded the motion.***

556 ***Voted unanimously in favor (7-0).***

557

558 The details are as follows, effective January 1, 2020:

- 559 1. HealthTrust-Anthem Blue HMO AB201PDED (01L)-R10/25/40M10/40/70/3K(L) - \$250/\$750
- 560 a. 100% employee premium contribution
- 561
- 562 2. HealthTrust-Anthem Blue HMO ABSOS20/40/1KDED (01L)- R10/25/40M10/40/70/55K(L)-
- 563 \$1,000/\$3,000
- 564 a. 100% employee premium contribution
- 565
- 566 3. HealthTrust-Anthem Lumenos 2500 (01L) \$2,500/\$5,000
- 567 a. 100% employee premium contribution
- 568 b. allow the employee to establish their own HSA account
- 569 c. allow the employee to establish their own limited FSA account (dental and vision only)
- 570

571 ***T. Tsantoulis motioned to continue the current health and dental plan options and contributions***

572 ***for 2020 for retirees over 65 years of age. J Durand seconded the motion.***

573 ***Voted unanimously in favor (7-0).***

574

575 The details are as follows, effective January 1, 2020:

- 576 1. MC3 (01L)-R10/25/40M10/40/70(LCY)
- 577
- 578 2. MCNRX (01L)
- 579

580 A. Garron: Todd Rainier is here now, so could we take the taxi cab ordinance item off the table?

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582 **Removal of Taxi Cab Ordinance, Other Ordinances, #00-20**

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**Chair Sullivan motioned to remove this item from the table. T. Tsantoulis seconded the motion. Voted unanimously in favor (7-0).**

Todd Rainier: Our recommendation is to remove the entire Taxi Cab Ordinance. Only one company has complied with the ordinance over the past 16 years. In 2003, the certificate of insurance amount required was lowered from \$1 million to \$500,000. It is not a valid ordinance in a lot of ways. In 2017, then Police Chief Peter Bartlett Police stated that there are sections they can't enforce. For example, background checks are not legal. Out of town companies dropping off customers in Hooksett are supposed to be licensed in Hooksett, but this is difficult to enforce. The one company paying \$300 a year for a license is being penalizing. Furthermore, ride shares such as Uber and Lyft do not have to comply with this ordinance.

**A. Walczyk motioned to move to Step Two in the process to Remove Other Ordinance #00-20 – Taxi Cab Ordinance; Step Two being a public hearing to be posted in a local newspaper and distributed by the Town Clerk. A. Comai seconded the motion. Voted unanimously in favor (7-0).**

**Energy Efficiency Exemption (i.e. Solar Energy)**

A. Walczyk: One of the things we tasked the Town Administrator to do was to look into solar energy systems. It occurred to me while working with him - and I asked questions at the Board of Assessors - that Hooksett doesn't have a solar exemption system in place, from a tax perspective, as a lot of other towns do. It isn't surprising that it's not helping for anyone to bother getting solar if it just costs more money. An installation would increase the value of a home, and the owner would pay more taxes. We are trying to do something ecologically responsible. I would like to see if Hooksett could have a solar energy systems exemption. I have provided you with copies of the State exemption, 72-61 through 72-68. This has been adopted by 136 towns, with variations amongst them. For example, the exemption can indicate 'up to' a certain amount. The exemption is for wind, too, although there are fewer of these.

J. Levesque: If we exempt solar systems from property taxes, would it be for a certain amount of time?

A. Walczyk: I'm sure there could be limits on the length of time the exemption would be in place.

J. Levesque: There are companies which lease solar equipment. Would they be eligible?

A. Walczyk: Your other question is a good one to look into. I would think the exemption would be for a system owned by the homeowner.

Chair Sullivan: For example, if a home with an assessed value of \$400,000 adds \$20,000 of value with solar panels, the owner would continue to pay taxes on the value of \$400,000, and the \$20,000 would be exempt.

T. Tsantoulis: This is a good idea, but I am not prepared to make a decision this evening, and I expect that others here feel the same way. We need to see what other towns are doing. We need to know how the equipment is valued. I have a lot of questions because there is a lot more to this. Would this be based on the assessed value of the equipment only? Could the value be subject to manipulation? I don't want the town taken advantage of. Any step is a step in the right direction.

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632 Chair Sullivan: Would this require a public hearing?  
633  
634 T. Tsantoulis: I would think so.  
635  
636 Chair Sullivan: And a warrant article?  
637  
638 A. Garron: Yes, I believe it would require a warrant article.  
639  
640 J. Durand: I agree that we need more information. Would this be available for commercial properties as  
641 well?  
642  
643 Chair Sullivan: According to the wording of the exemption, it would.  
644  
645 J. Levesque: Former Councilor Winterton and I were researching the use of solar on town-owned  
646 buildings but did not get far enough along to make a presentation to the Council.  
647  
648 ***J. Durand motioned to table this item in order to get more information. T. Tsantoulis seconded***  
649 ***the motion.***  
650 ***Voted unanimously in favor (7-0).***  
651  
652 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**  
653  
654 **Public: 09/18/19 Budget Review**  
655 ***T. Tsantoulis motioned to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2019 Budget Review Public***  
656 ***Meeting. A. Comai seconded the motion.***  
657 ***Voted in favor (5-0). Councilor Duhaime abstained from voting, having been absent at the***  
658 ***September 18, 2019 meeting; Councilor Durand was not present at the time of the vote.***  
659  
660 **Public: 09/25/19**  
661 ***T. Tsantoulis motioned to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2019 Public Meeting. R.***  
662 ***Duhaime seconded the motion.***  
663  
664 Chair Sullivan: Are there any corrections?  
665  
666 A. Comai: On line 337, when I abstained from voting on the bond release, it was because I needed  
667 clarification of the information provided in order to make an informed decision.  
668  
669 T. Tsantoulis: On line 315, I did not say, 'These are the ramifications of imprecision.' I said, 'There are  
670 ramifications with this decision.'  
671  
672 **Non-Public: 09/25/19**  
673  
674 ***A. Walczyk motioned to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2019 non-public session. T.***  
675 ***Tsantoulis seconded the motion.***  
676 ***Voted unanimously in favor (7-0).***  
677  
678 **SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**  
679

680 J. Levesque: The ZBA met on Monday to deal with just one item. A resident of Scott Avenue wanted to  
681 install a single-stall garage for storage space. The ZBA granted the request.  
682  
683 T. Tsantoulis: The Assessors were all caught up, as I reported previously, but now there are challenges  
684 to our decisions, and we will be meeting with an attorney next week. We now have four HYA  
685 candidates and will meet on October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 pm.  
686  
687 R. Duhaime: The Planning Board met on Monday. A member, who was the applicant for a waiver,  
688 stepped down. Then there was a problem with the waiver, so the application was tabled. The next item  
689 was a waiver application from Miller Engineering and Testing for 1663 Hooksett Road. They are  
690 claiming that the lot where they want to construct a convenience store and gas station is not in a water  
691 aquifer area. The Conservation Commission has suggested having a third party do engineering test.  
692 The Planning Board agreed with this suggestion. Where Bluebird Storage was sited was never  
693 prepared as a site. Some fill was placed there at one time but nothing was tested or compacted. Also,  
694 the University Heights Master Plan requires that commercial development be commensurate with  
695 residential development, and there is not enough commercial development. The Budget Committee met  
696 last Thursday and went over quite a few of the smaller budgets. They will be meeting again tomorrow  
697 night.  
698  
699 Chair Sullivan: The Heritage Commission reviewed the farmhouse on Martin's Ferry Road which is  
700 scheduled for demolish. It was deemed not to meet the ten requirements to be saved. On October 29<sup>th</sup>,  
701 a program on the NH sled dog, the Chinook, funded by a Humanities Council grant, will be presented.  
702 At the October 23<sup>rd</sup> Council meeting, I will ask for a motion to accept the donation.  
703

704 **NON-PUBLIC SESSION NH RSA 91-A:3 II**

705  
706 ***A. Walczyk motioned to enter non-public session on 10/09/19 at 8:50 pm per NH RSA 91-A:3 II***  
707 ***(a). Seconded by R. Duhaime.***  
708

709 RSA 91-A:3, II (a) The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining  
710 of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, **unless** the employee affected  
711 (1) has a right to a public meeting, and (2) requests that he meeting be open, in which case the request  
712 shall be granted.  
713

714 **Roll Call Vote #2**

715 ***R. Duhaime Yes***  
716 ***J Durand Yes***  
717 ***C. Jones Not present***  
718 ***J. Levesque Yes***  
719 ***A. Walczyk Yes***  
720 ***A. Comai Yes***  
721 ***C. Karolian Not present***  
722 ***T. Tsantoulis Yes***  
723 ***J. Sullivan Yes***  
724

725 ***J. Sullivan motioned to exit the non-public session of 10/09/19. Seconded by J. Levesque.***  
726 ***Vote unanimously in favor (7-0).***

727 **Back in public session at 9:16 pm**

728  
729 ***J. Sullivan motioned to seal the minutes of the non-public session because it is determined that***  
730 ***divulgence of this information likely would render a proposed action ineffective. A. Walczyk***  
731 ***seconded the motion.***

732

733 **Roll Call Vote #3**

734 ***A. Comai Yes***

735 ***C. Jones Not present***

736 ***A. Walczyk Yes***

737 ***J. Durand Yes***

738 ***R. Duhaime Yes***

739 ***T. Tsantoulis Yes***

740 ***J. Levesque Yes***

741 ***C. Karolian Not present***

742 ***J. Sullivan Yes***

743 ***Voted unanimously in favor (7-0).***

744

745 **ADJOURNMENT**

746 ***J. Sullivan motioned to adjourn the public session of 10/09/19 at 9:17 pm. Seconded by J.***

747 ***Levesque.***

748 ***Vote unanimously in favor (7-0).***

749

750 Respectfully submitted,

751

752 *Kathleen Donnelly*

753 Kathleen Donnelly

754 Recording Clerk

755