

**Town of Hooksett  
Town Council Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, January 8, 2020**

1  
2 The Hooksett Town Council met on Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at 6:00 in the Hooksett Municipal  
3 Building.

4  
5 **CALL TO ORDER**

6 Chair Sullivan called the meeting of 08 Jan 2020 to order at 6:00 pm.

7  
8 **PROOF OF POSTING**

9 Administrative Services Coordinator Donna Fitzpatrick provided proof of posting.

10  
11 **ROLL CALL - ATTENDANCE**

12 **In Attendance:** Councilor James Sullivan, Councilor Robert Duhaime, Councilor James Levesque,  
13 Councilor Clifford Jones, Councilor Timothy Tsantoulis, Councilor Clark Karolian, and Councilor Alex  
14 Walczyk

15  
16 **Missing:** Councilor John Durand and Councilor Avery Comai

17  
18 **New Fire Ladder Truck**

19 Chair Sullivan: We had an opportunity to view the new Fire-Rescue ladder truck just prior to the  
20 beginning of this meeting. The town was able to purchase this truck thanks to a generous donation from  
21 Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU).

22  
23 Assistant Chief Colburn: I have a brief PowerPoint presentation on our new ladder truck, which is a  
24 2007 Pierce ladder truck from Woodland, Texas. SNHU generously donated one-half of the \$400,000  
25 cost of the truck, and we want to thank them and express our gratitude. SNHU also covered the \$3,000  
26 expense of a pre-purchase visit to inspect the truck, and we are grateful to them for that as well. This  
27 purchase allows us to retain our Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating. It has a 100-foot aerial reach,  
28 which is a 25-foot gain over the previous one, which will enable us to service several tall structures  
29 including the new CETA engineering building on their campus, as well as other structures on their  
30 campus and other tall structure in Hooksett. The purchase of this truck includes a two-year warrant,  
31 several upgrades and repairs, as well as important testing. This is a good deal for the town. It will  
32 enable us to better handle chimney fires, and we will be able to stabilize on grade. We have conducted  
33 training for all of our employees on all aspects of the new truck, including both day and night activities.

34  
35 Chair Sullivan: SNHU is a great neighbor and a great part of the Hooksett family in the Martins Ferry  
36 corner of town. Our heartfelt praise and gratitude go also to former Town Administrator and Town  
37 Councilor Don Winterton, who was instrumental in making this happen, so kudos to him as well. Jane  
38 Yerrington, Assistant Vice President of Academic Operations at SNHU, is with us this evening, and we  
39 thank her for being here. Mr. Garron has a presentation to make.

40  
41 A. Garron: I am please to present this key to SNHU as an expression of our thanks and gratitude.

42  
43 J. Yerrington: We are pleased to be able to assist the Town of Hooksett.

44  
45 **NON-PUBLIC SESSION #1 NH RSA 91-A: 3 II**

46  
47 ***Chair Sullivan motioned to enter non-public session at 6:13 pm in accordance with the***  
48 ***provisions of RSA 91-A:3. II (a). R. Duhaime seconded the motion.***

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

54

55 **Roll Call Vote**

56 ***J. Durand Not present***

57 ***A. Comai Not present***

58 ***C. Jones Aye***

59 ***R. Duhaime Aye***

60 ***C. Karolian Aye***

61 ***A. Walczyk Aye***

62 ***T. Tsantoulis Aye***

63 ***J. Levesque Aye***

64 ***J. Sullivan Aye***

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

66

67 ***Chair Sullivan motioned to leave non-public session at 6:59 pm. A. Walczyk seconded the***  
68 ***motion.***

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

70

71 ***Chair Sullivan motioned to seal the minutes of the non-public session because it is determined***  
72 ***that it would likely render a proposed action ineffective. R. Duhaime seconded the motion.***

73

74 **Roll Call Vote**

75 ***C. Karolian Aye***

76 ***T. Tsantoulis Aye***

77 ***J. Levesque Aye***

78 ***C. Jones Aye***

79 ***A. Comai Not present***

80 ***J. Durand Not present***

81 ***A. Walczyk Aye***

82 ***R. Duhaime Aye***

83 ***J. Sullivan Aye***

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

85

86 **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

87 Chair Sullivan called for the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for Richard Marple, a long-  
88 time State Representative who passed away on December 13, 2019, and for Denise and Michael  
89 Cummings whose son passed away recently.

90

91 **AGENDA OVERVIEW**

92 Chair Sullivan: I would like to change the agenda order and take up the Scheduled Appointment with  
93 Ian Tewksbury, President of IAFF Local 3264, who is joined by Fire Chief Burkush. After that, we will  
94 take up the Collective Bargaining Agreement which is listed under New Business.

95

96 **SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT**

97 **Ian Tewksbury, IAFF Local 3264 President (Hooksett Fire Union)**

98

99 I. Tewksbury: This has been a long process. We started negotiations just after the Fourth of July and  
100 had our last meeting right after the start of the New Year. I want to thank Town Administrator Garron,  
101 Councilor Duhaime and the other Councilors who worked on the agreement. Special thanks to Chief  
102 Burkush and to everyone who worked on a three-year agreement which is fair to the town and the  
103 union members.

104

105 Chief Burkush: I want to thank the Town Councilors who were part of the negotiating team, as well as  
106 Administrative Services Coordinator Donna Fitzpatrick and Finance Director Christine Soucie. We  
107 worked as professionals with a common goal.

108  
109 **NEW BUSINESS**

110 **Town of Hooksett AND Hooksett Permanent Firefighters Association, Local 3264, IAFF =**  
111 **Collective Bargaining Agreement for period 07/01/2020-06/30/2023**

112  
113 *R. Duhaime motioned to accept the tentative agreement between the Town of Hooksett and*  
114 *Hooksett Permanent Firefighters Association, Local 3264, IAFF effective 07/01/2020 to*  
115 *06/30/2023, and to place said agreement as a warrant article on the March 2020 ballot to read as*  
116 *follows:*

117  
118 *To see if the town will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining*  
119 *agreement reached between the Hooksett Town Council and the Hooksett Permanent*  
120 *Firefighters Association Local 3264, IAFF, which calls for the following increases in salaries and*  
121 *benefits at the current staffing level:*

122  
123 **Estimated increase over prior year**

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Salaries</i>	<i>Benefits</i>	<i>Estimated Increase</i>
<i>2020-21</i>	<i>\$127,297.00</i>	<i>(\$16,046.00)</i>	<i>\$111,251.00</i>
<i>2021-22</i>	<i>\$ 74,520.00</i>	<i>\$27,594.00</i>	<i>\$102,114.00</i>
<i>2022-23</i>	<i>\$ 77,601.00</i>	<i>\$28,736.00</i>	<i>\$106,337.00</i>

125  
126  
127 *And further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$111,251.00 for the current fiscal year, of this*  
128 *amount \$14,985 is authorized to be withdrawn from the Ambulance Revenue Fund, and the*  
129 *balance of \$96,266.00 to be raised from general taxation. Such sum represents the additional*  
130 *costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over*  
131 *those that would be paid at current staffing levels. Estimated tax rate impact is \$0.05. T.*  
132 *Tsantoulis seconded the motion.*

133  
134 **Roll Call Vote #3**

135 *A. Comai Not present*  
136 *C. Jones Aye*  
137 *A. Walczyk Aye*  
138 *J. Durand Not present*  
139 *R. Duhaime Aye*  
140 *T. Tsantoulis Aye*  
141 *J. Levesque Aye*  
142 *C. Karolian Aye*  
143 *J. Sullivan Aye*  
144 *Voted in favor (7-0).*

145  
146 **SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

147  
148 **Hooksett Police Dept. (HPD) - Swearing-in new Police Dispatcher, Police Officer of the Year, and**  
149 **Recognize other HPD employee(s).**

150  
151 Chief Bouchard: First I would like to recognize Aaron Roy, our newest dispatcher. Aaron lives in  
152 Bedford with his wife and three sons. He grew up in Manchester and Bedford. He attended Manchester

153 West High School and received a bachelor's degree in Social Science from Plymouth State University.  
154 He comes to us from the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Department where he worked as a dispatcher.  
155 Next, I want to recognize Richard Belanger, our Dispatch Supervisor, for service above and beyond.  
156 Any employee or supervisor can nominate an employee, sworn or non-sworn, for Outstanding  
157 Achievement. These nominations go to the Awards Committee and then to me. Rick coordinated the  
158 relocation of the Dispatch Center from the rear to the front of the Safety Center with no interruption of  
159 service. He coordinated the completion of an endless number of tasks, arriving early and staying late  
160 most days for a six-month period and keeping his employees comfortable all the while. His fellow  
161 employees say there is nothing he can't do. My final award this evening is for the Officer of the Year,  
162 and it goes to Richard Faucher, who is here with his wife and other family members. This award is for a  
163 sworn officer who goes above and beyond. Richard worked as a corrections officer at the Hillsborough  
164 County House of Corrections until coming to work with us in 2016. According to his fellow officers, he is  
165 a dedicated team player who is always willing to help his fellow officers. He has a great work ethic, is  
166 smart and kind, and treats people with respect and dignity. He was nominated by all of his sergeants  
167 and his lieutenant, and was unanimously selected to be the Officer of the Year. At 140 arrests in 2019,  
168 he had the highest number in the department. He also had 371 felony drug arrests and motor vehicle  
169 stops.  
170

171

### 172 **SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS (continued)**

#### 173 **Todd Rainier, Town Clerk and Marc Miville, Town Moderator - January 21, 2020 Special Town** 174 **Election**

175

176 T. Rainier: The special primary is only two weeks away. Our office has been very active with voter  
177 registrations and absentee ballot requests. Mr. Germain has created a coverage schedule for the  
178 January 21<sup>st</sup> special primary. It is imperative that all of you represent the Council at elections. We must  
179 have at least one Councilor present throughout the day and a minimum of three to close the polls and  
180 stay through the reconciliation process.  
181  
182  
183

184 M. Miville: This was a sudden special election and will not be tallied electronically. Ballots will be hand  
185 sorted and counted.  
186

187 T. Rainier: There are important upcoming election-related dates to keep in mind. The checklist  
188 supervisors will meet tomorrow, January 9, 2020, from 9:00 to 9:30 am in the Council Chambers. This  
189 meeting is the last opportunity for qualified residents to register before the January 21<sup>st</sup> election.  
190 Qualified residents may register at the polls. No party changes can be made at this meeting. The last  
191 opportunity to change party prior to the Presidential Primary was October 25, 2019. Undeclared voters  
192 may choose a party at the primary election, vote, and then return to undeclared status right after voting.  
193 January 21, 2020 is the Special Primary. The polls are located at Cawley Middle School and will be  
194 open from 6:00 am to 7:00 pm. Accuvote tabulators will not be used; ballots will be hand-counted.  
195  
196

197 C. Karolian: Do you have sample ballots available?  
198

199 Mr. Miville: They are posted on the wall outside of the Town Clerk's office and will be posted on the  
200 walls at the election.  
201

202 T. Rainier: The ballots and all other election information is also on the town's website. Just click the  
203 "VOTE" icon. The State will be printing the ballots, which must be counted by hand because the voting  
204 machines will already be set for the presidential primary. On January 21<sup>st</sup>, the same day as the special  
205 primary, the checklist supervisors will hold a mandatory session from 7:00 to 7:30 pm at the Cawley  
206 Middle School. No party changes can be made at this meeting. January 22<sup>nd</sup> through 31<sup>st</sup> is the filing  
207 period for town/school seats at the Town Clerk's office during regular hours. In addition, the Town

208 Clerk's office will be open from 3:00 to 5:00 pm on January 31<sup>st</sup> for declarations of candidacy only. The  
209 Deliberative Session will be Saturday, February 1, 2020.

210  
211 J. Levesque: What happens if someone ends up in the hospital on election day unexpectedly and does  
212 not have an absentee ballot?

213  
214 T. Rainer: An election official will deliver a ballot in that situation. How this will happen will be  
215 determined on a case by case basis.

216  
217  
218 **CONSENT AGENDA**  
219 **Donation from 9Round Kick Boxing of items from their business totaling \$153.00 to the Town of**  
220 **Hooksett for all Town of Hooksett employees per RSA 31:95-b, III (b) and RSA 31:95-e, II**

221  
222  
223  
224 **Donation of gift cards totaling the amount of \$2,725.00 to the Town of Hooksett for the Family**  
225 **Services Department for distribution to children and families in need through the Hooksett**  
226 **Family Services Holiday Assistance Program.**

227  
228  
229 **Donation of gifts from the general public and the Hooksett Police Association Cram the Crime**  
230 **Van toy drive to the Town of Hooksett for the Hooksett Family Services Holiday Assistance**  
231 **Program.**

232  
233 ***T. Tsantoulis motioned to accept the Consent Agenda items. C. Karolian seconded the motion.***  
234 ***Voted unanimously in favor (7-0).***

235  
236  
237 **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

238  
239 A. Garron: I would like to introduce Jaime Martinez who is handling logistics at the new Amazon facility  
240 at the former BJ's warehouse site.

241  
242 J. Martinez: I am a retired lieutenant colonel with 26 years of active duty Army service. My business  
243 partner is Ted Johnson, a disabled veteran and also a retired lieutenant colonel. We moved here to  
244 establish our company, Johnson Applied Solutions, a supply chain delivery program for Amazon. I am  
245 not here on behalf of Amazon but rather on behalf of a network of veteran-owned small businesses.  
246 Hooksett is our home. I would like to read into the record a letter to the Town Council and the Town  
247 Administrator from Mr. Johnson.

248  
249 Johnson Applied Solutions, LLC us proud to announce its arrival to New Hampshire and to the Town of  
250 Hooksett specifically as it expands its business opportunities as a Delivery Supply Partner for Amazon. As  
251 a Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business, we offer dynamic leadership and sound business principles  
252 to ensure that all of our partners meet their supply chain requirements while being steadfast to the  
253 community. Since our arrival to Hooksett in early December 2019, the Town of Hooksett and its thriving  
254 business community have welcomed my team and company. We made an early decision that aligns with  
255 our principles to build partnerships and relations with local businesses. In that effort, all of our business  
256 partners are Hooksett-based, and as we continue to build our supply chain team in New Hampshire we  
257 will be relying on their expertise and professional services to ensure we deliver our bottom line while  
258 ensuring that the local economy and employment opportunities continue to thrive.

259  
260 We appreciate the support from the State of New Hampshire and Town of Hooksett, and we intend to  
261 make our business and community relationships long lasting. We hope to continue thriving in your  
262 community and look for opportunities to assist in volunteer events and support groups with our large  
263 employee pool. Additionally, we are now partnered with the New England Veteran Chamber of  
264 Commerce and are establishing the first ever New Hampshire Veteran Chamber of Commerce. We intend  
265 to hold our first summit this upcoming March 2020 and would like to invite Hooksett leadership and the  
266 local Chamber of Commerce to attend and participate. Mentorship is a valued tool and we look forward to

267 learning from the community on how better to build veteran-owned businesses to enhance the local  
268 economy and employment opportunities.  
269

270 J. Martinez: Our support of local business includes Barrett Insurance as our accountant, and Merrimack  
271 County Savings Bank not only provides our financial services but also trains our employees in financial  
272 literacy. We have a physical therapist in Hooksett in case we have employee injuries. Our vehicles are  
273 fueled by Irving and Verizon Wireless provides our connectivity. We use the USPS and auto repairs  
274 are done in Hooksett. We have joined the local Chamber of Commerce. Over the past holiday season,  
275 we delivered about 23,000 packages per day, and we have the capacity to deliver 100,000 packages  
276 per day. We have 130 trucks making these deliveries. We are four times larger than the Nashua facility.  
277 Ecommerce is a reality. We understand that Hooksett's bicentennial is in 2022, and we look forward to  
278 being part of that and providing resources for it. We want to contribute to the community. We offer our  
279 employees benefits and educational stipends; we want to provide internship opportunities for local  
280 community colleges.

281  
282 Chairman Sullivan: Thank you for the presentation and for making Hooksett your home. To you and  
283 your employees, thank you for your service.  
284

285 A. Walczyk: Did you say the facility has the capacity to deliver 100,000 packages per day?  
286

287 J. Martinez: Yes. We have 200 employees and others have numerous employees as well. We invite all  
288 of you to visit our facility.  
289

290 R. Duhaime: We will have a parade and a big bash in 2022. We look forward to your help and  
291 participation.  
292

293 C. Karolian: Welcome and thank you for your presentation. We look forward to having a good working  
294 relationship with you. What time do you start deliveries in the morning?  
295

296 J. Martinez: We are doing outbound deliveries only at this point. Our fleet is at the Manchester Airfield,  
297 so we travel from there to start deliveries at 8:30 a.m. The drivers have ten hours to complete  
298 deliveries; it usually takes eight hours.  
299

300 C. Karolian: Are the drivers separate contractors?  
301

302 J. Martinez: No, they are employees. Our starting rates is between \$17.15 and \$18.25 per hour.  
303

304 C. Karolian: What is your delivery radius?  
305

306 J. Martinez: It is an oval extending to Portsmouth, then up to the Lakes Region, going north of Concord  
307 a bit to the west and then back to Manchester.  
308

309 A. Garron: Next, regarding the parcel of tax-deeded, town-owned land we discussed previously, we  
310 have explored internal uses and have learned that there may be a use related to the TIF district, a  
311 sewer pump station site. Underwood Engineering is looking into this and I will report back to you.  
312

313 A. Garron: You have all received a letter from the NH Lottery regarding House Bill 480, Sports Betting. I  
314 caution you, before putting this on the ballot for consideration, to explore how this will be implemented  
315 in terms of zoning. The Planning Board should take a look at it.  
316

317 A. Garron: At our last meeting, during the public comment segment, a resident commented on the issue  
318 of costs associated with the Hooksett train protest. I have been trading information with our counsel on  
319 this. No decision has been made yet. I see that former Councilor David Ross, who is the resident  
320 raising a concern, is here tonight.

321  
322 A. Garron: Does the Town Council have a desire to make a budget presentation at the Deliberative  
323 Session?

324  
325 Chair Sullivan: We haven't in the past. We could use the material in the Voter's Guide to prepare a  
326 presentation. Thanks to our Finance Director Christine Soucie, we have a great Voter's Guide. A  
327 presentation would be a duplication of what is in the guide.

328  
329 T. Tsantoulis: We should give consideration to the low attendance we typically have at the Deliberative  
330 Session. It is usually just a few regulars.

331  
332 Chair Sullivan: The consensus of the Council is to leave it as it is for now.

333  
334 A. Garron: We have been working on a process for amending meeting minutes. Ms. Fitzpatrick can  
335 report on that.

336  
337 D. Fitzpatrick: On September 11, 2019, the Council endorsed the adoption of the NHMA process for  
338 approval of minutes. Our boards and committees are already following the State laws for taking,  
339 preparing and posting minutes; this is regarding the approval process. Kathie Donnelly has been using  
340 the new process for a few months, and all boards and committees, with the exception of the Budget  
341 Committee, will be using the new process beginning January 1, 2020.

342  
343 A. Garron: Town Engineer Bruce Thomas has put together an RFP for a Lilac Bridge Monument on the  
344 Lambert Park side at the entrance. There will be a bench as well. The deadline for RFPs is March 5,  
345 2020. I want to commend Mr. Thomas for his work on this project. He has put together a review team  
346 for the RFPs to include members to help with consideration of the artistic component of the project we  
347 want to capture.

348  
349 A. Garron: Regarding my goal of regrouping the CIP process, Finance Director Soucie has organized a  
350 meeting of the departments, which will include consideration of a timeframe. We need a Council  
351 representative to be part of this group, which will meet between April and June for about two months.

352  
353 Chair Sullivan: Councilor Duhaime agrees to fill this role.

354  
355 A. Garron: On October 23, 2019, the Council voted to issue a \$2.5 million bond. On December 30,  
356 2019, we signed for the financing of this bond with TD Bank.

357  
358 A. Garron: I am pleased to report that Regina Howard of the Fire Department has completed the State's  
359 Human Resources Certification program.

360  
361 T. Tsantoulis: I am appalled at the condition of the gymnasium area of this building. The trim is rotting  
362 around the façade and the aesthetics in general are bad. We need to get the ball rolling to fix this.

363  
364 A. Walczyk: I would like to piggyback on this and say we should upgrade the audio for our meetings. It  
365 is difficult to hear the live feed and the videos.

366  
367 T. Tsantoulis: The gymnasium will be used for part of the Winter Carnival events.

368 A. Garron: There has been an increased use of the gymnasium recently. We have addressed the  
369 responsibilities of those using the gym.

370  
371 Chair Sullivan: We could possible add this to the bid prepared by the Public Works Director for work on  
372 the exterior. I think there were not enough bids when it was last issued.

373  
374 C. Karolian: Nine out of ten times that I come to Town Hall, the gymnasium is in use. It is high time, I  
375 agree.

376  
377 **PUBLIC INPUT**

378  
379 Marc Miville: 42 Main Street: Tomorrow night is the Budget Committee's first public hearing beginning  
380 at 7:00 pm.

381  
382 D. Ross, 56 Sherwood Drive: Every person I've talked to doesn't know there is a special election. A lot  
383 of people don't go to the website or to Town Hall. I would appreciate it if the Council would give it an  
384 extra push. Regarding the monument at the bridge, the artistic competition should be separate from the  
385 bid process. The group could come up with a recommendation and that should be part of the bid  
386 requirements.

387  
388 **OLD BUSINESS**

389  
390 **SNHU – CETA Engineering Building Site Bond Release (tabled at 12/11/19 Town Council**  
391 **Meeting)**

392  
393 *Chair Sullivan motioned to remove this item from the table. T. Tsantoulis seconded the motion.*  
394 *Voted unanimously in favor (7-0).*

395  
396 B. Thomas: I inspected the site with the contractor and a representative of SNHU. One small item was  
397 not done. There was a piece of silt fence in the back corner. That has been removed now. A landscape  
398 bond in the amount of \$115,962.00 will be kept on file for at least two years.

399  
400 C. Jones: What about the hydro-seeding?

401  
402 B. Thomas: That is part of the landscape bond.

403  
404 *T. Tsantoulis motioned to release the site bond for the SNHU – College of Engineering,*  
405 *Technology & Aeronautics (CETA) bond of \$122,154.15 to the Southern New Hampshire*  
406 *University. A. Walczyk seconded the motion.*

407  
408 T. Tsantoulis: Anyone who drives by knows they do a lot on their campus.

409  
410 A. Walczyk: I agree with Councilor Tsantoulis.

411  
412 *Voted unanimously in favor (7-0).*

413  
414 **BRIEF RECESS**

415  
416 **OLD BUSINESS (continued)**

417



418 **A. Walczyk motioned shall the town, if warrant article #X is defeated, authorize the governing**  
419 **body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address warrant article #X cost items only. T.**  
420 **Tsantoulis seconded the motion.**  
421 **Voted unanimously in favor (7-0).**  
422

423 A. Walczyk: If this were to happen, when would we have the meeting?  
424

425 C. Soucie: The town and the union would get together again. There is no timeline. If the town votes no,  
426 you would have to petition the court.

~~427~~  
~~428~~

#### 430 **FY 2020-21 Budget and Warrant Articles**

431  
432 C. Soucie: The first public hearing for the Budget Committee is tomorrow. Their budget is \$19,937,694,  
433 which is 2.8% over the current budget and one percent over the default amount.  
434

435 Chair Sullivan: By how much did the Budget Committee reduce the Town Council budget?  
436

437 C. Soucie: The reduction was about \$106,000. The default budget must be presented at the public  
438 hearing, according to the new law. The only change is the new TIF bond. The principal went up from  
439 \$128,250 to \$233,250 and the interest went down and is fixed at 2.55%. The default amount is  
440 \$19,831,427. It is increased by the DPW union contract and by the debt service for the town and the  
441 Wastewater plant. It is decreased by the cemetery project, which is not in the new budget. At your next  
442 meeting, you can sign the default budget. The State has clarified that the default amount can only be  
443 changed by contracts voted on by the voters. Therefore, the one-year wage increase for non-union  
444 employees is not added to the default amount.  
445

446 C. Soucie: There is only one petition warrant article with a cost involved for your consideration. It was  
447 submitted by Henry Roy and states: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$52,000.00 to  
448 reimburse for private residential water hydrants to ensure public safety. It needs to be reviewed by the  
449 DRA and the Town Attorney. Both have seen it.  
450

451 **J. Levesque motioned to approve the addition of the petition warrant article to the ballot for the**  
452 **March 2020 election. R. Duhaime seconded the motion.**  
453

454 T. Tsantoulis: I have received calls about this but haven't had a chance to research last year's vote. We  
455 need to be cautious because of the ramifications. It will please some and others will be unhappy. This is  
456 about private hydrants at condo developments and opens a Pandora's Box.  
457

458 Chair Sullivan: It must go on the ballot because it is a petition warrant article with a cost. We will have a  
459 tally vote as to whether or not we endorse it.  
460

461 A. Walczyk: This is for the Town to reimburse for private residents' water hydrants to ensure public  
462 safety. It is just one sentence. I don't get it.  
463

464 C. Jones: They are paying rental fees and don't feel they should be?  
465

466 Chair Sullivan: Last year, there was a motion on the floor at the Deliberative Session to add a warrant  
467 article in the amount of \$48,000 for hydrant rentals. The warrant article passed, but it wasn't clear. This  
468 year, the Town Administrator and the Finance Director brought in one crafted by legal that would work.  
469 We chose not to put it on the ballot.  
470

471 C. Jones: Don't most of these developments have condo fees for maintenance?  
472  
473 Chair Sullivan: Yes, they do.  
474  
475 R. Duhaime: One constituent who spoke with me said they are double taxed because they pay for the  
476 public hydrants in their taxes and then pay for their own.  
477  
478 C. Jones: I get that, but we don't plow on private roads.  
479  
480 R. Duhaime: We have a large retirement community population in Hooksett. They often ask what they  
481 get for their taxes.  
482  
483 C. Karolian: Are you saying it is political?  
484  
485 Chair Sullivan: Ultimately, everything is.  
486  
487 C. Karolian: Are the taxpayers paying for the hydrants or are the water users paying?  
488  
489 Chair Sullivan: It is the taxpayers.  
490  
491 C. Karolian: For clarification, this warrant article will go on the ballot regardless of our vote, right?  
492  
493 Chair Sullivan: That is correct.  
494  
495 C. Karolian: Will our recommendation be on the ballot?  
496  
497 Chair Sullivan: Yes, it will.  
498  
499 C. Karolian: Are people not part of a water precinct paying for those who are? What about those with a  
500 fire pond because there is no hydrant? This is a Pandora's box. Are we going to start with taxes a la  
501 carte? Are we going to reimburse those with no children in school or people who don't call the Fire  
502 Department or for an ambulance for one year?  
503  
504 Chair Sullivan: I live in the Central water precinct. My taxes pay for all of the precincts. Residents with  
505 wells and septic systems are paying for water and sewer. The hydrants at the condos aren't included in  
506 the taxes.  
507  
508 C. Soucie: We do have tax rebates for residents over 80 years of age.  
509  
510 C. Karolian: Some of my questions are rhetorical. Would each condo owner get a portion of a rebate or  
511 would it go to the condo association?  
512  
513 C. Soucie: We couldn't use the \$49,000 last year because it never stated a private purpose in the  
514 operating budget. It didn't say private hydrants. Also, there are a few single families with private  
515 hydrants. Reimbursement would be the same as for trash pickup. Whoever pays the bill would get the  
516 reimbursement.  
517  
518 T. Tsantoulis: Who generates the bills?  
519  
520 C. Soucie: The water districts generate the bills.

521  
522 C. Karolian: Isn't that a flaw in taxation or the tax rate?  
523  
524 Chair Sullivan: It is not a flaw.  
525  
526 C. Karolian: Shouldn't they be taxed differently, based on the information on the card for each  
527 residence, with listings for...  
528  
529 Chair Sullivan: No, the card just has the value of the land and building(s).  
530  
531 C. Soucie: They are not assessed differently based on their water and sewer service.  
532  
533 C. Karolian: Is the reimbursement from the general fund or the individual department?  
534  
535 C. Soucie: It is by department.  
536  
537 C. Karolian: Is that in the budget?  
538  
539 C. Soucie: Yes. For trash pick-up, it is in the tipping line.  
540  
541 Chair Sullivan: Everyone is talking. Three people are jumping in.  
542  
543 A. Garron: This is the premise. These are approved as private developments and the developer gets a  
544 density bonus of, say, 25 units. Everything is private. The developer nets the benefit and tells the  
545 owners they can petition for a public road. At least, this is how it has happened in many communities.  
546  
547 T. Tsantoulis: We deserve a legal opinion. We need to know what other towns are doing and what the  
548 State view is.  
549  
550 C. Soucie: All of that has been done.  
551  
552 J. Levesque: All hydrants are charged a rental fee. You are in favor of this or not. I call the question.  
553  
554 C. Karolian: Weren't we recognized before he called the question?  
555  
556 Chair Sullivan: I have a queue for the order of speakers.  
557  
558 A roll call vote was taken on the motion to approve the petition warrant article calling for the town's  
559 reimbursement of rental fees for private hydrants  
560

561 **Roll Call Vote #5**

562 ***T. Tsantoulis Aye***  
563 ***C. Jones Aye***  
564 ***R. Duhaime Aye***  
565 ***A. Walczyk Nay***  
566 ***J. Levesque Aye***  
567 ***C. Karolian Nay***  
568 ***J. Durand Not present***  
569 ***A. Comai Not present***  
570 ***J. Sullivan Aye***

571 ***Voted in favor (5-2).***

572

573 J. Levesque: We should stick to the rules. Talk twice and that's all.

574

575 Chair Sullivan: Please remind me, if necessary.

576

577 C. Soucie: The deadline for petition warrant articles is January 14, 2020. If we get one with a cost, you  
578 may need to have a meeting on January 15, 2020.

579

580 Chair Sullivan: We will schedule a special meeting for Wednesday, January 15, 2020.

581

582 A. Garron: If it is not needed, it can be cancelled.

583

584 T. Tsantoulis: The residents should know our schedule.

585

586 R. Duhaime: We serve them.

587

588 D. Fitzpatrick: We can post the meeting tomorrow. If the Town Clerk receives a petition warrant article,  
589 the signatures will have to be verified, which takes time.

590

591 A. Walczyk: We should specify that the meeting is only for petition warrant articles with a cost.

592

593 C. Soucie: I also want to remind you that January 24<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for the Town Council letter for the  
594 Voter's Guide.

595

596 ***Chair Sullivan motioned to extend the meeting. R. Duhaime seconded the motion.***

597 ***Voted in favor (5-2), with J. Levesque and C. Karolian voting nay.***

598

599 C. Soucie: The warrant, signed by Secretary Comai and Chair Sullivan, must be posted before Monday,  
600 January 27<sup>th</sup>.

601

602 C. Soucie: Regarding the order of the warrant articles, does the Council have a preference? They  
603 usually are in order from highest to lowest, with petition articles at the end.

604

605 R. Duhaime: I suggest placing the Solar article just after the \$30,000 Sewer article.

606

607 C. Karolian: Has the Town adopted RSA 31:95?

608

609 C. Soucie: Yes, that was done several years ago. I can't remember if it was by Charter or by warrant  
610 article.

611

612 C. Karolian: In response to an earlier comment, if other councilors got involved instead of coming to  
613 meetings and taking up space...everyone has the right get engaged and involved.

614

615

616 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

618 **Public: 11/20/19 (tabled at 12/11/19 Town Council Meeting)**

619

620 ***R. Duhaime motioned to remove the minutes of November 20, 2019 from the table. T. Tsantoulis***  
621 ***seconded the motion.***

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

623

624 ***T. Tsantoulis motioned to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2019 meeting. C. Jones***  
625 ***seconded the motion.***

626

627 C. Karolian offered the following corrections.

628 Line 111 – Add the word “then” at the end of the question.

629 Line 530 – Add “to prevent this from happening to Autumn Run in the future” at the end of the sentence.

630 Line 775 - The third sentence of the paragraph should read: "In a nutshell, it was explained to me that it  
631 is not up to the Planning Board to make sure wells are constructed properly.”

632 Line 778 – Add this sentence: “What they ultimately did was grant waivers prior to the wells being  
633 drilled and prior to the releases from the State of New Hampshire.”

634 Line 786 – Delete “I told the Planning Board that” and add to the end of the sentence “and gets the well  
635 report.”

636

637 The Chair called for a vote on the motion as amended.

638

639 ***Voted in favor (6-0). J. Levesque abstained because he was absent from the November 20, 2019***  
640 ***meeting.***

641

642 **Public: 12/11/19**

643

644 ***T. Tsantoulis motioned to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2019 meeting. A. Walczyk***  
645 ***seconded the motion***

646

647 C. Karolian offered the following corrections.

648 Line 418 – add “versus the old units” to the end of the question.

649 Line 420 – Add this sentence at the beginning: “Off the top of my head, I don’t know.”

650

651 Chair Sullivan called for a vote on the motion as amended.

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

653 **Public: 12/17/19 Emergency Meeting**

658

659 ***T. Tsantoulis motioned to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2019 Emergency Meeting. A.***  
660 ***Walczyk seconded the motion.***

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

662

663 **Non-Public: 11/20/19 (tabled at 12/11/19 Town Council Meeting)**

666

667 ***R. Duhaime motioned to remove the minutes of the November 20, 2019 non-public meeting from***  
668 ***the table. T. Tsantoulis seconded the motion.***

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

670

671 ***R. Duhaime motioned to approve the minutes of the November 20, non-public meeting. A.***  
672 ***Walczyk seconded the motion.***

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

674

675 **Non-Public: 12/11/19**

678

680 ***R. Duhaime motioned to approve the minutes of both non-public sessions of the December 11,***  
681 ***2019 meeting. A. Walczyk seconded the motion.***  
682 ***Voted unanimously in favor (7-0).***

683

684 **SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS (TABLED AT 12/11/19 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING)**

685

686 R. Duhaime: The Planning Board made one change to the Zoning Amendment. It also moved the  
687 recommendations of the Architectural Subcommittee to a public hearing.

688

689 C. Karolian: At the Recycling and Transfer meeting I learned about the reimbursement process  
690 currently in place.

691

692 J. Levesque: At its December meeting, the ZBA granted a residential building permit in a commercial  
693 zone. This is on Joann Drive and the area is mostly residential, so it is a good plan. This is an odd-  
694 shaped lot that was subdivided.

695

696 Chair Sullivan: The applicant came before the Economic Development Committee as well.

697

698 J. Levesque: They also extended the permit for Supreme on Hackett Hill Road.

699

700 **ADJOURNMENT**

701

702 ***R. Duhaime motioned to adjourn at 9:49 pm. T. Tsantoulis seconded the motion.***

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

704

705 Respectfully submitted,

706

707

708 Recording Clerk  
709 Kathleen Donnelly

710

711

712 **Please see subsequent meeting minutes for any amendments to these minutes.**

713

714