

**Town of Hooksett  
Town Council Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, January 22, 2020**

1  
2 The Hooksett Town Council met on Wednesday, January 22, 2020 at 5:30 pm in the Hooksett  
3 Municipal Building.

4  
5 **CALL TO ORDER**

6 Chair Sullivan called the meeting of 22 Jan 2020 to order at 5:36 pm.

7  
8 **PROOF OF POSTING**

9 Administrative Services Coordinator Donna Fitzpatrick provided proof of posting.

10  
11 **ROLL CALL**

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

15 Councilor Durand arrived at 5:41 pm.

16 **Missing:** Councilor James Levesque

17  
18 **NON-PUBLIC SESSION #1 NH RSA 91-A:3 II**

19  
20 *Chair Sullivan motioned to enter non-public session at 5:38 pm. T. Tsantoulis seconded the*  
21 *motion.*

22  
23 **Roll Call Vote #2**

24 **R. Duhaime** Yea

25 **J Durand** Not present (arrived at 5:41 pm)

26 **C. Jones** Yea

27 **J. Levesque** Not present

28 **A. Walczyk** Yea

29 **A. Comai** Yea

30 **C. Karolian** Yea

31 **T. Tsantoulis** Yea

32 **J. Sullivan** Yea

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

34  
35 RSA 91-A:3, II (a) The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining  
36 of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, **unless** the employee affected  
37 (1) has a right to a public meeting, and (2) requests that he meeting be open, in which case the request  
38 shall be granted.

39  
40 RSA 91-A:3, II (l) Consideration of legal advice provided by legal counsel, either in writing or orally, to  
41 one or more members of the public even where legal counsel is not present.

42  
43 *Chair Sullivan motioned to leave public session at 6:13 pm. C. Karolian seconded the motion.*  
44 *Voted unanimously in favor (8-0).*

45  
46 *Chair Sullivan motioned to seal the minutes of the non-public session. T. Tsantoulis seconded*  
47 *the motion.*

48  
49 **Roll Call Vote #4**

TC MINUTES 01-22-20

50 **A. Walczyk** *Yea*  
51 **J. Levesque** *Not present*  
52 **C. Jones** *Yea*  
53 **R. Duhaime** *Yea*  
54 **J. Durand** *Yea*  
55 **C. Karolian** *Yea*  
56 **T. Tsantoulis** *Yea*  
57 **A. Comai** *Yea*  
58 **J. Sullivan** *Yea*  
59 **Voted unanimously in favor (8-0).**

60  
61 **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**  
62 Chair Sullivan called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

63  
64 **SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS**  
65  
66 **Todd Rainier, Town Clerk and Marc Miville, Town Moderator - January 21, 2020 Special Election**  
67 **Results, February 1, 2020 Deliberative Session Preparations & February 11, 2020 Federal**  
68 **Primary Election Preparations**

69  
70 T. Rainer: I want to thank those of you who were there yesterday to help with the election. That is a  
71 necessary part of the process. A total of 635 ballots cast, which is not a lot, but is more than the 443  
72 ballots cast at a special election in June of 2017. Of the ballots cast yesterday, 33 were absentees. We  
73 registered 25 new voters. This was a hand count election; no machines were used. At the end of the  
74 night, about 20 volunteers came in to help with the tallies. The polls closed at 7:00 pm and the  
75 moderator announced the results at 8:20 pm. There was one challenged voter affidavit, a voter who  
76 forgot his ID.

77  
78 M. Miville: I credit everyone who counted ballots yesterday. Everything went smoothly, and I thank  
79 everyone who helped. On the Republican side, Elliot Axelman won, receiving 341 votes. John Leavitt  
80 had 115 votes and David Ross had 101. Kathleen Martins was unchallenged on the Democratic side,  
81 receiving 66 of the 71 Democratic ballots cast. I especially want to thank Don Winterton, who agreed to  
82 be my Assistant Moderator yesterday and was a tremendous help. The Deliberative Session will be on  
83 February 1, 2020.

84  
85 T. Rainier: We will need 'all hands on deck' for the Presidential Primary on February 11<sup>th</sup>.

86  
87 M. Miville: Yes. We expect nearly 100% participation and the word of the day is 'patience.' Also, I had  
88 two wooden stools at the election which I brought from home. I would like to donate them to the  
89 Election Committee, along with a third one I have at home.

90  
91 Chair Sullivan: Thank you. Please see the Town Administrator to have that put on the agenda for our  
92 approval.

93  
94 **David Boutin, Chair - Town of Hooksett Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Advisory Committee and**  
95 **David Mercier, Underwood Engineering - TIF District Status Report (see item 15.1 for details)**

96  
97 D. Boutin: I am here with David Mercier of Underwood Engineering and Bruce Thomas, Town Engineer.  
98 In the audience are three other TIF Advisory Committee members: Mike Somers, David Scarpetti and  
99 Alden Beauchemin.

100  
101 Chair Sullivan: Mr. Michael Jache from the Hooksett Village Water Precinct is in the audience as well.  
102 Several months ago, the Town Council appointed the members of the TIF Advisory Committee and I

103 was chosen to chair the group. I have done this for 40 years, and this is one of the hardest working  
104 groups of people I have ever worked with. This has provided many challenges and opportunities. Our  
105 draft report was unanimously approved by the Committee, the Hooksett Village Water Precinct, and the  
106 Hooksett Sewer Department. The Committee also approved unanimously a list of ten recommendations  
107 to the Town Council.

108  
109 D. Mercier: This group started in August of 2019 and met monthly for six months. I want to thank  
110 everyone for the collaborative effort and the productive discussions we had. Both Bruce Thomas and  
111 Andre Garron were extremely helpful in the process. We have devised a comprehensive plan which  
112 includes new sewer and expanded water service for the TIF district. I will outline this plan, including the  
113 phasing, cost, and funding. Because this is a large area, we have divided it into three zones. The first  
114 goes from the Manchester/Hooksett border up to Exit 10. The second zone runs north from there to just  
115 beyond the self-storage facility behind Kohl's. The plan is to collect sewer from both sides of Exit 10,  
116 bring it to a new pump station on Kimball Drive, and then pump it to connect with the Martins Ferry  
117 pump station.

118  
119 T. Tsantoulis: I assume you mean the Martins Ferry Sewer Plant.

120  
121 D. Mercier: No, I did mean the Martins Ferry Pump Station. It is located near SNHU, just south of the  
122 treatment plant. There are lots of businesses and big box stores in the area – and over 50 in the TIF  
123 district as a whole. According to the plan, the Town will build the sewer up to Route 3 and these stores  
124 will pay if they wish to connect. The Hooksett Sewer Department recently increased its connection fee  
125 to \$27 per gallon. That money could be used to fund other sewer activities. The Committee members  
126 unanimously agreed that the Exit 10 area should be connected to sewer first. Zone 3, because it is so  
127 large, has been divided into north and south sections. The north section runs from the Tri-Town Arena  
128 to Hackett Hill Road and the Exit 11 exchange. The south section is more residential and further from  
129 the Route 93 exits. We have been looking at siting a pump station on the Tri-Town Arena property for a  
130 while. The plan is for the Town to build a section of sewer and bring it to Route 3A. We expect the TIF  
131 properties to extend the sewer to their front doors as they develop. For example, Supreme Industries  
132 owns a large parcel and has expressed a high degree of interest in having access to sewer. However,  
133 they are on a three to five- year track, so we will start in the Exit 10 area. I would note that it is less  
134 expensive to install sewer lines on town roads than on DOT roads, which is why we are looking at  
135 Route 3A. The focus of our work was very much on sewer, but it is very important that both water and  
136 sewer are sufficient. Some water improvements are being recommended. Hooksett Village Water has a  
137 fairly new water tank on Pinnacle Hill, but a new water main is needed to bolster flow and pressure. If  
138 we are digging up for sewer, it makes sense to do water at the same time to take care of economies of  
139 scale. The first two zones have Manchester Water Works.

140  
141 C. Karolian: Thank you for the presentation. Is Manchester Water Works on board with supplying this  
142 water that is going to be needed?

143  
144 D. Mercier: The plan is to extend a Hooksett Village main. There is a gap in water service from the  
145 Records Retention Center to Dunkin' Donuts – about 3,600 feet. We plan to work with Manchester  
146 Water Works to share an interconnection with them in Zone 3 South.

147  
148 C. Karolian: What is the source of water for Hooksett Village?

149  
150 M. Jache: Pinnacle Pond is the source.

151  
152 C. Karolian: Is this feasible? Will it draw on one versus another?

153

154 B. Thomas: Every month we have a utility coordination meeting, and we are definitely working with  
155 Manchester Water Works and Hooksett Village Water. They have reviewed the plans. I just learned this  
156 afternoon that they may want us to push the sewer to Quality Drive because of the water plant.  
157  
158 C. Karolian: That would be extending their footprint as well, I would think.  
159  
160 B. Thomas: We will make sure they are on board. We are working with them very closely.  
161  
162 D. Mercier: Zone 3 South is less critical because there is less current development and less likelihood  
163 that there will be future development. It could be pushed off. Turning to funding and financing, we have  
164 estimated the total cost of the project to be just over \$21 million. The first project, which involves Zones  
165 1 and 2 at Exit 10, has an estimated cost of \$8.48 million. Funding already available from TIF revenue  
166 and Sewer Commission contributions totals \$10.8 million. Therefore, this project could be done without  
167 asking the voters for any contribution. Our hope and goal is that, once this first project is done, with  
168 sewer connection fees and TIF revenue, we would likely be able to afford the next project. Mr. Thomas  
169 asked us to calculate the cost to the taxpayers if the Town Council wanted all of the work done at once.  
170 The \$10.27 million gap would cost \$0.31/thousand.  
171  
172 B. Thomas: We would have \$10 million if everyone hooks up to sewer. The breakdown of funding  
173 sources is in the packets of information we gave you. We will design the entire sewer system and  
174 complete the public portion; we might complete the private portion as well and be reimbursed by the  
175 users. The road map is on the shelf and ready to go.  
176  
177 R. Duhaime: Thank you for the presentation. I met with the Sewer Commission yesterday and they are  
178 all behind this. The biggest thing is the impact on the voters. There are some dry lines, which have  
179 been noted. Are easements factored into the cost?  
180  
181 D. Mercier: Yes, they are.  
182  
183 B. Thomas: We are looking for approval of this scenario, which was unanimously approved by the TIF  
184 Advisory Committee and the Economic Development Committee. The next step will be a presentation  
185 of the design, which will probably be made at your February 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.  
186  
187 R. Duhaime: Regarding splitting the cost with the businesses, since they are already taxpayers, could  
188 we make a deal for a 70/30 split?  
189  
190 B. Thomas: This clarifies their participation. They know how the responsibilities are divided.  
191  
192 D. Boutin: Bass Pro Shop has a big, empty area in the back, and they have hopes of getting a  
193 restaurant put in there, with buses bringing people for the day. This project presents Hooksett with a  
194 bright future, with infrastructure for quality development and enhanced fire safety.  
195  
196 T. Tsantoulis: This differs a little bit from when it was first proposed, but that is okay. It is a good idea to  
197 start with Zones 1 and 2. What if one of the businesses isn't on board?  
198  
199 B. Thomas: That could be a dealbreaker. We are hoping that Walmart would step up and help the  
200 others.  
201  
202 D. Boutin: The cost of draining a leach field, sometimes twice a month, is more than hooking up to  
203 sewer.  
204  
205 D. Mercier: It is good to have a solid plan to present. We are working out easements with each one.

206  
207 T. Tsantoulis: Is there still room to have one and not all connecting?  
208  
209 B. Thomas: We won't know until we talk specifics.  
210  
211 T. Tsantoulis: I understand that it is fluid.  
212  
213 D. Boutin: This is a good business model. I think all of them will sign up.  
214  
215 C. Karolian: With the big box stores, not all of them own the property; some are leasing. Do we know  
216 which are leased and which are owned? The store may want to have sewer but the owner might not.  
217  
218 B. Thomas: We know via assessing who the owners are of every property. That's who we will be  
219 dealing with.  
220  
221 C. Karolian: Could you be in a tug of war, negotiating with multiple entities? If Store A is leasing, could  
222 that hold things up?  
223  
224 B. Thomas: We have started talking with them and we have from now until December. The design will  
225 take until August, so we have lots of time to iron things out. We hope we don't get held up.  
226  
227 A. Garron: We have hired a really good firm – Underwood Engineering. We will get some good costs  
228 before approaching the businesses. We are going to do the design and that has value. This is a good  
229 target area because there are a lot of good businesses there. And, we have the money for the first  
230 project.  
231  
232 C. Jones: What will the new flow do to the capacity of the sewer treatment plant?  
233  
234 D. Mercier: We have tables indicating the flow. For the near term, it is adequate. When we reach the  
235 point when the flow is projected to exceed capacity, an upgrade will be needed.  
236  
237 C. Karolian: It is great that we are having this discussion. Is there anyone who, when applying for  
238 permits, agreed or promised to put these systems in on their own to get approval? Is the sewer  
239 treatment plant going to have to be expanded in the future to accommodate additional flow?  
240  
241 Chair Sullivan: The TIF was established in 2003, and the first businesses went in between 2003 and  
242 2005. Those records could be checked. It would be important to get that information.  
243  
244 B. Thomas: Some developers put in dry sewers.  
245  
246 R. Duhaime: There were traffic lights and widening of roads; none of the developers promised anything  
247 about sewer.  
248  
249 Chair Sullivan: That is something we should be able to look up and confirm.  
250  
251 D. Mercier: As to the capacity of the wastewater treatment plant, a year or two ago, there was a warrant  
252 article passed in the amount of \$4.36 million which upgraded the capacity to 1.2 million gallons per day.  
253 There is a lot of available capacity because the current use is 700,000 gallons per day. If every  
254 business connected there is a potential for 600,000 gallons per day of additional usage. I expect you  
255 have a 20-year window, and the plant would need an upgrade at that point anyway.  
256  
257 Chair Sullivan: There is still about 525,000 gallons available.

258  
259 C. Karolian: We should know that. We should ask that and get answers so that the public knows and  
260 we know. Again, I am not going up or down on this. We need to get some answers so it is transparent –  
261 so the people get an idea of where this is going and what the capacity is.  
262  
263 T. Tsantoulis: As the capacity is used up, there is a lot of money coming in to build out which will  
264 compensate for that growth. With proper planning, this can happen without issue.  
265  
266 A. Comai: How flexible is the price per gallon in the future?  
267  
268 D. Mercier: Can it be raised? Absolutely. The price rises with inflation. The cost had not been raised for  
269 a long time when it was increased a couple of months ago to double the price. The cost to connect for a  
270 two-bedroom home is \$6,200, and with other associated costs for private contractor work, the total is  
271 about \$10,000. This is comparable to or less than the cost of a private septic system.  
272  
273 R. Duhaime: These sites could expand if sewer is added. This is a great way to start and a great  
274 phasing plan because it will draw those who need sewer like hotels, restaurants and gyms.  
275  
276 C. Karolian: I have a question from the staff report. The warrant article used the term ‘infrastructure.’  
277 Was a legal opinion obtained from the Town Attorney? Does this fall under the term ‘infrastructure’?  
278  
279 B. Thomas: The warrant article, including this term, was reviewed by the Town Attorney. I don’t think he  
280 was asked about the specific word, infrastructure. We purposely put that word in to include water and  
281 sewer to establish the scope of the work.  
282  
283 C. Karolian: I would like to get a legal opinion from the Town Attorney to be sure this is in line with the  
284 existing warrant article. I am not trying to put a stick in the spokes, but it didn’t specify, and we would be  
285 wise and prudent to do our due diligence.  
286  
287 D. Fitzpatrick: This is the only meeting prior to the Deliberative Session on February 1, 2020. Do you  
288 want to add words to the motion saying you are leaving it up to the Town Attorney to confirm this?  
289  
290 D. Mercier: This is not a new warrant article; it was approved last year.  
291  
292 ***J. Durand motioned to table this item, pending an answer to this question from the Town***  
293 ***Attorney. C. Karolian seconded the motion.***  
294 ***The motion failed (2-6).***  
295  
296 C. Karolian: What if we find out it wasn’t specific enough? Where does that leave us?  
297  
298 Chair Sullivan: I don’t know. We will figure it out then.  
299  
300 B. Thomas: The TIF Advisory Committee will be making a design presentation at the February 26<sup>th</sup>  
301 Town Council meeting. That would be an opportunity to make sure it is correct.  
302  
303 ***T. Tsantoulis motioned to approve the Town moving forward with the project per the***  
304 ***recommendations discussed that were approved by the TIF Committee at their January 8<sup>th</sup>***  
305 ***meeting. R. Duhaime seconded the motion.***  
306  
307 ***Roll Call Vote #5***  
308 ***T. Tsantoulis Yea***  
309 ***C. Jones Yea***

310 **R. Duhaime** *Yea*  
311 **A. Walczyk** *Yea*  
312 **J. Levesque** *Not present*  
313 **C. Karolian** *Abstained*  
314 **J. Durand** *Abstained*  
315 **A. Comai** *Yea*  
316 **J. Sullivan** *Yea*  
317 **Voted in favor (6-0). C. Karolian abstained, saying you can't vote for something you don't have**  
318 **answers to. J. Durand abstained for the same reason.**  
319

320 **CONSENT AGENDA**

321  
322 **Donation from Deerhead Sportsmen's Club of \$500.00 to the Town of Hooksett for Hooksett**  
323 **Fire-Rescue Department per RSA 31:95-b, III (b)**

324  
325  
326 **Motion to accept a donation in the amount of \$500.00 from the Deerhead Sportsman's Club, to**  
327 **the Town of Hooksett for the Hooksett Police Department per RSA 31:95-b, III (b) and return said**  
328 **amount to the Police Departments, 2019/2020 fiscal year budget under the new equipment line.**

329  
330  
331 **\$2,000.00 check from HealthTrust to the Town of Hooksett for 2020 town-wide wellness**  
332 **program(s) per RSA 31:95-b, III (b) and return said amount to the Administration line item 001-**  
333 **000.220.029.000**

334  
335 **R. Duhaime motioned to approve the three Consent Agenda items. J. Durand seconded the**  
336 **motion.**

337  
338 C. Karolian: Where are the checks now?

339  
340 Police Chief Bouchard: Ours is locked in our safe, pending this approval.

341  
342 D. Fitzpatrick: The Fire Chief is in the audience and just said that their check is locked in their safe as  
343 well. I placed the one for the Town of Hooksett in the vault upstairs, pending this approval.

344  
345 Chair Sullivan called for a vote on the motion to approve the Consent Agenda items.

346  
347 **The motion carried unanimously (8-0).**

348  
349  
350 **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

351  
352 A. Garron: I received a letter from the Salvation Army addressed to Town Clerk Rainier, thanking us for  
353 its help with the bell ringing campaign. Despite the short season and bad weather, \$78,419.49 was  
354 raised.

355  
356 A. Garron: I attended the Budget Committee meeting last week and all items were approved.

357  
358 A. Garron: The Town received an abutter notice regarding an application which will be before the  
359 Planning Board. We do look at these abutter notices. This is conservation land where no development  
360 is allowed. There is no danger with this 37-lot conservation subdivision. I have emphasized that due  
361 diligence should be done with respect to well radii.

362  
363 A. Garron: The Eagle Scout whose project was the construction of a lacrosse wall donated to  
364 Petersbrook finished just under the deadline of his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. He thanks everyone who helped.  
365

366 A. Garron: I attended a Hooksett Chamber of Commerce meeting and shared information about the TIF  
367 project - working on my established goal of business retention/expansion. The Chamber has a goal of  
368 improved communication with the Town.

369  
370 A. Garron: The 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hooksett is not far away and it has been suggested that a  
371 committee be formed to work on that.

372  
373 A. Garron: Census 2020 met with the town for a confirmation of boundaries. Planner Nick Williams  
374 verified that there are no boundary changes, something that does not happen in New Hampshire as it  
375 does in some other states.

376  
377 A. Garron: For the Deliberative Session, warrant articles need to be assigned to Councilors. Should I  
378 make a statement at the Session?

379  
380 Chair Sullivan: That would be a good idea, especially regarding the operating budget.

381  
382 T. Tsantoulis: I have noticed Police Details at ProCon and GE where the lighting is poor. The Town  
383 could pay for a light at that intersection so that people can see the officer's hand motions. At this time of  
384 the year, it is quite dark at 5:00 pm.

385  
386 Chair Sullivan: I will ask the Town Administrator to look into this and call Eversource regarding the cost.

387  
388 A. Garron: We have been approached by others with requests for streetlights.

389  
390 Chair Sullivan: I will also ask the Town Administrator to meet with the Scout Master regarding the Eagle  
391 Scout project process.

392  
393 **PUBLIC INPUT**

394  
395 Clifford Jones, 1 Bert Street: I would like to know the process for accepting or denying a new street.

396  
397 A. Garron: I suggested that Councilor Jones step down to ask this question. I was incorrect in  
398 suggesting this could be agenda item. The Planning Board is dealing with this now.

399  
400 Chair Sullivan: I would advise Councilor Jones to consult with the Town Administrator about how to  
401 obtain the information he is seeking.

402  
403 **BRIEF RECESS**

404 Chair Sullivan called for a recess at 8:00 pm, and reconvened the meeting at 8:10 pm.

405  
406 **OLD BUSINESS**

407 **Merrimack Valley Trail Riders - Cystic Fibrosis Charity Ride - Use of Town of Hooksett Chester**  
408 **Turnpike**

409  
410  
411 A. Garron: I was not here for the Merrimack Valley Trail Riders' original presentation. I have spoken  
412 with Mr. Fredette on the phone and he filled me in on the discussion. It's my understanding that the  
413 Town Council asked the Merrimack Valley Trail Riders to meet with the Conservation Commission,  
414 which they did on January 13<sup>th</sup>, at which time the Conservation Commission gave its approval for the  
415 event.

416



417 Charles Fredette, Bedford: I am here representing the Merrimack Valley Trail Riders, along with  
418 President Tom Levesque, requesting the use of Hooksett's portion of Chester Turnpike for our June  
419 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Cystic Fibrosis Charity Ride.

420  
421 **R. Duhaime motioned to recommend approval of the Merrimack Valley Trail Riders – Cystic**  
422 **Fibrosis Charity Ride request for use of Chester Turnpike, with all stated cleanup, signage**  
423 **removal and repair (if necessary) being part of the approval. A. Comai seconded the motion.**  
424

425 A. Comai: They were hammered with questions at the Conservation Committee meeting and made a  
426 great presentation.

427  
428 T. Tsantoulis: I strongly support this event and assume they will conduct themselves in a proper  
429 fashion. My question is this: How do we look if we make the area not open to motorized vehicles and  
430 then sanction an event using them? I want to be sure we are not sending the wrong message.

431  
432 A. Garron: My response is that we can. Parades are not allowed on streets every day but are allowed  
433 for a just cause. Allenstown has the same restriction regarding motorized vehicles, but allows special  
434 events to proceed.

435  
436 R. Duhaime: Remember, this is not a new event.

437  
438 T. Levesque: We have been doing this for 40 years.

439  
440 T. Tsantoulis: I appreciate Mr. Garron's parade analogy.

441  
442 C. Karolian: The reason you need permission is because of the action taken last year to not allow  
443 motorized vehicles, correct?

444  
445 C. Fredette: Yes.

446  
447 C. Karolian: To confirm your route, I understand you are coming from Allenstown, down Chester  
448 Turnpike and turning left on North Road toward Bear Brook. You are going no further on a Class 5  
449 Road?

450  
451 Mr. Fredette: That is correct.

452  
453 C. Jones: That is Trail 15?

454  
455 Mr. Fredette: That is correct.

456  
457 A. Garron: I watched the Conservation Commission meeting, and Mr. Comai is correct; many good  
458 questions were asked. As long as the cleanup crew follows along, and Police and Fire personnel are  
459 properly alerted, this should be fine.

460  
461 R. Duhaime: I hope you have good weather and enjoy the ride.

462  
463 Chair Sullivan called for a vote on the motion to approve this event.

464  
465 **Voted unanimously in favor (8-0).**

466  
~~468~~  
469 **FY 2020-21 Budget and Warrant Articles**

470  
471 C. Soucie: We first need a motion to sign the default budget.  
472  
473 ***T. Tsantoulis motioned to sign State Form 2020 MS-DTB (FY 2020-21 Default Budget) totaling***  
474 ***\$19,831,427.00. A. Walczyk seconded the motion.***  
475 ***Voted unanimously in favor (8-0).***  
476  
477 C. Soucie: Last week, the Budget Committee voted 8-2 to approve its recommended budget of  
478 \$19,937,674.00. They took away \$102,000 from the Town's proposed budget and added the  
479 Wastewater budget in the amount of \$2.29 million.  
480  
481 Chair Sullivan: What is the breakdown of the \$85,000 Fire Department budget reduction?  
482  
483 C. Soucie: \$49,000 was hydrant rentals in the budget from the prior year. The rest was the Overtime  
484 line and Vehicle Maintenance.  
485  
486 C. Karolian: Was the Budget Committee reduction of the Wastewater budget \$84,000?  
487  
488 C. Soucie: Yes, it was about \$84,000.  
489  
490 C. Karolian: If the petition warrant article passes...  
491  
492 Chair Sullivan: Hydrant rentals will be covered for one year.  
493  
494 C. Soucie: For the next and subsequent years, the Council can put the amount into the operating  
495 budget, have another warrant article, or do nothing. It is up to the Council.  
496  
497 T. Tsantoulis: I received a couple of calls on the wording of the petition warrant article. It is deceptive,  
498 especially where it says "to ensure public safety." Some people interpret that to mean that they are not  
499 safe with public hydrants. If there is a fire, the Fire Department will go to the fire and use water from the  
500 private hydrants to put out the fire, whether or not this warrant article passes.  
501  
502 C. Soucie: Since this is a petition warrant article, it can't be removed. You can speak to it at the  
503 Deliberative Session.  
504  
505 C. Karolian: If you recall, at the last meeting, the question was called to stop discussion. Here we are  
506 now with questions. One of the questions I couldn't ask because the question was called...I think it was  
507 verbatim, 'We get to speak twice and then shut up,' was mentioned by one of the councilors. We  
508 couldn't have these discussions. The warrant article is ambiguous. Where did the \$52,000 figure come  
509 from? Who will be reimbursed? I spoke with one of the water precincts and it is not a rental fee; it is a  
510 hookup to the municipal water supply. I think the only language added by the Town Attorney was the  
511 caveat about ensuring public safety, which is used a lot. I agree with Councilor Tsantoulis. Without this  
512 warrant article, the hydrants will still work and firefighting will still be done. The people have every right  
513 to put it on the ballot. The voters expect us to do our due diligence. They assume that the Budget  
514 Committee studied it and made a recommendation. I don't know how the Town Council can make a  
515 recommendation about something so vague. There are a lot of unanswered questions.  
516  
517 Chair Sullivan: We follow our rules of procedure. Any Councilor is allowed to move the question. We all  
518 do our homework and we know our own rationale for voting as we do.  
519  
520 R. Duhaime: This is why I tried to add this to into the budget or present a warrant article.  
521

522 A. Comai: I have been informed that there is possibly a typo: 'insure' should be 'ensure'.  
523  
524 C. Soucie: Typos we can take care of. This is a petition warrant article and it goes on the ballot as the  
525 petitioners have written it. It will be the Council's decision as to the management of the \$52,000. I  
526 worked on the numbers, and \$52,000 will cover 90% of the cost. The reason that the phrase about  
527 ensuring public safety was added is that the Town can't spend public funds for a private purpose.  
528  
529 C. Karolian: Who will be reimbursed?  
530  
531 C. Soucie: It will be done the same way we do reimbursement for trash collection. Whoever paid the bill  
532 will present a receipt. The term 'residential' is tricky because we have single families with private  
533 hydrants. We included them in our calculation of cost.  
534  
535 C. Karolian: Are mobile homes included?  
536  
537 C. Soucie: I believe so. The data we used was from the water districts.  
538  
539 C. Karolian: I understand that the verbiage about ensuring public safety is needed.  
540  
541 **C. Karolian made a motion to reconsider the vote to recommend this petition warrant article. T.**  
542 **Tsantoulis seconded the motion.**  
543 **Voted in favor (8-0).**  
544  
545 Chair Sullivan called for a roll call vote on recommending the petition warrant article.  
546  
547 **Roll Call Vote #6**  
548 **J. Durand Nay**  
549 **J. Levesque Not present**  
550 **C. Karolian Nay**  
551 **A. Comai Aye**  
552 **C. Jones Aye**  
553 **T. Tsantoulis Nay**  
554 **A. Walczyk Nay**  
555 **R. Duhaime Aye**  
556 **J. Sullivan Aye**  
557 **The motion failed (4-4).**  
558  
559 Chair Sullivan: A tie vote fails. The ballot will say "Not Recommended (4-4). A tie vote fails." Next year,  
560 We should consider using the word 'Recommendation.'  
561  
562 C. Jones: I have a question: If someone here tonight was not here for the original vote, should they not  
563 be part of the vote to reconsider?  
564  
565 Chair Sullivan: The procedure we have always followed is that anyone present may vote on any issue  
566 that is raised. Also, since Councilor Karolian was not on the prevailing side on the original vote at the  
567 last meeting, he should not have been allowed to offer the motion to reconsider. I will say that I offered  
568 that motion.  
569  
570 **A. Walczyk motioned to recommend the Budget Committee's Operating Budget totaling**  
571 **\$19,937,694.00. R. Duhaime seconded the motion.**  
572

573 **Roll Call Vote #7**  
574 **C. Jones Aye**  
575 **C. Karolian Aye**  
576 **J. Levesque Not present**  
577 **R. Duhaime Aye**  
578 **A. Walczyk Aye**  
579 **J. Durand Aye**  
580 **T. Tsantoulis Aye**  
581 **A. Comai Aye**  
582 **J. Sullivan Nay**  
583 **Voted in favor (7-1).**

584  
585 **NEW BUSINESS**

588 **Accept funds, not to exceed \$10,000, from the United States Marshals Service in repayment of**  
589 **Overtime for Hooksett Officer(s) who work with the Marshals on their Violent Offender Task**  
590 **Force and funds to be returned to the Hooksett Police Department Overtime line per RSA 31:95-**  
591 **b, III (b).**

592  
593 Chief Bouchard: Nick Willard of the US Marshals Service asked me about having one or more of our  
594 officers join the Violent Offender Task Force. We have a standing Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)  
595 with them. The officer working with them has worked only one shift so far. He was deputized as a  
596 marshal. This is a great opportunity for Hooksett. It is not a grant; it is overtime. If the funds exceed  
597 \$10,000, I will be back before the Council with another request.

598  
599 C. Karolian: I understand that this is overtime outside of the regular schedule. I wish we could send  
600 more.

601  
602 R. Duhaime: This is a good opportunity because it gives an officer an opportunity to learn different  
603 skills. And, it is just overtime.

604  
605 ***T. Tsantoulis motioned to accept funds not to exceed \$10,000 from the United States Marshals***  
606 ***Service in repayment of Overtime for Hooksett Officer(s) who work with the Marshals on their***  
607 ***Violent Offender Take Force and fund to be returned to the Hooksett Police Department***  
608 ***Overtime line per RSA 31: 95-b, III (b). A. Walczyk seconded the motion.***  
609 ***Voted unanimously in favor (8-0).***

610  
611  
612  
613 **Purchase of Six (6) Thermal Imaging Cameras and equipment from HSE Safety Equipment for**  
614 **\$18,035.00 for the Fire-Rescue Department using donated funding.**

615  
616 Chair Sullivan: There is an article in today's Union Leader regarding the garage fire on Farmer Road in  
617 Hooksett. Perhaps the equipment being discussed tonight could have been used, or was used, at this  
618 fire.

619  
620 Chief Burkush: I have been working on this situation for over a year. In 2002, when Exit 10 was being  
621 developed, we received a \$15,000 donation for engineering work on a new fire station. The fire station  
622 was never built. The funds are sitting in an account and the auditors want the funds used. Last year Dr.  
623 Shankle asked me to resolve this issue. In November of 2018, the Town Attorney wrote a letter  
624 addressed to the last known residence of the developer who made the donation. There has been no  
625 response. We also contacted the Secretary of State's office and learned that the company had been  
626 dissolved.

627

628 J. Durand: Since the fund now totals \$17,480, can I assume it has been in an interest-bearing account?  
629  
630 Chief Burkush: Yes, it has.  
631  
632 C. Karolian: Has the money been in a Fire Department donation line or the General Fund?  
633  
634 Chief Burkush: It has been in a Fire Department donation line.  
635  
636 C. Karolian: Has it been earning interest, since the amount is now \$17,480?  
637  
638 Chief Burkush: Yes, it has been earning interest.  
639  
640 C. Karolian: Can I assume that you are asking for additional money, as the cost of the FLIRs is more  
641 than the amount in the donation fund now?  
642  
643 Chief Burkush: Yes, that is true.  
644  
645 C. Karolian: Can it go into the General Fund?  
646  
647 R. Duhaime: This money is not from impact fees. When the Planning Board was approving  
648 developments, they designated amounts to go to various departments from developers. This  
649 development never proceeded.  
650  
651 Chief Burkush: The Town Attorney did not list the General Fund as a possible use of the fund. That is a  
652 question for him.  
653  
654 C. Soucie: We would have to ask the Town Attorney about using the donation to offset operating costs,  
655 whether overall or specifically for the Fire Department.  
656  
657 **C. Karolian motioned to table this item, pending a legal opinion from the Town Attorney. T.**  
658 **Tsantoulis seconded the motion.**  
659 **The motion failed (4-4).**  
660  
661 A. Comai: Do you already have any of these thermal imaging cameras?  
662  
663 Assistant Chief Colburn: We have three. Two were purchased in 2004 and a third in 2006/2007. We  
664 could have seven firefighters at a scene. My goal is to outfit every working member.  
665  
666 Chief Burkush: I have thought about your question, Councilor Karolian. We asked the Town Attorney for  
667 all possible uses. He didn't suggest the operating budget or the General Fund. We don't typically use  
668 donations for the operating budget. We did not and would not discuss that.  
669  
670 C. Karolian: I am paraphrasing from the the last paragraph of the letter from the Town Attorney. The  
671 developer placed no restrictions on the use of the funds and no formal agreement about the use of the  
672 funds was made. The Fire Department's suggested use of the funds for projects associated with the  
673 Fire Department near Exit 10 meets the purpose of the original donation, which was to provide services  
674 to the area. The Fire Department should be permitted to us the funds for those project (which also  
675 includes equipment purchases) that benefit the Exit 10 area.  
676  
677 Chief Burkush: The cameras will benefit the Exit 10 area with its big box stores and the rest of the town  
678 as well.  
679

680 C. Karolian: I am not questioning your judgement or decisions. In your opinion, is this the best use of  
681 these funds?

682  
683 Chief Burkush: Yes.

684  
685 C. Karolian: You have come before us numerous times for equipment purchases. If at the next meeting  
686 or in one month, you come asking for more equipment, we could say that you could be using these  
687 donated funds.

688  
689 Chief Burkush: My goal is the safety of the citizens of Hooksett and my firefighters. At the recent garage  
690 fire, no one was hurt. We have new turnout gear, new breathing apparatus and new radios. I have no  
691 better way to illustrate my point.

692  
693 A. Garron: The intent was to use this donation for a capital expense of some sort. This tool is versatile;  
694 it could be used by the Police Department in addition to the Fire Department. If it had been an impact  
695 fee, it would have had to be given back.

696  
697 **A. Walczyk motioned to extend the meeting. J. Durand seconded the motion.**  
698 **Voted in favor (5-3).**

699  
700 A. Walczyk: Is it correct that you have three cameras and are proposing to purchase three more?

701  
702 Assistant Chief Colburn said that they have three and want to purchase six more. Four of the new ones  
703 will be personal thermal cameras. They do not have all of the features.

704  
705 A. Walczyk: At the end of their lives, can I assume we would be taking equipment away from you if we  
706 didn't replace them?

707  
708 Assistant Chief Colburn: Yes. We plan to continue using them.

709  
710 T. Tsantoulis: It is easy to say that there is no cost, but at some point in time, perhaps soon, we might  
711 be looking at fire service expansion on Route 3A. The money could be used for what it was earmarked  
712 for. I'm okay with sometimes not spending.

713  
714 C. Karolian: If this money stays in the fund, it will grow. What are the auditors saying?

715  
716 A. Garron: The Finance Department has been holding this money for 18 years. They want us to use it  
717 or get rid of it.

718  
719 **R. Duhaime motioned to authorize the purchase of six (6) Thermal Imaging Cameras and**  
720 **equipment from HSE Safety Equipment for \$18,035.00 for the Fire-Rescue Department using**  
721 **donated funds. A. Comai seconded the motion.**

722  
723 **Roll Call Vote #8**

724 **J. Levesque Not present**

725 **R. Duhaime Yea**

726 **T. Tsantoulis Yea**

727 **A. Walczyk Nay**

728 **J. Durand Aye**

729 **C. Jones Aye**

730 **A. Comai Aye**

731 **C. Karolian** *Nay*  
732 **J. Sullivan** *Aye*  
733 **Voted in favor (6-2).**

734  
735 **Cash Receipt Policy and Delegation of Deposit Authority Updates**

736  
737 ***R. Duhaime motioned to amend the Cash Receipt Policy and sign the Delegation of Deposit***  
738 ***Authority for Carolina B. Andersen, Town Treasurer and to include both documents in the***  
739 ***Administrative Code. A. Walczyk seconded the motion.***

740  
741 C. Soucie: One major change allows the Town to accept electronic payments under RSA 80:52-c.  
742 Another major change is that departments must be deposited to the finance office weekly or daily  
743 whenever such funds are \$500.00 or more. The current practice is \$1,500.00, which does not follow the  
744 current RSAs.

745  
746 Chair Sullivan called for a vote on the motion.

747  
748 ***Voted unanimously in favor (7-0). C. Karolian was out of the Chambers for the vote.)***

749  
750 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

751 **Public: 01/08/2020**

752  
753  
754 ***Chair Sullivan motioned to approve the minutes of the January 08, 2020 meeting. C. Jones***  
755 ***seconded the motion.***

756 ***Voted unanimously in favor (7-0). C. Karolian was out of the Chambers for the vote.)***

757  
758  
759 **Non-Public: 01/08/2020**

760  
761  
762 ***R. Duhaime motioned to approve the minutes of the January 08, 2020 non-public session. A.***  
763 ***Walczyk seconded the motion.***

764 ***Voted unanimously in favor (7-0). C. Karolian was out of the Chambers for the vote.)***

765  
766 **SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**

767  
768 J. Durand: We cleaned up a lot of issues at the Assessing Committee meeting. We are all caught up for  
769 now.

770  
771 T. Tsantoulis: Thanks to the help of Bonnie Smith, we have located the individual who was chosen for  
772 the Hooksett Youth Achiever Award.

773  
774 D. Fitzpatrick: I have an update. At the February 26<sup>th</sup> meeting, the mother will be here and will  
775 FaceTime with the recipient.

776  
777 A. Walczyk: The Parks & Recreation Committee has been having conversations regarding notification  
778 of abutters around the Lambert Park area about the proposed pavilion. Anyone interested in learning  
779 more should attend the Deliberative Session on February 1st

780  
781 Chair Sullivan: The Economic Development Committee met and approved the TIF report which the  
782 Council approved this evening.

783

784 R. Duhaime: The Sewer Commission met and approved the TIF report which the Council approved this  
785 evening.

786

787 **ADJOURNMENT**

788 ***R. Duhaime motioned to adjourn at 9:48 pm. T. Tsantoulis seconded the motion.***

789 ***Voted unanimously in favor (8-0).***

790

791 Respectfully submitted,

792

793

794 Recording Clerk

795 Kathleen Donnelly

796

797

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

799

800

801