

**Town of Hooksett
Town Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 12, 2020**

1
2 The Hooksett Town Council met on Wednesday, February 12, 2020 at 6:00 in the Hooksett Municipal
3 Building.

4
5 **CALL TO ORDER**

6 Chair Sullivan called the meeting of 12 Feb 2020 to order at 6:05 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 John Durand,
13 Councilor James Levesque, Councilor Timothy Tsantoulis, Councilor Clark Karolian, and Councilor Alex
14 Walczyk

15

16 **Missing:** Councilor Avery Comai and Councilor Clifford Jones

17

18 **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

19 Chair Sullivan called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

20

21 **AGENDA OVERVIEW**

22 Chair Sullivan: If there is no objection, I would like to move New Business items 15.1 and 15.2 up for
23 consideration after the Scheduled Appointments for presentation of Eagle Scout projects. The Town
24 Engineer would like to present more information on Consent Agenda item 9.7, so I would ask that items
25 9.1 through 9.6 of the Consent Agenda be taken up first and that item 9.7 be handled separately.
26 Regarding Approval of Minutes, I want to present some clarification of the rules. Finally, the Town
27 Administrator will introduce guests during his report.

28

29 **SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS**

30 **Charles Nelson, Eagle Scout Project – Lambert Park Picnic Tables (see item 15.1 for details)**

31

32 C. Nelson: My Eagle Scout project is to build three picnic tables for Lambert Park by the boat launch. I
33 will use pressure treated lumber and galvanized steel hardware. The estimated cost is \$500.

34

35 Mr. Jeff Scott, Scout Master: The placement of the tables is up in the air at this time, pending a final
36 decision by Parks & Rec.

37

38 Chair Sullivan: If the Pavilion passes, they may consider that location.

39

40 A. Walczyk: A question about the materials came up at the Parks & Rec meeting. Have you had an
41 opportunity to consider the use of TREX (vinyl board) instead of pressure treated wood?

42

43 Charles Nelson: It would increase the price significantly.

44

45 J. Scott: It could triple the cost.

46

47 T. Tsantoulis: TREX isn't as strong and doesn't last as long. I am not a huge fan of pressure treated
48 wood either.

49
50 Chair Sullivan: The tables would be protected under the Pavilion. There is more information in your
51 packets about this project.

52
53 R. Duhaime: I know that TREX sags in the heat.

54
55 J. Levesque: I assume you will be using bolts and screws, not nails.

56
57 C. Nelson: That is correct.

58
59 J. Levesque: Will you use stainless or galvanized steel?

60
61 C. Nelson: I will use galvanized steel.

62
63 Chair Sullivan: As the information in your packets indicates, the Parks & Recs Committee approved this
64 project on January 21, 2020.

65
66 A. Garron: Regarding Eagle Scout projects in general, we assume they won't necessarily be replaced.
67 The Town accepts these gifts for the life of the items.

68
69 J. Scott: That is correct. The Town accepts the gifts and we have no claim.

70
71 ***R. Duhaime motioned for the town to approve of Scout Charles Nelson proceeding with the***
72 ***project of constructing picnic tables to be placed at Lambert Park or other areas in town at the***
73 ***discretion of the Parks and Recreation Department. C. Karolian seconded the motion.***
74 ***Voted unanimously in favor (7-0).***

75
76 **Bennett Nelson, Eagle Scout Project – Trail Bridge Crossing (see item 15.2 for details)**

77
78 B. Nelson: Thank you for having me tonight. My Eagle Scout project is a bridge on the Riverfront Trail.
79 There is a section of rotting planks. The Conservation Commission asked if a Scout might be willing to
80 undertake this project. A Scout is helpful, so I decided to do this. I have been working with Mr. Bruce
81 Thomas, the Town Engineer, and another engineer in the troop.

82
83 Chair Sullivan: Bennett presented his project to the Conservation Commission at its December 9, 2019
84 meeting and received the Commission's approval at its February 10, 2020 meeting.

85
86 T. Tsantoulis: Thank you for your project and for making yourself a better person by being a Scout.

87
88 R. Duhaime: This is a great trail. I am glad to see this park getting finished so that the residents can
89 enjoy it. Will you have a plaque?

90
91 J. Scott: Yes, we put small plaques on all Eagle Scout projects.

92
93 A. Garron: There was a question regarding wetlands. Was that resolved?

94
95 B. Nelson: I believe so. The Conservation Commission said they would take care of it.

96

97 B. Thomas: It is being taken care of. There is no concern.

98

99 J. Scott: These two Scouts are very competent.

100

101 ***T. Tsantoulis motioned for the Town to approve of Scout Bennet Nelson proceeding with the***
102 ***construction of a temporary bridge for the Town trail system. A. Walczyk seconded the motion.***
103 ***Voted unanimously in favor (7-0).***

104

105 **CONSENT AGENDA**

106 **A donation of three (3) wooden stools from Marc Miville, 42 Main Street, to the Town of Hooksett**
107 **for use at Town elections per RSA 31:95-e II.**

108

109 **Donation of a check in the amount of \$250.00 from Thomas and Nancy Barrett to the Town of**
110 **Hooksett for the Family Services Department to benefit children and families in need through**
111 **the Hooksett Family Services Department per RSA 31:95-b, III (b).**

112

113 **Donation of \$100 from Hooksett Kiwanis to the Town of Hooksett for the Family Services**
114 **Department to create information cards pertaining to the Hooksett Community Food Pantry and**
115 **Kids Kloset for distribution by the Hooksett Police, Fire, and Rescue team per RSA 31:95-b, III**
116 **(b).**

117

118 **Monadnock Hall Landscaping Bond - SNHU**

119

120 **SNHU Parking Lot "F" Site Work Bond Release**

121

122 **Shooters Outpost Site Bond Release**

123

124 **Owen Marine Site Bond Reduction**

125

126 ***R. Duhaime motioned to approve Consent Agenda items 9.1 through 9.6 as presented, setting***
127 ***aside item 9.7 for further discussion. T. Tsantoulis seconded the motion.***

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

129

130 R. Duhaime: Can I assume that the landscaping work at Monadnock Hall has been inspected and is
131 satisfactory?

132

133 B. Thomas: Yes, that is correct.

134

135 ***R. Duhaime motioned to approve the final Consent Agenda item, the Owen Marine site bond***
136 ***reduction. T. Tsantoulis seconded the motion.***

137

138 B. Thomas: I don't have a lot more information. I haven't been happy with this construction site, but I do
139 recommend that you reduce the bond. The contractor has had zoning violations for encroaching on the
140 wetlands buffer. There is lots of fill right up against Londonderry Turnpike. It is a mess. He paved on
141 Dec 12th when there were ice chunks on the road. He said he added an extra inch of pavement. I have
142 asked that paving be done by November 15th. We will use his escrow money to test the pavement for
143 density. If repairs are needed, it will all be at his cost. He is unorganized.

144

145 Chair Sullivan: Are you still holding \$25,000?

146

147 B. Thomas: Yes.

148
149 T. Tsantoulis: I agree with what Mr. Thomas just said, but I disagree about giving back any money. I
150 don't like what he did at the site and the way that he disregarded the requests of Mr. Thomas.
151
152 B. Thomas: He didn't disregard me. He cleaned up the wetland buffer immediately. He is trying to work
153 with me, but he is unorganized and doesn't know proper construction techniques.
154
155 J. Levesque: Did he pave the base coat over the gravel?
156
157 B. Thomas: Yes, he did.
158
159 J. Levesque: What about a finish coat?
160
161 B. Thomas: That has not been done yet.
162
163 C. Karolian: Regarding the two zoning issues of encroachment on wetlands, is there possible Code
164 Enforcement Officer action regarding the zoning violations?
165
166 B. Thomas: I don't know what the enforcement would be. He did remove it immediately on the buffer. In
167 another year it will probably grow back. Also, there is another site plan in the works, another project,
168 and the wetlands could be developed.
169
170 C. Karolian: So, part of the wetlands could be filled in? I assume they would need State permits.
171
172 B. Thomas: Yes. The developers are working on that.
173
174 R. Duhaime: I am glad that you came in because I have some concerns about this project. The State
175 doesn't allow paving below 45 degrees. You are right to test it. I assume you are willing to work with
176 him to make sure it is done correctly.
177
178 B. Thomas: Yes, I will be working closely with him. I will tell him about this big conversation with the
179 Town Council.
180
181 C. Karolian: Are the contractor and owner one and the same?
182
183 B. Thomas: Yes, Randy Owen is doing it himself. He should have hired a contractor a year ago. I do
184 not believe he is a bona fide contractor.
185
186 Chair Sullivan: Are we ready to vote on the motion which is on the floor?
187
188 D. Fitzpatrick: Do you want to amend the motion so that it is more specific, including the original
189 amount of the bond and the balance being retained?
190
191 R. Duhaime: I would like to amend my motion to say that the Town is reducing the bond requirement for
192 the Owen Marine Site from \$41,367 to \$25,000.
193
194 Chair Sullivan called for a vote on the motion.
195
196 ***J. Durand, R. Duhaime and Chair Sullivan voted yea; J. Levesque, C. Karolian, A. Walczyk and T.***
197 ***Tsantoulis voted nay.***

198 ***The motion failed (3-4).***

199

200 J. Levesque: A priority is to clarify the asphalt test.

201

202 B. Thomas: Yes, it is and I will do that.

203

204 **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

205 A. Garron: I have invited Brandon Kernen of the Hydrology and Conservation Division of NHDES to
206 provide the Council with an update on the well water sampling project. He was here in October of 2019
207 when the project was starting. With him is Thomas O'Donovan, the Director of the Water Division of
208 NHDES.

209

210 B. Kernan: I was last here at your October 9, 2019 meeting regarding additional analysis of private well
211 water because of very high levels of uranium in samples taken prior to a rock blasting project. This is in
212 southern Hooksett, and the uranium is probably naturally occurring. We have pulled together resources
213 and are testing 150 wells, double the number for the original plan. In addition to uranium, the testing is
214 for metals, radon in water, and PFAS compounds. I have provided a map of the study area, a sample
215 one-page report and the supporting lab sheets. These tests, which typically cost \$500 each, are being
216 done for free. In 64% of the 55 completed tests, uranium exceeds the health limit, many by a lot. This is
217 a unique cluster. Radon, which is also naturally occurring, is also high. In 17% of the wells tested,
218 PFAS, which is manmade, exceeded recommended safe levels for one of the four PFAS compounds.
219 There is lots of work to be done on PFAS compounds. Per State law, we must notify homeowners
220 within 500 feet of where exceedances of manmade contaminants are discovered, and we have done
221 that. There are 100 deaths per year in New Hampshire because of radon in the air. Because we have
222 doubled the size of the study, from 75 to 150 wells, we will not have the testing done until April, later
223 than the original plan of January. It is taking the EPA longer to do the free analysis, given that they
224 must work this into their regular workload. Some IT challenges have slowed us down as well. We are
225 not including radon in the air in this study, but there is an inexpensive test that homeowners can do for
226 radon in the air. I am hoping that Hooksett can schedule a workshop for April. We would make a brief
227 general presentation and then have stations for specific questions. If the DES has the resources, they
228 might expand the sampling efforts, as more work is needed in other areas. This might start in late
229 spring or early summer, after this project is complete. In my one-page Town Council update, I have
230 suggested options for follow-up work in Section 7c. One suggestion is to provide direct outreach to
231 homeowners outside the current study area, strongly suggesting that they test their drinking water.
232 Another option is for town personnel and volunteers to complete testing in partnership with NHDES,
233 perhaps using paid contractors to complete the sampling or partnering with a private lab to obtain
234 discount pricing. These are just suggestions.

235

236 C. Karolian: Thank you for your presentation. There are two major blasting areas – one in my district
237 and another in district 5. Were any wells tested prior to blasting? I am referring to the area of Smyth
238 Road and Londonderry Turnpike and also Londonderry Turnpike and Auburn Road, across from JP
239 Noonan Trucking.

240

241 B. Kernan: The results are based on pre-blasting testing.

242

243 C. Karolian: Did they show elevated levels at that pre-blasting point?

244

245 B. Kernan: Yes, they did.

246

247 C. Karolian: Did the levels increase post-blasting?

248 B. Kernan: We haven't done the post-blasting testing of uranium, just of nitrates. I could send you the
249 reports. There is no reason to believe that uranium levels would change because of blasting.
250
251 C. Karolian: I am getting feedback from people. They say that there was no problem prior to the
252 blasting, but problems with nitrate, radon and uranium now. Nitrates could be from septic systems,
253 right?
254
255 B. Kernan: Yes, and from lawn fertilizer.
256
257 C. Karolian: And explosives?
258
259 B. Kernan: Yes. In the Prescott Heights Road area, there were two increases that didn't make sense.
260 They were isolated, and there was no way to connect them to the blasting site. Additional investigation
261 pointed to pool chemicals.
262
263 C. Karolian: What about Auburn Road?
264
265 B. Kernan: There was nothing significant.
266
267 C. Karolian: Can you rule out uranium and radon from blasting?
268
269 B. Kernan: Yes, and PFAS shouldn't be associated with blasting. We are trying to find an ideal field
270 test.
271
272 R. Duhaime: Thank you for coming in tonight. The residents will want this information. Can they control
273 this and re-use their wells? There is an old house where the well is under the center of the house, so
274 the radon is coming up through the floorboards.
275
276 B. Kernan: They don't need a new water source. Inexpensive testing kits are available, as well as more
277 elaborate ones. It is not unusual to find radon in private wells in New Hampshire. We need to educate
278 the residents.
279
280 T. Tsantoulis: Thank you for returning. How concerned should homeowners be at this point? Are there
281 any red flags?
282
283 B. Kernan: It is about being informed more so than being concerned. All contamination is treatable at
284 the homeowner level. It is not an emergency. They should educate themselves and take appropriate
285 action.
286
287 J. Durand: If homeowners are testing high on uranium and radon, should they look at treatment on their
288 own?
289
290 B. Kernan. Yes. The State doesn't have a program for private wells.
291
292 Chair Sullivan: The NHDES has provided a letter to all homeowners in the area with a lot of information.
293
294 B. Kernan: There is a long list of tools and links. They can email us.
295
296 **R. Duhaime motioned to direct the Town Administrator to set a date in April for a workshop with**
297 **NHDES regarding well water safety. C. Karolian seconded the motion.**
298 **Voted unanimously in favor.**

299
300 J. Durand: Will you have available the types of treatments and the companies providing these products
301 and services?
302
303 B. Kernen: We will give an overview and then residents can visit tables to address specifics. We will
304 send letters to the 150 homeowners in the study area. Anyone else is also welcome to attend.
305
306 Chair Sullivan: We can use the town website for a general invitation.
307
308 C. Karolian: Just to clarify, letters have been sent to those being tested, correct?
309
310 B. Kernen: Yes.
311
312 C. Karolian: Is the water safe to drink now?
313
314 B. Kernen: On the report of test results which we distributed, anything highlighted in yellow represents a
315 health risk.
316
317 T. O'Donovan: To offer a deeper answer, there is an important exception: Pregnant women should
318 avoid arsenic while pregnant and in the first years of a child's life.
319
320 C. Karolian: I get phone calls from people. What do I tell them about the long term versus short term
321 risk? Is it five, ten, fifteen or twenty years? Common sense would tell me to put in a system. Bottled
322 water costs an arm and a leg. I need to ask this on behalf of the people I represent.
323
324 B. Kernen: If there are exceedances, they should drink bottled water and put a reverse osmosis system
325 in their kitchen sink to cut off exposure.
326
327 T. O'Donovan: Existing health risks multiply the problems. This is poison. As an analogy, if your gas
328 tank is on E, how long do you wait to fill your tank? We do these workshops regularly, and one-on-one
329 counseling is available.
330
331 B. Kernen: Anyone can call me directly at 271-0660. Don't wonder; just call.
332
333 A. Walczyk: Thanks. It is good to get this information. Will the workshop offer general information but
334 also specific data? Should individuals bring printouts or electronic versions of their reports? The
335 workshop is a great idea.
336
337 B. Kernen: We will have general information and then opportunities for one-on-one discussions about
338 specific situations. People who are already informed and taking action could skip the workshop.
339
340 T. Tsantoulis: I appreciate Mr. O'Donovan's comment regarding the red service light in your car. There
341 is personal responsibility involved.
342
343 T. O'Donovan: As the Water Director, I am responsible for all water sources and uses in the State. I
344 appreciate the concerns of your Town Engineer about protecting the wetlands and its buffer.
345
346 J. Levesque: Do you have data for the west side of Route 93?
347
348 B. Kernen: Yes. I can get that to you.
349

350 C. Karolian: The reason I am asking these questions is that people are saying that prior to blasting
351 there were no issues, and now there are lots of issues and they are terrified.
352

353 B. Kernen: We need to get the sheets of paper on the table. Uranium was not tested before, so the old
354 data does not show uranium levels.
355

356 C. Karolian: Why I have asked about pre and post blasting is because this is information that the
357 homeowners did not have before.
358

359 A. Garron: Thank you for your time and for cobbling together the funds for this testing. I know it is a big
360 project, and I certainly understand budget constraints. I appreciate this update for the Town Council.
361

362 T. O'Donovan: I worked on the water committee in my town prior to taking this position. I know that
363 others have sent thank you letters to the EPA lab for the free testing. Federal employees are often
364 underappreciated.
365

366 A. Garron: I would be happy to do that.
367

368 R. Duhaime: We have had our share of quarries – granite and sand. I remember the long-gone
369 hillsides. People used to have dug wells and they would lower a child into the well to claim a seam
370 during summer droughts. Things have changed. Water flow is a puzzle. Now the City of Manchester
371 has a large well in the Merrimack River, and they claim it has high quality water. We need to stick to
372 this and resolve it.
373

374 A. Garron: There was a question from the last meeting when we heard a TIF presentation. Mr. Karolian
375 asked whether or not water is included as an infrastructure item. I posed the question to the Town's
376 legal counsel and sent him the information from our last meeting. Article 2 was passed last year, and it
377 mentioned 'sewer and other infrastructure improvements.' Our legal counsel says that water can be
378 included as infrastructure. He said that warrant articles must be liberally construed, since the drafters
379 often don't express their intentions with precision. He said Article 2 seems to include water.
380

381 A. Garron: Also at the last meeting, there was a question about how a road is accepted in Hooksett.
382 This referenced Bernice Drive. The answer is that the Town Council would accept a road after the
383 Planning Board has reviewed and approved the road.
384

385 Chair Sullivan: So, it is still a paper street?
386

387 A. Garron: It is not so much about a paper street. The town owns the right of way.
388

389 A. Garron: Heating issues at the Court House were brought to my attention by the DPW. As it was a
390 dire situation, we ordered the replacement unit needed.
391

392 R. Duhaime: We don't want frozen pipes.
393

394 A. Garron: I met last week with HYAA as part of a continuing dialogue on the use of fields and sharing
395 the electric bills for lights. I have been meeting with Mark Chagnon since I first came to Hooksett last
396 May. We are working on a Memorandum of Intent on the issues of maintenance, scheduling and
397 security, as well as the donations and warranties. Chair Sullivan was there, which was very helpful. We
398 have donations such as picnic tables and lacrosse walls, and we need to clarify responsibility for
399 maintenance and define their useful lives. The HYAA has been very professional during the discussions
400 on these matters.

401
402 Chair Sullivan: It was a very productive meeting.
403
404 R. Duhaime: Thank you for doing this. I understand that the DPW was there, along with the Finance
405 Director and Brian Soucy.
406

407 **PUBLIC INPUT - 15 MINUTES**

408 Marc Miville, 42 Main Street: The primary went extremely well; 4,731 votes were cast. At the
409 Deliberative Session, I had a fainting spell, and it was just a fainting spell because I was overheated. It
410 was not a seizure. I spent several days in hospital and I am fine now. It was a pleasant surprise and a
411 joy to receive flowers from the town employees. Thank you. I was overwhelmed by the support and
412 concern with which I was bombarded.
413

414 **OLD BUSINES**
415 **Deliberative Session 02/01/2020**

416 Chair Sullivan: I am not sure why this item is on the agenda.

417 D. Fitzpatrick: It is placed on the agenda every year in case further discussion is needed on anything.

418 C. Soucie: At the Deliberative Session, the citizens increased Article #5, the operating budget, by \$900
419 for the Trustees of the Trust Funds stipend. There was also a question about adding information in the
420 Voters' Guide about Article #25, the citizen petition item. Do you want to start that precedent?
421

422 T. Tsantoulis: It is the responsibility of the voters to educate themselves. There are several sources of
423 information.
424

425 C. Karolian: I would add to that, we had the Deliberative Session. This article was supposed to be
426 drafted by the petitioner. We can't change that. The rest of the people should not be paying the Town
427 Attorney to help with the drafting of a warrant article. We should only be making a recommendation –
428 for or against.
429

430 Chair Sullivan: This is for the Voters' Guide, not the ballot. It would only provide the number of private
431 hydrants.
432

433 R. Duhaime: I disagree about not providing additional information. We should provide anything we can
434 to inform and educate the voters. You should ask the petitioners. Maybe they are not aware that they
435 can put information in the guide.
436

437 A. Garron: Has the Council done this in the past?
438

439 R. Duhaime: It has been a long time since we have had a petition warrant article.
440

441 Chair Sullivan: I don't think it has been done in the past.
442

443 A. Garron: What you say in the Voters' Guide might be misconstrued.
444

445 ***R. Duhaime motioned to indicate in the Voters' Guide that Article #25 would cover the rental***
446 ***fees of 111 private residential fire hydrants. J. Durand seconded the motion.***

447
448 C. Karolian: How do we know the number of hydrants? Who did the research?
449
450 C. Soucie: I did the research because the voters approved \$48,000 last year, and I reached out to all
451 three of the water companies to determine the number of private residential hydrants.
452
453 C. Karolian: Does the number include future growth?
454
455 C. Soucie: No, it does not. It is the number as of the beginning of this fiscal year.
456
457 C. Karolian: This is a slippery slope. Why are we doing this now?
458
459 Chair Sullivan: We are doing this because there was a request at the Deliberative Session about
460 whether or not we could include information about a petition warrant article in the Voters' Guide.
461
462 T. Tsantoulis: As far as I am aware, the petitioners appear satisfied with the Deliberative Session. I call
463 the question.
464
465 Chair Sullivan: I will allow one last question because Mr. Karolian had his hand up.
466
467 C. Karolian: What is the purpose of adding the exact number of hydrants if not to circumvent the
468 recommendation?
469
470 Chair Sullivan: We can discuss this issue in a future workshop.
471
472 Chair Sullivan called for a roll call vote on the motion to include the number of private residential fire
473 hydrants in the Voters' Guide.
474
475 **Roll Call Vote #2**
476 ***R. Duhaime Aye***
477 ***J Durand Nay***
478 ***C. Jones Not present***
479 ***J. Levesque Nay***
480 ***A. Walczyk Nay***
481 ***A. Comai Not present***
482 ***C. Karolian Nay***
483 ***T. Tsantoulis Nay***
484 ***J. Sullivan Aye***
485 ***The motion failed (2-5).***
486
487
488 **NEW BUSINESS**
489 **Quarterly Financial Report for December 31, 2019**
490
491 C. Soucie: In your agenda, beginning on page 39, is my unaudited financial report through the first half
492 of this fiscal year. Overall, the budget is looking good, both for revenue and operating expenses. As of
493 the end of December 2019, spending is at 49%. The Administration budget is 52% spent. The budget
494 includes encumbrances of about \$60,000 for IT projects. I am watching the legal line, but I believe it will
495 be okay. Lower health insurance costs have helped. The Fire Department is down one firefighter and is
496 47% spent. This department has high vehicle maintenance and overtime costs. The Police Department

497 is at 46% and will probably come in under budget. It takes a long time to fill vacant positions in this
498 department. The Highway Department is 48% spent, with \$265,000 left for roadwork. They have one
499 open position. Overtime for road maintenance includes a 46-hour storm in December resulting in
500 \$22,000 for overtime and a 37-hour storm in January resulting in \$15,000 in overtime expenses. The
501 use of salt increased because of these storms as well. The Recycling budget is always one month
502 behind because of tipping fees. This budget is doing well, considering the elimination of single-stream,
503 curbside pickup. Turning to revenue, overall revenue as of the end of December was at 58%, even
504 though that budget was increased. A lot of the items relate to the economy. Motor Vehicle revenue is at
505 49% collected, in spite of the fact that the revenue budget for motor vehicles was increased by
506 \$600,000. Interest and penalties on property taxes are at 27% because most of this revenue is
507 collected in the Spring when liens are placed. Building permits are at 61%, even though this budget
508 was increased by \$50,000. State revenue is 92%, and most of what Hooksett gets has already been
509 collected.

510

511 Chair Sullivan: What would happen if total expenses exceeded revenue in a year?

512

513 C. Soucie: That would reduce the fund balance by the amount of the exceedance.

514

515 C. Soucie: I report once a year on the Ambulance budget because it is on a calendar year budget. Calls
516 have been steady, increasing from 1,595 per year to 1,636 over three years. For Medicare patients,
517 Medicare only pays a fixed, allowed amount. In 2019, rates were adjusted to the Medicare allowed
518 amount plus a percentage. Therefore, the Ambulance Service accumulates a large uncollected amount
519 which the Town Council writes off periodically. For this budget, expenses were high in 2017 because of
520 the purchase of a third ambulance. In 2018, a third fire fighter was added and in 2019, Ambulance 2
521 was replaced. The balance at the end of 2019 was negative, but it returned to a positive balance in
522 January 2020.

523

524 **1822-2022 Town of Hooksett, NH 200 Year Bicentennial Celebration**

525 A. Garron: At our last meeting, it was determined that a committee should be established in anticipation
526 of the bicentennial. Two years go by quickly.

527

528 Chair Sullivan: This should be a citizens' committee, with representation from the Town Council.

529

530 ***Chair Sullivan motioned to establish a Bicentennial Committee to prepare for the 200th***
531 ***anniversary of the town, including preparing a list of activities and a budget to which the Town***
532 ***should consider making a contribution. R. Duhaime seconded the motion.***

533

534 D. Fitzpatrick: Per RSA 91-A, if one or more Councilors sits on the committee, procedures for posting
535 meeting notices, agendas and minutes must be followed.

536

537 R. Duhaime: I want a big celebration, with a parade and a big picture of all residents participating. Even
538 if I am not on the committee, I want to be involved.

539

540 A. Garron: Do you want to limit the size of the committee?

541

542 A. Walczyk: I don't think we need to limit it at this point.

543

544 T. Tsantoulis: Social media has made a big change over the last 25 years. There are lots of ways to be
545 involved, even for those who don't wish to sit through lots of meetings.

546

547 Chair Sullivan called for a vote on the motion to establish a Bicentennial Committee.

548

549 ***Voted unanimously in favor.***

550

551 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

552 Chair Sullivan: I first want to refer to the rules of procedure regarding the approval of minutes which we
553 adopted on September 11, 2019. According to Section 17 of those rules, corrections to the minutes
554 must be presented to the Council Secretary on or before the start of the meeting, with a copy for the
555 Town Administrator. We should be following that procedure. Mr. Karolian has submitted two corrections
556 for the January 8, 2020 meeting, as he had stepped out during the approval of minutes.

557

558 ***C. Karolian motioned to strike "and that's all" from line 573 and to add the following: "J.***
559 ***Levesque: We should stick to the rules. Talk twice then shut up!" Line 612 should read as***
560 ***follows: "C. Karolian: In response to an earlier comment by another Councilor, if that Councilor***
561 ***got involved instead of coming to meetings and taking up space...everyone here has the right to***
562 ***get engaged and involved." Chair Sullivan seconded the motion.***

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

564

565 **Public: 01/22/2020**

566 ***T. Tsantoulis made a motion to approve the public minutes of January 22, 2020 as written. A.***
567 ***Walczyk seconded the motion.***

568

569 C. Karolian: Why is it that some of the roll call votes indicate at the end which Councilors voted nay and
570 sometimes not.

571

572 Chair Sullivan: There were two different transcribers involved. The minutes don't need to say who voted
573 nay when that is already recorded in the roll call.

574

575 Chair Sullivan called for a vote on the motion to approve the minutes of January 22, 2020.

576

577 ***Voted unanimously in favor (6-0). J. Levesque abstained because he was not present at the***
578 ***meeting.***

579

580 **Public: Special Meeting 02/01/2020 12:10 pm**

581

582 ***T. Tsantoulis motioned to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2020 Special Meeting as***
583 ***written. J. Levesque seconded the motion.***

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

585

586 **Non-Public: 01/22/2020**

587

588 ***T. Tsantoulis motioned to approve the non-public minutes of the January 22, 2020 meeting as***
589 ***written. J. Durand seconded the motion.***

590 ***Voted unanimously in favor (6-0). J. Levesque abstained because he was not present at the***
591 ***meeting.***

592

593 **SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**

594

595 J. Durand: The HYA met just prior to this meeting and selected Youth Achievers for March and April.
596 The February Youth Achiever will be joining the Town Council's February 26, 2020 meeting for
597 recognition via FaceTime.

598
599 R. Duhaime: The Planning Board had to continue lots of items at their meeting, for various reasons, so
600 the next meeting will have a full agenda.

601
602 J. Levesque: I will present my report at the next meeting.

603
604 Chair Sullivan: The Heritage Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, February 19, 2020,
605 beginning at 6:30 pm on the demolition of the former home of Fred C. Underhill at 53 Martin's Ferry
606 Road. The building is circa 1900 and the Commission found at its last meeting that the building might
607 be of historical or architectural significance, meeting three of the criteria for potential preservation. The
608 Heritage Commission also is reviewing a demolition permit for the old farmhouse on Whitehall Road
609 and Whitehall Terrace. The barn in the back is being saved. There are lots of old building in town which
610 the Heritage Commission looks at for preservation because we are losing a lot of old buildings. Also, a
611 committee will be established on the memorial portion of the Lilac Bridge. On Friday, March 6, 2020, an
612 Eagle Scout Court of Honor will be held at the Library at 5:00 pm for Alex Gannon. I hope that a
613 Councilor is able to attend that event.

614
615 T. Tsantoulis: I may be able to attend. I will let Ms. Fitzpatrick know.

616
617 Chair Sullivan: On the EDC agenda for next Wednesday will be RSA 79-E, a property tax relief program
618 which encourages investment in town centers and rehabilitation of under-utilized buildings.

619
620 **ADJOURNMENT**

621 ***J. Levesque motioned to adjourn at 8:27 pm. C. Karolian seconded the motion.***
622 ***Voted unanimously in favor (7-0).***

623
624
625 Respectfully submitted,

626
627
628 Kathleen Donnelly
629 Recording Clerk

630
631 **Please see subsequent meeting minutes for any amendments to these minutes.**

632
633
634
635