

**Town of Hooksett
Town Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 13, 2021**

1
2 The Hooksett Town Council met on Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 5:30 in the Town Hall
3 Gymnasium of the Hooksett Municipal Building.
4

5 **CALL TO ORDER**

6 Chair Sullivan called the meeting of 13 Jan 2021 to order at 5:30 pm.
7

8 **PROOF OF POSTING**

9 Human Resources Coordinator Donna Fitzpatrick provided proof of posting.
10

11 **ROLL CALL- ATTENDANCE**

12 **In Attendance:** Councilor James Sullivan, Councilor Clifford Jones, Councilor John Durand, Councilor
13 Randall Lapierre, Councilor David Boutin, Councilor Timothy Tsantoulis and Councilor Alex Walczyk
14

15 **In Attendance Via Zoom Video Conferencing:** Councilor Roger Duhaime and Councilor Clark
16 Karolian
17

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

19 ***Chair Sullivan motioned to enter non-public session at 5:46 pm in accordance with the***
20 ***provisions of RSA 91-A:3, II (a). D. Boutin seconded the motion.***
21

22 RSA 91-A:3, II (a) *The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining*
23 *of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, **unless** the employee affected*
24 *(1) has a right to a public meeting, and (2) requests that he meeting be open, in which case the request*
25 *shall be granted.*
26

27 **Roll Call Vote #2**

28 ***R. Duhaime Aye***

29 ***J Durand Aye***

30 ***C. Jones Aye***

31 ***R. Lapierre Aye***

32 ***A. Walczyk Aye***

33 ***D. Boutin Aye***

34 ***C. Karolian Aye***

35 ***T. Tsantoulis Aye***

36 ***J. Sullivan Aye***

37 ***Voted unanimously in favor (9-0).***
38

39 ***Chair Sullivan motioned to exit non-public session at 5:48 pm. D. Boutin seconded the motion.***
40

41 **Roll Call Vote #4**

42 ***A. Walczyk Aye***

43 ***R. Lapierre Aye***

44 ***C. Jones Aye***

45 ***R. Duhaime Aye***

46 ***J. Durand Aye***

47 ***C. Karolian Aye***

48 **T. Tsantoulis Aye**
49 **D. Boutin Aye**
50 **J. Sullivan Aye**
51 **Voted unanimously in favor (9-0).**

52
53 **T. Tsantoulis motioned to seal the minutes of the non-public session because it is determined**
54 **that the divulgence of this information would likely render a proposed action ineffective. A.**
55 **Walczyk seconded the motion.**

56
57 **Roll Call Vote #5**

58 **T. Tsantoulis Aye**
59 **C. Jones Aye**
60 **R. Duhaime Aye**
61 **A. Walczyk Aye**
62 **R. Lapierre Aye**
63 **C. Karolian Aye**
64 **J. Durand Aye**
65 **D. Boutin Aye**
66 **J. Sullivan Aye**
67 **Voted unanimously in favor (9-0).**

68
69 **RECESS**

70 Chair Sullivan called for a short recess.

71

72 Chair Sullivan called the Public Session back to order at 6:00 pm.

73

74 **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

75 Chair Sullivan called for the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence in memory of
76 Barbara Tsantoulis and Leo Belisle.

77

78 Chair Sullivan: On behalf of the Town Council, I want to express our sympathy to Councilor Tsantoulis
79 and his family upon the passing of his mother, Barbara Tsantoulis. I also want to express our sympathy
80 to the family of Leo Belisle upon his passing at the age of 96. Leo was Hooksett's Citizen of the Year in
81 2006. He served as the Fire Department's Deputy Warden and also as a Budget Committee member.
82 He was the first Parks & Rec superintendent. As a member of the American Legion for 74 years, he
83 was the Department Commander and Chaplain for many years. During World War II, he was with the
84 US Army Medical Core and part of the second wave of the invasion of Normandy in 1941. The granite
85 for four signs in Hooksett came from his family business, Belisle Granite Company. They are the signs
86 for Town Hall, the Safety Center, the Library and the American Legion hall. He was a member of the
87 Hooksett Entertainers, and I had the honor of singing with him. He was also a member of the Knights of
88 Columbus.

89

90 **AGENDA OVERVIEW**

91 Chair Sullivan: I would like to ask that we move up Item 17.1 to the time of the scheduled appointment
92 with representatives of Teamsters Local 633 and Item 18.1 to the time of the scheduled appointment
93 with Petersons Pawn, LLC,

94

95 **SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

96 **Hooksett Youth Achiever of the Month**

97 This item was postponed because the recipient went back to school.

98 TC MINUTES

01-13-2021

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Hooksett Municipal Employee - New Hire

A. Garron: I have no new hires to report, but there may be a few at the next meeting.

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS

Jim Petrillo, Field Representative & Keith Judge, Business Agent, Teamsters Local 633

J. Petrillo: First, I would like to thank the negotiating team from the Town Council. This is a great first step and should help Hooksett to retain good employees and get new ones.

K. Judge: Given the time constraint, this process went very well. We look forward to a long and prosperous relationship with the town.

D. Boutin motioned to accept the tentative agreement between the Town of Hooksett, NH and Teamsters Local 633, to include Appendix A Pay Scale, effective 07/01/2021-06/30/2022, and to place said agreement as a warrant article on the March 2021 ballot to read as follows:

Vote needed to recommend Teamster's Union Contract as written below:

"To see if the town will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Hooksett Town Council and the Employees of Local 633, Teamsters which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

<i>Estimated increase over prior year</i>			
<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Salaries</u>	<u>Benefits</u>	<u>Estimated</u>
<u>Increase</u>			
2021-22	\$ 14,213.00	\$ 3,026.00	\$ 17,239.00

and further to raise and appropriate \$17,239.00 for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels. Estimated tax rate impact is \$0.01. "

T. Tsantoulis seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote #6

- J. Durand Aye***
- R. Lapierre Aye***
- C. Karolian Aye***
- D. Boutin Aye***
- C. Jones Aye***
- T. Tsantoulis Aye***
- A. Walczyk Aye***
- R. Duhaime Aye***
- J. Sullivan Aye***

Voted unanimously in favor (9-0).

152 **D. Boutin motioned to place a second article to the warrant which would allow the town to hold**
153 **a special town meeting if the Union Contract fails, this second article to be written as follows:**

154
155 **"Shall the town, if ARTICLE # ____ is defeated, authorize the governing body to**
156 **call one special meeting, at its option, to address ARTICLE # ____ cost items**
157 **only?"**

158
159 **T. Tsantoulis seconded the motion.**

160
161 **Roll Call Vote #7**

162 **C. Jones Aye**

163 **C. Karolian Aye**

164 **R. Lapierre Aye**

165 **R. Duhaime Aye**

166 **A. Walczyk Aye**

167 **J. Durand Aye**

168 **T. Tsantoulis Aye**

169 **D. Boutin Aye**

170 **J. Sullivan Aye**

171 **Voted unanimously in favor (9-0).**

172
173 **Erik Peterson and Carl Branco, Petersons Pawn, LLC**

174 T. Rainier, Town Clerk: Mr. Branco and Mr. Peterson are partners in this business, Petersons Pawn,
175 LLC. They have submitted their application and the \$250.00 fee. I didn't insist upon proof of insurance
176 from them because they were scheduled for the meeting last week, which was postponed until tonight.
177 Also, there are discrepancies in the current ordinance, which was drafted by the Police Department.
178 First, in one section, it states that the fee is due at the time of application, and in another section is
179 states that the fee is due upon approval. Secondly, it is not clear whether the license expires one year
180 from approval or at the end of the calendar year. We will need to review the ordinance and take care of
181 the contradictions therein. I feel that there is no further need to inconvenience them. Mr. Branco has
182 had a license at Supreme Plaza for three years.

183
184 C. Karolian: Does the ordinance require positive ID from the seller bringing in items? Is a receipt
185 forwarded to the Police Department?

186
187 C. Branco: Positive ID is required. The seller must be 18 years of age or older. We must see State
188 Photo ID, a valid Passport or Military ID. There is no requirement for a record except for the online
189 submission. The Police Department views the record electronically. I think there should be a
190 requirement for a paper record. I am a jeweler. Only about one percent (1%) of my work is with
191 pawning transactions.

192
193 J. Durand: Referring to pages 42 and 43 of the agenda, Mr. Peterson's date of birth is listed as August
194 17, 1985 and then as August 17, 1995.

195
196 Mr. Peterson: It is 1985. We will correct that.

197
198 **R. Lapierre motioned to approve the application for Petersons Pawn, LLC, 3 Whitehall Road,**
199 **Pawnbroker/Secondhand Dealer License. A. Walczyk seconded the motion.**

200
201 J. Durand: Is this in the same building as Mr. Branco's other business?

202
203 E. Peterson: No, but it is nearby. The address is 3 Whitehall Road, but the utility companies list it as
204 1261 Hooksett Road, Rear.
205
206 C. Karolian: Do you keep items for a period of time before selling them?
207
208 E. Peterson: Yes, we keep the items for two weeks.
209

210 **Roll Call Vote #8**

211 **R. Lapierre Aye**

212 **R. Duhaime Aye**

213 **T. Tsantoulis Aye**

214 **A. Walczyk Aye**

215 **J. Durand Aye**

216 **C. Jones Aye**

217 **D. Boutin Aye**

218 **C. Karolian Aye**

219 **J. Sullivan Aye**

220 **Voted unanimously in favor (9-0).**

221

222 **CONSENT AGENDA**

223
224 **Donation of a check in the amount of \$200.00 from Donald and Mary Huot to the Town of**
225 **Hooksett for the Family Services Department for the Holiday Assistance Program to benefit**
226 **children and families in need through the Hooksett Family Services Department per RSA 31:95-**
227 **b, III (b).**

228
229
230 **Donation of a check in the amount of \$25.00 from Edna Hemeon to the Town of Hooksett for the**
231 **Family Services Department to benefit children and families in need through the Hooksett**
232 **Family Services Department per RSA 31:95-b, III (b).**

233
234
235 **Donation of a check in the amount of \$50.00 from James and Joan Lauterborn to the Town of**
236 **Hooksett for the Family Services Department to benefit children and families in need through**
237 **the Hooksett Family Services Department per RSA 31:95-b, III (b).**

238
239
240 **Partial Surety Release from \$41,367 to \$15,000 for Owen Marine Site at #20 Londonderry**
241 **Turnpike**

242
243
244 **Partial Surety Release from \$55,000 to \$27,000 for the Forest Oaks (Maurais Street) Site off**
245 **Mammoth Road**

246
247
248 **Partial Surety Release from \$906,593.00 to \$314,425.05 for the Hemlock Hills Estates Phase I site**
249 **located at the end of Laurel Road.**

250
251
252 **Partial Surety Release from \$852,195.68 to \$200,000 for the Autumn Frost Project off**
253 **Summerfare Street**

254
255 ***C. Karolian motioned to approve the first three (3) items of the Consent Agenda. T. Tsantoulis***
256 ***seconded the motion.***

257

258 **Roll Call Vote #9**

259 **J. Durand Aye**

260 **D. Boutin Aye**

261 **C. Jones Aye**

262 **R. Duhaime Aye**

263 **C. Karolian Aye**
264 **A. Walczyk Aye**
265 **T. Tsantoulis Aye**
266 **R. Lapierre Aye**
267 **J. Sullivan Aye**
268 **Voted unanimously in favor (9-0).**

269
270 **D. Boutin motioned to approve the fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh items of the Consent Agenda.**
271 **A. Walczyk seconded the motion.**

272
273 T. Tsantoulis: I have concerns about Owens Marine. They have not complied with requests of the Town
274 Engineer and the Building Inspector. It is an eyesore, frankly. In general, I don't like to reduce the bond
275 until the work is done. That's what protects the town. With funds released, the financial incentive is
276 gone. In the future, I will not be in favor of releasing the bond until all work is done.

277
278 B. Thomas, Town Engineer: It has been difficult to get them to finish the project. Residents have
279 complained. At my last visit, it looked really great. They did some paving one year ago yesterday, when
280 the deadline for paving is November 15th. We are dealing with a business owner, not a developer.
281 There has been lack of organization.

282
283 C. Karolian: Do they have a CO?

284
285 B. Thomas: Yes, they do.

286
287 D. Boutin: I would like to respond to the remarks of Councilor Tsantoulis. Mr. Thomas decides when to
288 release the bonds. That is why this is on the agenda. The town has done this for years; it is not an
289 unusual practice. Mr. Thomas decides if they are entitled to a partial release.

290
291 R. Duhaime: I made a delivery to Randy Owen recently. He has worked very hard and struggled to
292 clean up. He has a CO. I will be abstaining from the vote.

293
294 **Roll Call Vote #10**

295 **C. Karolian Nay**
296 **T. Tsantoulis Nay**
297 **R. Lapierre Aye**
298 **C. Jones Not present**
299 **D. Boutin Aye**
300 **J. Durand Nay**
301 **A. Walczyk Aye**
302 **R. Duhaime Abstained**
303 **J. Sullivan Aye**

304 **Voted in favor (4-3). R. Duhaime abstained due to conflict of interest.**

305
306 **OLD BUSINESS**
307 **FY 2021-22 Budget and Warrant Article Review - Non-union raise**

308
309 Chair Sullivan: Next, I would like to ask Finance Director Christine Soucie address the issue of the
310 order of warrant articles on the ballot.

311

312 C. Soucie: The Town Council determines the order of warrant articles on the ballot. Historically, the
313 articles have been arranged in order from the highest to lowest dollar amount. I suggest that the articles
314 regarding employees be grouped together.

315
316 **A. Walczyk motioned to group the warrant articles relating to employee raises, union and non-**
317 **union, together and to otherwise order them from the highest to lowest dollar amount. D. Boutin**
318 **seconded the motion.**

319
320 **Roll Call #11**

321 **T. Tsantoulis Aye**

322 **R. Lapierre Aye**

323 **J. Durand Aye**

324 **C. Jones Not present**

325 **C. Karolian Aye**

326 **A. Walczyk Aye**

327 **R. Duhaime Not present**

328 **D. Boutin Aye**

329 **J. Sullivan Aye**

330 **Voted in favor (7-0).**

331
332 A. Garron: Regarding non-union employee wages, the increase last year was 2.5%. I am proposing a
333 4% total increase, consisting of a 2% COLA increase, with a pay scale adjustment of 2.5%. The other
334 2%, which makes up the 4% total would be for merit-oriented raises for high level work. This is in line
335 with union-proposed raises. If an employee is at the top of the scale, the merit increase would be in the
336 form of a bonus. I would also like to pursue a wage study, which could help with retention and attraction
337 of employees. A wage study was last done over 13 years ago.

338
339 D. Boutin: I agree with conducting a wage study, but if someone is earning \$75,000 a year, and we add
340 2% every year, we can't keep up with that. The taxpayers can't afford that.

341
342 A. Garron: This is not for every year; it is just this year. After the wage study, we can look at future
343 years.

344
345 D. Boutin: There will have to be some adjustments to the next budget after the wage study, correct?

346
347 A. Garron: Yes. They will be incorporated into the next budget after the study.

348
349 D. Boutin: But this budget is already set.

350
351 A. Garron: This would be a warrant article.

352
353 D. Boutin: This is premature.

354
355 A. Walczyk: I agree with Councilor Boutin for the most part. I am in favor of going ahead with the wage
356 study. Is 4% the maximum or the limit?

357
358 C. Karolian: Who will conduct the wage study, and how much will it cost?

359
360 A. Garron: We will solicit bids from firms. I know of two. The cost would range from \$5,000 to \$15,000.

361
362 C. Soucie: We do not increase the maximum automatically when employees get a raise. We haven't
363 looked at the minimum since I've been here.
364 .
365 A. Garron: We have two alternatives for covering the cost of this raise: We have COVID-related savings
366 because we were not able to attend conferences, workshops, and those types of events. We also have
367 the Unassigned Fund Balance (UFB).
368
369 R. Duhaime: If some of the 2% merit increase funds are not used, will they go back to the town?
370
371 A. Garron: Yes, the money would go to the UFB.
372
373 R. Duhaime: What about the cost of benefits? This is just salary increases.
374
375 A. Garron: The calculations on page 40 of your agenda packet include the increase in benefits. We
376 have 35 full-time and 32 part-time non-union employees.
377
378 T. Tsantoulis: It is a constant challenge to get and retain employees. It is a fine balance. We don't want
379 to be a 'first step,' which costs the town more, but we don't have to pay the best. The study needs to be
380 done.
381
382 **C. Karolian motioned to instruct the Town Administrator to have a wage study conducted, not to**
383 **exceed \$15,000. Chair Sullivan seconded the motion.**
384
385 D. Boutin: I fully support the wage study, but I am opposed to setting a cap.
386
387 C. Karolian: How can we do it without a cap? The Town Administrator said that the range is \$5,000 to
388 \$15,000.
389
390 R. Lapierre: He will follow the RFP regular process.
391
392 D. Boutin: If you get an RFP, Mr. Garron, do you need permission?
393
394 A. Garron: Either way, I must come back to the Council if the cost exceeds \$15,000.
395
396 Chair Sullivan: Above \$15,000, a new procedure kicks in.
397
398 D. Boutin: If the cost exceeds \$15,000, Mr. Garron has to come before the Council. It is a moot point.
399
400 C. Karolian: I retract my motion.
401
402 Chair Sullivan: I will retrack my second to that motion.
403
404 C. Jones: He can spend \$15,000 without Town Council approval.
405
406 A. Garron: If asked, I could live with the cap.
407
408 **Chair Sullivan motioned to authorize the Town Administrator to do a wage study. A. Walczyk**
409 **seconded the motion.**

410
411 **Roll Call Vote #12**
412 ***D. Boutin Aye***
413 ***A. Walczyk Aye***
414 ***J. Durand Aye***
415 ***C. Karolian Aye***
416 ***R. Lapierre Aye***
417 ***T. Tsantoulis Aye***
418 ***R. Duhaime Not present***
419 ***C. Jones Aye***
420 ***J. Sullivan Aye***
421 ***Voted in favor (8-0).***
422
423 ***A. Walczyk motioned to recommend the non-union raise warrant article, "To see if the town will***
424 ***vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$140,387.00 for salaries and benefits for the non-union***
425 ***full-time and part-time Town and Library personnel; estimated tax rate impact is \$0.07." D.***
426 ***Boutin seconded the motion.***
427
428 R. Lapierre: Why do we have all of these calculations for different percentages?
429
430 C. Soucie: I calculated by one-half percent increments up to 4% in case a Councilor asked for that
431 information.
432
433 R. Lapierre: Can you give more than 4% to some employees?
434
435 A. Garron: Yes. Bear in mind that the unions have straight increases, versus a COLA increase and a
436 merit increase.
437
438 T. Tsantoulis: The leftover funds would go into the General Fund and then to the UFB.
439
440 R. Lapierre: In that case, the amount of the warrant article would be inaccurate.
441
442 Chair Sullivan: I noticed that some eyebrows were raised when Mr. Garron said that some employees
443 could receive more than 4%.
444
445 C. Soucie: The Council can issue a directive limiting the raise to 4%.
446
447 R. Duhaime: We gave the Town Administrator a big raise. Salaries are public information. We don't
448 need a study. The Town Administrator can have one of his 35 non-union employees do the study.
449
450 Chair Sullivan called for a roll call vote on the motion for the non-union employee raise.
451
452 **Roll Call Vote #13**
453 ***C. Karolian Nay***
454 ***D. Boutin Aye***
455 ***T. Tsantoulis Aye***
456 ***R. Lapierre Aye***
457 ***A. Walczyk Aye***
458 ***R. Duhaime Aye***

459 **J. Durand Aye**
460 **C. Jones Aye**
461 **J. Sullivan Aye**
462 **Voted in favor (8-1).**

463
464 **D. Boutin motioned that non-union employees get no more than a 4% raise. C. Jones seconded**
465 **the motion.**

466
467 A. Walczyk: We should let the Town Administrator do his job. There is no need to micromanage.

468
469 C. Karolian: This is putting the cart before the horse, giving the wage increase before the wage study.
470 That study may indicate that some are over and some are under. I am not opposed to giving these
471 employees a raise; that is not why I voted no.

472
473 D. Boutin: Our job is to watch the taxpayer's pocketbook. It is not fair if one gets 2% and another gets
474 6%. The amount of 4% is reasonable. I want to call the question.

475
476 Chair Sullivan: There being no objection to calling the question, I call for a roll call vote on the motion.

477
478 **Roll Call Vote #14**

479 **R. Duhaime Aye**
480 **J Durand Aye**
481 **C. Jones Aye**
482 **R. Lapierre Nay**
483 **A. Walczyk Nay**
484 **D. Boutin Aye**
485 **C. Karolian Nay**
486 **T. Tsantoulis Aye**
487 **J. Sullivan Aye**
488 **Voted in favor (6-3).**

489
490 A. Garron: I want to thank you for your consideration of my proposal and for your support.

491
492 **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

493
494 A. Garron: Moderator Cindy Robertson, Assistant Moderator Don Riley and Town Clerk Todd Rainier
495 are here to discuss plans for the Deliberative Session. We met today to discuss the options of an in-
496 person session versus a virtual session.

497
498 C. Robertson: We are three weeks away from the February 6th Deliberative Session. We are guided by
499 HB 1129, an Emergency Order. The first option is an in-person Deliberative Session with masks and
500 six-foot distancing. The session would be held in the school gym, with the overflow in the cafeteria. We
501 are looking at using a third room for those who cannot or will not wear masks.

502
503 Chair Sullivan: The School is looking at the Library as an option for the third location for those without
504 masks.

505
506 C. Robertson: We have to find out if people without masks will be allowed in the School, due to the
507 mask mandate. The School is leaning toward an in-person session. They will be meeting on January

508 19th to decide. Since their Deliberative Session is on Friday, February 5th in the evening, we might be
509 able to piggyback on their setup of the gym and cafeteria.

510

511 C. Jones: Hooksett mandates the wearing of masks in all public buildings.

512

513 C. Robertson: The second option is a virtual session. The process is complex. Seven days prior to
514 February 6th, all voters must receive a mailing regarding the process to be followed. That is 11,000
515 pieces of mail. Voters may comment or weigh in on the warrant articles electronically. There may also
516 be an option for people to drop off written comments at the Town Clerk's office. Next, the members of
517 the Town Council must review these comments, which would have to be arranged in the numerical
518 order of the warrant articles. There will be two (2) ballots – one for those running for office and another
519 for warrant articles. The first question on the second (alternate) ballot would be: "Do you approve of this
520 alternate process?" If that question fails, all fail. We would then have to develop another process. There
521 are pros and cons to both options. Neither is perfect.

522

523 D. Riley: In the normal process, the voters discuss, debate and amend the articles. With the alternate
524 process, the Town Council performs this role.

525

526 C. Robertson: For those who cannot attend, we plan to stream the session so they can watch, but not
527 participate. The Councilors would be meeting virtually as well. An advantage of the in-person option is
528 that it would be as close as possible to the normal process, which may be less frustrating for voters.
529 Neither option is without challenges.

530

531 Chair Sullivan: I would suggest a conference call including the Town Administrator, the School
532 Superintendent, and both Moderators. The virtual process is difficult.

533

534 D. Riley: It is very complicated, and one mistake could jeopardize the process.

535

536 C. Jones: How are you going to get a separate room for those without masks, given the mandate?

537

538 T. Rainier: I don't know.

539

540 D. Boutin: People are used to wearing masks now. I don't think we can turn them away, because they
541 have a right to vote.

542

543 D. Riley: We have to accommodate those who can't or won't wear a mask, as we did in the September
544 and November elections.

545

546 D. Boutin: You should call the AG's office, tell them about our mask policy, and ask how to handle it.

547

548 T. Rainier: We have spoken with people in the AG's and the SOS offices. What they have said is that
549 they have given their best guidance and we must use our own judgement. It falls back on the Town
550 Attorney.

551

552 D. Boutin: Have you talked with the Town Attorney?

553

554 T. Rainier: Not regarding this election, but we talked with him about the September and November
555 elections. We have to figure out how to accommodate all voters. A virtual session is an opportunity to
556 get a better turnout. We may have the best turnout ever.

557

558 R. Duhaime: First, thanks to Ms. Robertson and Mr. Riley for all of their efforts. I find that attending
559 meetings remotely saves time. I am embracing technology. We need a hybrid plan. Turnout is likely to
560 increase.
561
562 C. Robertson: We can't do both. The trade-off is that there is no in-person voting with the virtual process.
563 We need to make a decision as soon as possible, hopefully by your meeting next week.
564
565 R. Lapierre: What is the maximum capacity in the gym and the cafeteria?
566
567 T. Rainier: The details are not final. We have to determine how many chairs will fit with distancing of six
568 feet. We will be having a conversation with the School Superintendent.
569
570 D. Riley: Husbands and wives can sit together, so there can be some sets of two chairs together.
571
572 T. Tsantoulis: Turnout for the Deliberative Session is usually low. It will probably be lower this year. I
573 say that those who can't wear a mask for a medical reason should bring a note from their doctors. If not
574 wearing a mask is a political statement, stay home. Spending \$6,000 to send a mailer is a waste of
575 money.
576
577 C. Jones: We can't send them away.
578
579 C. Robertson: As I said earlier, we are trying to arrange for them to drop off their written comments at
580 the Town Clerk's office. This is not perfect. Someone's rights will be violated.
581
582 A. Walczyk: Thank you for all of your efforts. Is there COVID money available for postage?
583
584 T. Rainier: I will check, but I don't think so. The funds were designated for the increase in the number of
585 absentee ballots in 2020.
586
587 A. Walczyk: The mistakes that might be made with the virtual process are preferable to having a 'super-
588 spreader' event. For me, that is the 'worst case' scenario. I understand that the virtual option is a
589 logistical nightmare.
590
591 C. Robertson: If we choose the virtual option, we must do drive-thru voting in March.
592
593 A. Garron: At the September election, we had two voters who refused to wear a mask and two who
594 could not wear one for medical reasons. In November, we had only one not wearing a mask, and it was
595 for medical reasons. If we keep the process as normal as possible, it will be less disruptive for the
596 voters.
597
598 C. Robertson: If we have problems with the virtual option, I'm not saying that they outweigh the safety
599 factor.
600
601 D. Boutin: I am not sympathetic with the comments of Councilor Walczyk. We can have a safe in-
602 person Deliberative Session.
603
604 ***D. Boutin motioned to hold the Deliberative Session in person. T. Tsantoulis seconded the***
605 ***motion.***
606
607 **Roll Call Vote #15**

608 **D. Boutin Aye**
609 **C. Jones Nay**
610 **A. Walczyk Nay**
611 **J. Durand Aye**
612 **R. Duhaime Nay**
613 **T. Tsantoulis Aye**
614 **R. Lapierre Aye**
615 **C. Karolian Not present**
616 **J. Sullivan Aye**
617 **Voted in favor (5-3).**

618
619 D. Boutin: On behalf of the Council, I want to express gratitude to Ms. Robinson and Mr. Riley.

620
621 A. Garron: I would like to ask our Assessor, Jon Duhamel, for an update on the equalization ratio.

622
623 J. Duhamel: Hooksett's ration is 84.5%. The State mandate is to be between 90 & 110%. This will
624 correct with the 2021 update.

625
626 Chair Sullivan: Would you please provide us with an update on the Full Measurement List project?

627
628 J. Duhamel: Phase I is done. We have used all of the money allotted for this year. We completed Tax
629 Maps 1 through 6, which is 450 properties. We went into no homes; I did a lot of the work by phone.

630
631 A. Garron: Regarding COVID, Hooksett now has 69 cases, down from 121 a month ago. The total
632 number of Hooksett cases is 790. As of December 08, 2020, there were 421 cases, so the one-month
633 increase is dramatic. On the positive side, hospitalizations are stabilizing, and there are no reported
634 deaths of Hooksett residents, thankfully. As for the Family First Corona Virus Act (FFCRA), hours for
635 family leave not used in 2020 can be carried over to 2021 if the Council votes to extend that through
636 March 31, 2021, with the caveat that the GOEFFR safety net is not there. The FFCRA was originally in
637 effect from March 01, 2020 through December 31, 2020 and allowed for 80 hours of paid family leave.
638 The hours do not re-set. That is, if an employee used 40 hours in 2020, he or she can use the
639 remaining 40 hours through the end of March this year, if the Council votes to extend.

640
641 **A. Walczyk motioned to extend the paid family leave available from the FFCRA through March**
642 **31, 2021. D. Boutin seconded the motion.**

643
644 **Roll Call Vote #16**

645 **A. Walczyk Aye**
646 **R. Lapierre Aye**
647 **C. Jones Aye**
648 **R. Duhaime Aye**
649 **J. Durand Aye**
650 **C. Karolian Not present**
651 **T. Tsantoulis Aye**
652 **D. Boutin Aye**
653 **J. Sullivan Aye**
654 **Voted in favor (8-0).**

655

656 A. Garron: At the last meeting, I reported on Pennichuck Water's rate increase from \$69.52 to \$85.40,
657 which is a 22.8% increase. Londonderry is objecting to the rate increase and is asking other
658 communities to join this action.

659
660 ***D. Boutin motioned to participate in objecting to the rate increase proposed by Pennichuck***
661 ***Water and to join Londonderry and other communities in the franchise area affected by the rate***
662 ***increase. A. Walczyk seconded the motion.***

663
664 **Roll Call Vote #17**

665 ***T. Tsantoulis Aye***

666 ***C. Jones Aye***

667 ***R. Duhaime Aye***

668 ***A. Walczyk Aye***

669 ***R. Lapierre Aye***

670 ***C. Karolian Not present***

671 ***J. Durand Aye***

672 ***D. Boutin Aye***

673 ***J. Sullivan Aye***

674 ***Voted in favor (8-0).***

675
676 A. Garron: The LED conversion project is complete. Mr. Germain was the point person for this project.
677 We are now working with the vendors on rebates. Going forward, when new lights are considered, we
678 want to have a process for evaluating them. We have looked at GE regarding adequate lighting at their
679 site, as requested.

680
681 T. Tsantoulis: Mr. Germain is someone we take for granted. I want to give a shout out for the LED
682 project and for his work on the audio here and in the Chambers.

683
684 A. Garron: Our cable franchise agreement expired at the end of 2020. We need Councilors for the
685 negotiating committee. I am looking for volunteers.

686
687 A. Walczyk: I will volunteer.

688
689 D. Boutin: I will also volunteer.

690
691 A. Garron: I need to know the names of the three Councilors who volunteered to serve on the
692 committee for my review.

693
694 D. Fitzpatrick: Councilors Boutin, Karolian and Lapierre volunteered.

695
696 A. Garron: This is my last item. I have information about two proposed telecommunication towers, one
697 in Henniker and one in Hudson. Regional impact must be considered, per the RSA, and the region is a
698 large area. If anyone wants to look at these, please let me know.

699
700 **NEW BUSINESS**

701
702
704 **Forest Oaks Development Street Name Approval**

705
706 ***D. Boutin motioned to approve Blaise Way as the street name for the Forest Oaks development***
707 ***located off the Maurais Street cul-de-sac. T. Tsantoulis seconded the motion.***

708

710 **Roll Call Vote #18**

- 711 **J. Durand Aye**
- 712 **R. Lapierre Nay**
- 713 **C. Karolian Not present**
- 714 **D. Boutin Aye**
- 715 **C. Jones Not present**
- 716 **T. Tsantoulis Aye**
- 717 **A. Walczyk Aye**
- 718 **R. Duhaime Aye**
- 719 **J. Sullivan Aye**
- 720 **Voted in favor (6-1).**

721

722 **Acceptance of Federal Funds for COVID related Expenses**

723

724 Chief Burkush: These are grant reimbursements. The NH Department of Justice amount of \$66,586.02
725 is for overtime and an extra firefighter on each shift. The FEMA amount of \$61,424.92 is a 75%
726 reimbursement, and the CARES Act amount of \$24,811.13 is for loss of ambulance revenue.

727

728 **R. Lapierre motioned to accept the DOJ grant award of \$66,586.02, the FEMA award of**
729 **\$61,424.92 and the CARES Act amount of \$24,811.13, per RSA 21-P:43, and to authorize the**
730 **Town Administrator and the Council Chair to sign all associated documents. D. Boutin**
731 **seconded the motion.**

732

733 **Roll Call Vote #19**

- 734 **C. Jones Not present**
- 735 **C. Karolian Not present**
- 736 **R. Lapierre Aye**
- 737 **R. Duhaime Aye**
- 738 **A. Walczyk Aye**
- 739 **J. Durand Aye**
- 740 **T. Tsantoulis Aye**
- 741 **D. Boutin Aye**
- 742 **J. Sullivan Aye**
- 743 **Voted in favor (7-0).**

744

745 **PUBLIC INPUT**

746

748 T. Rainier: The filing period for local offices starts Wednesday, January 20, 2021 and ends Friday,
749 January 29, 2021. Declarations of Candidacy for open seats will be accepted during regular hours
750 during this period of time. The Town Clerk’s office will also be open on Friday, January 29th from 3:00
751 pm till 5:00 pm, per RSA, to accept filings for candidacy. Open positions are as follows:

752

- 753 Budget Committee - three, three-year positions – term ending 06-30-2024
- 754 Cemetery Commission – one, two-year position – term ending 06-30-2023
- 755 and one, three-year position – term ending 06-30-2024
- 756 Library Trustees – two, three-year positions – term ending 06-30-2024
- 757 Moderator – one, one-year position – term ending 06-30-2022
- 758 Trustees of the Trust Fund – one, three-year position – term ending 06-30-2024

759 Town Council – one at-large position; District 1, 4, 5, or 6 – term ending 06-30-2024
760 Districts 1 & 4 - one, three-year position each – term ending 06-30-2024

761

762 **ADJOURNMENT**

763

764 ***D. Boutin motioned to adjourn at 8:46 pm. T. Tsantoulis seconded the motion.***

765

766 **Roll Call Vote #20**

767 ***R. Lapierre Aye***

768 ***R. Duhaime Aye***

769 ***T. Tsantoulis Aye***

770 ***A. Walczyk Aye***

771 ***J. Durand Nay***

772 ***C. Jones Not present***

773 ***D. Boutin Aye***

774 ***C. Karolian Not present***

775 ***J. Sullivan Aye***

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

777

778 Respectfully submitted,

779 *Kathleen Donnelly*

780 Kathleen Donnelly

781 Recording Clerk

782

783

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

785

786

787

788

789

790

791

792

793