

**Town of Hooksett
Town Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 24, 2021**

1
2 The Hooksett Town Council met on Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at 5:00 in the Hooksett Municipal
3 Building.

4
5 **CALL TO ORDER**

6 Chair Sullivan called the meeting of 24 Feb 2021 to order at 5:05 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 Randall Lapierre, Councilor Roger Duhaime,
13 Councilor David Boutin, Councilor Timothy Tsantoulis, Councilor Clark Karolian

14
15 Councilor John Durand arrived at 5:39 pm.

16
17 **Missing:** Councilor Alex Walczyk, Councilor Clifford Jones

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

20 ***J. Sullivan motioned to enter non-public session at 5:14 pm in accordance with the provisions***
21 ***of RSA 91-A:3, II (c). D. Boutin seconded the motion.***

22
23 *RSA 91-A:3, II (c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation*
24 *of any person, **other than a member of this board**, unless such person requests an open meeting.*
25 *This exemption shall extend to include any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of*
26 *a fee, fine or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant.*

27
28 **Roll Call Vote #2**

29 ***R. Duhaime Aye***

30 ***J Durand Not present***

31 ***C. Jones Not present***

32 ***R. Lapierre Aye***

33 ***A. Walczyk Not present***

34 ***D. Boutin Aye***

35 ***C. Karolian Aye***

36 ***T. Tsantoulis Aye***

37 ***J. Sullivan Aye***

38 ***Voted unanimously in favor (6-0).***

39
40 ***J. Sullivan motioned to leave nonpublic session and return to public session at 5:40 pm. D.***
41 ***Boutin seconded the motion.***

42 ***Voted unanimously in favor (6-0).***

43
44
45 ***J. Sullivan motioned to seal the minutes of the non-public session. R. Lapierre seconded the***
46 ***motion.***

47

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

49

50 **PUBLIC SESSION**

51 Chair Sullivan called the Public Session to order at 5:49 pm.

52

53 **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

54 Chair Sullivan called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

55

56 **AGENDA OVERVIEW**

57 Chair Sullivan: The Special Recognition item, Hooksett Police Departmental Annual Award Ceremony –
58 Part I, has been postponed to a later meeting. I will ask the Council to move up New Business items
59 17-1 and 17-2, to be taken up after the Public Hearing.

60

61 **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

62 **Public Hearing to accept the donation of Personal Protective Equipment, Hand Wipes and Hand
63 Sanitizer from Ocean State Job Lot, valued at approximately \$12,000.00, to the Town of Hooksett
64 for the Hooksett Police and Fire Departments per RSA 31:95-e II.**

65

66
67 Chair Sullivan: On behalf of the Town Council, I am opening the Public Hearing at 5:52 pm on the
68 acceptance of the donation of Personal Protective Equipment, Hand Wipes and Hand Sanitizer from
69 Ocean State Job Lot, valued at approximately \$12,000.00, to the Town of Hooksett for the Hooksett
70 Police and Fire Departments per RSA 31:95-e II.

71

72 T. Tsantoulis: Whether or not this donation is accepted, I believe a note should be sent to Ocean State
73 Job Lot acknowledging their generosity now and in the past.

74

75 Chair Sullivan: A thank you note is always sent for donations.

76

77 Chair Sullivan closed the public hearing at 5:53 pm.

78

79 **NEW BUSINESS (moved up)**

80

81 ***C. Karolian made a motion to waive Town Council rules of procedure and vote same night as
82 public hearing. R. Lapierre seconded the motion.***

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

84

85 ***C. Karolian made a motion to accept the donation of Personal Protective Equipment, Hand
86 Wipes and Hand Sanitizer from Ocean State Job Lot, valued at \$12,000.00, to the Town of
87 Hooksett Police and Fire Department per RSA 31:95-e II. T. Tsantoulis seconded the motion.***

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

89

90
91 **New Appointment of Health Officer - Dana Pendergast and Renewal of Deputy Health Officer -
92 Cpt. Joe Stalker**

93

94 Chair Sullivan asked Town Administrator Garron to introduce the new Code Enforcement Officer.

95

96 A. Garron: I would like to welcome and introduce Dana Pendergast as the town's new Code
97 Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector. He comes to us from Pembroke and has been filling in a couple
98 of days a week since former CEO Matt Lavoie left us. He comes to us with a lot of experience.

100

101 C. Karolian: I would like to suspend the rules and move up item 16.1.

102
103 Chair Sullivan: We can move up that item after we have a motion regarding the appointments of the
104 Health Officer and Deputy Health Officer.

105
106 ***R. Lapierre motioned, per RSA 128, to end the appointment of Hooksett Health Officer Matthew***
107 ***Lavoie, effective February 10, 2021, to recommend the appointment of Dana Pendergast as***
108 ***Hooksett Health Officer for a three (3) year term, and to reappoint Hooksett Deputy Health***
109 ***Officer, Captain Joe Stalker, to a three (3) year term, which shall run concurrently with the***
110 ***Health Officer's term, with a renewal date of February 24, 2024. D. Boutin seconded the motion.***
111 ***Voted unanimously in favor (7-0).***

112
113 **OLD BUSINESS (moved up)**

114 **Corriveau Drive - Further Discussions Regarding Status of Future Driveway and Subdivision**
115 **Plans Relating to Abutting "Future Access" Roads to Demers Property and Other Properties**
116 **and Disposition of Logging Equipment on "Future Access Road E".**

117
118 ***C. Karolian motioned, in accordance with NH RSA 231.51, to Release and Discharge all town***
119 ***interest in the Future Access Ways A, B, C, D, and E, as shown on the approved Hackett Hill***
120 ***Estates subdivision plan as dedicated Future Access Ways. J. Durand seconded the motion.***

121
122 C. Karolian: We have been going around with this, and there are lots of different opinions. We have to
123 do what is legal and in the best interest of the people of the town, as well as those who live in the
124 subdivision. We have every right to exercise this option to Release and Discharge, per RSA 231.51.
125 There is no liability for the town. It has been 38 years, and it is time to move on.

126
127 T. Tsantoulis: Regardless of the amount of time that has passed, 38 years, the land is still there and
128 there has always been the possibility that something could happen. The adjacent buyers knew of this
129 possibility and still know. We could be creating a precedent for other subdivisions.

130
131 D. Boutin: This could have a chilling effect on the Planning Board because of the effect on the
132 development of backlands which are dependent upon these access roads.

133
134 R. Duhaime: I agree with Councilor Boutin. This was put in by the Planning Board years ago. By taking
135 away access, there is still an issue. As with issues that come before the ZBA, two neighbors have to
136 work this out.

137
138 Chair Sullivan: It is clearly within the authority of the Town Council to make this motion, per our legal
139 counsel. Planning Board Chair Richard Marshall was on the Planning Board in 1983. This is not just
140 affecting Corriveau Drive. What would be the rationale to allow others? They would be hesitant to
141 approve future access roads because of the precedent this would set.

142
143 C. Karolian: We have to keep a few things in mind. The Planning Board, in 1983, required these future
144 access roads. If they hadn't, we wouldn't be here. The question at hand is Corriveau Drive, not future
145 development in Hooksett. The RSA allows this release with no precedent being set. It is a case-by-case
146 basis.

147
148 R. Duhaime: The landowner behind access road E, since 1983, has thought he has access.

149
150 A. Garron: This is a procedural issue. This item was tabled on January 20, 2021. It needs to be
151 removed from the table.

152

153 **D. Boutin motioned to remove this item from the table. C. Karolian seconded the motion.**
154 **Voted unanimously in favor (7-0).**
155
156 Chair Sullivan: We have an individual with a Scheduled Appointment who wishes to speak on this issue
157 and others in the public wishing to do so. We should accommodate them. Does the Council wish to
158 hear them?
159
160 D. Boutin: We have heard from the neighbors three or four times, including their attorneys. We have
161 had advice from our Town Attorney and the Town Administrator. I move the question.
162
163 C. Karolian: I have a motion on the floor. If it doesn't pass, we can listen to those wishing to speak.
164
165 Chair Sullivan: I would like to have a roll call vote on allowing the public to speak.
166
167 D. Boutin: Mr. Chair, I moved the question.
168
169 Chair Sullivan called for a roll call vote on moving the question.
170
171 **Roll Call Vote #5**
172 **T. Tsantoulis Aye**
173 **C. Jones Not present**
174 **R. Duhaime Aye**
175 **A. Walczyk Not present**
176 **R. Lapierre Aye**
177 **C. Karolian Aye**
178 **J. Durand Aye**
179 **D. Boutin Aye**
180 **J. Sullivan Nay**
181 **Voted in favor (6-1).**
182
183 Chair Sullivan called for a roll call vote on the motion to Release and Discharge all town interest in the
184 Future Access Ways on Hackett Hill Estates.
185
186 **Roll Call Vote #6**
187 **J. Durand Aye**
188 **R. Lapierre Nay**
189 **C. Karolian Aye**
190 **D. Boutin Nay**
191 **C. Jones Not present**
192 **T. Tsantoulis Nay**
193 **A. Walczyk Not present**
194 **R. Duhaime Nay**
195 **J. Sullivan Nay**
196 **Motion failed (2-5).**
197
198 **D. Boutin motioned that Hooksett accept authority to Future Access Ways A, B, C, D, and E, as**
199 **shown on the approved Hackett Hill Estates subdivision plan, as accepted dedicated ways. T.**
200 **Tsantoulis seconded the motion.**
201

202 D. Boutin: These future access ways were identified on a legally approved subdivision plan. There is no
203 negative precedent set because each situation is evaluated on its own merits.
204
205 T. Tsantoulis: The unfortunate reality is that we cannot make everyone happy. We have to do what is
206 truly correct and right for the town.
207
208 C. Karolian: I am pretty sure the residents of Corriveau Drive knew that these could be future access
209 ways because that information should be on their deeds.
210
211 Chair Sullivan: I am inclined to let people speak. If Councilor Boutin's motion passes, how does it affect
212 the 2019 motion to grant a driveway? Would a roadway have to be built and who would build it?
213
214 A. Garron: If the town accepts these access ways, they become public ways. A developer wishing to
215 develop the backland would have to build the road.
216
217 R. Lapierre: Do we have an approved or pending driveway permit?
218
219 A. Garron: Not to my knowledge. In 2019, the Council granted access, not a driveway permit.
220
221 R. Lapierre: RSA 251:31 was amended in 1989 to eliminate the 20-year time limit for accepting the
222 roads. Since there is no driveway permit before us, this action is premature.
223
224 T. Tsantoulis: My response to Councilor Lapierre is that we are kicking the can down the road. Taking
225 action tonight makes it more final. Part of why we have the logging problem is because this was not
226 decided. The town would have been able to act more quickly.
227
228 C. Karolian: We have two options. The first is to accept the access ways, and the only thing that can be
229 built is a legally accepted road built to State or Town standards. Anybody in the town or the State could
230 park and hang out there because you can't give exclusive rights to a public way to any individuals or
231 groups of individuals. The second option is to not accept the access ways, which is what I proposed in
232 my motion.
233
234 D. Boutin: Addressing Councilor Lapierre, we can approve a subdivision without knowing what is going
235 in. We don't want to shut down development. Addressing Councilor Karolian, the future access ways
236 were not a requirement of the Planning Board; the plan was submitted that way.
237
238 Chair Sullivan called for a roll call vote on the motion to accept the future access ways.
239
240 **Roll Call Vote #7**
241 **C. Jones Not present**
242 **C. Karolian Nay**
243 **R. Lapierre Nay**
244 **R. Duhaime Aye**
245 **A. Walczyk Not present**
246 **J. Durand Nay**
247 **T. Tsantoulis Aye**
248 **D. Boutin Aye**
249 **J. Sullivan Aye**
250 **Voted in favor (4-3).**
251

252 **Chair Sullivan motioned to direct the Town Administrator, as a result of the Cease & Desist**
253 **order, to order the removal of the logging equipment on Access Way E by the owner of the**
254 **equipment within two weeks; that failing, the Town Administrator shall have the equipment**
255 **removed by the town at the expense of the owner of the equipment. D. Boutin seconded the**
256 **motion.**

257
258 Chair Sullivan: That equipment doesn't belong there now.

259

260 **Roll Call Vote #8**

261 **R. Lapierre Aye**

262 **R. Duhaime Aye**

263 **T. Tsantoulis Aye**

264 **A. Walczyk Not present**

265 **J. Durand Aye**

266 **C. Jones Not present**

267 **D. Boutin Aye**

268 **C. Karolian Aye**

269 **J. Sullivan Aye**

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

271

272 A. Garron: Moving the equipment onto private property satisfies the Cease & Desist order.

273

274 C. Karolian: If the equipment is moved to a private lot, can they use the dedicated way to go back and
275 forth?

276

277 A. Garron: If they have pulled the proper permits, yes.

278

279

280 **SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS**

281

282 **Police Chief Janet Bouchard - Presentation on Police Protocols**

283

284 Chief Bouchard: The Police Department operates on pride, trust and transparency. We have a solid
285 relationship with the community. 2020 was unprecedented, and I am proud of how my staff and officers
286 handled the challenges. Some days, I issued new directions three or four times a day. Crime didn't stop
287 because of the pandemic. My officers performed their duties at work and dealt with challenges and
288 burdens at home because of the pandemic. Then, in May of last year, George Floyd was brutally killed
289 by a police officer, increasing anger toward police and more scrutiny of them. In June, Governor
290 Sununu established a Commission on Law Enforcement Accountability, Community and Transparency.
291 In October, he endorsed all of the recommendations of the Commission, including the importance of
292 community policing, fair and impartial policing, transparency, improved data collection and analysis,
293 investigation of police misconduct, removal of implicit bias, de-escalation of situations, SRO training
294 and recruitment of minorities. We were already following these practices, though we realize there is
295 always room for improvement. Captain Robie compiles statistics for the department and I want to share
296 some of them. Regarding use of force, in 2020 we had 13,316 calls and 665 arrests, for which force
297 was used 41 times in relation to 23 incidents. All were deemed justified.

298

299 D. Boutin: What is the number of domestic abuse cases?

300

301 Chief Bouchard: I don't have those numbers with me, but I can get them for you.

302

303 D. Boutin: It is an important issue because it has gotten worse with the pandemic. It is not just
304 husband/wife abuse but also abuse of children by parents.

305
306 Chief Bouchard: Yes, there has definitely been an increase because people are at home more. With
307 President Trump's executive order on safe policing, the DOJ said that police departments had to be in
308 compliance in order to receive federal grants. With the change of one small sentence in our policy, we
309 were already in compliance. I sent a letter on February 1st indicating our compliance. Regarding
310 complaints about our officers, we always have them in writing. I call the complainant to be sure I have
311 all of the facts. The conduct of the officers involved is scrutinized at many levels. In 2020, we had seven
312 (7) complaints involving five (5) officers. Five of these were exonerated, one was sustained and one
313 was unfounded. Hooksett police officers require a low level of disciplining, and they receive many
314 accolades. We are required to file and report on exculpatory evidence; we had none in 2020. I have
315 nothing but praise for my captain, lieutenants, sergeants, detectives, officers and staff. No one is more
316 important than anyone else in the department. I want to thank the community for its support of the
317 department for voting in favor of our negotiated union contracts. I also want to thank the Town
318 Administrator, the Town Council, and everyone who contributes to our success as a department.

319
320 D. Boutin: On behalf of the Town Council, we appreciate your dedicated service and the way you have
321 complimented those in your department.

322
323 A. Garron: When I read this report from Chief Bouchard, I thought it was important that she share it with
324 the Council. The Police Department has a lot to be proud of, and I commend you for being ahead of the
325 curve.

326
327 Chair Sullivan: Thank you, Chief Bouchard. As I always say – and it is not a cliché – be safe.

328
329 Chair Sullivan called for a five-minute break at 7:07 pm.

330
331 **Todd Rainier, Town Clerk and Cindy Robertson, Town Moderator & Don Riley, Assistant Town**
332 **Moderator - March 9, 2021 Town Election Preparations**

333
334 T. Rainier: I am here with Town Moderator Cincy Robertson. Assistant Town Moderator Don Riley
335 could not be here because of a schedule conflict. The Town and School Elections, hopefully the last of
336 this year, will be held at the Cawley Middle School on March 9, 2021. The polls will be open from 6:00
337 am until 7:00 pm. We will be using the same format and safety protocols as we used for the fall
338 elections, as follows: Stay at home if you have tested positive for COVID-19 or are showing COVID-19
339 symptoms, were exposed to someone with COVID-19, or have travel risk exposure. Masks must be
340 properly worn at all times while inside the school building and outside while within six (6) feet of others.
341 Inside the school, six-foot distancing will be identified. Personnel from Hooksett Fire Rescue will again
342 assist at the main entrance to the polls – assuring voters have masks properly worn and offering hand
343 sanitizer for all before entering the school. Because school will be in session, voters should use only
344 the entrance on the left. Councilors are election officials and must be present throughout the day. I will
345 pass the sign-up sheet around tonight. Three Councilors who are **not** on the ballot need to be present
346 at the end of the night when the polls close to help with reconciliation and the sealing of the ballot
347 boxes. The sealing of the boxes allows the turnover of the ballots from the Moderator to the Town
348 Clerk. The Hooksett Supervisors of the Checklist will hold a meeting on Saturday, February 27, 2021 at
349 11:00 am in the Council Chambers in the Town Municipal Building, 35 Main Street. This is the final
350 opportunity to register to vote, although you may register and vote at the polls on the day of the
351 election. The ballots have not arrived yet; when they are received, a sample will be posted on
352 **Hooksett.org**. So far, we have only three (3) requests for absentee ballots, and these will be fulfilled
353 when the ballots are received. Ballot Clerk training is scheduled for February 25th at 3:00 pm in Council

354 Chambers, and the counting of unmarked ballots and testing of the Accuvote tabulator is scheduled for
355 Wednesday, March 3rd at 3:00 pm, also in Council Chambers.

356

357 Chair Sullivan: Between the School and the Town, the ballots contain \$54 million in spending.

358

359 **Jason Reimers, BCM Environmental and Land Law - Corriveau Drive**

360

361 J. Reimers: The permission given in 2019, although invalid, is now void because you can't have a
362 driveway permit over other people's property. There is no implied easement. They never asked you to
363 release them. You voted not to listen to me or the residents of Corriveau Drive. Can you explain to
364 them why you wouldn't listen to them?

365

366 Chair Sullivan: The agenda is fluid. I will be more hesitant, in the future, about changing the order and
367 more careful about keeping to the agenda order. We don't accept public comments while discussing an
368 item. We could possibly move up Public Input to after the Pledge of Allegiance.

369

370 J. Reimers: These people hired an attorney for which they spent money.

371

372 C. Karolian: I was the one requesting to move up the Corriveau Drive item. I meant no disrespect. After
373 hearing from the attorney for the residents, and from the residents themselves, and after talking with
374 our Town Attorney, I thought it was a 'no brainer.' I wanted to expedite things. I had no ill intent.

375

376 **PUBLIC INPUT**

377

378 Karen Carle, 35 Corriveau Drive: First, I want to say that there is a school bus stop at Corridor B where
379 the logging equipment is. I hope the moving of that equipment can be timed so as not to endanger
380 students getting on or off the bus. Second, I ask that logging trucks use private driveways and not the
381 town road, if possible. Third, hydraulic fluid has leaked onto the ground from the logging equipment. I
382 assume the town will be cleaning that up. Finally, we have a neighborhood watch, and I hope we will
383 have additional police presence because a public way attracts unsavory people and inappropriate
384 activities.

385

386 Chair Sullivan: I suggest that the Town Administrator can assist you with your concerns. Please email
387 him those four items or provide him with your contact information so that he can reach out to you.

388

389 R. Duhaime: I would like to be cc'd as well. That is my district.

390

391 Steve Petrosky, 89 Corriveau Drive: I would like some clarification about these access roads, because
392 they go directly to one lot. How do other back lots get access to these public ways? Is there a
393 gatekeeper? There is lots you don't fully understand. Will the town plow and maintain these public
394 ways?

395

396 Chair Sullivan: The Town Administrator will help you with your questions and concerns.

397

398 Tom Armor, 38 Corriveau Drive: I am a property owner who is adversely affected by this decision.
399 While I appreciate your desire to take on these issues, I find it disappointing that you didn't hear us
400 before making your decision. Also, I assume you will be taking care of the oil-soaked ground. That is a
401 crude road. It doesn't meet town standards. I assume it will be improved before it is used. The direction
402 this went is disappointing. You are granting private use for one owner. Where is the public interest?

403

404 **CONSENT AGENDA**

406 **\$2,000 check from HealthTrust to the Town of Hooksett for the 2021 town-wide wellness**
407 **program(s) per RSA 31:95-b, III (b) and return said amount to the Administration line item 001-**
408 **000.220.029.000.**

409
410 ***T. Tsantoulis motioned to approve the Consent Agenda item. D. Boutin seconded the motion.***
411 ***Voted unanimously in favor.***

412
413 **SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

414 **Hooksett Police Departmental Annual Award Ceremony – Part I**
415 **Postponed.**

416
417
418 **Hooksett Municipal Employee - New Hires**

419
420 A. Garron: In addition to Dana Pendergast, our new Code Enforcement Officer, Building Inspector and
421 Health Officer, we have three additional new hires. We welcome Austin Allgire as a Truck
422 Driver/Laborer in the Highway Division of DPW; Mark Sargent in the DPW as a Custodian for the Police
423 Safety Center and the Courthouse, and Kathie Donnelly as a part-time Secretary in the Administration
424 Department. Kathie will continue to transcribe minutes for the Town Council until that position is filled.

425
426 Chair Sullivan: Congratulations everyone. We are happy to have you.

427
428 **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

429
430 A. Garron: COVID cases in Hooksett are at 35 as of this week, down from 38 on February 10th. The
431 total number of cases in Hooksett stands at 1,000. The trend is downward, and we need to continue to
432 do our due diligence until everyone is vaccinated.

433
434 A. Garron: Both the Police and Fire Rescue departments have received Emergency Management
435 directives from the State, whereby the State will reimburse towns for assistance with the vaccination
436 process. Chief Burkush received the directive for his department in the middle of last week; Chief
437 Bouchard received hers on Monday. Time is of the essence for these.

438
439 Chief Burkush: Hooksett firefighters have been working at the East Side Drive location, administering
440 vaccinations and helping to coordinate the effort. We need authorization for Town Administrator Garron,
441 Deputy Chief Colburn, and myself to sign the paperwork.

442
443 Chief Bouchard: We have been providing security at the site and will be billing this as detail work.

444
445 ***T. Tsantoulis motioned to authorize the Council Chair to sign the certificates of authority to***
446 ***move forward with the Emergency Management directives for Police and Fire. R. Lapierre***
447 ***seconded the motion.***

448
449 T. Tsantoulis: The town is stepping up to help and is getting reimbursed. That is a 'no-brainer.'

450
451 C. Karolian: I have seen first-hand the work these people are doing. Kudos to all.

452
453 Chief Bouchard: When the National Guard first set up, we started bringing our Emergency Response
454 vehicle there to give them a place to warm up. We dropped it off in the morning and picked it up in the
455 evening. Hooksett made a good impression.

456
457 Chair Sullivan called for a vote on the motion.

458
459 ***Voted unanimously in favor (7-0).***
460
461 R. Duhaime: I thought at our last meeting we asked Mr. Garron to prepare a bullet list for his Town
462 Administrator's report.
463
464 A. Garron: My report is written, so I can easily put it up on the screen.
465
466 Chair Sullivan: It won't be in your packets because many issues arise after the packets are sent out.
467
468 C. Karolian: Are you looking for an outline?
469
470 R. Duhaime: Yes. There are recurring items for which Mr. Garron provides updates. It would help to
471 keep track of them. I lost track of where we were on the agenda tonight.
472
473 Chair Sullivan: The Town Administrator keeps a list of items brought up for future agendas.
474
475 A. Garron: The Athletic Dorm has opened up behind Merchants Motors. A ribbon cutting ceremony will
476 take place on March 1st; I plan to attend, and Governor Sununu will be there as well.
477
478 A. Garron: We received the full rebate for the LED project; we had estimated \$40,450.00 and received
479 \$40,400.00. Now, Project Coordinator Nick Germain and I are looking into a new, systematic streetlight
480 request process that is fair for everyone. We now have 409 streetlights.
481
482 A. Garron: We have had an internal posting for the hiring of a new Fire Chief. We have one internal
483 candidate. If the panel decides to recommend that candidate, we will bring that to the Council. If not, we
484 will have an external posting. The panel has been set up and includes a former fire chief who now
485 works at UNH, so we will have an expert on the panel.
486
487 A. Garron: Regarding the wage study, the cost estimate of between \$5,000.00 and \$15,000.00 was
488 based on the 40 non-union employees. It would not include the Library or Wastewater, as they have
489 had their own studies done. The scope of the study is pay scales, job descriptions, titles and longevity.
490 It will look at comparable communities with similar tax valuations. I would ask the Council if we should
491 keep this focus or expand.
492
493 R. Duhaime: As I said before, I would like you to look inhouse first.
494
495 Chair Sullivan: Will you attempt to have the project done inhouse before seeking a consultant?
496
497 A. Garron: My proposal, which was approved, was to hire a consultant. This would be more expedient
498 because using town employees would mean that this project would compete with the many other
499 projects they are working on.
500
501 T. Tsantoulis: When we hire a department head, we should have confidence and trust in their abilities.
502 We should not have to second guess and negate their decisions. I am in favor of letting people do their
503 jobs.
504
505 Chair Sullivan: I assume some of the work has already been done.
506

507 A. Garron: Yes, we will be drafting an RFP for the project, and there are other tasks to be done before
508 the consultant begins and while they are working. If the cost exceeds \$15,000.00, I will be back before
509 the Council. I am assuming the Council is willing to go forward.

510
511 A. Garron: I spoke at the last meeting about Senate Bill 99, which would restore to municipalities the
512 40% of the Meals & Rooms Tax revenue to which they were originally entitled. Hooksett now receives
513 \$741,000 and would receive an additional \$500,000 if this bill is passed. NHMA supports this, and I
514 would like Hooksett to send a letter of support for this.

515
516 Chair Sullivan: The consensus of the Council is to support this, and I would direct the Town
517 Administrator to send a letter of support on our behalf.

518
519 A. Garron: There is also legislation for Municipal Aid Property Tax Relief which is moving to the full
520 Senate. This would provide \$20 million in aid to municipalities, with 60% earmarked for property tax
521 reduction. It has good support. There is also a proposed Constitutional amendment which would set a
522 maximum two percent (2%) for property tax increases per year. This is not widely supported, and it
523 could have unintended consequences.

524
525 R. Duhaime: Is this a cap?

526
527 A. Garron: Yes.

528
529 A. Garron: A warrant article numbering issue was brought up at the Deliberative Session. Donna
530 Fitzpatrick will speak on that.

531
532 D. Fitzpatrick: The Teamsters called me because they are getting ready to put signs up. This raised the
533 question of whether the Voters' Guide matches the ballot, in terms of numbering of the Warrant Articles.
534 I checked with Town Clerk Todd Rainier and he confirmed that the ballot proof matches the numbering
535 in the Voters' Guide. On January 13th, the Finance Director requested that the articles relating to union
536 and non-union wages be grouped together. Christine Soucie is not here to speak on this, but it was
537 approved by the Town Council and did not happen.

538
539 Chair Sullivan: We should leave it as it is.

540
541 T. Rainier: Many voters refer to the Voters' Guide as they vote.

542
543 A. Garron: This is a gentle reminder that laptops were provided to you, and if you have an issue with
544 yours, please see me or Nick Germain for help. We can keep them here for you, but we are hoping to
545 cut down on the cost of preparing and mailing out packets if you keep them with you.

546
547 A. Garron: My last item is that we need a Town Council representative for the CIP Committee. This
548 group meets from April through June each year.

549
550
551 **NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS**

552
553 ***R. Lapierre nominated Alexander Glennon as a ZBA alternate member, term expiring June 30,***
554 ***2022.***

555
556 ***N. Germain: Phil Denbow's term on the ZBA expired June 30, 2020, but due to a misunderstanding,***
557 ***he has continued to serve without being reappointed. To rectify this, the Council can reappoint him***

558 tonight and then we can get clarification about what to do about the time he has served when he was
559 not officially appointed.

560
561 C. Karolian: There could be a problem if he has been serving without being appointed and has cast a
562 deciding vote on the Board.

563
564 ***R. Duhaime motioned to appoint Phil Denbow to the ZBA, term expiring June 30, 2023. D. Boutin***
565 ***seconded the motion.***
566 ***Voted in favor (6-1).***

567
~~568~~ **OLD BUSINESS**

571 **Safety Center Access Control Bids**

572
573 ***T. Tsantoulis motioned to allow the exception to lowest bid under Section 5.3.5 of the***
574 ***Procurement Code and award the Bid #21-01 to Pro Technologies for \$36,973.41. D. Boutin***
575 ***seconded the motion.***

576
577 Chief Burkush: This project will allow us to have one door-operating system at the Safety Center
578 instead of three different ones. The bids received are identical in terms of the work to be done. Pro
579 Technologies has done previous work in the facility, is a local company and is within \$1,000 of the
580 lowest bid.

581
582 J. Durand: Did you ask Pro Technologies to drop its bid?

583
584 Chief Burkush: No. What happened is that we scheduled a mandatory walk-through, and we had a
585 snowstorm on that day, so only the local bidder came. We opened the bids in public. Then, we had to
586 rebid the job, and the company from Billerica, having seen the bid of Pro Technologies, changed its bid
587 so that it would come in lower.

588
589 T. Tsantoulis: The Staff Report says this is funded by a grant. What grant is it?

590
591 R. Lapierre: It is an Emergency Management Performance Grant from FEMA.

592
593 Chief Burkush: The Council accepted that grant in November.

594
595 Chair Sullivan called for a roll call vote on the motion to allow the exception to lowest bid under Section
596 5.3.5 of the Procurement Code and award Bid #21-01 to Pro Technologies.

597
598 **Roll Call Vote #9**

599 ***J. Durand Aye***

600 ***D. Boutin Aye***

601 ***C. Jones Not present***

602 ***R. Duhaime Abstained***

603 ***C. Karolian Nay***

604 ***A. Walczyk Not present***

605 ***T. Tsantoulis Aye***

606 ***R. Lapierre Aye***

607 ***J. Sullivan Aye***

608 ***Voted in favor (5-1). Councilor Duhaime abstained because he was distracted.***

609

610

611 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

612 Public: 02/06/2021 Special Meeting

613 Public: 02/10/2021

614 Non-Public: 02/10/2021 #2 unsealed

615 Non-Public: 02/10/2021 #1 sealed

622

All postponed.

623

624 SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

625

626 Chair Sullivan: The EDC had a discussion of the Exit 11 projects. Due to a change of heart, they voted
627 to support the project on the west side of the highway because they are reclaiming an area they dug
628 out. The Committee held off on a decision about the east side because of concerns that need to be
629 addressed first. A lot of things are coming. We had a review of the Master Plan, which is the
630 responsibility of all boards and committees. It is in good shape, but a lot of work is needed. We need
631 consistency among the boards and committees, and the tools for new development
632

633

634 R. Duhaime: Some of the ZBA members do not feel that they are supported by the Town Council. We
635 wanted Mr. Garron to talk with the State about Exit 11. They are spending \$50 million on Exit 11. We
636 can't get help. We need things to get done. TF Moran did it years ago. It was a failed intersection then,
637 and now there will be 450 new homes at Greens Marine. That was a serious, fatal decision.
638

639

640 A. Garron: I have no problem reaching out to the State, but I need a directive from the Town Council or
641 the ZBA.
642

643

644 R. Duhaime: The motion to have you reach out failed.
645

646

647 Chair Sullivan: We can put this on the agenda and invite the Planning Board and the ZBA.

648

649 C. Karolian: Which side of the highway at Exit 11 are we talking about?

650

651 R. Duhaime: It is both sides. Items for both sides are coming up on March 9th.

652

653 C. Karolian: We want to make sure this is not that saying that we have to support them. The Town
654 Council can have a different opinion.

655

656 R. Duhaime: We are just looking for information. We can make our own decisions.

657

658 D. Boutin: The DOT will not respond until they have a site plan. We don't have one for the east side of
659 Hackett Hill Road. I sympathize with Councilor Duhaime.

660

661 A. Garron: The ZBA made a decision about Regional Impact. If traffic is an issue, I'd be surprised if
662 they are not already engaged. Concurrently, the town opted for a Corridor study of 3A, going from Bow
663 to Manchester. The town ran into a snag with the roundabout. The price escalated. More had to be
664 done. That intersection can't work independent of the Main Street intersection. The corridor study will
665 take a broader look. We can have some influence once we have the data.

666

667 Chair Sullivan: We should be careful about comments which could slight other boards and committees.
We can put this on the agenda and invite the Planning Board and the ZBA.

668
669 D. Boutin: I have some advice for the Town Council and the Chair. You should put this on the agenda,
670 invite the applicant, and notify the abutters. Otherwise, there could be a legal case and the Council
671 would lose.

672
673 R. Duhaime: I totally disagree with you, Councilor Boutin.
674

675 **PUBLIC INPUT**

676
677 Cynthia Marple, off Corriveau Drive: I am the owner of the property where the logging equipment is,
678 going back several generations. You have a very tough job to do. I just want to tell you that I can't reach
679 Timothy Trimbur, and I don't want to do business with him. I just want it to be clear that he, not I, will
680 pay the cost of removing the equipment.
681

682 **NON-PUBLIC SESSION #2 NH RSA 91-A:3 II**

683
684 ***J. Sullivan motioned to enter non-public session at 8:50 pm in accordance with the provisions***
685 ***of RSA 91-A:3, II (c). C. Karolian seconded the motion.***
686

687 *RSA 91-A:3, II (c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation*
688 *of any person, **other than a member of this board**, unless such person requests an open meeting.*
689 *This exemption shall extend to include any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of*
690 *a fee, fine or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant.*

691
692 **Roll Call Vote #10**

693 ***C. Karolian Aye***
694 ***T. Tsantoulis Aye***
695 ***R. Lapierre Aye***
696 ***C. Jones Not present***
697 ***D. Boutin Aye***
698 ***J. Durand Aye***
699 ***A. Walczyk Not present***
700 ***R. Duhaime Aye***
701 ***J. Sullivan Aye***
702 ***Voted unanimously in favor (7-0).***

703
704 Chair Sullivan left the meeting at 8:55 pm.
705

706 ***T. Tsantoulis motioned to leave nonpublic session at 9:11 pm. R. Lapierre seconded the motion.***
707 ***Voted in favor (6-0).***

708
709 ***T. Tsantoulis motioned to seal the minutes of the nonpublic session. R. Lapierre seconded the***
710 ***motion.***

711
712 ***Voted unanimously in favor (6-0).***

713
714 **ADJOURNMENT**

715
716 ***T. Tsantoulis motioned to adjourn at 9:12 pm. R. Lapierre seconded the motion.***
717

718 ***Voted unanimously in favor (6-0).***

719

720 Respectfully submitted,

721 *Kathleen Donnelly*

722 Kathleen Donnelly

723 Recording Clerk

724

725

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