

1

**Town of Hooksett  
Town Council Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, June 22, 2022**

2  
3 The Hooksett Town Council met on Wednesday, June 22, 2022, at 6:00 in the Hooksett Municipal  
4 Building.

5  
6 **CALL TO ORDER**

7 Chair Sullivan called the meeting of 22 June 2022 to order at (6:04) pm.  
8

9 **PROOF OF POSTING**

10 Human Resource Coordinator Leeann Mclaughlin provided proof of posting.  
11

12 **ROLL CALL**

13 **In Attendance:** Councilor James Sullivan, Councilor David Ross, Councilor John Durand, Councilor  
14 Randall Lapierre (7:26), Councilor Timothy Tsantoulis, Councilor Clark Karolian, and Councilor Alex  
15 Walczyk.

16  
17 **Absent:** Councilor Roger Duhaime, Councilor David Boutin.  
18

19 **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

20 Those in attendance that were able stood for the pledge of allegiance.  
21

22 **AGENDA OVERVIEW**

23 Chair Sullivan gave the agenda overview.  
24

25 **BICENTENNIAL MOMENT**

26 The Pinnacle- located on 50 acres originally owned by Henry C Carvee. It featured a 5-story  
27 observation and included a zoo, a grove with a pavilion, electric lights, picnic tables and swings, and  
28 admission cost .10 cents for Grand views. The full PowerPoint presentation can be found on the Towns  
29 website.  
30

31 **Special Recognition**

32 Councilor Clark Karolian 2019-2022 acknowledgement.  
33

34 J. Sullivan read off a special message from a plaque to C. Karolian in recognition of his hard work on  
35 the council. C. Karolian thanked everyone and noted that it was a pleasure to serve and do his civic  
36 duty.  
37

38 **Hooksett Municipal Employee - New Hire**

39  
40 A. Garron- we welcome Wendy Baker. She has been hired as our new Executive Assistant in the  
41 Administrative Office and the new DPW director starts on June 27<sup>th</sup>.  
42

43 **PUBLIC INPUT**

44  
45 Dave - a resident in Manchester I am interested in purchasing 16 Highland Street, and I ask that the  
46 Town put that property up for auction so I can purchase it.  
47

48 Lorraine Farrell- 5 Lafond Ave I've lived in Hooksett since 2005. I've always been happy with the Town  
49 and the community and the services we receive for our taxes. When I moved to a 55+ community, and I

50 was shocked to hear that my taxes only cover Police and Fire services. I pay the same amount of taxes  
51 as everyone else. Our small community of 20 pay over \$100,000 in taxes a year, and we only receive  
52 services from Fire and Police only. I have heard and seen that other private road communities and  
53 HOA get their trash picked up, but we are not. We have worked with the recycling and trash committee,  
54 and we are getting nowhere. I am here to request that you make every effort to change whatever is  
55 necessary to pick up our trash. We pay over \$5,000 to Pinard to get our trash picked up. We get a  
56 reimbursement from the town of about \$800. We think this is a blatant case of arbitrary discrimination  
57 by the town, we really want you to pay attention to this matter, and work with the recycling and transfer  
58 committee and make every effort to start picking up our trash.

59  
60 J. Sullivan- for clarification, we are aware of the situation some of the requirements are planning board  
61 requirements. We have asked the recycling committee look into your concerns. I think the plans is to  
62 have the recycling committee have hearings on that.

63  
64 C. Karolian- yes and no. we are getting a lot of push back to not have this go through. It first started  
65 with Berry Hill. They were told they needed to change they're by-laws to address it, as it states they  
66 were responsible for their own trash. Once they went through the process of making those changes, the  
67 town came back and has recommended that we are going to go there and pick it up. After that, it had to  
68 go through the planning board, then we sought the opinion of an attorney to see if they needed to go  
69 through deed changes, and they decided that it did not, they signed waivers not holding the town liable  
70 for any damage trucks may do. Mrs. Farrell indicated back in February of 2020, there was a change to  
71 go from 4 units per building down to 3, keeping in mind a few years it went from 3 up to 4. It has been a  
72 yo-yo effect. I'm not going to be here to see this through, let me know when you have public input.

73  
74 Fred Bishop- unit 26 at Stone Gate- I've run a fair share of events in Hooksett and have been awarded  
75 the "citizen of the year" in 2002 in the past. I now live in a 55+ community. As you know there are a few  
76 of these communities that are trying to get trash pickup, because we have four buildings put together  
77 not 2 Stone Gate and others have not been able to get trash pickup. Out trash is currently being picked  
78 up by the same trucks that the town has. The town really should not be concerned about the type of the  
79 homes, but more so can the trucks get down the streets and such. We are a cash cow for Hooksett. We  
80 pave and plow our own streets, we pay the same taxes as everyone else, we have no kids in the school  
81 system. All we are asking is for fairness and equity.

82  
83 T. Tsantoulis- quick comment to the 1<sup>st</sup> speaker. Your comment indicated that you get no snow plowing.  
84 Lafond Ave is a private road, and no the Town does not plow that but as soon as you leave Lafond Ave  
85 and go anywhere in Hooksett those roads are plowed and maintained by the Town.

86  
87 ***C. Karolian- I motion that we rescind the vote of the Town Council that was done on May 27,***  
88 ***2020, to the recycling and transfer ordinance amendments specifically town ordinance 00.31***  
89 ***that changed the number of dwellings in 1 building from 3 to 4 that was a vote that was taken***  
90 ***and I motion that we rescind that vote; seconded by J. Durand.***

91  
92 J. Sullivan- since that was not on the agenda and it needs to be addressed, I request the administrator  
93 to place that on the agenda for our next meeting in July.

94  
95 C. Karolian- it is my understanding that any councilor can make a motion there has been a motion out  
96 there that has been seconded, and I call the question.

97  
98 T. Tsantoulis- I would ask that we get more time to get information on this topic, and the financial  
99 ramifications. I understand the concerns of the individuals of those that came tonight however I am not  
100 in the habit based on gut feelings or being ill informed.

101  
102 C. Karolian- the rescind would be moving the decision from 3 to 4. That is specific and narrow.

103

104 D. Ross- I want to mention also, that anything that this council does can be done and undone at any  
105 time. Sounds to me there was some unintended consequences of that action and perhaps they didn't  
106 do their homework and research to see the impact. Yes, let's rescind something that is apparently a  
107 bad idea, when we get this many people in a room then yes Maybe we did something wrong. Let's go  
108 back to planning and zoning and look at all the issues. Let's undo the decision and then take it up  
109 again.

110  
111 J. Sullivan- I am reading the charter and it seems that we should hold off and get this scheduled as an  
112 agenda item so that we are not in violation of the Town Ordinance. It seems we are changing the  
113 ordinance and there is a process to do it correctly. I think it wise to hold off a little more and have it as  
114 an agenda item. I am not saying I am against it.

115  
116 C. Karolian- we can at any time rescind a vote taken at any time. So, there is no changing of an  
117 ordinance just the vote.

118  
119 J. Sullivan- I believe this is not a proper motion and needs to be done at a scheduled meeting.

120  
121 C. Karolian- I'm not asking to change the charter; I'm just rescinding the vote, taken back then. We  
122 can't not take a vote based on opinion of the charter.

123  
124 **Short break taken at 6:44 pm.**

125  
126 **Back in session at 6:53 pm.**

127  
128 J. Sullivan the motion has been moved and seconded let's take a vote on it.

129  
130 **Roll Call Vote #2**

131 ***R. Duhaime NP***

132 ***J Durand Aye***

133 ***D. Ross Aye***

134 ***R. Lapierre NP***

135 ***A. Walczyk Nay***

136 ***D. Boutin NP***

137 ***C. Karolian Aye***

138 ***T. Tsantoulis Nay***

139 ***J. Sullivan Nay***

140  
141 ***Vote fails 3-3***

142  
143 J. Sullivan- I will take note of C. Karolian's concerns. I'd like to schedule this at our July 27<sup>th</sup> meeting, to  
144 have a public hearing on changing this ordinance. The TA will be instructed to re-write the ordinance as  
145 it is proposed for our approval.

146  
147 **SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS**

148  
149 **Annual Update from the Library Trustees- Mary Farwell, Chair, and Town Librarian Heather**  
150 **Rainer.**

151  
152 H. Rainer- one of our Library goals is making Community Connections. One of our favorite events  
153 throughout the year is the Touch a Truck event. We also had local celebrity Angela Bergeron. The kids  
154 just love her, and she has made such an impact on the kids. The stars at this event were DPW and  
155 really engaged with the kids. We also added a walking book club. We held our annual Bubble Party that  
156 had 130+ visitors. The library has also hosted Bicentennial events this year. We have started the

157 digitizing historical documents. We have an upcoming event; we have partnered with the Kiwanis for 5k  
158 Trail Race & Kids Fun Run.

159  
160 **Hooksett Sewer Commission - authority to file Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF)**  
161 **application and enter into an American Rescue Plan Act Fund (ARPA) grant agreement NH DES.**  
162

163 Guy Beloin- We are asking for the TC to authorize the sewer commission chairman Sidney Baines to  
164 apply for and SRF and ARPA Grant, for improvements to the Hooksett Treatment facility.

165  
166 C. Karolian- has the ARPA grant application already been made?  
167

168 G. Beloin- no this is so the chairman can apply for the grant. It is 2 separate applications.  
169

170 C. Karolian- if you don't get the grant under ARPA how is that going to impact this project?  
171

172 K. Conaty- the ARPA has already been allocated to us from the state out of the pot of money from this  
173 year. Last year we applied on a pre SRF loan, we made the list that got the approvals, from that list we  
174 move onto the full application.

175  
176 ***D. Ross motioned to authorize the Sewer Commissioner Chairman to apply for a grant from the***  
177 ***ARPA Fund in the amount of \$450,000 from the state revolving fund; seconded by A. Walczyk.***  
178

179 ***Vote in favor 6-0***  
180

181 C. Karolian- the money to pay back this loan is coming from the sewer and not the taxpayers correct?  
182

183 K. Conaty- correct.  
184

185 **Linda Bonney, Kiwanis - Hooksett Winter Carnival 2023**  
186

187 L. Bonney- we are looking at setting the date for Saturday January 28, 2023, with a backup date of the  
188 29<sup>th</sup>. It is a 1-day event.  
189

190 ***T. Tsantoulis motioned to grant permission to the Hooksett Kiwanis Club to host a 1-day Winter***  
191 ***Carnival event for the Hooksett Community to take place at the Hooksett Town Offices gym and***  
192 ***adjacent parking lot and field on January 28, 2023, with a backup date of January 29, 2023;***  
193 ***seconded by A. Walczyk.***  
194

195 ***Vote in favor 6-0***  
196

197 **Annual Update from the Zoning Board- Anne Stelmach, Chair**  
198

199 A. Stelmach - we have had 18 variances filed, 15 granted 3 denied. We updated our administrative  
200 rules. Last fall we put together an Excavation Committee our goal was to strengthen the Excavation  
201 ordinance in Hooksett. Last time I was here I reported having quorum issues, I can say that since then  
202 we have only had 2 quorum issues. I am still pushing to change the charter and have more members at  
203 the Board.  
204

205 D. Ross- I understand there is one being appealed to the state board. Do you know if they accept  
206 written or verbal testimony?  
207

208 A. Stelmach- no I don't believe so.  
209

210 **Other Ordinances #OO-14 Adopted 03/08/1977 2022 ZBA Excavation Ordinance Proposed**

211  
212 A. Stelmach- this was an old, outdated ordinance, and needed to be brought up to todays standards  
213 and meet public safety laws and standards. These regulations ensure the town is protected when an  
214 operation ceases.

215  
216 C. Karolian- I'm having a hard time finding where the changes are. I can't tell what the proposed  
217 changes is. There is nothing highlighted or bolded.

218  
219 C. Karolian- I need to see the old ordinance in front of me before I can make a vote. I need to see the  
220 old vs the new to make a comparison.

221  
222 ***C. Karolian motioned that we table the motion until we have the old ordinance in front of them to***  
223 ***do a side-by-side comparison, seconded by J. Durand.***

224  
225 **Roll Call Vote #3**

226 ***D. Boutin NP***

227 ***D. Ross Nay***

228 ***A. Walczyk Nay***

229 ***J. Durand Aye***

230 ***R. Duhaime NP***

231 ***T. Tsantoulis Aye***

232 ***R. Lapierre Nay***

233 ***C. Karolian Aye***

234 ***J. Sullivan Nay***

235

236 ***Vote failed 3-4***

237  
238 ***J. Sullivan motioned to move the item to the next step of posting Public Notice and establish the***  
239 ***ordinance process for the adoption of the 2022 ZBA Excavation Ordinance Proposed to be***  
240 ***moved to the September 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, seconded by R. Lapierre.***

241

242 ***Vote in favor 6-0-1 CK will no longer be a member.***

243

244

245 **Acceptance of updated Local Emergency Operation Plan**

246  
247  
248 S. Colburn- this is our guidebook in an emergency. It was last updated in 2013. We did get a grant to  
249 perform this update from Homeland Security. The town had a \$4,000 match in labor and the grant paid  
250 for the consulting firm. The committee was made up of reps from fire, police, DPW, emergency  
251 management, administration, family service, the school district, the library. we worked on this for the  
252 last year. It is important to have this EOP plan as a lot of grants are given based on us having this plan.  
253 We made changes primarily to what departments were in charge of.

254  
255 ***T. Tsantoulis motioned to accept the final draft of the LEOP plan update as presented by the***  
256 ***Chief and his committee; seconded by A. Walczyk.***

257

258 ***Vote in favor 6-0-1 CK abstained not present at presentation.***

259

260 D. Ross- I'm glad they are doing this. Planning is very important when it comes to an emergency.

261

262 **CONSENT AGENDA**

263

264 **T. Tsantoulis motioned to approve consent agenda items 10.1 and 10.2 as presented; seconded**  
265 **by A. Walczyk.**

266

267 **10.1 To accept donation in the amount of \$100.00 in memory of C. Schwieger, to the Town of**  
268 **Hooksett for the Hooksett Police Department per RSA 31:95-b, III (b) .**

269  
270 **10.2 To accept multiple donations totaling \$415.00 in memory of Richard (Dick) Pingree to the**  
271 **Town of Hooksett for the Fire-Rescue Department per RSA 31:95-b,III (b)**

272  
273 **Vote in favor 7-0**

274  
275 ***D. Ross- I'd like to rescind the actions taken at the last meeting where we accepted the terms of***  
276 ***RSA 41-14 a regarding the sale of Town property; seconded by J. Durand.***

277  
278 D. Ross- the reason being I was under the impression if this would still go to the voters, and they said  
279 yes. But if you read the verbiage, it says that the council would have the authority to sell the property  
280 without the approval of the voters unless the voters took it upon themselves to get 50 signatures to  
281 force us to put it on the ballot. I am fine with the town needing to purchase property quickly but not  
282 having the town sell town owned property without the town's approval.

283  
284 A. Garron- I know this has been a project of the councils for some time. Then we came across that  
285 article the resolution of 06, that was passed in 2006, that omitted the sale of land. The magnitude of  
286 land the town owns without that provision, we have no means of selling land, therefore that was the  
287 reason it was recommended.

288  
289 D. Ross- we can sell land anytime, but we have to go to the voters to do so.

290  
291 C. Karolian- I do agree with Ross and the sale aspect of it. I am concerned about there is a gentleman  
292 here earlier who was asking about a piece of land that was for sale that has not been advertised yet.

293  
294 R. Lapierre- what does this have to do with rescinding the vote?

295  
296 A. Garron- there have been many people inquiring about town owned land. We have to pull together  
297 that list and go through the process of review of key Departments and Boards. That individual just so  
298 happened to be looking at other land and looked up the owner of the parcel he is inquiring about and  
299 found out that it was owned by the Town.

300  
301 C. Karolian call the question.

302  
303 **Roll Call Vote #4**

304 ***A. Walczyk Nay***

305 ***R. Lapierre Nay***

306 ***D. Ross Aye***

307 ***R. Duhaime NP***

308 ***J. Durand Aye***

309 ***C. Karolian Aye***

310 ***T. Tsantoulis Nay***

311 ***D. Boutin NP***

312 ***J. Sullivan Aye***

313  
314 **Vote in favor 4-3**

315  
316 Vote on motion to rescind

317  
318 **Roll Call Vote #5**

319 ***T. Tsantoulis Nay***

320 **D. Ross Aye**  
321 **R. Duhaimé NP**  
322 **A. Walczyk Nay**  
323 **R. Lapierre Nay**  
324 **C. Karolian Aye**  
325 **J. Durand Aye**  
326 **D. Boutin NP**  
327 **J. Sullivan Nay**

328

329 **Vote fails 4-3**

330

331 D. Ross- 16 years ago we started with a list of town owned property, we know exactly what we are  
332 doing here. You guys have no right selling town property without the town saying so.

333

334 **D. Ross left at 7:58 pm.**

335

336 **Quorum lost at 7:58 pm.**

337

338 **ADJOURNMENT**

339

340 Respectfully submitted,

341

342 *Alicia Jipson*

343

344 Alicia Jipson

345 Recording Clerk