

**Town of Hooksett
Town Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 18, 2023**

1
2 The Hooksett Town Council met on Wednesday, January 18, 2023, at 5:30 in the Hooksett Municipal
3 Building.

4
5 **CALL TO ORDER**

6 Chair Sullivan called the meeting of 18 Jan 2023 to order at (6:12) pm.

7
8 **PROOF OF POSTING**

9 Human Resource Coordinator Donna Fitzpatrick provided proof of posting.

10
11 **ROLL CALL**

12 **In Attendance:** Councilor James Sullivan, Councilor Timothy Tsantoulis, Councilor Alex Walczyk,
13 Councilor Randall Lapierre, Councilor David Boutin, Councilor John Durand, Councilor David Ross (left
14 at 8:20) , and Councilor Roger Duhaime (arrived at 6:12)

15
16 **Absent:** Councilor Keith Judge

17
18 ***J. Sullivan motioned to enter NON-PUBLIC SESSION #1 NH RSA 91-A:3 II a.; seconded by R.***
19 ***Lapierre.***

20
21 (a)- The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such
22 employee, or the investigation of only charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has
23 no right to a public meeting, and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall
24 be granted,

25
26 **Roll Call Vote #2**

27 ***R. Duhaime NP***

28 ***J Durand Aye***

29 ***D. Ross Aye***

30 ***R. Lapierre Aye***

31 ***A. Walczyk Aye***

32 ***D. Boutin Aye***

33 ***K. Judge NP***

34 ***T. Tsantoulis Aye***

35 ***J. Sullivan Aye***

36
37 ***Vote in favor 7-0***

38
39 ***J. Sullivan motioned to leave non-public session of January 18, 2023, at 6:09 pm; seconded by***
40 ***D. Boutin.***

41
42 ***Vote in favor 7-0***

43
44 ***R. Lapierre motioned to seal the minutes of January 18, 2023; seconded by D. Boutin.***

45
46
47

48 **Roll Call Vote #4**
49 **A. Walczyk Aye**
50 **R. Lapierre Aye**
51 **D. Ross NP**
52 **R. Duhaime NP**
53 **J. Durand Aye**
54 **K. Judge NP**
55 **T. Tsantoulis Aye**
56 **D. Boutin Aye**
57 **J. Sullivan Aye**

58
59 **Motion passed 6-0**

60
61 **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

62 Those able stood for the pledge of allegiance.

63
64 **SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

65
66 **9.1 Hooksett Municipal Employee**

67
68 **New Hires**

- 69
- Cameron Perkins, PW full-time truck driver/laborer DOH 12/12/2022
 - Clark Craig, PW full-time truck driver/laborer DOH 01/03/2023
 - Sean Spreen, Fire-Rescue Firefighter-EMT DOH 01/09/2023
 - Kerri Kenneson, Fire-Rescue Firefighter-EMT DOH 01/09/2023
 - Dylan Silva, Fire-Rescue Firefighter-EMT DOH 01/09/2023
 - Robert Santilli, PW full-time truck driver/laborer DOH 01/03/2023

75
76 **End Employment**

- 77
- Michael Winslow, PW full-time Laborer 12/16/2022
 - Brian Williams, Police Detective 01/02/2023
 - Peter Flynn, Family Services Director 01/19/2023

80
81 **PUBLIC INPUT - 15 MINUTES**

82
83 K. Kelley 10 Gullane Road- I'm here in regard to a noise complaint. It is the Oscar Barn that I am
84 having issues with. The noise is so deafening it shakes the house. They had a festival this weekend
85 that went on all weekend. It has kept my children up all weekend. I asked them to turn down the rear
86 speakers at least and she laughed and mocked me and said she did not have to turn down the music
87 until 10pm and I know that was not the agreement that was made by the Town.

88
89 B. Lasard 3 Gullane Road- I was at the PB hearings when they were trying to get their approvals. We
90 heard no external speakers, only acoustic music on the deck. Their website shows speakers on the
91 deck. Everything that gentleman told us that they were or were not going to do is thrown out the window
92 and we have no recourse. I lived at 10 Gullane Road and moved down a few houses and my house
93 shakes. We called the police and they said there was nothing they could do until 10pm.

94
95 J. Sullivan – the TA is taking down some notes. He will address your concerns and we will gather more
96 information.

97

98 B. Lasard - one of my concerns after speaking to the code enforcement officer that because they are
99 ag-tourism, and they pretty much have full reigns. It is very frustrating.

100

101 K. Kelley- every once in a while, I did not mind it in the summer, but over this weekend it was so loud
102 and disruptive that I had to hold my child back from school because he had no sleep, that is
103 unacceptable. The RSA says you are not to make noise that disrupts your neighbors.

104

105 A. Garron – there have been other concerns raised, we are aware of it. We will be looking at the site
106 plan approval and the conditions that were put in place and make sure that they adhere to the
107 restrictions.

108

109 D. Boutin motioned to direct TA Garron to look into the Zoning ordinance to see if it might be amended
110 to prohibit this type of activity in a residential area. NO second to the motion.

111

112 B. Lasard – one of the issues I see, I was at the meeting, even though it was stated that he would only
113 have acoustic music on the deck it was not included in his approval, somehow it got missed and he is
114 working in the effect that it was a condition of the approval.

115

116 K. Kelley- She has made it clear she has no intentions of stopping. What should I do when my kids are
117 kept up on a school night and cannot sleep.

118

119 A. Garron- call the police so they can log the complaints.

120

121 R. Duhaime- we have a lot of planning issues and we only have 1 man addressing code enforcement
122 issues. We need another CEO.

123

124 **SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS**

125

126 **11.1 Eagle Scout Project - Benches by Sam Danforth, Troop 603**

127

128 S. Danforth- I will be building some benches to be placed in the town parks. They will go into Lamberts,
129 Veterans, Pinnacle, and Fraser Park. I've been living in the town for a while, and I thought it'd be a
130 good project.

131

132 D. Ross- what is the wood product you will use? And will they be anchored down?

133

134 S. Danforth- pressure treated pine, and no, they will not be anchored but could be.

135

136 R. Duhaime- how are you funding this?

137

138 S. Danforth- I will be selling Krispy Crème Doughnuts and I am looking to raise \$1,200.

139

140 ***D. Boutin motioned to approve of Sam Danforth, age 17 from Troop 603 constructing benches***
141 ***for placement in Town of Hooksett parks and approve of the Town accept those benches;***
142 ***seconded by A. Walczyk.***

143

144 **Vote in favor 8-0**

145

146 **CONSENT AGENDA**

147

148 **12.1 Various donations to the Town of Hooksett for the Hooksett Police Department**

149

150 ***D. Ross motioned to accept donations totaling \$6,875.00 from various donations to the Town of***
151 ***Hooksett for the Hooksett Police Department per RSA 31:95-b,III (b) and return that amount to***
152 ***the Police Department's K9 Trust Fund; seconded by D. Boutin.***

153

154 **Vote in favor 8-0**

155

156 R. Lapierre- do you know the balance in the K9 fund?

157

158 J. Bouchard- I do not off the top of my head, I'd guess around \$12,000.

159

160 **NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS**

161

162 **13.1 A. Stein - Conservation Commission Alternate**

163

164 ***D. Boutin motioned to nominate and appoint in the same night, Alan Stein as an Alternate to the***
165 ***Conservation Commission with a term expiring June 30, 2026; seconded by R. Duhaime.***

166

167 **Roll Call Vote #6**

168 ***J. Durand Aye***

169 ***R. Lapierre Aye***

170 ***K. Judge NP***

171 ***D. Boutin Aye***

172 ***D. Ross Aye***

173 ***T. Tsantoulis Aye***

174 ***A. Walczyk Aye***

175 ***R. Duhaime Aye***

176 ***J. Sullivan Aye***

177

178 **Vote in favor 8-0**

179

180 ***J. Sullivan motioned to nominate and appoint in the same night, Vickie Desharnais as an***
181 ***Alternate to the Heritage Commission with a term expiring June 30, 2026; seconded by D.***
182 ***Boutin.***

183

184 **Vote in favor 8-0**

185

186 **OLD BUSINESS**

187

188 **15.1 FY 2023-24 Budget and Warrant Articles**

189

190 C. Tewksbury- on page 13 there are a few motions that are needed. The BC has had their PH and they
191 did make some changes. They did add back in the sewer electric line \$87,920.00 and decreased the
192 Fire employment testing line by \$2,200. The BC's new recommended budget is \$23,226,371.

193
194 D. Boutin- I am concerned that the Council's recommended a budget of \$20,617,609 and the budget
195 committees' budget is \$23,226,371. I want to make a motion to approve a budget figure of \$20,617,609
196 seconded by J. Durand.

197
198 C. Tewksbury- the difference is the Sewer Department. The wastewater does not come in front of
199 council they are a separate government they go directly to the BC. The only thing you can do is to
200 recommend and or not recommend the BC budget. You cannot modify it at this time, you may only
201 change it at the deliberative session.

202
203 ***D. Boutin motioned to recommend the FY 2023-24 operating budget \$23,226,371; Seconded by***
204 ***R. Duhaime.***

205
206 D. Ross- motions are generally made in the affirmative and we can pass or not pass it down.
207 If you want to vote against it just vote no.

208
209 D. Boutin- I recommend that the council not support this motion.

210
211 R. Lapierre- it says here under the TA recommendation that the operating budget increased by 2.3%.
212 But on the form, it looks like it is more like 2.76% and the difference is what happened at the BC public
213 hearing.

214
215 D. Ross- what the sewer commission did was not part of our budget process, we did not add the sewer
216 commission budget into our budget. So, what the budget committee did was add that back in as it
217 needs to be there. So, we are voting against our own budget if we vote no.

218
219 J. Sullivan- yes that is correct.

220
221 R. Lapierre- exclusive of the sewer budget, what the BC returned back was lower than the budget that
222 we sent them.

223
224 A. Garron- if you were to take what the Council approved and add the sewer budget you come up with
225 the 23 million. As noted, the budget that was turned over to the budget committee was \$20,617,609 but
226 what they turned over was \$20,579,223. Difference was around \$130,000.

227
228 C. Tewksbury- regardless of how you vote tonight it can only be changed at the deliberative session.
229 You won't be able to remove after the fact.

230
231 R. Duhaime- when they see this warrant article the voters will see the recommend or not recommend.

232
233 **Roll Call Vote #7**
234 ***D. Ross Nay***
235 ***K. Judge NP***
236 ***R. Lapierre Aye***

237 **R. Duhaime Nay**
238 **A. Walczyk NP**
239 **J. Durand Nay**
240 **T. Tsantoulis Aye**
241 **D. Boutin Aye**
242 **J. Sullivan Aye**

243

244 **Vote in favor 4-3**

245

246 **R. Lapierre motioned to approve and sign the FY 2023-24 MS-DTB (default budget) in the**
247 **amount of \$22,659,634.00; seconded by D. Ross.**

248

249 **Vote in favor 6-1**

250

251 J. Sullivan- who would like to speak to the fire union contract?

252

253 R. Lapierre said he would speak to the Fire.

254

255 J. Durand I will take on all the ones that J. Sullivan signed up. Alex will take the one that he wants.

256

257 J. Sullivan- the deliberative is on Saturday February 4th at Collie School.

258

259 **15.2 Approve the new proposed language of Town Ordinance #00-26 "Signage Regulations of**
260 **Town Roads".**

261

262 **D. Boutin motioned to approve the new proposed language of Town Ordinance #00-26 "Signage**
263 **Regulations of Town Roads"; seconded by T. Tsantoulis.**

264

265 D. Ross- I'm wondering if this is enforceable.

266

267 J. Sullivan- this is just for overnight parking and not on speeding.

268

269 J. Bouchard- this is enforceable on town roads.

270

271 T. Tsantoulis- this ordinance we have talked on in great detail. I think the numbers are there in the
272 positive. The roads are here to travel on and not stop and park in. I think it is a good idea to follow
273 through on this and it gives PD some teeth to enforce this.

274

275 A. Garron- one point of clarification, signage was brought up last meeting, and we think that education
276 will be key, but it does not preclude the town from putting up signage if need be. It is not our initial intent
277 to put up signage everywhere but will if need be.

278

279 **Roll Call Vote #8**

280 **R. Lapierre Aye**

281 **R. Duhaime Nay**

282 **T. Tsantoulis Aye**

283 **A. Walczyk NP**

284 **J. Durand Aye**

285 *D. Ross Aye*
286 *D. Boutin Aye*
287 *K. Judge NP*
288 *J. Sullivan Aye*

289

290 *Vote in favor 6-1*

291

292 **15.3 Town Owned Properties Next Steps - Discuss Auction Company Interviews**

293

294 *T. Tsantoulis motioned to have the Town Administrator sign a contract with Jay T. St. Jean*
295 *Auctions to sell the first phase of the Town Owned Properties as presented; seconded by J.*
296 *Durand.*

297

298 **Roll Call Vote #10**

299 *K. Judge NP*
300 *T. Tsantoulis Aye*
301 *R. Lapierre Nay*
302 *D. Ross Aye*
303 *D. Boutin Aye*
304 *J. Durand Aye*
305 *A. Walczyk NP*
306 *R. Duhaime Nay*
307 *J. Sullivan Nay*

308

309 *Vote in favor 4-3*

310

311 T. Tsantoulis- name recognition and brand loyalty are very important. This auctioneer has been around
312 for a long time. During tough times in the state the name sticks out. They have the brand recognition
313 that I believe will get the word out.

314

315 J. Durand- I agree with TT they are the ones that I would go with myself.

316

317 R. Lapierre- it is clear from the presentations that the NH Tax Deeding are a full-service auction house,
318 and I don't see why we should pay additional monies to finish the process when they offer the services
319 in house.

320

321 D. Ross- I believe when it comes time to actually accept it what they are going to do for each property,
322 then we can make those arrangements. They are established and it is our responsibility to do the best
323 we can for the Town.

324

325 R. Duhaime- I agree St. Jean has been along for a long time but I like that the other is full service. I'd
326 like to see if we can give them each some business and see how they do.

327

328 J. Sullivan- I am inclined to give them both a chance as well.

329

330 **R. Duhaime motioned to amend the motion and that we do 10 with St. Jean Auctioneers and a**
331 **2nd batch with Tax Deeding NH. Seconded by J. Sullivan.**

332

333 J. Durand- I want to remind everyone that the fees go to the buyers not the town.

334

335 D. Ross- that is my concern and if there is not reserved met how do we address that.

336

337 A. Garron- now is the time to address that. Both have stated the absolute will get you the most. That is
338 the discussion we should have now. Some of these properties in regard to what is owed. I did have Kim
339 look at a few properties. There is a property that has a total of 277,741.65 of unpaid taxes. And weather
340 we can actually get that amount I don't know, and I'd have to lean on the auction house on what would
341 be the best way to achieve that.

342

343 A. Garron- I don't know if we should ask this as we have both parties here.

344

345 T. Tsantoulis- if we award the first 10 properties to St. Jean in the first phase which is the motion, then
346 we don't need the amendment.

347

348 **Roll Call Vote #9**

349 ***J. Durand Aye***

350 ***D. Boutin Nay***

351 ***D. Ross NP***

352 ***R. Duhaime Aye***

353 ***K. Judge NP***

354 ***A. Walczyk NP***

355 ***T. Tsantoulis Nay***

356 ***R. Lapierre Nay***

357 ***J. Sullivan Aye***

358

359 ***Vote fails 3-3***

360

361 **15.4 Town Council Goals Update**

362

363 **GOAL CATEGORY #1:** Appearance Regulations and Code Enforcement Goal Summary: Review and
364 advise on new and existing appearance regulation for commercial properties and empower the Town
365 Administrator and Code Enforcement Officer to enforce regulations on new and existing properties.

366

367 D. Boutin- I agree with the goal, I do not think it is the authority of the TA to to enforce regulations on
368 new and existing properties. It is for the CEO and the Town Planner.

369

370

371 A. Garron – when the process of when code enforcement needs to go to the next step of getting to the
372 court that's when I step in. That empowerment is for me to lend financial support to move it to the next
373 step.

374

375 D. Boutin- the TA has a lot of responsibilities on his plate and falls within the domain of the CEO. The
376 TA gets involved at the end when the CEO says we need to go to court. I don't think it belongs in here,
377 it is not his role as TA.

378

379 R. Duhaime- I hire both the TA and the CEO and he should be holding him accountable.

380

381 T. Tsantoulis- the responsibility lies with the TA. If it is not being done properly, we need to instruct the
382 TA to deal with it. I don't see anything wrong with this.

383
384 A. Garron- when this goal was created and we created this goal, I thought it was the goal. if the council
385 thought that there should be other rules, regulations and or ordinances then the council could advise
386 me to bring this up to the planning boards attention and introduce this to them to act on this.

387
388 D. Ross- part of enforcement would be legal action. The only concern I have is that ugly properties
389 have been a problem for a long time. For an existing property we can't do anything about that. You
390 cannot force them to clean up their properties, and on new properties we can only enforce for so long
391 before they become grandfathered, and it would be impossible to enforce.

392
393 R. Lapierre- I want to remind you about the workshop. These were blend ups of many ideas. This one
394 in particular was on creating a "Hooksett feel", and how do you do this. There were many thoughts that
395 went into this goal.

396
397 R. Duhaime- we could use another CEO, you can make more regulations but in order to enforce it you
398 will need to hire more staff to enforce all the plans that we have.

399
400 **GOAL CATEGORY #2: Tax Rate Planning Goal Summary: Balance the use of fund balance annually**
401 **to maintain a low tax rate while building the balance amount to the recommended 8% or higher.**

402
403 J. Sullivan- we took some steps to get it higher. We did not quite make it as high as we wanted.

404
405 D. Ross- we should have more that 8% is barely enough to cover 1 month's expenses. What we put
406 towards the tax rate was not enough to make a difference, and you created a goal, and you did not
407 even follow your own goal.

408
409 J. Sullivan- these are the goals, and we are attempting to get that. We are moving slowly. The goal is to
410 build it.

411
412 R. Lapierre- I'd like to comment that the majority voted one way and we have not had 9 councilors in a
413 long time.

414
415 T. Tsantoulis- we knew what the tax impact would be, and we do the best with what we have.

416
417 J. Sullivan- when we question the integrity of the board. I get mad. There was a comment made that
418 there was nothing of importance left on the agenda and there is, everything that we do is important.

419
420 R. Duhaime- we have a new building coming in town. We should not have seen a tax increase this
421 year. We need to get to these goals these should be easy to obtain.

422
423 **NEW BUSINESS**

424
425 **16.1 Fire Department Personal Protective Equipment Purchase**

426

427 ***T. Tsantoulis motioned to approve the purchase of (7) seven sets of PPE (personal protective***
428 ***equipment) with boots as part of the Hooksett Fire Rescue 10 year PPE replacement program***
429 ***for a total cost of \$29,488.47 from Bergeron Protective Clothing through MassBuys State***
430 ***Contract; seconded by D. Boutin.***

431
432 D. Nadeau- we purchased gear every year. We have a 10-year plan where we recycle equipment
433 through. This was in the 2022-2023 plan. There is 28 line FF and they each have 2 sets of gear.

434
435 R. Duhaime- did you send this out to bid?

436
437 D. Nadeau- it is through MASSBuys state bid. We did send this out to bid 3 years ago and, yes, I had to
438 reach out to NJ and Ny to get additional quotes but they were much higher. The manufacturer is in NH.

439
440 S. Coburn- NH does not do state bidding on turn out gear. Mass does and we get a better deal going
441 through them.

442
443 T. Tsantoulis- although the bid is through MASS the manufacture is still in NH.

444
445 **Roll Call Vote #5**

446 ***T. Tsantoulis Aye***

447 ***D. Ross Aye***

448 ***R. Duhaime Aye***

449 ***A. Walczyk Aye***

450 ***R. Lapierre Aye***

451 ***K. Judge NP***

452 ***J. Durand Aye***

453 ***D. Boutin Aye***

454 ***J. Sullivan Aye***

455
456 ***Vote in favor 8-0***

457
458 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

459
460 ***R. Lapierre motioned to approve the public minutes of January 4, 2023; seconded by D. Boutin.***

461
462 ***Vote in favor 6-0***

463
464 ***R. Lapierre motioned to approve the non-public minutes of January 4, 2023; seconded by D.***
465 ***Boutin.***

466
467 ***Vote in favor 6-0***

468
469 **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

470
471 A. Garron – the winter carnival is scheduled for January 28, 2023, in Donati Field. The CIP is coming
472 up quickly, it typically starts in March, and we will need a TC rep on that committee. D, Boutin
473 volunteered to serve as the TC rep. the NH Housing Appeals Board has accepted our motion for
474 recommendation on part of the Board decision issued on November 12, 2022, but it is limited in scope

475 and that is to the data that was shared with the appeals board in regard to the other uses that can be
476 had in the building. The meeting is scheduled for Feb 2nd 2023. As the Board knows the appointed
477 Town Clerk has started and so far so good. Todd Rainer is helping her along and hoping we can aid in
478 her success.

479
480 J. Durand- the Town Clerk compensation is determined by legislation, wasn't that put in the budget?

481
482 A. Garron- yes and needs to be voted on by the legislative body at Town Meeting.

483
484 J. Sullivan- I think instead of using the \$8,500 for sound system, we use it to re-work the TC office and
485 that would be more appreciated by the taxpayers.

486
487 T. Tsantoulis- the microphones don't just affect out meetings, but affect other meetings that we have
488 here and affects the quality of the sound in the videos. We need to address both issues. I think james
489 idea is a good idea but I think we need to stick with the microphones.

490
491 D. Boutin- I agree with T. Tsantoulis. What you brought forward is important and necessary and can be
492 a priority for next year.

493
494 ***J. Sullivan motioned to direct the TA to move forward with the extra funds he found in the***
495 ***budget and address the sound system issue; seconded by D. Boutin.***

496
497 ***Vote in favor 5-1***

498
499 A. Garron- B. Thomas and I had a meeting with NHDOT in regard to Hackett Hill/RT.3A the funding
500 does not start till 2026 but we can start with moving forward with interviewing engineering firms and
501 then we will discuss reimbursement with the money that is allocated. We are in the initial meeting and
502 are moving this forward.

503
504 A. Garron- regarding my goals, the Town owned property project has been moved forward. The RFP
505 has been posted on the solar project with responses due January 30th. We went with options for a lease
506 and purchase option.

507
508 J. Durand- is that for leasing out the land?

509
510 A. Garron- we went with both options so that we had options, and we could look at them both and see
511 the best proposals for both.

512
513 J. Durand- we can always have the option to start a lease and then an option to buy if we want.

514
515 A. Garron- we will see what there best offer is on both then the council can decide what option is best.

516
517 J. Durand- I received a phone call this week in regard to Martins Ferry Rd. they are concerned that
518 overweight trucks have been traveling down that road. The jersey barriers have made it narrower. They
519 did point to me, that the guardrail that was initially installed was installed improperly.

520
521 **TOWN COUNCIL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

522

523 Park on the westside.

524

525 **ADJOURNMENT**

526

527 ***D. Boutin motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm. Seconded by J. Durand.***

528

529 ***All in favor 6-0***

530

531 Respectfully submitted,

532

533 *Alicia Jipson*

534

535 Alicia Jipson

536 Recording Clerk

537