

**Town of Hooksett
Town Council Non- Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 9, 2023**

1
2 The Hooksett Town Council met on Monday, January 9, 2023, at 7:11 in the Hooksett Municipal
3 Building.

4
5 **CALL TO ORDER**

6 Vice Chair T. Tsantoulis called the meeting of 09 January 2023 to order at (7:11) pm.

7
8 **PROOF OF POSTING**

9 Human Resource Coordinator Donna Fitzpatrick provided proof of posting.

10
11 **ROLL CALL**

12 **In Attendance:** Councilor Timothy Tsantoulis, Councilor Alex Walczyk, Councilor Randall Lapierre,
13 Councilor Roger Duhaime, Councilor Keith Judge, Councilor David Ross.

14
15 **Absent:** James Sullivan, Councilor John Durand, Councilor David Boutin

16
17 **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

18
19 **NEW BUSINESS**

20
21 **9.1. Town of Hooksett and IAFF Local 3264 CBA Contract Effective July 1, 2023**

22
23 ***R. Lapierre motioned to accept the tentative agreement between the Town of Hooksett and***
24 ***Hooksett Permanent Fire Fighters Association Local 3264 IAFF Effective July 1, 2023, through***
25 ***June 30, 2024; seconded by K. Judge.***

26
27 R. Lapierre- the majority of our discussion was made earlier with our attorney; it at least gets us to next
28 year we will negotiate a longer term.

29
30 D. Ross- we all have felt the budget impacts at home and one of the things that I have a difficult time
31 here, and I am torn between 2 duties as serving the community. However, what I see here I feel is
32 asking a little too much from the taxpayers, and for monetary reasons only to the taxpayers I am not in
33 favor of this. If this is approved, it will be apart of the default for years to come. This is not just a 1- year
34 increase. This will increase beyond. I was serving here years back and back then had years of zero
35 increases and we have not had that in a while.

36
37 R. Duhaime- I support my Fire Department, and I take pride in my Fire department, but this increase is
38 higher than any other department in Town and I cannot support it. Costs are increasing all around for
39 anyone, and I think the increases should be fair and the same across the board.

40
41 T. Tsantoulis- if this were not a 1-year contract given what the initial amount is I would not be in favor of
42 this. I am hoping that we will all be in a better position in the coming year to negotiate a better contract.
43 We are here to keep tax bills down but also balance the services they are accustomed to receiving.

44

45 **Roll Call Vote #2**
46 **R. Duhaime Nay**
47 **J Durand NP**
48 **D. Ross Nay**
49 **R. Lapierre Aye**
50 **A. Walczyk Aye**
51 **D. Boutin NP**
52 **K. Judge Aye**
53 **T. Tsantoulis Aye**
54 **J. Sullivan NP**

55
56 **Vote in favor 4-2**

57
58 S. Miller- Thank you for your support in this. We appreciate your honesty. We look forward to providing
59 you with the services the Town expects.

60
61 R. Lapierre- how did your union vote on this?

62
63 S. Miller- they were in favor.

64
65 T. Tsantoulis- we will not have our meeting on Wednesday we will return to our normal meeting the
66 following week.

67
68 **PUBLIC INPUT**

69
70 M. Horne 1 Monroe Drive- I am here to urge the council to look at the office of the Town Clerk office
71 and fix it. Prior to July residents could go to 1 office and register their vehicle and boat, register their
72 dog, and change their mailing address at the same office at the same time. I smize this can happen
73 again if a Town Clerk is appointed. I think you should co-locate the office in the Tax office again. The
74 tax office staff are trained in how to receive in and process paperwork. There is enough space to
75 accommodate the staffing. We are a service organization, and we should look at it at taxpayers' point of
76 view. I know someone is interested in being appointed.

77
78 ***R. Lapierre motioned to nominate and appoint Karina Towne to the office of Town Clerk;***
79 ***seconded by K. Judge.***

80
81 R. Lapierre- I have a statement from her, that I can read. She is interested in the position. She has
82 been in touch with former TC Todd Rainer, and he has agreed to bring her up to speed. If I may I can
83 read her statement.

84
85 *Karina Towne*
86 *80 Pine Street*

87
88 *Sorry I was unable to attend tonight. I just wanted to let you all know a little bit about myself. I was*
89 *raised in Hooksett and attended all of the Hooksett schools. My husband, daughter and I moved to*
90 *Manchester for a short period of time but wanted to be back in Hooksett before our daughter started*
91 *Kindergarten. For the past 10 years or so I have spent much of my time volunteering and being*
92 *involved in the Hooksett community. I have spent many years volunteering in the Hooksett schools, on*
93 *the PTA, various sports boards and working the elections. Currently I am the secretary of the HYAA*
94 *board, the Fundraising Coordinator of the Hooksett Lacrosse Board and Manchester North Soccer*

95 *Board and the Volunteer Coordinator at Hooksett Memorial School. I also do a lot of the organization*
96 *for youth soccer, indoor and outdoor and coach with my husband. I am interested in fulfilling the vacant*
97 *Town Clerk position. As Town Clerk I plan to bring a dedication and attention to detail that will improve*
98 *the level of service and represent the best interests of the residents of Hooksett. With my positive*
99 *attitude, determination, experience and new ideas I believe I would be a great candidate for this*
100 *position. I appreciate your time and consideration.*

101
102 D. Ross- we have reasons for rules and procedures. We have no documentation in front of us. This is
103 an important position in Town. We should not be going outside the realm of the normal way of doing
104 business. There is a procedure here that we need to follow.

105
106 R. Lapierre- that process is for volunteer positions and not for elected officials, why is she any different
107 than you.

108
109 T. Tsantoulis- I have to agree with D. Ross. I was not here at the last meeting, and I hear we are
110 looking to fill the position. I think we should give more time to get more interest.

111
112 R. Duhaime- we have not been able to get anyone to fill this position. I think if we have someone
113 interested then we need to get it done and move on this. It is very hard to fill positions.

114
115 A. Garron- yes, we have to fill positions. I field the phone calls as to why the position is unfilled. It was a
116 tough election year, yes, they had health issues, but they also had to learn and fill a position quickly
117 and felt very underappreciated and took a lot of heat for their time here. We have always had
118 experienced clerks, and now we don't and there are things that can only be done by the clerk. There is
119 a sense of urgency.

120
121 R. Lapierre- thank you for saying urgency. We have signs at Town Hall that says the TC office is closed
122 indefinitely is a concern, and that's why I brought it forward at this meeting and not wait for an agenda.

123
124 A. Walczyk- I appreciate the concerns for processes and procedures. But I think when there is an
125 urgency, we need to be flexible. It is a very important position. It is January and Town meeting is
126 coming and the election is coming. Whoever takes the role, 1 week more will help.

127
128 T. Tsantoulis- lets hear what K. Judge says and then we can take a vote.

129
130 K. Judge- I am in favor of this motion, the elections are coming, and an additional week will help assist
131 them.

132
133 **Roll Call Vote #3**

134 ***D. Boutin NP***

135 ***D. Ross Nay***

136 ***A. Walczyk Aye***

137 ***J. Durand NP***

138 ***R. Duhaime Aye***

139 ***T. Tsantoulis Aye***

140 ***R. Lapierre Aye***

141 ***K. Judge Aye***

142 ***J. Sullivan NP***

143

144 ***Vote in favor 5-1***

145

146 A. Garron- the biggest push back I have heard is when is the office open. People still even get
147 confused that we are closed for a half day on Friday. Whoever takes the office over needs to be able to
148 have hours and stick to them. We need continuity in the schedule.

149
150 D. Ross- I see the crane construction material being delivered to Depot Street. They tell me that
151 equipment came down Martins Ferry Road and it is a restricted road. The equipment and trucks were
152 well over the weight limit. Someone has to be in charge here. We have code enforcement and the
153 Planning Board, and someone needs to be in charge. How did they allow these trucks and equipment
154 to go over these roads. They could have used another road. We know we have issues on these roads,
155 and we are sending these over weighted trucks over it. The point being that they didn't care about the
156 signs and went over the roads anyway.

157
158 **ADJOURNMENT**

159
160 ***R. Lapierre motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:45pm. Seconded by K. Judge***

161
162 ***All in favor 6-0***

163
164 Respectfully submitted,

165
166 *Alicia Jipson*

167
168 Alicia Jipson
169 Recording Clerk
170