

**Town of Hooksett
Town Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 12, 2023**

1
2 The Hooksett Town Council met on Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at 5:30 in the Hooksett Municipal
3 Building.

4
5 **CALL TO ORDER**

6 Chair Sullivan called the meeting of 12 Apr 2023 to order at (5:30) 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 Keith Judge,
14 Councilor David Ross (arrived at 6:20), Councilor Roger Duhaime (arrived at 6:20).

15
16 **PUBLIC SESSION WILL BEGIN IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE NON-PUBLIC SESSION NOTED
17 BELOW**

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

20
21 ***J. Sullivan motioned to enter NON-PUBLIC SESSION NH RSA 91-A:3 II A, C, L; seconded by R.
22 Lapierre.***

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

26 (c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of
27 the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to any application for
28 assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine, or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant.

29 (l) Consideration of legal advice provided by legal counsel, either in writing or orally, to one or more members of the public
30 body, even where legal counsel is not present.

31 **Roll Call Vote #2**

32 ***R. Duhaime NP***

33 ***J Durand Aye***

34 ***D. Ross NP***

35 ***R. Lapierre Aye***

36 ***A. Walczyk Aye***

37 ***D. Boutin Aye***

38 ***K. Judge Aye***

39 ***T. Tsantoulis Aye***

40 ***J. Sullivan Aye***

41

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

43
44 ***J. Sullivan motioned to leave non-public session of April 12, 2023, seconded by R. Lapierre.***

45

46 ***Vote in favor 7-0***

47
48 **R. Lapierre motioned to seal the minutes of April 12, 2023; seconded by K. Judge.**

49
50 **Roll Call Vote #3**

51 **D. Boutin Aye**
52 **D. Ross NP**
53 **A. Walczyk Aye**
54 **J. Durand Aye**
55 **R. Duhaime NP**
56 **T. Tsantoulis Aye**
57 **R. Lapierre Aye**
58 **K. Judge Aye**
59 **J. Sullivan Aye**

60
61 **Vote in favor 7-0**

62
63 J. Sullivan sorry for the delay we were in non-public. In non-public we discussed the Town
64 Administrator going on vacation and following the rules of the charter and the contract with Mr. Garron
65 the motion made in Non-public was the following:

66
67 **J. Sullivan motioned to consent to the Town Administrator recommendation to designate Police**
68 **Chief Janet Bouchard as the Town of Hooksett, NH acting Town Administrator for the period of**
69 **time Town Administrator Andre L. Garron is unavailable to perform his duties Friday April 14,**
70 **2023 to April 21,2023; seconded by T. Tsantoulis.**

71
72 **Vote in favor 7-0**

73
74 **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

75
76 **Moment of silence for K. Judge Father Terry Judge.**

77
78 **AGENDA OVERVIEW Given by J. Sullivan.**

79
80 **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

81
82 **J. Sullivan opened the Public Hearing at 6:08**

83
84 **8.1 Public Hearing to accept the donation of the Donati Park Pedestrian Bridge structure valued**
85 **at \$100,000 from Macy's Industries of Hooksett, New Hampshire per RSA 31:95 e, II.**

86
87 N. Mercier- as a owner of a local business I feel it appropriate to donate where we can.

88
89 B. Thomas- it will be a steel bridge, it will have steel rails, it is better than what we have now. Also on
90 tonight's agenda is the footings for approval.

91
92 A. Walczyk- thank you again Mr. Mercier for coming forward. The bridge has been in disarray for some
93 time, and thank you for your patience in working with Parks n Rec.

94
95 B. Thomas- I think this could be done close to the end of May.

96
TC MINUTES

97 J. Durand- are these types of projects your company builds all the time? And does your company not
98 do footings?
99

100 N. Mercier- yes, we are a custom steel fabrication company, and we built one almost identical to this in
101 another town. We ask that the town's engineer review and approve the plans. No, we do not do
102 footings.
103

104 **SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

105

106 **9.1 Hooksett Municipal Employee - New Hire**

107

108 A. Garron- we have no new hires, but we have 3 employees leaving the town. Cameron Perkins,
109 William LaPorter, Steven Sanchez and Police Chief Janet Bouchard.
110

111 A. Garron read Chief Bouchard's letter of resignation.
112

113 J. Sullivan, T. Tsantoulis, A. Garron, and D. Ross all thanked Chief Bouchard for her time to Hooksett
114 and wished her the best in her new endeavors.
115

116 **PUBLIC INPUT**

117

118 M. Horn- I' m here tonight as a member of the Hooksett Kiwanis Club to inform you of the Community
119 Leaders Awards Dinner on May 9th. We had 20 nominations, Fire Chief was nominated and selected as
120 Municipal Employee. It will be at SNHU, tickets will be \$35, I invite you to come out and celebrate these
121 nominees.
122

123 **SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS**

124

125 **11.2 Annual Update from the Recycle & Transfer Advisory Committee - Ray Bonney, Chair**

126

127 R. Booney- gave an overview of what the committee has been discussing so far in their meetings.
128

129 D. Ross- has anyone thought to see what the trade is worth on the market vs the 25k trade.
130

131 R. Booney- I thought about keeping it as a backup.
132

133 B. Berthiaume- If you asked our mechanic, he said it is not worth it. It is in disrepair; we are limping it
134 through till the new truck comes in. It needs continuous maintenance.
135

136 R. Duhaime- When do we take delivery?
137

138 R. Booney- May the body is delivered.
139

140 J. Durand- The Fire Chief mentioned in the past a washing system, any idea if that will help?
141

142 B. Berthiaume- we have a washer that we can push under it. We are pushing the PM onto the drivers.
143 Right now we project a 10 year life expectancy on these trucks, maybe we do more like a 8 year plan
144 on these as they are expensive to maintain and fix.
145

146 **11.1 Approval of Easement/ Right of Way across Map 1, Lot 13 for Phase IV of Riverwalk Trail**

147
148 C. Robertson- We got the approval on the warrant article for phase 4. In order to establish the
149 connection to Allenstown, the Hooksett Riverwalk Trail runs through a lot owned by a private citizen,
150 Dick Anagnost (Map 1, Lot 13). This individual has agreed to grant an easement through his property.
151 The dimensions of the Right of Way is 66' x 220'. In order to finalize this agreement, it was necessary to
152 survey the property, mark the boundaries, and draft a formal easement evidencing the agreement.

153
154 ***D. Ross motioned to approve and accept the Easement/ROW across the property between the***
155 ***Town land and the Allenstown town line, Map 1 Lot 13, and authorize the Chair of the***
156 ***Conservation Commission to accept the Right of Way on behalf of the Town. Seconded by A.***
157 ***Walczyk.***

158
159 A. Walczyk- do you know when it will be done?
160
161 C. Robertson- hopefully by the end of next week.
162
163 D. Ross- were there any issues with the gas lines?
164
165 C. Robertson- that is another issue. On Friday they are going to go out and test to see where the gas
166 lines are.

167
168 ***Roll Call Vote #4***
169 ***A. Walczyk Aye***
170 ***R. Lapierre Aye***
171 ***D. Ross Aye***
172 ***R. Duhaime Aye***
173 ***J. Durand Aye***
174 ***K. Judge Aye***
175 ***T. Tsantoulis Aye***
176 ***D. Boutin Aye***
177 ***J. Sullivan Aye***

178
179 **Vote in favor 9-0**

180
181
182 **CONSENT AGENDA**

183
184 ***T. Tsantoulis motioned to accept the consent agenda 12.1 and 12.2 as presented; seconded by***
185 ***D. Boutin.***

186
187 **Vote in favor 9-0**

188
189 **12.1 \$2,000 check from HealthTrust to the Town of Hooksett for the 2023 town-wide wellness**
190 **program(s) per RSA 31:95-b, III (b).**

191
192 **12.2 Donation(s) to the Town of Hooksett for the 2023 Hooksett Volunteer Appreciation Dinner**
193 **per RSA 31:95-b III (b) and RSA 31:95-e II**

194
195 **NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS**

196

197 **J. Durand motioned to vacate the seat of Councilor David Ross due to excessive absences;**
198 **seconded by D. Ross.**

199

200 J. Durand- I'd like to thank D. Ross for the time he has served, and I don't think he can do the job
201 anymore and I think he'd like to go home and eat dinner.

202

203 J. Sullivan- under 3.2 in the charter there is guidance regarding attendance.

204

205 D. Ross- I'd like to thank the voters who did vote for me, and I am dory to let them down. I find it
206 impossible to do my job here and deal with the frustration and personal grief I have experienced here. I
207 feel this council has lost sight of what its duties are. We are a non-profit service corporation; it is owned
208 by the residents of Hooksett. When I hear statements like is it taxpayer money, of course it is taxpayer
209 money all the money in all our accounts is taxpayer money. This council at some point decided that this
210 is a development business and more interested in the big players. Money that we have that is their
211 money either given to them by the government or taxed. It breaks my heart to see people drinking
212 poisoned wells when we have money to provide them some sort of relief. I just can't take it anymore
213 and it causes me major anxiety being here.

214

215 R. Lapierre- based on the comments from councilor Ross, it sounds like he no longer wishes to sit on
216 the council. Is this the appropriate motion to make to vacate his seat or would he like to step down.

217

218 D. Ross- no let's have a roll call vote to see where everyone sits on this.

219

220 R. Lapierre- what game are we playing here, we just listened to a 3-minute rant on why you don't want
221 to serve, but you won't resign I don't understand this is not a game.

222

223 D. Ross- ye sit is it is the Jim Sullivan show with his side kick Timmy Tsantoulis.

224

225 J. Sullivan- Mr. Ross please do not ever question my dedication or any other councils for serving.

226

227 R. Duhaime- this is about serving our town.

228

229 J. Sullivan- there are no poisoned wells.

230

231 **Roll Call Vote #5**

232 ***T. Tsantoulis Aye***

233 ***D. Ross Aye***

234 ***R. Duhaime Aye***

235 ***A. Walczyk Nay***

236 ***R. Lapierre Nay***

237 ***K. Judge Nay***

238 ***J. Durand Aye***

239 ***D. Boutin Aye***

240 ***J. Sullivan Aye***

241

242 **Vote 6-3**

243

244 **BRIEF RECESS at 7:00 return from recess at 7:13**

245

246 J. Sullivan read the rules in which pertains to filling an vacancy of councilor.

247 OLD BUSINESS

248

249 15.1 2023 MS-232 Report of Appropriations Actually Voted totaling \$25,110,820.00.

250

251 *D. Boutin motioned to sign the "2023 MS-232 Report of Appropriations Actually Voted" totaling*
252 *\$25,110,820.00 seconded by T. Tsantoulis.*

253

254 **Roll Call Vote #6**

255 *J. Durand Aye*

256 *R. Lapierre Aye*

257 *K. Judge Aye*

258 *D. Boutin Aye*

259 *T. Tsantoulis Aye*

260 *A. Walczyk Aye*

261 *R. Duhaime Aye*

262 *J. Sullivan Aye*

263

264 *Vote in favor 8-0*

265

266 NEW BUSINESS

267

268 16.1 Budget Transfer #2023-03 in the amount of \$12,732.00 and #2023-04 in the amount of
269 \$19,358.00 from Fire-Rescue's budget to the Administration budget.

270

271 *R. Lapierre motioned to authorize the Chairman to sign Budget Transfer #2023-03 in the amount*
272 *of \$12,732.00 from Fire Rescue's budget to Administration's budget, Seconded by K. Judge.*

273

274 *Vote in favor 8-0*

275

276 *R. Lapierre motioned to authorize the Chairman to sign Budget Transfer #2023-04 in the amount*
277 *of \$19,358.00 from Fire Rescue's budget to Administration's budget seconded by D. Boutin.*

278

279 *Vote in favor 8-0*

280

281 16.2 Accept the donation of the Donati Park Pedestrian Bridge structure valued at \$100,000 from
282 Macy's Industries of Hooksett, New Hampshire per RSA 31:95 e, II.

283

284 *R. Lapierre motioned to waive the Town Council Rules of Procedure and vote on the same night*
285 *as a public hearing. Seconded by A. Walczyk.*

286

287 *Vote in favor 7-0*

288

289 *R. Lapierre motioned to accept the donation of the Donati Park Pedestrian Bridge structure*
290 *valued at \$100,000 from Macy's Industries of Hooksett, New Hampshire per RSA 31:95 e, II.*
291 *Seconded by T. Tsantoulis.*

292

293 *Vote in favor 7-0*

294

295 16.3 Donati Park Pedestrian Bridge Project - Award to the Lewco Company of Springfield, VT for
296 \$29,025.00.

297

298 ***T. Tsantoulis motioned to approve the award of the Donati Park Pedestrian Bridge Project and***
299 ***allow the Town Administrator to sign the contract with the Lewco Company for the bid price of***
300 ***\$29,025.00 and pay for the project from SB 401 Bridge Aid account; seconded by D. Boutin.***

301

302 T. Tsantoulis- I want to know why the big difference in all of the bids.

303

304 B. Thomas- we hired an engineer to look at this and.

305

306 A. Garron- the lowest bidder at \$29,025 met all the bid requirements and was verified by the Engineer.

307

308 A. Walczyk- what stands out to me, one of the bids had \$25k for the removal of the bridge, that seems
309 very high for me. If you removed the cost of the bridge then their bids come close to being competitive.

310

311 J. Durand- can we have town staff remove the bridge?

312

313 A. Garron- the cost of removal from town staff was not addressed.

314

315 J. Durand- this is why we are here to save the town money; it should have been looked at, that bridge
316 can easily be removed by staff, it is not that big of a deal to remove.

317

318 ***J. Durand motioned to table this discussion so we can see if we are able to remove the bridge***
319 ***ourselves. Seconded by D. Boutin.***

320

321 K. Judge- in the bid it says the removal is \$1,000 so we need to see if it will cost us.

322

323 B. Thomas- yeah we can look at saving \$1,000 on the removal but I don't think we have staff that has
324 expertise to do the fittings.

325

326 **Roll Call Vote #7**

327 ***K. Judge Nay***

328 ***R. Lapierre Nay***

329 ***R. Duhaime Aye***

330 ***A. Walczyk Nay***

331 ***J. Durand Aye***

332 ***T. Tsantoulis Aye***

333 ***D. Boutin Aye***

334 ***J. Sullivan Aye***

335

336 ***Vote in favor 5-3***

337

338 R. Lapierre- point of clarification J. Durand's motion was just for the removal of the bridge and not the
339 footings.

340

341 ***16.4 Sherwood Drive Pipe Lining - Award to the Vortex Company of Livermore, Maine for***
342 ***\$19,790.00.***

343

344 ***A. Walczyk motioned to approve the award of the Sherwood Drive Pipe Lining and allow the***
345 ***Town Administrator to sign the contract with the Vortex Company for the bid price of \$19,790.00***

346 **and pay for the project from the Public Works Drainage Upgrade account; seconded by K.**
347 **Judge.**

348
349 T. Tsantoulis- what is the plan for oversight?
350
351 B. Thomas- yes, we always have oversight, and i want to point out that this is for the lining of the sink
352 hole.

353
354 **Roll Call Vote #8**
355 **R. Lapierre Aye**
356 **R. Duhaime Aye**
357 **T. Tsantoulis Aye**
358 **A. Walczyk Aye**
359 **J. Durand Aye**
360 **D. Boutin Aye**
361 **K. Judge Aye**
362 **J. Sullivan Aye**

363
364 **Vote in favor 8-0**

365 366 **16.5 Roadway Crack Sealing Bid Acceptance**

367
368 **R. Lapierre motioned to waive our procurement rules and approve and consent to award the**
369 **Roadway Crack Sealing bid to Superior Sealcoat, Inc. for \$71,600.00 to be funded out of the**
370 **current FY 2022-2023 budget; seconded by D. Boutin.**

371
372 T. Tsantoulis- we've used this vendor in the past.

373
374 B. Berthiaume- I do think you are correct.

375
376 R. Duhaime- what roads are they going to do.

377
378 B. Berthiaume- it depends on gallons. We gave them a priority list to do first. We started with Hackett
379 Hill and went down from there. The crack sealing will help extend the life of that road. I don't know if we
380 will get to all of these roads.

381
382 J. Sullivan- if this 71k is not enough to cover this list, will you be coming back?

383
384 B. Berthiaume- yes, I will be coming back, I want to keep up with this plan and the list. We are trying to
385 extend road life and get the most out of our money.

386
387 **Roll Call Vote #9**
388 **J. Durand Aye**
389 **D. Boutin Aye**
390 **R. Duhaime Aye**
391 **K. Judge Aye**
392 **A. Walczyk Aye**
393 **T. Tsantoulis Aye**
394 **R. Lapierre Aye**
395 **J. Sullivan Aye**

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Vote in Favor 8-0

16.6 Proposed Amendment to Roadway Excavation Ordinance # 00-13

R. Lapierre motioned to schedule a Public Hearing at the next Town Council meeting to discuss the proposed amendments to the current Roadway Excavation Ordinance #00-13; seconded by D. Boutin.

Vote in favor 8-0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

T. Tsantoulis motioned to approve the public minutes of March 22, 2023; seconded by D. Boutin.

Vote in Favor 7-0

T. Tsantoulis motioned to approve the non-public minutes of March 22, 2023; seconded D. Boutin.

Vote in Favor 7-0

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- JSJ Auction Results-Approx. 55-60 in attendance @ Underhill Elementary School. Everything that JSJ said would happen did. We had 2 parcels that we did not get what was owed on back taxes. But they did sell and we now have them back on the tax roll. In total taxes owed was \$402,007.16 and final bid amounts were \$428,000.00.

J. Durand- if the bid was over what was owed do we have to give that excess back to the prior owner?

A. Garron- Yes, we are only allowed to retain what is owed and any other costs associated to the parcel.

J. Sullivan- the interpleader would be that if we cannot find the aires after 3 years then the town gets rights to get those excess funds.

Kim- it is a new law and has not had time to get to that point, so I will get clarification.

- Hooksett Fire Rescue Badge Pinning Ceremony-Safety Center-4pm- I will be attending that.
- Volunteer Appreciation Night- April 13, 2023, at Hooksett Library 5:30-7:30 Tsantoulis and Sullivan will be there in attendance.
- Safety Center Roof RFP due April 25, 2023. When the rain caused issues at the safety center the roofing needed to be repaired, that project is advancing.
- Congrats to Tom Bartula for achieving his NH master's roads scholar program through UNT2.
- Inter-Municipal Agreement with Allentown for Car Registrations- will only take place when each town has emergency closures. We are looking forward to having that coverage when needed. The Allentown BOS has approved this already.

D. Boutin motioned to enter into an Intermunicipal Agreement with the Town of Allentown where each Town's Motor Vehicle Department may provide coverage for the other Town during

447 **periods of emergency office closure. Effective upon the signing of the agreement. Approved by**
448 **Allenstown BOS on March 20, 2023; seconded by A. Walczyk.**

449
450 **Vote in favor 8-0**

451
452 A. Walczyk- how will this work?

453
454 Kim- this will only be for when the TC has to close due to illness, or extended leave, or vacation. And
455 same for them. It wouldn't be for a storm or a 1-day closure.

456
457 T. Tsantoulis- is the DMV software interchangeable so that there is no cost to do this.

458
459 Kim- yes, the software is the same, we can access their database.

- 460
- 461 • Fish ladder project update- Start date May 2, 2023- they are hoping to conclude by October of
 - 462 this year.
 - 463 • Employee Appreciation- I thank everyone for a successful Employee Appreciation Day. TH
 - 464 employees were successful in winning family feud.
 - 465 • Spring Wellness Program- looking to kick that off soon the program is Lighten up.
- 466

467 D. Fitzpatrick- we had 80 employees come to the event. Councilors participated and delivered food.
468 Thank you to all the wellness coordinators. Our wellness dollars that you accepted today will be used
469 for another program to make aware to the employee's wellness in all aspects of their lives not just
470 nutritional.

471
472 A. Walczyk- thank you to Donna for planning such a great event.

473
474 **TOWN COUNCIL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

475
476 K. Judge- Splash pad and is that coming back?

477
478 R. Duhaime- what about Pinnacle Park are they coming back to present? And what about the lighting at
479 Lilac Bridge?

480
481 **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS AND CORRESPONDENCE- None**

482
483 **SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**

484
485 A. Walczyk- for CC we are still looking to get cameras at Hedge Pond, and a beautify Hooksett event
486 on earth day April 22nd and to help clean up some of the parks including Clay Pond.

487
488 R. Lapierre- We reconvened the ARPA sub committee and we need a 3rd member, and we meet Friday
489 mornings but not every Friday morning.

490
491 K. Judge volunteered to sit on the committee.

492
493 R. Duhaime- we had a ZB meeting last night, we had 2 ADU being added. We also voted on adding
494 alternates.

495
496 K. Judge- I want to thank the Hooksett employees and council for their support during the passing of
497 my father.

498
499 **PUBLIC INPUT- NONE**
500
501 **NON-PUBLIC SESSION NH RSA 91-A:3 II**
502
503 ***J. Sullivan motioned to enter NON-PUBLIC SESSION #1 NH RSA 91-A:3 II I.; seconded by T.***
504 ***Tsantoulis.***
505 *(I) Consideration of legal advice provided by legal counsel, either in writing or orally, to one or more members of the public*
506 *body, even where legal counsel is not present.*
507
508 **Roll Call Vote #10**
509 ***K. Judge Aye***
510 ***T. Tsantoulis Aye***
511 ***R. Lapierre Aye***
512 ***D. Boutin Aye***
513 ***J. Durand Nay***
514 ***A. Walczyk Aye***
515 ***R. Duhaime Aye***
516 ***J. Sullivan Aye***
517
518 ***Vote in favor 7-1***
519
520 ***J. Sullivan motioned to leave non-public session of April 12, 2023, at 8:51 pm; seconded by T.***
521 ***Tsantoulis***
522
523 ***Vote in favor 8-0***
524
525 ***J. Sullivan motioned to seal the minutes of April 12, 2023; seconded by T. Tsantoulis.***
526
527 **Roll Call #11**
528 ***T. Tsantoulis Aye***
529 ***R. Lapierre Aye***
530 ***J. Durand Aye***
531 ***K. Judge Aye***
532 ***A. Walczyk Aye***
533 ***R. Duhaime Aye***
534 ***D. Boutin Aye***
535 ***J. Sullivan Aye***
536
537 ***Vote in favor 8-0***
538
539 **ADJOURNMENT**
540
541 ***J. Sullivan motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 pm. Seconded by D. Boutin.***
542
543 ***All in favor 8-0***
544
545 *Respectfully submitted,*
546
547 *Alicia Jipson*

548
549 Alicia Jipson
550 Recording Clerk