

1
2 Town of Hookset
3 Town Council Meeting Minutes
4 Wednesday, October 11, 2023

5 The Hooksett Town Council met on Wednesday, October 11, 2023, at 6:00 pm in the
6 Hooksett Municipal Building.

7 **CALL TO ORDER**

8 Chair Tsantoulis called the meeting of 13 Sep 2023 to order at 6:00 pm.

9 **PROOF OF POSTING**

10 Town Administrator, Andre Garron provided proof of posting.

11 **ROLL CALL**

12 Councilor James Sullivan, Councilor Randall Lapierre, Councilor Roger Duhaime,
13 Councilor Timothy Tsantoulis, Councilor Jodi Pinard, Councilor Alex Walczyk, Councilor
14 Keith Judge, and Councilor John Durand (arrived at 7:15 left at 8:19)

15 **Absent:** Councilor David Boutin.

16 **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

17 **AGENDA OVERVIEW**

18 **SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

19 **7.1. Phil Arnone, Parks & Recreation & Cemetery Crew Chief, Retirement - 20**
20 **years Dedicated Service.**

21 T. Tsantoulis- gave a brief biography of Phil Arnone and recognized him for his 20 years
22 of service reading the following: We are here tonight for a special recognition for Phil
23 Arnone who is our Crew Chief for the Public Works - Parks, Recreation, & Cemetery
24 Division and retiring after 20 years of dedicated service with Hooksett. Phil's career path
25 past and present:

- 26
- 27 • Private Officer First Class
 - 28 • Tractor Trailer Operator
 - 29 • Construction Site Superintendent
 - 30 • Maintenance Manager for Cooking Oil Company
 - 31 • Self-employment – Landscaping Company
 - 32 • 20 yrs+ with Town of Hooksett PW

33 Phil is a long-time resident of NH. He has three children, a son Philip and twin
34 daughters Rebecca and Melissa. On October 16, 2023, Phil will make his final PW
35 commute. You will then shed off his cold weather attire to replace with shorts, t-shirts
36 and take in the Florida sunshine for golf and R&R poolside "It's 5 O'clock Somewhere"

37 Phil your incredible work has left an amazing legacy for those following in your
38 footsteps. Congratulations on your retirement.

39 **7.2. Hooksett Municipal Employee - New Hire**

40 A. Garron- Bryan Rembis and Micah Peterson start date 10/23/2023 both new members
41 in the Police Department. We do have a few employees leaving. Phil Arnone, PW
42 Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Division Crew Chief – retirement October 2023, and
43 Wendy Baker, Administration Executive Assistant resignation 10/20/2023.

44 **PUBLIC INPUT - None**

45 **SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS**

46 **9.2. Leslie Madison, Heritage Commission - Hooksett History Book**

47 L. Madison- the Town earmarked \$75,000 to update the History Book by June 30th,
48 2027. The process started mid-2023. We are ready to hire an author. It was Melissa
49 Moore that was recommended to us and we agree that she is the best one to do the job
50 as she has a special niche in this field, she has just completed Loundon's history book. I
51 do not have other bis or recommendations for you. We are asking that you waive the 3
52 bid requirement and approve Melissa Moore so we can start on the project. She is
53 asking for \$42,000 to write the book and manage the entire project. On top of that
54 \$1,000 for subscriptions like adobe, ancestry.com and newspapaer.com. Christine said
55 she will need insurance. Melissa has sent me quotes on insurance, and I think that we
56 should pay that, as \$42,000 is a really good deal to write a book from start to finish.

57 J. Sullivan- this will be a great project and worthy of Hooksett and I thank the citizens of
58 Hooksett for approving this project.

59 J. Sullivan- would she be protected under our insurance?

60 C. Tewksbury- our insurance carrier required that she have additional insurance as she
61 is not an employee, and she is a paid contractor.

62 ***J. Sullivan motioned to waive the requirements for bids since it is a small niche of***
63 ***authors who can take on a project such as this; seconded by R. Lapierre.***

64 ***Vote in favor 7-0***

65 ***J. Sullivan motioned to authorize the Town Administrator to enter into a contract***
66 ***with Melissa Moore to author the Hooksett History Book with funds received from***
67 ***the 2022 Warrant Article; seconded by R. Lapierre.***

68 **Roll Call Vote #2**

69 ***R. Duhaime Aye***

70 ***J Durand NP***

71 ***J. Pinard Aye***

72 ***R. Lapierre Aye***

73 **A. Walczyk Aye**
74 **D. Boutin NP**
75 **K. Judge Aye**
76 **J. Sullivan Aye**
77 **T. Tsantoulis Aye**

78
79 **Vote in favor 7-0**

80 **9.4. Martins Ferry Road/North River Road Intersection Update and Design**
81 **Alternatives Presentation.**

82 S. Hill Engineer for GM 2- I brought 2 plans showing 2 different alternatives, and for you
83 to choose which one is best for the town moving forward. Alternative 1 is a 25-mph
84 design. 30 mph was going to greatly increase your impact. The bridge will be the same
85 on both alternatives, it will be of a timber design. Alternative 2 we tightened this up a bit,
86 has a radius of 100 ft, bridge is the same, here you will have less roadway, both alts you
87 will see guardrail. We talked with the state and fish and game about redoing the stream
88 and they were excited about this project, and it is getting restored back to the
89 resemblance of a stream. Bruce has reached out to SNHU, and they are supportive of
90 the alternatives, and they preferred alt 2. It is my suggestion that the Town also go with
91 alternate 2.

92 To see more on the alternatives presented with color pictures see the town website.

93 R. Duhaime- is the box truck the same as a school bus? And do we have an estimate
94 of alt 1 and 2?

95 S. Hill- I think a box truck is shorter. Right now, we haven't run any estimates since we
96 are in a preliminary estimate, I'd say they are both going to be close to the same price
97 at around 1.5 million and a lot will depend on a road closure vs phase construction.

98 J. Sullivan- I like that you took into consideration the neighbors and their input. I think it
99 makes sense to do this.

100 T. Tsantoulis- can you elaborate more on the timber frame of the bridge.

101 S. Hill- they will be a weather impervious laminated timber, and that establishes the
102 decking then on top of that you have your pavement. The railings will also be timber.
103 From the experience if you maintain it every year or 2 it will keep its color longer.

104 T. Tsantoulis- what is the general feeling on proposal 2 by show of hands?

105 **J. Sullivan motioned to approve the selected alternative #2 as presented today;**
106 **seconded by A. Walczyk.**

107 **Roll Call Vote #3**

108 **D. Boutin NP**
109 **J. Pinard Aye**

110 **A. Walczyk Aye**
111 **J. Durand NP**
112 **R. Duhaime Aye**
113 **J. Sullivan Aye**
114 **R. Lapierre Aye**
115 **K. Judge Aye**
116 **T. Tsantoulis Aye**

117
118 **Vote in favor 7-0**

119
120 R. Lapierre- I want to make clear that we are approving an option for further developing
121 and costing and not approving a project.

122 **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

123 A. Garron- I'd like to invite our town assessor J. Duhamel up to discuss the evaluation
124 that is taken place and some of the questions that have come up.

125 J. Duhamel- letters were in mailboxes on Saturday, and calls started for appointments
126 for the hearings. If they are still not satisfied with the hearings, they then can file for an
127 abatement after the 1st tax bill is sent in December. No one is losing their appeal rights
128 everything is still the same as it is every year.

129 J. Sullivan- I've seen a lot of comments and concerns and a lot of miss information.
130 Please reconfirm that the reassessment of the homes will still be done in-house.

131 J. Duhamel- Vision did the commercial and will assist in the hearings and will handle the
132 appeals on the commercial side, and a separate company did the utilities.

133 J. Duhamel- we used qualified sales in Hooksett from April 1, 2022, through March 31,
134 2023. We take into consideration age. We use the cost approach. Which is the
135 replacement cost new minus depreciation. This was a state law required 5-year update.
136 The ratio should be between 90 and 110, we were at 62%, we are at 102% now.

137 T. Tsantoulis- this is required throughout the state, all towns in NH are going through
138 this. When I talked to homeowners, they had not fully read the letter given, they just
139 went to the numbers. Southern NH has seen a great big increase in home values, but
140 we need to see the rest of the process play out, and there is still more time for an
141 appeal process.

142 A. Garron- the application you see in front of you from Ridgeback was submitted to the
143 Planning Board. It was brought forth by the applicant as the PB had not made a
144 decision by the 65 day mark. But it was later found out that the applicants lawyer waived
145 the 65-day timeline, so the application is a moot point now.

146 We touched on Martins Ferry Rd and the NHDOT Project for the Widening of Hooksett
147 Road- moved from 2027 to 2029. Reduces the conflict with the Rt. 3a/Hackett Hill
148 Project scheduled for 2026 construction. The planning will still continue.

149 I received an email from Kerry Hyde Old Home Day Budget Deficit \$4,470.90-See email
150 message from Chair of OHD Committee below read into record by A. Garron.

151 Hello Mr. Garron,

152 We, the Hooksett Old Home Day Committee, the volunteers and town employees,
153 appreciate all the work put into Hooksett Old Home Day. The event would not be
154 possible without us all working together. As previously we have not been successful
155 with sponsors. We feel this is a repercussion of Covid. We hope, in 2024 we will see a
156 difference. With that we did have to cancel some entertainment and amusements
157 offered to reduce our expenses. I feel the 2023 event was still a big success. We saw
158 many attending from all around New Hampshire and even Massachusetts, unlike years
159 past. We did still fall short unfortunately. With the change from Saturday to Sunday,
160 definitely a good decision, we had 25% of registered vendors who did not attend. We
161 are asking the town to alleviate this short fall of \$4,470.90. Our expenses this year:
162 Entertainment \$5,250- reduced by \$1,500, Amusements \$4,305 - reduced by \$650,
163 Supplies \$675, Insurance \$1,185.90, Buses \$1,620, Total expenses \$13,035.90,
164 Vendor Fees collected \$3,565, Sponsors \$5,000 (Town of Hooksett), Total \$8,565.
165 Difference of \$4,470.90 requested from the Town of Hooksett. We are, unfortunately
166 unable to attend a council meeting, would you please request this so we may clear up
167 the final balances. Thank you for supporting Hooksett Old Home Day! We look forward
168 to next year; the third Saturday in September, Saturday September 21, 2024.

169 J. Sullivan- OHD is a town tradition going back to the early 80's and is an important
170 town event. A couple of years the committee has come short. I don't want to deny it, but
171 I want to have a way of looking at what is going on. I don't think the full cost is reflected
172 in this letter. I heard the outlay for the town to support this cause is more than the
173 \$15,00. It looks like they had little to non-sponsors, and I don't think that shows it. It
174 looks like moving it to Sunday saved us some money. I just don't want to be caught off
175 guard each year after the event without having a little bit more understanding of the
176 process if there is a shortfall and why. I don't think the full extent of the town's costs are
177 reflected in this letter.

178 R. Duhaime- where will this shortfall come from?

179 A. Garron- well since I have been here this is the 3rd request for additional funding after
180 a shortfall has occurred. We will look to see where we can pull the money. Next year
181 we increased it from \$5,000 to \$10,500, and if we add the \$4,470 to the \$5,000 that we
182 have in the budget we are looking at \$9,470, that has been a concern of the Councils,
183 and ask them to better plan and see what more can be done on their part. I hate to be a
184 scrooge here as well, but you do charge me with looking at the budget and keeping it in

185 line. I can relay the message back to the chair of the OHD committee to have them get
186 us a better overall cost and fundraising of the event.

187 J. Sullivan- we did approve next year's budget for \$10,500 and also approved a firework
188 budget of \$10,000.

189 R. Duhaime- Andre will this come out of your budget, and do you need our approval?

190 A. Garron- yes, if you approve this it will come out of my budget, and I will have to find
191 the money in my budget somewhere.

192 T. Tsantoulis- I think they should come in and speak with us, and we need to find a way
193 to make this a more self-sustaining event. We should come up with ideas on how to do
194 more fundraising.

195 ***R. Duhaime motioned to authorize the overage expenditure to cover the expenses***
196 ***for Old Home Day in the amount of \$4,470.90, seconded by K. Judge.***

197 **Roll Call Vote #4**

198 ***A. Walczyk Aye***

199 ***R. Lapierre Nay***

200 ***J. Pinard Nay***

201 ***R. Duhaime Aye***

202 ***J. Durand NP***

203 ***K. Judge Aye***

204 ***J. Sullivan Abstained wants more info***

205 ***D. Boutin NP***

206 ***T. Tsantoulis Aye***

207

208 ***Vote in favor 4-2***

209 R. Duhaime- this is not a lot of money; this is a highly attended event, especially for the
210 young people in this town. we don't have a lot of events, we don't have a High School
211 and we save a lot of money, we have a lot of volunteers and I think this is something
212 that we should support in this town.

213 K. Judge- I agree with the councilor. I know other towns that do get a firework sponsor
214 for the event.

215 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

216 Joleen C Chambord 46 Gary Ave- i have a question for Andre, you mentioned 65 days,
217 can you tell me when that end date was?

218 A. Garron- no I cannot they didn't put an end date, when they agreed to extend the 65-
219 day clock on August 7th it did not have an end date on that.

220 Joleen C Chambord 46 Gary Ave- I was just here doing some research today. I did write
221 to Andre recently and I am on the agenda in the next couple weeks I am not prepared to
222 share anymore today. I am against the bus depot behind us. I've been following,
223 listening, and making connections.

224 **CONSENT AGENDA**

225 Councilor J. Durand arrived at 7:15 pm

226 ***J. Sullivan motioned to approve the consent agenda 10.1 through 10.5 as***
227 ***presented; seconded by A. Walczyk.***

228 ***Vote in favor 7-1***

229 **10.1. Landscape Surety Release of \$14,455.00 for Bluebird Storage Building 1 at 7**
230 **College Park Drive.**

231 **10.2. Landscape Surety Release of \$25,000 – G.E. Aviation Plant 2 - Lehoux Drive**
232 **(Address 30 Industrial Park Drive).**

233 **10.3. Northeast Credit Union, 354 Londonderry Turnpike- Landscape Bond**
234 **Release of \$20,251.68.**

235 **10.4. University Apartments off Blackwater Drive - Landscape Bond Release of**
236 **\$192,627.**

237 **10.5. To accept 2 donations from Marilyn Pelletier for the Heritage Commission**
238 **towards the 2023 Light Up the Village event in the amount of \$1,500 per RSA**
239 **31:95-b, III (b).**

240 **OLD BUSINESS**

241 **13.1. FY 2024-25 Budget and Warrant Articles**

242 C. Tewksbury- we have several warrant articles, these 9 are your warrant articles that
243 you have control over. We wanted to get them in front of you to answer any questions.
244 We need 2 motions, 1 to recommend the particular article, and then who will 1st and 2nd
245 at the deliberative session. The 1st article is not new, we have had it on the warrant
246 before, we just increased the amount by \$50,000 to bring it to \$250,000 due to the
247 increase in costs. If we do not go over them now, we will have to revisit them in the
248 future.

249 ***R. Lapierre moved to recommend the DPW vehicles Capital Reserve Fund warrant***
250 ***article in the amount of \$250,000; seconded by A. Walczyk.***

251

252 **Roll Call Vote #5**
253 **J. Sullivan Aye**
254 **J. Pinard Aye**
255 **R. Duhaime Aye**
256 **A. Walczyk Aye**
257 **R. Lapierre Aye**
258 **K. Judge Aye**
259 **J. Durand Nay**
260 **D. Boutin NP**
261 **T. Tsantoulis Aye**

262
263 **Vote in favor 7-1**

264 R. Lapierre- I think it's been on the ballot for a long time and increasing it is not
265 unreasonable.

266 J. Sullivan- what is the plan on the next purchase if anything?

267 x- we are planning on replacing D105 which is a non CDL truck, and won't be as much
268 as a financial burden, and we do have plans for a plow truck in the year 25-26.

269 A. Walczyk will 1st and T. Tsantoulis will 2nd at the deliberative session.

270 C. Tewksbury- the next one is \$200,000 for the town building maintenance CRF, there is
271 no change to this warrant article.

272 **J. Sullivan moved to recommend the article Capital Reserve Funding – DPW in**
273 **the amount of \$200,000 be placed on the ballot; seconded by J. Pinard.**

274 **Roll Call Vote #6**
275 **J. Durand Aye**
276 **R. Lapierre Aye**
277 **K. Judge Aye**
278 **D. Boutin NP**
279 **J. Pinard Aye**
280 **J. Sullivan Aye**
281 **A. Walczyk Aye**
282 **R. Duhaime Aye**
283 **T. Tsantoulis Aye**

284
285 **Vote in favor 8-0**

286
287 J. Sullivan will 1st and J. Pinard will 2nd at the deliberative session.

288 C. Tewksbury- the next one is a new request, a semi-tractor without a trailer coming out
289 of the solid waste special revenue fund.

290 ***J. Sullivan moved to recommend the article to purchase a semi-tractor without a***
291 ***trailer coming out of the Solid Waste Special Revenue Fund in the amount of***
292 ***\$185,000 be placed on the ballot; seconded by A. Walczyk.***

293 **Roll Call Vote #7**

294 ***J. Pinard Aye***
295 ***K. Judge Aye***
296 ***R. Lapierre Aye***
297 ***R. Duhaime Aye***
298 ***A. Walczyk Aye***
299 ***J. Durand Aye***
300 ***J. Sullivan Aye***
301 ***D. Boutin NP***
302 ***T. Tsantoulis Aye***

303

304 ***Vote in favor 8-0***

305

306 T. Tsantoulis will 1st and A. Walczyk will 2nd at the deliberative session.

307 ***J. Pinard moved to recommend the article to add \$100,000 to the Drainage***
308 ***Upgrades Capital Reserve Fund in the amount of \$100,000; seconded by R.***
309 ***Lapierre.***

310

311 **Roll Call Vote #8**

312 ***R. Lapierre Aye***
313 ***R. Duhaime Aye***
314 ***J. Sullivan Aye***
315 ***A. Walczyk Aye***
316 ***J. Durand Aye***
317 ***J. Pinard Aye***
318 ***D. Boutin NP***
319 ***K. Judge Aye***
320 ***T. Tsantoulis Aye***

321

322 ***Vote in favor 8-0***

323

324 T. Tsantoulis will 1st and J. Pinard will 2nd at the deliberative session.

325 C. Tewksbury- the next article is for the salary and benefits of a new hire in the Parks &
326 Recreation, Cemetery Division of Public Works in the amount of \$69,539. This was not
327 supported by the Town Administrator, and I can let him explain why.

328 A. Garron- the reason why I didn't support it, was that I wanted to see the supporting
329 information to justify the amount for what he is looking for.

330 ***J. Pinard moved to recommend and place on the ballot \$69,539.00 for salary and***
331 ***benefits to hire one (1) full-time Truck Driver/Laborer in the Parks, Recreation &***
332 ***Cemetery Division of Public Works; seconded by A. Walczyk.***

333 **Roll Call Vote #9**

334 ***J. Durand Aye***

335 ***D. Boutin NP***

336 ***J. Pinard Nay***

337 ***R. Duhaime Nay***

338 ***K. Judge Abstained conflict of interest***

339 ***A. Walczyk Aye***

340 ***J. Sullivan Nay***

341 ***R. Lapierre Nay***

342 ***T. Tsantoulis Nay***

343

344 **Vote fails 2-5-1**

345 J. Pinard- the 2 seasonal part time positions they aren't union correct? And you would
346 be eliminating them? And this would help for overtime?

347 B. Berthiaume- in theory yes, we have OT for some of the other special events, but we
348 should be able to tackle more of the town.

349 J. Durand- you are always short of help, so this would make sense to get another
350 person.

351 B. Berthiaume- this is a higher paying job, and we think we will attract and retain more
352 applicants, the 2 part-time positions have been unfilled for many years. Having the truck
353 driver laborer gives us more flexibility to the crews.

354 R. Duhaime- Phil is retiring, do you want to wait to fill that position first?

355 B. Berthiaume- we hope to have Phil's position filled before this is approved at the Town
356 Meeting.

357 C. Tewksbury- the next one is (1) full-time laborer in the Recycling & Transfer Division of
358 Public Works and this is supported by the TA.

359 A. Garron- I agree that a person is needed here, and this job is being managed by a
360 variety of workers up there and I know that a lot is asked from that particular crew, and I
361 think this will help that crew.

362 ***R. Lapierre moved to recommend and place on the ballot the sum of \$55,598 for***
363 ***salary and benefits to hire one (1) full-time laborer in the Recycling & Transfer***
364 ***Division of Public Works; seconded by J. Pinard.***

365 **Roll Call Vote #10**

366 ***K. Judge Abstained conflict of interest***

367 **J. Sullivan Aye**
368 **R. Lapierre Aye**
369 **J. Pinard Aye**
370 **D. Boutin NP**
371 **J. Durand Nay**
372 **A. Walczyk Nay**
373 **R. Duhaime Aye**
374 **T. Tsantoulis Aye**

375
376 **Vote in favor 5-2-1**

377 J. Sullivan will 1st and J. Pinard will 2nd at the deliberative session.

378 C. Tewksbury- the next one is a new article for \$55,000.00 for the engineering and
379 design of the Transfer Station's scale house replacement, with said funds to come from
380 the Solid Waste Special Revenue Fund.

381 **A. Walczyk moved to recommend and place on the ballot \$55,000.00 for the**
382 **engineering and design of the Transfer Station's scale house replacement, with**
383 **said funds to come from the Solid Waste Special Revenue Fund; seconded by R.**
384 **Lapierre.**

385 **Roll Call #11**

386 **J. Sullivan Aye**
387 **R. Lapierre Aye**
388 **J. Durand Aye**
389 **J. Pinard Aye**
390 **K. Judge Aye**
391 **A. Walczyk Aye**
392 **R. Duhaime Aye**
393 **D. Boutin NP**
394 **T. Tsantoulis Aye**

395
396 **Vote in favor 8-0**

397
398 R. Lapierre will 1st and K. Judge will 2nd at the deliberative session.

399 **R. Lapierre moved to recommend and place on the ballot the sum of \$50,000.00 to**
400 **be added to the Parks & Recreation Facilities Development Capital Reserve Fund;**
401 **seconded by A. Walczyk.**

402 **Roll Call Vote #12**

403 **D. Boutin NP**
404 **A. Walczyk Aye**
405 **J. Durand Aye**
406 **J. Pinard Aye**

407 **K. Judge Aye**
408 **R. Lapierre Aye**
409 **J. Sullivan Nay**
410 **R. Duhaime Aye**
411 **T. Tsantoulis Aye**

412
413 **Vote in favor 7-1**

414
415 R. Duhaime will 1st and T. Tsantoulis will 2nd at the deliberative session.

416 R. Lapierre- is that enough?

417 C. Tewksbury- it has been at \$25,000 for many years and the council increased it last
418 year or the year before to \$50,000.

419 **A. Walczyk moved to recommend and place on the ballot the sum of \$30,000.00 to**
420 **be added to the Automated Collection Equipment Capital Reserve; seconded by**
421 **R. Lapierre.**

422 **Roll Call Vote #13**

423 **K. Judge Aye**
424 **D. Boutin NP**
425 **J. Sullivan Aye**
426 **R. Lapierre Aye**
427 **A. Walczyk Aye**
428 **R. Duhaime Aye**
429 **J. Durand Aye**
430 **J. Pinard Aye**
431 **T. Tsantoulis Aye**

432
433 **Vote in favor 8-0**

434
435 A. Walczyk will 1st and K. Judge will 2nd at the deliberative session.

436 A. Walczyk- is this going to be enough?

437 C. Tewksbury- this account was established for a number of years at that rate and it was
438 never intended to fully replace the auto trucks, it was meant to supplement the
439 expenses.

440 **NEW BUSINESS**

441 **14.1. Town of Hooksett Municipal Medical Insurance Opt Out Stipend - Proposal**
442 **for Increase as a Tiered Plan.**

443 **J. Sullivan motioned to approve the medical opt out stipend increase as a tiered**
444 **plan effective January 1, 2024: single \$5,000, 2-person \$7,500 and Family \$10,000;**
445 **seconded by A. Walczyk.**

446 **Roll Call Vote #14**

447 ***R. Duhaime Aye***

448 ***J Durand Nay***

449 ***J. Pinard Aye***

450 ***R. Lapierre Aye***

451 ***A. Walczyk Aye***

452 ***D. Boutin NP***

453 ***K. Judge Aye***

454 ***J. Sullivan Aye***

455 ***T. Tsantoulis Nay***

456

457 ***Vote in favor 6-2***

458

459 J. Sullivan- this makes sense to me; it is a savings to the town and a benefit to the
460 employee.

461

462 D. Fitzpatrick- this time we are only bringing up the opt out for medical. The last time we
463 did this increase was in 2015. This will take place in the 2024 plan year. We are looking
464 at the comments from finance on the cost savings. On average we have had 13 take the
465 opt out, today we have 9. We are also looking at having this as a town wide initiative for
466 all employees.

467 J. Pinard- in Hooksett we are in the middle of the road. No matter what there is a
468 savings across the board for offering this, I fully support this. I don't see it having a
469 negative impact, and it would be townwide.

470 D. Fitzpatrick- we also verify that they have the appropriate coverage. I check the
471 background on this to make sure they are qualified. If this is approved today, we will do
472 a MOU with the Union and we are currently working on new contracts and that language
473 will be in those contracts.

474 A. Garron- we looked at other communities and they were at about 1/3 of the cost, and
475 it is still a savings if employees move and take the opt out.

476 J. Durand- I think we need to address what went on. We had 2 very qualified candidates
477 to replace District 5, we always complain people don't step up and volunteer, we get 2
478 volunteers and you just poo poo them away. So how many people do you think are
479 going to volunteer if that keeps happening?

480 T. Tsantoulis- the vote of the council is what makes it what it is.

481 J. Durand- Chair I wasn't allowed to vote because of you.

482 T. Tsantoulis- we are not going to reiterate that again.
483 R. Duhaime- are we going to send letters to these individuals, to those that showed
484 interest and let them know the situations and what happened?
485 J. Durand- they were sent emails, and the email was not even truthful.
486 T. Tsantoulis- they were sent an email by staff explaining the situation.
487 J. Durand left at 8:19.

488 5 Minute Recess

489 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

490 ***A. Walczyk motioned to approve the public minutes of September 20, 2023;***
491 ***seconded by J. Sullivan.***

492 ***Vote in favor 6-0***

493 ***J. Sullivan motioned to approve the public minutes of September 27, 2023;***
494 ***seconded by R. Lapierre.***

495 ***R. Lapierre- in the public section it should be Joann not Joan.***

496 ***Vote in favor 6-0***

497 **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

498 J. Sullivan- I received a letter from an attendee for the over 80's banquet. She thanked
499 the council for the invitation and thanked the town for the celebration.

500 **SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**

501 R. Duhaime- on the Zoning Board there were 7 applicants, and the ZB did a great job.

502 T. Tsantoulis- the Hooksett Youth Achievers, we have not had a nomination in quite
503 some time. We'd love to see more nominations and our youth recognized.

504 A. Walczyk- the bailer at the recycling center has been serviced adding a few years of
505 life in it. The new truck is on its way and the sliding gates are going to be installed in a
506 few weeks, per DES suggestions. And at Park and Rec we are recommending adding
507 asphalt walkway to the pavilion, the paver situation keeps falling through. The Harvest
508 Baptist Church has a playground that is open to the public. There is discussion of a 7-
509 acre parcel that may be of use to the Town, and we also talked about pickleball.

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

511 ***T. Tsantoulis motioned to enter NON-PUBLIC SESSION NH RSA 91-A:3 II A;***
512 ***seconded by R. Lapierre.***

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

517 **Roll Call Vote #15**

518 ***D. Boutin NP***

519 ***J. Pinard Aye***

520 ***A. Walczyk Aye***

521 ***J. Durand NP***

522 ***R. Duhaime Aye***

523 ***J. Sullivan Aye***

524 ***R. Lapierre Aye***

525 ***K. Judge Aye***

526 ***T. Tsantoulis Aye***

527

528 ***Vote in favor 7-0***

529

530 ***R. Lapierre motioned to leave non-public session of October 11, 2023, seconded***
531 ***by J. Sullivan.***

532 ***Vote in favor 7-0***

533 ***R. Lapierre motioned to seal the minutes of the non-public session of October 11,***
534 ***2023, with the exception of approving the Public Works Sign-On Bonus as***
535 ***presented; seconded by J. Pinard.***

536 ***Vote in favor 6-0-1 (K. Judge abstention due to conflict of Interest)***

537 Town Administrator Garron informed the Council that the Teamsters Local 633 have filed
538 an Unfair Labor Practice (ULP) complaint with the PELRB listing respondent as John
539 Durand regarding a motion he made at the 08/23/2023 Council Meeting. The ULP has
540 been assigned to Town Legal Counsel.

541

542 **ADJOURNMENT**

543 ***R. Lapierre motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 pm. Seconded by J. Pinard.***

544 ***All in favor 6-0***

545

546 Respectfully submitted,

547

548 ***Alicia Jipson***

549 Alicia Jipson

550 Recording Clerk