

**Town of Hooksett
Town Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 10, 2024**

1
2 The Hooksett Town Council met on Wednesday, January 10, 2024, at 5:50 pm in the Hooksett
3 Municipal Building.

4
5 **CALL TO ORDER**

6 Chair Sullivan called the meeting of 10 Jan 2024 to order at (6:02) pm.

7
8 **PROOF OF POSTING**

9 Chair Tsantoulis provided proof of posting.

10
11 **ROLL CALL**

12 **In Attendance:** Councilor James Sullivan, Councilor Jodi Pinard, Councilor Roger Duhaime, Chair
13 Timothy Tsantoulis, Councilor Alex Walczyk, Councilor Randall Lapierre

14
15 **Absent:** Councilor John Durand, Councilor David Boutin, and Councilor Keith Judge.

16
17 **NON-PUBLIC SESSION NH RSA 91-A:3 II**

18
19 ***J. Sullivan motioned to enter NON-PUBLIC SESSION #1 per NH RSA 91-A:3 II D at 5:55pm; seconded by***
20 ***R. Lapierre.***

21 (d) Consideration of the acquisition, sale, or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in
22 public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general
23 community.

24
25 **Roll Call Vote #2**

26 ***R. Duhaime Aye***

27 ***J Durand NP***

28 ***J. Pinard Aye***

29 ***R. Lapierre Aye***

30 ***A. Walczyk Aye***

31 ***D. Boutin NP***

32 ***K. Judge NP***

33 ***J. Sullivan Aye***

34 ***T. Tsantoulis Aye***

35
36 **Vote in favor 6-0**

37
38 ***J. Sullivan motioned to leave the non-public session at 5:58; seconded by R. Lapierre.***

39 ***Vote in favor 6-0***

40
41 ***J. Sullivan motioned to seal the Non-Public minutes of January 10, 2024; seconded by R. Lapierre.***

42

43 **Roll Call Vote #3**

44 ***D. Boutin NP***

45 ***J. Pinard Aye***

46 ***A. Walczyk Aye***

47 ***J. Durand NP***

48 ***R. Duhaime Aye***

49 ***J. Sullivan Aye***

50 ***R. Lapierre Aye***

51 ***K. Judge NP***

52 ***T. Tsantoulis Aye***

53

54 ***Vote in favor 6-0***

55

56 **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

57

58 T. Tsantoulis acknowledged Mr. Mercier from Macie Industries for their work on the pedestrian
59 walkway for constructing the Donati Bridge at Donati park.

60

61 **AGENDA OVERVIEW**

62

63 **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

64

65 T. Tsantoulis opened the PH at 6:07 pm.

66

67 **8.1 #1 Public Hearing to accept the unanticipated revenue in the amount of \$58,354.02 from the**
68 **State of New Hampshire Bridge Aid in accordance with RSA 31:95-b, III(a) (see 16.1 for details)**

69

70 B. Thomas- HB 2 provided \$10 million in Bridge Aid to be distributed among the municipalities. 50%
71 was based on the municipal bridge deck surface area and the other 50% was based on population.
72 Hooksett's share of \$58,354.02 was received in early December. These funds can be used to maintain,
73 construct, or reconstruct municipally owned bridges.

74

75 With no public comment, Chair T. Tsantoulis motioned to close the Public Hearing at 6:11 pm.

76

77 ***J. Sullivan motioned to accept unanticipated revenue in the amount of \$58,354.02 from the State of***
78 ***New Hampshire Bridge Aid in accordance with RSA 31:95-b, III(a); seconded by A. Walczyk.***

79

80 **Roll Call Vote #4**

81 ***A. Walczyk Aye***

82 ***R. Lapierre Nay***

83 ***J. Pinard Nay***

84 ***R. Duhaime Aye***

85 ***J. Durand NP***

86 ***K. Judge NP***

87 *J. Sullivan Aye*
88 *D. Boutin NP*
89 *T. Tsantoulis Aye*
90
91 ***Vote in favor 4-2***

92
93 T. Tsantoulis opened the 2nd Public Hearing at 6:12 pm.

94
95 **8.2 #2 Public Hearing to discuss a bond/note to finance part of the reconstruction of the intersection**
96 **of Martins Ferry Road and North River Road in the amount of \$750,000 per RSA 33:8-a. (see 15.1)**
97

98 B. Thomas- The Town needs to reconstruct the intersection of Martins Ferry Road and North River
99 Road including roadway realignment and construction of a new bridge. The purpose of the project will
100 address speed concerns and will eliminate the risk of flooding and erosion and redirect the stream to
101 its natural course. It will also eliminate significant maintenance concerns regarding the existing
102 guardrails and drainage culvert. Currently, the guardrails on both sides of the bridge are in disrepair.
103 The guardrail on the southeast corner must be replaced with a bridge rail because replacing the
104 guardrail will not meet code requirements. Installing a bridge rail will include removing all of the
105 pavement over the entire culvert, dismantling and replacing a portion of the concrete slab on top of
106 the culvert, re-forming the concrete slab to accept the bridge rail, then installing the new slab, with a
107 new membrane over the entire culvert structure and replacing the pavement. In addition to the
108 above, any other areas where the culvert has deteriorated will have to be repaired or replaced. If the
109 warrant article is not passed and the work is not done, the Town will remain at risk of erosion along the
110 steep embankment of Messer Brook. The stream edge is extremely close to the near vertical slope
111 against Martins Ferry Road. Restoring the channel to its original flow pattern will eliminate this
112 potential issue and any future slope maintenance. Two years ago, the Town spent \$133,970 on erosion
113 repair along Martins Ferry Road. Because the slope between Martins Ferry Road and Messer Brook is
114 so steep, the likelihood of additional erosion remains. The brook as it exists presents a flooding hazard.
115 The 90-degree angles that the brook takes could result in debris getting hung up and causing backups.
116 In addition, there is an existing sewer main that runs through the culvert at an elevation close to the
117 water line creating additional risk of flow restrictions. The intersection as it currently exists is very flat
118 over the culvert. The minimal cover over the culvert makes it impossible to properly grade the road to
119 direct runoff away from the road. The proposed project will include the proper slopes and drainage
120 infrastructure to manage runoff. Agenda Item #8.2. Page 7 of 65The existing culvert has been posted
121 no trucks due to its low structural rating. A new bridge will be safe for all vehicles to pass over it
122 (although posting the roadway “No Thru Trucks” is still an option if the Town Council chooses to do
123 this). The design will be completed based on a design speed of 30 miles per hour with a sharp curve to
124 slow traffic down. If constructed, the bridge will be inspected by the State of New Hampshire
125 Department of Transportation Bridge Inspection Division every two years (at no cost to the Town). In
126 addition, the bridge will qualify for State/Federal Funding for future maintenance. Putting Messer
127 Brook on its natural course has garnered the enthusiastic support of several natural resource agencies,
128 such as the New Hampshire Wetlands Bureau, the New Hampshire Natural Heritage Bureau, the New
129 Hampshire Fish and Game Division and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The proposed project calls
130 for a Timber Bridge that will beautify and enhance the area. If the warrant article is not passed and the
131 work is not done the Town will spend significant funds replacing these guardrails.

132

133 R. Lapierre- has anyone talked to SNHU about this bridge?

134
135 B. Thomas- they support the project; they asked if the sidewalk could remain in place. I have kept in
136 contact with them the whole time during the project.

137
138 A. Garron- we reached out to them a number of times and their responses were limited.

139
140 J. Sullivan- maybe an official request from the Council asking for a donation to the bridge.

141
142 B. Thomas- my hope is that this has unanimous support from the council.

143
144 Chair T. Tsantoulis closed the Public Hearing at 6:28 pm.

145
146 **SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

147
148 **9.1 Hooksett Municipal Employee - New Hire**

149
150 A. Garron- End of employment Sean Spreen Firefighter. New Hires: Jacon Bond Truck Driver Laborer.
151 Promotions: Joshua Hebert, Public Works/Highway, Assistant Crew Chief, Shawn Dumont, Public
152 Works/R&T, Crew Chief. Ricky Demers, Public Works/P&R , Assistant Crew Chief. Robert Hebert,
153 Public Works/P&R Crew Chief.

154
155 **PUBLIC INPUT - 15 MINUTES**

156
157 Pro Technologies Owner- As it sits right now with the highway design, we may lose our building, we will
158 lose our parking in the front, we may be required to purchase land adjacent to our building with may
159 not be possible. We have 14 employees. This is going to have a huge impact on Pro Technologies. We
160 are getting pushed out of Hooksett and what we have invested in this Town. I ask that you consider us
161 in your decisions regarding this project.

162
163 D. Ross 56 Sherwood Drive- is there a plan available for the Martins Ferry Bridge project? What we
164 have there is a 3-way intersection. On the other side of the school, we have the same situation. There
165 were no problems at that intersection. Why would you want to curve a road that you want to slow
166 traffic on? The speed bump needs to go, and you voted on removing it. The bump outs are damaging
167 people's cars. Cars are going out of alignment. That is unreasonable, we are supposed to make them
168 safer. Put a new concrete deck on that, put a new guardrail, make it a 90' intersection. I still have not
169 seen Depot Street being addressed on your agenda. If the State is going to take Pro Tech, then they
170 should tell them in advance. I have also not seen anything addressed about the private dump at the
171 cinemas.

172
173 **SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS**

174
175 **11.1 Mr. JR Hoell, Genesis Systems, Route 3 Widening Meeting Request.**

176

177 JR Hoell State Representative- the plan that was presented in October was unworkable. The DOT has
178 fixed some of the issues and the additional sidewalks also present some issues. This is going to take
179 away a lot of front yards to these businesses. The DOT has been working hard on this and reworking
180 the area. I am asking as a taxpayer in the Town that you revisit what you are asking for. I do not think
181 you need sidewalks on both sides. Losing one side of sidewalks would give you more room for
182 businesses to not be losing their frontage. I am asking that since this is a new Town Council, that you
183 revisit your original letter and the requests that you have made. I do not think that all involved really
184 saw the impact this would have until more took a closer look, especially the businesses. What was in
185 that last letter may not be what is still appropriate now, will you please let the DOT know that you will
186 readdress this. I put in my letter a number of items that I feel you need to address.

187
188 R. Duhaime- this is the dilemma living in Hooksett. Many surroundings' towns cut through this town.
189 This is not just a town issue it is a state issue. I am fine with slowing this project down to ensure safety.
190 People want to stop urban sprawl, but you cannot. I see my town changing and it is inevitable. I think
191 this is on the state to get this done right.

192
193 JR Hoell- there are all sorts of things that you can talk about. Most accidents happen at the South end
194 of Alice Road, if we do this right, we can fix this.

195
196 R. Lapierre- this project seems to be one that I cannot get my head around. One of the things that I
197 have been against is roundabouts.

198
199 JR Hoell- roundabouts are at least designed to accommodate 18 wheelers doing a U-turn. They are not
200 pretty but they are functional at getting what they need to do. I can see why DOT likes these because
201 they function as they were designed to. They do have negatives as the business around them do not
202 like to see them in front of them. All I am asking is that you have the right discussions on this project.
203 How do we manage the median and how do we manage Alice Rd and Mammoth Rd, and how do we
204 manage the sidewalks? These people built their businesses and some almost right to the road and
205 space matters.

206
207 A. Garron- the letter that was sent out, the minutes from the Planning Board, on June 6, 2022 then the
208 Town Council meeting of July 7, 2022, at both meetings the project was discussed, and both agreed
209 that a 5-lane cross section was what they recommended based on the information they received. As
210 well as the roundabout at the Mammoth Road intersection. Town Council took action on the 5-lane
211 cross section 1 sidewalk on one side of the road. In the modified plan I believe there is 1 sidewalk and 2
212 sidewalks in some areas in a residential area.

213
214 J. Sullivan- I am pleased to hear that the DOT has invited the businesses in on the discussions. It looks
215 like Pro tech is the only one losing their building. I think we can encourage the State to look specifically
216 at that property as he is losing his business, and the others are just losing a little frontage.

217
218 A. Garron- I think this project is still in the planning stages. The Council and State will need to know
219 what proposal they want to move forward with. Right now, you have a 4-lane going to 2 lanes and that
220 creates a pinch point. The feedback from surveys was that the 5-lane was the best option.

221
222 B. Thomas- Dave Smith from the DOT is here to address any questions you have.

223
224 Dave Smith NHDOT Project Manager- The October 24th, 2023, design concept being referenced is not
225 the current concept. The design has undergone significant refinements since October 24th, 2023, public
226 informational meeting due in large part to direct collaboration and coordination with the majority the
227 entities noted in this letter, as well as by meetings with many abutters not noted below. Since the
228 October 24th, 2023, public informational meeting timeframe, the following has happened with regard
229 to public outreach and plan refinements: 9 formal meetings with individual property owners/residents
230 have occurred, with Community Plaza Condominiums, Eversource, Sunoco, Shooter's Outpost, Pro
231 Technologies, Mr. Bee's, Paquette's Pool & Spa, Crown Trophy, and Chantilly's. email and phone call
232 correspondence with additional property owners/residents. one meeting with business Owner Group
233 that submitted this letter on November 24th, 2023. One project working group meeting on December
234 11, 2023, at which revised plans were shared reflecting most of the refinement, which are near
235 continuous median islands, left turn openings only at Silver/Leonard Ave and Zachary Drive, 7,000 feet
236 of roadway that restricted all left turns, access restrictions at all 60 businesses/residences along the
237 corridor.

238
239 T. Higgins- at the December 11, 2023, meeting the plan featured: significant reduction to the median
240 islands to areas where safety improvements are paramount (i.e., southern segment of the corridor
241 from Alice Ave to Silver/Leonard Ave) or where raised islands are required to protect queued vehicles
242 in a left turn lane. Only about 900' of median islands would not permit access to or left turns from
243 businesses/residents. Access restrictions at 11 businesses/residences. Additional lengths of median
244 islands in areas where there are no access impacts or where businesses/residences approve of access
245 restrictions (i.e., Eversource and Supreme Plaza). Shifted driveways in some locations (i.e., Paquette's
246 and Shooter's Outpost) are necessary.

247
248 R. Lapierre- right now the taking a left hand turn out of Cinemagic is because of the light at Mammoth
249 and Hooksett Road and it is not really an issue, but I think with the roundabout and a steadier flow of
250 traffic it will be.

251
252 T. Higgins- the 12/11/2023 plan featured: significant reduction to the median islands to areas where
253 safety improvements are paramount (i.e., southern segment of the corridor from Alice Ave to
254 Silver/Leonard Ave) or where raised islands are required to protect queued vehicles in a left turn lane.
255 Only about 900' of median islands would not permit access to or left turns from businesses/residences.
256 Access restrictions at 11 businesses/residents. Additional lengths of median islands in areas where
257 there are no access impacts or where businesses/residents approve of access restrictions (i.e.,
258 Eversource and Supreme Plaza). Shifted driveways in some locations) i.e., Paquette's and Shooter's
259 Outpost) are necessary.

260
261 D. Smith- the NHDOT Team has been working diligently, and will continue to do so, to find the best
262 level of improvement that will balance the need to address safety and congestion needs along the
263 corridor while minimizing impacts to the abutters in as much as practical.

264
265 J. Pinard- would the state be assisting him with acquiring that land?

266
267 D. Smith – yes, we have had that discussion as well as with other businesses.

268

269 J. Pinard- would they be compensating him with market value? If you are going to close business doors,
270 I will never support that.

271
272 D. Smith- the acquisition starts with a ROW appraisal document, and they are based on fair market
273 value. The property also has the opportunity to conduct their own appraisal and the cost of doing so is
274 also compensated. We gather the proposals and start discussions and start the negotiations process.

275
276 A. Garron- I know back in the 80's the concept of a roundabout was not accepted and unheard of and
277 we have now progressed into using and accepting them, I hear people say they zoom through
278 roundabout, but you can't zoom through, it forces you to slow down.

279
280 JR Hoell- the reason I said yes to a roundabout was because it handled commercialized traffic better. A
281 signal does not. We have a lot of businesses taking a lot of that commercial traffic daily. With the
282 roundabout what you will see is. Again, thank you for taking the time, I did not want to take more time
283 I request that you look at the letter again.

284
285 A. Walczyk- what about moving the national guard property.

286
287 D. Smith- the issue there is ledge and a retention basin and strike a balance with the impacts to
288 Protech's business.

289
290 D. Smith also touched on the following points:

291
292 **The NHDOT recommends the roundabout for the following reasons** promotes better traffic flow and
293 lower corridor speeds, Number of crashes typically 50% lower than signal and less severe. Roundabout
294 provides opportunity for aesthetics/landscaping. Roundabout requires less maintenance than
295 signalized intersection.

296
297 **The 5-lane version vs. the 3-lane version:**

298 The 5-lane version section provides the following benefits when compared to the 3-lane typical:
299 minimal traffic congestion (level of service) through 2045 and beyond. Reduced number of accidents
300 due to more fluid and uniform traffic patterns. Less pollution due to less stop and go traffic. Reduced
301 travel time along the corridor. Uniformity with the roadway sections to the south and north.

302 The 5-lane typical does incur an additional 11' of impact along the frontage of the abutting parcels. In
303 the instance, that the 3-lane typical section is constructed, the NHDOT would recommend to the Town
304 that the acquisition of the additional 11' width occur now to support another future widening which
305 would be required in the near future to eliminate congestion once traffic escalates. On June 2, 2022,
306 the Town Planning Board unanimously voted 7-0 for the 5-lane alternative. On July 7, 2022, the Town
307 Council unanimously voted 8-0 for the 5-lane alternative. Given the prior vote by the Town Council and
308 Planning Board, NHDOT has stated that this aspect of the improvements is not being reconsidered. The
309 NHDOT, while understanding the impacts along the corridor, also supports the implementation of the
310 5-lane typical section.

311 **The use of sidewalks on both sides of the road-** the current design concept reflects 6' sidewalks on
312 both sides of US 3 from Mammoth Road to the South and a single sidewalk along the west side of US 3
313 to the north of Mammoth Road intersection. The NHDOT supports sidewalks on both sides of US 3
314 south of Mammoth Road due to the pedestrian generators in the Brace Avenue, Leonard Ave, Silver

315 Ave, Zachary Drive and Embassy Ave neighborhoods, as well as Carrington Farms Condominium
316 Association. The presence of pedestrians along this corridor was acknowledged during many
317 discussions with abutters, as well as noted during our project team site visits as shown in the Public
318 Informational and PWG meeting presentations. There was a pedestrian fatality in February 2020 near
319 Silver Ave. Bruce Thomas- Town Engineer, during the PWG meeting, noted that an additional
320 pedestrian fatality occurred on this segment prior to the February 2020 incident. The standard NHDOT
321 typical section includes a 6' grassed panel in areas where sidewalks are not constructed. The 6' grassed
322 panel provides an area for snow storage and for location of utilities. As a result, the width of the
323 roadway typical section is not reduced if the sidewalk is not constructed. The Town voted 5-3 for
324 sidewalks along only a single side along the length of the US 3. Additional discussion is needed in this
325 regard.

326 **The inclusion of bicycle lanes along this section of road-** the 5' shoulders, in conjunction with the 11'
327 outside lane, match the lane and shoulder width combination of 16', to the north and south of this
328 segment. The 5' shoulder width is an integral element to the standard NHDOT typical for roadways of
329 this nature. The accommodation of bicycles is a secondary component to the aspects noted above and
330 will better accommodate bicyclists along the corridor that the 0' to 2' existing shoulders do.

331

332 **Recess at 8:00- 8:08 pm**

333

334 **11.2 Hooksett Library, Heather Rainier Library Director, and Mark Glisson Assistant Director –**
335 **Request for ARPA funds for Smoke Detectors.**

336

337 H. Rainer- The Library's current smoke detectors relay invaluable information on the fire panel,
338 indicating whether the triggered alarm is on the first floor, second floor, or in the HVAC system.
339 However, they do not report what specific part of the building a fire or smoke incident happens to be
340 in terms of actual smoke detector locations. Our proposal is to replace the current detectors (installed
341 in 1998) with new standards-compliant smoke detectors that are equipped with addressable detector
342 bases that will inform the responding fire fighters via the upstairs and downstairs fire panels exactly
343 where the fire trigger is located before even entering the building. We have consulted with Captain
344 Tewksbury on this project, and he has confirmed the need to make these upgrades.

345

346 ***J. Sullivan motioned to approve Hooksett Public Library Smoke Detectors in the amount of***
347 ***\$19,749.00 from ARPA funds; seconded by R. Lapierre.***

348

349 **Roll Call Vote #6**

350 ***J. Durand NP***

351 ***R. Lapierre Aye***

352 ***K. Judge NP***

353 ***D. Boutin NP***

354 ***J. Pinard Aye***

355 ***J. Sullivan Aye***

356 ***A. Walczyk Aye***

357 ***R. Duhaime Aye***

358 ***T. Tsantoulis Aye***

359

360 **Vote in favor 6-0**

361

362 R. Lapierre- this was brought to the ARPA subcommittee, and it was a compelling ask and need that
363 was approved.

364

365 A. Walczyk- I think this is a great way to spend ARPA funds. The funds were originally meant to support
366 a project like this.

367

368 R. Duhaime- do you have a building maintenance fund that we do allocate funds to?

369

370 H. Rainer- we do overspend that budget often; the building has issues it depends on year to year.

371

372 A. Garron- at our last management meeting the total left for ARPA funds was \$97,172 left to be
373 allocated from Sept 30, 2023. If the Library, Martins Ferry, and the Concession were to be passed then
374 all the funds would be depleted.

375

376 **CONSENT AGENDA**

377

378 **12.1 Accept the donation of \$500.00 from Global Montello Group which operates the All-Town gas**
379 **stations in Auburn and Manchester, NH to the Town of Hooksett for the Hooksett Police K-9 program**
380 **per RSA 31:95-b: III(b).**

381

382 *J. Sullivan motioned to accept the donation of \$500.00 from Global Montello Group which operates*
383 *the All-Town gas stations in Auburn and Manchester, NH to the Town of Hooksett for the Hooksett*
384 *Police K-9 program per RSA 31:95-b: III(b). seconded by J. Pinard.*

385

386 **Vote in favor 6-0**

387

388 **NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS- none**

389

390 **OLD BUSINESS**

391

392 **15.1 FY 2024-25 Budget and Warrant Articles (to include Monetary Petitioned Warrant item(s), if**
393 **applicable)**

394

395 *T. Tsantoulis motioned to recommend the Martins Ferry Reconstruction article in the amount of*
396 *\$1,500,000 and moved it to the 2024 Town warrant; seconded by R. Duhaime.*

397

398 **Roll Call Vote #5**

399 *J. Sullivan Aye*

400 *J. Pinard Aye*

401 *R. Duhaime Aye*

402 *A. Walczyk Aye*

403 *R. Lapierre Nay*

404 *K. Judge NP*

405 **J. Durand NP**
406 **D. Boutin NP**
407 **T. Tsantoulis Aye**

408
409 **Vote in favor 5-1**

410
411 R. Duhaime will first, and J. Sullivan will second the article(s) at the Deliberative Session, Saturday
412 February 3rd.

413
414 **NEW BUSINESS**

415
416 **16.2 ARPA Lew Goodwin Concessions Renovation**

417
418 B. Berthiaume- DPW is submitting a request to utilize ARPA funding for renovations of the Lew
419 Goodwin Concessions building located at Donati Park. The building currently does not meet the
420 requirements of the Department of Health and Human Services for concessions to be allowed on a
421 weekly basis. This building needs to be updated in order for the Town to obtain a food license. Items
422 that are required to be updated or added to the concessions side of the building include the following:
423 ☐ Installation of a new hand wash sink. ☐ Correct plumbing for food prep sink to include air gap on
424 drain. ☐ Installation of 3-bay wash sink and associated plumbing. ☐ New fire suppression system in
425 exhaust hood over cooktop. ☐ Professional cleaning of exhaust hood and fan system. ☐ Relocation of
426 fire extinguisher. ☐ Full cleaning of the room and fresh paint on the walls. Included in this request is the
427 need to update the bathroom facilities at this location. Currently there are two bathrooms in poor
428 condition, and they do not currently meet ADA standards. The work included for the bathroom
429 updates includes: ☐ Demo of existing toilets and sinks. ☐ Full cleaning, fresh paint, removal of existing
430 doors and frames. ☐ Installation of new doors and frames with a change in the swing direction to meet
431 ADA standards. ☐ Installation of new ADA grab bars. ☐ Installation of new toilets and sinks plus
432 associated plumbing. To help save on costs, DPW staff will perform the required demolition work,
433 cleaning and prepping of walls for paint, labor for the painting, labor to install new partitions and ADA
434 grab bars, and will purchase the new fixtures for the bathrooms and concessions.

435
436 ***J. Sullivan motioned to approve the Lew Goodwin renovations project for \$24,200.00 to be funded***
437 ***from ARPA; seconded by R. Lapierre.***

438
439 **Roll Call Vote #7**

440 **J. Pinard Aye**
441 **K. Judge NP**
442 **R. Lapierre Aye**
443 **R. Duhaime Aye**
444 **A. Walczyk Aye**
445 **J. Durand NP**
446 **J. Sullivan Aye**
447 **D. Boutin NP**
448 **T. Tsantoulis Aye**

449

450 ***Vote in favor 6-0***

451

452 **16.3 Execution of Easement Release - South Bow Road**

453

454 ***J. Sullivan motioned to authorize the release of the existing sight distance easement for Map 12, Lot***
455 ***14-2, recorded at MCRD at Book 3535, Page 2703-2704, on October 30, 2016; and to allow the Town***
456 ***Administrator the authority to sign the easement release on behalf of the Town of Hooksett;***
457 ***seconded by A. Walczyk.***

458

459 ***Vote in favor 6-0***

460

461 E. Robidoux Town Planner- there is a revised subdivision coming before the Planning Board the request
462 is to remove a condition of approval for a site distance easement. There is a site distance easement
463 that benefits the Town, part of the approval was that if the owner of the property did not maintain the
464 site distance, then the Town would come in cut the vegetation then bills the landowner. The courts
465 decided that was not an appropriate condition to be on a plan, so therefore we will have a revised plan
466 removing that. In order to that we need to designate the authority to the Town Administrator to sign
467 off for the Town. This is a recorded plan and is approved. The only change will be condition.

468

469 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

470

471 ***A. Walczyk motioned to approve the public minutes of December 13, 2023; seconded by J. Sullivan.***
472 ***Vote in favor 5-0-1***

473

474 ***R. Lapierre motioned to approve the #1 non-public minutes of December 13, 2023; seconded by J.***
475 ***Sullivan.***

476 ***Vote in favor 5-0-1***

477

478 ***R. Lapierre motioned to approve the #2 non-public minutes of December 13, 2023; seconded by J.***
479 ***Sullivan.***

480 ***Vote in favor 5-0-1***

481

482 **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

- 483
- 484 • Pennichuck East Utility, Inc.- Notice of Intent to File a Rate Case with PUC (24.1% Increase over
last approved rate) I do not believe the PUC has ruled on that.
 - 485 • Tax Rate: \$15.98- Bills sent out on December 27, 2023-Bill Due: January 29, 2024-Article was
486 placed on the Town website for reference as to why the delay.
 - 487 • Town Hall Homeland Security Grant Submission authorization. Approval to move forward with a
488 grant application through Homeland Security was granted on June 28, 2023, by the Town
489 Council.

490

491 ***A. Walczyk motioned to allow the TA to sign the grant and submit the grant application; seconded by***
492 ***R. Lapierre.***

493

494 ***Vote in favor 6-0***

- 495
496 • NH Presidential Primary- January 23, 2024- Sign-up sheet for the councilors to be at the polls.
497 • Donati Bridge Complete-
498 • The filing period for elected officials starts on January 24th through February 2nd.
499

500 R. Lapierre- D. Ross has been here a number of times talking about Depot Road, it sounds like it is
501 serious, has town staff looked into it?
502

503 A. Garron- I will verify if staff has gone out and looked at it.
504

505 **TOWN COUNCIL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

506
507 **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS AND CORRESPONDENCE**
508

509 ***J. Sullivan motioned that the Council draft a letter to SNHU seeking some input and financial***
510 ***contribution for the Martin’s Ferry Bridge project; seconded by R. Duhaime.***

511
512 ***Vote in favor 6-0***
513

514 R. Duhaime- I heard from a lot of people in my district and they are very unhappy with the property
515 taxes.
516

517 T. Tsantoulis- property values did go up, but our tax rate went down. This is nothing unique to
518 Hooksett, it is happening all around. This was a big year for labor and contracts and there was a lot that
519 was not in our control.
520

521 J. Sullivan- the Council is very cognizant of what is presented to the voters and ultimately the voters
522 are the final say on the budget. The budget we prepare is what we feel is necessary.
523

524 **PUBLIC INPUT- None**
525

526 **NON-PUBLIC SESSION #2 per NH RSA 91-A:3 II**
527

528 ***T. Tsantoulis motioned to enter NON-PUBLIC SESSION #2 per NH RSA 91-A:3 II C and I at 8:52 pm; and***
529 ***will adjourn the meeting after; seconded by J. Sullivan.***

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

534 (I) Consideration of legal advice provided by legal counsel, either in writing or orally, to one or more
535 members of the public body, even where legal counsel is not present.
536

537 **Roll Call Vote #8**
538 ***R. Lapierre Aye***

539 ***R. Duhaime Aye***
540 ***J. Sullivan Aye***
541 ***A. Walczyk Aye***
542 ***J. Durand NP***
543 ***J. Pinard Aye***
544 ***D. Boutin NP***
545 ***K. Judge NP***
546 ***T. Tsantoulis Aye***
547
548 ***Vote in favor 6-0***
549
550 ***J. Sullivan motioned to leave the non-public session at 9:10; seconded by T. Tsantoulis.***
551 ***Vote in favor 6-0***
552
553 ***R. Duhaime motioned to seal the Non-Public minutes of January 10, 2024; seconded by A. Walczyk.***
554
555 ***Roll Call Vote #9***
556 ***J. Durand NP***
557 ***D. Boutin NP***
558 ***J. Pinard Aye***
559 ***R. Duhaime Aye***
560 ***K. Judge NP***
561 ***A. Walczyk Aye***
562 ***J. Sullivan Aye***
563 ***R. Lapierre Nay***
564 ***T. Tsantoulis Aye***
565
566 ***Vote in favor 5-1***
567
568
569 **ADJOURNMENT**
570
571 Respectfully submitted,
572
573 ***Alicia Jipson***
574 Alicia Jipson
575 Recording Clerk