The Hooksett Town Council met on Wednesday, March 11, 2020 at 5:30 in the Hooksett Municipal Building.

CALL TO ORDER
Chair Sullivan called the meeting of 11 Mar 2020 to order at 5:30 pm.

PROOF OF POSTING
Administrative Services Coordinator Donna Fitzpatrick provided proof of posting.

ROLL CALL- ATTENDANCE
In Attendance: Councilor James Sullivan, Councilor John Durand, Councilor James Levesque, Councilor Clifford Jones, Councilor Timothy Tsantoulis, Councilor Clark Karolian
Arrived late: Councilor Robert Duhaime (5:35 pm); Councilor Avery Comai (5:41 pm)
Missing: Councilor Alex Walczyk

NON-PUBLIC SESSION #1 NH RSA 91-A:3 II (a)

Chair Sullivan motioned to enter non-public session at 5:32 pm. C. Karolian seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote #2
R. Duhaime Not present (arrived at 5:35 pm)
J Durand Aye
C. Jones Aye
J. Levesque Aye
A. Walczyk Not present
A. Comai Not present (arrived at 5:41 pm)
C. Karolian Aye
T. Tsantoulis Aye
J. Sullivan Aye
Voted unanimously in favor (6-0).

RSA 91-A:3, II (a) The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a public meeting, and (2) requests that he meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted.

Chair Sullivan motioned to leave public session at 6:48 pm. T. Tsantoulis seconded the motion.
Voted unanimously in favor (8-0).

T. Tsantoulis motioned to seal the minutes of the non-public session. J. Levesque seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote #3
A. Walczyk  Not present
J. Levesque  Aye
C. Jones  Aye
R. Duhaime  Aye
J. Durand  Aye
C. Karolian  Aye
T. Tsantoulis  Aye
A. Comai  Aye
J. Sullivan  Aye
Voted unanimously in favor (8-0).

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Chair Sullivan called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA OVERVIEW
Chair Sullivan: We will first have a Public Hearing regarding the acceptance of a donation. We also have a Scheduled Appointment with Town Clerk Todd Rainier and Town Moderator Marc Miville who will report on the March 10, 2020 election.

PUBLIC HEARINGS
Public Hearing to accept the donation of $58,178.00 from Lamontagne Builders (Stinson Hills, LLC) to the Town of Hooksett (not in lieu of Impact Fees).

Chair Sullivan: I will read the Public Hearing Notice.

The Hooksett Town Council will be holding a public hearing on Wednesday, March 11, 2020 @ 6:00 pm at the Hooksett Town Hall Chambers, 35 Main Street, Hooksett, NH. The purpose of the public hearing is to accept a donation for a total amount of $58,178 ($30,178 + $28,000) from Lamontagne Builders (Stinson Hills, LLC) to the Town of Hooksett (not in lieu of Impact Fees) per RSA 31:95-b, III (a). For documentation or questions, contact the Hooksett Public Works Department at 603-668-8019.

David Ross, 56 Sherwood Drive: There are a couple of concerns I have. I was made privy to one of the checks; on the memo line was written ‘signed in protest.’ How can a donation be made in protest? Another document I saw says that, effectively, this is a fee for road maintenance. A donation made under protest is an oxymoron. I am very concerned that this may put the Town in legal jeopardy. Being forced to donate in order to do business is extortion. Call it a fee or call it a charge. I think the Council needs to rethink this before accepting it.

R. Duhaime: I was on the Planning Board when the developer, Stinson Hills, LLC, bought this subdivision from another developer. The purchasing developer assumes all of the rights and requirements of the plan. He can’t pick and choose which responsibilities he wants to assume.

Chair Sullivan: I want to answer a question just posed to me by Councilor Karolian. This is a Public Hearing, not Public Input, so Councilors may respond to questions and comment on the issue.

A. Garron: This project was approved in 2008 as a conservation subdivision. As such, the developer was required to have open space and an active recreational space. A provision allows for the developer to provide something in lieu of the recreational space if the abutters are concerned about noise from the recreational area. In this case, they did, and the developer agreed to instead pay for the lease of a street sweeper. At that time, the Town was leasing a street sweeper. Going forward 12 years, the
situation is different because the Town now has purchased a street sweeper. Town Planner Nick
Williams brought me in on the conversation with Mr. Lamontagne when he voiced his displeasure.
Unfortunately, these were the conditions of approval.

J. Durand: Is it possible to see these checks? It is hard to read them in our packets.

C. Karolian: I have it up here on my screen.

D. Ross: It's not a donation; it's a fee, a contract obligation. That's a different RSA.

A. Garron: Councilor Karolian asked to meet with me on this. I brought in Finance Director Christine
Soucie, who said these funds are unanticipated revenue. When I was speaking with Mr. Lamontagne
and Nick Williams, Mr. Lamontagne said he was paying under protest. We could have called it a
number of things. 'Donation' is probably the best term.

C. Karolian: When it comes to the street sweeper…this is supposed to be a payment on…according
to… I am going to read for the public and for the public's benefit what it actually says for language on
the approved plan. I have on my screen a check dated November 27, 2019 in the amount of $30,178.
On the bottom left it says, 'paid under protest, funds for roadway maintenance, fee intended for a street
sweeper lease.' Another check with the same date in the amount of $28,000 says 'Recreation
Department contribution.' I have a few questions: Why is this person protesting? This was approved in
2008. When did the first contractor start working on the project, and when was the project purchased by
Mr. Lamontagne? Do you have ballpark dates?

R. Duhaime: The development started no more than three years ago. They did no blasting. They only
put in the main road up to the first major wetlands crossing. Mr. Lamontagne has had the project for
about one and a half years.

A. Garron: Actually, the first plan was approved in 2004 but was modified and approved again in
2008. The plan we have before us is the one approved in 2008.

R. Duhaime: In 2012 an Alternation of Terrain (AOT) permit was granted, and in 2013 a Wetlands
permit was obtained.

C. Karolian: When a plan is approved, isn't there a five-year window that they have to…

R. Duhaime: … show some substantial completion to occur. Right, but the original plan didn't have it
connecting to Jacob Avenue. It was not a phasing plan. There were stages and amendments to the
plan. More land was purchased and a phasing plan was implemented.

C. Karolian: For the benefit of the public, I will read from the approved plan. Number 12 says," The
developer/contractor is responsible to the Town of Hooksett for a roadway maintenance fee of $30,178,
to be paid prior to the issuance of the first Certificate of Occupancy (CO), to be a lease payment for a
street sweeper and not in lieu of Impact Fees." I would like to know if this street sweeping work was
subcontracted to a private company or the lease of equipment.

Earl Labonte, Public Works Director: It was for the lease of a street sweeper.

C. Karolian: Number 13 says, "The developer is responsible for making a Recreation Department
contribution of $28,000 at the start of phase two. It is not in lieu of Impact Fees." This is for the
construction of Colleen Circle, which I think has just started. Was the first CO granted prior to the
payment for roadway maintenance? I asked the Town Administrator and the Finance Director about the deposit of these checks, because at a meeting a few months ago, I was told that checks are held until the Town Council accepts them. On November 27, 2019 check #1412 from Lamontagne Builders – a donation for a street sweeper - was deposited, and a second check – a donation to the Recreation Department – was also deposited, and in the same account for unanticipated revenue. These were not accepted by the Town Council. For the record, I do not know Mr. Lamontagne. I have no business with him and no connection whatsoever. Why were these checks not accepted in November? Apparently, these deposits were discovered during auditing or reconciliation of accounts.

Chair Sullivan: Regarding all donations to the Town, this is a question which needs to be addressed. You did bring up the question of where checks are kept. There is a four-month delay here, and we need to clarify that. I would like to get back first to the original question.

C. Karolian: I beg to differ. This is important. Under RSA 31-95 b, the law is very specific about what is to be done with unanticipated revenue and donations.

A. Garron: Councilor Karolian asked me the same question. According to the Finance Director, the checks were deposited but not spent, awaiting a Town Council decision.

Chair Sullivan: Why did it take so long?

C. Karolian: It does matter what it is being called. It was required to be paid by the developer. There is a huge time lag since 2004 and even 2008. On page six of the Brookview Development Plan, it says that if these amounts were not paid, they could not continue with the development. What will happen to these plans, going forward, if the Town Council doesn’t accept the funds?

A. Garron: This was discussed in my office. My perspective may be different from that of Councilor Karolian. My assumption, given that these payments were in place of creating a recreation area, is that the opportunity to appeal that decision was in 2004.

T. Tsantoulis: Originally, this item had a particular smell that was not pleasant. It helps to now know that the subdivision changed hands. The second developer was perhaps caught off guard and blindsided about the $58,178 and not prepared for it. I want to thank the Town Administrator and Councilor Duhaime for their explanations. To go any further would be to call into question the integrity of these two individuals, which I am not prepared to do. I do wonder why the checks were cashed. We may have to later address the checks deposited prematurely.

J. Durand: Page eight of our packet says this is a fee, and it is called a fee in other places. Now it is a donation. I want Mr. Lamontagne to be here for a discussion about the checks.

J. Durand motioned to table this item and take it up when Mr. Lamontagne can be here. C. Karolian seconded the motion.

Chair Sullivan: This may require additional posting.

C. Karolian: Can I amend a motion to table?

Chair Sullivan: No, a motion to table cannot be amended.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion.
Roll Call Vote #4

A. Walczyk Not present
J. Levesque Aye
C. Jones Aye
R. Duhaime Nay
J. Durand Aye
C. Karolian Aye
T. Tsantoulis Aye
A. Comai Aye
J. Sullivan Aye

Voted in favor (7-1).

C. Karolian: I was not attacking the integrity or credibility of anyone.
T. Tsantoulis: I was just saying that I wasn’t prepared to do that.

PUBLIC INPUT

D. Ross, 56 Sherwood Drive: The landscape bond release for Osborne Agway is coming up on the agenda. I just want to say that this is premature when it is not even Spring. They were going to create a wetland on the side of the road, a ditch. What is there does not resemble a wetland. Drainage is coming out under the pavement. I asked about a berm. They have paid no attention to that insight. Water will continue to rise. I am concerned because it is the Town’s responsibility to protect landowners. I recommend holding off on the release of the bond.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Hooksett Municipal Employee - New Hires

A. Garron: We have two new hires. Kari Barton is a new Laborer in the Public Works Department, and Jennifer Neely is a new Police Patrol Officer.

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS

Todd Rainier, Town Clerk and Marc Miville, Town Moderator - March 10, 2020

Town/School/Special General Election Results

T. Rainier: We began the election yesterday with 10,702 registered voters. The checklist supervisors reported 27 new registrations at the election. Ballots cast totaled 2,021, with 83 of these being absentees. It was a fantastic turnout. I posted the results on the website at 10:30 pm. Notification letters were mailed today to candidates voted into office.

T. Rainier: In District 6, two candidates received two votes each. Letters have been sent informing them of a coin toss to determine the outcome per RSA 669:36. The coin toss will be held in the Town Clerk’s office on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 at 2:00 pm.

T. Rainier: The vacancy for the Cemetery Commission did not appear on the ballot due to an error on my part. In transposing the list of candidates in the order they were to appear on the ballot to the order form for the printer, I inadvertently left that section off. There was no candidate; it would have been a write-in. I have consulted Attorney Serge, and he recommends appointing someone to fill this position, per your usual process, until the 2021 town election, and then electing someone for a two-year term.
T. Rainier: Our thanks to everyone who helped at the polls. The DPW sets up and breaks down the voting booths for us at every election, and we are grateful. I want to thank the Police Department, especially Officer Logan and Lieutenant Robie, for their engagement in the process on Election Day. They pitched in, handing out stickers and performing other tasks. We had a resident with a medical emergency late in the day, and Lieutenant Robie immediately responded. Additional thanks go to the School District Clerk/Moderator Leeann Moynihan. She was a tremendous help throughout the entire day. Thanks, Leeann. Next, thanks to David Ross, who cannot seem to sit still when we are reconciling the results before announcing them. He was a tremendous help with breaking down and packing the election materials. Councilors were key assistants throughout the day. You experienced firsthand the difference you made, and we appreciate your inclusion in this process. No matter what size the election is, it takes a group of people to assist the Board of Elections in an execution of a successful event. We had six to ten voters who volunteered their time to count unmarked ballots in the weeks before the Election. For the Town, School, and State Elections, we counted and collated over 11,000 pages. Another 12 to 30 unpaid residents assisted with reconciling the checklist and write-in results at the close of the polls. These individuals are committed to the process and all they receive is a "thank you" and maybe a bottle of water in return for their many hours of effort. They are an integral part of the team that makes elections successful.

T. Rainier: Yesterday was not without its hiccups. Wet ballots do not agree with the 1980’s technology of the Accuvote tabulators, and we had numerous issues throughout the day as a direct result of the use of hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes by the voters. The three elections we have facilitated in the last two months have each offered challenges, some we have never seen before. The Board of Elections, volunteers, elected officials and staff have met each of these challenges as a team, and we all should be happy with the outcome. Be aware that we have two large elections in the Fall: the State Primary on September 8th (the day after Labor Day) and the General Election on November 3rd. Please mark your calendars now, because we need you there.

M. Miville: I reminded candidates throughout the day yesterday that, per State law, they have ten (10) days to remove their signs.

CONSENT AGENDA
Osborne’s Agway Site Letter of Credit Release of $346,363.00 to Farm Credit East, ACA

B. Thomas: I am in charge of inspecting the site work, not so much the foundation. Mr. Ross said when the foundation was put in there was water around the foundation, which could come up and out of pavement, possibly destabilizing the pavement or the foundation. Matt Lavoie, Code Enforcement Officer, and I will go to see Mr. Osborne before we close out the project. We may call Mr. Ross to share his pictures again. I am happy to do that.

R. Duhaime: We still have the landscaping bond.

B. Thomas: That is only $7,000. I would still like to reduce the bond.

C. Karolian motioned to table this item until the Council gets information back from the Town Engineer that every step from the pouring of the foundation is complete and until he gets back to us about the water, drainage, and wetlands. T. Tsantoulis seconded the motion.

Voted in favor (7-1). R. Duhaime voted nay.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

A. Garron: We have put information about the coronavirus on the Administration and Code Enforcement pages of the Town website, with links to Health & Human Services and ultimately to the...
CDC. The message is still the same regarding precautions everyone should be taking. There are three reported cases in Grafton County and two in Rockingham at this time.

A. Garron: As you will remember, the DES was here on January 22nd. They have set a meeting for May instead of April so that they can get additional well water samples. Bonnie Smith has arranged for the workshop to take place at Cawley Middle School on May 11th beginning at 6:00 pm.

T. Tsantoulis: Would you please email us the information regarding the date and time?

A. Garron: Yes, I will do that.

A. Garron: I was interviewed today by a Union Leader reporter about our labor contracts which passed at the Town Election yesterday. We had two successful negotiations, with cost savings for one and maintenance plus some cost savings for the other.

A. Garron: I want to announce that a meeting for the organization of the bicentennial celebration will be held on March 18th beginning at 6:00 pm in the Council Chambers. I want to thank Nick Germain and Chair Sullivan for their work on this.

OLD BUSINESS
TIF District Sewer Final Design Amendment

A. Garron: This is a follow-up to the January 22nd presentation of the EDAC on the TIF Sewer District Design.

B. Thomas: To summarize, the Town wants to provide sewer to the west side of Hooksett. The engineering study of the basic layout is complete, including the cost to design the water system, given that it has been determined that water is included in infrastructure items approved via the warrant article which was passed two years ago. Funding includes $1.2 million from the Sewer Department and $2.25 million of TIF funds already collected and to be collected. There could also be Clean Water Revolving Funds from the State. The Town Council has approved moving forward with this plan. Underwood Engineering has now submitted a proposal for the final design of the TIF District sewer and water in the form of an amendment to their existing contract. The existing contract in the amount of $431,800 was for the engineering study and preliminary design. The proposed amendment includes $807,200 for the final design, for a total of $1,239,000. It does not include construction monitoring costs.

B. Thomas: Phases 1 and 2 will take place in the Exit 10 area and will include a new pump station in the Kimball Drive area, a second river crossing to connect the proposed sewer to the Martins Ferry Road pump station, and upgrades to the Martins Ferry Road pump station. Phase 1 will require gravity sewer from the new pump station on Kimball Drive to Route 3A at the intersection of Goonan Road. Phase 2 will require gravity sewer from the new pump station on Kimball Drive to Route 3A just north of the self-storage facility. The Town will pay for sewer to Route 3A, north of Walmart. Working with the business owners, hopefully they will build the sewers for their own properties. Phases 1 and 2 will be designed this year and construction will start in 2021 and finish in 2022. The others will be designed next year, going up Cross Street over two State-owned parcels to the Larrabee property. Phases 3 through 5 will be done by 2024, according to the plan.

R. Duhaime: Why does the design go up Cross Street? Why would we design Phase 3? Why don’t we stop at Route 3A?
A. Garron: The reason we are paying for the design is because we want to make sure it is built according to our design. This will help with negotiations.

Chair Sullivan: I understand your concern, Councilor Duhaime, is going up Cross Street to the Larrabee property.

R. Duhaime: It goes out of the TIF District.

B. Thomas: One reason for us to do the design is so that it will be complete. We have a history of developers disappearing. Second, we have more control over the design if we do it ourselves. Third, we are trying to make a deal with developers; this will make it easier for them to come to the table. They will do all of the construction after a certain point. The design goes out of the TIF District because it is the simplest and easiest way. Supreme Industries has been involved in many of the discussions and they are very much interested in this. What we have designed is the most efficient way to get to their property. We can service the whole neighborhood. There is a benefit to getting the one property not in the TIF District developed too.

R. Duhaime: By 2023, Supreme may not own that property. I don’t see the benefit in going there until Phases 1 and 2 are done. Three years from now, none of this may be developed.

B. Thomas: There is no guarantees that anybody stays. This is a decent property and a good location. We are designing outside of the district to get to another part of the district. Supreme would do the construction; this is just the design.

C. Karolian: I want to go to the map to clarify the area to which Councilor Duhaime is referring.

B. Thomas: Supreme Industries, the Larrabee property, is the yellow-shaded area.

C. Karolian: What will be developed there?

B. Thomas: I am not sure what will be developed there.

R. Duhaime: There is no concrete agreement to develop that property.

Chair Sullivan: Phase 2 raises the same question.

T. Tsantoulis: One side is in the TIF District and one is not.

R. Duhaime: This is an $800,000 design.

B. Thomas: This is a very small part of the design.

R. Duhaime: Where the blue line is, a dry line is already there.

A. Garron: The TIF Committee worked from July through December on this plan. These items were debated. For Phases 1 and 2, businesses are already there. It is a good start. Water and sewer projects are expensive. We want to design them ourselves so they fit into our system. We will build some and the private entities will build the rest. There was a lot of discussion about Phase 3. Supreme Industries attended a lot of meetings. We will back off on construction but provide the design. It is topographically the best, and the Town could more easily get the needed wetland easements from the State than private property owners. January 22nd was the time to flesh this out.

TC MINUTES 03-11-2020
Chair Sullivan: The big purple area on the map is the commercial zone.

R. Duhaime: That is already an accepted town road. We are crossing into something… the State could sell its surplus land. We are getting out of the TIF District. We are not looking for commercial development on Cross Road. We are stepping out of bounds from what we agreed to. There is nothing on paper. There is no agreement.

C. Karolian: For clarity, is the dotted red line the border of the TIF area?

R. Duhaime: Correct.

A. Garron: This has been voted on and done.

C. Karolian: The Town has decided that the TIF District will go from the east side of Route 93 and shoot northwest to those two properties and then back down to the river. Why didn’t the design go farther up Route 3A, east of Route 93, and stay along the Route 3A corridor?

A. Garron: Bruce, do you know why the sewer goes along the riverbank and not along Route 3A?

B. Thomas: They are thinking about it. That is the one place they are thinking of moving it.

R. Duhaime: Why are the engineers designing the water system for Phase 1?

B. Thomas: It is not a big deal. Two water companies end at Hackett Hill Road. This will connect them and we control where the lines go. This is 3,600 feet from Dunkin Donuts to New England Records Retention.

R. Duhaime: What is the cost?

Chair Sullivan: We have established that infrastructure does include water.

R. Duhaime: Once we get to Route 3A, I don’t remember seeing this design.

A. Garron: This is exactly the same plan we saw in January.

Chair Sullivan: We are debating what is already approved. The voters approved the funding but the outline of the TIF District is up to us.

C. Karolian: Why does the design not bring water as far as it brings the sewer to Supreme Industries?

B. Thomas: They will have to design it. For now, just ignore the green line. I was trying to tell you, but I didn’t get to.

R. Duhaime: Why does the design go beyond Phase 2?

B. Thomas: By awarding the whole design, it gets done faster.

Chair Sullivan: It is comparable to the Master Plan.
A. Garron: I thought this was a high priority of the community. Phases 1 and 2 are the low hanging fruit. I would hate to be behind schedule and miss opportunities.

T. Tsantoulis: When we agreed to form a TIF District, Phases 1 and 2 had immediate needs. We understood there was a certain amount of gamble. We hired an engineering firm in which we have faith and confidence. More harm than good will be done if we pick this thing apart. We need to get it running. We have used a lot of time arguing over a small part of the project.

C. Karolian: Is this the complete design for Phases 1 through 5?

B. Thomas: Yes, it is. The bond is for the whole design.

C. Karolian: Should we need to spend more on design?

A. Garron: Only if we change the design. That is the caveat.

T. Tsantoulis motioned to approve of the Town Administrator signing Amendment Number 1 of Underwood Engineering’s contract with the Town to increase the existing contract by $807,200 for a new contract amount of $1,239,000. Chair Sullivan seconded the motion.

Chair Sullivan called for a roll call vote on the motion.

R. Duhaime: From Tri-Town to the Larrabee property is adding sewer and water for one specific property. There has to be a cost for this. It should go all the way to Bass Pro Shop and all of the other businesses.

C. Karolian: From the old amount to the new is an increase of 100% or double? Does it cost $800,000 to go from the Larrabee property back to the TIF District?

B. Thomas: The first part, $431,800, was the engineering study and preliminary design. The $807,200 is for the actual design and other costs such as the water main, traffic studies, easements, and surveys.

Chair Sullivan: The project is $2.5 million. We must have discussed going through private property lines. We need to pull back if we told the voters differently. We need to close up shop.

R. Duhaime: What we are looking at is a different plan.

Chair Sullivan: This one has a different color format.

T. Tsantoulis: Mr. Chairman, may I call the question?

Chair Sullivan called for a vote on the motion to approve Amendment Number 1 of Underwood Engineering’s contract with the Town to increase the existing contract by $807,200 for a new contract amount of $1,239,000.

Roll Call Vote #5

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<td>T. Tsantoulis</td>
<td>Aye</td>
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<td>C. Jones</td>
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<td>R. Duhaime</td>
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<td>A. Walczyk</td>
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<td>J. Levesque</td>
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C. Karolian  Nay
J. Durand  Nay
A. Comai  Aye
J. Sullivan  Aye

The motion failed (3-5).

T. Tsantoulis: I would like to ask the Town Administrator to invite the project manager from Underwood Engineering to a future meeting to explain this to us.

Chair Sullivan: We should contact the TIF Committee to whom we assigned this task. We have subcommittees, but if we want to change the Charter and have the Town Council make all decisions about planning and zoning, we are going to have very long meetings.

A. Garron: The TIF Committee did a good job presenting this plan.

D. Fitzpatrick: I have a comment. At our January 22nd meeting, many things you are talking about were covered. The 3,600-foot water line connection from the Records Retention Center to Dunkin Donuts, for example. I can share these minutes with you or you can go on line to read them.

NEW BUSINESS

Storm Water Management Program / Ordinance # 2020-1

E. Labonte: We need to enact an ordinance for storm water management. This is a requirement under the EPA mandate and NHDES mandates. This is one phase of completing the rest of the storm water management plan. This proposed ordinance mirrors those of nearby communities. It will bring us one step closer to compliance with federal and state requirements. It will allow us to work on an Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination (IDDE) management plan.

T. Tsantoulis motioned to hold a public hearing on the Storm Water Management Program/Ordinance #220-1 at the next Town Council meeting on March 25, 2020. A. Comai seconded the motion.

Voted unanimously in favor (8-0).

J. Levesque left the meeting at 9:00 pm.

NHMA 2021-2022 Legislative Policy Process

D. Fitzpatrick: At the last meeting, Mr. Garron gave a brief overview of the NHMA Legislative Policy Process. If anyone wants to volunteer for one of the committees, please contact me now. Their first meeting will be on April 3rd. Page 37 of your packets lists the three committees on which you might volunteer to serve: Finance and Revenue; General Administration and Governance; and Infrastructure, Development, and Land Use. At the last meeting, we distributed an orange packet with proposed legislative policies. It might give you ideas for things to bring forward. This is a biennial process.

Chair Sullivan: I would like to check the RSA requiring that three Town Councilors be in attendance at the end of the Town Meeting. I am wondering if it is possible to appoint someone to act on behalf of a Councilor.

D. Fitzpatrick: I will check with the Town Clerk on that.
R. Duhaime: This is something I have talked about for years. I think there should be an exemption or at least a discount on transponders for Hooksett residents. Trucks and cars avoid the tolls by going around, and we wait in traffic. Hampton would support this, being in a similar situation. We have no roundabout and no improvements. This is a ten-year plan, and it is not moving along. The House and Senate were to vote on the Merrimack toll, but the Executive Council on its own voted to waive the toll for Merrimack residents. They pay nothing. One of our State Representatives would help with the drafting of the legislation. Then there is Exit 10. When we were laying out the TIF District, the State told us we had to build our own highway intersection, that we couldn’t have access to the limited highway access ramp. Then DeMoulas was given this access and Hooksett was not consulted. Then a $1 million easement was required to protect the State of New Hampshire taxpayers. We have been treated unfairly.

D. Fitzpatrick. We can bring these proposals to our governing body, the Town Council, and by majority vote present them to the NHMA. I may have one suggestion regarding the New Hampshire Retirement System, if Mr. Garron agrees with me. I recommend waiting until July when the new Council is seated to pick a conference delegate. Councilor Walczak is unable to volunteer this year.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Public: 02/26/2020

T. Tsantoulis motioned to approve the minutes of the public session of February 26, 2020 as written. R. Duhaime seconded the motion.

Chair Sullivan: Councilor Comai, did you receive any corrections?

A. Comai: I did not.

Voted unanimously in favor (6-0). J. Levesque left the meeting prior to the vote; C. Karolian was out of the room during the vote.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

T. Tsantoulis: The Board of Assessors has been busy with abatements, especially hardship abatements.

Chair Sullivan: From the Heritage Commission, the owner of the barn at the old Duford house will be tearing it down. It did not meet the demo criteria. However, the owner plans to preserve as much as he can, including the cupola and surrounding woods. The plan is to recreate and expand the barn, creating a function pavilion with inside dining. The Heritage Commission plans to meet with Code Enforcement Officer Matt Lavoie about demo review criteria.

Chair Sullivan: I attended the Eagle Court of Honor on March 6th for Alex Gannon, a Hooksett resident and Youth Achiever, who is at the US Naval Academy. It was fantastic and brought back a lot of scouting memories. This was the 60th Court of Honor for Troop 292, which will be 70 years old in 2021.

R. Duhaime: The Planning Board approved a subdivision in the back of Webster Wood. Bernice Street will continue to Granite Street. This is 27 single-family homes.

T. Tsantoulis: Is this a 55+ community?
R. Duhaime: No, it is not. Another subdivision proposal was postponed. The location is off Spruce Court and off Farmer Road. It loops to Laurel Acres. There are a lot of wetlands and the land is hilly. The subdivision consists of 133 acres for 37 homes.

C. Karolian: I attended the Village Water Works presentation on March 3rd. It was informative and the presentation was very well done. They have 1,200 customers, and their water source is Penacook Pond. They have three pumping stations and plans to upgrade water lines and maintain their hydrants. They talked about their new backflow valves and new water storage structure near the Pike Industries quarry. Probably the first one in New Hampshire, it is built on the ground, one floor at a time. They talked about the plumbing under Lilac Bridge, which was interesting. They are replacing old meters with cellular ones so that people can look at their accounts. I have a better understanding of this operation now, and I am glad that I attended. Village Water Works was happy to have a Town Council member in attendance.

R. Duhaime motioned to adjourn at 9:18 pm. J. Durand seconded the motion. Voted unanimously in favor (7-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Donnelly
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Records Clerk