

# HOOKSETT DELIBERATIVE SESSION – February 2, 2019

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## **TOWN OF HOOKSETT DELIBERATIVE SESSION MINUTES Cawley Middle School Saturday February 2, 2019**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Moderator, Marc Miville called the First Deliberative Session to Order at Hooksett Cawley Middle School Cafeteria Center at 9:10 AM.

Boy Scout Troop led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **ATTENDANCE**

James Sullivan, Chair, Rob Duhaime, John Giotas, James Levesque, Tim Tsantoulis, Alex Walczyk and Don Winterton, Acting Town Administrator

Moderator Marc Miville

Supervisor of the Checklist Mike Horne and Barbara Brennan

Town Clerk, Todd Rainier

Legal Counsel, Steven M. Whitley

Registered voters – 119 in attendance

### **PROOF OF POSTING**

Proof of posting was provided by Moderator.

The Moderator introduced the members of the Town Council in Attendance as well as the Town Staff.

The Moderator recognized all veterans for their service.

A general overview of the rules and procedures was given by the Moderator.

### **BUSINESS**

Moderator Marc Miville read the Warrant Articles into the record:

To the inhabitants of the Town of Hooksett, New Hampshire, in the county of Merrimack in said state, qualified to vote in Town affairs.

You are hereby notified to meet at **David R. Cawley Middle School on Saturday, February 2, 2019 at 9:00 am** for the first session of the Town Meeting to discuss and amend, as required, warrant articles 2 through 23.

The final ballot vote for warrant articles will take place at **David R. Cawley Middle School on Tuesday, March 12, 2019**. The polls will be open from 6 am until 7 pm.

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## Article 1

To choose all necessary Town officers for the year ensuing.

## Article 2

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Million Five Hundred Thousand dollars (**\$2,500,000.00**) for the purpose of sewer and other infrastructure improvements on Route 3A in the Tax Increment Financing(TIF) District established in March of 2017, and to authorize the issuance of not more than Two Million Five Hundred Thousand dollars (\$2,500,000.00) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act, (RSA 33), as amended; and to authorize the Town Council to issue, negotiate, sell, and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and maturity and other terms thereof; and to authorize the Town Council to apply for, obtain, and accept federal, state, or other aid, if any, which may be available for said project, and to comply with all laws applicable to said project; and to authorize the Town Council to take any other action, or pass any other vote, relative thereto; furthermore, to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty-four Thousand dollars (**\$64,000.00**) from the Tax Increment Finance District Fund for the bond issuance costs and the first year's debt service payments on such bonds or notes. Bonds will be paid off in whole or in part from TIF District Funds. (3/5 ballot vote required) Recommended by Town Council (8 Yes, 0 No), Recommended by Budget Committee (6 Yes, 3 No).

*Moved by R. Duhaime. Seconded by A. Walczyk*

R. Duhaime: These funds will be used for Phase I, engineering and initial construction, of the Route 3A infrastructure improvements. Based on the estimates received in 2016, Phase II is estimated to cost an additional \$16 million to complete.

D. Winterton, Acting Town Administrator: I support this motion as did the Council. This follows through on a project the Sewer undertook and spent 2 million dollars. This is for \$2.5 million which will be paid by the TIF. The impact to the tax will be zero. Without sewer, there will never be a restaurant or project on Hackett Hill until there is sewer on that side of the river.

J. Hyde, 36 Edgewater: There is no estimated tax rate on that Article because theoretically, the taxes will come from that property. If there is no increase tax revenue from that area, we don't know how much the impact will be for that bond? Mr. Winterton said there will never be hotels or restaurants, we heard there would never be a Market Basket or Bass Pro but they came at their own expense. For us to pay for this is corporate welfare.

Frank Kotowski, 34 Mammoth Road #28: I would like to thank the Budget Committee and the Council on behalf of the Sewer Commissioners for having the sense to put this article on the ballot. For years we looked at ways to expand our tax base. We saw companies that wouldn't impact the town go to other towns and applicants that wanted to relocate have to turn to other places. If you look at Bow, from the Hooksett line to Concord, they put in a TIF. We lost the liquor warehouse in Bow which would have been taxes for Hooksett. I spoke in Concord of the importance of good infrastructure for communities. As a Sewer Commission, I understand the importance. The pipe has been installed under the river and I hope the residents understand the importance. Earlier someone spoke of companies doing it on their dime. We are concerned because some of the big box stores are at risk of sewer failure.

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D. Winterton: The tax impact rate would be .27/1000 for 5 years if there were no money in the TIF fund. There is now \$420,000 dollars in the fund.

D. Winterton explained what a TIF District is.

James Moody, 39 Quince Hill: The additional cost of 16 million; will that also have no tax impact?

D. Winterton: That may or may not, depending on how the project goes forward. That question will be brought to the voters and depends when the project takes place. Look to Londonderry and their TIF.

R. Duhaime: Looking at the cost and that is an estimate now and will go up in the future. 4-5 years ago as a member of SNPC there was C-TAP money which was given for the widening of I93. You are starting to see a backup on I93N and the impact will continue and we will see commercial growth and the sewer is a way to get in front of the development and Hooksett is one of a few towns in NH that has 3 exits off of 93 and this will benefit the town in the future.

*Moderator declared the Article 2 moved to ballot.*

### **Article 3**

Shall the town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant, for the purposes set forth therein, and other appropriations voted separately totaling **\$19,035,357.00**? Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be \$18,666,969.00, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town meeting, or by law or the Town Council may hold one special meeting, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. Estimated tax rate impact \$5.89. Recommended by Town Council (7 Yes, 0 No), Recommended by Budget Committee (7 Yes, 2 No).

*Moved by J. Hyde. Seconded by C. Morneau.*

J. Hyde: We are presenting the Budget because ultimately it is the Budget Committees budget. It is prepared by Council and we go through it line by line to be sure they are correct. We supported this 7-2. There is extensive explanation on what we did. We decreased Administration for Zen City which was social media software. We increased the Fire Budget because of the increase in water for hydrants.

The Council and Administrators did a good job to keep the budget level. They provided trends so we could look at the data.

C. Morneau: We spent a lot of time on this and we have a budget that is reflective on what the town spends. There are items like salaries that we can't subtract. The Departments spent a lot of time explaining their needs. Our job is to review everything and determine the needs to keep it operating. We don't want anyone to go without and we spent a lot of time on Fire and Police and they did a great job identifying everything.

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W. Goertel: RSA 32 states that we are responsible for the prudent distribution of public funds. Departments did a good job at looking at past actuals in preparing their budget. It was a pretty solid budget.

***Henry Roy, 6 Shaker Hill Road motioned to increase Article 3 \$49,000 for the hydrants. Seconded by Fred Bishop.***

Fred Bishop, 34 Mammoth Road #26: It cost Stonegate \$1250 annually because it is private hydrants. We also pay taxes on our bill for the hydrants that are on public property. This is double taxation. We pay for our hydrants through our condo association and then we pay again for everyone else's hydrants in our tax bill. Litchfield had a case and change to fairly charge everyone and I hope Hooksett will do the same.

J. Hyde, Budget Committee: I point out that the Budget Committee increased the operating budget \$36,000 for the town owned hydrants because the water precinct increased the price. We don't own those hydrants. I don't know why the residents should pay for privately own hydrants. If you don't want them, don't have them.

Dianne Humelsine, 3 Beech Street: We are a 55 community in Webster Wood. Our tax rate is the same as everyone else in town and we don't get trash pickup or plowing. This hydrant would be a small amount that the town could do. Everyone in our community is over 55 and we have no impact on school so we should get some relief.

J. Sullivan: My understanding is the Planning Board requires a certain amount of hydrants in an area whether they are private or not. They are not optional.

R. Duhaime: The injustice of condo living. There are people that don't have water and sewer but get billed on the taxes. You choose to live in a 55 community.

**Vote on motion declared passed by voice vote by the Moderator.**

G. Kozlowski, 22 Julia Drive: If you have the default budget, and you have to make hard decisions, what will be cut?

J. Hyde: There is \$100,000 for storm water monitoring which is mandated by state.

D. Winterton: I would not be making the cuts because I will not be the Administrator as of July 1. We (the Administrator) would have to function in the budget dollars that the citizens give you.

Chief Burkush: The hydrant lease and rentals; there are other developments in town that would be impacted. The impact of absorbing all the private hydrants would be \$180,000. We manage the hydrant rental and leases in our budget and have no control over the cost.

We are 90% personnel costs so if we needed to make reduction, we would have to make cuts.

J Hyde: How much money of the previous budget was not spent by the town?

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D. Winterton: A little over \$500k was not spent; of this, \$300,000 was returned to the taxpayers to offset the tax rate and \$200,000 went to the fund balance.

J. Hyde: There is typically some excess of funds raised by taxes due to a variety of factors: staffing, etc.

D. Winterton: Chairman Hyde is exactly correct; most of the overage comes from personnel, early retirement, etc.

Henry Roy, 6 Shaker Hill Rd: Clarification on the hydrant locations. All are residential located throughout town; none are commercial.

Moderator Miville explained the revised budget number.

**Moderator declared Article 3 moved to the ballot as amended.**

### **Article 4**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$4,800,000.00** for the purpose of constructing the Hackett Hill and Route 3A Roundabout; of that amount \$3,200,000.00 will be from the State of New Hampshire Department of Transportation; \$405,088.00 from Roadway Impact Fees and the balance of \$1,194,912.00 to come from the unassigned fund balance. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not *lapse* until the Hackett Hill and Route 3A roundabout is completed or by June 30, 2025, whichever is sooner. No additional amount to be raised from taxation. Not recommended by Town Council (1 Yes, 7 No), Not recommended by Budget Committee (2 Yes, 7 No).

**Moved by R. Duhaime. Seconded by J. Levesque**

R. Duhaime: The purpose of this project is to improve safety and traffic congestion by adding a roundabout to the intersection of Hackett Hill Road and Route 3A. The Town has been working with the State of NH on this project since 2011. The original cost estimates to complete the project was \$1.2 million. Delays and added project reviews have the new construction estimates coming in at \$4.8 million. The State's portion of the cost will be 66.7% which is \$3.2 million. The Town's portion will be 33.3% or \$1.6 million. The Town already has impact fees in the amount of \$405,088 obligated for the project (to be used as a portion of the Town's 33.3% share). Therefore; an unassigned fund balance of \$1,194,912 will be required to finish the project.

J. Levesque: This has been going on for a number of years and we have been working with the State and now the cost keeps going up. No matter what they put there, unless they fix the traffic at the lights, it will continue to back up. Sometimes it backs up to Irving and interstate 93. Until something is done about the light bottleneck, it won't do anything and that is why I voted against it.

J. Hyde: The Budget committee believes that the interstate, West River Road and Hackett Hill are all State owned roads. It is the State so the State can pay for it. Personally, I live north of the light and the problem is not Hackett Hill; the problem is Main Street. That is what needs a

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roundabout. I would rather spend the money fixing that and that is why the Budget Committee did not support this.

B. Soucy: I live off of Hackett Hill and that area is a disaster. Something has to start and we have money from the State and we need to do something

**Moderator declared Article 4 moved to the ballot.**

### **Article 5**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$250,000.00** to be added to the Fire Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Estimated tax rate impact is \$0.13. Recommended by Town Council (6 Yes, 0 No), Recommended by Budget Committee (5 Yes, 4 No).

*Moved by T. Tsantoulis. Seconded by J. Giotas.*

T. Tsantoulis: There is \$355,155 in the account as of December 31, 2018, with \$250,000 to be withdrawn for the new pumper approved in March 2018 and another \$22,000 for the forestry truck, leaving \$94,155 available to spend. The purpose of this article is to provide funding for the replacement of fire apparatus. These vehicles range between \$600,000 for pumpers and nearly \$1,000,000 for a ladder truck. This capital reserve funding program allows for the Town to incrementally save for these large expenditures. Ladder 1 which has been out of service for over 6 months due to severe corrosion to the frame and aerial torque box has failed State Inspection, UL Inspection and examination by the Town's insurance carrier. Staff, after consulting with different specialists, has determined it is not cost effective to spend in excess of \$180,000 to repair the 16 year old truck and is looking to replace the ladder truck.

J. Giotas: We are currently relying on mutual aid and the cost of a ladder truck is 1 million plus so this needs to be put aside to start saving for a truck.

J. Hyde: We support putting money aside to buy large items down the road. There is also talk of leasing a truck or talking with SNHU to fund this truck.

D. Winterton: The town has started discussions with SNHU and I would not characterize that as overly optimistic and those discussions are not in public status at this point.

S. Colburn: The ladder truck prematurely failed and we tried to get it repaired under warrantee. It is not the recommendation to spend \$180,000 to fix a truck damaged by corrosion. There was talk of renting but that truck is now gone and unavailable. We looked at purchasing a truck and after discussion with Council; we decided to put money away and pay for a truck in a few years and not pay interest and decrease the tax spike. We are looking at purchasing a used truck. We have dorms at SNHU as well as the safety of the residents of the town to consider. The \$250,000 would give us the flexibility to do something in the short term and start saving for down the road.

F. Kotowski: The question I ask is how often is the vehicle used and has it been used since you've had to rely on mutual aid?

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S. Colburn: It is part of normal response with 60,000 miles. It is not running on medical calls but on fire. It is a vital part of our mission. It is used every day. It is the only truck large enough to run fans for the commercial buildings if needed.

D. Winterton: The support of the Council and hopefully for support of the voters will give the Fire Department flexibility. The reason we have building over 35 feet is because we changed our building codes to allow us to build over 35 feet since we purchased the first ladder truck. I feel we now have a moral responsibility to provide that protection even if we don't have a legal responsibility.

J. Hyde: Why not lease a vehicle?

D. Winterton: I don't think we have eliminated the option of renting or leasing. Whether this \$250,000 will be spent on purchasing, leasing or renting has not yet been determined.

A. Whatley: If we are going to expand our infrastructure and go down Route 3 and not limit our construction, we need to support this.

Doris Demers, Stonegate #17: How can the Budget Committee say no to something that is so essential? If we rely on other community, how much will it cost. Why doesn't the article say we can rent in the article?

J. Hyde: I agree we need a truck but personally I don't think we need another \$250,000 for a leased vehicle. If we purchase a vehicle and it rots, we will have to drop another million. If we lease, we can turn it over in 10 years and get a new truck. I think we can spend less.

J. Sullivan: The lease option is not mentioned because we discussed a number of options prior to placing this article on the ballot. This article gives us an option. This is money for fire apparatus. It is not just for a ladder truck, it is for anything they feel they need. We would not put a restriction in the article for a lease.

S. Colburn: The warrant is to put money in a capital reserve which was started a few years ago. The most financial sense is to put money away for purchase. If you lease, you are paying financing on that lease. The warrant is asking to put money in the account and allows the Council to purchase Apparatus as they need. The ladder is being looked at with different avenues. If this is approved, this will help to find a long and short term option for the ladder truck. With a lease, the law is it has to go on the warrant every year and if that article fails one year we would have to return the truck.

Doris Demers, 34 Mammoth Road #17: What are we paying other departments for mutual aid?

S. Colburn: The way we operate is mutual aid. If we need assistance, we call them in. If I need a ladder truck, we ask Manchester and they won't bill us but they expect us to reciprocate. We all work together. Manchester is now downsizing and they only have three (3) in service and Concord has one (1).

D. Winterton: We could rent for up to a year out of the operating budget.

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D. Fitzpatrick: There are other capital reserves in the town other than Fire.

Bob Thinnis, 58 Lindsay Road: There are a couple of types of leases, a true and operating where you can purchase the equipment at the end of the lease for market value. The second lease is you are paying the thing off and you are paying interest. If they need a truck, you can get one now and start making payments. It just makes sense to lease as much as you can.

R. Duhaime: The Council spent a great deal of time discussing this. We are currently in a default budget. There are 23 Articles and we would not want a million dollars in one (1) year. The idea is we want this budget and we want to pass these articles.

*Bob Willey 3 Morningside Drive motioned to move the question. Second by D. Riley.*

**Moderator declared Article 5 moved to ballot.**

### **Article 6**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$200,000.00** for the purpose of a partial renovation of the Old Town Hall with said funds to come from the unassigned fund balance. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the renovations are completed or by June 30, 2025, whichever is sooner. No additional amount to be raised from taxation. Recommended by Town Council (6 Yes, 0 No), Not recommended by Budget Committee (4 Yes, 5 No).

*Moved by J. Sullivan. Seconded by J. Giotas*

J. Sullivan: This building is a historical building and the Town Hall moved to 35 Main Street. At that time, the town felt the need to save this building. Methodically and with input from the committee, seeking out options and grants, we wanted to preserve the building and make it usable in many applications. Through pragmatic use of the budget, the town worked with preservation groups and took small steps to do what was needed which included removal of the second floor by town workers and plumbing removal. The tin ceiling and windows were done with grants. We are at the point where additional costs need to be expended. We have put in \$250,000 already including handicap ramps.

To raise and appropriate funds for the next phase of the historical renovations of Old Town Hall for the 200th Anniversary of the Town. This phase will restore the building to a minimally functional state where any deterioration from the elements will be halted and the building will be accessible. The following is included in the work:

- Complete remaining structural work.

- Install insulation below roof in addition area.

- Flooring work as necessary.

- Install heating, mechanical and electrical.

- Complete construction of bathrooms (plumbing, fixtures, walls, doors, etc.)

- Complete construction of kitchen area (plumbing, cabinets, etc.)

The cost of this work is estimated to be approximately \$300,000. It is our plan to ask for an addition \$100,000 next year.

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J. Giotas: My concern is allowing the building to go too long without heating. The picture of the town is Robie's Store and Old Town Hall. I support this.

J. Hyde: The Budget committee voted 4-5 to not recommend. I look at \$250,000 out of fund balance and there is a previous article for \$250,000 as well as other articles which are more pressing.

C. Morneau: I supported this because the longer it sits the more expensive it is to fix. We may get to the point where we can have the town meetings there.

Heather Rainer, Librarian: As the library director, you can call it a want but there is a need in the community and the demand is great from the town.

John Lyscars, 142 Hackett Hill Road: It would be nice if we had the Cawley Middle School Guest WIFI unlock for our phones.

I think it is time for Hooksett to think outside the box and find ways to bring our community together. With the fast pace world, there is little time to come together. Long term community center is wanted by the town. I want to recognize Kathy Northrup for all her work and I am in favor of saving old building but I am not in favor of putting that burden on the taxpayer.

We need to say what do we need in the community and what will bring us together? Where should we invest our money? This building should be run by non-profits.

A. Whatley: We need to consider need vs want. If you are going to make this facility year round, you need to consider handicap accessibility. If those are possible, they would be considered by seniors otherwise there may be better option available.

**Moderator declared Article 6 moved to the ballot**

### **Article 7**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$180,000.00** to purchase a six wheel plow truck for the Department of Public Works. Estimated tax rate impact is \$0.09. Recommended by Town Council (8 Yes, 0 No), Recommended by Budget Committee (5 Yes, 4 No).

***Moved by J. Levesque. Seconded by J. Giotas***

J. Levesque: The purpose of this warrant article is to purchase a 6 wheel truck for plowing. This is to replace a 1997 truck and that has failed inspection due to the cracks in the frame. This plow truck is necessary to maintain and plow roads in a timely fashion. Failure to replace this plow truck would result in delays in plowing the streets, resulting in extended plowing times and residential complains.

J. Levesque: We do get our money's worth out of our vehicles. It is for plowing and is used year round.

J. Giotas: Streets need to be plowed.

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**Moderator declared Article 7 moved to the ballot.**

**Article 8**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$100,000.00** to be added to the Town Building Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Estimated tax rate impact is \$0.05. Recommended by Town Council (8 Yes, 0 No), Recommended by Budget Committee (7 Yes, 2 No).

*Moved by J. Giotas. Seconded by A. Walczyk*

**Moderator declared Article 8 moved to the ballot.**

**Article 9**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$100,000.00** to be added to the Public Works' Vehicles Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Estimated tax rate impact is \$0.05. Recommended by Town Council (8 Yes, 0 No), Recommended by Budget Committee (6 Yes, 3 No).

*Moved by A. Walczyk. Seconded by J. Sullivan*

A. Walczyk: To purchase vehicles for plowing and road maintenance, including equipment to replace an aging fleet and to reduce the cost of vehicle maintenance. There is \$185,445 in the account as of December 31, 2018. The Town has one truck on order for \$167,150, which would leave \$18,295 in the reserve. The reserve fund allows for the Town to replace and add vehicles when needed. This fund evens the burden on tax payers by planning for the purchase. The town is continuing to grow and we will need to address that growth.

**Moderator declared Article 9 moved to the ballot.**

**Article 10**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$93,153.00** for an increase in salaries and benefits for non-union full-time and part-time Town personnel.

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Salaries</u>	<u>Benefits</u>	<u>Total</u>
2019-20	\$77,260.00	\$15,893.00	\$93,153.00

Estimated tax impact is \$0.05. Recommended by Town Council (8 Yes, 0 No), Recommended by Budget Committee (8 Yes, 1 No).

*Moved by D. Winterton. Seconded by J. Giotas*

D. Winterton: This is non-union as well as Police staff.

J. Giotas: I support this and we want to maintain our staff and attract new employees.

**Moderator moved Article 10 to the ballot.**

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## Article 11

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate sum of **\$89,000.00** for salary and benefits to hire a full-time recreation director; of this amount \$30,000.00 is authorized to be withdrawn from the Recreation Revolving Fund and the balance of \$59,000.00 to be raised from general taxation.

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Benefits</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
2019-20	\$58,000.00	\$31,000.00	\$89,000.00

Estimated tax rate impact is \$0.03. Recommended by Town Council (5 Yes, 1 No, 1 Abstention), Not recommended by Budget Committee (3 Yes, 6 No).

### *Moved by R. Duhaime. Seconded by A. Walczyk*

R. Duhaime: This has not passed for the past two (2) years. This is a need by the town. We had a winter carnival this year and if we had a Park and Rec Director it would be interesting to see how it would run.

A. Walczyk: It is for Park and Recreation and to bring the community together. This is not just for Fun in the Sun but for everything. It would bring leadership to the town to oversee all the programs and hold someone accountable and come up with plans. We don't have that function now and volunteers, while wonderful and necessary, this warrants a full time position to work with volunteers and organize the volunteers. Many do not see this as a need but there are comparable communities that have this position.

W. Goertel: The tax impact includes a subsidy of \$3000 for the first year. There is a lot of support on social media for this and yet it didn't pass last year. My concern is it is a new staff position as well as a new department. I don't agree with micromanaging volunteer staff.

J. Hyde: I voted against this because this is the third time on the ballot and the message didn't get through. My wife and family run Old Home Day as Volunteers. She interacts with everyone at the local and State level. How long before they will be looking for more staff? If someone is in the middle doing what volunteers on HYAA, Old Home Day, and others are now doing, how long before staff is needed. The exception is Fun in the Sun which many do not feel we should be doing. We haven't had this in the past and I don't think we need it in the future.

John Lyscars, 142 Hackett Hill: We need to recognize people who work hard on sub committees. We are in a transition phase. If anyone wants to see a video I did with North Conway. The beauty of this model is it is Non-profit. We don't want a new department. We understand this is important and they actually submit a budget and the town puts a number on a warrant article and the town gives it a thumb up or down. It has passed every year.

Kiwanis, headed by Bob Willey ran a Winter Carnival and was attended by many children. It is a way to bring all ages together. The community center is needed with a non-profit.

Dave MacPherson, 28 Springwood, Park and Rec Advisory Board: In 2017 it was put out with little discussion ahead of time and little information. Council asked us to do research and tell them why it is needed. It was put on the ballot. The vote in 2017 was 145-Yes and 381-No. In 2018 the vote was 395- Yes and 423 No. That is a 172% increase in yes votes and 11% decrease in no votes.

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We asked that the wording on the article be the same as last year.

Key in wording last year was not to exceed \$58,000. That was what we wanted this year, “not to exceed”. The amount is \$89,000 this year due to increases in benefit costs. The wording on the current article was not the intent to say “89,000 for Director”.

Alex Wilson, 22 Joanne Drive: Someone said I93 will change our direction. Studies show that vibrant Park and Rec Programs change property value. We are competing with other towns in that corridor on how we will capture that value. This position will not challenge volunteer position, in the contrary; it will enhance that and draw more in. It is also a single coordination point. Having a single point of contact can be invaluable.

*David MacPherson motion to include the wording “Not to exceed 89,000” for salary and benefits. And “up to” \$59,000 Seconded by J. Lyscars.*

J. Sullivan: This would not change anything but adding this note would not constitute an issue.

**Moderator declared the motion passed by voice vote.**

Bob Willey: That position is a step in the right direction.

*Fred Bishop motioned to move the question. Seconded by D. Riley  
Vote in favor*

**Moderator declared Article 11 moved to the ballot as amended**

### Article 12

To see if the town will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Hooksett Town Council and the Public Works’ Employees Local 633, Teamsters which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

#### Estimated increase over prior year

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Salaries</u>	<u>Benefits</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
2019-20	\$ 71,061.00	\$ 12,503.00	\$ 83,564.00
2020-21	26,685.00	5,932.00	32,617.00

and further to raise and appropriate **\$83,564.00** for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the amount to be raised from general taxation. Such sum represents the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels. Estimated tax rate impact is \$0.04. Recommended by Town Council (6 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstention), Recommended by Budget Committee (7 Yes, 2 No).

*Moved by R. Duhaime. Seconded by J. Giotas*

**Moderator declared Article 12 moved to the ballot.**

### Article 13

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To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$80,000.00** to be added to the previously established Capital Reserve Funds and to apportion the sum among several funds as listed below:

Air Packs & Bottles	\$ 25,000.00
Fire Rescue Tools & Equipment	35,000.00
Fire Cistern	<u>20,000.00</u>
Total	\$ 80,000.00

Estimated tax rate impact is \$0.04. Recommended by Town Council (6 Yes, 0 No), Recommended by Budget Committee (8 Yes, 1 No).

***Moved by T. Tsantoulis. Seconded by D. Winterton***

T. Tsantoulis: Air Packs & Bottles Reserve: Total project cost is \$300,000. There is \$254,995 in the account as of December 31, 2018. Estimated year of purchase is 2020. The project was established to replace all the Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) when they reach 15 years of service. The existing air packs were purchased in 2005. SCBA are critical equipment for firefighters. A single purchase date allows for only one model choice which enhances familiarity by all members, equipment exchange department wide anywhere, anytime, station or scene, reduced parts inventory, linear inspections and service needs, all which improve employee safety.

Fire Rescue Tools & Equipment Reserve: There is \$35,373 in this account as of December 31, 2018. This fund will allow the Fire-Rescue department to develop a replacement plan for these relatively expensive items, such as, “Jaws of Life”, jacking and lifting struts, air bags, high angle and low angle rope rescue, and ice rescue equipment. As these items become unreliable the operations and efficiency of the Fire-Rescue Department may become compromised.

Fire Cistern Reserve: There is \$16,145 in this account as of December 31, 2018. This reserve saves for repairs to the fire cisterns that provide water in remote areas of the Town. Water supply for fire protection may be compromised if these cisterns are not maintained

**Moderator declared Article 13 moved to ballot**

### **Article 14**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$80,000.00** to purchase a 100 yard live bottom floor trailer for the Recycling and Transfer Division of Public Works with said funds to come from the Solid Waste Disposal Special Revenue Fund. No amount to be raised from taxation. Recommended by Town Council (8 Yes, 0 No), Recommended by Budget Committee (9 Yes, 0 No).

***Moved by J. Levesque. Seconded by D. Winterton***

***Fred Bishop motioned to waive the reading of the printed explanation. Seconded by Barbara Brennan.***

***Vote in favor***

**Moderator declared Article 14 moved to the ballot.**

# HOOKSETT DELIBERATIVE SESSION – February 2, 2019

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## **Article 15**

To see if the town will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Hooksett Town Council and the Hooksett Permanent Firefighters Association Local 3264, IAFF which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

Estimated increase over prior year

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Salaries</u>	<u>Benefits</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
2019-20	\$ 47,898.00	\$ 30,565.00	\$ 78,463.00

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$78,463.00** for the current fiscal year; of this amount \$5,040.00 is authorized to be withdrawn from the Ambulance Revenue Fund, and the balance of \$73,423.00 to be raised from general taxation. Such sum represents the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels. Estimated tax rate impact is \$0.04. Recommended by Town Council (8 Yes, 0 No), Recommended by Budget Committee (6 Yes, 3 No).

*Moved by R. Duhaime. Seconded by J. Sullivan*

**Moderator declared Article 15 moved to the ballot.**

## **Article 16**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$55,000.00** to purchase a vehicle for the Fire-Rescue Department. Estimated tax rate impact is \$0.03. Recommended by Town Council (8 Yes, 0 No), Recommended by Budget Committee (8 Yes, 1 No).

*Moved by T. Tsantoulis. Seconded by A. Walczyk*

T. Tsantoulis: The mileage on vehicles can be deceiving. There can be limited miles with more wear.

**Moderator declared Article 16 moved to the ballot.**

## **Article 17**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$50,000.00** to be added to the Emergency Radio Communications Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Estimated tax rate impact is \$0.03. Recommended by Town Council (8 Yes, 0 No), Recommended by Budget Committee (9 Yes, 0 No).

*Moved by R. Duhaime. Seconded by D. Winterton*

**Moderator declared Article 17 moved to the ballot**

## **Article 18**

## HOOKSETT DELIBERATIVE SESSION – February 2, 2019

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To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$50,000.00** to be added to the Drainage Upgrades Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Estimated tax rate impact is \$0.03. Recommended by Town Council (8 Yes, 0 No), Recommended by Budget Committee (8 Yes, 1 No).

*Moved by J. Sullivan. Seconded by J. Giotas*

**Moderator declared Article 18 moved to the ballot**

### **Article 19**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$30,000.00** to be added to the Automated Collection Equipment Capital Reserve previously established. Estimated tax rate impact is \$0.02. Recommended by Town Council (6 Yes, 2 No), Recommended by Budget Committee (9 Yes, 0 No).

*Moved by A. Walczyk. Seconded by J. Levesque*

**Moderator declared Article 19 moved to the ballot.**

### **Article 20**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$30,000.00** to be added to the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Estimated tax rate impact is \$0.02. Recommended by Town Council (8 Yes, 0 No), Recommended by Budget Committee (7 Yes, 2 No).

*Moved by R. Duhaime. Seconded by J. Sullivan*

**Moderator declared Article 20 moved to the ballot.**

### **Article 21**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$15,000.00** to be added to the Parks & Recreation Facilities Development Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Estimated tax rate impact is \$0.01. Recommended by Town Council (8 Yes, 0 No), Not recommended by Budget Committee (4 Yes, 5 No).

*Moved by J. Giotas. Seconded by J. Sullivan*

**Moderator declared Article 21 moved to the ballot.**

### **Article 22**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$10,000.00** to be added to the Conservation Land Improvements Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Estimated tax rate impact is \$0.01. Recommended by Town Council (8 Yes, 0 No), Not recommended by Budget Committee (2 Yes, 7 No).

*Moved by R. Duhaime. Seconded by J. Giotas*

## HOOKSETT DELIBERATIVE SESSION – February 2, 2019

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Cindy Robinson: I recognize and understand why the Budget Committee didn't support this article and we have focused on buying land in the past. This is about quality of life. As we had conversations and worked on the master plan and we have money in the account; this year we will focus on making trails like the riverfront trail as well as Quimby Mountain and the Pinnacle. This is the time to support us in the trail development.

**Moderator declared Article 22 moved to the ballot.**

### **Article 23**

To see if the town will vote to amend the Hooksett Town Charter by voting to change Article 10.2.B to the following: *“Unless otherwise set forth in this Charter all elected officials in the Town shall take or continue in office on the first day of ~~May~~ July next following their election and shall hold office until their successors are elected and qualified.”*

Steven M. Whitley, Town Attorney: By State Law, this article should move on the ballot to immediately following the elections of offices.

*J. Sullivan motioned to place this second on the ballot per state law. Seconded by D. Winterton.*

*Vote in favor, motion passed.*

**Moderator declared Article 23 moved to the ballot to appear following the Election of Officers.**

**Moderator declared the meeting closed at 12:21 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Ann Moynihan  
Recording Clerk