



## Town Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday March 9, 2017, at 7:00 PM, in the Matthew Thornton Room

Chairman Harrington called the meeting of the Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. Present at the meeting were Vice Chairman Rothhaus, Councilor Boyd, Councilor Flood, Councilor Koenig, Councilor Mahon, and Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director Paul Micali. Councilor Dwyer and Town Manager Eileen Cabanel were excused.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman Harrington led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Announcements**

The Deliberative Session will be conducted on Wednesday March 15, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the James Mastricola Elementary School All-Purpose Room.

A regular meeting of the Town Council will be conducted on Thursday, March 23, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Matthew Thornton Room.

Voting Day is Tuesday, April 11, 2017 from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the three polling locations; James Mastricola Upper Elementary School, the Merrimack Middle School, and the St. John Nuemann Church. Please contact the Town Clerk's Office at 424-3651 or visit the New Hampshire Secretary of State's [website](#) to find your specific polling location.

The 2017 dog licenses are now available. All dogs 4 months and older are required, by State law, to be licensed. Please contact the Town Clerk's office with any questions.

The Annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Saturday, April 8th. Plans are underway to give out more than 5,000 Easter Eggs this year.

The Library will be hosting the Michael LoVerme Memorial Foundation's Annual Computer Clinic on Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. This is an opportunity to have a trained computer technician solve your technology problems during a one-on-one session. Please visit the library website at [www.merrimacklibrary.org](http://www.merrimacklibrary.org) for details.

The Highway Division is seeking applicants for four summer maintainer positions to maintain athletic fields and park areas. If you know anyone interested please have them visit the Town website and fill out an application.

The Public Works Department (PWD) is selling compost bins and rain barrels at discounted prices. Orders need to be placed by March 24<sup>th</sup>. Details can be found on the Public Works' Facebook page or the Town website, or by calling Public Works.

The Merrimack Chamber of Commerce will be hosting their Annual Spring Into Chic Fashion Show and Expo. on Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the Courtyard by Marriott in Nashua. Fashions

from local boutiques and the Merrimack Premium Outlets will be featured. Our own Parks & Recreation Director, Matt Casparius, Police Chief, Mark Doyle, and Library Director Yvette Couser as well as the Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director, Paul Micali, have agreed to participate as models. The Chamber will be awarding one \$500 cash scholarship to one participating Merrimack High School Senior and the event will be emceed by WMUR's Kevin Skarupa. Please visit the Chamber of Commerce website at [www.merrimackchamber.org](http://www.merrimackchamber.org) for information or to purchase tickets.

**Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) Information Update**

Chairman Harrington stated the Town Manager contacted the Department of Health & Human Services seeking an update as to the number of blood samples that have been drawn, and if having not achieved the 200 mark, if they would be receptive to volunteers. She read the following response into the record:

*"As of Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, the DHHS public health lab had received 145 blood samples from MVD customers as part of the random sample program. Two hundred and fifty MVD customers have registered. We share the concerns of the Merrimack Town Council and MVD customers who are anxious for results on the sampling program, and we are continuing in increasing our efforts to get 200 random selected customers to participate.*

*Understanding that MVD customers who have already had their blood tested are likely anxious to get results, we are going to send emails to all who have had their blood tested updating them that the process is ongoing and emails to all who registered who have not had their blood tested to remind them that they need to act. To date, we have sent letters of invitation to 700 random selected MVD customers. Additionally, next week, the department will send letters of invitation to an additional 300 randomly selected MVD customers.*

*While I can certainly appreciate the interest of MVD customers who want to volunteer, it is important that this program continue as a random sampling of MVD customers to ensure that the results accurately represent the entirety of the MVD customer base.*

*The goal of this program is to randomly sample MVD customers and have a representative percentage of participants who live near the Saint-Gobain site and further away. The sample also draws invitees by other demographic factors including time spent as an MVD customer so there is a cross-section of people who have been on public water for a long period of time and a shorter period of time. This is all to ensure the results accurately show the impact of contamination around the Saint-Gobain plant on all MVD customers, not just self-selected volunteers or customers near the contamination. As soon as we allow people to volunteer, this will no longer be a random sample, and the data will not be as valid.*

*I hope the above makes sense. DHHS is conducting this sample program out of a sincere desire to understand the impact of PFC contamination on MVD customers, and we are very anxious to reach 200 participants in order to deliver data that is meaningful to MVD customers, Merrimack residents, and Town officials."*

**Public Comments** - None

**Recognitions, Resignations and Retirements** - None

**Appointments**

**1. Annual Review with the Highway Safety Committee**

Submitted by Highway Safety Committee Chairman Mark Doyle

Per Town of Merrimack Charter Section 6-6, at least annually, there should be an annual review with the Highway Safety Committee. This agenda item is to highlight the committee's significant actions, current projects, anticipated actions, and to raise any concerns the Council should know or could act on.

Police Chief Mark Doyle, Chairman, Highway Safety Committee, informed the Council Officer Mark Briggs, who was a Police Officer in Merrimack back in the '80s, passed away last week. He had been a Police Officer in Merrimack for a number of years, and then moved on to the Transit Authority in Boston, MA, and worked and retired from the MBTA Police. Thoughts and prayers from the Merrimack Police Department go out to Mark's family.

Chief Doyle stated the Town has in place a Highway Safety Program, which is designed to reduce traffic accidents resulting in deaths, injuries, and property damage. The primary mission of the Highway Safety Committee (Committee) is to investigate, deliberate, educate, and provide recommendations on highway concerns, complaints, issues, or questions raised by residents or Town officials in accordance with its purpose. The Committee's Charge is to provide advice and direction to the Town Council regarding highway safety improvements, alterations, and Ordinances, and any other items related to its mission and purpose that may require the Council's action.

Chief Doyle noted the current members of the Committee. The Committee had one meeting last year as a result of having only a few items to address. He spoke of the issues surrounding the design of the D.W. Drive Horseshoe Pond access, and how users have a tendency to bypass the backed-up traffic, and use that as a passing lane. A stop sign was installed in that area. Sight line issues associated with the connection/access between D.W. Drive and D.W. Highway were addressed (trimming of bushes and shrubbery). The stop sign was installed at the corner of Island Drive and D.W. Drive.

The Committee discussed the Exit 13 off-ramp and the merge that happens in that area. The Department of Transportation explained they are currently satisfied with that off-ramp confirmation and plan no new modifications at this point. However, time will tell; in the event it looks like they need modifications, they will address it then.

The Committee discussed Penny Lane/Abbey Road sight distance updates, which Kyle Fox, Director, PWD, addressed.

The Committee met with Nelson Disco of the Town Center Planning Committee, and discussed the ongoing TAP Grant project they have going on, the sidewalk proposals they have coming up, and received an update on the Nashua Regional Planning Committee bicycles and pedestrians plan through the center of Merrimack, which was well received by the Committee. The Committee was pleased to receive an update on what the programs are that are out there and the Complete Streets and HEAL programs that are being adopted by the State and cities around the State.

The Committee received a stop sign request for the corner of Everest Drive and Dahl Road. The individual that made the complaint stated an apparent sight line issue. The Committee reviewed the

1 request and discovered there was never a stop sign there, there was never a stop sign that had been  
2 approved to be there, and it was the opinion of the Committee that because there was no need to erect  
3 one, there was no need to put one there at all.

4  
5 There was a stop sign issue at the corner of the Commons parking lot that rolled out into and onto Front  
6 Street. Even though it is not an authorized or enforceable stop sign because it is not anything that the  
7 Police Department or the Committee authorized or was adopted by Ordinance, the folks at the Commons  
8 and those at Tractor Supply were very much willing to work with the Committee and erect a brand new  
9 stop sign there. That will at least give those egressing out onto Front Street an opportunity to take note  
10 and stop before moving into that lane of travel.

11  
12 A handicapped sign request was received for Laurel Street, which was approved. It is called a W11-9  
13 sign, which is approved for the area. The PWD will install it and have a reflective review every 5 years  
14 to ensure it remains appropriate to keep that sign in place.

15  
16 The Committee discussed safety conditions on existing roads, which were brought to the attention of the  
17 PWD and addressed.

18  
19 The Committee spoke about monitoring the continued development and how it is impacting the curve on  
20 Pearson Road right near Lyons Road as you come into Town from Bedford; just after getting to Lyons  
21 Road, the road curves sharply. If not aware of the road design you could end up in the backyard of  
22 someone's new house. The suggestion was to take a longer harder look at that, especially as we go  
23 through the winter, to find out if it is a problematic issue relative to accident increases or road hazards  
24 associated with that design, and if there needs to be anything else in place perhaps to the extent that a  
25 guardrail has to be installed, etc. The Committee will look at that at its next meeting.

26  
27 Future issues include a streetlight request for Glenwood Drive. The concern stated is that it is a heavily  
28 populated area. There are a lot of folks that use that as a cut-through between Baboosic Lake Road and  
29 Joppa Road. The concern stated was children out in the area in the evening hours, some people will get  
30 into the neighborhood and get lost because they are unfamiliar with the area, and it could pose a  
31 potential safety issue. The initial response was the Town generally does not install streetlights in  
32 neighborhoods; they are installed at the major intersections, and the Committee would be looking at this  
33 from that perspective. However, they want to make sure that folks know it is not an automatic  
34 disqualifier. The Committee will discuss any suggestion brought forward.

35  
36 The Committee is currently conducting a speed study on Lawrence Road in response to a recent  
37 complaint.

38  
39 Councilor Flood questioned if the Committee has ever considered traffic quieters in residential areas,  
40 e.g., planters. Chief Doyle stated that to be an interesting idea, and that he would bring it forward to the  
41 Committee.

42  
43 Councilor Boyd stated his appreciation for the Committee having followed up on the Exit 13 issue,  
44 although he disagrees with the response received from the DOT. He asked if the Town of Bedford  
45 collected accident data noting a few years prior there was a roll-over from northbound traffic getting off  
46 there. Chief Doyle responded when the Committee first visited this issue they met with representatives

1 of NHDOT and the Bedford Police Chief; shortly after the on-ramp became live. They had no accident  
2 data meaning there was none. But that was early on. He is uncertain if it would be the Town of Bedford  
3 or State Police that would have such data; however, he will check to ensure that is available, and perhaps  
4 talk about that at the next meeting.

5  
6 Councilor Boyd stated his presumption the representative at NHDOT is an engineer and would be able  
7 to see the difficulty for cars to negotiate that particular area. Councilor Mahon remarked it is designed  
8 to their standard. Vice Chairman Rothhaus commented their original communication with the  
9 Committee indicated they were contemplating digging back the embankment so that as you came  
10 southbound you could see the traffic heading northbound. The next communication indicated there was  
11 no problem. He stated his belief they recognize the issue, but it is a money issue. Chief Doyle  
12 commented he thinks the saving grace is that by and far the users of that on-ramp/off-ramp configuration  
13 are aware of the potential and very cognizant of looking over the shoulder.

14  
15 Councilor Koenig stated his assumption it is adequate for the speeds posted there; however, nobody goes  
16 those speeds. Chief Doyle remarked it was pursuant to the specifications they established, and until  
17 someone tells them or shows them otherwise, he believes that is where it will remain.

## 18 19 **2. Annual Review with the Heritage Commission**

20 Submitted by Heritage Commission Chair Anita Creager

21 Per Town of Merrimack Charter Section 6-6, at least annually, there should be an annual review with  
22 the Heritage Commission. This agenda item is to highlight the commission's significant actions,  
23 current projects, anticipated actions, and to raise any concerns the Council should know or could act  
24 on.

25  
26 Anita Creager, Chairman, Heritage Commission, stated the Heritage Commission (Commission) ended  
27 the year with four full members and a Liaison. There remains an opening for a full member and  
28 alternates. The Commission meets every other month. The Commission scheduled 8 meetings last year;  
29 however, a quorum could not be reached for 1.

30  
31 Tour brochures for all of the villages have been completed. Over 4,000 have been printed. They are  
32 available online, at the Town Hall, Library, Historical Society, and are handed out regularly.

33  
34 The display case at Town Hall has a current display of Walter Kittredge's family. His descendants  
35 visited Merrimack this last summer, and brought some new items.

36  
37 A 1930s display was located at the Library October through December when the Library was doing a  
38 book related to the 1930s.

39  
40 The plaque for Pennichuck Water Works showing the history of the Village Dam that was removed back  
41 in 2008 is still being stored at the Town Manager's Office. It is very heavy, and does not move often. It  
42 will not go anywhere until it is decided how the pass-through will be done over to Watson Park. The  
43 current intent is for it to be mounted on the wall by the pass-through.

1 Signage for the Chamberlain Bridge will be done when the sidewalk to the bridge is upgraded. At that  
2 time some of the granite blocks on the east side will be removed and the words Chamberlain Bridge will  
3 be put on matching the one on the other side that says Town of Merrimack.

4  
5 The McGaw Bridge has been replaced, and a historical information sign has been placed at that location.  
6 The Darrah Bridge, which is located past Person Road on the right-hand side, has to be removed. Once  
7 the bridge projects are performed the amount of water going under the bridge will be increased, and  
8 having the Darrah Bridge in place would result in flooding in the area.

9  
10 The John Cromwell Memorial Plaque on the property of Anheuser Busch has been repaired and  
11 replaced. There is a survey map the Commission received from 1656. A copy will be placed at Town  
12 Hall in the near future.

13  
14 Portraits have been framed and mounted on the walls of the Memorial Conference Room.

15  
16 The Commission is preparing to put out historical signs on historical structures. The intent was the  
17 homes on streets from E to M, but there are some that were missed in the past. One of the locations is  
18 the barn where the eye glass pace is. It is a historical barn, and has never been identified. Another home  
19 that has never had a sign is Reverend Burnap's house, the Town's first Minister.

20 The Commission has been trying for a few years to get a corn crib that used to be on the Kent Farm and  
21 an ice house that used to be on the Mason Farm, and move them over to Wasserman Park. The  
22 Commission was recently informed that the corn crib recently disappeared. The owner passed away.  
23 Ms. Creager informed the Council she was notified earlier in the evening that the corn crib has been  
24 found. It was moved to Wade Parks' property located next to the Kent Farm.

25  
26 The Commission manned booths at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and the Knights of Columbus Craft Fair. Some  
27 revenue was gained. However, the intent is more educational in nature. Greeting cards have been  
28 available at the Craft Fair and Town Hall.

29  
30 An historical scavenger hunt was conducted this year, which was well attended.

31  
32 The Commission ordered more of the book; Merrimack (Images of America). Ms. Creager spoke of  
33 having seen an ad that indicated the books were for sale at 25% if 25 or more were ordered. She quickly  
34 ordered 25.

35  
36 The Commission voted to create a granite welcome sign at the north and south entrances of Town. They  
37 are being made at this time. Ms. Creager will work with the PWD with regard to placement (location).

38  
39 She spoke of the proposal for a contest to create a Town flag. Sean Sylvester approached the art  
40 department at the High School, and no interest was indicated.

41  
42 Ms. Creager spoke of items from the Civil War that came from Gettysburg and were donated to the  
43 Commission. In the April/May timeframe the Commission will have an expo. The hope is that the  
44 items will sell during the event.

**Public Hearing**

**1. Public Hearing – 2017 Milfoil Grant Funds for Horseshoe Pond and Naticook Lake**

Submitted by Planning and Zoning Administrator Jillian Harris

The Town Council will hold a public hearing to accept and authorize the expenditure of up to \$12,244 of the grant from NHDES for milfoil control via Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH), in addition to the Town's matching share of \$28,569 this fiscal year for DASH for variable milfoil control efforts in portions of Horseshoe Pond and Naticook Lake. This totals \$40,813. We ask that the Town's share be expended from the Milfoil Capital Reserve Fund, pursuant to RSA 31:95-b and Charter Article 8-15.

Jillian Harris, Planning & Zoning Administrator, stated the request to be for the Council to accept and authorize the expenditure of a grant from NHDES in addition to the Town's matching share for Milfoil control in both Horseshoe Pond and Naticook Lake. Both of the water bodies have been managed annually for Milfoil since 2012. A variety of chemical and non-chemical techniques have been used.

It is an ongoing issue that requires maintenance work, which is necessary to keep the infestation from increasing and keep Milfoil to a minimum.

Naticook Lake continues to trend well in terms of reduction with the DASH. That is recommended for treatment this year.

Unfortunately, last year the Horseshoe Pond showed a significant increased infestation. This year the recommendation is another herbicide treatment. This will help to reduce the density and distribution of Milfoil to a more manageable level. They would follow up with DASH as needed at the end of the summer or early fall.

NHDES has selected SOLitude Lake Management for herbicide treatment at Horseshoe Pond and AB Aquatics for DASH management at both waterbodies. Grants are awarded at a 30% matching level, and Merrimack has been awarded \$12,244 for the total estimated amount of treatment needed this year at \$40,813. The Town's share would be \$28,569.

Ms. Harris noted, included with the Council's agenda [packet](#), was a letter from Amy Smagula, Limnologist/Exotic Species Program Coordinator, NHDES, outlining the history of Milfoil treatment as well as the recommendations, maps outlining where Milfoil has been observed in each of the waterbodies, and the bids from each of the contractors.

***Chairman Harrington declared the Public Hearing open at 7:55 p.m.***

*No public comment was offered.*

***Chairman Harrington declared the Public Hearing closed at 7:56 p.m.***

**MOTION by Councilor Koenig and seconded by Councilor Boyd to accept and authorize the expenditure of up to Forty Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirteen Dollars (\$40,813) for the Milfoil Treatment Program at Horseshoe Pond and Naticook Lake, of which Twelve Thousand**

**Two Hundred Forty Four Dollars (\$12,244) is from a grant from the NHDES for milfoil control via Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) and herbicide in addition to the Town's portion of Twenty Eight Thousand Five Hundred Sixty Nine Dollars (\$28,569) to be funded from the Milfoil Capital Reserve Fund, and furthermore to authorize the Town Manager or her designee to execute any and all documents which may be necessary**

ON THE QUESTION

Vice Chairman Rothhaus questioned if the Town had previous discussion of the match and dollar amounts or if this is the first time these figures have been discussed.

Councilor Koenig stated his recollection, in the past, the numbers have been higher, but as the letter suggested there are so many people that are applying for and needing support that the funds are being spread out amongst the different communities resulting in smaller amounts being contributed this year. Vice Chairman Rothhaus commented he had not remembered the total having been that high in the past. He recognizes the need, and supports the motion. Ms. Harris stated the total is higher and is due to the herbicide treatment this year.

Councilor Flood questioned the balance of the Milfoil Capital Reserve Fund. Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director Micali stated the balance to be approximately \$35,000. It is funded every year; \$10,000 - \$25,000 depending on the match.

Councilor Flood questioned if it is known why Horseshoe Pond is suffering an increased infestation. Ms. Harris stated her belief last year the thought was that the warm winter had an impact, e.g., early ice out/late ice in resulting in more of a chance for the Milfoil to grow and spread. Amy Smagula, Limnologist/Exotic Species Program Coordinator, NHDES, stated she has been active in Milfoil and other exotic species management for about 20 years and manages 86 lakes, ponds, and rivers statewide. Unfortunately invasive species are something we typically cannot eradicate and because they are an adaptive invasive species and lake systems are not predictable, there are times when there are boom and busts cycles in growth. As Ms. Harris explained, in the winter of 2016 we had a very late ice in and a very early ice out, which allowed for a longer growing season for Milfoil. Horseshoe Pond is full of native aquatic vegetation. What happens sometimes is that the Milfoil will hide in the native vegetation making it more difficult for divers to seek out and find.

At Naticook Lake volunteers go out and repeatedly survey and mark so the diving efforts there worked really well. That same level of volunteerism is not present on Horseshoe Pond. Despite State Biologists going out and surveying, they don't often find every single plant, and as those are harbored amongst the natives they have opportunity to expand. The infestation got a little bit beyond the capability of the divers in the 2016 growing season at Horseshoe Pond and kept growing, and we had great growing conditions in 2016. The divers recommended returning to herbicide treatment to try to get it back under control.

Ms. Smagula remarked she is aware there are concerns relative to the budget. She typically budgets for larger treatments than are necessary, and most often they can be scaled back once she sees actual field conditions during the survey in the spring. The chances of expended everything are unlikely.



Councilor Flood questioned if instances such as the two consecutive years of flooding, clears out the issue from time to time, and was informed it does not. Ms. Smagula reiterated invasives are pretty adaptable; with higher water levels it will elongate, come to the surface and continue to grow happily. If you were to completely drain the pond it would revert to an almost cactus like form that is more succulent and would persist during the dry drawn down exposure timeframe and then would go back to its normal underwater growth if you raise the water level. She added typically they would do the herbicide treatments to reduce biomass and then have the divers go in for routine maintenance at a much smaller scale. They are trying to get back to that point again.

**MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0**

**2. Public Hearing – 2017 Abbie Griffin Memorial Fund for Fire & Police Departments** Submitted by Fire Chief Michael Currier and Police Chief Mark Doyle

The Town Council will hold a public hearing to authorize the acceptance and expenditure of funds from the Abbie Griffin Memorial Fund in the amount of but not to exceed \$15,000 for the purchase of Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Warm Zone equipment, such as ballistic helmets, protective vests as well as equipment and supplies to outfit 8 personnel to make up 4 Warm Zones EMS Teams for the Fire Department and for gym equipment such as a refurbished Cybex Arc Trainer, power rack, flat/incline/decline bench, utility bench, curl bar and straight bar, TRX Trainer, a small flat screen tv with mount, and other small equipment for the Police Department, pursuant to RSA 31:95-b and Charter Article 8-15.

Michael Currier, Fire Chief, stated the matter to be a continuation of the program discussed at a previous Council meeting relative to the grant received from the State for EMS and the Warm Zone. This grant is for \$7,500 to continue that expenditure to outfit the teams for equipment.

Lt. Brian Levesque, stated the Police Department is proposing the purchase of new gym equipment. The last time gym equipment was purchased was early 2000. A lot of the equipment was donated, and many pieces have had to be thrown away after falling into disrepair. The equipment would be available for use by all members of the department.

***Chairman Harrington declared the Public Hearing open at 8:07 p.m.***

*No public comment was offered.*

***Chairman Harrington declared the Public Hearing closed at 8:08 p.m.***

Councilor Boyd noted the size of the room, and questioned if some of the new amenities being proposed would fit in that space or if consideration would have to be given of something larger at some point in time. Lt. Levesque stated the equipment picked out is sized up for the room. Some equipment will be moved out to make the space more functional. Councilor Boyd questioned the amount of time the facility is used. Lt. Levesque stated the facility is utilized every day by 1 or 2 officers, at a minimum.

Vice Chairman Rothhaus commented on how much the fund has done over the years. It was an every other year occurrence for police and fire until the fund was invested well enough to accommodate expenditures for both departments every year. He commented the fund helped his wife pay for half of her college expenses. There is medical support for those having medical bills they need help to offset.

Abbie Griffin was pretty amazing, and that is why the park is named for her as his wife felt an obligation to have her recognized in some fashion.

**MOTION made by Councilor Boyd and seconded by Councilor Mahon to authorize the acceptance and expenditure of funds from the Abbie Griffin Memorial Fund in the amount of but not to exceed Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) for the purchase of Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Warm Zone equipment, such as ballistic helmets, protective vests as well as equipment and supplies to outfit 8 personnel to make up 4 Warm Zone EMS Teams for the Fire Department and for gym equipment such as a refurbished Cybex Arc Trainer, power rack, flat/incline/decline bench, utility bench, curl bar and straight bar, TRX Trainer, a small flat screen tv with mount, and other small equipment for the Police Department, pursuant to RSA 31:95-b and Charter Article 8-15, and furthermore that the Town Manager and/or her proxy be authorized to sign any documents necessary to accept and expend the funds. MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0**

**Legislative Updates from State Representatives** - None

### **Town Manager's Report**

Despite having no snow on the ground; the 25th Annual Winter Carnival was a huge success with an estimated 600 people in attendance. Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director Micali remarked, in his 13 years with the Town, this year was the first time the event was covered by WMUR.

The PWD would like to welcome the following new members to their team: Kevin Montminy and Ryan Boisvert in the Highway Division, Victor Rezendes in the Solid Waste Division, and Chris Ciardelli in the Wastewater Division.

**Consent Agenda** - None

**Old Business** - None

### **New Business**

#### **1. Donation Acceptance for the Merrimack Police Department**

Submitted by Captain Denise Roy

Town Council to consider the acceptance of a donation of a Panasonic Lumix DMC-F2300 digital camera, Delkin 16 GB memory card, Pro-Master Panasonic battery, Titan fingerprint attachment, Pro-Master hard case and external flash from Merrimack Crimeline to the Merrimack Police Department and valued in the amount of \$900.00, pursuant to RSA 31:95-e and Charter Article 8-15.

Lt. Levesque stated the digital cameras in the Detective division are aging. The new camera would be used for complex crime and accident scenes. Members of the Crime Line have agreed to purchase the camera for the department. The purchase will be of the camera, memory card, battery, fingerprint attachment, hard case, and extended flash at a total cost of \$900.00.

**MOTION made by Councilor Boyd and seconded by Councilor Mahon to accept the donation of a Panasonic Lumix DMC-F2300 digital camera, Delkin 16 GB memory card, Pro-Master Panasonic**

1 battery, Titan fingerprint attachment, Pro-Master hard case, and external flash from Merrimack  
2 Crimeline to the Merrimack Police Department valued in the amount of Nine Hundred Dollars  
3 (\$900.00), pursuant to RSA 31:95-e and Charter Article 8-15. MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0  
4

5 **2. Donation Acceptance for the Merrimack Fire Department**

6 Submitted by Fire Chief Michael Currier

7 Town Council to consider the acceptance and expenditure of a donation received from Digital  
8 Federal Credit Union in the amount of \$3,500 for the Merrimack Fire Department to be used towards  
9 the purchase of a BH-20 portable electric and battery operated ventilation fan, pursuant to RSA  
10 31:95-b and Charter Article 8-15.  
11

12 Assistant Chief, Brian Borneman, stated the department received a donation in the amount of \$3,500  
13 from the Digital Federal Credit Union. The department has been looking at upgrading the portable  
14 electric fans utilized for removal of smoke, odor gas, chemicals, etc. at all types of emergency calls. The  
15 fans the department uses are tried and tested; probably 50-year old technology, and the ones they have  
16 are 20 years old. They are cumbersome, hard to move around, etc. Because they have a large amp draw  
17 when they turn on, the department's operating procedures are they don't use house power for the fans.  
18 They bring in their own power.  
19

20 They are electric and battery operated fans that fold and are easily deployed. One person can easily slide  
21 a fan out of a compartment, take it into a scene, unclip it, flip it up, and turn it on. It is battery operated.  
22 They move approximately 3 times more air than the current units. He commented the fan weight is  
23 similar, but the ergonomics of moving it is amazing.  
24

25 These units were used in Merrimack by mutual aid; Nashua switched their ladder trucks over to them.  
26 When they were turned on it was amazing how fast they could be deployed and the amount of air they  
27 move. The battery life is rated at between 20-80 minutes. Departments currently utilizing these units  
28 have indicated it is about 40 minutes of use before having to recharge.  
29

30 Chief Currier noted the current fans draw 20-25 amps whereas the proposed fans are at 7.6. The CFM  
31 on the current fans is 3,500 whereas the proposed unit is 15,000. If going to a home that had a carbon  
32 monoxide problem from a malfunctioning heating system; to move the air to make it safe for personnel  
33 to operate and get the individuals back in their home, the difference is huge.  
34 At present, the department has 5 electric fans; one on each of the engines and one on the ladder truck.  
35 The department is seeking acceptance of the donation to purchase one of these. The donation will allow  
36 for that purchase.  
37

38 When asked if other replacement fan systems had been looked into. Chief Currier stated there are some  
39 out there, but they don't have the CFM volume that this one has and don't have the battery backup or  
40 battery life to deploy. The reason they have pushed for this one is because there are neighboring towns  
41 that have proved them. The City of Boston has changed over to those, and has been using them quite  
42 effectively. Assistant Chief Borneman remarked with some of the other larger units, in order to get that  
43 kind of CFM or larger, you are talking about gasoline powered units; now you are introducing carbon  
44 monoxide into an atmosphere you are trying to clear.  
45

**MOTION** made by Councilor Mahon and seconded by Councilor Boyd to approve the acceptance and expenditure of a donation received from Digital Federal Credit Union in the amount of Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$3,500) for the Merrimack Fire Department to be used towards the purchase of a BH-20 portable electric and battery operated ventilation fan, pursuant to RSA 31:95-b and Charter Article 8-15

**ON THE QUESTION**

Councilors Mahon and Boyd expressed gratitude to the Digital Federal Credit Union for the donation.

**MOTION CARRIED** 6-0-0

**Minutes**

Approve the minutes from the Town Council meetings of January 26, 2017, January 30, 2017, and February 14, 2017

January 26, 2017

**MOTION** made by Councilor Boyd and seconded by Councilor Mahon to accept the meeting minutes of the Town Council meeting of January 26, 2017 as presented. **MOTION CARRIED** 6-0-0

January 30, 2017

*The following amendment was offered:*

In all instances where it appears; replace “Viva Voce Roll Call” with “Roll Call”

**MOTION** made by Councilor Boyd and seconded by Councilor Koenig to accept the meeting minutes of the Town Council meeting of January 30, 2017 as amended. **MOTION CARRIED** 6-0-0

February 14, 2017

**MOTION** made by Councilor Boyd and seconded by Councilor Rothhaus to accept the meeting minutes of the Town Council meeting of February 14, 2017 as presented. **MOTION CARRIED** 6-0-0

**Comments from the Press** - None

**Comments from the Public** - None

**Comments from the Council**

Vice Chairman Rothhaus spoke of having attended the Deliberative Session at the School District, and remarked it was a record-holder in that it was a 13-minute meeting. He stated his desire for a large turnout at the Town’s Deliberative Session; particularly in light of the issue of the Highway Garage.

1 The difficulty in April for this proposal, given every office is uncontested, is that turnout will likely be  
2 quite light.

3  
4 Councilor Mahon stated he was unable to be in attendance at the Council's last meeting as he was  
5 present at his Nephew's graduation from Air Force basic training in San Antonio.

6  
7 Councilor Koenig stated the Planning Board met the prior Tuesday, and had 1 public item on the agenda;  
8 lot sub-division from 1 lot into 2. They also started to make a formal effort to look at the Master Plan  
9 implementation and keep on track with that. The Community Development Department has gotten into  
10 a position where it is fairly stable and solid with staffing. Tim Thompson, Director, feels more  
11 comfortable now being able to work on some of that. One of the things the Planning Board decided to  
12 focus on was the D.W. Highway corridor; how we develop that, do we do anything more in terms of  
13 mixed-use or planned use developments and things of that nature along with focusing any thought on  
14 sidewalks, etc. to D.W. Highway realizing that's sidewalks throughout Town are not something that will  
15 happen.

16  
17 Councilor Koenig commented some of the things you will find in the Master Plan are the energy savings  
18 that have already begun, e.g., streetlights, etc. There are a lot of things that have been started or  
19 functionally moved forward, but not consistently and strategically driven.

20  
21 Councilor Koenig thanked the members of the Police Department who attended the Special Olympics  
22 the prior weekend. Winter Olympics were held in Waterville Valley, and those that participated had a  
23 great time.

24  
25 Councilor Flood stated the Town Center Committee goes around to the Farmers' Market and other  
26 events with their maps encouraging people to use the trails. She commented the Farmers' Market is a  
27 wonderful event held on Wednesday from 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. at the Community Center. She encouraged  
28 people to visit.

29  
30 **Adjourn**

31  
32 **MOTION made by Councilor Boyd and seconded by Councilor Mahon to adjourn the meeting.**  
33 **MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0**

34  
35 *The March 9, 2017 meeting of the Town Council was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.*

36  
37 Submitted by Dawn MacMillan