



Town Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday April 11, 2019 at 7:00 PM, in the Matthew Thornton Room

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Rothhaus led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements

Regular meetings of the Town Council will be conducted on Thursday April 25th, May 9th and May 23rd at 7:00 p.m. in the Matthew Thornton Room.

A recount has been requested on the vote for the open position on the Council. The recount is scheduled for 5:00 p.m. on April 18th.

Chairman Rothhaus recognized Chris Perez, Media Assistant. Chris started in the Town's Media Department while an intern in High School, and has been in his current position for 6 years. Members of the Council expressed their gratitude to Chris for his professionalism and hard work. Chris is leaving his employment with the Town for a similar career path in the community of Salem. He will be missed.

Dog licenses are due by April 30th. To license, the Town Clerk's office will need current rabies information and a neuter/spay certificate, if applicable. The Town Clerk's office will be open this Saturday, April 13th, from 9:00 a.m. - Noon for dog licensing.

The Parks & Recreation Department invites you to join them Saturday, April 13th from 10:00-11:30 a.m. for the 27th Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Wasserman Park. There will be 10,000 Easter eggs given out and the Easter Bunny will be available for photos during the event. For complete details, visit the Parks & Recreation Department website at www.merrimackparksandrec.org

The 11th Annual Crimeline Magic show is being held Saturday, April 13th from 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. at the American Legion. This benefits the Merrimack Police Department's K-9 unit. Pluto will be on hand performing a demonstration at noon.

Join the Merrimack Parks & Recreation and Public Works Departments on Saturday, April 20th from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., and show your love for Merrimack by signing up to volunteer at our 2nd Annual Community Clean Up Day. Last year, there was an amazing turnout of 304 volunteers representing 28 different groups and families that cleaned up 18 parks, open space and Adopt-a-road locations in Merrimack. To register contact the Parks & Recreation Department at 882-1046.

The Public Works Open House will be held on Saturday, May 18th from 9:00 a.m.–Noon at the new Highway Facility located at 76 Turkey Hill Road. Activities will include a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new facility and a Touch-a-Truck event. We hope to see you there.

PFAS Update

Sarita Croce, Assistant Director, Public Works Department (PWD)/Wastewater, gave a PFAS update to the Council. Last year the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) developed Maximum Contamination Levels (MCLs), which are drinking water limits for four (4) polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) compounds. These were also surface water quality standards. The draft levels developed were 38 parts per trillion (ppt) for Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), 70 ppt for Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), 85 ppt for Perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), and 23 ppt for Perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA).

On February 21st, NHDES announced the MCL development that occurred last year may change due to their receipt of a new assessment tool (developed by the MN Department of Health). At this point, NHDES is waiting on public comment (public comment period on draft MCLs closes 4-12-19). Following that, NHDES will review the comments and the new assessment tool, and come out with draft MCLs. The MCLs will also be considered groundwater quality standards.

Sarita Croce, Assistant Director, Public Works Department (PWD)/Wastewater, noted, as part of the rule that was adopted, they also are required to develop a procedure for assessing surface water standards by January of 2020.

On March 15th Saint-Gobain submitted a lengthy report, which compiled all stormwater sampling that has occurred since the time they began their investigation. Some major highlights; roof drains on the northern side of the property emit the highest concentration of PFAS compounds. They tried to clean out their drains using high velocity pressure washers and found there remained sediment inside. They also did an evaluation of the stormwater conveyance piping on the property and cleared those as well as lining the inside. Subsequent evaluations showed there remain problems and infiltration of groundwater into the stormwater pipes. Roofing material possibly has absorbed or is impregnated with some of the PFAS compounds. That will possibly be something for a future investigation. Regarding Dumping Brook, which is located on Flatley's property, the general trend is the contamination increases as it approaches the Merrimack River. One possible reason for that might be groundwater contamination, which is something they are going to be looking closer at. There appears to be very little impact to the Merrimack River.

They are going to submit an onsite investigation report, hopefully by the end of April. In that report what Saint-Gobain will present is the investigation that occurred onsite and hopefully what their path forward will be; perhaps remediation activities as well.

In March of 2019, Saint-Gobain submitted an air permit application. They indicated they would install a thermal oxidizer to actually treat the emissions from the stacks to destroy the PFAS compounds. The thermal oxidizer, at this point, they have identified, will operate at 1,600 degrees Fahrenheit. In a thermal oxidizer, it is turbulence time and temperature that determine the effectiveness of the breakdown of those compounds.

NHDES has indicated, once the draft permit is issued, in addition to the required public comment period, they will pre-schedule a public hearing.

In October of 2018, Saint-Gobain submitted a permit application to treat the PFAS compounds in their process wastewater. This treatment system consists of granular activated carbon and is in the process of being installed right now. One of the delays for the project was due to the need for a custom reactor tank. They are not going to receive that until April 30th of this year.

Installation is expected to be complete by May 23, 2019, initial start-up by May 29th, and followed up with a two-month period of evaluating the treatment system, collecting samples, and analyzing them to make sure the system is working effectively. It is anticipated commissioning will be complete in August of 2019.

It was pointed out Saint-Gobain did a treatability study before designing the treatment system. They analyzed for 23 PFAS compounds. The treatability study, after treatment, with the granular activated carbon, showed that all those compounds were non-detect.

When the process first began, NHDES established a preliminary Groundwater Management Zone (GMZ). What the GMZ identified was the extent of PFAS contamination associated with Saint-Gobain activities. Subsequent to the development of the GMZ, several homes were placed on municipal water supply as well as point-of-source treatment systems being placed online. What NHDES realized, as a part of this process, because now you have taken so many homes off the groundwater system, (not pumping out any longer), the contamination could change. They have identified 42 residences that will be sampled as part of this monitoring plan. Approx. 12 are within the GMZ and the remainder outside (northwest). They will sample those as sentry wells to assess if PFAS concentrations in the groundwater are moving. If they discover contamination is moving offsite, NHDES will require Saint-Gobain to take contingency actions to protect human health and prevent exposure to contaminated groundwater.

On March 22nd, the state of Maine issued a Memorandum, which required all facilities that make biosolids (like compost) to analyze them for PFOA, PFOS, and perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS). The screening levels Maine has are 2.5 parts per billion (ppb) for PFOA, 5.2 ppb for PFOS, and 1.9 ppb for PFBS. If any results come back higher than those limits, they cannot land-apply the biosolids anywhere in Maine. NHDES is aware of this and is currently evaluating the recent developments.

Assistant Director Croce stated the only limits NHDES currently has for PFOA and PFOS are direct contact standards, which are 500 ppb for each.

Asked if there is a completion date for the installation of the thermal oxidizer, she indicated once the air permit is issued, they will have one year to complete installation.

Councilor Boyd commented on the amount of PFOAs in the drainage on the north part of the building, noting the smokestacks are located southerly of that drain and the prevailing winds generally run in a southeasterly direction. He questioned if it is fair to say the roof is sloped with drainage toward the northerly drain. He finds it odd that drain had a higher concentration than on the south end of the building. Assistant Director Croce was uncertain.

Councilor Boyd spoke of being aware NHDES has discussed looking at the report that came out of MN and the 38 ppt as it relates to PFOA. Minnesota currently has a PFOS standards of 27. He questioned if, in her conversations, it was relayed whether the PFOS number would be explored in addition to the PFOA number to be consistent with the state of MN.

Assistant Director Croce stated the PFOS number is a health advisory. The PFOA number (35 ppt) is in the actual report. She believes they are looking at all four.

Councilor Harrington stated appreciation for the information brought forth commented on relying upon the Assistant Director, and her knowledge, to be able to help the Council understand the voluminous information and the implications.

Comments from the Press and Public - None

Recognitions, Resignations and Retirements - None

Appointments

1. Annual Review with the Parks and Recreation Committee

Submitted by Parks and Recreation Chair Laura Jaynes

Per Town of Merrimack Charter Section 6-6, at least annually, there should be an annual review with the Parks and Recreation 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.

Laura Jaynes, Chairman, Parks and Recreation Committee (Committee), spoke of what Director Casparius has added to the department and Committee. The Committee serves as an advisory committee to the Town Manager. She spoke of the Committee membership, which includes many new members. There remain two open alternate positions.

Ongoing old business is the Dog Park Subcommittee. The group sponsors many fundraisers. Their continuing goal is the refreshing of bark mulch. Future improvements include a water line and perhaps lighting. At this point, their fund has an approx. balance of \$2,400.

In 2018, the Committee spent considerable time working on an online survey for Merrimack residents. The results of the survey should assist in identifying long and short-term goals. The survey is available through the Town's website. To date, 393 surveys have been received.

She thanked the Council for its support of the Wasserman waterfront.

The department is in search of a new Program Coordinator. Approx. 90 applications have been received.

Summer camp is proceeding well. Last year was the highest enrollment ever. To date, there are 777 camp enrollments (approx. 45% ahead of where it was this time last year).

Improvements continue to be made at the Function Hall. Flooring was replaced with carpeting, which has helped with acoustics. The Rotary is proposing assistance with portable acoustic walls.

There have been approx. 6,200 rentals this year to date. Last year it was 2,400 and the year before 1,200.

Councilor Boyd questioned if there are any issues the Committee has discussed that the Council should be reviewing in terms of growth, improvement, redevelopment, etc.

Ms. Jaynes stated her belief the Committee would be discussing its goals in the meeting scheduled for the following week. She can make the Council aware of the result of that discussion. She commented on the skateboard park and perhaps the tennis courts being issues that would be discussed.

Councilor Albert commented on the possibility of dock replacement having been brought up. Field space is always an issue.

Public Hearing - None

Legislative Updates from State Representatives

Representative Rosemarie Rung noted earlier in the day the House voted on the budget, which is on its way to the Senate. Local property tax and the State budget are tightly linked. This year Merrimack receives \$15.58 million in education funding, which has a large impact on property tax. When the State cuts funding to municipalities it increases the property tax. When the State increases its budget it is not money being spent away from us, it is usually money that is coming back to us. That is the case with this budget.

Noted was \$12.5 million in revenue sharing was approved at the House. Should this budget pass, next year Merrimack is scheduled to receive \$117,782. The proposed budget provides \$160 million over the biennium in additional educational aid including full-day kindergarten and stabilization grants. The House has approved a new tax to join dividends and interest (adding capital gains in with existing dividends & interest tax of 5%). The revenue from that (estimated at \$160 million) would be distributed to towns through education funding. Merrimack is at the cusp of this formula; minimum \$266,628 additional dollars and slightly more in 2021 (depending on equalized valuation of Town; could be close to \$2 million).

Capital Gains Tax; increased exemptions (\$2,400 - \$5,000). The first \$5,000 of dividends, interest or capital gains would be exempted. People 65 and older have an additional exemption of \$7,500. The desire was to support and strengthen the middle class.

An additional \$19.3 million in school building aid is included in the proposed budget and an additional \$9 million to support special education costs. Also provided was \$20 million to eliminate the development services weight list and provide 2.5% increase for providers.

Distributing \$137.6 million in Room & Meals Tax to go back to municipalities. There was also a Bill that passed the House, which would allow municipalities to add a \$2 fee onto room rentals (hotel rentals). She does not believe it applicable to Merrimack. If the Council wished to entertain it, it could

(enabling legislation). Primarily the Bill is intended to address communities like Hampton Beach and Laconia where, during certain times of the year, they see a huge influx of people coming in, which saps a lot of the services they need for emergency services. They have a very difficult time covering those services in their budget.

The way kindergarten is funded would be changed (currently funded as half-day and tied in with Keno revenue). The House voted to include the kindergarten students full-time with the 1-12 population; when looking at the number of students enrolled for the purpose of calculating adequacy education funding, kindergarten students are included. The proposed budget also provides additional monies to fully fund career and technical education programs and \$1 million into the Running Start Program.

Asked for clarification on the Rooms & Meals Tax for Merrimack, Representative Rung indicated she did not have that broken out. Asked about the wastewater grant, she indicated that grant was applied for. The fund that it comes from is under pollution control. The current funding for this year is \$7.6 million. In the House Finance Committee that goes up to \$8.8 million. That looks positively for Merrimack as one of the applicants for those grants.

Senator Shannon Chandley, District 11, remarked this is the time of crossover where of the 1,000± bills that were introduced, those that have passed have moved to the other body. Just passed at the House were HB1 and HB2; budget bill and trailer bill. The Governor introduced his budget, the House has voted on its budget, and it will come to the Senate. The Senate budget, she is confident, will look somewhat different from those of the Governor and House.

Senator Chandley noted she serves on three committees; Judiciary, Executive Departments and Administration, and Health & Human Services. She stated a willingness to meet with anyone at any time to discuss specific concerns, and/or to address the Council regarding any specific legislation.

Senator Chandley spoke of sponsoring a bill, along with several members of the House, to remove the toll at exit 11. It passed twice in the Senate; out of the Policy Committee with a unanimous roll call vote and out of the Finance Committee on a voice vote. It is in the House, and will have a hearing in the coming weeks. The date will be provided.

Councilor Albert spoke of being pleased with the possibility of the tolls at exit 11 going away, and, perhaps in the future, those at exit 10 as well.

Councilor Albert spoke of concern with the Turnpike widening project; he is hopeful the NHDOT addresses sight and sound barriers for the Merrimack neighborhoods that border the Turnpike. He spoke of a list having been sent to the NHDOT noting the concerns. He is hopeful they do more than was done in Bedford with the installation of a stockage fence.

Councilor Albert questioned if there is any legislation coming forward relative to bail laws. Senator Chandley noted SB314 recently passed. It came out of the Judiciary Committee. There were two bills; SB91 and SB314, which both looked to make some changes to current bail laws. A lot of collaborative work was done in a bi-partisan effort. She spoke of the stakeholders involved; Chiefs of police, Public Defenders, etc. SB314 did address the situation of failure to appear, individuals being arrested on numerous occasions and let go, etc.

1 Representative Rung commented it came up Tuesday during the House Finance briefing, but there is
2 no additional funding for sound barriers. There are many communities throughout the State that have
3 qualified for sound barriers because of highway widening on projects that completed years ago.
4 Although they qualified, there were no funds available to construct them. That funding has not been
5 increased. She is not optimistic that the neighborhoods in Merrimack, that have qualified for sound
6 barriers upon the widening of the Turnpike will get them; at least not in the near term. She suggested
7 that would be something that could be a priority for the next biennium, and what could be looked at is
8 another mechanism for the funding. It is one of the areas that is easiest to cut when looking to balance
9 the budget.

10
11 Chairman Rothhaus commented on a quote in local newsprint by Representative Thomas indicating
12 Health & Human Services did a report on a study looking at 20± different cancers. Each one said it
13 was not a significant statistical variation, that Merrimack's cancer rates were not really different than
14 other communities that didn't have the PFOA/PFAS problem. Her words were that children and pets
15 are dying in Merrimack. When remarks like that make it around the world, through the internet, it is
16 disappointing. He requested his remarks be passed along.

17
18 Councilor Harrington stated agreement with Chairman Rothhaus. She too was upset with the
19 statement. The concern could have been phrased that her fear is that children and pets..... If
20 misquoted, she should make that known/clear. In her opinion, she did a great disservice to Merrimack
21 as a Representative.

22
23 Representative Rung stated agreement the hyperbole and exaggeration outside the context of data is
24 not helping anyone. She noted the House approved a bill to have an environmental and health study
25 done. That is where we need to put our energy and focus. We need to look at the data and understand
26 if there is a causation. She stated she would pass the message along.

27
28 Councilor Boyd stated his disappointment with the article speaking of the efforts to make Merrimack a
29 great place to work, live, and raise a family. Rhetoric such as that does not reflect nicely on the efforts
30 of the community.

31
32 Regarding kindergarten funding as it relates to Keno, the lottery has spent a great deal of funds
33 promoting Keno highlight the fact that proceeds would be dedicated to kindergarten. He questioned
34 philosophically why the move away from dedicating those funds to kindergarten and into the general
35 education fund.

36
37 Representative Rung responded Keno has not met the revenue expectations projected. Revenues
38 continue to go into the educational trust fund, but will be disbursed according to the grant not
39 specifically to deferring costs of kindergarten. The desire is to make the funding of K-12 more
40 predictable and more reliable.

41
42 Councilor Boyd spoke of the project to widen the Turnpike. The NHDOT conducted a public meeting,
43 which was very well attended by those who will be directly impacted by the project. He understands
44 they must widen the road; however, they are creating the impact on the neighborhoods. To not even
45 try to budget funds to mitigate that impact is disingenuous. The level of arrogance that comes out of
46 the NHDOT as it relates to his community is vial. He provided examples of the Town looking to
47 address problem areas and the lack of acknowledgement/agreement by the NHDOT. One of the

examples provided was the light on Executive Drive; for 9 years the Town has been trying to get that light eliminated. There was an assurance the light would be gone. It is still sitting there and there is still traffic backing up on the Turnpike going all the way down Greeley Street to D.W. Highway. It is causing accidents and problems. The NHDOT refuses to do a darn thing about it.

Representative Rung stated the first thing she would do in the morning is call them and set up a meeting to discuss the removal of the light. If they don't do it, she will introduce a bill, which she believes will move them along.

She shares the frustration over the lack of funding for the sound barriers. The NHDOT has a formula used to determine if a neighborhood qualifies. Why have a formula if you are not going to fund it?

Councilor Boyd remarked if looking to identify the ambient noise output, testing must be done during off-peak hours, e.g., Saturday at 2:00 p.m.

Councilor Healey spoke of having brought up that issue with the NHDOT. As you drive from exit 10 up to Bedford the edge of the highway is abutting people's yards. She worries not only about the sound but those yards that don't have fences. It is a safety issue.

Representative Rung spoke of an error in the testing. The Wire Road area was re-tested and qualified. It really is unfair to qualify a neighborhood and not put the funding in place. Councilor Harrington questioned if the neighborhood would have grounds to go after the State given, they meet the criteria of the State, but the State is not responding to it.

Town Manager Cabanel stated a desire to speak with the representatives regarding issues she is having with the NHDOT; one having to do with a business that employees about 1,100 people in Merrimack and an issue of their not plowing a particular section of road and another related to information concerning revenues/expenditures, bonds, etc. related to the tolls at exits 10 and 11.

Senator Chandley stated she would share the data she has with her, and if it is not enough, they can look to gain additional information.

Representative Rung stated she would inform the Council of the scheduling of the meeting with NHDOT. If there is anything the Council wishes to add to the agenda, she would be happy to do so.

Town Manager's Report

The Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) permit will be nearing the end of year 1 on June 30, 2019. The work for this year has focused on creating a new Stormwater Management Program for the Town, which involves setting up several different "Control Measures" to include: Public education and outreach, public involvement and participation, Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) Program, construction site stormwater runoff control, post construction stormwater management in new development and redevelopment & good housekeeping and pollution prevention for permittee owned operations.

The 3 stormwater coalition groups in the State have joined forces and divided out the work on each of the control measures.

Town Manager Cabanel commented when this was before the Council last there was discussion of how this year and next the Town will be doing a lot of information gathering at the various outfalls.

Work on the Bedford Road Bridge between Pearson Road and Catskill Road began on April 1st. Clearing and grubbing work is being worked on as well as the demolition of the old Darrah Bridge. The next phase will be to construct the by-pass road and relocate the utilities. Alternating one-way traffic will begin around June 1st and will continue until about December 1st.

On April 2nd, the Planning Board began discussion on a comprehensive overhaul of the Town's Site Plan Regulations. Workshop discussions will take place over the next few months on the draft regulations, in the hope of adoption during the summer. Public input is appreciated, and the draft regulations can be found on the Planning Board webpage under "News & Events."

The Community Development Department welcomes Rhonda Fleming as the new full-time department secretary. Prior to joining the Community Development team, she was a Project Manager for a large health insurance company.

Consent Agenda - None

Old Business - None

New Business

1. Donation Acceptance for Parks and Recreation Department

Submitted by Parks and Recreation Director Matthew Casparius

The Town Council to consider the acceptance and expenditure of donation from the Merrimack Lions Club in the amount of \$445.00 to the Parks and Recreation Department to be put towards the Summer Camp Scholarship Fund, pursuant to RSA 31:95-b and Charter Article 8-15.

MOTION made by Councilor Albert and seconded by Councilor Boyd to approve the acceptance and expenditure of a donation from the Merrimack Lions Club in the amount of Four Hundred and Forty Five Dollars (\$445.00) to the Parks and Recreation Department to be put towards the Summer Camp Scholarship Fund, pursuant to RSA 31:95-b and Charter Article 8-15

ON THE QUESTION

Councilor Albert stated the Lions Club has always been generous. This is a great donation. They annually help those in need. He expressed his gratitude.

MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0

2. Committee Appointments

Submitted by Town Council Chairman Finlay Rothhaus and Vice Chair Tom Koenig

The Town Council to consider appointing the following individual to Town committees, pursuant to Charter Article 4-8:

- Rod Buckley – Zoning Board of Adjustment (Full member)

MOTION made by Councilor Boyd and seconded by Councilor Healey to approve the appointment of Rod Buckley as a Full Member to the Zoning Board of Adjustment

ON THE QUESTION

Councilor Boyd remarked Mr. Buckley has done yeoman's work in this community throughout the years. He is very pleased he is moving from an alternate to full member position on the ZBA.

MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0

3. Reeds Ferry Fire Station (Station 3) Discussion

Submitted by Fire Chief Michael Currier

The Town Council to discuss and consider the recommendation of eliminating the current critter problem and to prevent future problems at the Reeds Ferry Fire Station (Station 3) due to some recent damage to the Town's equipment stored at the station.

Town Manager Cabanel remarked Station 3 is not in the best condition, and is currently used as storage. A quote was provided for replacement of items damaged totaling \$16,000. She is concerned with that large of a cost related to a facility that serves for storage.

Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director Micali stated he heard from the insurance carrier late in the day. The policy has an exclusion for critter damage. There will not be any reimbursement from insurance.

Councilor Boyd questioned if the Town has spoken with Mr. Flatley. The memo the Council received states the construction of the new apartments has had an impact on this situation. Town Manager Cabanel stated she has not reached out, but that is something she is considering. At one point, Mr. Flatley had indicated a willingness to improve the appearance of the back of the facility to make it more visually pleasing for his residents.

Councilor Albert questioned if the Town would begin to monitor the building more closely.

Michael Currier, Fire Chief, Merrimack Fire and Rescue, provided a presentation. Can be viewed [here](#) (beginning at tape counter 1:13). Station 3 was constructed in 1972 and used during the period of 1979-1997 as the maintenance facility housing a full-time firefighter mechanic. In 1998, the firefighter mechanic was moved to the Highway Department due to special training on emergency vehicles and the fact an individual working alone in a facility has safety implications. Although no longer staffed by full-time personnel, Station 3 remained a call station.

Over the years, station maintenance was performed by the call division. As the volunteers and the call station started to dwindle, so did the presence of people and maintenance at the station. In 1999, Chief Hall requested funding from the Shedd Harris Fund to repair windows and doors. In 2003, funds were used from the Shedd Harris Fund to install an emergency generator and plymovent vehicle exhaust system. A natural gas conversion was done in the summer of 2011.

With the station not staffed, critters moved in. Efforts were made to control the rodents. Chief Currier noted the issue did not begin with the development of abutting property. In the spring of 2018, the

1 station was cleaned and purged of items no longer needed. That effort improved the situation. With
2 the development of the Flatley property, the activity increased.

3
4 Photos were provided illustrating some of the current damage caused by the rodents as well as leaks in
5 water pipes, etc.

6
7 Some of the items stored at the facility, e.g., Engine 3, training props, sandbags, trailers (need to be
8 kept heated); HAZMAT and special operations, forestry 2 (during winter months), ladders, backup
9 hose, backup stretchers.

10
11 The recommendation is for rodent eradication (\$16,200); remove and fix any possible or potential
12 openings (will guarantee nothing further will gain access), station decontamination (cost unknown);
13 removal of rodent contamination, and station repair and upgrade (cost unknown); repair station to
14 proper health conditions and meet existing codes.

15
16 Councilor Healey questioned if the department could do without the station. Chief Currier responded
17 no; to maintain equipment in a usable and ready form, particularly the HAZMAT trailer, it needs to be
18 stored in that station.

19
20 Councilor Healey commented in the past the Shedd Harris Fund has been used. She spoke of the
21 George Carol Fund that was also set up for fire protection in Reeds Ferry, and stated her understanding
22 there is no specification on what the funds must be used for other than for protection. Storage of the
23 equipment, in her opinion, would constitute protection of the Reeds Ferry area. She questioned why
24 the funds could not be looked to as a means of covering the cost.

25
26 Town Manager Cabanel stated the desire to ensure the Council had the opportunity to view the state of
27 the building and determine whether the building should be rehabbed or if the best approach would be
28 another storage option. She commented on the cost involved. Yes, the funds can come from the
29 Shedd Harris Fund.

30
31 Councilor Healey commented if the decision were reached to replace the building, it would still have
32 to be left in the Reeds Ferry area.

33
34 Councilor Albert suggested a prime piece of realty on Route 3 is being used as a warehouse. Chairman
35 Rothhaus stated the property is not that of the Town. If not being used, the Town would have to give
36 the property back. Town Manager Cabanel stated her recollection the property was provided by
37 General Electric.

38
39 Councilor Albert suggested looking into the possibility of selling the property and utilizing any
40 revenue towards a facility on a less valuable piece of property where an appropriate warehouse facility
41 could be in place. He questioned if the \$16,200 would cover the cost of equipment replacement, and
42 was informed it would not. Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director Micali stated with the hose
43 purchased last year and the one to be purchased this year and the damaged equipment, the cost could
44 range from \$2,500 - \$5,000.

1 Councilor Albert questioned the will of the Council relative to requesting the Town Manager
2 investigate the possibility of sale and value of the property. Town Manager Cabanel stated her belief
3 the value would likely only be to the abutting property (parking).

4
5 Councilor Thornton remarked there is a problem that has a known cost of \$16,200. If purchasing or
6 construction another facility, the cost would be much greater. If not addressing the situation there is no
7 way of knowing whether the critters would get into the \$50,000 HAZMAT trailer. He suggested the
8 funding be allocated to address the problem.

9
10 Councilor Harrington stated agreement the Council should understand what the options are regarding
11 the sale of the property. She recollects there being some language that would prohibit that. She agrees
12 with expending the funds to address the current situation. She would like the Town to approach Mr.
13 Flatley to assist with some beautification efforts.

14
15 Chairman Rothhaus stated agreement the repairs are necessary and guaranteed.

16
17 Asked for his opinion, Chief Currier stated the north end voter is in the building for police and fire
18 communications. Asked if the department utilizes a hose tower, he stated that is not done very often.
19 Chairman Rothhaus questioned if, instead of replacing windows, that may be something that would
20 come down. Chief Currier remarked he is uncertain if it would be more dangerous to the building
21 taking it down. That will be looked at and evaluated. He believes the antenna is on top of that.
22 Chairman Rothhaus commented he thought he had heard, at one point, that the concrete block structure
23 was having issues. Chief Currier commented it is just not the safest thing to hang hose. With a
24 modern hose there is no need to hang and dry. If it can come down that is the smartest thing to do for
25 the tower as it will only get worse.

26
27 Councilor Harrington suggested the next steps be to identify the issue of ownership of the land and
28 bring back information on what would be required to shore up and improve the appearance of the
29 facility as an alternative to sale.

30
31 Chief Currier stated there to be documentation that was presented in prior years about some of the
32 minor things that could be done to make the facility a more usable building. He spoke of the long-term
33 benefit to the community of storing the equipment in a dry environment.

34
35 Chief Currier stated he started in the department in 1983, and dedicated his life; 20 years as a volunteer
36 and then a career, to saving lives, property, and the environment for the Town of Merrimack. He takes
37 that very seriously. Of all the years he has been in the department, more lives were lost in the 12
38 months. Over the past year the department has lost three lives, due to structure fires; three citizens
39 from this community. They died because they didn't have working smoke detectors in the house. He
40 pleaded with the viewing audience to check their smoke detectors/change the batteries. Smoke
41 detectors don't last forever. After ten years they start to fail, and you need to start thinking about
42 replacing them.

43
44 Starting Monday, the department will be going on tv with a smoke detector campaign. Captain Bartell
45 took his crews out over the weekend; went to Shaws and started educating people on smoke detectors
46 and changing their batteries. They met everybody walking in and out of the building, talked to them,
47 and explained the importance.

Councilor Albert commented Meals on Wheels works out of the Senior Center. Perhaps a representative from the center could help with education. Chief Currier spoke of the department's plans to go to the Senior Center to start the conversation.

Minutes

Special March 13, 2019

The following amendments were offered:

Pages 1 and 2; correct page numbering

MOTION made by Councilor Boyd and seconded by Councilor Harrington that the minutes of the Special meeting of the Town Council of March 13, 2019 be approved, as amended. MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0

March 28, 2019

The following amendments were offered:

Page 2, Line 41; insert "was" before "a jokster"

Page 6, Line 15; replace "Bed" with "Ben"

Page 8, Line 39; replace "Heavner" with "Heavener" and replace "Breanne" with "Brianne"

Page 11, Line 32; correct spelling of "abatement"

Page 14, Line 44; "pilot" should be "PILOT" and "payment in lieu of taxes" should be in parenthesis

Page 15, Line 20; replace "provided" with "providing"

Page 17, Line 30; delete "special"

MOTION made by Councilor Boyd and seconded by Councilor Harrington to approve the minutes of the Town Council meeting of March 28, 2019, as amended. MOTION CARRIED 5-0-1

Councilor Thornton Abstained

Comments from the Press - None

Comments from the Public - None

Comments from the Council

Councilor Boyd thanked the attendees, Department of Environmental Services, and Department of Health and Human Services for putting on a successful health fair last week. He thanked the Merrimack Delegation for their attendance, and Merrimack Citizens for Clean Water for their participation. He was very happy with the level of attendance (80). He thanked all the vendors that participated.

Approved: April 25, 2019

Posted: April 29, 2019

1 Councilor Boyd thanked the voters for approving the wastewater bond. There were a good deal of
2 things on the ballot, but that is a critical piece of infrastructure that needs to be updated.

3
4 Councilor Boyd thanked Councilor Thornton for his leadership and stewardship. He spoke of the level
5 of due diligence he brought to every discussion. He thanked him for his service to the community.

6
7 Councilor Harrington spoke of her respect for Councilor Thornton and her appreciation of his time on
8 the Council. She commented on wanting to continue to receive his opinion as that is something she
9 honors.

10
11 Councilor Albert thanked Councilor Thornton for his many volunteer activities in the community.

12
13 Councilor Healey spoke of time spent at the Middle School during the elections, and thanked him for
14 everything he taught her about the process while there.

15
16 Chairman Rothhaus commented on understanding what it is like to have young children and a job that
17 has him traveling to the back woods of Maine, etc. He spoke of his appreciation for everything
18 Councilor Thornton brought to the Council and the community.

19
20 Councilor Thornton thanked the Council commenting on having gained the understanding of what it is
21 like to sit on the other side of the table and see everything the Administration and Council do. He
22 stated it to have been a pleasure serving with his colleagues.

23
24 **Adjourn**

25
26 **MOTION made by Councilor Thornton and seconded by Councilor Boyd to adjourn the**
27 **meeting. MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0**

28
29 *The April 11, 2019 meeting of the Town Council was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.*

30
31
32
33 Submitted by Dawn MacMillan