

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**January 23, 2012**

The Town Council meeting was held in the Moose Hill Council Chambers, Town Hall, 268B Mammoth Road, Londonderry.

**PRESENT:** Town Council: Chairman, Sean O’Keefe; Councilors: Tom Dolan (6:20 PM), Tom Freda, John Farrell; Town Manager Dave Caron.

**Call to Order**

Chairman O’Keefe opened the meeting at 6:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**New Business**

The Council introduced Town Counsel Bart Mayer and Assistant Moderator John Michels to participate in a roundtable discussion on the Town’s new budget process. Attorney Mayer presented information on the Deliberative Session, which he said is very similar to the former Budgetary Town Meeting, with three major differences:

- 1) No articles can be tabled or defeated; all articles on the Deliberative Session warrant must appear on the Town Meeting Official Ballot.
- 2) Voters can amend any articles, except those whose wording is prescribed by state law.
- 3) Amendments to articles cannot have the effect of changing the subject matter of the article.

In response to a question posed by Councilor Farrell, Attorney Mayer confirmed that the cost items in the proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement can be amended, however, an amended CBA is deemed to be rejected, requiring the parties to return to the bargaining table.

Attorney Mayer and Assistant Moderator Michels reaffirmed that procedural matters previously used at the Budgetary Town Meeting would be available during the Deliberative Session, including:

- 1) Voters may request the use of a secret ballot by submitting the signatures of at least five voters in attendance prior to question being called;
- 2) Reaffirmed that statutory article language cannot be amended;
- 3) Motions to restrict reconsideration during the Deliberative Session will be honored.

The Council proceeded to assign responsibilities for motions at the Deliberative Session.

In response to a question posed by Mike Brown, Attorney Mayer confirmed that cost items recommended for collective bargaining agreements can be amended, as they could have been amended during the Budgetary Town Meeting. Councilor Dolan observed that there is no reason to amend a CBA article during the Budgetary Town Meeting, as that body has the authority to determine the article's fate, contrasted with the Deliberative Session process where voters will make final decisions on the Official Ballot at the March Town Meeting.

In response to a question from Mike Speltz, Attorney Mayer opined that it would be difficult to clearly represent on the slide presentation what statutory language in each article cannot be amended.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Councilor Farrell made a motion to adjourn at 6:58 PM, second Councilor Freda. Council's vote was 4-0-0.**