

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
April 16, 2012

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

PRESENT: Town Council: Chairman John Farrell (7:29PM); Vice Chair Tom Dolan; Councilors: Tom Freda, Joe Green, Jim Butler; Town Manager Dave Caron; Executive Assistant, Margo Lapietro.

Call to Order

Vice Chairman Dolan opened the meeting at 7:04 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence for the men and women fighting for our country and for the fallen Chief of Police from Greenland, NH.

Public Comment

Londonderry High School's "PVC Pirates" Robotic Team – Vice Chairman Dolan introduced the Londonderry High School (LHS) award-winning FIRST Robotics team the "PVC Pirates". Captain of the team TJ Everett introduced himself and members Emily Angostino, Brandon Zalinsky and Russell Plummer. He said in January FIRST puts out a challenge and the teams had 6 weeks to get ready for regional competition; the winners advance to the international competition which they will be participating in this month. There are 2,300 teams worldwide in 12 different countries competing. E. Angostino explained they attended the Boston Regional and won the Chairman's award at the Granite State Regional competition. The project is about getting young people interested and involved in science and technology; it's about community outreach and the team that acts as a role model. TJ Everett said this year they have a robot that shoots an 8" foam basketball with 3 different heights at various distances. TJ explained they have done a lot of outreach, and said they went to the Old Home Day event and saw about a thousand people there; attended the Green Fest event in Boston, they created an event at the Pheasant Lane Mall, called "Robo Expo" and saw about 6K people there and brought in other teams for the demonstration. They went to First Night in Boston, and saw another 6K people to spread the FIRST idea. During the past year they have reached out to 12-15K people from July, 2011 to this year, which is why they received the Chairman's award. N. Zalinski said they made a sport out of the robotics competition. He said they were here tonight because they wanted to thank the town for sponsoring their team and presented the Council with a Certificate of Appreciation.

Mike Vlacich, State Director from Senator Shaheen's Office & Cerri Thurman, Special Assist. For Policy and Projects from Senator Shaheen's Office - Mike Vlacich proceeded to list the services that Senator Shaheen and her office can provide to Londonderry residents and gave contact information for their Manchester Office. He thanked Council for supporting the long term federal transportation plan and the I-93 expansion. He stated that Sen. Shaheen supports the Pettengill Rd. expansion. Town Manager Caron pointed out that M. Vlacich was involved with the State Resource and Economic Development Office as its Director. He said he continues

to work with Community Development Director Andre Garron very closely and he appreciates his efforts in helping Londonderry with their Economic Development goals. Councilor Dolan extended his appreciation for Sen. Shaheen's help for finding money for the North Fire Station. He also thanked Sen. Shaheen for working on a new bill entitled "Innovation Inspiration School Grant Program" which will allow high schools to compete for federal grants to support non-traditional educational programs like "STEM" (science, technology, engineering and math).

ZBA – Alternate Position Interview - Councilor Dolan asked James Totten what qualified him for this volunteer position. He responded he has lived here since 2009 and had been involved with past zoning board situations and thought the process was fascinating. Councilor Green asked him how he finds himself in the mix on the board. J. Totten responded everything should be handled on a case by case basis; it is a balancing act, things are zoned for a reason. Councilor Freda asked what his involvement was in the past with the ZBA. He said it involved a neighbor, the process was frustrating but he saw how the ZBA worked. Councilor Dolan recused himself from voting because J. Totten was a close neighbor and turned the gavel over to the Chairman who had arrived at that point. **Councilor Freda made a motion to appoint James Totten to the ZBA, second Councilor Green. Council's vote 4-0-0, with Councilor Dolan not voting.**

Public Hearing

Councilor Dolan made a motion to open the Public Hearing, second Councilor Green. Council's vote was 5-0-0.

Resolution 2012-05 – Relative to Renaming Streets in Wagon Wheel Mobile Home Park - Councilor Freda made a motion to accept, second Councilor Green. GIS Manager/Planner John Vogl explained the street numbering in the park is 2 Stonehenge Road and the lot numbers are erratic; they held a workshop on 2/22/12 with the homeowners. Members of the park association were in attendance. He said the cost of the signage would be borne by the association because they are private roads. J. Vogl explained the area is extremely problematic to the police and fire. Fire Marshall Brian Johnson said all 911 calls come in for the entire park as 2 Stonehenge Road with a lot number. Doris Stevens, 2 Stonehenge Rd. #29 introduced the other Board members. She asked for the price for the 4 signs that have to be installed. Sherry Dubois, 2 Stonehenge Rd. #13 asked when they will get their new house numbers. K. Marchant responded in 30 days they will have the letter with the new address and new number on it. Brad Stevens, 2 Stonehenge Rd. Lot 29 asked if there was a standard design for the signs. K. Marchant responded the town has a standard for signage; she will check it out with the Public Works Department and get back to them. Councilor Green asked if there was any way we can have the signs made at a more reasonable price and the people can reimburse us. Town Manager Caron said he will investigate. **Council's vote to accept the resolution was 5-0-0.** Councilor Dolan asked the Town Manager if the town made the signs would it be possible to pass the cost along as a pro-rated tax assessment to the homeowners, he responded no, he will send the bill to the association. B Stevens asked who will install the signs; they were told the association would have to hire a contractor.

Councilor Dolan closed the public hearing, second Councilor Green. Council's vote 5-0-0.

Old Business

Resolution 2012-02 – Relative to Renaming Kelly Road – Councilor Green made a motion to waive the reading, second Councilor Freda. Council’s vote to waive the reading was 5-0-0. Councilor Dolan made a motion to postpone taking up this Resolution indefinitely until such time as the City of Manchester and the Manchester Airport consider the potential re-naming of the version of Kelly Rd. that Manchester has so we can see the potential impact to our renaming the road. Town Manager Caron recommended that the Resolution be defeated if the Council preferred to postpone indefinitely. Councilor Dolan restated his motion to adopt the Resolution, second Councilor Freda. Councils vote was that the motion was defeated 0-5-0.

New Business

Review of FY14 Default Budget - Town Manager Caron reviewed his memo and cautioned that the projections are preliminary. The variables included wages and salaries with an increase of about \$249K; health insurance with an estimated increase of about \$238K; state retirement is estimated at \$444K; increases in dental rates and workers’ comp, increases in social security and Medicare with an estimated increase of \$20K; debt service is expected to be reduced by about \$342K and other contractual obligations, including contracts for solid waste, IT services, General Assistance Administration, etc. are anticipated to add \$99,997 to the FY14 budget. He said as of today, we can anticipate a 3% increase in the tax rate with a default budget. Chairman Farrell recapped the total increase to the operating budget would be \$711K. Town Manager Caron stated that health costs will be a big variable; he presented a “worse case” scenario. Councilor Dolan asked if this was on the net side or the expense side. Town Manager Caron responded it is the expense side; some revenues are performing better this year. The interest on deposits is still underperforming, Motor Vehicle permit fees are increasing, Building Permits hopefully perform to expectation; we are planning on a flat revenue stream for non property tax. Councilor Dolan asked what year the Granite Ridge assessment increases; Town Manager Caron responded it will begin in 2011, the first of three years. Councilor Freda brought up the state retirement issue. Town Manager Caron said the NHRS Board of Trustees set the assumed rate of return every 2 years and expects it will be reduced even further in future years. Chairman Farrell said after the discussion the consensus was to send a letter to the state, Councilor Freda will craft it and send it to the Town Manager for review and he will forward it to the other Councilors for their signatures and then send it to the state. Councilor Butler said he would like to have the state representatives come in to explain why they can’t do something about the retirement system.

Chairman Farrell said we have a policy in place about the hiring process. Town Manager Caron said the current policy is for all non-public safety appointments to come to the Council for approval. Chairman Farrell said he would like to amend that policy and have all appointments come to the Council so the Council is fully aware of staffing levels. Consensus was to expand the policy.

Andre Garron- Economic Development Update – Community Development Director Andre Garron informed Council that he attended a meeting with the Derry/Londonderry Chamber of Commerce for an update with Sen. Shaheen and Gov. Lynch. He also attended an update meeting with the Manchester-Boston Airport. In addition he attended the Comprehensive Master Plan held on 4/12/12 at LHS. He announced that a plan for a 125,000 s.f. building for American

Tire Distributor at Jack's Bridge was approved last week at the Planning Board Meeting. They have the potential of 100 employees working during the construction process. They will probably be hiring up to 35-40 both full and part-time for the facility. They are planning on opening in November or early December and this building will be their first New England facility. The Vista Ridge Road/Rte. 28 public hearing for a retail development was heard at the last Planning Board meeting, It is proposed as a 109,000 s.f. facility and will be continued at the 5/9/12 meeting due to traffic and design issues. Wire Belt is proposing an expansion of a 12,000 s.f. The Falling Water Office Development is close to starting construction consisting of a 35,000 s.f. office building/warehouse building. He said the Pettengill Road area has received a lot of interest and he was pursuing developing the area. He asked the Council if he could resurrect the Londonderry Economic Development Committee to help with the marketing aspect of economic development particularly for the Pettengill area. He suggested the committee consist of 2 Town Councilors, 1 Planning Board member, 1 member of the Londonderry Housing and Redevelopment Authority and 3 at-large members totaling 7 members. Councilor Farrell suggested having 1 School Board Member. He asked that the Council come to a resolution on this subject by June. Councilor Dolan stated we have 3 different governments; the School Board, Library and the Council; he likes the idea of a School Board member being on the committee. Councilor Green asked what the purpose of the committee is. Chairman Farrell explained the committee would meet with the potential developers and sell Londonderry. It has to be chartered correctly. Councilor Green countered that we have staff doing that right now, why do we need another committee. Councilor Dolan explained that this body is more inclined to set policy and take charge of the marketing of policy whereas staff executes the policy. Councilor Dolan questioned if we needed a private marketing firm. He said this committee could give that direction. Chairman Farrell asked if we could just pay a commission to someone who brings business into town. Councilor Butler said you have to spend money to make money. He stated it is important to find an outside consultant. A. Garron said with the committee you will have 7 people invested in economic development. The residents can say they want them in the community, it means more coming from the taxpayers. The committee will have a strategy in place. Councilor Green stated we need a full-time effort to market the town. Councilor Freda pointed out that residential assessment and commercial development has gone up and down only 1% in the past 10 years. We need to be schooled in what it takes to get Pettengill going - we have to know what we need and how can it be established whereby we don't need \$14M for its construction. The town won't make a move unless the voters allow it. Who do we have to go to to get funding? We need to know what we have to do in increments. Councilor Dolan talked about the development of the area and stated that development will bring more jobs which will drive up the housing values. Councilor Dolan asked for an update on what is going on around Elliott and Vista Ridge. A. Garron explained an office complex is being built. The restaurant next to Mr. Steer has been approved for an Irish Pub. The Elliot Medical Center has been approved for a 16,000 s.f, expansion that probably will be built in a year. Chairman Farrell said that his goal is that economic development is important, it is time to put together a committee. A. Garron responded he will submit a Resolution for the 5/7 meeting

Resolution 2012-06 – Relative to the Acceptance of Land - Councilor Butler made a motion to adopt, second Councilor Dolan. Town Manager Caron explained the owner does not have easy access from the street, and they owed back taxes of \$650 which with this transaction will be dissolved. The Trailways Committee reviewed the property and said it would complement their Rail-Trail plan. **Council's vote was 5-0-0.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council meeting minutes of 3/26/12 and 4/2/12 – Councilor Green made a motion to accept both meeting minutes, second Councilor Freda. Council’s vote was 5-0-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

Liaison Reports/Assignments - Councilor Green reported that at the meeting last week the Master Plan Steering Plan is moving forward with “Planapalooza”. He reported that the Community Development Department had signs at the LAFA activities this weekend to promote “Planapalooza”. He attended the Library meeting and staff had tracked from 2008 – 2011 and found that readership was up. He said the library staff always gets a lot of detail about circulation.

Councilor Freda attended the Planning Board meeting where they talked about Vista Ridge. He said they had a discussion to amend the rules about reading the staff recommendations. The consensus of the board was it could be eliminated if the applicant chose to waive the reading.

Councilor Dolan attended the Conservation Commission and they will give an update to Council at the 5/21 meeting.

Chairman Farrell said the Elder Affairs Committee is having an Estate Planner come in and talk to the members. It is open to all and he suggested people bring in their wills to be reviewed by the planner to make sure they are valid.

Town Manager Report – Town Manager Caron reviewed 3 proposed changes to the Council Rules of Order. Amend Sections B.2.(a) and C.1.(a) which would require the election of a Chair and Vice-Chair at the first regularly scheduled meeting of the Council following the election. This will eliminate the transitional requirements associated with the change in government from 1996. He proposed a new section (D.5.(d)) which recognized a “Motion to Continue” Under the current rules a successful motion to table means the item is defeated. This motion would be used when the Council wants to make a decision on the matter at a future meeting. These changes should be voted on at the next meeting.

PSNH would like to commence with tree trimming in their mid cycle schedule for the town. They will begin tree cutting starting in the north end of town and continuing in a circuitous route around town. Councilor Dolan said there was a specification in place for cutting, can we challenge it if it is not already amended. The Town Manager explained they are looking for trees that are hanging and will cause the most damage. They would like to start in May. Councilor Dolan spoke about the heights they are allowed to cut and asked if they couldn’t be more liberal in their cuttings.

Town Manager Caron informed the Councilors that we will be discussing the abbreviated summer schedule at the next meeting and asked them to bring their calendars with them at the next meeting so we can plan.

Board/Committee Appointments/Reappointments

Resignation for Jim Butler from the Heritage Commission. **Councilor Green made a motion to accept the resignation of Jim Butler from the Heritage Commission, second Councilor Freda. Council's vote 4-0-1, with Councilor Butler abstaining.**

Resignation of Neil Jackson-Smith as an Alternate from the Solid Waste and Environment Committee. **Councilor Green made a motion to accept the resignation of Neil Jackson-Smith from the Solid Waste and Environment Commission, second Councilor Freda. Councilor's vote was 5-0-0.**

Appointment of James Totten as an Alternate to the ZBA, term expiration of 12/31/14. **Councilor Dolan made a motion to appoint, second Councilor Butler. Council's vote was 5-0-0.**

Chairman Farrell made a motion that the Council was going into a non-public meeting at 9:08 PM according to RSA 91-A:3, II (c).

Aye Jim Butler, Aye Tom Dolan, Aye John Farrell, Aye Tom Freda, Aye Joe Green.

Councilor Green made a motion to exit Non-Public Session and seal the minutes at 9:37 PM, second by Councilor Dolan. Council's vote was 5-0-0.

Councilor Freda motioned to adjourn at 9:38 PM, second by Councilor Dolan. Council's vote was 5-0-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Notes and Tapes by: Margo Lapietro Date: 04/16/12

Minutes Typed by: Margo Lapietro Date: 04/19/12

Approved by: Town Council Date: 05/07/12