

LONDONDERRY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

1 **October 15, 2018**

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3 The Town Council meeting was held in the Moose Hill Council Chambers, Town Hall,
4 268B Mammoth Road, Londonderry, NH.

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6 Present: Chairman John Farrell; Vice-Chairman Joe Green; Councilors Jim Butler, Ted
7 Combes & Tom Dolan; Town Manager Kevin Smith; Assistant Town Manager Lisa
8 Drabik; Executive Assistant Kirby Brown;

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10 **CALL TO ORDER**

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12 Chairman Farrell called the Town Council special meeting to order and led the Pledge of
13 Allegiance. This was followed by a moment of silence for those who serve us both here
14 and abroad and our Police Department.

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16 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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18 Chairman Farrell reminded the public that there is a time limit of five minutes under
19 public comment.

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21 Tim Siekmann, 89 Hovey Rd, asked what was going on with the elections. Every year
22 there is something wrong. Siekmann stated that someone who should have been listed as
23 a Democrat was listed as a Libertarian on the absentee ballots. Siekmann asked how it
24 happened. Chairman Farrell stated that the ballots are prepared by the Secretary of State's
25 office. Chairman Farrell pulled up an article from the Union Leader from Secretary of
26 State Bill Gardner stating that it was the States mistake. It is a national election so the
27 State is the one that deals with ballots. Moderator Tom Freda stated that on the regular
28 absentee ballots, Tammy Siekmann is listed correctly. It was on the absentee ballots that
29 were e-mailed to the clerks five minutes before the deadline to send them out. The ones
30 that get e-mailed overseas are the ones that had her listed incorrectly. The instructions in
31 the e-mail, the clerks were supposed to check that the correct town was listed on the top
32 and that was it. There is a Federal Statutory deadline to get them out by 5 PM and they
33 have very little time from receiving them to e-mail them out. Freda stated that they have
34 been corrected and reset to the twenty individuals that received the wrong ballot.
35 Siekmann stated that the state kept telling him to talk to the town. Freda stated that is
36 what they have been telling the town as well. The state sent those ballots with less than

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37 two minutes to send them out and Londonderry wasn't the only town these happened
38 with. Town Manager Smith stated that what the town was told was the person doing the
39 data entry pressed tab when she should have pressed enter.

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41 Paul Skudlarek, 20 Woodbine Dr, asked what the verification process the town has in
42 place to make sure the ballots are correct before they are sent out. Town Clerk Sherry
43 Farrell stated that when it is a regular ballot, the clerks look at it and it's sent to the
44 officials throughout the town and she asks them to check for errors. Once we get ballots,
45 the process to get them ready for November 6th is a long process. Sherry Farrell stated
46 that everyone from the public is welcome to watch the counting and testing of every
47 ballot. The machines have to be tested. The state requires it. Everyone who was sent the
48 wrong ballot was resent the correct one and the town didn't receive any complaints on it.
49 Skudlarek stated that the candidate was never even informed about the mistake.
50 Chairman Farrell stated that in a Federal Election, the Council does not take a side on
51 that. Chairman Farrell stated that he personally contacted Tam Siekmann when he found
52 out. Moderator Freda stated that once the ballots are counted and tested the ballots are
53 sealed by special tape from the state and after voting is done the boxes are resealed with
54 that red tape and the ballots are brought back to the vault in Town Hall. They are always
55 under police custody.

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57 Greg Caron, 19 Tokanel Drive, stated that the system isn't perfect.

58
59 LouLuisa Piette, 23 Jefferson Drive, stated that she is a candidate for State rep. Piette
60 stated that she is concerned about the issues that were raised. They weren't meant to
61 undermine anyone. Piette stated that there needs to be a process in place to notify the
62 candidate an issue effects. Piette stated that she trusts everyone.

63
64 The Council discussed the elections in further detail and the rules for holding campaign
65 signs now at the polling places. Also the traffic pattern which will be posted on the town
66 website and social media pages once a map is completed.

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68 Councilor Jim Butler entered the meeting.

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70 Town Manager Smith read a press release about an unauthorized fundraiser that is
71 targeting Londonderry schools. Business informed the LHS that a company has been
72 calling around for a fundraiser that the school did not authorize.

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PUBLIC HEARING

Motion to open Public Hearing made by Vice Chairman Green and second by Councilor Butler. Chair votes 4-0-0.

Chairman Farrell invited up Finance Director Doug Smith to present Resolution #2018-11, a Resolution relative to the acceptance of unanticipated revenue under RSA 31:95-b, the SAFER Grant for the Londonderry Fire Department. Chief Darren O'Brien presented as well. The Grant covers three years and four additional firefighters for the town. Motion to approve Resolution #2018-11 made by Vice chairman Green and second by Councilor Dolan. Chair votes 5-0-0.

Motion to close public hearing made by Councilor Dolan and second by Councilor Butler. Chair votes 5-0-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Town Manager Smith discussed looking at the town sign Ordinance again. He used the Blues Festival as an example. The gentleman who runs the event is looking for some relief for putting up his signs for promoting the event. He had put them up in the town's right-of-ways this past year hence why they were taken down. The current town ordinance allows for signs to be temporarily put up for 30 days prior to the event date. What's not allowed is putting it in the town's right-of-way. Smith sked the Council if they want to change the Ordinance or keep it the way it is. Councilor Combes stated that we can't touch political signs. Councilor Dolan suggested adding to the Ordinance giving Town Manager Smith some flexibility to approve or not to approve to keep the Council out of it. Town manager Smith stated that his recommendation is to keep the Ordinance how it is. If it is a non-profit event you have a temporary 30 day timeframe that he can put the signs up.

NEW BUSINESS

NONE

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110 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
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112 Motion to Approve Town Council minutes from October 1, 2018 made by Councilor
113 Dolan and second by Councilor Butler. Chair votes 4-1-0.

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115 **APPOINTMENTS/RE-APPOINTMENTS**

116
117 **NONE**

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119 **OTHER**

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121 **ADJOURNMENT**

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123 Motion to adjourn made by Vice Chairman Green and second by Councilor Dolan. Chair
124 votes 5-0-0.

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126 Notes and Tapes by: Kirby Brown Date: 10/15/2018
127 Minutes Typed by: Kirby Brown Date: 10/22/2018
128 Approved by: Town Council Date: 11/05/2018

Persons subject to this chapter shall file a statement of financial interests annually no later than the third Friday in January ... No person required to file a statement of financial interest shall be eligible to serve in his or her appointed capacity prior to filing a statement in accordance with this section."

Department of Health and Human Services Commissioner **Jeffrey Meyers**, who runs the biggest agency in state government, failed to file his 2018 disclosure until last month, but says he was told by the Attorney General's office that he's covered by the disclosure he filed in 2016 when he was appointed.

Perhaps that's a hint of what's coming from the AG office, but others interpret the law to mean a new form has to be filed every January.

Chip Kimball, chairman of the state Wetlands Council, points out that this issue has come up in the past. A 2015 audit of the Department of Revenue Administration by the Legislative Budget Assistant identified 14 individuals who either didn't file or didn't on time.

"Noncompliance increases the risk that potential conflicts of interest may not be properly disclosed," warned the auditors. "Additionally, the validity of decisions in which non-compliant board members participate may be called question."

the hundreds of volunteer board and commission members knew that they would not have standing if they fail to file, they would file."

According to Kimball, this is for the simple reason that no one wants to waste their time attending meetings when they have no standing.

"Education should come from each department for its employees and perhaps from the AG civil division for volunteer boards and commissions," he said.

Blame for bad ballots

Another big announcement from the Department of Justice is expected in the week ahead, regarding 126 incorrect absentee ballots for the November election that had to be corrected and resent.

Town clerks who feel they've been improperly blamed for not catching the errors point out that ultimate responsibility for ensuring the accuracy of the ballots rests with Secretary of State **Bill Gardner** and his office.

Gardner agrees.

"They are a help, but it's ultimately the Secretary of State's responsibility," he said. "You want perfection and you strive for it, but a lot of times you don't get there. If this is all there is (126 errors out of 9,000 unique ballots in the primary and general election), we will be at 99.9 percent accuracy, like most elections in the past."

columnist Jamal Khashoggi murdered inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, and then his body cut up with a bomb saw and flown to Riyadh on Gulfstream jets owned by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman?

So contend the Turks, who have video from the consulate, photos of 15 Saudi agents who flew in Istanbul that day, Oct. 2, and the identity numbers of the planes.

Supporting the thesis of either a murder in the consulate or a "rendition" a kidnaping gone horribly bad, is a Post story that U.S. intel intercepted Saudi planning, ordered by the prince, to lure Khashoggi from his suburban D.C. home back to Saudi Arabia. And for what beneficent purpose?

If these charges are not refuted by Riyadh, there likely be, and should be, John Bolton said in another context, "hell to pay."

And the collateral diplomatic damage looks to be massive.

Any U.S.-backed "Arab NATO" to face down Iran with Riyadh as central would appear dead. Continued U.S. support for Saudi war in Yemen now be in question.

The special relationship the crown prince and President Donald Trump son-in-law, Jared Kushner, have established could have history.

Congress could curtail U.S. arms sales to the kingdom that keep thousands of U.S. defense workers