

LONDONDERRY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

January 24, 2022

The meeting took place in the Moose Hill Council Chambers, 268B Mammoth Rd, Londonderry, NH 03053.

Present: Chairman John Farrell; Vice Chairman Joe Green; Councilor Jim Butler, Tom Dolan, and Deb Paul; Town Manager Kevin Smith; Assistant Town Manager Lisa Drabik; Assistant Town Solicitor Mike Malaguti; Executive Assistant Kirby Brown.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Farrell called the Town Council meeting to order at 7:10 PM. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. This was followed by a moment of silence for the three police officers that were shot over the weekend and the one that passed. Chairman Farrell held a moment of silence for all first responders and their safety.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bob Pitre, 61 Sawgrass Circle, spoke on behalf of a member of the Forest Hill 55+ community, and asked the Council the below questions regarding the reassessment of the 55+ communities.

- 1.) What guidelines or formula does the town use to assess property?
- 2.) Are the guidelines the same for the over 55 developments as other residential properties with acres of land?
- 3.) Why are we (the people) being assessed exactly the same as other over 55 properties that were built last year?
- 4.) Is it standard practice to assess property without an inspection visit?
- 5.) What was the average assessment rate over the 5-year time frame?
- 6.) What was the average assessment rate over the 2-year time frame?
- 7.) Why was it changed from 5 years to 2 years?
- 8.) Who made that decision to change it from 5 years to 2-year assessments?
- 9.) Was any consideration given to the fact that building material costs were very high in the first quarter of 2021 due to shortage of lumber, plumbing supplies, etc. that would impact assessments?

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36 10.) Could the property taxes be split over two years go lessen the impact on
37 homeowners; especially homeowners on fixed incomes?
38

39 Chairman Farrell stated that the Town Assessor will be coming in at the next meetings
40 with a presentation to help everyone understand this. Chairman Farrell stated that the
41 questions will be addressed during the presentation.
42

43 Brian Eagen, 19 St Andrews Way, also in Forest Hills. Eagen asked if the company who
44 did the assessment was hired by the town or the state. Chairman Farrell stated that they were
45 hired by the town. The town used to have an in-house Assessor who did all of this and now
46 the town uses a contractor because it reduced the expenses and they brought a lot more
47 expertise then what could be done in-house. Eagen stated that his taxes went up 40%. Egan
48 asked how the Council would let this happen.
49

50 Pete Lison, 38 Sawgrass Cr, stated that he feels bad for neighbors who can't afford these
51 taxes. Are he assessments based on not just market value, but replacement value. It seems
52 like they're being compared to some of the other neighborhoods that are brand new. These
53 houses are sixteen years old. Chairman Farrell stated that he will get everyone answers but
54 he doesn't know what they are tonight.
55

56 The Council discussed the tax rate. Chairman Farrell told Malaguti that he would like an
57 update as to why the assessing system doesn't reflect sales and reassessments.
58

PUBLIC HEARING

60
61 **NONE**
62

NEW BUSINESS

63
64
65 Chairman Farrell introduced the appointment to the PFAS Study Commission. Assistant
66 Town Manager Lisa Drabik gave an update. Drabik stated that this is a Commission to study
67 the environmental and public health impacts of PFAS chemicals. It is a state legislatively
68 created commission that was created back in 2019 and has representative from Merrimack,
69 Bedford and Litchfield and since then have added two from Londonderry. One appointment
70 can be a Town Councilor and second needs to be a resident who is a member of a drinking

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71 water relative advocacy organization. That person is not appointed by the Town Council,
72 but recommended by the Town Council, an appointed by the Senate President. Drabik stated
73 that Councilor Dolan had been recommended. The Commission meeting remotely the
74 second Friday of every month at 9 AM. Drabik asked the Council how they would like to
75 proceed. Councilor Paul stated that this is the committee that focuses on health and the
76 health effects/testing with cancers related to PFOA's and the town has not done their study
77 yet when other towns already have.

78
79 Drabik went over the new program through NHDES where people who install filtration
80 systems can get up to a \$1500 rebate. Drabik stated that all of the information is on the
81 front page of our website, including how to apply.

82
83 The Council made a motion to appoint Councilor Dolan to the PFAS Study Commission.
84 Motion made by Vice Chairman Green and second by Councilor Butler. Chair votes 5-0-0.

85
86 Malaguti gave an update on the Energy Committee Task Force and explained that the
87 deadline will be extended for application until February 7th.

88
89 Malaguti gave a updated on the state taking two pieces of property down off of Trolley Car
90 Lane, to facilitate the Exit 4A project and the sound barrier. Malaguti stated that the Council
91 had agreed by census that in order for the sound wall to get installed and to expedite the
92 process, and all parties involved don't have any opposition to the project. Malaguti stated
93 that he is looking for the Councils formal approval to cooperate with the takings process of
94 51 Rear Trolley Car Lane, which is .55 acres and a 725 sq. ft. drainage easement. And 4
95 Trolley Car, which is .04 acres, to be taken. No one from Trolley Car Lane contacted us or
96 opposed it. Motion to authorize the town to move forward with the conveyance of 51 Rear
97 Trolley Car Lane and 4 Trolley Car, to the state of New Hampshire, made by Vice Chairman
98 Green and second by Councilor Dolan. Chair votes 5-0-0.

99
100 Chairman Farrell introduced Order #2022-01, an order relative to the expenditure of
101 Maintenance trust Fund for various projects. Dave Wholley presented. Wholley stated that
102 he is looking for a second allocation of \$17,000.00 for winter maintenance. Motion to
103 approves Order #2022-01 made by Vice Chairman Green and second by Councilor Butler.
104 Chair votes 5-0-0.

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Wholley Discussed Order #2022-02, an Order relative to winter maintenance. Motion to approve Order #2022-02 made by Vice Chairman Green and second by Councilor Butler. Chair voted 5-0-0.

Fire Chief Darren O'Brien asked the Council's permission to amend his request from a prior meeting for the SAFER Grant. Chief O'Brien stated that he originally requested one firefighter. Chief O'Brien stated that the department has now promoted a deputy chief, which hasn't happened since 2004. This was taken from an operational position on the floor and the direction of the town throughout the last few budget seasons. The best opportunity to refill the position, if the department gets the Grant. Chief O'Brien asked for an amendment from the past request from four personnel to five. The Council gave consensus.

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the Town Council minutes from January 10, 2022 made by Vice Chairman Green and second by Councilor Dolan. Chair votes 5-0-0.

APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS

Motion to reappoint Mike Spetz to an alternate position on the Conservation Commission made by Councilor Dolan and second by Councilor Butler. Chair votes 5-0-0.

Motion to reappoint Gene Harrington as a member on the Conservation Commission made by Councilor Dolan and second by Councilor Butler. Chair votes 5-0-0.

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ADJOURNMENT

- 139
- 140
- 141 Motion to adjourn made by Vice Chairman Green and second by Councilor Dolan. Chair
- 142 votes 5-0-0.
- 143
- 144 Notes and Tapes by: Kirby Brown Date: 1/24/2022
- 145 Minutes Typed by: Kirby Brown Date: 1/28/2022
- 146 Approved by: Town Council Date: 2/07/2022