

# **LONDONDERRY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

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**November 7, 2019**

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

Present: Chairman John Farrell; Councilor Tom Dolan and Ted Combes; Town Manager Kevin Smith; Assistant Town Manager Lisa Drabik; Executive Assistant Kirby Brown; Absent: Vice Chairman Joe Green and Councilor Jim Butler

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Farrell called the Town Council special meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. This was followed by a moment of silence for all of those who serve us both here and abroad and for the first responders in Londonderry who take good care of the town.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Farrell said that he has received a lot of phone calls in the last twenty-four hours since the tax bill went out. Chairman Farrell made an overall statement where he will explain some of the questions that have been asked. Chairman Farrell read in statement. Chairman Farrell stated that on the bills it states the overall price of what your taxes are. In the first bill, it is one amount, and in the second bill, the amount reflects what was passed on the ballot that March. This year was a reevaluation year. Our fiscal year runs July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>. These bills are for this fiscal year. Chairman Farrell stated that 8% of the total taxes is paid by the power plant in town. Chairman Farrell went over commercial versus residential. Chairman Farrell stated they are working on doing reevaluations every two years instead of every five years going forward. Chairman Farrell went over the difference between the school budget and the town budget. Chairman Farrell reminded the public that the reevaluation has been talked about throughout the past two years. Chairman Farrell stated that Beth Charlebois, Assistant Town Assessor and Justin Campo, the Finance Director for the town, are both present to answer any questions.

Moiria Ryan, 2 Snowberry Hollow, asked about the combat veteran's tax credit which was just increased to \$700 by Governor Sununu. Ryan asked the Council to consider it

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37 being increased over the next few years. Beth Charlebois stated that there are several  
38 different veteran credits and exemptions. Ryan stated that she is speaking of the combat  
39 veteran's credit. Charlebois stated that it is a combat tax credit, for people who are  
40 currently serving. Charlebois stated that we do not have that right now and the limit on it  
41 is \$750. Charlebois stated that only one town in the state has approved it as of right now.  
42 Chairman Farrell stated that the Council can look into it. Town Manager Smith stated that  
43 this year the Council is giving back almost six hundred thousand dollars in terms of  
44 veterans tax credits to our community.

45  
46 Cindy Abbot, 69 Shasta Drive, stated that she understands about the assessment but she  
47 didn't know it was going to happen and when did we decide to do it. Town Manager  
48 Smith stated that Londonderry is on a five year cycle but it has also been talked about for  
49 over a year. Abbott asked if it was posted anywhere.

50  
51 Idan Vinitsky, writer for the Londonderry Times, informed the Council that he and his  
52 family are moving back to Israel. Vinitsky thanked the Council and members of the  
53 public for welcoming him into the beautiful town. Vinitsky stated that it's been a great  
54 experience. The Council thanked Vinitsky and wished him good luck.

55  
56 Glenn Douglas, 6 Overlook Ave, stated that he was at the water quality presentation at  
57 last Town Council meeting. Douglas stated that he also went to the public meeting in  
58 Merrimack, about PFOA. Merrimack is now putting in a twenty million dollar system to  
59 get rid of PFOA in its water. Douglas stated that Merrimack has one of the largest  
60 effected areas in the United States. Douglas stated that Saint-Gobain is also putting in an  
61 air cleaner so that PFOA isn't put into the air and down to the water. Douglas stated that  
62 they are also testing an additional thousand wells in Merrimack and into Londonderry.  
63 Douglas asked if anything is being done to test the air in Londonderry. Douglas also  
64 stated that way back in the day, Budget Committee, Town Council and School Board had  
65 a joint meeting. Douglas stated that it stopped and it needs to come back since there  
66 seems to be a division between the two governments. Chairman Farrell stated that the  
67 Council has always been open to meeting with the School Board and that the offer to still  
68 stands. Chairman Farrell stated that in terms of the water, the Council has engaged  
69 counsel and they are moving as fast as they can and that the Council will see what they  
70 can do.

71  
72 Beth Charlebois stated that she looked up the tax credit for combat veterans and the  
73 maximum amount is actually \$500, not \$750.

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Christie Breidenbach, 82 High Range Road, stated that they are new to this area. Breidenbach, stated that there tax bill did go up, but they have called the police department for a few different situations, the fire department always goes by their house, they call the Town Clerk, everyone is always immediately there to help. They have received positive feedback and results from the town. Breidenbach stated that they are grateful to be in this town and it is worth the investment.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Town Manager Smith discussed a few items that were asked about at the budget workshop that took place on November 2nd. Finance Director Justin Campo discussed the ambulance billing and what the town has collected and how collection works. We always hit the revenue mark.

Lisa Drabik gave an updated on Old Home Day and Chairman Farrell suggested creating a Task Force Committee to help transfer over the direction of the Committee, before the staff takes it over.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

NONE

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Chairman Farrell introduced Ordinance #2019-06, an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance relative to the rezoning of Map 14, Lot 45A, which is a first reason. Motion to accept and waive the first reading and schedule a public hearing for November 25<sup>th</sup> made by Councilor Dolan and second by Councilor Combes. Chair votes 3-0-0.

Chairman Farrell introduced Order #2019-25, an Order relative to the distribution of Fire Capital Reserve Funds. Chief Darren O'Brien presented. This Order is for new fire equipment, one gear extractor, one gear dryer, thirteen mobile defibrillators and four fixed defibrillators. Motion to approve Order #2019-25 made by Councilor Dolan and second by Councilor Combes.

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### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion to approve Town Council minutes from October 28, 2019 made by Councilor Combes and second by Councilor Dolan. Chair votes 3-0-0.

### **BOARD/COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT**

NONE

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn made by Councilor Combes and seconded by Councilor Dolan. Chair votes 3-0-0.

Notes and Tapes by: Kirby Brown

Date: 11/07/2019

Minutes Typed by: Kirby Brown

Date: 11/18/2019

Approved by: Town Council

Date: 11/25/2019