

TOWN OF DERRY

**Town Council
Derry Municipal Center**

**February 17, 2015
Tuesday - 7:30 PM**

6:30 PM Non-Public Session under RSA 91A:3 II (a)

7:30 PM Call to order

Pledge of Allegiance, warning of fire exits, handicap access, & turn off all cell phones

Roll Call: Councilors Cardon, Fischer, Fairbanks, Bourdon, Dimmock, Katsakiores and Chairman Osborne

Consent Agenda- Approved as written

15-15 Approve Minutes – February 3, 2015

15-16 Schedule Public Hearing – March 3, 2015 – NHDES Asset Management Planning Grant

15-17 Schedule Public Hearing – March 3, 2015 - NHDOT Force Account Agreement

Chairman's Report –

The Chair has been contacted by the Derry School Board and they have invited a Councilor to sit on their Facilities Committee.

Long time Town employee Norry Follett has passed away on February 15. He had been an employee for 30 years and had recently retired. Services will be held Wednesday, February 18 at the Peabody Funeral Home. Donations may be made to the Dana Farber Institute.

******* Melanson & Heath Audit Report**

Scott McIntire stated the Audit Report shows that the Town is in good working order. There were no proposals of journal entries. Mr. McIntire reviewed page 39-41 regarding the Town Net Position with expenses and revenues. He explained that on Page 42 the most important number which showed the general fund unassigned fund balance of \$11.2M was unchanged from the prior year. This is at 13% as required in the 2014 General Fund Policy.

Council asked questions of Mr. McIntire regarding the Capital Reserve Fund and where excess revenue comes from and why it is placed in the Capital Reserve Fund. Mr. McIntire stated that Derry's excess revenue is placed into the Capital Reserve Fund as required by the 2014 General Fund Policy.

Councilor Fischer would have liked to have reviewed this report prior to the meeting.

******* FY2015 Financial Statement Six Months Ended December 31, 2014**

Chief Financial Officer Susan Hickey and Controller Janice Mobsby reported totaled \$65.7M an increase of \$2M. This increase was due to unspent proceeds from a \$3.4M bond issued and held in the general fund. Unpaid property taxes decreased by \$439,000 to \$2.9M. Tax liens totaled \$1.6M which is \$300,000 below outstanding in the prior year.

Non-tax related receivables increased capital assets net of depreciation also increased related to the Route 28 project. Investments in capital assets exceeded annual depreciation and is keeping pace; however, the Town's investment in capital assets did not keep pace with depreciation. The general fund cash includes \$10.8M held for other funds (inter-fund liability) water/sewer funds increased due to unspent bond proceeds issued. Fund balance totals of \$143.6M equates to \$3M higher than the prior year due to FY2014 operational surplus of stronger motor vehicle registration and lower budgeted personnel costs due to staff turnover. Unassigned general fund balance totaled \$11.2M. Compensated absences increased by \$3.8M. Revenues and expenditures at this reporting period should be tracking at 50%; some department activity centers are tracking above 50%. Expenditures for personnel have been lower due to vacancies of the Town Administrator's position and CFO. Increases in property insurance and earned time payout were due to an increase in employee retirements and payment of a short term loan.

Council asked questions regarding the funding process of the CIP, interested earned on these funds, longevity, earned time payouts, health insurance buyouts and questioned specific purchases and improvements approved in the FY2015 budget.

***** Property Maintenance Committee – Council Liaison

Councilor Dimmock & Councilor Cardon requested to be liaisons to this committee- **all agreed.**

Town Administrator's Report –

Mr. Stearns asked the public to adopt a fire hydrant to clean out as these are the last areas to be cleaned during a storm.

Mr. Stearns read a memo from Mike Fowler, Public Works Director stating that Public Works has had to haul salt from Portsmouth as the scheduled deliveries have not been received. As of 2/17, \$448,655 or 73% of the budget has been expended. There are still outstanding invoices which are expected to bring the budget to 95-100%.

Public Forum

Open Public Forum 7-0-0

Marc Flattes, Linlew Dr. – Spoke again in regards to Town Council stipends.

Marion Schitzlein, Bayberry Lane – referenced Derry residents who receive exemptions and veterans' credits on their tax bills. She suggested closing the Adam's Memorial Building or increasing rental fees so that building pays for itself. Questioned if programs at Taylor Library could be moved to Derry Public Library and to close Taylor Library and rent out the building. She asked voters to get out and vote on March 10, 2015.

Richard Tripp, Windham Rd, VFW - updated the status of the flags for the POW / MIA display. He asked the Council if they were going to have a ceremony when the display is completed.

Corrine Dodge, Warner Hill Rd – thanked the State Reps who voted on HB371. The resolution to hold a public hearing failed. There is a SB135 still open.

Close Public Forum 7-0-0

Public Hearing –

15-07 Town Owned Property – 2nd Public Hearing

Dawn Enwright reviewed the questions asked during the 1st public hearing that was held on 1/20/15 for the Town Council and Council was provided a staff report from Mike Fowler. There are 18 properties being disposed of and 3 are being retained by the Town.

Open Public Hearing Councilors Katsakiores & Dimmock Vote: 7-0-0

Brian Scanlon, Drew Rd - has concerns regarding 63 Drew Rd as there is an easement through his property and does not want this property developed. He stated he would like to purchase this property if feasible. As an alternative he suggested that the Town hold on to it and make a parking lot for the conservation land.

Close Public Hearing Councilors Katsakiores & Dimmock Vote: 7-0-0

There was Council discussion on the process of disposal of Town Deeded Property for tax lien. Ms. Enwright explained that this process is governed by state statute and for three years after the property is liened by the town and if disposed of all proceeds above what is owed to the town must be returned to the prior owner.

15-13 Release of Easement for I-93 Widening

Mr. Stearns explained that this is a Town owned buffer zone.

Open Public Hearing Councilors Fairbanks & Katsakiores Vote: 7-0-0

No Public input – abutters were notified

Close Public Hearing Councilors Katsakiores & Dimmock Vote: 7-0-0

Town Council would need to sign the release of easement and it would need to be notarized it.

Move the Derry Town Council approve the release of easement for the I-93 Corridor as outlined.

Motion by Councilor Osborne, seconded by Councilor Katsakiores

Vote: 7-0-0

Council Requests / Open Discussion

Mr. Fischer will be unable to attend the 3/17/15 meeting and requested it be changed to 3/24/15.

Move to change the March 17th meeting to March 24th by Councilor Fischer, seconded by Katsakiores

Vote: 5-1-1 (Councilor Bourdon) (Councilor Fairbanks)

Mr. Fairbanks stated that the Planning Board public hearing on MHDR is tomorrow evening, February 18, Rte28 workshop on mixed use is at 6:30 pm tomorrow as well.

Ms. Katsakiores said that the POW / MIA chair is here so need to discuss when to hold the ceremony.

Adjournment 9:30PM


Denise E Neale
Denise E. Neale, Town Clerk

3/6/15
Date

Recorded & Transcribed: Denise E Neale, Town Clerk