

**Town Council Meeting  
Derry Municipal Center**

**TOWN OF DERRY**

**May 3, 2011  
Tuesday - 6:30 p.m.**

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Salute to Flag, Warning of Fire Exits, Handicap Access, Turn off all Cell Phones and Pagers

Roll Call: Councilors Milz, Chirichiello, Fairbanks and Chair Pro-tem Wetherbee (Benson, Coyle & Olbricht absent) Coyle 6:35 p.m. Olbricht 6:45 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING FY 2012 BUDGET**

**Open Public Hearing 4-0-0**

Jack Robillard, Trustee Derry Public Library gave an update on their Technology Plan. The library will be going with leased computers vs. purchased. However they need to purchase a server and printer. The library is requesting an increase of \$5,600 for these items.

Gordon Graham, Chairman of Derry Downtown Committee requested an appropriation of \$140,000 for projects to be funded from the Town of Derry for the downtown area. Parking has always been an issue and they believe there is a resolve and this appropriation will allow for formulated plans in this area. If the Town Council is interested, there can be further discussion.

Susan Bruno, Cable TV Operator, spoke in regards the use of excess Cable Franchise Fees to cut the cost of appropriations in the FY12 budget. She is very disheartened as she was a Cable Committee Member and their intention was to never use these fees from the Cable Customers for town budgets.

**Close Public Hearing  
Vote: 6-0-0**

**Re-Open Public Hearing  
Vote: 6-0-0**

Lee Mahoney, CART administration wanted to thank the Town Council for their continued support. Funding CART will allow to further assist the residents of Derry.

**Close Public Hearing  
Vote: 6-0-0**

A recess was called until Chairman Benson arrived before beginning the Workshop

**Budget Workshop 7:10 p.m.**

**Flagged Items Review**

- Parks & Recreation – 2 - memos submitted
- Assessing – memo
- Legal Fees – memo
- Police -memo
- Economic Development – memo

Parks & Recreation staffing – ***no action taken***

Councilor Coyle made a statement regarding the flaws in the process when comparing the Town of Derry to other towns. Parks & Recreation does a nice job but there is too much money spent there.

Assessing – Mr. Anderson apologized for the lack of specificity of the memo regarding the comparison in numbers. It is very difficult trying to compare Derry vs. other Towns. The contractual services in other towns are in the Financing Department or some other department. Derry rolls up into the Assessing budget. How often are updates done as we do ours every year most do re-evaluation updates only every two years. We will have more information for you next week.

Frank Childs, CFO, agreed there is work needed between now and the next budget cycle looking over the cost and assessing function. Things to look at will be the cost of parcels and what is being done in-house as opposed to contracted services.

Councilor Coyle commented on the fact of the information received did not have comparisons of other towns. He gave information on his own research.

Frank Childs compared Rochester and gave information he obtained.

Chairman Benson gave his view of surrounding towns. Assessing, it is unknown, the comparison of abatements. He asked to revisit Assessing at May 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

***Assessing tabled in advance of the 5/17/11 meeting for more information.***

Legal – Mr. Anderson gave the Town Council a spreadsheet of comparison towns. Some towns have prosecutors on staff, others contract out and not part of the PD. The Town's legal expenses are being driven by litigation where the Town is the defendant. There are options being looked at going forward. ***No Action Taken.***

Police Officer – general discussion minus one position on PD took place.

Mr. Anderson explained the "Cops" program. It is based upon population and the Town of Derry is eligible for two locked in positions for four years. The Town must maintain its present employ of officers on staff for the four years. There is a 10% chance of getting the grant.

Chief Garone's opinion is to replace the PD position. ***No Action Taken***

Discussion ended 7:40 p.m.

Moved into Town Council Meeting.

Budget Workshop to continue after Regularly Scheduled Town Council Meeting.

#### **Budget Workshop continued 9:10 p.m.**

(un-broadcasted on CTV17)

Chairman Benson asked where the FY12 budget stood in regards to the tax cap. Ms. Mobsby stated what the changes are, \$.03 below last year.

There was discussion on the potential liability of the retirement fund being voted on by the State of NH. The amount is \$272,000. It would be prudent to add it into the budget, we have better information about the downshift now. Councilor Chirichiello expressed concern about the Rooms & Meals Tax and gas tax from the State budget could add to the town's budget.

Ms. Mobsby stated the \$272,000 would be added into the OMO.

There was discussion on the use of Fund Balance.

Chairman Benson stated there is still a new public road issue that needs attention and we should add money to address these new public roads.

Motion to reconsider use of the Cable Franchise fee tabled until 5/17/11 meeting.

- Review again with information obtained for the Assessing Department
- \$272,000 Retirement
- Cable Fund \$59,337
- Downtown request of \$140,000

Police Department not flagged stands as is.

Adjourned 9:45 p.m.

Recording Clerk: Denise Neale, Town Clerk