

TOWN COUNCIL/BUDGET MEETING
May 21, 2007

The Council Meeting of May 21, 2007 was called to order at 7:08 PM in the Moose Hill Conference Room, 268B Mammoth Road, Londonderry, NH.

PRESENT: TOWN COUNCIL; Chairman Joe Paradis; Vice Chairman, Marty Bove; Councilors Mark Oswald; Brian Farmer, Kathy Wagner; Town Manager David Caron; Assist. Town Manager/Finance & Admin. Sue Hickey, and Margo Lapietro, Executive Assistant.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Paradis opened the meeting at 7:03 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance. This was followed by a moment of silence for the men and women fighting for our country.

Councilor Bove made a motion to open the Public Hearing. Second by Councilor Farmer. Councils vote 5-0-0.

PUBLIC HEARING

Resolution 2007-22 – Relative to the Assessment of Fees Associated with the E-Reg Program - Assist. Town Manager/Finance & Adm. Sue Hickey explained the break-down for the \$2.50 charge. Thirty-five cents is a one time initial fee renewal notice to validate banking institutions. \$1.50 is fee paid per vehicle registered to use the “E-Reg” hosting service. Those two figures are what we are charged. 65 cents is our fee for administrative costs. Hearing no public comment, **Councilor Farmer made a motion to accept the Resolution. Councilor Bove second.** Open for discussion. **Councils vote 5-0-0**

Ordinance 2007-02 – Relative to Amendments to the Sewer Ordinance – Janusz Czyzowski, Public Works Dir. introduced Doris Beatty, the new environmental engineer. He also introduced Kevin Obrey from Wright Pierce and Bob Cody from Teton Environmental Engineering J. Czyzowski proceeded to explain the Ordinance, its purpose and rates. The original Ordinance was written in 1985. The recommended version is used by many municipalities throughout the state, and is not specific to Town of Londonderry. One major change is to allow residents 90 days to connect to the sewer, up from 45 days in the current ordinance. Additionally, the structure, and not the property line, must be within 200 ft of the sewer line. Public Works Dept may continue to waive the connection requirement if on-site system built prior to 1995, and in good working order.

The Town also has to implement the City of Manchester’s wastewater fees concerning OBD and TSS. All other Town sewer fees were adjusted by Town Council last fall. He reviewed the connection fee, access fee and user charge fee. He also stated that a decision was made to not implement any credits for commercial users who use less BODs than allowed. Rates should be

reviewed annually because Manchester is fluctuating their fees. Legal Counsel and the State DES have reviewed this ordinance.

Councilor Bove explained that sewer is available in some parts of town, we pay for allowable flow. He questioned if we have an idea of a build-out plan. J. Czyzowski responded we have a facility plan for our sewers, and based on that the Council adopted access fees. Councilor Bove asked if there is any current request for additional lines with the large developments being proposed. Janusz replied yes, some sewers are totally constructed by developers, and they still pay access fees. Councilor Bove advised the public that the Town is not installing sewer lines throughout Town. Chairman Paradis asked about the capacity of Derry vs. Manchester. Janusz responded 3M gallons per day in Manchester and 200K GPD in Derry. Open for discussion. **Councilor Farmer made a motion to adopt the Ordinance. Second Councilor Bove. Councils vote 5-0-0.**

Councilor Farmer made a motion to close the public hearing. Second by Councilor Oswald. Councils vote 5-0-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ginny Dahlfred, Historical Society, reported that they were successful in their \$3K bid on the two Londonderry samplers. She announced that they received over \$3,500K in donations, does not need funds from Council Chairman Paradis thanked her and Kathy Wagner for their work in obtaining the pieces. Councilor Oswald asked G. Dahlfred if they have comprised a list of all the items in their possessions. G. Dahlfred responded they are working on it; they have a curator who is working on Londonderry items. She reminded the public that donations are totally tax deductible. If they have an independent certified appraisal for the donation for a dollar value they can claim it on their tax return. The newly acquired samplers will be shown first privately to donors, and then they will go to library for display.

Dottie Grover – Comcast Annual Update - D. Grover introduced Brian Christianson, Sr. Manager for Government & Community Relations from Comcast. She informed the Council that the transition period was trying but all now functioning smoothly. B. Christianson stated he was impressed with Dottie's knowledge of cable access. Councilor Bove stated he had experienced a lot of interference lately. B. Christianson said 4-5 months ago Comcast was testing equipment so could have had problems during that time period. He explained the "Triple Play" offer which is when you purchase 3 of the products, \$99/month for phone, internet and cable TV. Chairman Paradis asked if phone coverage is lost when electricity is out, he responded yes.

Brian Farmer announced that he is resigning from his position on Council due to job demands and family responsibilities. His resignation becomes effective upon the adjournment of the 6/14/07 meeting. He thanked citizens and staff for their support. Chairman Paradis thanked him for work.

Meg Seymour, Town Clerk/Tax Collector reminded the listening public that May is the last month for dog licensing.

Gerard and Collette Adams, 54 Hall Rd. asked for an update on the Dudek property and the noise issue. Town Manager Caron said he will check with Frank Holdsworth for an update and will e-mail him his findings. Mr. Adams asked for clarification of hours of operation. Chairman Paradis stated his business hours with public should be 8-5. Town Manager Caron confirmed they were 8-5 M-F, Sat 9-5. Mr. Adams said that last Saturday a flat bed and 2 cars were still outside fence, at 5:30 PM. At 6:30 PM a car was half out the open gate. This Saturday there were 3 cars in area, the gate was missing, a truck was used to barricade where the gate was. C. Adams said when they called LPD about the noise issue they were told it was not handled by the police. She asked for results of the Town Manager's inquiry into the noise ordinances in writing. Town Manager Caron responded that the LPD does enforce noise complaints dealing with noise when they occur within the statutory definition.

Mrs. Adams said flatbed should not be parked outside per agreement. Town Manager Caron explained how the matter would be brought to court.

Reed Paige Clark, III asked about a change of venue for town meeting next year. He was asked to present that matter at the joint meeting being held on 6/12/07. He then asked when the proposed construction at the intersection at Stonehenge and Bartley Hill Rd. would start and if the Town knew why a person was sitting at the intersection counting cars as reported in the local papers. Town Manager Caron said that the person surveying traffic is not affiliated with the Town, State or their engineers. State is responsible for the project; projected start date is spring of 08.

OLD BUSINESS

A. **Town Council Goals & Objectives** – Town Manager Caron said there were four main topics of interest:

Economic Development

Fiscal Issues, Tax Stabilization

Affordable Housing Initiatives

Planning Development Review Process

Second Category of Goals:

Legal Obligations – moving Exit 4- through the EIS process

Council Secondary Goals

Staff Responsibilities

If this meets with the approval of Council the next step is to schedule these topics at subsequent meetings.

Economic Development – Councilor Oswald suggested creating quarterly reviews. Re-visit POD on Rt 28. Town Manager Caron recommended the Council take a vote on that issue and he will carry that message back to the Planning Board. Councilor Oswald said the 75K square footage restriction is keeping a lot of large businesses away. He said businesses are going to other towns. **Councilor Bove made a motion to encourage the Planning Board to revisit the entire POD to make recommendations. Second by Councilor Oswald. Councils vote 5-0-0.**

Fiscal Issues, Tax Stabilization – Councilor Oswald suggested a hiring freeze effective 7/1/07, and not fill positions until Council has received justification of openings and anticipated retirements. He suggested cross training existing personnel to possibly fill the open position. Councilor Farmer said interaction between staff and Council is necessary. Councilor Wagner questioned before replacing someone, can we come up with creative ways to fill the empty position. Town Manager Caron stated that during the last two years, each time a vacancy occurs, the position is reviewed to determine if its need to be filled. Process has worked very well, but he has concerns with a universal hiring freeze. Councilor Farmer requested that Town Manager Caron provide a list describing what essential and non-essential positions are. Councilor Oswald suggested finding a specific way to evaluate each and every position. Councilor Wagner wants to hear how public will feel about filling a position. Councilor Bove said he does not disagree with a personal plan, he does not agree with a hiring freeze. If you think it is a non-essential person, he would expect Council to see it. Town Manager Caron explained there has been a personnel plan in place since 1985; it was amended by the Council two years ago. Councilor Bove stated he does not want public coming in telling the Council who to hire. Ron Campo, School. Board, stated per their Charter the School Board approves every position that is open. Town Manager Caron said he will present a Manpower Staffing plan to the July meeting.

Affordable Housing Initiatives

Development Review Process

Councilor Oswald said we are constantly hearing complaints about the lengthy process time. Suggest fast tracking some smaller projects. Suggested A. Garron have a round table and discuss concerns of developers and builders

Secondary Goals Enhancing Communication. Councilor Oswald asked if reverse 911 has an implementation schedule and who makes that call. Town Manager Caron will get the information on the timetable from the Chief. Once it is available we will establish a process as to when that will be used. Councilor Wagner asked if we could do a newsletter again. Town Manager Caron stated we started using the Londonderry Times because it is a much more economical. The Town has increased its reliance on the web to publicize information.

- B. Fire/Rescue Operations** –Fire Chief Mike Carrier and Lt. Don Waldron reviewed the PowerPoint information that had been distributed at the last Council meeting. Councilor Oswald referred to the mutual aid ambulance requests and asked if they had statistics for 05 and 06. D. Waldron said information was not available. D. Waldron noted that there is a lot of wear and tear on vehicles, which results in more down time. Councilor Oswald asked how often do they ask for mutual aid, D. Waldron replied 62 times this year. Simultaneous calls are both in service and out on calls at the same time. Councilor Farmer reiterated this is a stand-by vehicle, no staff increase. Chief Carrier responded that at this time no increase in personnel Right now not the plan. Sole intention is to use the vehicle as a mechanical back-up. It is possible to have 3 in service if the right combination of staff is available. Chairman Paradis said we all know this will turn into a full time ambulance at some time. Councilor Farmer questioned if it factors into impact fees, Town Manager Caron responded no. Ambulance fees are adjusted annually. Councilor Wagner said A. Garron said they could be applied to ambulance and equipment costs could not pay for staff. Councilor Oswald asked when the Chief got the figure of \$15K to trade in the current ambulance. Chief Carrier responded historically that is what the trade-in price has been. Councilor Oswald said he supports the concept with one provision, that the department document the use of the third ambulance. D. Waldron said right now big cost is equipment. **Councilor Oswald made a motion to maintain a third ambulance and maintain detailed records on usage; Second Councilor Wagner. Councils vote 5-0-0.** Town Manager Caron informed the Council that Chief Carrier was retiring the middle of July after serving 29 years on the force. He has agreed to provide service on a part-time basis until the Town hires a new chief. Chairman Paradis on behalf of Council thanked him for his years of service.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Ordinance 2007-03 – Relative to an Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance: Impact Fees.** Councilor Farmer read the first reading, made a motion to move to a second reading and public hearing on June 14. Second Councilor Oswald. He recommended to staff to see if A. Garron can investigate the concept of an impact fee for ambulance service on developments which demand this service. Councilor Wagner would like it to become town wide. **Councils vote 5-0-0.**
- B. **Resolution 2007-27 – Relative to the Sanctioning of the Londonderry Women’s Softball League** - First reading by Councilor Farmer, **motion to waive second reading and adopt. Second by Councilor Bove.** Open for discussion. Councilor Farmer stated all paperwork is in order. **Councils vote 5-0-0**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Oswald made a motion to accept the Public Meeting Minutes of 5/7/07. Second by Councilor Bove. Councils’ vote 4-0-1.

OTHER BUSINESS

Liaison Reports - Councilor Oswald attended a joint Conservation Commission and Budget meeting a week ago. Manchester Airport Authority meets this Thursday. Leadership Londonderry graduated 20 participants last Tuesday, currently taking applications for new class

Councilor Wagner stated Old Home Day (OHD) booths are sold out. She attended the Planning Board meeting this week; talked about the Exit 5 Park and Ride which is under construction. Suggested if people wanted to know more about it they should visit the state website.

Councilor Bove attended the Solid Waste Committee. They primarily talked about Beautify Londonderry, discussed “Welcome to Londonderry” signs, and have narrowed the choices down to three signs. The question is how to decide on which one. Ideas offered were to set-up a picture of all signs at OHD with a bucket for change to be donated to signs. The one with the most change wins. They have whittled the location for the signs down to 4 sites, business have been interested in sponsoring signs. The question of how do we go about accepting or choosing the 4 signs, the sponsorship will not be permanent. How do we want the signs to be maintained, offers have come in. Councilor Bove said that the state says no to permanent signs allowed for the donors. The Council unanimously approved the idea of the three buckets at OHD. He attended the School Board meeting, copiers was the topic, also replaced the student liaison from Londonderry High School.

Councilor Farmer attended the Recreation Commission meeting, field assignments were discussed. Not a lot of space available, resulting from a lot of kids, a lot of activities. On verge of needing another gym, will be coming up in the next few years. CIP meeting is scheduled for 5/24, he is the liaison can't attend. Councilor Oswald said he will attend and take over the liaison assignment due to Councilor Farmer's resignation. Art event was successful at Parmenter Barn. Looking forward to Sept. show. He reminded the Council that they will also need to appoint a liaison for Londonderry Arts Council due to his resignation.

Chairman Paradis asked Town Manager Caron what the process is for Councilor Farmer's replacement. Town Manager Caron suggested placing a notice in paper requesting that interested citizens respond within two weeks. Council will select the replacement who will serve until Town Meeting in March of 08 when the position will be placed on the ballot.

Town Manager's Report: Local Government Center supplies health insurance for employees. Town budgeted for a 12% increase, and the actual increase is 1.3% this year, which will save a minimum of \$100K in the FY08 budget. After first of July he will return to Council with a resolution to place those funds into a holding account; A similar approach was used two years ago, and funded the EEE prevention program. Councilor Bove asked what our plans are this year for EEE. Town Manager Caron responded we met with Dragon Mosquito in February; Council authorized Town to submit the application. The Town's contractor will be larvaeciding catch basins and water pools, then monitoring. He will return to the Council for permission to begin adulticiding should circumstances warrant. Information is on website.

HB653 will be voted on by Senate this Thursday; he encouraged Council to call Sen. Clegg to support. If nothing passes this year \$26M will be swept from annuity fund that pays for pensions over to special account for COLA's. Critical that Senate shows leadership and act on HB 653 this year.

Mr. Dudek did install additional layers of screening, and he asked Councilors to review; item will be an agenda item on June 14 to determine if that screening is adequate.

Chairman Paradis reminded everyone that we have two back-to-back meetings in June. June 12 is the joint meeting and June 14 is the regular meeting.

Board/Committee Appointments/Reappointments/Resignations

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Oswald made a motion to adjourn at 9:40 PM. Second Councilor Farmer. Councils' vote 5-0-0.

Notes and Tapes by: Margo Lapietro Date: 5/21/07

Minutes Typed by: Margo Lapietro Date: 5/25/07

Approved: Town Council Date: 6/14/07

MEETING SCHEDULE:

Joint Meeting with School Board/Budget Committee, June 12 @ 7:00 PM; LHS Band Room

Town Council, June 14 @ 7:00 PM, Moose Hill Council Chambers

Town Council, July 12 @ 7:00 PM, Moose Hill Chambers

Town Council, August 9 @ 7:00 PM, Moose Hill Council Chambers