

TOWN COUNCIL
April 7, 2008

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

PRESENT: TOWN COUNCIL; Vice Chairman, Brian Farmer; Councilors Kathy Wagner, Paul DiMarco and Mike Brown; Town Manager David Caron and Margo Lapietro, Executive Assistant.

Absent: Chairman Marty Bove

CALL TO ORDER – PUBLIC SESSION

Vice Chairman Farmer opened the meeting at 7:03 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance. Londonderry Boy Scouts led by Scoutmaster Joe Adams were in attendance and led the Pledge. This was followed by a moment of silence for the men and women fighting for our country.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Retired Supervisor of the Checklist - Marlene Thompson whose term expired as the Supervisor of the Checklist was honored by Council for her nine years of service. Londonderry Access Center Dir., Dottie Grover announced Comcast agreed to supply the Town with the sixth channel, it is activated, 24/7 for programming, broadcasting on channel 170, with no costs incurred by the Town. **Councilor DiMarco made a motion to recognize that Comcast is now in compliance with the Franchise Agreement, and waive the fines for previously not being in compliance of Section 7.2(a). Second Councilor Brown. Council's vote 4-0-0.**

Reed Paige Clark, III asked Town Manager Caron if he has heard of any bids going out from the state for the work scheduled at Stonehenge/Litchfield Rd./Mammoth Rd. intersection. He responded he will update the Council on 4/21.

OLD BUSINESS

FY09 Goals and Objectives.

Vice Chairman Farmer distributed a draft copy of the goals and objectives discussed at the March 31, 2008 meeting. Councilors proceeded to read each one and discuss.

Goal #1 –To reorganize one Town Department by June 30th, 2008 with the resulting effort being accomplished in a manner that provides for the delivery of the same services as currently provided under the current structure with no increase in headcount above currently authorized positions. Councilor Brown asked if this goal can be achieved by and applied to the Town Manager's reorganization recommendations of 3/31. Councilor Brown asked if there are any there costs savings he would like them to be noted. He asked if there are any savings can it be moved about in the budget. Town Manager Caron said the Town can move money around in the

budget as long as there is a stated purpose existing in the budget for the proposed expense.

Goal #2 - The Town Manager will work with the School District Administrator to identify common service areas for streamlining and/or consolidation resulting in cost savings to both governments. The implementation plan for the approval of both Boards will be submitted prior to 8/30/08. Each Board may appoint a two person subcommittee to aid the managers in the identification, review and creation of the implementation plan and both Boards agree to discuss and agree upon the plan prior to September 30, 2008 in order for the plan to be incorporated into the next fiscal year budgets. NOTE: This Council goal is draft form only and needs to be socialized with, and meet the approval of the School Board prior to formal adoption. Vice Chairman Farmer said that Chairman Bove was going to have chair to chair communication on this. Councilor Brown said if the School Board was interested we should have the flexibility to meet their needs, partnership is more important. Councilor Wagner expressed doubt that this could be done.

Goal #3 - The Town Council will appoint a 2 person subcommittee to work with Town Staff to identify strategies and process changes that can be used by applicants and the Town to streamline commercial & industrial development approval process, without adversely impacting the goals of the zoning ordinance and/or the Town's environment. A draft report on suggested changes will be ready for Council approval prior to 7/31/08. Councilor Wagner said we are in essence telling the Planning Board (PB) what to do, we don't have that authority. Councilor DiMarco made the suggestion that the PB appoint the two people to create the draft report and work with them. Councilor Wagner stated we should not be dictating to the PB, the Council should be a tool to help. Vice Chairman Farmer explained the reason for the goal to Art Rugg, Chairman of PB and asked his input. A. Rugg said the goals are consistent with the Master Plan. They are trying to streamline the application process, it is a team effort. Vice Chairman Farmer said time of setting goals has to be realistic. He asked A. Rugg if PB will have a problem with a two person subcommittee starting end of July, he said he will have to talk to PB. Councilor Wagner stated that she doesn't think the Town Council has to staff two to the PB, does not want to interfere with the process, the way it is written we interfere with the process. Councilor Wagner stated that the Council has a liaison now, having another would be taking up staff time. We are setting new precedent for our goals, does not like it. Town Council should not appoint two persons to a subcommittee. Councilor Brown said that economic development was our number one goal, this was a goal determined last year. He said he reads it as a way to identify strategies collectively, identifies streamlining the approval process to help bring in business quicker.

Goal #4 - Identify 2 departments within the Town of Londonderry that are frequently called by citizens with questions regarding service. Identify a set of no less than 10 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) and create a FAQ page to be added in a prominent location on the Town Web Site for those 2 departments with the web change to be implemented by 5/31/08. Councilors Brown and DiMarco asked Town Manager Caron to talk to staff and department managers to come up with FAQ's.

Goal #5 - Town staff will prepare a "Financial Mechanisms" report for purposes of assisting the Council in making policy decisions regarding the future funding of Economic Development activity within the Town of Londonderry. The report shall include an overview of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Districts and alternative means as may be appropriate. The subject report should coincide with the completion of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Committee's work on the CIP and be submitted to the Council and Planning Board for review prior to the

adoption of the CIP with a date to the Council of no later than 9/30/08. Vice Chairman Farmer stated it is valuable for both boards to look at this. Councilor Brown said he would rather see options other than TIF to come out of this report. A. Rugg said we should look at everything and be as creative as possible. Vice Chairman Farmer asked Town Manager Caron if staff can research other incentives. He responded he is not aware of enabling legislation which allow direct incentives; options are TIF, grants and private sector contributions. Vice Chairman Farmer said that A. Garron mentioned the \$14M that we might need could possibly be done incrementally over a few years. He asked to have A. Garron provide an overview of what we would deal with. Councilor Brown said he wants to see options on the TIF involving MHT, landowners, developers and Londonderry. Town Manager Caron said the \$14M in the CIP is the expense side, hopefully different contributors will help pay for that. He also said it is an estimate for the main roads, water and utilities. Other costs will be incurred by private development constructing other roads and extending utilities. This goal has to be done by 9/30/08. Vice Chairman Farmer said he would like to see the results of the report incorporated into the CIP. A. Rugg said we have to be knowledgeable about it to educate people about what is going to happen in MHT area. Councilor DiMarco said if the option is for the TIF we can show the voters that we considered all the alternatives, have the facts to back it up in the report. Vice Chairman Farmer said this would lead up to a joint meeting with the PB in June.

Goal #6 - The Council will work with Town Staff and the Conservation Commission to prepare a new "Strategic Plan" to augment the existing Open Space Task Force Report. The subject report should coincide with the completion of the CIP Committees work on the CIP and be submitted to the Council no later than September 30, 2008. Vice Chairman Farmer explained that a comment was that we continue with the \$1M/year for the next several years. Voters have turned down the Open Space bond last time it was presented and it was not on the warrant this year. Last year in the CIP process they put it out to 2011. Re-engage the Conservation Comm. and have a broad strategic discussion on how to go forward. If we wait until 2011, people should be aware of it. A. Rugg said it is time to rethink where our goals are now.

Vice Chairman Farmer said we need some kind of report to put it all together. He said that Chairman Bove had heard from former Councilor and Budget Committee Member Tom Dolan who asked to talk to Council with his input on a strategic business development plan at the next meeting. A. Rugg said the goals have to be flexible.

Reid Paige Clark said his goal is to get more people involved in Town. He wanted to know if he could talk to the Londonderry Taxpayers Association to see if they would OK a joint meeting with School Board. Councilor DiMarco said meeting with School Board important, he also would like to see more people involved in town activities.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance 2008-04 – Relative to Rezoning of Tax Map 7, Lots 132-1 through 132-20 first reading by Councilor DiMarco, second reading scheduled for 4/21/08. **Motion by Councilor DiMarco. Second Councilor Wagner.** Open for discussion. Councilor Brown said he is aware of the project and likes what he has seen so far, in agreement with the PB's decision at this point. He asked Town Manager if Staff could stipulate how many areas of the POD this particular project would be out of compliance. **Council's vote 4-0-0.**

Order #2008-10 – Relative to the Expendable Maintenance Trust Fund for Various Purposes. Councilor Brown read the first reading, second reading and public hearing waived. **Councilor Brown made a motion to adopt the Order. Second Councilor DiMarco.** Open for discussion. Town Manager Caron explained this Order is to purchase assistive listening devices at a total cost of \$1,920.88, it is required by US Dept. of Justice; re-wiring of pump house at Continental Park at a cost of \$940.00 and replacing the furnace at North Fire Station at a cost of \$2,950.00. Councilor Brown asked when the furnace failed, he responded invoice is dated 1/23/08. **Council’s vote 3-0-0 (Councilor Wagner absent).**

Resolution #2008-06 – Relative to the Creation of an Energy Efficiency Task Force. Councilor DiMarco read the first reading, second not required. **Councilor DiMarco made a motion to adopt the Resolution, accept the Charge and appoint 18 volunteers to the Ad Hoc Committee. Second Councilor Brown** Open for discussion. Town Manager Caron stated the committee consists of students and various citizens in Town. Councilor Brown asked if it is separate from school and library, Town Manager Caron said the committee recognizes the energy efficiency gains at the School District, and will look to them as one resource. Councilor DiMarco asked if they will report back to us. Town Manager Caron responded they will report to Environmental Baseline Committee who in turn will report back to the Council. **Council’s vote 4-0-0.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the Council’s March 15 Organizational Meeting, March 17, March 31 2008 Public Meetings and Non Public Meeting.

Councilor Wagner made a motion to approve the March 15, 2008 Public Organizational Meeting Minutes. Second Councilor DiMarco Council’s vote 4-0-0.

Councilor Brown made a motion to approve the March 17 Public Meeting Minutes. Second Councilor Wagner. Council’s vote 4-0-0.

Councilor Brown made a motion to approve the March 31, 2008 Public Meeting and Non-Public Meeting Minutes. Second Councilor DiMarco. Council’s vote 4-0-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

Liaison Reports – Vice Chairman Brown said he talked to Chairs and told them of his liaison appointments.

Councilor DiMarco will attend MHT on 4/10. Has not been in contact with Traffic Safety Committee or Elder Affairs Committee, unable to attend the upcoming Heritage meeting. Meeting about town forest cutting is scheduled for 4/10 at 6:00PM.

Councilor Wagner met on 3/27/08 with Old Home Day Committee they are doing tie die tee shirts. Planning Board welcomed Penske Trucking to town. On 4/9/08 they will discuss mini Master Plan and the zoning ordinance about storage containers on individual properties. PB is working in conjunction with the Heritage Commission on guidelines for the preservation of stone walls. Warm Homes having a fund raiser on 5/3 for Cinco de Mayo being held at the Lions Hall, tickets are \$25 per person. Lancer Band having an auction for their trip to China on 4/12/08 starting at 6:00 PM. Building Inspector/Health Officer Jim Smith retired on 3/28, and received a clock from Council.

Vice Chairman Farmer said the Londonderry Arts Council meets this Wednesday. CIP meetings will be coming up.

Andrew Michaud, one of the Scouts in attendance from Troop 426 proposed an idea regarding trash receptacles at fast food restaurants. He suggested having pull down handles on the receptacles to prevent the spread of diseases. He said he had approached Wendy's about it. Vice Chairman Farmer told him that Town's oversight is limited in requiring this, however the health officer can review any requirement we can have on businesses. Andrew said there are receptacles that have a hole in the top so you can just drop garbage into it.

Town Manager's Report – Town Manager Caron reported that he has scheduled a public hearing on 4/21 to review the plans to construct a firearms range. Chief Ryan approached the Planning Board about it; the Planning Board suggested that the Town Council hold a hearing. Finance Dept. earned a Certificate Of Excellence in Financial Reporting once again and congratulated members of the Finance and Administration Department.

He then distributed copies of the draft conditions for Dudek's junk yard. Major changes include standardizing language on screening with state law. Mr. Dudek no longer interested in opening at 7:00 AM for transporting crushed vehicles, and wants to open at 8:00 AM on Saturdays. He stated that he would like to review this and schedule for the 4/21 agenda. Councilor Wagner asked for clarification on crushing days, Town Manager Caron stated he can crush any day. Item #8 previously written to the effect that if there was any kind of violation license was subject to revocation. The language was revised to state: "failure to comply with these conditions at the time periods provided for implementing said conditions shall be subject to provisions of RSA 676; 17 which is the \$275/day and \$550.00 for subsequent violations. It may be considered by the Town Council to determine license renewal per RSA 236: 122 II", which is the nuisance statute. . Vice Chairman Farmer said he talked to Chairman Bove about having a meeting with the Code Enforcement Officer to review current policies and procedures, look at what we specifically might want to modify/change. Councilor Wagner announced she was riding with F. Holdsworth this week to get a better understanding of what he does. Councilor DiMarco said he is interested as well.

Town Manager Caron said he has spoken to Assessor Karen Marchant and she notified him that the Town's equalization ratio is 99.3% which means that assessments on average are right at market value. The co-efficient of dispersion (COD) is 7.2 which is excellent according to DRA.

Town received deeds to 6 properties for non payment of taxes. It is a lengthy process under state law of notifying owners and allowing repayment periods. Most property owners in that situation approach the Town to redeem their properties. Tax collections remain strong, with approximately 12 people have contacted him to work out arrangements for time payments. That activity is about the same as last year. Vice Chairman Farmer asked for summary chart of the above mentioned properties so they can look at it quarterly and share with the Budget Committee.

Board/Committee Appointments/Reappointments/Resignations

Appointment of Russ Lagueux to the vacated position of Ed David from the Londonderry Housing & Redevelopment Authority. Term to expire 12/2013.

Councilor Wagner made a motion to appoint Russell Lagueux. Second Councilor DiMarco. Council's vote 4-0-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Wagner made a motion at 8:30 PM to go into a non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A: 3 II (A). Second Councilor DiMarco. Aye, Councilor Wagner; Aye, Councilor DiMarco; Aye, Vice Chairman Farmer; Aye, Councilor Brown.

Notes and Tapes by: Margo Lapietro Date: 04/07/08

Minutes Typed by: Margo Lapietro Date: 04/09/08

Approved: Town Council Date: 04/21/08