

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
July 11, 2011

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

PRESENT: Town Council: Chairman Sean O’Keefe; Vice Chairman Joe Green; Councilors: John Farrell, Tom Dolan, Tom Freda; Town Manager Dave Caron; Executive Assistant, Margo Lapietro.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman O’Keefe opened the meeting at 7:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance. This was followed by a moment of silence for the men and women fighting for our country.

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Farrell recently read the History of Londonderry and suggested everyone read it. He said there are a lot of interesting things in it.

Board/Committee/Commission Updates

Southern NH Planning Commission – Dir. David Preece was not in attendance.

Anti-Litter Committee – Ben LaBrecque & Kerry Stanley as well as Paul Margolin were in attendance. P. Margolin reviewed the history of the sub-committee to the Solid Waste Committee. They summarized how litter affects our community and pointed out that littering is illegal, carrying a maximum fine in Londonderry of \$1.240 according to RSA 265:102. They explained it is a problem that can be controlled year round and it would allow “Beautify Londonderry” to concentrate on the spring clean up. They explained that they have contacted Londonderry Police Department (LPD) Chief Hart and Attorney Coyle; created a Facebook page and utilized media. They are seeking endorsement and support from Council. They are proposing to erect four Anti-Littering signs to be posted on Gilcreast Road between the entrances of McDonalds and Home Depot on the south and the Bob Early Bridge on the north. On Adams Road the signs will be erected on the west opposite from Shady Hill Nurseries and east just before Crossroads Plaza. They shared examples of the signs they propose to use and reviewed their future plans. K. Stanley stated the Committee is requesting support for the project and an endorsement letter from Council.

Councilor Freda talked about the concern he had with the consolidation of Londonderry Fire Department (LFD) Dispatch with Derry. In the past few months he said they received a lot of information. One question was the EMD training that Londonderry has versus Derry not having the same training. They have found out that is not exclusive to Londonderry; all calls go to E-911 in Concord where a trained EMD dispatcher stays on the line throughout the medical emergency. The fee for the fire box is not a mandatory fee; the businesses will either have to pay a private service or Derry. Municipal buildings will not be charged. He said the petition is important as well. The report for the Hemlock St fire came a week ago and they haven’t had

time to look at it or talk to the LFD to address concerns generated from it. Everything that could be done that night to save those people that night was done. He said he is talking about going forward, is it the right thing for the town, whatever possibilities are there. He said at this time he has a lot more questions and is not going forward to make a decision until he has answers. He said he wants the Council to defer action until all the issues have been looked at, perhaps have an expert look at it. We need to weigh all the answers; it is premature at this time to make an important decision. The Town Manager has done a good job with the numbers and they are fairly clear. He asked Council to defer this decision for a few months so we can seek professional support and have citizen input and then come back with a final report. Chairman O'Keefe asked him if he is looking for a committee. Councilor Freda said he wants the Town Manager to come back, publish the LFD report on Hemlock St. and have an expert give us an overall view of what our dispatch needs are and explore what Londonderry will be like in a few years with the anticipated development. John Farrell said 10 years ago the Council charged the Public Safety Committee Taskforce to come up with ideas. He suggested appointing a taskforce. Councilor Dolan said the community is speaking loudly on this issue, he supports the step-back approach, we need to hear more from the community, and he said he supports the idea of forming a taskforce. This is an emotional issue, it is about the character of the community and its future, we need to take this slowly and be deliberate and thoughtful. Council Green said he agrees, it is a very emotional issue, our first goal is to have government spend as little as possible, be very careful with this decision due to the safety issue, there is a lot of both positive and negative information that has been coming to us. The committee should not be comprised of just police and fire; it should have more community involved. Councilor Dolan suggested also charging the taskforce with the concept of Londonderry becoming a regional center. Councilor O'Keefe explained he struggled with this decision, with the pros & cons; there are some serious things we should look at. There are some serious questions that need to be looked at. He stated that Derry does a good job; they are very professional and so are the Londonderry people. He said he is a big proponent of petitions, the people have spoke they don't want to change it. Town Manager Caron said he needs to let Derry know what the Council's position is. If the proposed taskforce is formed any changes resulting from that process will be implemented in FY13. Councilor Farrell said he is prepared to move on the Resolution he just needs direction. Councilor Dolan said that we should make a recommendation to table the Resolution and direct the Town Manager to draw up a Taskforce Resolution or an Order whichever is most appropriate to study the issue. Councilor Farrell asked if the motion would be to table it indefinitely, Councilor Dolan responded yes.

Councilor Farrell made a motion to direct the Town Manager to create a Taskforce to study the Fire & Medical Dispatch Services for the Town of Londonderry and to table Resolution #2011-07 indefinitely. Chairman O'Keefe asked the Town Manager if that includes the independent study; Town Manager Caron responded he will present a proposed Charge which the Council can review and amend at the 8/15 meeting. **Councilor Dolan seconded the motion. Council's vote was 5-0-0.**

Kathy Wagner, 7 Fiddlers Ridge Rd., thanked the Councilors for listening to the community. She said 80% of the community was concerned with this move; the savings did not outweigh the loss of service to the community. She said she received a total of 1,268 signatures. Gene Jastrem, 19 Horseshoe Ln. said there was talk about hiring a professional firm to review the Fire Department. Councilor Farrell questioned if he is asking for an independent review of today's current fire department and how it is staffed based on today's current operation and calls and

what we would need going into the future based on what it might be coming. G. Jastrem said that is what he is asking for; if we are bringing a large development into Woodmont that is going to be a lot more strain on all town services. Councilor Farrell clarified that Mr. Jastrem is asking Council to ask the Town Manager to find out what it would involve and the cost to hire a firm to review the department. Councilor Dolan said the “after action” report for the Hemlock fire was just released in the last several days and they are all studying it. In that report there are specific recommendations for changes, improvements for everything including equipment, staffing, communications, protocols, and so forth. He suggested having a future meeting with a significant amount of time scheduled to go through that report in detail with the LFD. He said a lot of the things that G. Jastrem mentioned are in the report. After that meeting then turn to the Town Manager and ask him to get a comparative analysis from other towns. G. Jastrem said we are in some cases using systems that were designed in 1996, there are a lot of areas that need to be looked at. Councilor Dolan agreed that sometimes different systems, different techniques should be looked at. He said we need to ask when do we lose our “scalability” and when do we need to start doing things differently, that is when we need professional help. Councilor Green said we should be using this benchmark with towns our size. Kathy Wagner said a strategic plan was done 2 years ago for all departments. It listed calls and benchmarked other towns and most all the questions will be answered in there. They were looking towards the SAFR grant and that is when they realized our staffing levels should have been at 12 instead of what they are now, eventually they should be at 14. Councilor Freda asked G. Jastrem if that was the kind of study he was looking for. He responded he would like to see a study that not only deals with manpower but also the structure of the whole department. Councilor Green said one fact that was clear in the recently received grant was that mutual aid communication needs to be looked at. We are not only talking about the number of staff but how calls come in, communication, mutual aid, etc. Mutual aid was discussed and Capt. Doug Cardwell and he said the automatic aid dispatch program shares the resources of the team and proceeded to explain. Councilor Green said consolidation in the business world works which is what we are trying to do here. Laura Aronson, 38 Boyd Rd said we should take into consideration the influx of Woodmont. She suggested approaching the Woodmont developers about bearing some of the costs. She also suggested preparing for widespread disasters, and addresses it on a regional basis. Chairman O’Keefe responded that the Town is presently involved in disaster planning. Lisa Whittemore, 40 Griffin Rd. said she is pleased that Council is not voting about going to Derry. She said she wants to know why they are continuing with the idea of this merger when it is very clear that the people are against the change. Chairman O’Keefe responded there were things brought to their attention that they have questions about. We are studying the option of consolidating fire dispatch with Derry, we are looking to use what we have and see if it makes sense to combine the services. We want the taskforce to supply a detailed report on the costs, the gains or whether or not we are going to do anything. Scott Miller, 3 Cedar Ln. commended the Council for putting together a taskforce and requesting further studies.

PUBLIC HEARING

Councilor Farrell made a motion to open the public hearing, second Councilor Dolan. Council’s vote was 5-0-0.

Ordinance #2011-06 – Relative to an Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance Relating to Rezoning Map 15, Lot 97, Clark and Jacks Bride Road - Rezoning Map 15, Lot 97, Clark and Jacks Bride Road - Councilor Farrell made a motion to adopt, second Councilor Dolan. Todd Connors from Long Beach Development said that currently the surrounding property is zoned I-1, 3 parcels between Jacks Bridge Road and Clark are still AR-1. The Master Plan calls for them to be moved over to the industrial zone. He represents Heritage Truck & Auto located on Rockingham Road. Heritage Truck would like to move there and want to rezone the parcel to match the I-1 surrounding zone. Councilor Dolan asked if the abutters had been contacted, T. Connors said they were contacted, nobody showed up at the Planning Board meeting. They did talk to an abutter who is remaining in an AR-1 zone; they were in favor of it. Community Development Director Andre Garron said this property was identified in the 2004 Master Plan to rezone it. A. Garron said the applicant wants to stay in Londonderry and the Planning Board and staff recommended this change. Open for discussion. **Council's vote was 5-0-0.**

Councilor Dolan made a motion to close the public hearing, second Councilor Farrell. Council's vote was 5-0-0.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Confirmation of Senior Affairs Director - Town Manager Caron explained the interview process; the Town received 29 applications and interviewed 8 finalists. The Town Manager has appointed Kimberly Bean subject to confirmation by the Council as required by the Charter. The Councilors welcomed her and the consensus was to confirm the Town Manager's appointment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Farrell made a motion to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of 06/20/11, second Councilor Green. Council's vote was 5-0-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

Liaison Reports - Councilor Farrell attended the Manchester Airport Authority meeting where it was reported that passenger traffic is half of what it was in 2006; they think they have hit rock bottom and they think it will start going up. He attended an Eagle Scout ceremony Sunday. The CIP has started and is on track.

Councilor Green said he also attended two Eagle Scout inductions.

Councilor Freda attended the Planning Board meeting and T. Thompson said they anticipate something from Woodmont sometime in September as far as the formal application is concerned.

Town Manager Report - Target Shooting in the Musquash. Town Manager Caron stated that Deb Lievens, Chair of the Conservation Commission and member Ben LaBrecque are here to voice concerns about target shooting in the Musquash. Hunting is allowed during hunting season, the town is under no obligation to provide a target shooting range on any town property.

D. Lievens said they had a request to see if target shooting was allowed and since it is not prohibited they had a discussion about it. B. LaBrecque said he actually saw people out there with pistols. They were shooting at a stereo and it was left there, as well as shattered clay targets. He surmised they were shooting with a pistol or a collapsible rifle. Town Manager Caron pointed out that there is a Rod & Game Club in Londonderry and there is an indoor target range in Manchester. Our ordinance is clear allowing hunting. D. Lievens suggested just adding additional language to the ordinance we now have. Councilor Freda questioned if Council wanted archery target practice banned as well, the consensus was to have all target shooting banned. Town Manager Caron suggested saying that the Town does not approve any kind of area for practice shooting of archery, guns, rifles, etc. He said he will present it to Council as no target shooting on all Town property.

Councilor Farrell said that Bob Sauer had told him they are having issues with 4 wheelers and motorcycle use in Musquash. Bob Sauer, 4 Mountain Home Rd. said Mike Considine alerted him to some problems with 4 wheelers and some off-road motorcycles. Some of the abutting property owners do allow them on their land. He said he is not sure how they are going to address the gates. They will discuss this issue and new signage at the next Trailways meeting. Councilor Freda asked if any conservation easements have specific rules about hunting and target shooting. Town Manager Caron responded some of our conservation easements talk to hunting but he said he doesn't think we have any that allow target shooting. Town Manager Caron stated we do have an ATV patrol within LPD and he said he will ask the Chief what the patrol schedule is and bring these concerns to him.

Board/Committee Appointments/Reappointments – None

Councilor Farrell made a motion to enter into a non-public session for a legal opinion according to RSA 91-A:3 II (e) at 8: 35 PM. Aye John Farrell, Aye Tom Dolan, Aye Sean O'Keefe, Aye Tom Freda, Aye Joe Green.

The Council exited non-public session at 9:50 PM; no action was taken in non-public session.

John Farrell motioned to adjourn at 9:50 PM, seconded by Joe Green, motion carried 5-0.

Notes and Tapes by:	<u>Margo Lapietro</u>	Date: <u>07/11/11</u>
Minutes Typed by:	<u>Margo Lapietro</u>	Date: <u>07/14/11</u>
Approved;	<u>Town Council</u>	Date: <u>08/15/11</u>