

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
October 17, 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: Tom Dolan, John Farrell, Tom Freda; Town Manager, David Caron; Executive Assistant, Margo Lapietro.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman O’Keefe opened the meeting at 7:13 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

Art Rugg, – PUD - Art Rugg, Planning Board Chair said the Planning Board has not reviewed the PUD ordinance yet. The Planning Board felt that they would like to experience a review process under the PUD before suggesting any changes. They would like to do this first and then have a joint meeting with Town Council. They would like to see what works and what doesn’t work and then come back with specific recommendations. He has heard that Woodmont has submitted an application and it is in the review process now to see if it is complete, it is quite involved, the public hearing probably will be held on 12/7. The Planning Board feels that there will definitely be a third party independent review. He said the Planning Board wants to get educated and be objective. A. Rugg said they will keep the line of communication open. Councilor Freda asked if the applicants plans will be put on line, A. Rugg said he would see to it.

Councilor Farrell suggested that if the Council is agreeable they should ask the Town Manager to get in touch with the individual Chairs of Boards/Committees/Commissions and remind them in writing of what the Right-To-Know rules are pertaining to e-mails, conducting meetings, etc. Councilor Dolan informed the Council that our Town Counsel had made a video regarding that subject in the Cable Studio. Town Manager Caron said he will speak to Attorney Mayer and draft information to forward to the Chairs. Councilor Freda said the LGC has something on it as well.

Chairman O’Keefe said he had an idea about streamlining the process of budget hearings. One thought is to set a limit on the Department Heads that come to the meetings. He suggested putting a cap on the budget; if your budget is not over a certain amount then you don’t have to come to the Department Head Budget Meeting. He explained that way we could spend more time on the bigger budgets. Councilor Freda suggested if their budget is not over half a million let them deal with the Town Manager. Town Manager Caron suggested that they should let him receive the budgets from the departments then he’ll send an e-mail to Council for them to reply to him individually. He can give them a suggestion plan and if a small department is requesting additional personnel he will make sure they come to the budget meeting. He requested that

Council provide him with some feedback on how comfortable they will be with it and based on the feedback he will set up a schedule for that meeting being held on 11/19/11.

PUBLIC HEARING

None

OLD BUSINESS

Hemlock Road Incident Follow-Up - Town Manager Caron said the Council discussed issues that included staffing, equipment, and hydrant protection. The Council directed him to include four additional positions in the FY13 year budget which will cost about \$327K, plus overtime to fund vacant shifts caused by sick, vacation, training and other leave. Another component of staffing that was raised was the feasibility of having volunteers assist with staffing of the station. He said that would be very difficult to achieve. He said he researched the state of Pennsylvania because they have had had generations of active volunteer firemen. They, too, are experiencing that volunteers have full time jobs that are located further from home so they are not in the area to respond. Pennsylvania is starting to hire drivers to drive the emergency apparatus to the scene and then the volunteer could meet them at the scene. There is also too much of a burden on the volunteer's time to meet the required training for emergency medical services, hazmat clean-up, extrications and other rescues which significantly increases the calls for service.

The equipment issue has been addressed by the Council requesting a placement in the amount of \$350K in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for a tanker. The hydrant protection issue has been reviewed by our GIS Manager to find an estimated cost of extending waterlines throughout the community. The infrastructure investment would be at least \$120M; hydrant rental expense would increase from \$406K to \$1.1M with hydrants located every 1,000 feet. Per linear foot of frontage, an assessment of approximately \$9.00 would be required annually, or \$1,350 for a home with 150 feet of frontage plus any hook-up and operational charges assessed by the water company. These numbers provide an Order of Magnitude only and do not include engineering costs and booster stations, which could add at least 20% to that cost, resulting in a \$150M - \$160M range. Councilor Green asked if there were any grants available for this to get around the tax dollar. Town Manager Caron replied that their only experiences with grants for extensions of water and sewer service are in the form of low interest loans. The communities that have the lower median family income tend to be more successful with those grants; Londonderry would not be competitive in that area. Chairman O'Keefe said they had that discussion years ago with the Budget Committee and it is just not feasible. We can look at the tanker issue. Councilor Green asked if we had the ability to talk to the public to see if there are qualified people who are in the community who will be willing to volunteer. Councilor Dolan said we could put an ad in the paper to see if there is anyone interested; if there is then we have to decide what to do with them. Councilor Farrell said one of the Fire Captains estimated that they would need 8 volunteers to guarantee 1-2 volunteers would be available when needed; they would need a list of 50 people. To train and outfit those 50 people it would cost about \$8,000 per volunteer. Councilor Green said he is trying to exhaust every aspect, he wants to make sure we can do everything we can to reduce the tax impact. Councilor Freda asked if a volunteer

firefighter gets hurt are they covered by workmen's comp – the Town Manager responded yes. He said he will contact Chief MacCaffrie to list the training requirements for volunteer firefighters. Councilor Dolan said we learned at the Hemlock fire that time is of the essence and said it is worth looking at; he also asked the Town Manager to look at the potential of a used tanker for savings. The Town Manager responded that the ladder truck that was purchased was a demo and we saved \$200K in that process. Councilor Green asked if there are any grants for apparatus. The Town Manager responded the LFD is continually applying for grants but given the amount of grants available now there is not a good chance of receiving one. Chairman O'Keefe also stated that it depends on need and financing ability, Londonderry is perceived as a wealthy town. Town Manager Caron responded that there are hundreds of NH communities facing the same challenges we are facing. Councilor Green asked if there is anyway the hydrants could be done, it is important to the houses in town. It is an important public safety issue. Town Manager Caron responded that 60% of the town does not have hydrants; it depends on how much people want to invest in public safety. Councilor Green asked if the hydrants were spaced out to 2,000 feet would it cost less. Town Manager Caron explained the hydrant figures are based on 1,000 feet, if the hydrants are stretched out there will be minimal savings as the major expense is extending the water line. Councilor Dolan said we were going to have the LFD come in and do a presentation to the townspeople explaining how to keep their homes safer. Councilor Green asked if we can start the effort on hydrants. Councilor Freda asked if a hydrant is put on a street is it assessed against him or is it a town wide tax. The Town Manager responded it is town wide. Councilor Dolan said he has not seen the Master Plan yet but he is assuming that a new development like Woodmont would probably have hydrants and municipal water as part of the development. As new developments come to town have them lay in water lines. Councilor Green asked if we can make it mandatory? Town Manager Caron respond the Town can require connection to the sewer but he would have to check with counsel to see if water can be mandatory.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance #2011-1- - Relative to Revisions to the Municipal Code, Title VI, Chapter VI, Purchasing Policy – Councilor Dolan read the first reading, second reading/public hearing on 11/7/11 and made a motion to approve, second Councilor Farrell. Open for discussion. **Council's vote was 5-0-0.**

Resolution 2011-16 – Relative to a Memorandum of Agreement – Conservation Land Acquisitions – Councilor Freda read the first reading/public reading and made a motion to approve, second Councilor Green. Open for discussion. Councilor Dolan stated it is a step forward and involves the purchasing and site selection process to the next level and continues to add to the local transparency to continue the confidence the public has in this process, it is a very positive step and he supports it. Town Manager Caron explained that one of the Council's goals this year was to make the process of acquiring Open Space land more transparent without compromising the Town's negotiating position. The Council and Conservation Commission agreed to a process whereby there would be a negotiating committee consisting of some staff members, members of Council, and members of the Conservation Commission. **Council's vote was 5-0-0.**

Resolution 2011-17 – Relative to a Lot Line Adjustment at 85/87 Pillsbury Road –
Councilor Freda motioned to approve, second Councilor Farrell. **Council’s vote was 5-0-0.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of Council’s Public Meeting of 9/26/11 – Councilor Dolan made a motion to accept, second Councilor Freda. Council’s vote was 5-0-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

Liaison Reports – Councilor Farrell attended the first meeting of the Dispatch Committee –the officers were put in place. They will have a report back to the Town Council before the holidays so we can have something to look at during the budget process. He attended the School Board meeting and they do not see a need for a change in the SAU office in the foreseeable future. The CIP was adopted by the Planning Board.

Councilor Dolan reported the Merrimack Water District is in its final stages of settlement with Pennichuck Water Works. Londonderry is an interested party; negotiations are underway.

Councilor Freda said as Councilor Farrell mentioned the CIP was approved by the Planning Board. The only thing coming up this year is the road bond. Councilor Farrell said that would be up to what the CIP recommends. If they are able to get grant money for Pettengill Road they would entertain that but without grants the CIP Committee is saying they will not deem it necessary to go to the taxpayers for money. Councilor Freda said the Planning Board is considering possible improvements to Page Rd. and questions are going out to the School Department regarding the possible improvements.

Councilor Green attended the Master Plan Steering Committee; they are looking at RFP’s and survey companies. They are considering the questions they want on the survey.

Chairman O’Keefe missed the Traffic Safety Committee meeting held tonight. The Town Manager said Mr. Dalton came in about traffic issues on Hall Road; Chief Hart will follow up with his concerns.

Town Manager Report – Town Manager Caron explained he is scheduled to give Council an overview of the FY13 budget on 11/7/11. Councilor Freda asked if that moved up petitioned articles, the Town Manager responded yes (to January 10). Chairman O’Keefe asked if Election Day is the same. Town Manager Caron responded the only difference is that the Saturday Town Meeting is being moved up a month in the form of the Deliberative Session, with decisions made to be finalized at the ballot session on the second Tuesday in March.

Board/Committee Appointments/Reappointments – Appointment to the Londonderry Arts Council, Ad Hoc positions: Full Members, Susan Hanna, Jason Williams and Karen Giguere as an Alternate. **Councilor Dolan made a motion to appoint all of the above, second Councilor Green. Council’s vote was 5-0-0.**

Appoint Susan Haussler from an Alternate on the Elder Affairs Committee to a Full Member, term to expire 12/31/12. **Councilor Dolan made a motion to appoint, second Councilor Green. Council's vote was 5-0-0.**

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Dolan made a motion to adjourn at 8:00 PM, second Councilor Farrell. Council's vote was 5-0-0.

Notes and Tapes by: Margo Lapietro Date: 10/17/11

Minutes Typed by: Margo Lapietro Date: 10/18 /11

Approved by: Town Council Date: 11/07/11