

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING/BUDGET WORKSHOP
December 17, 2012

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

PRESENT: Chairman, John Farrell; Vice Chairman Tom Dolan; Councilors: Jim Butler; Joe Green; Tom Freda; Acting Town Manager, LPD Chief William R. Hart; Finance Director, Sue Hickey, Executive Assistant Margo Lapietro.

Budget Committee Members: Dan Lekas (Absent), Chairman; John Curran, Vice Chair; William Mee; Lisa Whittemore ; Chris Melcher (Absent); Tom Dalton; Todd Joncas.

Call to Order

Chairman Farrell opened the meeting at 7:00PM with the Pledge of Allegiance. This was followed by a moment of silence for the 20 little kids killed in Connecticut and the people who protected them.

Chairman Farrell announced at 7:01PM that the Councilors will go into a Non-Public Meeting according to RSA 91-A: 3, II (d). **Roll call vote, Aye Joe Green, Aye Tom Freda, Aye John Farrell, Aye Tom Dolan, Aye Jim Butler.** At 7:15PM the Councilors' returned to the public Meeting and called for a vote to come out of the Non Public Session. **Aye Joe Green, Aye Tom Freda, Aye John Farrell, Aye Tom Dolan, Aye Jim Butler.**

Public Comment

Chairman Farrell listed the 2013 elected town positions that will be available. The filing period begins 1/23/13 – 2/1/13 and he proceeded to give the registration information.

Chairman Farrell read a letter (copy attached) addressed to Nate Greenberg and himself from Mr. John M. Grennon, 14 Jewel Court. Mr. Grennon questioned if “we are doing everything possible to maintain the safest and most secure environment possible” for our school children. He is concerned that we are not. The schools are not secure enough; there have been no lock down drills. He said he hoped that the schools have a comprehensive review of security at the schools, be pro-active rather than re-active. Chairman Farrell said he and the Council were notified by the Londonderry Police Department (LPD) on Friday that the LPD and School were meeting and reacting. Reed Clark, Stonehenge Rd. said several tax payers contacted him and he requested whatever comments made should include the taxpayers. Acting Town Manager, LPD Chief Hart said the LPD relationship with the school is strong – they were in immediate contact with Supt. Greenberg and deployed police to all the schools. They have come up with a plan for the rest of the week to address more security and they can do more with security by providing visible police presentation at the schools. LPD Capt. Gerry Dussault said he met with the School Department on Friday regarding security measures in place for the rest of the week. He met with Supt. Greenberg this morning to discuss future security issues. He pointed out that LPD Lt. Gangi is

going to work on threat assessments. Battalion Chief Rogers from the LFD will work along with LPD Lt. Gangi to do some threat assessments to mitigate security. School Superintendant Nate Greenberg thanked the LPD for their rapid response Friday and this week. In response to the letter from Mr. Grennon he said there are things we can do better. They have had faculty meetings at all schools today; they met with the Administrative staff today to review plans and threat assessments. He explained they currently have in place cameras at all the schools. They have a buzzer system at each of the elementary and middle schools. At the LHS they have 2 people in the front lobby plus the SRO. They have done a thorough review of which doors are locked and unlocked; they also require personnel to wear ID badges. They have done drills for lock-down, to reverse evacuation, fire and evacuation drills. He said he believes our kids are safe and we have an outstanding staff that follows through. He said he is sure there are additional things that can be done and they are looking at how to do those things. Plans are reviewed every year.

Chairman Farrell announced that a baby boy was born in a Londonderry ambulance today on the way to a hospital.

Chairman Farrell talked about giving out the Annual Awards. There has been a suggestion to go back to handing them out at the Deliberative Session on 2/4/13. The consensus was to do that. Chairman Farrell said he needs input on the Citizen of the Year Award and the Volunteer of the Year Award by 1/3/13.

Update on Town Manager Search – Chairman Farrell announced that the Council had a meeting and brought the candidates from 60 down to 5. They will move to an interview process as quickly as possible. The candidates not selected will be notified by letter. The anticipated start date for a new Town Manager will be 4/1/13.

Update on Planning Director Search - Chairman Farrell said the position has not been posted yet; they are still having internal discussions on the exact criteria they are looking for. It could be for an additional planner, someone strictly focused on economic development or a person contracted out. They are still discussing the issue and hope to have an answer by 1/7/13. Open for discussion.

Councilor Freda made a motion to go into a public hearing, second Councilor Green. Councils vote 5-0-0.

Public Hearing

FY14 First Public Budget Hearing – Acting Town Manager, LPD Chief Bill Hart explained the direction given to staff was to bring the budget in under \$100K below default which has been accomplished. The downshifting of retirement costs to the town from the state and the increase in health costs came to about three quarters of a million dollar deficit. Department Heads worked hard and came up with a budget \$110K below default. He said there is one change in the Warrant by the Planning Board that the zoning ordinance for \$30K in grant monies and \$20K from taxpayers is not necessary this year. They will be making a change to the Warrant and reducing that article by \$50K which will be 2 cent reduction in the tax rate. Open for discussion to Councilors and the Budget Committee. Open for discussion to the public. Dan Bouchard, 8 O’Connell Dr. commented that the LFD was great on an emergency call he had recently. He also thanked the Highway Depart for doing a great job during today’s storm. He also

commented that he was glad to see the LPD on Friday at the schools. He talked about Warrant Article 8 and said he would like to see 2 SRO's hired for that money on a part-time basis at the schools. He mentioned that in prior years when they needed funds it went to the general budget then it was used for something else. They set up a fund that was used specifically for the SRO programs. He brought up the idea of looking at a regional library, with the possibility of saving money. Chairman Farrell responded that is up to the Library Trustees and he should contact them with his idea. Councilor Dolan explained it is within the power of the Deliberative Session to amend that article; it can be changed either up or down. Councilor Freda said that Dan Bouchard mentioned creating a separate fund, he said he is not sure you can do that because it is not a separate revenue fund or a trust. Acting Town Manager, LPD Chief Hart responded he didn't think we could do that. He said he is looking at the idea of part-timers. He needs the following standards; they are police officers they are not SRO's. What a police officer brings to the SRO position is an ability to provide safety and security to kids. If that person serves as a police officer they will be trained as a full time police officer capable of fulfilling all duties of a police officer. D. Bouchard mentioned the part time SRO will have summers and weekends off but that is not a good idea; there are times they might be needed to respond to emergencies. On various occasions we have supplemented the presence in schools to respond to schools. It is important to make a commitment; clearly this article is \$101K to provide a SRO to serve teachers, kids, staff and parents of our community. He stated that it will not happen on his watch that we will go down to less than 2. If this community wishes more commitment to the schools then the people in town can amend that article to reflect that commitment. He said he will fulfill the wishes of this community to assure that we have SRO's in those schools D. Bouchard said we have excellent SROs' and two of them have been contacted by other police departments to work in their schools. D. Bouchard also spoke about the non-union employees being targeted for pay reductions. He said it is unfortunate that they are being cut.

Chairman Farrell went back to Article 13 for a zoning ordinance comprehensive re-write asking for \$50K, \$30K to come from a grant. He said he is getting text messages from Planning Board member Mary Wing Soares basically saying she objected to the article being dropped. He proceeded to read all the texts (copies enclosed). Acting Town Manager, LPD Chief Hart responded he received an e-mail from Art Rugg the Chair of the Planning Board which was confirmed by Town Planner Cynthia May that they would not pursue the article this year. He said there are apparently some issues that need to be vetted by the Planning Board. He suggested letting the Planning Board figure out what is going on. Chairman Farrell clarified that the Planning Board Chairman said it was premature to pursue the grant application to update the zoning ordinances. Art Rugg, Planning Board Chair stated that we need to adopt and understand the new Master Plan before going to the next step. We need time to go through the zoning ordinances; perhaps in 2013 or 2014. He said he would like to get the Woodmont Master Plan done before tackling this. Councilor Green as the liaison to the Master Plan Steering Committee responded we have to get the Master Plan approved first. We have to take one step at a time, we are trying to go too fast. Chairman Farrell verified that the Master Plan has not been accepted by the Planning Board yet. He said our choices are to go along with what the Chief said or send this back to the Planning Board. Councilor Freda pointed out that the Planning Board is not meeting until 1/9/13. Councilor Butler said he was afraid we would be taking on too much too quick. We need to get some things in order and it will take some time so he is in favor of the Chiefs recommendation.

Pollyann Winslow, 4 Hearthstone Dr. said she is not a member of Trailways but she has been asked by them to speak to Council. The Trailways would like to propose a Citizen Warrant Article to raise funds for a portion of the rail trails. She explained she works with them to help with rising funding for Trailways. They have received citizen support for the trails and have a signed agreement that they have full access to the abandoned railway corridor. Abutting communities have already established their trails. The Trailways have stimulus money and would like to see if the residents and businesses want it paved and made operational. Acting Town Manager, LPD Chief Hart said he spoke to Bob Rimol from Trailways today about a citizen petition. He said he will review the paperwork tomorrow. P. Winslow commented that this is the time to move forward. Councilor Freda asked her how much is the warrant article; P. Winslow responded not less than \$187K which is the estimate to pave a section from Sanborn Road to Symmes Drive. Councilor Freda asked Finance Officer Sue Hickey if the monies have to be in a trust fund because they may not spend it all in one year. S. Hickey responded it could be either in a trust fund or a Purchase Order for that particular fund. Councilor Freda suggested making sure that the language matches the intent. Councilor Dolan asked if that \$187K is the total cost or the taxpayer funded costs, are there matching funds. P. Winslow clarified this is to do a segment of the paving. She explained she that does not have all the facts, she was here on behalf of the organization. Councilor Dolan asked for the source of the matching funds? She responded it is part of a federal transportation grant, managed by the state of NH. Councilor Dolan said usually the taxpayers are required to pay a fraction of the costs. If the \$187K is the project cost then how much will the taxpayers be asked to pay on the warrant article and how much will be the matching funds. P. Winslow responded the Trailways wants the \$187K on the warrant article; it is the amount that the engineers want. She explained there are several other segments to come that can be paved. They want to do it while stimulus money is there. Councilor Dolan said the clarity of the tax payer portion needs to be made. He said it would be a good idea to ask Trailways to come to the next meeting to explain. Chairman Farrell stated other trails are not plowed, will this be plowed, P. Winslow replied no.

Tony Palmer, 30 Holton Circle talked about the SRO and said we need to be pro-active. Chairman Farrell said they discussed this subject at the beginning of tonight's meeting and he might have missed it. Acting Town Manager, LPD Chief Hart reiterated that the LPD will have an elevated presence at the schools; they have met with school officials and made decisions about what actions will be done. The plan is to have the police presence at schools until school vacation. They have started a threat assessment of the schools. He explained they use to have 4 SRO's, 2 full-time at the High School, 1 full-time at the middle school and 1 at the elementary schools. He explained they would like to add 1 thru a warrant article this year. T. Palmer commented that we need to get up to 4 SRO's.

Mike Speltz, 18 Sugar Plum said the \$30K grant in warrant article #13 might not be available next year. He explained the Zoning Ordinance might be able to keep taxes lower. Planning Board Chair Art Rugg is correct, we haven't even adopted the Master Plan yet, this budget won't go into effect until 7/1/13. By then we would already have approved the Woodmont Master Plan and the towns Master Plan. We could then be in a position to look at updating the zoning ordinances. It will be vital for the town to be able to realize the envision that is in the Master Plan and the first step in doing that is to look at the zoning ordinance. He asked the Council to keep the option open on the warrant until the Planning Board meets to talk about the zoning ordinance.

Budget member Lisa Whittemore, 40 Griffin Rd. served on the Master Plan Steering Committee and asked that the Council consider looking at updating the zoning ordinances. She stated that we provide business with a number of good advantages.

Councilor Dolan pointed out that we have 3 options; leave it as is, if the Council didn't support it we could take a vote of no support and put it on the Warrant for the Deliberative Session, we could strike it off the warrant now or delay our action until the Planning Board meets. Chairman Farrell explained it is hard for him to make a determination. The facts are that the Planning Board has the biggest project in the state in front of them and the Chairman of the Planning Board is asking us not to do the zoning re-write at this time. Councilor Green as liaison said that the Master Plan that we currently have requires a re-write of our zoning. Chairman Farrell clarified that the Master Plan that has not been approved and not presented to the Planning Board will require an entire re-write of all the zoning in the town. Councilor Green said the \$50K will only get us partially there; wait for a recommendation from the Planning Board; if they tell us to go forward then we should support it. The Master Plan Steering Committee did a lot of work and research to come up with the Master Plan. Timing is of the essence. Councilor Freda said the original estimate of the cost is \$200K; we are talking about being short 55-60% of the money which puts it into 2 years before it is done. He said he would like to get it right the first time rather than piece meal. Mary Soares e-mailed that the Planning Board should talk about it. Councilor Green said if we keep it on the Warrant until after the Planning Board's meeting on 1/9/13 will it be possible to take it off. Acting Town Manager, LPD Chief Hart responded yes but he made clear that his recommendation was made based on the e-mail he received from the Chairman of the Planning Board. He agrees that there is a lack of common purpose; let time go by so that our purpose can be common. Councilor Dolan clarified that the meeting with the Planning Board is 1/9 and the cutoff date for the Warrant is 1/14/13 can we make this work – Acting Town Manager, LPD Chief Hart responded yes. The consensus of the Council was to wait. Councilor Freda also stated that if the Planning Board declines to take our advice they can file a citizen's petition.

Contracts for AFSCME & LEEA – Acting Town Manager, LPD Chief Hart said there were two contracts up for negotiations this year. The AFSCME police unit asked for a 1 year extension, with zero increases in pay, step increases will take place consistent with the current contract; there will be no COLA increases. In exchange for that it has been agreed inside the police budget to increase the tuition contribution by \$10K as well as some language changes. There is a net zero cost to the taxpayers this year. The LEEA contract will move to language that is currently used by the other bargaining units with respect to accrual, sick time, pay outs of sick time, and contributions towards health insurance. It does grandfather several employees under the current contract language which allows for increased payouts when they retire. It moves everyone into the new contract language. It is a 3 year contract, with a zero increase this year, 2% increases in FY15 and FY16. Chairman Farrell clarified that all of the collective bargaining agreements including these that have been passed over the last three years have all taken a zero percent increase in the 1st year, Acting Town Manager, LPD Chief Hart responded that was correct. Chairman Farrell commented that it was a nice job. Open for discussion. Acting Town Manager, LPD Chief Hart said that both units came to the town with that notion in hand; they recognized the difficult times we are in and he congratulated them.

Budget Member Todd Joncas verified that the tax rate per thousand is \$5.16; Finance Director Sue Hickey verified that amount.

Councilor Dolan made a motion to close the public hearing, second Councilor Green. Councils vote 5-0-0.

Old Business

None

NEW BUSINESS

Order #2012-23 – Expenditure of Maintenance Trust Funds for Various Projects – Councilor Dolan read the order and made a motion to adopt, second Councilor Butler. Councils vote 5-0-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council meeting minutes of 11/19, 11/26/12 and 12/03/12 – Councilor Dolan made a motion to accept the minutes, second Councilor Butler. Council’s vote 5-0-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

Liaison Reports – Chairman Farrell reported he spoke to the MHT Director, Delta added more flights to LaGuardia.

Town Manager Report – Acting Town Manage, LPD Chief Hart advised the Council that the process for leasing the new police cruisers is underway. He signed a Purchase Order today for \$105K. On 1/7/13 he will present a Resolution for approval.

Board/Committee Appointments/Reappointments

None

Chairman Farrell wished everyone happy holidays.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Green made a motion to adjourn at 8:38PM, second Councilor Freda. Council’s vote 5-0-0.

Notes and Tapes by: Margo Lapietro Date: 12/17/12

Minutes Typed by: Margo Lapietro Date: 12/19/12

Approved by: Town Council Date: 01/07/13

John M. Grennon
14 Jewel Court
Londonderry, New Hampshire 03053
603-818-8173

December 16, 2012

Mr. Nathan S. Greenberg
Superintendent of Schools
268c Mammoth Rd
Londonderry, NH 03053

Mr. John Farrell
Chairman, Town Council
268B Mammoth Rd
Londonderry, NH 03053

Dear Mr. Greenberg, Mr. Farrell:

I am writing to you in response to the recent unimaginable tragedy in Newtown, Connecticut.

My family and I moved to Londonderry in 2008 and it has been a dream come true. This community embodies everything we are trying to establish for our family. The school district has, thus far, provided an exceptional education for our oldest daughter. The educators that she has been blessed to have instructing her have provided an exceptional education and a nurturing environment. Specifically, Mr. Richard Zacchilli has made a profound impact on my daughter's life during her most formative of years.

In 2010 my family had the unfortunate occurrence to call on the services of the police and fire department for a medical emergency involving my then 4 week old son. In Londonderry fashion, the response was impeccable. I was introduced to the most professional, competent and compassionate police officers and firefighters in the world. Again, Londonderry reaffirmed that it was my dream come true.

The reason for this letter is to ask a very simple, yet emotionally charged question. Are we doing everything humanly possible to secure our schools and children from harm? I have had the pleasure of having a child in both the North School and the Middle School. Overall, the buildings appear to be secure. However, in the spirit of honesty, I have entered both buildings through an unsecured front door. In addition, I have been allowed to "piggyback" into both facilities on the heels of another person. While I understand that prison like security measures may be impractical for an institution of learning, I have to wonder if we are doing everything possible to maintain the safest and most secure environment possible.

As a parent, I unequivocally believe that the town's school buildings must be the most secure in our community. I am concerned that they are not. In a town that does a magnificent job in balancing the governmental wants vs. needs, I am concerned that school security is on the wrong list.

My 13 year old has been overly prepared for the structure fire that most likely will never come. A structure fire that will most likely be knocked down by the fire suppression system prior to the arrival of the fire department. But when I asked her about lockdown drills she looked inquisitively at me. When I asked her what she would do if she was out of class and heard "concerning noises," she again looked inquisitively. When I asked what she would do if she was in the restroom and heard chaos, she responded by saying "I guess I would go and look". These are not the answers I should be hearing. Not 5 years after Virginia Tech, not 13 years after Columbine and certainly not any time after Newtown, Connecticut. I hope that this is an identifiable educational/operational deficiency that the school district is going to correct as soon as possible.

It is my hope that the Town of Londonderry and the Londonderry School District will conduct a comprehensive overview of the physical security of its facilities in addition to a comprehensive overview of the security procedures employed by its staff members.

The preparation of the Londonderry Police Department to deal with an active shooter scene is not my concern. The police are more than prepared and trained to react to such a crisis. My concern is whether the schools have taken every proactive step possible to prevent such an incident. It is the balance of being proactive vs. reactive that has my attention. Proactive measures save lives, reactive measures recover victims. Historically speaking, by the time First Responders arrive, the damage is done.

Should the person responsible for granting access to the school have behavioral awareness training? Should that person have a button on the desk that goes directly to the Londonderry Police rather than a 911 call that goes to Concord? Can we really afford a delay at that point? Should the District be conducting and documenting penetration audits on each of its schools on a monthly basis? Should the District be conducting emergency lockdown drills with the student body on a regular basis as they do with fire drills?

This morning was difficult for millions of parents sending their children off to school. Thoughts have been provoked that we wish were only a dream but unfortunately have become a living nightmare for some. I am grateful and fortunate to call myself a member of this wonderful community. I rest my head each night knowing my family is protected from the evils of fire and crime and I wake up each morning knowing my local government is doing all it can to serve and enrich my community. And although I know my children are receiving a world class education from the greatest teachers imaginable, my 23 years in Public Safety tells me that the safety and security of our students could be and must be enhanced.

I am sure that if the District asked for community assistance there is multitude of resident talent that would present itself in the form of educated and experienced volunteers for a committee or task force. If there is anything I can do to help please don't hesitate to ask.

With Great Respect,

John M Grennon

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John M Grennon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Margo Lapietro

From: John Farrell [jwfarrelljr@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 18, 2012 11:08 AM
To: Margo Lapietro
Subject: Fwd: Funding for Zoning Ordinance Re-write

John Farrell
603 289 2011

Begin forwarded message:

From: Arthur Rugg@vrtx.com
Date: December 18, 2012, 8:06:18 AM EST
To: "Mary Wing Soares" <mjws2000@comcast.net>
Cc: "Cynthia May" <cmay@londonderrynh.org>,"Joseph V. Green" <jgreen@londonderrynh.org>,"Leitha Reilly" <leithareilly@hotmail.com>,"Art Rugg \ (personal email)" <lieserugg@earthlink.net>,"Lisa Whittemore \ (Master Plan)" <lisaw227@yahoo.com>,"Mike Speltz" <mspeltz@forestsociety.org>
Subject: RE: Funding for Zoning Ordinance Re-write

Hi Mary,

You are making the point that I was trying to make over two days ago at the beginning of this thread started by Leitha. The Planning Board has not voted or even discussed placing a warrant article asking for money to update our zoning ordinance. You, Leitha and Mike should have brought the need for this to the Planning Board for a full discussion first before proceeding on your own. That is not the proper way to do this, leaving the Planning Board out of the loop. At the CIP public hearing at our October 10, 2012 meeting, the Board decided not to include this in the CIP, but did not discuss or vote on placing it as a warrant article. Please refer to the October 10, 2012 meeting minutes, page 7. I will place this on the agenda for the January 9, 2012 meeting to discuss placing a warrant article for Town Meeting to update our zoning ordinance. The Board will need to know the reason with the details for updating.

Art

---"Mary Wing Soares" <mjws2000@comcast.net> wrote: ----
To: "Mike Speltz" <mspeltz@forestsociety.org>,"Cynthia May" <cmay@londonderrynh.org>,"Leitha Reilly" <leithareilly@hotmail.com>
From: "Mary Wing Soares" <mjws2000@comcast.net>
Date: 12/17/2012 08:37PM
Cc: "Art Rugg \ (personal email)" <lieserugg@earthlink.net>,"Arthur Rugg" <arthur_rugg@vrtx.com>,"Joseph V. Green" <jgreen@londonderrynh.org>,"Lisa Whittemore \ (Master Plan)" <lisaw227@yahoo.com>
Subject: RE: Funding for Zoning Ordinance Re-write

Hi all,

I was my usual calm person as I was texting John Farrell during the meeting tonight. I appreciate Mike and Lisa being at the meeting and championing our ideas. I thought it was very inappropriate for the decision to be made without a conversation with the board in full. I apologize for saying that for them to act on Art's email was as though Art was acting like a dictator because it is appropriate for Art to be our spokesperson and point person when we have come to a consensus about something, but we hadn't even discussed this as a board. Additionally, there was more to the email conversation to the people on this chain than what the acting town manager read.

I would ask that this be put on the planning board agenda under discussions with staff and we discuss what recommendation the board should give to the council.

Thank you and again, if I offended you Art, please accept my apologies.

Mary

From: Mike Speltz [<mailto:mspeltz@forestsociety.org>]

Sent: Sunday, December 16, 2012 10:18 PM

To: Cynthia May; Leitha Reilly

Cc: Art Rugg (personal email); Mary Soares; Arthur Rugg; Joseph V. Green; Lisa Whittemore (Master Plan)

Subject: RE: Funding for Zoning Ordinance Re-write

Cynthia, Art and Mary, thank you for your thoughtful comments. And thank you, Leitha, for leading the charge.

Based on Cynthia's comments regarding timing, I don't think we would be "putting the cart before the horse" if we were to fund a review of the zoning ordinance that begins 1 July 2013. The Council can instruct the Town Manager that the zoning project is contingent on adequate total funding and on a need identified in the new Master Plan.

Cynthia's reminder that a project must be fully funded before it goes to bid means that we really need to identify about \$95K beyond the prospective grant award. Mary's advice is valid that stand-alone warrant article requests (with a tax impact greater than zero, as opposed to drawing from the undesignated fund balance) often do not succeed. It seems our best approach might be to tap the

undesignated fund balance for \$95K and propose a \$45K increase to the currently proposed warrant article, but with no tax impact. I fear that asking the Council to add \$95K to the budget will be unpalatable, given the Council's strenuous effort to reduce the budget year over year.

I believe we are currently relying on the undesignated fund balance for about \$900K, so adding \$95K would raise the figure to close to one million. Sue would have to advise on the risk involved. If that is "a bridge too far" then perhaps we should ask the Council whether each of the existing proposed draws on the undesignated fund balance are more important than moving forward the Council's efforts to simplify development and to move to a more sustainable future.

I will be on the road all day tomorrow (bad weather planning on my part) and will likely not have access to email. My preliminary plan will be to attend the budget hearing and hope that you all have sorted out a common approach. I do not believe that delay would be good for Londonderry.

Thank you all for your attention to what I see as a pivotal issue for our town,

Mike

Mike Speltz

Land Protection Specialist

Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests

54 Portsmouth Street, Concord NH 03301

Phone: 603-224-9945 x364

Fax: 603-228-0423

Email: mspeltz@forestsociety.org

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[Click here to join the campaign.](#)

From: Cynthia May [<mailto:cmay@londonderrynh.org>]
Sent: Sunday, December 16, 2012 1:27 PM
To: Leitha Reilly
Cc: Art Rugg (personal email); Mary Soares; Arthur Rugg; Joseph V. Green; Lisa Whittlemore (Master Plan); Mike Speltz
Subject: Re: Funding for Zoning Ordinance Re-write

Leitha, your initial explanation is right on point. \$50,000 would be enough to accomplish an "area" study, but it will not be enough to revamp the ordinance so that it is cohesive and accomplishes the goals of the master plan. Even if it takes 2 or 3 more months to adopt the master plan, the timing would coincide with receipt of the grant and the town vote. If the envisioned zoning were in place, it would provide the flexibility and guidance to enable more creative development. If it waits until next year, the momentum will be hard to sustain, and this grant opportunity may not be available. One of the goals of the Town this year is to improve the development review process so that businesses are not constrained or deterred from moving to Londonderry. That starts with the Zoning Ordinance, so it's not wholly dependent on master plan adoption. I can offer that Staff can also work to simultaneously update the regulations to be more in concert with these goals. One other point is that in order to put out an RFP for the zoning work, funding for the entire project needs to be appropriated. It would be difficult to accomplish in a piecemeal fashion.

Sent from C May's iPhone

On Dec 16, 2012, at 10:49 AM, "Leitha Reilly" <leithareilly@hotmail.com> wrote:

Art & Mary,
Thank you for your insight. Clearly you all have done this many times!

I don't know that the \$50k warrant will get us started for next year though, as it's not enough to update our zoning where necessary; additionally, we risk not even being considered for the grant without a commitment to execute this in full.

I've cc'd Cynthia on this because I want to have my facts straight. Cynthia - am I delusional here, or do I understand it correctly?

- Leitha

From: lieserugg@earthlink.net
To: mjws2000@comcast.net
CC: leithareilly@hotmail.com; arthur_rugg@vrtx.com;

jgreen@londonderrynh.org; lisaw227@yahoo.com; mspeltz@forestsociety.org
Date: Sat, 15 Dec 2012 19:45:17 -0500
Subject: Re: Funding for Zoning Ordinance Re-write

I agree that we need a discussion, and the \$50,000 warrant does get us started for next year. I see the prime goal for the next year is to update our zoning ordinances.

Art

Connected by DROID on Verizon Wireless

-----Original message-----

From: Mary Wing Soares <mjws2000@comcast.net>
To: "lieserugg@earthlink.net" <lieserugg@earthlink.net>
Cc: Leitha Reilly <leithareilly@hotmail.com>, "Arthur Rugg (Londonderry Planning Board)" <arthur_rugg@vrtx.com>, "Joe Green (Londonderry MP)" <jgreen@londonderrynh.org>, "Lisa Whittemore (Master Plan)" <lisaw227@yahoo.com>, "Mike Speltz (MP)" <mspeltz@forestsociety.org>
Sent: Sat, Dec 15, 2012 23:40:20 GMT+00:00
Subject: Re: Funding for Zoning Ordinance Re-write

That makes sense, Art, and when I think about it, had it been accepted for the CIP it wouldn't have been funded in this budget cycle, which may be why the warrant is only for \$50,000., however, I believe it wouldn't be out of line to ask the council what their thought process is. Additionally, since it was proposed by staff and there is a majority on each of the boards who have expressed that it should be done and we don't anticipate it would be removed from the Master plan I don't see the harm in having a discussion.

Mary

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 15, 2012, at 5:32 PM,
"lieserugg@earthlink.net" <lieserugg@earthlink.net> wrote:

Hi All,
Before we do anything, the Planning Board needs adopt the Master Plan and then needs to discuss implementation. We should not be putting the cart before the horse. Any proposed budget item must be well thought out and must have the full support of Town staff, Planning Board, Town Council, Budget Committee. That is just for a start. Otherwise it will fail, and we do not want to be tainted with failure.

Art

Connected by DROID on Verizon Wireless

-----Original message-----

From: Mary Wing Soares <mjws2000@comcast.net>
To: Leitha Reilly <leithareilly@hotmail.com>
Cc: "Arthur Rugg (Londonderry Planning Board)" <arthur_rugg@vrbx.com>, "Art Rugg (personal email)" <lieserugg@earthlink.net>, "Joe Green (Londonderry MP)" <jgreen@londonderryrh.org>, "Lisa Whittermore (Master Plan)" <lisaw227@yahoo.com>, "Mike Speltz (MP)" <mispeltz@forestsociety.org>
Sent: Sat, Dec 15, 2012 21:30:30 GMT+00:00
Subject: Re: Funding for Zoning Ordinance Re-write

I believe that unless this is put in the towns budget it will not be realized. Stand alone intangible items do not pass, even at the smaller amount of \$50,000. An a la carte menu does not work in this town. If the town council is of the opinion that the zoning ordinances and process is a deterrent to developers then they facilitate an update and should include this in their budget.

I was hoping to have Monday night off but am willing to speak to the board at the 1st public hearing.

Mary

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 15, 2012, at 3:14 PM, Leitha Reilly <leithareilly@hotmail.com> wrote:

Hi folks,
As you are all in leadership positions, and have put countless hours into the success of the Master Plan process, I'm writing to ask your opinion on where we go from here regarding funding. Several of you have also maintained that, while it does not belong in the CIP, you believe it should be budgeted for and would be willing to support it in that capacity. I'm new to this budgeting cycle process and am interested from you all where the need below should be addressed and in what form...

As you'll recall, the direction of the new Master Plan is to pursue the villages and corridors scenario to optimize potential for a sustainable future measured by environmental stewardship, economic prosperity, and the efficient use of community services. To do this we need to revisit our zoning. Current town budget discussions include a warrant article for a \$50,000 appropriation for this purpose, with \$30,000 from a grant. The grant - NH Community Planning Grant Program - is awarded for the purpose of providing municipalities with the financial resources to hire qualified consultants to prepare land use regulations that will promote and enhance local environmental, economic, and social sustainability. It will be awarded on or about March 1, 2013, after which the municipality must execute an agreement with New Hampshire Housing and must engage in a competitive process to identify a consultant qualified to perform the work; furthermore, all project work must be completed by June 30, 2014.

We have it on good authority that the likely cost will be around \$125K to do the job effectively, primarily because Londonderry's zoning ordinance is 'pretty good' already, as some have indicated. However, what's necessary is a thorough analysis of current zoning in comparison to the current land use patterns and developments that the community values (as addressed in the Master Plan) as well as those that they would like to try to avoid in the future. In effect, we'd be finding out where the voids are in producing the type and mix of land uses that are being suggested in the Master Plan and go from there. This budget line was zeroed out of the CIP on the technical definition accountants use of a "capital item", and not (as both Mike and I argued) the RSA's definition.

Because of the terms of the grant, we cannot break up the cost when going out for bid and straddle it over 2 budgeting cycles as I had originally hoped. Can we draw from the undesignated fund balance? I see it has been dipped into quite heavily, albeit for projects not nearly as cost effective. Can we amend the Planning Dept budget upward? Do we request the warrant article reflect the \$75k difference in funding? We can't get win a grant if we don't demonstrate we are a community desiring a stronger future through bold

initiatives, and I fear without this additional funding we will not only miss out on the grant but also not be able to proceed with a majority of the recommendations coming out of the Master Plan.

Please advise your thoughts/comments. I welcome and appreciate all input.

Best regards,

Leitha

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**TOWN OF LONDONDERRY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
FY14 PROPOSED TOWN BUDGET**

Notice is hereby given that the Londonderry Town Council will receive public input on the proposed FY14 Town Budget on Monday, December 17, 2012 beginning at 7:00 PM in the Moose Hill Conference Room, Town Hall, 268B Mammoth Road, Londonderry, N. H.

The Warrant under consideration includes:

	Proposed FY 13
Article 2 Expendable Maintenance Trust	\$200,000
Article 3 General Operating Budget	
Town Council	12,097
Town Manager	621,717
Moderator	300
Budget Committee	1
Conservation Comm	3,300
Town Clerk	447,857
Supervisors –Checklist	8,090
Finance & Administration	524,169
Assessing	372,022
IT	351,310
Legal	104,500
Zoning	42,000
General Government	450,319
Cemetery	32,974
Insurance	241,327
Planning & E.D.	401,949
Police Dept.	7,764,866
Fire Dept.	6,276,854
Building Dept.	293,267
Public Works Dept.	3,117,874
Solid Waste	1,926,351
General Assistance	172,132
Recreation	147,421
Library	1,195,776
Senior Affairs	50,136
Cable	264,091
Debt Service	<u>2,702,581</u>
Total – Operating Budget	\$27,525,281

Article 4	Capital Reserve Funds	\$ 710,000
Article 5	Cable Department Equipment – CR	100,000
Article 6	Special Revenue Funds – Outside Details	490,423
Article 7	Special Revenue Funds – Sewer	2,661,129
Article 8	Police Department Personnel Costs	101,000
Article 9	LEEA CBA	n/a
Article 10	AFSCME 3657 CBA	n/a
Article 11	Special Meeting Costs	n/a
Article 12	Roadway Maintenance Trust	500,000
Article 13	Zoning Ordinance Update	50,000

Londonderry Town Council