

# LONDONDERRY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

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2 **May 19, 2014**

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

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7 Present: Chairman Tom Dolan; Vice Chairman Jim Butler; Councilors Tom Freda, Jim Butler and John Farrell; Town  
8 Manager Kevin Smith; Executive Assistant Kirby Wade

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10 **CALL TO ORDER**

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12 Chairman Dolan opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. This was followed by a moment of silence for  
13 Brentwood Police Officer Steven Arkell. Chairman Dolan stated that Officer Arkell was only 48 years old, a proud father of  
14 two teenage girls and a lacrosse coach. Chairman Dolan stated that Governor Hassan at a ceremony to honor the officer said  
15 "No matter how safe the shift seems, how slow the night has been, how small the town, each and every one of our Law  
16 Enforcement Officers take the same exact risk, each and every time she or he answers a call".

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18 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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20 Chairman Dolan introduced Jim Adams, a candidate for Executive Council. Dolan stated that all candidates are welcome,  
21 without regard to party affiliation, to come and speak to the public at a Council meeting. Adams introduced himself and stated  
22 that is a pleasure to be able to speak. Adams stated that he is a lifelong New Hampshire resident and a Vietnam Veteran.  
23 Adams stated that he spent nine years in Washington. Adams stated that he had an opportunity to tour the Town Offices.  
24 Adams stated that the Executive Council is a difficult position because it is required to, as the Governor brings names forward,  
25 vet all of the commissioners, judges and to take care all of the contracts over \$25,000. The contracts can be up in the million  
26 dollar range. Adams stated that he has been a certified volunteer firefighter for 17 years. Adams stated that with his experience  
27 and the positions that he has held, he has the qualifications to be a candidate for the Executive Council. Adams stated that after  
28 he got out of the service in 1972 he became a letter carrier in Manchester for 10 years. He received his college degree going to  
29 night school. Adams stated that he became the first person in the history of the postal service to become the Chief of Staff for  
30 three postmaster generals in the 236 year history. Adams stated that he was a part of the Executive Committee where they  
31 reduced \$14 billion in costs to the rate payers and over a 9 year period they retired a \$13 billion dept. Adams stated that  
32 Congress decided in 2007 to have the postal service pay for its retiree's health benefits. Adams stated that that is why they are  
33 where they are today. Adams stated that he stated if he gets elected he will be working for all of the communities. One of the  
34 key elements of Executive Council is the 10 year plan highway.

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36 Councilor Green asked Adams, if elected, what the biggest challenge is and how he will proceed to fix it. Adams stated that  
37 the biggest challenge right now is the contract for the healthcare that is coming up and the 10 year plan. Adams stated that  
38 there is a lot of development that needs to be done and there is very little revenue. Adams stated that it all needs to be  
39 dutifully done. Adams stated that the State needs to think outside the box and think big picture something along the lines of  
40 Pettigile, where both the community and the federal government along with the investors are involved. It should be a group  
41 coming forward to get the answer, you can't dictate. It has to be a cooperative effort to get these things done. Councilor Green  
42 asked Adams if he can touch upon healthcare and where he wants it to go and how he wants to embrace it. Adams stated that  
43 no one in federal government has any idea what we need as well as the people in New Hampshire does. Adams stated that he  
44 believes it has to be local decisions. Adams stated why can't have a system similar to how auto insurance works. Why can't  
45 individuals shop for what they would like to have? Adams stated that he doesn't know why the State has to have a once size  
46 fits all healthcare that usually doesn't fit anyone. Adams stated that those are things that need to be worked on.

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48 Chairman Dolan asked Adams, with the Woodmont development in the community, which is estimated to be the largest

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49 development the State has ever seen, it is clear that Londonderry will be the cornerstone of economic development in New  
50 Hampshire. Dolan asked Adams what he can do to convince the other leaders in Concord of this fact. Adams stated that even  
51 though the Council does not have jurisdiction over these folks, for them not to be able to see what the potential is, the facts that  
52 Dolan stated speak for them. Adams stated that the opportunities are limitless out there. Adams stated that he is running  
53 because he sees opportunity to do what Dolan mentioned for generations to come. Developments like that will help create a lot  
54 of jobs.

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56 Chairman Dolan thanked Mr. Adams for coming and introducing himself to Londonderry and the Council.

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58 Martin Srugis, 17 Wimbledon Dr, stated that ever since the state began subsidizing Boston Express to Logan Airport, we have  
59 lost 40% of the traffic at the airport. Srugis asked the Council what is going to be done about it. Chairman Dolan asked Town  
60 Manager Smith to schedule Airport Director Mark Brewer to come in and give the Council an update on how things are going  
61 at the airport.

62  
63 Ken Gudude, 3 Rockingham Rd, stated that he had a few questions about the Pawn Shop Ordinance. Chairman Dolan stated  
64 that there will be a first hearing, a public hearing will be scheduled and during the public hearing the audience can speak.

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66 Reed Clark, Stonehenge Rd, asked the Council, approximately when, there may be a public hearing about the area around the  
67 Common. Chairman Dolan stated that Smith will be giving an update on how the Council will proceed tonight.

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69 Fire Chief Darren O'Brien stated that he wanted to pass along some information. O'Brien stated that the week of May 18-24<sup>th</sup>  
70 is National Emergency Service Recognition Week so he would like to recognize the emergency responders that, throughout  
71 the State and Country, a job well done. O'Brien stated that one of the fire stations partners, Granite Ridge Energy, recently  
72 gave the department a \$500 donation for what is called Cal Gases, which is a material used to calibrate the monitoring devices  
73 for technical rescue and hazardous gases. Chairman Dolan asked Town Manager Smith to do a letter of appreciation for that.  
74 O'Brien stated that beginning on February 16<sup>th</sup> the department started dropping down to a staffing lever of 9, from 8 PM until  
75 8 AM. This was done after looking at the call statistics. Since then, on May 11<sup>th</sup>, the department had to drop down to a staffing  
76 lever of 9 for a 24 hour period of time. O'Brien stated that the Fire Department is doing their best to maintain their operating  
77 budget and he wanted to make the Council aware.

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79 Vice-Chairman Butler asked if it was 9 people with boots on the ground or 8 people with boots on the ground and one  
80 battalion chief. Chief O'Brien stated correct, 8 firefighters, paramedics and lieutenants and then a shift commander.

81  
82 Bo Butler, President of the Londonderry Firefighters, stated he wanted to relay the new staffing level that is now running at the  
83 fire department and voice his frustration. Butler stated that he read in the paper that the school is giving back a million dollars  
84 and for whatever reason the fire department can't take a little of it to maintain the staffing level at 10. Butler stated that now  
85 members are at an increased risk for their health and safety and he wanted the Council to be aware. Butler stated that Chief  
86 O'Brien has reached out to the Union and they are going to sit down and come up with a game plan of what can be done as the  
87 department is facing the tough situation that they are in.

88  
89 Vice Chairman Dolan brought up target shooting in the Musquash Conservation area. Butler stated that he believes every  
90 citizen has the right to bear arms. Butler emptied out a box of trash collected in the Musquash. Butler stated that he recently  
91 spent time walking the area in the past week. Butler stated that the target shooting being engaged in the Musquash is not  
92 responsible gun owners. Responsible gun owners are not careless. They do not leave behind shell cases and trash. Butler read  
93 the letter about the trash found. (See attached) Town Manager Smith stated that he did a pole on other Town Managers in the  
94 stated to see if other municipalities have local ordinance in Conservation Areas that limit target shooting but do allow hunting  
95 to happen. Smith stated that both Merrimack and Bow do post. Smith stated that Town Attorney Ramsdell stated that the town  
96 is allowed to post that target shooting would be prohibited but hunting be allowed in the areas with the understanding that if  
97 we post such, it would have to be enforced as well, through the Policing efforts in Town. Councilor Farrell asked Police Chief  
98 Hart if they can arrest anyone if they are caught in the Musquash. Chief Hart stated that at this point someone can be arrested  
99 for littering. Chief Hart stated that the Council will need to provide the police with some guidelines on how to enforce it.

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## OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Dolan stated that the Manchester Airport Authority update is the Council's opportunity to nominate an individual to fill the vacancy. Chairman Dolan stated that the Council used a multi-voting technique and narrowed it down to two top candidates which are Ray Brown and Elizabeth Larocca. Councilor Farrell made a motion to nominate Elizabeth Larocca, second by Vice Chairman Butler.

Councilor Freda asked why Elizabeth Larocca versus Ray Brown? Councilor Farrell stated that it is the candidate that was put up by the Manchester Authority and they are looking for community relations person. She is the only candidate who had a community relations background. Councilor Freda stated that he believes the whole process was a waste of the Council's time.

**Chair votes 3-2-0**

## NEW BUSINESS

Vice Chairman Butler ready **Order #2014-11**, an Order relevant to the distribution of Fire Equipment Capital Reserve Funds for 3 Panasonic Toughpads Tablets with detachable folding keyboards in the amount of \$7,767.06. Motion to approve Order #2014-11 made by Vice Chairman Butler and second by Councilor Farrell. Chief O'Brien stated that computers that the department has now is ten years old and can no longer update so new ones are needed. **Chair votes 5-0-0.**

Chairman Dolan introduced **Ordinance #2014-02**, an amendment to the Municipal Code relating to the regulation of secondhand dealers and pawnbrokers. Dolan stated that tonight will be the first reading and the next meeting there will be a Public Hearing when Detective Doyle can take the Council through the details of the Ordinance. Chairman Dolan read the Ordinance. Motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance #2014-02 made by Councilor Farrell and second by Councilor Freda. **Chair votes 5-0-0.**

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve meeting minutes from May 5, 2014 made by Councilor Farrell and second by Vice Chairman Butler. **Chair votes 5-0-0.**

## LIASON REPORTS

Councilor Green stated that he attended the Library meeting and usage is up. Also a Recreation Commission meeting. No other updates.

## TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Town Manager Smith gave an update on the spending freeze. The freeze is being continued through the month of May. Smith stated that we are pretty much where we need to be both on the revenue side and expenditure side. The big items that are over expended right now are the fire department overtime, \$188,000 in red. The overall fire department budget is about 92% expended as of mid-May. At the end of May we should be at about 91.6%. The other are in the legal bills. Smith stated that the town is at about 173% over expended on that line. Smith stated that being said we are pretty close to where we are supposed to be so the freeze will be lifted on June 1.

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146 Chairman Dolan introduce the Town Manager update on the town Forest stating that he just wants an update form Kevin and  
147 does not want it to become a big discussion. We should wait for the appropriate time. Smith state the bottom line is while the  
148 Master Plan is considered a legal document; it doesn't have any legal authority to force the Town to do anything. It is there to  
149 be used as a guide. Smith advised the public to come and watch the Master Implementation Committee. Smith stated that all  
150 possibilities need to be thought about carefully. Chairman Dolan stated that it needs to be decided as to if it will become an  
151 agenda item or be a workshop.

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## ADJOURNMENT

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Motion to adjourn made by Councilor Farrell and second by Councilor Green. **Chair votes 5-0-0.**

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Notes and Tapes by: Kirby Wade Date: 05/19/14

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Minutes Typed by: Kirby Wade Date: 05/25/14

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Approved by: Town Council Date: 06/02/14

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