

# LONDONDERRY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**September 27, 2021**

The meeting took place in the Moose Hill Council Chambers, 268B Mammoth Rd, Londonderry, NH 03053.

Present: Chairman John Farrell; Vice Chairman Joe Green; Councilor Tom Dolan and Deb Paul; Town Manager Kevin Smith; Assistant Town Manager Lisa Drabik; Executive Assistant Kirby Brown; Absent: Councilor Jim Butler

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Farrell called the Town Council meeting to order. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. This was followed by a moment of silence for all of the Americans who are trying to get out of Afghanistan and trying to get home.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Farrell stated that he will not be entertaining public comment outside of public comment.

Christine Perez, 5 Wesley Drive, stated that she wanted to go on record with the town so that the town understands that it's a tough situation they had another assessment. Taxes are killing the people. Perez stated that Londonderry has the most seniors per capita than any other town or city in the state. She stated that a lot of it is the school district. Perez stated that the number of children has gone down but we are spending so much money at the school level. Perez stated that the kids scores on state testing used to be high and in the paper. The scores are no longer good. Perez stated that she understands that the town has no jurisdiction but people are moving out because they can't afford to live here so someone has to be held accountable. Perez stated that something has to be done.

Ann Chiampa, 8 Wedgwood Drive, did a presentation on the naming of the Exit 4A road. Town Manager Smith stated that the names discussed at the last Council meeting went to our Heritage Commission and it is his understanding that the Heritage Commission wasn't

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34 crazy about either of those but they would like to suggest their own. Smith stated that at the  
35 end of the day DOT will make the decision. If Derry and Londonderry can't come to an  
36 agreement, DOT will decide themselves. Smith stated that he doesn't want anyone under  
37 the impression that whatever name is suggested tonight will be the name, there are two  
38 towns involved. Chiampa discussed the meaning behind her two-name suggestions. One is  
39 Rose Grants Road to represent Rose Grants, William Pillsbury. The second name is Rum  
40 Trail Road, which is originally seen years ago on a map created by the Historical Society.  
41 On it said Old Rum Trail. Councilor Paul suggested that they pass some street name ideas  
42 along to Woodmont as well. Smith stated that Chiampa should go to the Derry Heritage  
43 Commission. It would be great if both towns agreed on a name.

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45 Fire Chief Darren O'Brien discussed the Fire Department staying with the current  
46 manufacturer that all of the fleet is. Chief O'Brien stated that the 2013 ambulance is due for  
47 replacement and he wants the Councilors permission to waive the RFP process. Chief  
48 O'Brien gave a background on AEV, American Emergency Vehicles, who does the  
49 ambulance. Chief O'Brien stated that he would like to go with AEV moving forward.  
50 Chairman Farrell asked how much mileage was put on in eight years. Chief O'Brien stated  
51 that there's over 86,000. Councilor Dolan stated that he would support this process.

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53 Neil Dunn, 21 Sheerwood Road, discussed his ambulance bill. Dunn stated that he wants to  
54 discuss the bill he received and that there doesn't seem to be hard pricing. Dunn voiced his  
55 opinion on the RFP. Chairman Farrell stated that in the budget process, the town budgets  
56 about \$750k a year for fees for ambulance service for transport. The town usually bills  
57 somewhere between 1.2M-1.3M. Chairman Farrell stated that we charge at the Medicare  
58 rate, versus a private ambulance which is double what the town charges. Chairman Farrell  
59 stated that those funds are budgeted to replenish the ambulance, to stay even so that anything  
60 in the ambulance can be maintained. Chairman Farrell stated that it's a break-even process.

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62 Chairman Farrell stated that with regards to costs from the town side, going into budget  
63 season, the Council has given direction to the preparation of the budget, to hold the line,  
64 come in below default, do not increase spending. We are not looking to increase anything.  
65 If we do, we will go to the voters first to ask permission.

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### NEW BUSINESS

Town Manager Smith introduced the discussion regarding the feasibility of legal action related to PFAS contamination. Assistant Town Manager Lisa Drabik stated that when talking about a water district, where the town would construct or assume ownership of existing water system infrastructure like waterlines, hydrants, etc. or fund the installation of new ones. Maintain and service them and provide water to residents. The purpose of establishing one, to better control the costs. Drabik stated that the Council received a memo from herself, Mike Malaguti, John Trottier and Bob Kerry and Dave Wholley in which the recommend against a water district in Londonderry. Drabik stated that this memo is public. Drabik discussed the points in the memo. Mike Malaguti ask the Council for a vote to waive privilege for the limited topic of whether there is a basis ro proceed against Saint-Gobain for PFAS contamination. Motion to waive privileging on the memo presented made by Councilor Dolan and second by Vice Chairman Green. Chair votes 4-0-0. Malaguti went over the memo and the towns legal standing on being able to bring action against the company who brought all of this.

The Council discussed that a water district isn't the best route to go but they are open to other alternatives. Chairman Farrell listed off where the Council is at. At this point the Council needs to give direction to the staff at what they need to do next. We have three sources of water. Number one priority is to get clean water to people in town near term. We have Grants, call Commissioner Scott, get the feasibility study done by DES. Chairman Farrell stated that we also have to look out into the future. There are two bodies of water in the town. It leaves very small options to run a town size of 27,000 people. Chairman Farrell stated that we should look into whether those bodies of water can supplement what we are doing with the other water companies. The water district is a ballot questions, possibly in March to find out what the people of Londonderry think and the Council needs to put a number on it.

Craig Durrett, PFAS Task Force, stated that here in Londonderry, Pennichuck has several wells. Here in Londonderry, they rely a lot on bedrock which can be tough. Durrett stated that someone should do an evaluation of the geology. Chairman Farrell stated that actions for the staff as the feasibility study and the Grants. Chairman Farrell stated that the Council also needs to bring something to the voters.

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Councilor Dolan thanked the members of the PFAS Task Force and presented the member present with a certificate. Councilor Dolan invited up Craig Durrett and presented him with his certificate.

Chairman Farrell introduced Resolution #2021-23, a Resolution relative to authorizing a Master Lease-Purchase Agreement with TD Equipment Finance, Inc. Finance Director Justin Campo presented. Campo stated that this is TD Bank. Campo stated that he has received a few phone calls about why the town is leasing equipment. Campo stated that it's a tax code and RSA description. It's financing the equipment so the town at the end has the ability to look at the equipment and determine if there is still useful life on it and if not if they can roll it into another lease to save the taxpayers money on maintenance and things that could occur over the life of the vehicle. Campo stated that at the beginning of September, they put out an RFP through PFM, who acted on the towns behalf to obtain the best bids based on the amount of the equipment the town would lease over the next three to seven years. That total amount is about \$1.2M - \$1.3M for the current fiscal year the additional \$400k-\$500k in the resolution is for the next 2 fiscal years. These are all leases on the books or were voted on at this past election in March. Campo stated the rates are pretty good, for three years .681% and for seven years about 1.12%. Chairman Farrell stated that it has been a pretty successful program. Motion to approve Resolution #2021-23 made by Councilor Dolan and second by Vice Chairman Green. Chair votes 4-0-0.

Town Manager Smith stated that he is looking for consensus from the Council on RSA 72:81, Commercial Industrial Construction Exemption, and more ways to add tools to the town's economic development toolbox. Smith went over the new law. The Council gave consensus.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion to approve the Town Council minutes from September 13, 2021 made by Vice Chairman Green and second by Councilor Dolan. Chair votes 4-0-0.

Town manager Smith stated that he attended the ribbon cutting for Enterprise Bank and they are hoping to be operational by April of 2022.

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### **ADJOURNMENT**

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142 Motion to adjourn made by Vice Chairman Green and second by Councilor Dolan. Chair  
143 votes 4-0-0.

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145 Notes and Tapes by: Kirby Brown Date: 09/27/2021

146 Minutes Typed by: Kirby Brown Date: 09/30/2021

147 Approved by: Town Council Date: 10/04/2021