

TOWN OF DERRY

Town Council
Derry Municipal Center

November 24, 2020
Tuesday - 7:00 PM

7:00 PM Call to order

Although the Stay at Home Order has expired, Emergency Order #12 as issued by Governor Sununu remains in effect, which waives the requirement that a quorum be physically present in the meeting room; a meeting of a public body may be conducted with most or all members participating electronically. There is a contact number at the bottom of the Derry TV Cam screen with a phone number where members of the public can listen in and participate in the Public Forum and Public Hearing portions of the meeting. This access number was also posted along with the agenda and posted on the exterior doors of the Municipal Center. Please note that due to the physical absence of some Councilors, all votes taken shall be done by Roll Call.

Pledge of Allegiance, warning of fire exits, handicap access, & turn off all cell phones

Roll Call: Councilor's Katsakiores, Morgan, Tripp and Chairman Foote in-person and Councilor's Bourdon, Chirichiello and Wetherbee by Video.

Present: TA David Caron, Town Clerk Daniel Healey

Guests: Eric Spofford (CEO Granite Recovery Centers)
Katja Fox (Health Care Program Specialist at NH DHHS)
Chris Santaniello (Director Division of Economic and Housing Stability - NH DHHS)

New Business

20-113 Roundtable with Town Council – Information/Process on Homeless Relocation to Derry

Eric Spofford: (CEO – Granite Recovery Centers) – Started in Derry in 2008. In 2015 named business of the year from the Chamber of Commerce. Substance abuse is considered a disability and hopes the town is not here to challenge ADA. People cannot just leave the center, there are policies in place. Has been defensive because of the lack of compassion he has seen from some councilor's on social media and finds it stunning. Has been in the recovery field for 12 years and has served 10 of thousands of individuals. Stated he called the Town Administrator within 10 minutes of receiving an email from him. Will not be notifying the town every time he gets new residents.

Katja Fox: (Health Care Program Specialist at NH DHHS) – Looks at people as individuals with complex problems. Identifies where the resources are and matches the individuals.

Councilor Morgan – Questioned if Manchester followed their fiduciary responsibilities. Asked if the individuals are here until January or March as he has heard conflicting information. This is an informative meeting that was necessary after the story in the Union Leader. Eric is a valuable asset to the town.

Councilor Bourdon – Questioned why the meeting was called tonight and not just on the agenda at the next meeting. Believes the meeting is embarrassing and out of line but will sit through it. Other officials have a lack of compassion and need to be educated.

Councilor Chirichiello – Does not know Eric or anyone from DHHS. The County in the past has wanted to create housing without letting anyone from the town know and feels this was similar. The point of the special meeting was due to lack of notification to the town. The Council has questions and does not know why Councilor Bourdon would be embarrassed and would like to be notified in the future.

Councilor Tripp – If you are going to move individuals, you need a place to move them to. There was capacity at the Granite House to take them, so it sounds like a good plan and there was thought into the process.

Chairman Foote – Beneficial meeting to be transparent to the public and feels there was a positive outcome. Residents have been calling the councilor and the meeting was needed. Council needs to do their due diligence and he does not view this meeting as embarrassing.

Senator Birdsell – Thanked Eric for everything he does. Believes this was not a waste of time and it was the council doing their due diligence.

Representative Potucek – Thanked Eric for what he is doing.

Representative Prudhomme-O'Brien – Not a waste of time, an excellent idea. Thanked everyone involved. Communication is key.

Representative-Elect Layon – Questioned if everyone has agreed to sober living and was told yes. Asked how many of the 27 individuals were relocated to Derry and was told 9.

Adjournment: 8:05 p.m.



Town Clerk

Recording & Transcription by: Daniel Healey, Town Clerk

12-17-2020
Date