

**TOWN OF DERRY**

**Town Council  
Derry Municipal Center**

**July 29, 2019  
Tuesday - 7:00 PM**

---

**7:00 PM      Call to order**

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

**Roll Call:** Councilors Chirichiello, Foote, Tripp, Morgan, Bourdon and Chairman Wetherbee,  
Absent: Councilor Katsakiores  
Present: TA David Caron, Town Clerk Daniel Healey

**Consent Agenda**

**19-88** Ordinance #2019-007 – Amend various articles of the Zoning Ordinance to  
create the West Running Brook District

**Consent agenda approved**

**New Business**

**19-89** Town Council Position on State Budget – *Councilor Morgan presenting*

**Councilor Morgan moves to approve the letter to send to the State of New Hampshire as  
written, seconded by Councilor Bourdon**

**Roll Call Vote: 6-0-0**

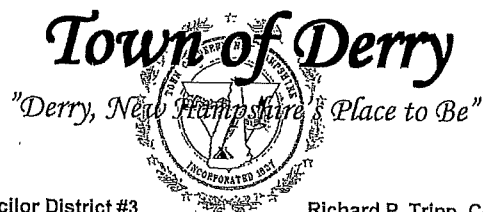
**Letter attached**

**Adjournment: 7:20 p.m.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Town Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Recording & Transcription by: Daniel Healey, Town Clerk**

**Town Council:**

Neil Wetherbee, Chair, Councilor District #3  
 Joshua R. Bourdon, Councilor at Large  
 Phyllis M. Katsakiores, Councilor at Large  
 James P. Morgan, Councilor at Large

Richard P. Tripp, Councilor District #1  
 Charles H. Foote, Councilor District #2  
 Brian K. Chirichiello, Councilor District #4

July 23, 2019

Governor John Sununu  
 Senate President Donna Soucy  
 House Speaker Steve Shurtleff  
 State House  
 Concord, NH 03101

***Via email***

Dear Governor Sununu, Senate President Soucy and House Speaker Shurtleff,

The Town of Derry appreciated the invitation to Concord on July 19th for the Governor's overview of his Common Ground Compromise proposal to resolve differences with the State's budget. The Town Council is also in receipt of a letter from the Senate President and House Speaker on this topic. While we are appreciative of these communications the Town Council is facing serious budget issues with our School District and significant tax burdens on our property taxpayers and we request this budget stalemate be resolved expeditiously.

We understand that all agree to return millions of dollars to cities, towns and school districts. We applaud this effort and encourage state leaders to continue to assist with property tax relief. We would also encourage the Governor and Legislature to reinstate sustainable revenue sharing to fund State obligations such as General Revenue Sharing, Police, Fire and Teacher retirement contributions and fully fund Meals and Rooms Tax revenue sharing as currently required by law. Derry property taxpayers have absorbed over \$4.5M in additional costs annually as a result of the Legislature's actions, which do not include the impacts resulting from a reduction in various education funding programs.

Since the elimination of these obligations, the Legislature has transformed traditional and statutory "revenue sharing" into a "profit sharing" plan, whereby state obligations to municipalities are partially fulfilled if funds are available. Money coming back to our community that is not sustainable creates great concern as the Town operates under a tax cap and cannot easily recapture revenue that is unavailable in future years.

*14 Manning Street . Derry, New Hampshire 03038 . Tel 603.432.6100 . Fax 603.432.6131*

*Website: [www.derrynh.org](http://www.derrynh.org)*

We understand that a disagreement exists whether the proposed budget produces a structural deficit going forward. We recognize the difficult challenges that a structural deficit presents moving forward and urge all sides to this debate to find common ground to realistically identify and address this matter immediately.

The Town Council is also concerned of the optic in raising Business Profits Taxes as Derry is in the process of working with developers and investors in our community. Where Derry already has high property taxes additional business taxes could present a picture to our potential new businesses that this is a trend within the State of moving higher on taxes in general. This optic is of great concern as we attempt to develop land and increase our tax base to offset property taxes without relying on additional State revenues.

The Town Council respectfully requests that you reach a compromise and end this budget disagreement for the people of Derry and New Hampshire. Don't turn New Hampshire into Washington, D.C. where compromise is seen as unacceptable. We again wish to thank you for the communications but at the same time believe the true and just service to the citizens of New Hampshire would be in compromise.

Respectfully Submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Neil Wetherbee, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
James P. Morgan, Chair Pro-Tem

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joshua R. Bourdon

\_\_\_\_\_  
Charles H. Foote

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phyllis M. Katsakiores

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian K. Chirichiello

\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard P. Tripp

*14 Manning Street . Derry, New Hampshire 03038 . Tel 603.432.6100 . Fax 603.432.6131*

*Website: [www.derrynh.org](http://www.derrynh.org)*