

TOWN OF DERRY

Town Council
Derry Municipal Center

January 26, 2016
Tuesday - 7:00 PM

SPECIAL MEETING

6:30 PM Non-Public Session- RSA 91A:II (c)

Councilor Osborne moved to seal minutes of Non-Public Session under RSA 91A:II (c), seconded by Councilor Cardon.

Vote: 7-0-0

Motion to adjourn nonpublic Councilor Osborne, seconded Councilor Tripp – all agreed

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

Roll Call: Councilors Tripp, Fischer, Osborne, Bourdon, Dimmock, Katsakiores and Chairman Cardon

Present: Susan Hickey, Interim Town Administrator & Denise E Neale, Town Clerk

Councilor Fischer moved to take up Item #16-18 next, Councilor Cardon suggested Item #16-17 also, seconded by Councilor Osborne – all agreed.

New Business –

16-18 Appointment – Interim Town Administrator

Move to appoint Municipal Resources, Inc. as Interim Town Administrator under Charter Section 8.4 (B) to serve at the will of the Town Council.

Motion by Councilor Cardon, seconded by Councilor Fischer

Discussion:

Councilor Katsakiores commented that she would like Public Works Director, Mike Fowler to be Interim Town Administrator as he is capable. She is considering the cost of hiring the Interim Town Administrator (MRI) at \$100 per/hour as the budget season is approaching and the Town will need to cut costs.

Councilor Tripp had questions on the MRI contract.

Vote: 5-2-0 (Councilor Katsakiores & Bourdon)

16-17 Appointment – HR Director and Assistant Town Administrator

Move to appoint William Scimone as Human Resource Director/Assistant Town Administrator to serve under the Town Administrator under Charter Section 8.6 (B).

Motion by Councilor Cardon, seconded by Councilor Dimmock.

Discussion:

Councilor Fischer would like to re-open the search for this position.

Councilor Dimmock suggested this be a temporary appointment until a new Town Administrator is hired.

Councilor Bourdon questioned the hours per/week.

Ms. Hickey replied that it is a part-time position 28 hours/week or 3 days, but they are flexible.

Vote: 4-1-1 (Councilor Fischer) (Councilor Bourdon abstained)

16-16 Budget Scenarios and Calendar

Ms. Hickey provided a slide presentation of the preliminary budget figures for FY17 and related scenarios.

Councilor Tripp asked questions regarding the bond of \$3M for roadway management projects and what the interest would be on the bond. *Ms. Hickey- approximate total interest \$187,000*

Councilor Fischer stated there is no one exact number that will be the answer to the budget challenge. The Council should continue efforts to lower taxes in the Town of Derry. His proposal is that Council ask administration to find ways to lower the tax rate below \$9.16 and be responsive to the community. How much lower is up to administration without impacting services and safety.

Councilors Osborne, Fischer and Katsakiores questioned overtime costs and the causes shown in the FY17 preliminary scenarios.

Fire Chief Gagnon responded there are currently 6 vacant positions; 4 paramedics & 2 firefighters. Recently they held interviews for the paramedic positions. They have 12 candidates and in two weeks they will interview 12 candidates for the 2 firefighter positions. One of the challenges of the new hires is that they ask if their position will be safe in the next budget. In the beginning of March conditional offers will be made. In 3-4 weeks after the background checks are complete a full offer will be made.

Chief Garone responded that the Police Department have 8 vacancies and it is difficult to recruit policemen not just in Derry but in NH & around the country. They presently have 1 recruit in the police academy. They recently tested 55 candidates and they only have 4-5 candidates to look at. These candidates would not be a benefit to Town of Derry for 6 months. Vacancy coverage is done by overtime. It will be 18 months before these positions are fulfilled.

Councilor Bourdon asked for further details as to how staffing levels play an impact on overtime. There was a suggestion to change the name of the overtime line in the budget to Coverage Overtime.

Councilor Cardon had questions of the 7 vacancies, we didn't find experienced policemen and what is the cost of the Academy. *Chief Garone stated people were worried about the stability of positions due to budget restraints so there weren't any that applied. The cost of academy is \$30,000 - \$40,000.*

There was more discussion regarding mandated costs, road management and the 10 year bond. Ms. Hickey was asked if she and Mike Fowler are comfortable regarding the bonding of the road management plan. *Ms. Hickey replids yes and that this method has been done in Londonderry.* The question came up if there were any other areas that could be bonded since the interest rates are so low and if there were any other ideas or projects that would help with tax reduction. It was questioned if Unassigned Fund Balance would be used for tax credits & exemption to stay level funded.

Chairman Cardon asked if anyone would like to address the budget schedule.

Councilor Fischer feels it is strongly important to have communication and ask questions of the department heads after 4/1/16. However he did not think it is beneficial to have the three meetings with them.

Councilor Fischer stated he would at least like to see \$9.15 as a tax rate. With a new set of eyes from the new Interim Town Administrator and direction from administration he would like to see a minimum of a \$.01.

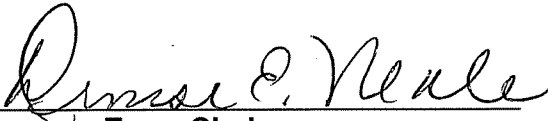
Councilor Bourdon asked if the bond project is implemented there would be a \$1.1M savings to the budget. He asked what the total cut would be with the \$.01. *Ms. Hickey replied we would need \$.29.* He questioned what would be the estimate tax cut if the bond is taken. *Ms. Hickey replied more than \$.43 with no impact to safety or services.* He is fine with bonding as long as the Town can secure the lowest interest rate for bond. He doesn't see the benefit of going line by line over the budget as it is micromanaging.

Councilor Cardon would like the department heads to give a brief synopsis about their budget presentation and also feels line by line is micromanaging.

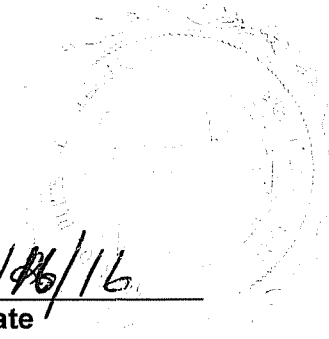
Councilor Katsakiores thanked the Senior Advisory Committee for hosting a blood drive and they received 200 pints. She also thanked the Calvary Bible Church.

She congratulated Councilor Joshua Bourdon for receiving the Union Leaders "40 under 40" which is a program that awards some of the state brightest and youngest achievers in Professionalism and Volunteerism.

Adjournment 8:27.pm



Town Clerk


2/16/16

Date