

TOWN OF DERRY

Town Council
Derry Municipal Center

February 5, 2013
Tuesday - 7:30 PM

7:15 PM Non-Public Session under RSA 91A:3 II (c) – Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the body or agency itself, unless such person requests an open meeting

7:30 PM Call to order

Pledge of Allegiance, Warning of Fire Exits, Handicap Access, Turn off all Cell Phones

Roll Call: Chairman Benson, Councilors Milz, Olbricht, Wetherbee, Fairbanks, Katsakiores and Chirichiello

Consent Agenda

- 13-06 Approve Minutes – January 8, 2013
- 13-07 Schedule Public Hearing – February 19, 2013 –
Approve FY 2014 & FY 2015 Public Health Network Grant
- 13-08 Refund of Interest Request

Approved

Chairman's Report - None

Town Administrator's Report – John P. Anderson

Frost Festival is February 15 – 17th. Tickets are available at the Recreation Dept. or the Town Administration Office.

There was a false alarm "lockdown" on Tuesday, January 29th. We are working through some of the issues.

Public Forum – Non Agenda Items

Open Public Forum 7-0-0

Senator Jim Rausch, District 19 – The Senator discussed how he was alarmed over the school deliberative session on February 2nd. There was a vote of 49-34 to put an additional \$800,000 into their FY13-14 budget. He has supported schools and the school board for over 40 years and believes the success of the state of New Hampshire is based on a well-educated work force. We have lost the essential needs and wants on the school board. The Senator referred to page 18 of the Derry Cooperative School proposed budget which was voted on and approved by the School Board. In the report it had estimated local tax payments of \$38M under column for ensuing year. The new vote estimates local tax payments of \$44M. That is a \$6M increase estimate to be raised for education through property taxes. He is upset that three school board members with approximately 40 teachers voted to raise the \$800,000. This new total equates to an additional \$2.97 on the tax rate. It is alarming come March 12th, the voters inattention to this and if the default budget passes, there is only a \$42,000 difference. He is alarmed by the process that allows less than 50 people to raise the tax rate. The process has failed for what was it was originally intended. He is now convinced that the budgets need to be under the control of a city form of government. That type of

disconnect cannot be accommodated in this community. He would like to move forward and support a charter that leads us in a direction of making Derry a city with one budgetary system. The decline in our school population: we lost 1,230 children in the last 10 years, possibly 100 in FY12-13 and maybe another 100 in FY13-14.

Steve Trefethen – Handed a document to the Town Council and read the special verdict of December 17, 2012 civil conspiracy finding against the Town. Mr. Trefethen also complained that his taxes went up. It's time to "clean house".

Roberta Robie, Chester Rd – Stated that she too is upset about the increase in the tax rate and the school budget but stated that changing Derry to a city is not the answer. We need to get people on the school board who care about taxes. We need an account of each classroom and how many children in each class. She also applauds Senator Rausch for all his hard work at the schools but no one wants to listen.

Al Dimmock, High St – No one wants to be on school board. There were three open positions and two incumbents are running for re-election. It is up to the people whether Derry is to become a city or stay as a town.

Close Public Forum 7-0-0

Councilor Olbricht reminded everyone that the School Board meetings are the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month and anyone with issues should attend these meetings.

Public Hearings- none scheduled

New Business

13-05 Appointments to Robert Frost/Old Stage Coach Scenic Byway Council

Move to Appoint Margaret Ives as a member to the Robert Frost/Old Stage Coach Scenic Byway Council for a 1 year term.

Moved by Councilor Benson, seconded by Councilor Wetherbee.

Vote: 7-0-0

Move to Appoint Richard Holmes as a member of the Robert Frost/Old Stage Coach Scenic Byway Council for a 1 year term.

Moved by Councilor Benson, seconded by Councilor Katsakiores.

Vote: 7-0-0

Move to Appoint David Gomez as an Alternate Member of the Robert Frost/Old Stage Coach Scenic Byway Council for a 1 year term.

Moved by Councilor Benson, seconded by Councilor Wetherbee.

Vote: 7-0-0

Move to Appoint Katherine Prudhomme-O'Brien as an Alternate Member of the Robert Frost/Old Stage Coach Scenic Byway Council for a 1 year term.

Moved by Councilor Benson, seconded by Councilor Milz.

Vote: 7-0-0

13-09 Restoration of State Funding to Environmental State Aid Grants

Tom Carrier - gave an overview of State Funding for the sewage disposal facilities. We have been preapproved since 2006. In 2009, the state had no money. RSA 486:1 will pay annually 20 percent including principal and interest. Mr. Carrier has reviewed HB 623. The Town is owed \$1M from state. The statute hasn't been rescinded and they are still approving grants.

Move the Resolution by Council Milz, seconded by Councilor Wetherbee
Vote 7-0-0
(See attached Resolution)

13-10 Approve receipt & expenditure of LGC Health & Safety "Coordinator Cash" Grant for \$500

Mr. Anderson highlighted this grant for the Town Council.

Move that the Derry Town Council approve the receipt and expenditures of the award from the New Hampshire Local Government Center in the amount of \$500.00. Motion by: Wetherbee, seconded by Milz.
Vote: 7-0-0

Council Requests / Open Discussion

Councilor Chirichiello, wanted to thank Public Works for the great job they did on the 2nd & 3rd snowstorms.

Councilor Katsakiores – Asked the group of ladies in the audience where they were from. Christina Salomini, explained they are all from St Anselm College. They are a Senior Nursing class and are doing a community assessment of the Town Derry of as part of their studies. They are assessing the environment, schools, businesses, and public health.

Councilor Fairbanks – Questioned the Cable TV contracts for Senior Citizen discounts. Mr. Anderson believes this contract runs through 2016. Councilor Chirichiello stated that cable provide three tiers of service and the senior discount is on the lowest tier only.

Councilor Fairbanks – is the library liaison and they are looking for a way to escalate the fines that have not been collected. Lost fines for 2011 are \$21,000 and for 2012 are \$24,000.

Councilor Wetherbee – Expressed his frustration and disappointment regarding the deliberative school session. They added back in \$800,000 to the proposed budget. This was to restore positions. This vote was carried out by 49 people. What doesn't make sense is the positions cut only account for \$649,000. They need to become fiscal responsible and have accountability.

Chairman Benson – will be sending out by email a checklist of open items to the Town Council to review.

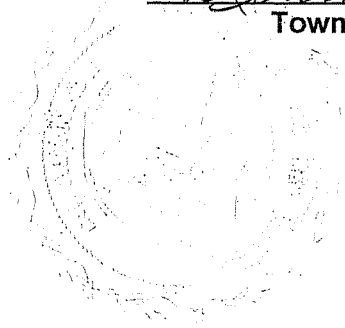
The meeting was adjournment 8:35 PM

Denise E Neale

Town Clerk

2-19-13

Date



**Recording & Transcription: Denise E. Neale, Town Clerk
Reviewed by John P. Anderson, Town Administrator**