

TOWN OF DERRY

Town Council  
Derry Municipal Center

July 17 2018  
Tuesday - 7:00 PM

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6:00 PM Non-Public Session 91A:3 II (d)  
7:00 PM Call to order

**Councilor Tripp moves to leave non-public session, seconded by Councilor Katsakiores – all agreed**

**Councilor Tripp moves to seal 91A:3 II (d), seconded by Councilor Katsakiores – all agreed**

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

**Roll Call:** Councilors Chirichiello, Foote, Tripp, Wetherbee, Katsakiores, Bourdon and Chairman Morgan

Present: TA David Caron, Town Clerk Daniel Healey, CFO Susan Hickey

**Public Forum - \*30 Minutes\***

**Open Public Forum – all agreed**

Bill Cooper: Hood Rd – He lives at Nutfield Heights and stated that he has been evicted four times but still resides there. He said that he has problems with management and questions the way they treat people. The Town Council suggested that Code Enforcement and Assistant Fire Chief Scott Jackson work with Mr. Cooper to see if there is anything they can do to help. Chairman Morgan suggested reaching out to the Derry Veteran's Assistance Fund.

Tom Cardon: Cunningham Dr – Believes that the \$860k in extra revenue from the school budget should go back to the taxpayers.

**Motion by Councilor Katsakiores to close public forum, seconded by Councilor Bourdon – all agreed**

**Consent Agenda**

18-83 Approve Minutes – June 19, 2018

18-84 Resolution #2018-039 – FEMA Grant – Schedule Public Hearing – August 14

18-85 Approval of Elderly Exemptions

**Consent agenda approved**

**Chairman's Report – James Morgan**

The Town Council held a discussion with the School Board Chair, Lynn Perkins and School Board Member Dan McKenna regarding what to do with extra revenues. The school board stated that there are three options. The first is to return all of the money back to the taxpayers which would result in a .0 cent increase next year. The second option is to return half of the revenue which would result in a .15 cent increase and the third option was to not return any of the money and use it for increases in the future; which would result in a .31 cent increase next

year. The Town Council suggested that the school board return half of the money. A second legislative committee meeting was proposed for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in September.

Lieutenant Richard Fisher from the Derry Fire Department was recognized for 25 years of service. He was born and raised in Derry and graduated from Pinkerton Academy.

Chairman Morgan attended a robotics event with Governor Sununu and Dean Kamen. These robotics teams are sponsored by local companies and any company that wants to donate and sponsor a team can do so.

There will be a Council goals workshop this Thursday, June 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at First Parish Church with the tour beginning at 5:30pm.

**Town Administrator's Report – David Caron**

CFO Susan Hickey and Bill Fazioli from PFM Financial Advisors LLC presented the Town of Derry's Bond rating. This is a measurement of resource and the ability and willingness to manage. These ratings are trend oriented. The higher the Town's credit rating, the lower the borrowing costs. AA rated communities receive rates between 20-30 bps lower than A rated communities. The Town has shown a history of conservative financial management, strong reserves, good cash levels, moderate debt burden and an expanding tax base. Chairman Morgan presented t-shirts for the Town Council and CFO Susan Hickey and her department reflecting the AAA rating.

The Council requests periodic updates on the status of the Town's Elderly Exemption program. The program provides a tax break for eligible taxpayers based upon age, income, assets and residency. Currently, the Town provides an exemption of up to \$85,000 of assessed value for those eligible property owners whose age is between 65-74; \$125,000 for ages 75-79 and \$165,000 for ages 80 and older. Certain ownership and residency requirements are established under state statute, while Derry has established income and asset limits under which a property owner becomes eligible. The Town Council was given information on the fiscal impact of expanding the program.

At a previous Town Council meeting, a resident asked for the return on investment for certain projects in town. The Transfer Station upgrade avoided a \$1.5M annual cost of curbside collection, recycling efforts generate \$173k for metal, cardboard and paper; and \$360k for demo disposal. The street light conversion has resulted in a 64% reduction in electrical usage annually. There has been a savings of \$250k over the past 10 years since making the Municipal Center energy efficient. There have been reductions of 51% in heating costs and a 25% reduction in electrical usage since making the Veteran's Memorial building more energy efficient. The Police Department has implemented energy efficient saving measures with a 1-2 year payback with 26% reduction in annual kilowatt usage. The Town has been reducing electrical costs by purchasing power from a competitive supplier. This has resulted in an

electrical cost savings in excess of \$750k over ten years and a 10-15% annual savings in fuel costs.

### **New Business**

#### **18-87 Resolution #2018-040 – Derry Downtown Façade Improvement Program Revisions – *Town Administrator David Caron***

The Town Council previously established a Derry Downtown Facade Improvement Program and appropriated \$100,000 for the program pursuant to Resolution #2017-055. The program matched up to \$5,000 per property for facade improvements which met design requirements as adopted by the Council. The program has enjoyed success, as the Town received applications seeking \$31,718.50 in grant funds. These funds have leveraged over \$141,578 in private investment. With funds remaining in the program, staff recommends that the program be expanded to 1) allow grant applications for up to \$5,000 per store front, and 2) increase the geographical area in which property owners may apply. The Economic Development Advisory Committee met on July 2 and unanimously supported the expansion of this program. Staff has received 4 additional applications from property owners in anticipation of the boundary expansion. Together, with the projects in Phase I, it is anticipated that \$51,718.50 will be obligated. EDAC and staff will return to the Council at a later date to report on the program's accomplishments and may seek future replenishment of the fund. There is no fiscal impact as the program proposes to utilize funds previously appropriated by the Town Council. The Town Council discussed not allowing tax exempt businesses to take part in the program.

**Councilor Tripp moves that the Town Council not accept tax exempt properties under the expanded Derry Downtown Façade Improvement program, seconded by Councilor Bourdon**

**Roll Call Vote: 7-0-0**

**Councilor Wetherbee MOVES THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL adopt amended Resolution #2018-040, which reads as follows [*Read the Resolution*], seconded by Councilor Bourdon**

**Roll Call Vote: 7-0-0**

**Resolution attached**

### **Councilor Comments**

Councilor Tripp – He is the liaison to the Derry Public Library and they recently hosted a Rail Trail presentation that was quite interesting. The goal is to extend the trail from Salem to Lebanon. The presenters were impressed with Derry's progress on the trail and there will be either an overpass or an underpass near Exit 4A.

Councilor Chirichiello – There will be a NH Department of Transportation meeting regarding Exit 4A on July 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at West Running Brook Middle School.

Councilor Foote – Sergeant Tom Block, a US Army Ranger who was wounded by an improvised explosive device will receive a new home in Derry thanks to Jared Allen's Homes for Wounded Warriors, New England Regional Council of Carpenters, North and South Construction, and many other sponsors and supporters.

Chairman Morgan – Would like the School Board members to show a little more concern for the tax rate and realize that the town is not trying to take anything away from teachers or students but believes that budget could be handled better.

**Adjournment: 9:40p.m.**

  
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Town Clerk

8-30-18

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Date

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