

TOWN OF DERRY

Town Council
Derry Municipal Center
14 Manning Street



Tuesday, October 6, 2026
3rd Floor Meeting Room

MINUTES

**5:45 PM Non-Public Session – RSA 91A:3 II (e) (I) - Motion by Councilor Webb to enter non-public session, seconded by Councilor Milz
All Agreed**

**Motion by Councilor Webb to leave the non-public session, seconded by Councilor Foote
Roll Call Vote: 7-0-0**

**Motion by Councilor Webb to seal the minutes per RSA 91A:3 II (e) (I) indefinitely because it is determined that the divulgence of this information would render a proposed action ineffective, seconded by Councilor Foote
Roll Call Vote: 7-0-0**

7:00 PM Call to order – Chair Spencer

Roll Call: Councilors Milz, Healey, Chase, Flood, Foote, Webb, Chair Spencer

Remote: None

Absent: None

Present: TA Michael Fowler, Town Clerk Tina Guilford

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

Public Forum - *30 Minutes*

**Motion by Councilor Foote to open public forum, seconded by Councilor Milz
All Agreed**

Jason Legasse, Horseshoe Drive - Good evening, everybody. And I'm here representing the Horseshoe Drive residents with me today, behind me. Our group includes families whose properties abut or are in close proximity to the Pumpkin Wall Farm, and we represent residents who have lived on Horseshoe Drive for 16 to 60 years. We are here today requesting the council to review and enforce the parking concerns reviewed during the April 2023 TRC meeting and follow-up Derry Highway Safety Committee meeting of July 20, 2023. We are providing the council with highlighted copies of pertinent sections of the TRC meeting notes and the Highway Safety Committee meeting notes. The above meetings discussed parking concerns at Pumpkin Wall Farm at 56 Tsienneto Road. According to the TRC meeting minutes, the farm stated they wanted people to visit the farm to park in their driveway. The existing driveway fits five cars, and those cars have the ability to turn around on their property without backing onto Tsienneto Road. If there were more than five cars, the overflow cars could park on her property between the chain link fence and Horseshoe Drive. Mark from Public Works noted that on-street parking should not be permitted or endorsed as residents of Horseshoe and Barkland Drive would be negatively impacted. Police Captain Michaud recommended the parking proposal be reviewed

by the Derry Highway Safety Committee meeting. TRC directed the farm to take parking issues to the Highway Safety Committee. The farm stated five cars can fit comfortably in their driveway with a parking assistant overflow if needed on the property off the street on the Horseshoe Drive side facing the chain link fence. The farm asked for permission to have vehicles parked on Horseshoe Drive side in front of the chain link fence and when needed to park a bus or a van where the school bus is parked now. Alan Cote stated the buses or vans should park parallel to Horseshoe Drive and suggest that a driveway permit be applied for in front of the chain link fence if they choose to make parking for their personal vehicles on that side of the property. No action was taken from the committee. The summary of our request is what was represented by Pumpkin Hill Farm for parking in 2023 has not been 5 to 10 cars with small groups of 6 to 10 people. It has, over the past few years, turned into large group.

**Councilor Foote MOTIONS to extend time, seconded by Councilor Healey
All Agreed**

Thank you. Sorry for the long speech here. Um, it has, over the past few years, turned into large group outings and tours at the farm with numerous cars traveling up and down Horseshoe Drive. We now have cars turning into our driveways to turn around and parking in front of our homes and sometimes on our properties. It has become an infringement on our lives and a nuisance that we are asking the council to stop. Please request Pumpkin Wall Farm to park all visiting vehicles only on Pumpkin Wall Farm property as they requested in both the TRC meeting of April 2023 and the Derry Highway Safety Committee meeting in 2023. If you look carefully at the pictures we are providing you, you can clearly see how close the stockade fence is next to Horseshoe Drive. The town may not be able to snowplow the road properly or completely as there is no room to push the snow off the road. We ask the town to address our parking concerns before a snowstorm could magnify the parking problem.

Don Burnum, Horseshoe Drive – I again, with our group, we have other concerns. And these concerns are at least as significant, if not more significant, than just the parking issue. Our additional concerns include, but are not limited to, commercial business being conducted in a residentially zoned property, environmental and health concerns. These are all related to Pumpkin Wall Farm. Pollution concerns involving air and water, potential town ordinance and code violations from polluted water and manure runoff into the town's sewer catch basin on Tsienneto Road, as well as the wetland beside Barkland Drive. Manure storage not in compliance with standards, both town and state. Abundance of flies as a result of excessive manure storage and potential health concerns. The nuisance created by constant dog barking and the noise from the donkeys. Excessive number of animals contained on the property pursuant to state and UNH guidelines. Infringement on our neighborhood and a tremendous nuisance to Horseshoe Drive and the surrounding area residents. We'd like to address these issues with the council in future meetings, okay, and would like to be put on the council's agenda beginning with the next regularly scheduled meeting. We also want to thank the council for hearing our concerns tonight and working with us to resolve these problems. I don't know how we get on the agenda or what the process is. I'm not familiar with that.

Councilor Spencer - I think the next step, can they reach out to you, Mike, to kind of talk through what we're actually looking at?

Town Administrator Fowler - I'm aware of the concerns, and I do want to indicate that our Code Enforcement Department has been contacted about this and has done some preliminary investigations. So, it's not as if this is a new concern. We're waiting through some of the specifics. But what I would urge you to do is contact me personally, and then we can talk through what those steps are. My email is on the town website and also a phone number. But

just give me a call, and I can talk you through some of the next steps. At any time, you have the ability to go through the public forum process. But in terms of actually taking steps, that is through the town staff and attorneys that actual action would have to be taken. So, this is a governing and a legislative body, but the actual administrative portion would come through the town administrator and then through the staff. So that's probably the more effective way to do that, and that's why we should probably have a discussion, and I can talk you through the steps.

Brian Selling, Wentworth Lane - Hello, ladies and gentlemen. I'm a retired lieutenant colonel in the United States Army, and I'm the commander of the Derry VFW, post 1617. We recently completed a renovation of our canteen, valued at approximately \$200,000, which was completed in eight short weeks. And we couldn't have done it without some of the folks in your departments. I contacted Mr. Fowler back in late June, but I'd like to reference these individuals. Keri Owen, Code Enforcement, she met with us in May. Also, thank you, Mr. Foote for setting us up with that meeting. She's very helpful, and she also later made herself available at very short notice to meet with myself and the designer to answer some questions. Courtney Bogart of the Health Department called me on her day off after I had left an email with some questions, which is also quite commendable. She's also very helpful when we were finishing up our final inspection. Lucy Peoples and Fire Inspector Christopher Heaven also provided some great advice, and like Ms. Owen, followed up with questions rapidly. And in fact, Fire Inspector Christopher Heaven came made a special trip after his normal duty hours to answer some questions regarding our sprinkler system. And finally, Eileen Boudreau of the Planning Office was very helpful on the days that we were dropping materials off or had questions, as well as finishing up the final inspections. And this was even more commendable because there were several people in the office all with different questions and issues, and she handled everything simultaneously. It was really amazing to watch her work. So, I do appreciate the efforts of the town employees. I know that a lot of times you get complaints, but in this case, everything worked well, and we're very appreciative of that. Thank you.

Tony Bruno, Oak Street - Good evening, Madam Chair, and council, I'm here to talk about veterans. Veterans should take care of veterans. And this has happened to me. The last two years, I have a lot of health issues. In the last two years a lot of things happened. And I got Mr. Councilman, Mr. Foote and Ernie St. Pierre got together and got a bunch of firemen and got a bunch of retired firemen, and they put a handicap ramp in for me. And me and my wife are not that healthy. So then the first year went by, then my health got worse and worse. Then I'm fighting it back, getting back to normal. Turned around, they came back. I was in the hospital again. My wife said on the phone, it was about 20 below counting the wind factor. And the firemen, Charlie Foote and Ernie St. Pierre, they didn't quit. My wife invited them all in the house to have coffee and stuff. They wouldn't do it until it got completely done. Then they rolled me back in the house again. So but turned around, looking at it, where I'm getting about the veterans is I said that 30 years ago, we should try to take care of ourselves. When I have appointments, when I first got out of the hospital, Charlie Foote took me up to the VA. Richard Tripp took me down to Jamaica Plains, Roxbury for my appointments. Ernie St. Pierre, Billy Mannon, it just goes on. I've been a member of the VFW for 60 years, over 60 years, American Legion over 60 years, and, and DAV for 60 years. I can't believe what they did in the town of Derry. When I was in Salem down there for rehab for the third time, Commander Danny Styles showed up. Billy Mannon showed up. I got telephone calls. The neighbors in my neighborhood and everything, just unbelievable. When it started snowing, they were over there with shovels cleaning the walkways and stuff. And I got help from the community, people from East Derry and everything. I just, you know, born and raised in Derry, I just thought this was never going to how it turned out to me.

It's just a story. I have to have my infusion. I won't be here 2 weeks from this Tuesday after you people discuss, tonight about the veteran tax credits.

MOTION to extend time by Councilor Foote, seconded by Councilor Healey
Roll call Vote: 7-0-0

Thank you, Chairperson. It's just, just unbelievable. When I turned around, I got offered by Councilman Webb you ever need a ride. I lost it, I just don't want to bring my garbage up too much. I lost four loved ones in the last two years. And I got to give thanks to Councilman Randy Chase for the support. This way and that way. It's tough. It's tough out there. I just don't want to move out of the town of Derry, but, you see what's got to go on. I appreciate it really. And I mean, it's just unbelievable what veterans can do for veterans. You know what I mean? It's just, that's the name of the game. It's a good thing. Town Manager Mike talked to me out in the parking lot, told me this was coming up. So, I said, I'll make the meeting this winter. He asked how I've been doing. He said, "You've been going through some tough times." So, the word gets around. But nobody wants to put their stuff out. But if it wasn't for Charlie Foote and Ernie St. Pierre, I don't know what to what to say. And you, Spencer, when I was talking to you, you're going to have some pink in your hair now. No, I'm just joking. I think everybody knows me. I know Randy. I know Doug. I know Charlie. I know Spencer. I call him Spencer all the time. Father was a good veteran too. Mr. Webb, I know Danny, and I know Dave, so. And I know Mike. I worked for Mike. I only had to work under him for two years. Thank you very much. That's all I have to say. How the American Legion I mean, I was really surprised and everything. You know, it's just, people still offer me rides, you know. So, Richard Tripp will be taking me up two weeks from now for my infusion, so. That's all. Thank you very much.

Michael Layon, Tsienneto Road - Good evening, councilors. I was wrong, and I'm sorry. You probably don't hear those words often, and I can tell you on this side of these chairs here in this room, we don't hear that often either. At the last meeting, I reported what I had heard and saw pictures of a town council meeting taking place at the primary voting. Actually required. I want to thank Tina for bringing that up. I stand incorrect that that was not permitted. And I appreciate the time each of you put into the voting process. It's something I think a lot of people in town very much value. I was wrong. I'm sorry. And I hope you all have a good night. Thank you.

Hollie Hesse, Horseshoe Drive - The reason why we're all here tonight is because I've been working with the town administrator, and Dan Healey's been helping us since May. And we haven't gotten any resolution. In fact, the last time I had a conversation with the town administrator, he recommended that our street should what do you call it? What did you say?

Town Administrator Fowler - I'm not sure exactly what you're referring to.

Hollie Hesse - Oh, of course. Do you remember?

Town Administrator - no parking ban was recommended.

Hollie Hesse - No parking ban because he didn't want to hold Pumping Wall Farm accountable.

Chair Spencer - So, I'm going to I'm going to stop you there. I think you can speak to your experience, but I would encourage you not to make assumptions.

Hollie Hesse - Okay. I'm sorry. So that is why we're here. Because we've been working, and Code Enforcement went out there, and we haven't heard anything. Nothing has been done. So that's why we have to show up here. And he's telling us to give, I emailed him pictures. They

have videos. They have everything that's been happening at this farm since May. Well, it's been going on for a couple of years, but I really started communicating with them since May. And we're getting no feedback, nothing. And all I hear is, "They're going to be a site to plan," being sent out, nothing. And so that's why we're here. And if we have to keep on coming back because we're getting no response from him, that's exactly what we're going to keep on doing. Thank you.

David Provencher, Miltimore Road - I appreciate Mr. Layon coming up and apologizing for what he said a couple of weeks back. He said a lot of other things too. But I'm not here to start an argument with the Layons as much as I'd like to. I want to talk to you, I want to talk to the voters of Derry, mostly, the people watching at home and the people sitting in the gallery here, about, question two on the ballot coming up for this November. It's part of a whole process and a number of other things that our current representatives have been very proudly talking about their involvement with that are at their heart, an attack on our public schools. And there are little things here and there that are all meant to add up to making it harder for the school board to do its job. And in the long run, that's going to result in our public schools getting worse, everything getting a little bit worse every day. And we need to fight back and keep control of our own funding. A tax cap sounds like a great idea. You're like, "Oh, yeah. I don't want my taxes to go up." But we already control how much our taxes go up. We have public meetings. We have the school board is accountable to the public. You know, it's not like there's no voting involved. If you want to not have the taxes go up, vote against the taxes going up, right? So, capping the taxes at a legislative level is just going to make it so that if we need them to go up for whatever reason, we can't. All right? So that's all question two is doing, it's hand-tying ourselves. We're voting away our own rights. And that's, I think, silly. Thank you. Have a nice day.

Erica Layon, Tsienneto Road - I just want to bring a little bit more correction to this discussion on question two. What question two does is it basically has the school act a little bit more like the town, which does a financial fantastic job prioritizing resources and providing tremendous services for the people of Derry with our tax cap. While it's not as extreme as that, what this does is it makes sure that our veterans aren't being priced out of their homes with increasing property taxes, and the rest of our citizens aren't being priced out of their homes with their increasing property taxes. A vote yes on question two just says, "Do we want to set this as the threshold?" We have something called a default budget. It doesn't work as well as everybody had thought just because you end up with more fluff. And we're looking at massive increases each year under the default budget. And what happens underneath the schools is pretty much capped by that level. All that question two says is that we need a super majority. We need three-fifths of the people to approve more spending. If there's something that we need, and we definitely need with the schools, I know that people will step up and say that, "Yes, we actually do have this new unmet need. And yes, we will vote to increase it because of this specific need." What this does is it puts the financial responsibility back in and sets a lower threshold instead of trying to aim for this default budget that bakes in 9, 10 percent increases each year. What this does is it just lets the taxpayers say, "Hey, this is too much." At the election, where most voters show up. And that's why this is an opportunity, not from the legislature to push this down, but to allow the most frequented election in the town of Derry to say, "Hey, let's slow this. Let's make sure we're not losing our homes because of increasing property taxes from the schools. And let's make sure we have a solid discussion and figure out what we need to prioritize and how." So with that, I definitely don't want to get into too much of the weeds on this. But given the previous speaker and what was said, I thought that it was appropriate to come up and set the record straight. Thank you so much.

Steve Trefethen, North Shore Road - I wasn't coming up tonight. I was just here to listen. But I'm going to have to come for the schools because that's been a 20-year, journey for me trying to do

anything to keep the costs down. And in the way the schools are run now, there's nothing this town can do. We all know it. There's nothing the citizens can do. I don't know what it is this year, another 10 million. It'll be more the next few years. So, anything we can do to have them tighten their belts, just like all the rest of us and the seniors and everybody else, it makes you use the money appropriately. You know, I remember the companies they hired to see what they could do to close a school, this, that, and the other. And then when they got told they were going to close they had to close the school. That never happened. They got rid of the companies. It's just a constant. I've been watching this for 20 years. It's and I've been coming here for 20 years saying, you know, ultimately, it would be nice if I think they'd get more out of it if they had this town council take that budget too. I know it's a process. It's a long process. I've been listening to it forever. But, the way it's run, there's just no accountability. You know, they're the only ones that can ask for nine kids in a class and get away with it, while the town is working on half the budget with a tax cap. And we have a lot of bills here too. So, I think you know, sometimes you have to break something if one of the gentlemen here thought it wasn't a good idea to fix it. Because the way it is now, it's not fixed. It needs a lot of help. And, um, and I think it's a good idea that they have to tighten their belts just like the rest of us. You know, these taxes go up. When the taxes go up, it's really simple math. I'm in the real estate business. Taxes go up, and interest rates go up like they are now. And somebody who could afford a \$650,000 house for whatever that payment is, 3,000 a month, you know, when those taxes go up and they only have 3,000 a month, then the houses go down to 550. So, it reduces your whatever the number is to make it the same payment. And, and of course, who loses? Everybody here and some of the elderly who maybe saved the houses for their own. So, this whole school thing, it's got to start somewhere. So, I think it's a great idea. It's not like we're saying you can't come get the money. You're just going to have to explain the money instead of doing it at the school, you know, deliberation or whatever. So anyway, just wanted to say that. Thank you.

Jim Marshall, Kingsbury Street - I just wanted to address a couple of the issues that we just talked about. First off, it was mentioned that the town does a good job of managing under the budget cap. And you guys do. However, if we didn't have a budget cap, the police would have had body cameras a lot sooner than they did. Captain Michaud, from my understanding, one of his jobs is to look for federal grants, so that they can do things that the town can't do because of the cap. I was talking to Chief Feole a couple months ago, and he talked about the body cams specifically because it was something I was interested in. I did not know they had gotten them. And, you know, we talked for that a bit, and I was a little surprised. I said, "Well, how did you get that through the through the town council on the budget?" And he said, "No, we had to get federal funds." It's perfectly great that they go to get these grants. But if it wasn't for the grants, they wouldn't have them. And it's unfortunate that our departments have to depend on federal grants in order to get something. Putting a cap on the schools will have the same effect. There's going to be costs. We have health care. We have electric and oil right now. There are a lot of these costs that that will exceed a 2 or 3 percent budget cap. So, the schools will have to cut something. Teachers put more students in a class. I don't know what classes have only nine kids, but maybe there is. You know, those things are not necessarily good. I grew up in Massachusetts, when they passed proposition two and a half, which is basically the same thing. And, you know, I remember my classes got bigger, you know, and they weren't as effective. I just wanted to say that and make that clear. Thank you.

**Motion by Councilor Foote to close public forum, seconded by Councilor Milz
Roll Call Vote 7-0-0**

Consent Agenda

26-90

Approve Non-Public Minutes – September 15, 2026

- 26-91** Approve Minutes – September 15, 2026
- 26-92** Approve Minutes – Special Meeting - September 22, 2026
- 26-93** Resolution #2026-055 – Approve a reduction of appropriations and associated lease revenue to purchase capital equipment and to authorize the execution and delivery of a Master Lease Purchase Agreement to purchase capital equipment
- 26-94** Resolution #2026-056 – Authorize the Town to apply, receive and expend a grant from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services for Milfoil Treatment
- 26-95** Resolution #2026-057 – Authorize the Town to receive and expend a grant from the Beaver Lake Improvement Association for Milfoil Treatment

Councilor Webb moves to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Councilor Foote
Roll Call Vote: 7-0-0

Chair Report – Chair Spencer

Board / Committee Appointments

Taylor Public Library

Chair Spencer moves to appoint Eric Conyers as a member of the Taylor Library Board of Trustees for a term to expire March 9, 2027, seconded by Councilor Foote
Roll Call Vote: 7-0-0

Chair Spencer - Bev Donovan from our economic development, wanted to recognize a company that's been in town now for 90 years. FireEye LLC has spent nine decades at the forefront of flame safeguard and combustion control technology. And for more than four of those decades, they've been an important part of the Derry community. FireEye came to Derry in 1983, establishing its operations at 3 Manchester Road, where the company continues to operate today. From right here in Derry, FireEye designs and manufactures sophisticated flame safeguard controls, flame monitoring equipment, burner management systems, and combustion controls. FireEye's technology is used in applications around the world. And that means that products and technology developed and manufactured right here in Derry have an impact far beyond our region. They had a get-together to celebrate their 90 years. They gave out these nice little things to all of us in case you all haven't seen it yet. Bev attended, and there were guests from over 50 countries. So, I just wanted to give a shout-out as well to FireEye that they're having a huge impact across the world and doing it right here from Derry. So, congratulations on 90 years. And then the last thing under my chair's report this evening is just an announcement that due to the election on November 3rd, we will not be holding our regular meeting. And as we discussed during public forum, we are all required to be at the polls. So, we will be there. So, we'll have our meeting on October 20th, and then we will meet on November 17th.

Town Administrator's Report – Town Administrator Michael Fowler

Good evening. Before I jump into a presentation on the veterans' credits and exemptions, I do have a couple of minor items just to put out there. There's been a lot of discussion lately about

world energy markets and recent spikes in the various fuels and combustible consumables. And the town does go through a pretty rigorous process to try to forecast its expected costs as it goes into the future year's budget. And so, these estimates we go through, we have a number of different ways. It's strategic procurement. We try to bundle where we can. And obviously, we have a lot of energy efficiency models as well that we've been really successful in. So just to kind of put out there what, you know, actively we try to manage. You know, the heating oil right now, the market price is over \$5.50 a gallon on the market rate. We have a fixed price for this winter at \$4.39. We picked the right time, we think. And that fixed price will hold us throughout the whole upcoming winter. So, there's some significant savings there as compared to what the market rates are. We've talked a lot about the electrical rates. The default rate's 14 cents per kilowatt hour if you were on Eversource default. With the solar, our town buildings are supplied at 6.5 cents per kilowatt hour. Natural gas, we locked into a long-term contract. The market rate is \$1.75 per therm this winter. The town's fixed rate is 74 cents per therm. So that alone is about a \$40,000 savings as compared if we didn't have that contract at our disposal. Diesel, the retail is somewhere north of \$6 now. Our price at the New Hampshire DOT shed for August was \$4.19 a gallon. I think that will go up. But again, we don't pay the same rate because we've got different contracts. Gasoline's \$4.20 a gallon roughly. At the DOT shed, we're paying \$3.11 for that. So, a lot of work goes into it. I think it's a very conscious effort to try to make sure we manage our budgets. And it's consistent with the theme of our staff being really diligent about what we do, what we spend, and how we proceed in certain areas. And every penny that we can save is something that is ultimately there for other uses within the department, spikes that we may get on other items. So, I just wanted to put that out there for the public. Also wanted to talk about we've done some investments in energy efficiency. Just as a recent highlight, the police department replaced many units in their fleet with hybrid vehicles. Traditionally, they'd run at about 2,900 gallons of unleaded per month. With the new hybrids in place, that's dropped by 24%. They're running at about 2,200 gallons of fuel per month. So that's, again, another way that we're able to shave costs on that. So, these examples continue to accumulate, and they do provide some insulation from pricing shocks, either in the fuel costs or other things that we have to face within the town. But that's all I have for the town administrators' report tonight. I'd like an opportunity to go through a briefing on exemptions and veterans' credits.

Presentation on Veteran's and Tax Credits

I've done some research on comp communities throughout the state and also looking at our neighbors. So trying to delineate what other towns do, what their fiscal situation is. And the ultimate goal is to give the council walking out today some ideas, some thought processes to get back to me with some feedback. And then at a later date, probably later this winter, we should be hosting a public hearing to talk about if there's any action that the town council would like to take on any of these various programs. But I think it's a useful education exercise to kind of go through some generic information first. So, the town has occasionally reviewed these levels of exemptions and credits granted. We do operate on a fiscal year budget which ends June 30th. So, we will be entering the fiscal '28 budget cycle as we turn into the new part of the calendar year. So, my recommendation would be that if we are looking to make any adjustments to that we should be thinking about that over the next couple of months so that we can line this up and have some accurate calculations for our, um, our tax rate and, and whatnot. So, the Department of Revenue Administration has oversight on municipal taxing authority. All of the credits and exemptions have underlying state statutes. So, you could go on to the DRA website, and you can see all this information. That's where I pulled it from. But they've got a lot of good information about what each community does, how much money is being redistributed as a result of some of these programs. So, I just wanted to point that out as a point for further research if anybody wanted to take a look at that. Again, our budget's calculated by the

maximum allowable increase per the town charter. By design, the veterans' credits and exemptions are a redistribution of the tax levy.

See Attached for additional information.

Public Hearing

26-85 Resolution #2026-052 – Accept a Bureau of Justice Assistance Grant for Law Enforcement Equipment – *Police Captain David Michaud presenting.*

I appear tonight on behalf of Chief Feole as we seek your authorization to proceed with our Justice Assistance Grant, also termed as a JAG, for federal fiscal year 2026. I'll jump right into the numbers here. The total award from the US Department of Justice this year is \$14,341. As you're aware, there's an administration fee from Rockingham County. That's a 7% fee. So, they'll retain \$1,004 of that \$14,341. That yields a net award to the town of Derry of \$13,337. The grant funds associated with this grant must be used within the two years of the award. The proposed project that we have for you here is the purchase of Protech Hardwire tactical plates. We're looking to purchase 12 sets of tactical rifle plates to replace our existing panels that we currently have within our cruisers. The total project cost for this is \$14,718. This project obviously supports officer safety and operational readiness. It provides reliable ballistic protection in high-risk operations in the field. And this product would have a 10-year warranty on it. The total cost is again \$14,718. Grant funding would cover \$13,337 with a local supplemental funding from existing Derry PD accounts of \$1,381. So, the next steps tonight, I'm here for a public hearing. Grant funds must be expended again within the two years of the award, and we will post on our website. We are required to provide a 30-day public comment period before any funds can be expended. So, we'll go ahead and do that on our website assuming you approve of this tonight. I will answer any questions you might have.

Motion by Councilor Foote to open public hearing, seconded by Councilor Milz
All Agreed

No one spoke.

Motion by Councilor Foote to close public hearing, seconded by Councilor Webb
All Agreed

Councilor Milz MOVES THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL adopt Resolution #2026-052 which reads as follows [Read the Resolution], seconded by Councilor Foote
Roll Call Vote: 7-0-0
Resolution Attached

26-86 Resolution #2026-054 – Approve Covenants and Commercial – Industrial Tax Relief Application for 12A Street – *Town Administrator Michael Fowler presenting.*

We have an application in front of us for commercial industrial tax relief at a currently vacant parcel 12A Street. And so, we have an applicant that has come to us with a viable plan, known as, EPSI. They have come with a proposal, and they will be seeking tax relief under this program. So just as a brief introduction to how we got there, a couple of weeks ago, actually it

was September 1st, the town council reauthorized this program, which is enabled by state statute, which allows the creation of a tax relief program for commercial and industrial property. Town council has discretion to grant up to, but they're not compelled to, 50% and 10 years of tax relief, which would only apply for the town and the school portion. So, the theory would be is if you take something and that would only be on the improved portion of the site, if you will. A lot of times that's used for something where you have a dilapidated building and you improve it or an applicant improves it. And the improved value is what is exempted from taxes at the town council's discretion. So, within your staff report, I've given you some previous guidance on a matrix on, you know, what some of the qualifying criteria are, which looks at job creation, which looks at opportunities for growth within the community, how the individual business will be integrated within the community. And obviously looking at when it's all said and done, whatever duration that you do, that particular property is paying full value of the taxes after that point. So, it's been a program that I know Bev Donovan has been working hard to kind of attract folks to Derry to take advantage of these programs. And I think it's just another item within our toolbox to bring plans of this nature to us. So, what I'd like to do at this point is to bring up Paul LaBrosse, he's the president of EPSI to provide his presentation tonight.

Paul LaBrosse - Engineered Pressure Systems. Currently we're located in Haverhill, Massachusetts. Bev Donovan's been a great help for us and this tax relief program's currently we're renting out of an industrial warehouse. So, taking an endeavor to invest \$10 million in a piece of property is a big monthly change for us, if you will, compared to just paying a lease payment. So, when we were first talking about the property, the this tax this I think is, correct me if I'm wrong. I know the term ERZ came up and, felt that this property was eligible for the tax relief program. So just a quick summary of the project itself. We're constructing a 26,000 square foot engineering and manufacturing facility. It'll establish a permanent US headquarters here in Derry, New Hampshire and in the US. Hopefully the town's commercial and industrial tax base will definitely be impacted, hopefully, by our new building. In regards to employment, we currently have 17 employees. I do not have enough space currently in my existing facility to house any more office personnel or field service, and people in the shop, welders, and so on. Currently with our current workload, we could staff 25 people and be successful at that. So, our goal is to move into a new facility, expand our workforce by at least eight people, not including any admin that we may need to help support that additional staff. The eight additional positions are five engineering positions, one sales engineer, one service field service, and one assembly and test person. Out of those people, skill sets needed are basically made on the trades, welding, machining, and so on. The facility includes a 50-foot high specialized test area. Some of the equipment that we're building is the current one we're working on right now is about 41 feet. So this 50-foot clear gives us the ability to service and set up and test equipment that is necessary for our customers. Our target occupancy is April of 2027. It's pretty aggressive, but I feel like we're on our way to that right now. Some project just to break down quickly the project investment. Basically, there's five major categories is the way I saw it. And the largest is, of course, the building construction itself. It's 5.8 million. It may be closer to six before we get all the interior decorators out of there, but it's at 5.8 million right now. Next biggest cost, of course, is the land acquisition. And then the remaining is basically some of the equipment needed inside the building, such as a 30-ton crane, overhead crane, 58 kilowatt hour solar system that we're installing on the roof. Uh, \$1.3 million for just moving dirt around, which is also crazy. And then, of course, the permitting and engineering required. Just the total project cost is about \$10 million, and it looks like we're tracking pretty close to that. The project is completely funded through our private equity and commercial lending. There are no government subsidies or grants that we're eligible for that that help us with the with this cost. Basically, this is how the building is organized. We have 6,000 square feet of office space, basically area one. Area two is basically our assembly and test area. It includes section four, which is for material like shipping and handling, as things come in, packaging, that type of thing. And then area three is listed as

our high bay area. That's again the 50-foot clear space with a 30-ton crane. It does have the ability to have trucks back in so we can offload some of the larger pieces directly with a crane. The timeline, we started in April with the engineering and the permitting process, and I just commend the town. I just want to take a moment to commend the town, the permitting process. Everybody's afraid of it. I will say that the town of Derry was outstanding. I've heard people taking 18 months, and I think from start to finish, we just got our full building permit this week, in fact, today. We started in April. So, all in all, I thought that the building permit process went very well. The remaining schedule is basically the foundation work is done now. We're actually putting up steel. Today was the start of the erection of the steel. Some of the taller columns in the back have gone up. And we're hoping to have a sealed building by the end of January. Why did we pick Derry? Why is Derry the long-term home for EPSI? Well, I can just throw my notes away because the gentleman from the vets that came up and described how you guys treated him is evident. My daughter played lacrosse. I knew a lot of the parents that live in Derry and just has Derry's been an outstanding town in my in my history since 1990 with New Hampshire. Aside from that Interstate 93, very important. We bring in large forgings coming from Italy, most of them, having good highway access is really critical for getting larger stuff in and out. It's not very often. It's maybe twice a year we're bringing in. So, this building has been pressured by a large job that we currently have that it's a 300,000-pound single piece, forging that's going in the building that's been driving this project. The second reason is the skilled workforce. You know, living in New Hampshire and working in New Hampshire is a big benefit over working in Massachusetts and living in New Hampshire. 90% of my current employees live in New Hampshire. So, it's a great benefit for them. It also gives us access to Pinkerton. You know, I'll talk a little bit more about that, getting involved with some of your trade, your vocational schools. So that's a great benefit. The third is just having the ability to grow. This piece of property allowed us to allow for 5,000 square feet of future expansion. Then again, the last thing was just we had a really great experience with the town of Derry. We lost a bid on a building on Tsienneto Road two years ago. Beverly and Liz just did a nice job of helping us. And then they're the ones that brought us the property that at 12A Street. So, we've been looking for over two years for a piece of property. Pretty much all commercial property in southern New Hampshire is sized for like 100,000 square foot building, which would just takes the price of the property. For those of you guys are probably a lot more savvy with real estate than I am, you know that the price of the property is based on the largest building you can actually put on it. So just it took it out of our lead completely. So, this particular piece of property was just the right size. How can EPSI benefit the town of Derry? I broke it basically into four categories. The first is it's a new facility. It's being put on undeveloped property currently and we have the capacity to grow. We have 17 existing positions. We're definitely going to be growing in the next year to two years to 25 employees. Some of them are definitely going to be trades, vocational positions. Some of them are engineering. I think we went through the positions earlier. The activity associated with being in the US headquarters. So, we have board of director meetings every other year. We have customers visiting our facility. We do factory acceptance tests for all of our customers. So, they come and stay for weeks at a time. We bring a lot of people in. So there's definitely a need for restaurants, hotels, many other services, local services like snowplowing, landscaping. Since we've been setting up the building, we've learned of a machine shop at 13A Street just down the street. We're constantly looking for new machine shops. So, we've got a relationship we built with him already. We're looking for people that can fabricate equipment for us. So we're looking forward to tapping into some of the local vendors, we believe that that we're going to be here for a long time. So, we're hoping that the town can benefit from having a long-term property tax revenue based on this piece of property being developed. I just put something together to try to say, okay, if I if we move our company to a town, how does that impact the town? So just looking at there's a website called easycater.com. And I just tried to evaluate just how much does having 25 people impact local businesses. So just from an employee standpoint, people buying lunch, breakfast, snacks, gas, milk as the wife asks you to

buy milk on the way home, that kind of thing. There's an average of about \$65 per person. So the impact on just local businesses is somewhere around 50 to 75,000 when we when we get to our full staff. That's not including any of the commercial spending that I mentioned before. So, we have an employee lunch in every month. We have one. We use a lot of the local hardware stores for purchasing odds and ends, hardware, bolts, nuts, pipe dope, whatever we need. Again, we're looking for local machining and fabrication vendors. We have this board of director meeting where there's a bunch of pomp and circumstance that we like we like to do. Customers, supplier, hotels, and dining, snowplowing, landscaping, janitorial services, all this stuff we're going to be looking for somebody local to help us with a lot of this stuff. I estimated that the property taxes. It's only an estimate. This was based on an \$8.4 million investment that was made by the business bank, and that was done beginning part of this year, April maybe, and based on a 18.99 cent per thousand assessments, come up with about 160,000 a year. That's just an estimate. For a tax bill. Lastly, my favorite part of this presentation is how can we support the Derry community? So, I was on the fire department in Amherst, New Hampshire for 10 years. I was also in the military. I like being part of the community. That's a goal of mine. Being in an industrial strip mall, if you will, you don't really get that opportunity. I'm really looking forward to being a part of the Derry community. So, some thoughts that we've had and I've also addressed this with some of the other people, employees, engineers, and salespeople in particular, as well as the welding gurus out in our shop. And they look forward to the opportunity of sharing their trade. So, some thoughts that we had is working with Pinkerton to come up with like career days, where they could come in and shadow an engineer. They could come in and shadow people in the shop. We can come up with doing some kind of internships during summers. If those things are well received, you know, possibly maybe do some scholarships to really kind of enforce those trades, those things that are lacking right now in society. The other thoughts we had, again, I was a lieutenant in the town of Amherst for 10 years. We are always looking for opportunities to better train, better suited for whatever incidents could happen. Our business is different than probably most other businesses that you have in town where we use hard, high pressure and Argon and some of these other things. So just work with the fire department and rescue to make sure that they're fully aware of what goes on in our building and how to handle it and what to say, how to do it safely, keep everybody safe. We'd love the opportunity to be able to collaborate and do things of that nature. And then the most important thing is, however, if anybody from the town has some other ideas, we're fully open to working with them. So, we're all about trying to give back to the community, especially in our trades and in engineering. So, with that, I'd like to thank you, I guess, for the consideration of this tax credit. And if there's any questions, I'd be happy to answer them.

**Motion by Councilor Webb to open public hearing, seconded by Councilor Foote
All Agreed**

Steve Trefethen, North Shore - One question I have and I didn't get a chance to read his package was how long of a tax break was you looking for?

Paul LaBrosse - I didn't ask it for anything in particular, but I think in the memo that I received was 10 years.

Trefethen - So I like what he's doing. I just built 20,000 feet. I was employing double the amount of people he was employing. I think it's great. Whatever we do, I think it's great. But, I know when I met with Mr. Caron, he said, "Sounds like, Steve, we could go five years with 50 employees on my project, which was 20,000 feet." And I said, "Well, I just need three because by the time you get people in there and, you know " and it worked out barely because now I

have to pay it. I'm all for it except for I'm not for 10 years. We need tax base. And, you know, like he said, it's a great price. I'm also a realtor. I don't know if he knows that, but I'm also a realtor. It's a great price for that size lot because you can get a good size building on there without getting killed and buying five, six acres. So, I'm hoping that this gentleman, which I support, everything he's doing, but just the 10 years, I think it's too long because, you know, we need it now. And I think that and I and 10 and a \$10 million, um, you know, bill to bite is a big bill to bite, but it's 160,000. And I know Dave Caron would not have given me 10 years. He would have given me five. He told me, and I took three, whatever. So, you know, I'm not saying I think 10 is too long. I'm not saying I think five is good. It's up to the council, obviously. But, you know, at 160,000 a year, you could be giving away \$100,000, a million dollars while we're giving other stuff away. So somewhere, I think, hopefully this gentleman is, you know, has his budget right and everything. And he's got business. Like he said, he got a big account. We didn't have any business. And I housed a lot of people off the exit that lost their places. So, I gave them cheaper rent because they were paying cheaper rent. And I still only took the three years. So, I don't know where the give and take is here, but 160,000 over 10 years, you know, you do the math, it's 1.6 million. So hopefully the council and he can get what he needs. And, it's just for me, it's too long for all those reasons.

But I'm welcome you to Derry because I'm for anybody who's doing what you're doing. I love his business. I've done some of the welding and some different things. So above it all, I just I'm hoping he's going to tell you that if he had this amount, it would be great and he would and we could get something for us coming soon. I'm getting old and me and Mr. Bruno probably won't be here in 10 years. So, we want to see a little something from him. Thank you

**Motion by Councilor Milz to close public hearing, seconded by Councilor Webb
All Agreed**

Councilor Healey - I actually agree with the speaker that came up. I was going to mention that while I'm in favor of the tax relief, I think 10 years is way too long for that relief. I think, you know, a few years ago, this might have been different, but we have 4A coming in. That land now is a lot more valuable to businesses coming in with the highway right there. I think it's a fair compromise at five years, but I'm not in favor of the maximum that we can that we can give. But I am in favor of, as the speaker said five years of tax relief for the reason of 4A going in and quick access to the highway. It's beneficial to both sides.

Councilor Milz MOVES THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL adopt Resolution #2026-054 which reads as follows [*Read the Resolution*], seconded by Councilor Foote

Councilor Webb MOVES THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL amend Resolution #2026-054 to read section number three, tax relief shall equal 50% of the eligible new value for a period of 5 years as calculated against the local school and town taxes, seconded by Councilor Healey

Councilor Milz - I'd like to speak to that. Number one, we're administrators up here and town councilors. None of us have the expertise to put this together, which is why we have town staff. This is what the town staff determined was appropriate. And I would be against this amendment. I would be in favor of the original resolution. That work has already been done for us. Just my opinion.

Councilor Chase - I second what Mr. Milz says. That's my feeling also.

Roll Call Vote on the Amendment 3-4-0 {Milz, Foote, Chase, Flood}

Roll Call Vote on the original Resolution 5-2-0 {Healey, Spencer}

26-86 Ordinance #2026-004 – Adopt Chapter 40 of the General Code regarding Electioneering at Election Polls – *Town Clerk Tina Guilford presenting.*

So good evening. I told you I was going to be back. So, I've been working elections since 2015, 2016 in Derry. I've been heavily involved since 2018, elected since 2020. I have never gotten as many complaints as I did in a primary with 4,900 voters. You would think a presidential election with over 18,000 voters and lots of complaints about traffic and waiting in line or 2022 when we had our election at Calvary with lots of traffic complaints and the Attorney General's office standing there and more complaints this election. The number of people who have taken time out of their day to come into town hall and talk to us, the ones who have called on the phone. I'm still waiting for the report from the Attorney General's office, with the complaints that they received. I know they received quite a few. The ones we got on election day, about the person in the parking lot. Here's the thing. I am all for free speech, and I think that, you know, there's a time and a place, and actions sometimes have consequences. I also feel that everyone should be able to vote freely and without feeling intimidated, overwhelmed, scared, or terrified. I've heard all sorts of words. Some people were just stunned that someone was handing something out in the parking lot. Others were not understanding why they were being handed something. Others didn't understand why somebody was asking what party they were voting that wasn't, you know, at the ballot clerk so that they could get their ballot. People were, you know, obviously a lot of people were not happy. I can tell you that the poll workers were not happy, and if this continues, we're going to need more poll workers, which is just going to cost us more money. And everybody's complaining about their tax bill. Because we could not keep up with emptying the booths from the paraphernalia, which is state law, right? Because people were leaving them behind. That's not okay. We filled multiple trash barrels with this paraphernalia. I'm not going to show it, because that would be electioneering, and I'm not going to do that. But our problem is this. We're coming up on the November election. We're probably going to have 12,000 to 13,000 people. We're going to have the road closed. We're going to be directing traffic. We purposely direct people through that Pinkerton parking lot into the handicapped lot to park. And our PD already has their hands full with redirecting traffic, closing a road, and doing all of that. The last thing we want is someone in the parking lot that might get hit, something that might happen. We're going to have more voters. And my other concern is that maybe they were stunned the first time. It might it might devolve into something else the next time. People deserve to be able to express their constitutional right to vote freely and without being impeded. And that is all I'm talking about here. Back in 2018, when we tried to go to two polling places, West Running Brook and Hood, which caused tons of traffic, there was a subcommittee formed, with town council and PD and the town moderator at the time and the town clerk at the time and the party chairs for the town. And there was an agreement kind of come up together that we were going to not have music amplification because that was an issue and we weren't going to do this and we weren't going to do that. And we're going to do the one hour in the parking lot.

We were going to do all these things. And at that time, I was led to believe that everything was being covered and somehow the ordinance was missed in that process. So, we need the one hour parking because there are only so many parking spots at Pinkerton. And we need people in the active voter parking to come in, vote, leave. So that's why the one hour piece is in there. Because the moderator does not have any purview over the parking lot itself. He has purview on the pathway to the parking lot. It is the governing body that has the purview over the parking lot and that's RSA 31:41-C. I'm certain the police department doesn't want to enforce this. They don't want to sit here and write fines. We just want everyone to be safe. I don't want anybody getting hit by a car. Trust me, elections are a lot of work. I am not looking to have any more work, okay? I am just looking for voters to be able to come to vote and go home safely and knowing that they did their duty as residents and that nobody got hurt because that's not what we want. And with that, I also just want to say that this is the first of the public hearings. There will be another public hearing in two weeks on this ordinance because you do have to have two.

**Motion by Councilor Webb to open public hearing, seconded by Councilor Foote
All Agreed**

David Provencher, Miltimore Road - I'm in full support of this. We don't want people in the parking lot. There's a very designated area for campaigning on election day. It's a very small area. If we don't stop the parking lot from becoming another area, it's going to lead to an arms race where everyone feels like they need to have a presence there. And it's going to get worse and worse and worse. We don't want that. It makes everything worse for everyone. So, I think that Tina's suggestion is perfect, and we should pass it posthaste because we don't want it to get worse. Thank you.

**Motion by Councilor Foote to open public hearing, seconded by Councilor Flood
All Agreed**

Councilor Webb - On section C, signs. It says no electioneering signs. How does that apply to, let's say, like a vehicle that could have a large sign in the back of the or pickup truck, you know, a sign on the pickup truck or a sign on the side of the vehicle in the parking lot? Would that be considered electioneering?

Clerk Guilford - So, the statute, 31:41-C, expressly states that such power shall not extend to the display of printed or printed or written matter attached to any legally parked motor vehicle.

Councilor Webb - Thank you. The other question is on the parking one hour. How would that affect we always have the election the set-aside electioneering area, the people holding signs. How would that affect those people?

Clerk Guilford - We do have, on the maps, we always have an area which is over in what they call the junior lot at Pinkerton where they can park and they can park all day. And we do that on purpose. That's where we direct people from the media. We've had people sometimes here from various news stations for hours. We also tell them to park there, to leave the active voting parking spots open to the voters. You can be there electioneering, but if the voters can't get in, I mean, what's the point?

Councilor Webb - And the last question is on 40-8. It was talking about a \$1,000 civil penalty for each violation. Is that up to \$1,000 or is that \$1,000?

Clerk Guilford - So is it RSA 31:39, gives you the power to appoint who enforces and can issue a penalty not exceeding \$1,000. So, I think, we put the \$1,000 in as a placeholder. You guys could adjust that fine as you see fit.

Councilor Webb - and thank you. I think this is needed. Having been there that day, saw what occurred. So, thank you.

Councilor Spencer - I guess I just want to talk a little about some of the things you talked about. I know there were a myriad of complaints about this individual. The main complaint I received was the cards in the booth that were left in the booths. How do you envision this, if at all, actually impacting that piece of it?

Clerk Guilford - So, if nobody's handing them out, then there's nothing in the booth.

Councilor Spencer - Could this person be standing in the what we call the gauntlet and handing those things out still?

Clerk Guilford - They could, but the voter would have to walk to that rail and take it. I think what happened in the parking lot is a lot of people were stunned. They were I don't want to say confronted, they were approached by someone that they were not used to. And a lot of them took it to not start an argument or confrontation. I will say I thank the residents of Derry that you didn't drop it all over the parking lot or in the crosswalk. You did use the trash barrels for a lot of them because the trash barrel outside had to be emptied twice and the one inside also had to be emptied twice. But a lot of people left them in the booths, and that was a huge issue because we got phone calls from the Attorney General's office that we're getting reports and, you know, we only have so much staff and they were literally walking around in circles. It's 100 and some odd booths, which we're going to have more in a general. We're probably going to have, I don't know, 175 booths. It takes a lot of time to walk 175 booths and open the curtain and stuff. And we normally do that every 15, 20 minutes because people do bring lists from home and sometimes forget them. But this was constant, nonstop. I mean, some voters were sticking them in the walls of the booth. I mean, they were everywhere.

Councilor Spencer - Yes, they were. I did a couple of those passes. They were everywhere. I guess the other question that I have is you talked about, you know, and I agree all of this is a potential that a situation could devolve in the parking lot. This time someone, you know, pushes back instead of instead of just, you know, walking away. Yes, somebody could be in the way of causing a safety hazard. I guess the thing I'm struggling with is a \$1,000 fine. A lot of these things could be handled by those gentlemen sitting over there, right? If it's truly a safety issue, should we be talking more about how do we get prepared for those actual safety issues over a fine? I mean, I just think about if, I'm going to try to use my words carefully so I don't get in trouble for saying things I shouldn't, but there could be a group that has way more than \$1,000 to spend. They go for an hour and come back.

Clerk Guilford - I will say I think a fine is required in the statute, so I don't think you can avoid a fine. You can lower it because it's not to exceed, so I do think you need a fine.

Councilor Spencer - So, we could say under that section, be subject to a civil penalty of up to 1,000?

Clerk Guilford – Yes, you can also chat with the police department and see what they might like to do. However, as we found out on election day, it's not private property because we have rented it for the election. So, it is town property on election day, and the police department can't stop someone who's doing something that is not illegal. So, they couldn't do anything without an ordinance or something telling them that they could.

Councilor Spencer - They could though if they were starting a public nuisance, I would assume. As if they were starting a fight in the parking lot.

Clerk Guilford - Well, a fight in the parking lot now is we're disturbing the peace and whatever. I'd rather not get there.

Councilor Spencer - No, I agree. I'm just worried that we're going to do this. We're going to potentially take some flak for going this route, because someone's going to say, "You're impacting my freedom of speech." And at the end of the day, a lot of what you mentioned, which are I everything you've said is a very real issue, but a lot of them to me could be more construed on the criminal end than the civil end. And this seems like we're going down the civil end. So that's just where I'm a little worried about this from the having somebody there saying things. I get that people are startled and they're not used to seeing that, but there is also the taking care of yourself and turning around and walking away. So, I'm on the fence, to be honest, right now with this because I feel like there are definitely things we need to be doing for the though when those people show up, but I am worried about the potential impacts of some of this.

Clerk Guilford - Well, without an the ordinance, the police department can't move them along.

Councilor Spencer - If they're handing out cards, yes. If they're causing a public nuisance, no. Which some of the complaints to that I was told sound like what we're trying to plan for is the next phase of what might happen and those things become a little more. But I do know what you're saying.

Clerk Guilford - I do think that 4,900 voters versus 13,000 voters versus 18,000 plus voters in November, it exponentially grows. And again, because we're closing the road, we are directing all those handicapped drivers to drive right through there. So, there's going to be a lot more traffic in that area. So that's my biggest concern is that somebody's going to get hit. I mean, I think that's in in a nutshell, that's my biggest thing. And then you're going to have a voter who's like, "Oh my God, I just hit somebody when they just came out to vote and someone got injured." And, you know, I do have paramedics on site, but I'm hoping to not use them. We used to have people on both sides of the walkway and we got a ton of, you know, complaints about that. We even had a voter one time that had to be escorted back to her car by a councilor. And in response, the moderator moved everybody to one side. And if you watch the voters coming in, there are always people that are on the faraway side that want to completely avoid the gauntlet. They're coming in, they're voting, they know who they're voting for, they don't want to talk to anybody, they don't want to interact, and they just want to do their thing. I had a resident come in on Monday and asked me if because of the guy in the parking lot, is that a reason to vote absentee? It's not a reason on the list. I'm sorry, but when it makes people concerned about coming out to vote, that's a problem.

Councilor Foote - I just want to echo. I do share your thoughts as well on some of this, but I think that people going to the polls have a right to do so freely and unimpeded and

unintimidated and, feeling like they're not being any kind of retribution or whatever that looks like. The safety aspect is another thing. So, and to take that a step further because without anything in place, then why have the electioneering zone? Why doesn't everyone just go in the parking lot, hold signs, walk around the whole parking lot, and whatever? So where does this stop? So it's just food for thought.

Councilor Comments –

Councilor Healey - I just want to say that I appreciate the residents of District 3 coming out tonight on Horseshoe Drive. And I want to kind of start this by saying that I think all of our employees do a good job here. But what I'm finding, with this situation and in personal situations with dealing with code enforcement in the past is that some of the things seem like they take a lot of time. And there was a comment made by the town administrator at the last meeting that there's seven to eight inspectors in towns of Derry size. And now we just got another building inspector this year and we have three. But I think that's something that we may want to look at in the future for future budgets. The residents come up here and they're stating their concerns and it's, well, talk to the town administrator, talk to these departments. They're coming here because they've already done that and they feel like they're not really being heard and that it's taking a significant amount of time. So, when they first I first heard about this, it was back in April. And now we're, you know, we're approaching the winter months. We're into the middle of October and they feel like they haven't gotten anywhere. And there was an event a few weeks ago. I drove through to see the parking situation and frankly, to me, it was dangerous. I was on one side of the road. The cars were fully in the road on the opposite side and another car was coming towards me. And luckily, there was a spot there for them to pull off. But if there was not, we would have been staring at each other in the road. I have concerns if there was a medical emergency during that time period, how a fire truck or an ambulance would have gotten down the street. I don't think it's fair to the residents to have a complete no parking ban on their street, for maybe the few instances that they might have someone over when they're not really doing the same thing that that this is doing when there's 20, 30 cars lining up the street. I would urge all the councilors to review the packet that was provided by the abutters, by the residents of Horseshoe Drive, and take a deeper dive into this, to drive by to see what they're talking about with fences being moved and parking being very limited. It kind of goes against what was presented in these meetings, the TRC meetings. We represent them and we should be helping them any way that we can. So, I think that as this goes on, maybe there is something the council can do indirectly with adding positions to that department if situations like this drag out over time. Because again, I'm not blaming the staff. I think they're overwhelmed in that department. Still, even with the position that we added this past year, there's a lot of code enforcement violations in the town that they have to deal with. I think this is one of the more significant issues. I would like something to be done for these residents. I don't think they should keep having to keep wait waiting. I don't know what that is, but I know staff has been responsive. It's just a lot of these things I know take time, but it's frustrating. If you live on that street, it's very frustrating. One of the first things I did when they reached out to me is I looked at some of their property cards and like they said, they've been living there 16 to 60 years and this came in after they were there. And it's a really frustrating situation. I wish more attention could be paid to it and some type of compromise could be reached between the residents, the property owner, the town, or whatever it is to provide them some type of relief. And my second thing that I want to mention is the best of Derry News came out, I believe, a week or two ago and I just want to congratulate my husband who was named best realtor.

Councilor Webb – I attended Derry housing and redevelopment authority meeting the other day. One of the things they also did was issue their annual report. One of the biggest emails I get fairly regularly is because I'm on that board is people asking, you know, I need housing or I

need subsidized housing. You know, what does the town do? Well, we don't have it. The DHRA is a federal program. Their employees are federal employees and they're all we do is act as a liaison just to oversee their budget. They actually have commissioners. They meet roughly eight times a year. The commissioner's job is oversight. They're the ones who actually vote on their budget and ensure that the bills are paid, that no extra funds are going out, that everything's above board to meet federal regulations. We do appoint them as town council for five years terms. And one of the commissioners is a member of the program. There is a vacancy. They really do need another member. Please contact Melody Ackerman if you're interested, and go on to the town website to fill out a volunteer card. Just to give you an idea is they've in the past eight months received 47 applicants, but they've only had a turnover of three. Those were all three were because people passed away. They administer 102 Section 8 vouchers and owns three buildings with 12 units total. So basically, it's 114 units that they oversee. They have a waiting list of 307, 163 are Derry residents. It's roughly a four-plus year wait for a Derry resident. Statewide, it's around seven, and they oversee about \$1.3 million in federal funds for rental assistant payments. The priorities are how they determine who gets housing is victims of domestic violence. And it must be documented and verifiable. So, a person can't just walk up and say I'm a victim. There has to be a paper trail through social worker and police reports that they are, veterans and residents of Derry or those with full-time jobs in Derry. Again, Derry residents can wait about four years for this program. You must qualify for housing assistance. Income is roughly 50% or less of the median income. The median income is defined as that for the Merrimack Valley because that's the HUD district, we're in. US citizens with good rental history and no criminal record. Section 8 covers 80% of the fair market rent and rent must include utilities. That's only good for one year. After that first year, a landlord can increase their rents. So, the tenant who's on the Section 8 program has two options. They can either make up the difference in rent or work with the Derry housing authority and find a new place to live and a new landlord who will accept a voucher because landlords don't have to. It's voluntary. The Derry housing authority will go to somebody and say, "Hey, are you willing to rent one of your apartments?" The agreement is under fair market rents. So it really requires a partnership. One of the advantages it has to landlords is a steady stream of income. And there's an additional level of oversight because participants are subject to reviews and monitoring by the directors of the program. There is one other housing assistance program in Derry right now, a small one run by the Center for Life Management specifically for some of their clients. There are no other housing assistance programs in Derry right now. So, the fair market rent schedule increases as of November 1st, federal fiscal year is what it follows. So typical two-bedroom apartment goes from 2270 to 2367 for fair market rents, this was from Director Ackerman's annual report. The current issue facing the participant of DHRA Section 8 housing choice voucher program is the lack of affordable housing units as rents have continued to soar in the last several years causing a dire need of affordable housing. So as housing becomes less affordable, more people are looking to get on to housing assistance, but it's also a four and a half year wait. The Derry housing authority is only authorized for 102. So even if in a situation where they had more units, they're only authorized for 102 vouchers plus the 12 that they have for their own apartment buildings.

Councilor Chase - I just have one small thing on November 9th. The Derry Heritage Commission will be having an exhibit and talk on the three residents from Derry who fought in the Battle of Okinawa. This will be at the Derry Public Library from 4:30 to 6:00 there will be an interactive exhibit. And then from 6:00 to 7:30 there will be a presentation on the people. You can get more information if you'd like on the Heritage Commission website or downstairs in the lobby in the displays that we have. There is a poster in the center of the new display that I just put up yesterday.

Motion by Councilor Milz to ADJOURN, seconded by Councilor Flood
All Agreed

Adjourn: 9:26 PM


Town Clerk

Recording & Transcription by: Cristina Guilford, Town Clerk


Date

EXEMPTIONS AND VETERANS' CREDITS

October 6, 2026

General Information

- Tonight's presentation is designed to be informative as a prompt for future discussion and policy decisions.
- The Town has occasionally reviewed the levels of exemptions and credits granted.
- The Town operates on a fiscal year budget – ending June 30.
- The State of New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration has oversight on municipal taxing authority.

General Information

- Annually, the Town's budget is calculated by the maximum allowable increase to the tax rate per Town Charter.
- By design, Veterans' Credits and exemptions are a redistribution of the tax levy.
- CAUTION – 2026 is revaluation year and the FY 27 CPI – U tax rate increase was 3.3%.
- CPI – U Data will be finalized in January 2027, but the maximum allowable increase is trending towards 3.5% for FY 28.

General Information

Tax Cap Calculation

FY28 Budget

Northeast Region CPI-U December, 2026

3.50%

	2026 Rate	2026 Rate x CPI-U	2027 Max Rate
2026 Town Tax Rate	\$ 5.57	\$ 0.19	\$ 5.76
2026 Assessed Valuation	\$ 5,710,000,000.00	x Increase/1000	\$ 1,113,164.50
2026 Estimated New Construction	\$ 55,000,000.00	x Max Rate/1000	\$ 317,072.25
Maximum Allowable Additional Tax Dollars to be Raised			\$ 1,430,236.75
2026 Tax Effort (Includes Vet Credits and Overlay)			\$ 31,817,422.00
Total Maximum Tax Effort - 2027:			\$ 33,247,658.75

Budget Pressures

- Employee Health Insurance has increased 15% and 27% in the past two fiscal years.
- Costs for capital equipment continue to rise at a rate greater than the reported CPI.
- Employee contracts are in alignment with CPI, but 6 of 7 contracts expire June 30, 2029.
- If HB 1331 consolidates the Town and School budgets under a tax cap – impacts from School would need to be considered.

Four Programs

- Elderly Exemption Program
- Veterans' Tax Credit
- Service-Connected Total Disability Tax Credit
- Blind Exemption

Elderly Exemptions

- Program eligibility contains income and asset caps.
- Income Cap - \$35,000 single \$45,000 married
- Asset Cap - \$150,000
- Exemption Levels vary by applicant age:
 - 65-74 \$85,000
 - 75-79 \$125,000
 - 80+ \$165,000

Elderly Exemptions



- Tax Year 2024 = \$24 million (0.43% of total assessment)
- Tax Year 2025 = 183 exemptions totaling \$22.1 million (0.38%)
- Exemptions carry across all components of tax bill.
- Town only redistribution = \$119,119

Elderly Exemptions - Comps



- Review of neighboring communities and peer population communities reveals the following:
- Derry's exemption values lag behind neighbors.
- Derry's Median Household Income and Assessed Value per capita lag behind the neighbors.
- Derry also has lower exemption values as compared to peers.
- Derry's Median Household Income and Assessed Value per capita lag behind the peer communities but not as severe.

Elderly Exemptions vs. Neighbors

Abutting Communities			Exemption Amounts					
Community	Rank	AV/Capita	@65		@75		@80	
Atkinson	5	\$ 218,162	\$ 155,000.00	71.0%	\$ 225,000.00	103.1%	\$ 300,000.00	137.5%
Auburn	3	\$ 237,486	\$ 200,000.00	84.2%	\$ 230,000.00	96.8%	\$ 280,000.00	117.9%
Chester	6	\$ 217,408	\$ 154,000.00	70.8%	\$ 196,000.00	90.2%	\$ 238,000.00	109.5%
Derry	9	\$ 164,418	\$ 85,000.00	51.7%	\$ 125,000.00	76.0%	\$ 165,000.00	100.4%
Hampstead	4	\$ 226,897	\$ 210,000.00	92.6%	\$ 280,000.00	123.4%	\$ 322,000.00	141.9%
Londonderry	2	\$ 266,380	\$ 175,000.00	65.7%	\$ 225,000.00	84.5%	\$ 300,000.00	112.6%
Salem	7	\$ 213,227	\$ 120,000.00	56.3%	\$ 180,000.00	84.4%	\$ 245,000.00	114.9%
Sandown	8	\$ 174,155	\$ 110,000.00	63.2%	\$ 130,000.00	74.6%	\$ 150,000.00	86.1%
Windham	1	\$ 327,809	\$ 200,000.00	61.0%	\$ 225,000.00	68.6%	\$ 1,000,000.00	305.1%
Median AV/Capita		\$ 218,162	\$ 155,000.00	65.7%	\$ 225,000.00	84.5%	\$ 280,000.00	114.9%

Elderly Exemptions vs. Peers

Ten Largest Municipalities			Exemption Amounts					
Community	Rank	AV/Capita	@65		@75		@80	
Concord	3	\$ 119,984	\$ 80,000.00	66.7%	\$ 131,000.00	109.2%	\$ 223,000.00	185.9%
Derry	7	\$ 164,418	\$ 85,000.00	51.7%	\$ 125,000.00	76.0%	\$ 165,000.00	100.4%
Dover	4	\$ 191,888	\$ 206,000.00	107.4%	\$ 291,000.00	151.7%	\$ 373,000.00	194.4%
Hudson	3	\$ 196,377	\$ 105,000.00	53.5%	\$ 125,000.00	63.7%	\$ 150,000.00	76.4%
Londonderry	1	\$ 256,380	\$ 175,000.00	68.3%	\$ 225,000.00	87.5%	\$ 300,000.00	112.6%
Manchester	10	\$ 113,822	\$ 156,000.00	137.1%	\$ 210,000.00	184.5%	\$ 280,000.00	246.0%
Merrimack	6	\$ 171,069	\$ 85,000.00	49.7%	\$ 115,000.00	67.2%	\$ 150,000.00	87.7%
Nashua	5	\$ 177,939	\$ 256,000.00	143.9%	\$ 295,000.00	165.8%	\$ 363,000.00	204.0%
Rochester	8	\$ 153,933	\$ 112,500.00	73.1%	\$ 150,000.00	97.4%	\$ 187,500.00	121.8%
Salem	2	\$ 213,227	\$ 120,000.00	56.3%	\$ 180,000.00	84.4%	\$ 245,000.00	114.9%
Median AV/Capita		\$ 174,504	\$ 116,250.00	66.2%	\$ 165,000.00	91.0%	\$ 234,000.00	118.4%

Income Limits vs. Neighbors

Abutting Communities			Eligibility Requirements			
Community	Rank	Median Household Income	Elderly - Single	% of MHI	Elderly - Married	% of MHI
Atkinson	3	\$ 146,380.00	\$ 40,500.00	27.7%	\$ 50,000.00	34.2%
Auburn	2	\$ 153,253.00	\$ 35,000.00	22.8%	\$ 50,000.00	32.6%
Chester	4	\$ 142,212.00	\$ 40,000.00	28.1%	\$ 60,000.00	42.2%
Derry	9	\$ 91,673.00	\$ 45,000.00	49.1%	\$ 55,000.00	60.0%
Hampstead	7	\$ 112,348.00	\$ 40,000.00	35.6%	\$ 70,000.00	62.3%
Londonderry	6	\$ 119,571.00	\$ 48,400.00	40.5%	\$ 59,600.00	49.8%
Salem	8	\$ 110,490.00	\$ 41,000.00	37.1%	\$ 55,000.00	49.8%
Sandown	5	\$ 135,040.00	\$ 50,000.00	37.0%	\$ 100,000.00	74.1%
Windham	1	\$ 189,583.00	\$ 55,000.00	29.0%	\$ 65,000.00	34.3%
Median Household Income:		\$ 135,040.00	\$ 41,000.00	35.6%	\$ 59,600.00	49.8%

Income Limits vs. Peers

Ten Largest Municipalities			Eligibility Requirements			
Community	Rank	Household Income	Elderly - Single	% of MHI	Elderly - Married	% of MHI
Concord	8	\$ 84,902.00	\$ 60,000.00	70.7%	\$ 150,000.00	176.7%
Derry	7	\$ 91,673.00	\$ 45,000.00	49.1%	\$ 55,000.00	60.0%
Dover	6	\$ 94,829.00	\$ 52,600.00	55.5%	\$ 71,600.00	75.5%
Hudson	5	\$ 95,842.00	\$ 50,000.00	52.2%	\$ 60,000.00	62.6%
Londonderry	2	\$ 119,571.00	\$ 48,400.00	40.5%	\$ 59,600.00	49.8%
Manchester	9	\$ 81,007.00	\$ 47,000.00	58.0%	\$ 63,000.00	77.8%
Merrimack	1	\$ 127,219.00	\$ 45,000.00	35.4%	\$ 60,000.00	47.2%
Nashua	4	\$ 96,326.00	\$ 54,000.00	56.1%	\$ 54,000.00	56.1%
Rochester	10	\$ 80,386.00	\$ 40,000.00	49.8%	\$ 57,000.00	70.9%
Salem	3	\$ 110,490.00	\$ 41,000.00	37.1%	\$ 55,000.00	49.8%
Median Household Income:		\$ 95,335.50	\$ 47,700.00	49.8%	\$ 59,800.00	60.0%

Elderly Exemptions vs. Neighbors

Abutting Communities			Exemption Amounts					
Community	Rank	AV/Capita	@65		@75		@80	
Atkinson	5	\$ 218,162	\$ 155,000.00	71.0%	\$ 225,000.00	103.1%	\$ 300,000.00	137.5%
Auburn	3	\$ 237,486	\$ 200,000.00	84.2%	\$ 230,000.00	96.8%	\$ 280,000.00	117.9%
Chester	6	\$ 217,408	\$ 154,000.00	70.8%	\$ 196,000.00	90.2%	\$ 238,000.00	109.5%
Derry	9	\$ 164,418	\$ 85,000.00	51.7%	\$ 125,000.00	76.0%	\$ 165,000.00	100.4%
Hampstead	4	\$ 226,897	\$ 210,000.00	92.6%	\$ 280,000.00	123.4%	\$ 322,000.00	141.9%
Londonderry	2	\$ 266,380	\$ 175,000.00	65.7%	\$ 225,000.00	84.5%	\$ 300,000.00	112.6%
Salem	7	\$ 213,227	\$ 120,000.00	56.3%	\$ 180,000.00	84.4%	\$ 245,000.00	114.9%
Sandown	8	\$ 174,155	\$ 110,000.00	63.2%	\$ 130,000.00	74.6%	\$ 150,000.00	86.1%
Windham	1	\$ 327,809	\$ 200,000.00	61.0%	\$ 225,000.00	68.6%	\$ 1,000,000.00	305.1%
Median AV/Capita		\$ 218,162	\$ 155,000.00	65.7%	\$ 225,000.00	84.5%	\$ 280,000.00	114.9%

Elderly Exemptions vs. Peers

Ten Largest Municipalities			Exemption Amounts					
Community	Rank	AV/Capita	@65		@75		@80	
Concord	9	\$ 119,984	\$ 80,000.00	66.7%	\$ 131,000.00	109.2%	\$ 223,000.00	185.9%
Derry	7	\$ 164,418	\$ 85,000.00	51.7%	\$ 125,000.00	76.0%	\$ 165,000.00	100.4%
Dover	4	\$ 191,888	\$ 206,000.00	107.4%	\$ 291,000.00	151.7%	\$ 373,000.00	194.4%
Hudson	3	\$ 196,377	\$ 105,000.00	53.5%	\$ 125,000.00	63.7%	\$ 150,000.00	76.4%
Londonderry	1	\$ 266,380	\$ 175,000.00	65.7%	\$ 225,000.00	84.5%	\$ 300,000.00	112.6%
Manchester	10	\$ 113,822	\$ 156,000.00	137.1%	\$ 210,000.00	184.5%	\$ 280,000.00	246.0%
Merrimack	6	\$ 171,069	\$ 85,000.00	49.7%	\$ 115,000.00	67.2%	\$ 150,000.00	87.7%
Nashua	5	\$ 177,939	\$ 256,000.00	143.9%	\$ 295,000.00	165.8%	\$ 363,000.00	204.0%
Rochester	8	\$ 153,933	\$ 112,500.00	73.1%	\$ 150,000.00	97.4%	\$ 187,500.00	121.8%
Salem	2	\$ 213,227	\$ 120,000.00	56.3%	\$ 180,000.00	84.4%	\$ 245,000.00	114.9%
Median AV/Capita		\$ 174,504	\$ 116,250.00	66.2%	\$ 165,000.00	91.0%	\$ 234,000.00	118.4%

Asset Limits vs. Neighbors

<i>Abutting Communities</i>		<i>Eligibility Requirements</i>			
<i>Community</i>	<i>Median Household Income</i>	<i>Asset Level - Single</i>	<i>% of MHI</i>	<i>Asset Level - Married</i>	<i>% of MHI</i>
Atkinson	\$ 146,380.00	\$300,000.00	204.9%	\$ 300,000.00	204.9%
Auburn	\$ 153,253.00	\$ 50,000.00	32.6%	\$ 50,000.00	32.6%
Chester	\$ 142,212.00	\$300,000.00	211.0%	\$ 300,000.00	211.0%
Derry	\$ 91,673.00	\$150,000.00	163.6%	\$ 150,000.00	163.6%
Hampstead	\$ 112,348.00	\$100,000.00	89.0%	\$100,000.00	89.0%
Londonderry	\$ 119,571.00	\$162,300.00	135.7%	\$162,300.00	135.7%
Salem	\$ 110,490.00	\$140,000.00	126.7%	\$140,000.00	126.7%
Sandown	\$ 135,040.00	\$200,000.00	148.1%	\$ 200,000.00	148.1%
Windham	\$ 189,583.00	\$300,000.00	158.2%	\$ 300,000.00	158.2%
	\$ 135,040.00	\$162,300.00	148.1%	\$162,300.00	148.1%

Asset Limits vs. Peers

Ten Largest Municipalities		Eligibility Requirements			
Community	Median Household Income	Elderly - Single	% of MHI	Elderly - Married	% of MHI
Concord	\$ 84,902.00	\$150,000.00	176.7%	\$150,000.00	176.7%
Derry	\$ 91,673.00	\$150,000.00	163.6%	\$150,000.00	163.6%
Dover	\$ 94,829.00	\$206,200.00	217.4%	\$206,200.00	217.4%
Hudson	\$ 95,842.00	\$160,000.00	166.9%	\$160,000.00	166.9%
Londonderry	\$119,571.00	\$162,300.00	135.7%	\$162,300.00	135.7%
Manchester	\$ 81,007.00	\$100,000.00	123.4%	\$130,000.00	160.5%
Merrimack	\$127,219.00	\$200,000.00	157.2%	\$200,000.00	157.2%
Nashua	\$ 96,326.00	\$162,000.00	168.2%	\$162,000.00	168.2%
Rochester	\$ 80,386.00	\$124,000.00	154.3%	\$124,000.00	154.3%
Salem	\$110,490.00	\$140,000.00	126.7%	\$140,000.00	126.7%
	\$ 95,335.50	\$155,000.00	157.2%	\$155,000.00	160.5%

Exemptions – Reasons for Denial

	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
Elderly Approved	12	66.7%	14	70.0%	15	80.0%	20	88.9%	26	78.0%
Elderly Denied	6	33.3%	6	30.0%	4	20.0%	3	14.3%	7	21.7%
Total	18		20		19		23		33	
Reason for Denial										
Over income	1		5		5		2		1	
Over assets	2		2		2		2		3	
Incomplete application							2			

Elderly Exemptions - Takeaways

- Lower Median Income and Assessed Value Per Capita should be evaluated in tandem as Town Council considers options.
- It appears that income is the more prevalent reason for denial.
- Council could consider increasing the income limit in alignment with recent CPI increases.
- Exemption Values could be increased in conjunction with valuation increase from 2026 revaluation.

Veterans' Tax Credit

- Program eligibility aligns with RSA 72:28 with service during times of a qualifying war or armed conflict.
- Derry's Credit is \$550 – State law allows up to \$750
- Derry does not offer the All-Veterans Credit as other communities do.
- This program is a credit from the tax bill as opposed to a reduction in assessment.

Veterans' Tax Credit

Year	Veterans	Reg Credit	Disabled	Disabled Cre	Total Vets	Total Amount
2025	583	\$550	105	\$2,950	688	\$625,425
2024	710	\$550	78	\$2,400	788	\$575,750
2023	731	\$500	71	\$2,400	802	\$543,683

Service Connected Total Disabled Veterans' Tax Credit Program

- Recent legislation prohibits Veterans from stacking multiple credits.
- Formerly, the Service-Connected Total Disabled Tax Credit was \$2,400 along with the standard \$550 Veterans' credit.
- Derry adopted a single \$2,950 Service Connected Total Disabled Veteran Tax Credit, because Veterans could no longer claim both.
- The number of recipients at \$2,950 increased to 105 in 2025.
- Standard Credit at \$550 decreased to 583 recipients.
- The total number of recipients declined to 688, but credit amount increased to \$625k.

Veterans' Credits vs. Neighbors

Abutting Communities

Community	Rank	AV/Capita	Vet Credit	# of Credits	All Vets	# of Credits	Taxes Redistributed
Atkinson	5	\$ 218,162	\$ 750.00	314	\$ 500.00	50	\$ 321,125
Auburn	3	\$ 237,486	\$ 500.00	254	\$ 500.00	18	\$ 196,000
Chester	6	\$ 217,408	\$ 750.00	193	\$ 750.00	26	\$ 244,250
Derry	9	\$ 164,416	\$ 550.00	710	\$ -		\$ 575,850
Hampstead	4	\$ 226,897	\$ 750.00	308	\$ 750.00	80	\$ 355,000
Londonderry	2	\$ 266,380	\$ 750.00	762	\$ 750.00	173	\$ 1,004,750
Salem	7	\$ 213,227	\$ 750.00	823	\$ 750.00	100	\$ 837,750
Sandown	8	\$ 174,155	\$ 750.00	206	\$ 750.00	29	\$ 214,250
Windham	1	\$ 327,809	\$ 750.00	391	\$ 750.00	69	\$ 432,000
Median AV/Capita		\$ 218,162					

Veterans' Credits vs. Peers

Ten Largest Municipalities

Community	Rank	AV/Capita							
Concord	9	\$	119,384	\$	300.00	763	\$	300.00	72 \$ 431,250
Derry	7	\$	164,418	\$	550.00	710	\$	-	\$ 575,850
Dover	1	\$	191,888	\$	750.00	850	\$	750.00	107 \$ 1,041,375
Hudson	3	\$	196,377	\$	600.00	846	\$	600.00	170 \$ 822,800
Londonderry	1	\$	266,380	\$	750.00	762	\$	750.00	175 \$ 1,004,750
Manchester	10	\$	113,822	\$	500.00	1,767	\$	500.00	186 \$ 1,354,918
Merrimack	6	\$	171,063	\$	500.00	1,004	\$	500.00	111 \$ 891,830
Nashua	5	\$	177,333	\$	750.00	1,357	\$	750.00	260 \$ 1,966,690
Rochester	8	\$	153,333	\$	300.00	1,317	\$	300.00	76 \$ 737,925
Salem	2	\$	213,227	\$	750.00	823	\$	750.00	120 \$ 837,750
Median AV/Capita		\$	174,504						

Veterans' Credits - Takeaways

- Lower Median Income and Assessed Value Per Capita should be evaluated in tandem as Town Council considers options.
- Most communities for both the neighbor group and to lesser degree in the peer group provide the maximum credit of \$750.
- Using the 2025 figure of 688 Veterans, an increase of \$50 would result in approximately \$35k shifted to other taxpayers.
- Town Council should be aware of the trend of an increasing number of Veterans qualifying for disabled credits.

Blind Exemption

- The Town of Derry has supported a blind exemption under RSA 72:37.
- This exemption has been the same at \$40,000 since 2006.
- There are 12 qualifying recipients currently for a total of \$480,000 in exempted value.
- Town Council could consider an increase to mirror inflation.

Direction for the Town Administrator



- Town Council can provide direction as to which scenarios they seek to consider.
- The Veterans' credits are relatively simple to calculate.
- However, changes to the exemption programs will depend on decisions about income/asset levels along with exemption amounts.
- Most programs have April 1, 2027 application dates, so decisions to increase would need to be finalized in early 2027.
- Town Council will have several other information points in October including Health Insurance, 2026 tax rate and the CPI will be finalized in January 2027.



RESOLUTION

Number 2026-052

To Accept a US Bureau of Justice Assistance Grant for Law Enforcement Equipment

WHEREAS, Section 9.15 of the Town Charter authorizes the Town Council to accept grant funding; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has long recognized the need to keep up with technological advances for emergency services; and

WHEREAS, Rockingham County has received a Bureau of Justice Assistance Grant in the Federal FY26 Budget; and

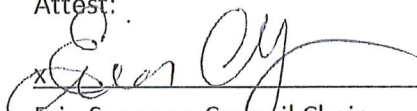
WHEREAS, the Town of Derry qualifies as a sub-recipient by signing an intermunicipal agreement;

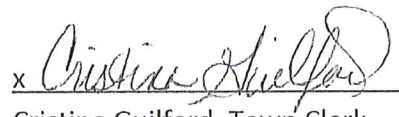
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED IN COUNCIL, pursuant to RSA 31:95-b, that the Town Administrator is hereby authorized to apply for, accept and expend up to \$14,341 from the United States Bureau of Justice Assistance for law enforcement equipment for the Police Department.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

Adopted: October 6, 2026

Attest:

x 
Erin Spencer, Council Chair
Date: October 14, 2026

x 
Cristina Guilford, Town Clerk
Date: October 14, 2026



RESOLUTION

Number 2026-054

To Approve Covenants and Commercial-Industrial Tax Relief Application for 12 A Street

WHEREAS, Section 5.1 of the Town Charter vests in the Town Council the powers of the legislative and governing bodies; and

WHEREAS, On October 1, 2019 the Council adopted Ordinance #2019-010 and reauthorized the program on September 1, 2026 as Ordinance #2026-002 which enacted the Derry Commercial/Industrial Property Tax Exemption Program; and

WHEREAS, the Program is designed to spur economic development and job creation by granting a partial tax exemption on property improvements; and

WHEREAS, this application is consistent with the Ordinance's Purpose and Declaration of Public Benefit as set forth in Section 138-38;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED IN COUNCIL that the Derry Town Council hereby declares:

- 1) Approval of the application constitutes a Public Benefit;
- 2) Approval of the covenants and the Commercial-Industrial Tax Relief Application for 12 A Street;
- 3) Tax relief shall equal 50% of the eligible new value for a period of ten years, as calculated against the local school and town tax rates;
- 4) Authorizes the Town Administrator to execute all necessary documents.

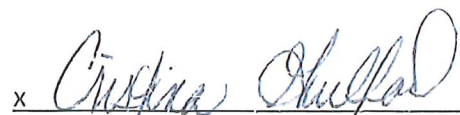
This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

Adopted October 6, 2026

Attest:

x 
Erin Spencer, Council Chair

Date: October 6, 2026

x 
Cristina Guilford, Town Clerk

Date: October 6, 2026