TOWN OF PORTSMOUTH  
RESOLUTION #2017-08-28  

A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS – ARBITRATION – CONTINUANCE OF CONTRACTUAL PROVISIONS

WHEREAS: the General Assembly has passed legislation that would automatically extend collective bargaining agreements for municipal employees and teachers after expiration (H5593 Sub A), and this may limit the ability of officials to negotiate in the best interest of taxpayers; and

WHEREAS: the expiration date of a labor contract motivates parties to come together to resolve their issues prior to the close of the contract. There are times when a resolution cannot be reached prior to the end of a contract and in that case parties should be able to extend contracts temporarily if both sides agree; and

WHEREAS: negotiation is a necessary process that allows both parties to address differences and account for changes in the political, economic, and labor environment. A negotiated expiration date protects both parties while simultaneously encouraging those parties to review and discuss ways to reconcile issues between them; and

WHEREAS: this legislation may potentially harm the negotiating position of municipalities charged with a fiduciary responsibility to contain costs; and

WHEREAS: under this legislation, employees would have no incentive at all to negotiate concessions on wages, pensions, other post-employment benefits, or work conditions. Perpetual contracts tie our hands and will limit our ability to promote efficient and cost-effective government and will place a higher burden on the taxpayers; and

WHEREAS: municipal leaders are working hard to control property tax growth while providing important services to the public. Perpetual contracts would undermine those efforts; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Portsmouth hereby opposes this legislation and asks the General Assembly not to override the Governor’s veto.

Approved by Town Council Action  
August 28, 2017

_______________________  
Keith E. Hamilton, President  
Portsmouth Town Council

ATTEST: ________________________  
Jennifer M. West, Town Clerk