

LONDONDERRY BUDGET COMMITTEE

Minutes for February 22, 2024

The Budget Committee meeting is at 7:00 PM on February 22, 2024, in the Moose Hill Conference room, 268B Mammoth Road, Londonderry, NH 03053

Present : Patrick Cassidy –Chair, Joseph Gagnon-Vice Chair, Maureen Hardy- Secretary, Ryan Cronin-Member at Large, Kate Burbidge-Member at Large , Jason Goldman, Member at large, Ron Dunn-Town Council Liaison

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by P. Cassidy

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / MOMENT OF SILENCE

P. Cassidy led the Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

- a. The November 20, 2023 Minutes and January 17, 2024 minutes were presented. Motion by J. Gagnon to approve, Second by J. Goldman. All in favor. (J. Goldman abstained from the November meeting minutes vote as he was not present at that meeting)

4. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

a. Liaison Reports:

i. School Liaison Reports:

J. Gagnon: The School district is under-budget for this quarter. The District will be installing Door Locks and using \$377,076.00 from a SAFE Grant from the State and \$185,956.00 from the Security Article which was approved by the Voters in March 20223. Total cost is %563032.00. The School board approved the bid request.

ii. Town Council Liaison Reports:

K. Burbidge- Town Council meeting on Feb 5, 2024:

1. Main item was the allocaton of \$18000.00 for DPW Winter Maintenance items throughout the town at all town buildings. Another withdrawl was requested for the South Fire Station for a water line. This allocation was for \$801.00.
2. A Grant for \$3000.00 was accepted for the Fire Department for 3 AEDs . The AED can be loaned out to Citizens to have on hand for events.
3. J. Goldman noted that the Town Lantern is out and has a lot of good information. The next Town Council Meeting will be on March 4th at the LHS Café at 6:30 PM and the Water Warrant Article will be discussed.

iii. Town Hall Liaison Report:

Maureen Hardy- From Justin Campo

The Town is anticipating coming in under budget however at this time it is not at the same level as prior years. This is due to various situations that have occurred and the impact they have. These situations vary from deployment of personnel, which requires the Town to fill their shifts with overtime, to departments such as the Fire department being able to fill their roster more completely. While the Fire department filling their roster is extremely beneficial to the residents of the Town and to the department, it has an upfront cost that needs to be absorbed and leaves less flexibility within the budget.

As we are still in the winter season it is important to keep in mind that additional expenses can occur more frequently because of events that are out of the Town's control, such as snow storms. This can lead to the currently anticipated budgetary surplus being quickly depleted, because of the overtime required to plow the roads, the additional salt/sand that would need to be used, additional cost of gasoline to fuel the vehicles and the potential cost to repair any damages that may occur on the older plow vehicles. Outside of the winter months the Town is still responsible to provide emergency services that are also out of the control of the Town and cannot be predicted, such as the incident in which there was plane crash in Londonderry. Based on all these factors and in order to ensure the Town has the budgetary flexibility to not limit any of these important and essential services for the remainder of the fiscal year, the Town made the decision to be proactive and to take pre-emptive measures with all Town

departments to allow for additional budgetary flexibility. All Town departments have been directed to obtain additional approval for any discretionary spending, such as nonessential supplies, repairs and maintenance that are not critical and are able to be delayed without damaging the integrity of the service the Town can provide, and trainings. Since this measure was put in place, the Town has already started to see the anticipated surplus increase, while the Town is not ready to remove these measures yet, based on these results it is anticipated that they will not need remain in place for the remainder of the fiscal year. These measures however will remain in place until the anticipated budgetary surplus provides enough of a buffer that the Town feels comfortable it would be able to absorb the costs associated with an emergency event.

iv. Department of Public Works Liaison Report:

Joseph Gagnon or Jason Goldman: No Report

v. Police Department Liaison Report:

Patrick Cassidy-

The Police Station is under budget. There are currently 60 Officers. Five have been hired but two have retired in the same timeframe. The Department is actively working on recruiting more. Chief Bernard wishes to thank the Budget Committee for work done during Budget Season.

vi. Fire Department Liaison Report:

Ryan Cronin-No Report

vii. Capital Improvement

S. Meier -Absent

b. Budget Committee Candidate Introductory Remarks and Questions

- i. Four Candidates introduced themselves and responded to questions from the BC. A fifth candidate who could not attend sent a Statement that was Read by P. Cassidy.

1. Kate Burbidge for 3 year term

2. Jason Goldman for a 3 year term
3. David Plaza for a 1 year term
4. Wendy Marini for a 3 year term
5. Luke Verani was out of town for work and submitted a written statement (attached). Luke is seeking a 1 year term

5. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by J. Gagnon, second by R. Cronin, all in favor, Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Member	For	Against	Abstained	Absent
Patrick Cassidy	X			
Joseph Gagnon	X			
Maureen Hardy	X			
Ryan Cronin	X			
Jason Goldman	X			
Sarah Meier				X
Kate Burbidge	X			

6. MEETING SCHEDULE-We are moving our standard meeting time to the Third Thursday day of every month due to a conflict with the Heritage Commission meeting time.
- a. **Thursday March 21, 2024 at 7:00 PM. Location TBD**
 - b. **Thursday April 18, 2024 at 7:00 P.M. Location TBD**
 - c. **Additional TBD**

Attachement:

STATEMENT FROM LUKE VERANI, Candidate for one year term to Budget Committee

Hello,

My name is Luke Veneri and I'm seeking a One Year term on the Londonderry Budget Committee. I am currently a member of a council at the state house that works to advise the state legislature on issues important to young adults in New Hampshire. Because of this, I have gotten a firsthand experience in how young adults are being taxed out of the towns they were raised in. As someone who was raised in this town, went to school in this town, and wants to stay in this town, I am deeply concerned about the never ending tax increases to seniors and young families alike. The majority of people who were raised here, want to come back and raise a family. Because of increased taxes across the board, many can no longer do that. If elected, I hope to provide fiscal responsibility and increased transparency to our town government. I would appreciate your vote on March 12th.