

Londonderry Budget Committee

Meeting Minutes

June 24, 2021

The Budget Committee meeting was held at 7:00 PM in the Moose Hill Council Chambers, 268B Mammoth Rd, Londonderry, NH.

Present: Chad Franz - Chair, Jonathan Kipp - Vice-Chair, Jennifer Kenney - Secretary - Member at Large, Steve Breault - Member at Large, Joseph Gagnon – Member at Large, Tim Siekmann– Member at Large

Absent:

Staff: Kevin Smith, Town Manager and Scott Laliberte, School Superintendent

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by C. Franz.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE and MOMENT OF SILENCE:

J. Kipp led the Pledge of Allegiance. Followed by a moment of silence for the losses in the community over this past month.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

a. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

Motion to accept the minutes from May 27, 20021, meeting made by J. Kipp and seconded by S. Breault. Minutes accepted with a 5-0-1 vote.

Member	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Chad Franz	X			
Jonathan Kipp	X			
Jennifer Kenney	X			
Steve Breault	X			
Joseph Gagnon	X			
Tim Siekmann				X

Londonderry Budget Committee

Meeting Minutes

June 24, 2021

V. NEW COMMITTEE BUSINESS:

a. Budget Planning Process:

i. Town Manager: Kevin Smith

K. Smith provided an overview of the budget process for the fiscal year 2023. He mentioned that we have been at a default budget since 2011. He mentions that we cannot increase the non-personnel lines when we are in a default budget. We have been covering these expenses with savings (retirements or positions not being filled) over the years as the expenses have increased. A couple of months ago in the middle of COVID, K. Smith mentioned that some of the revenues might decrease. Good news the revenues never fell/decreased as thought. K. Smith will make sure to provide an update after the 6.30.2021-year end closing. He is expecting the revenue projections for the 2023 budget to increase both with what we receive from the State of New Hampshire (as the budget passed earlier today) and actual revenues car registrations and building permits.

Granite Ridge abatement discussion was touched upon regarding the loss in value from the power plant which was more than anticipated and out of our control. The abatements are from 2017-present. K. Smith mentioned that there would be a larger discussion as to the final amount and tax impact at the July Town Council meeting. It would be discussed as to how this will impact the tax rate setting process. This will impact the following tax rates: town, school, county, and the state.

K. Smith mentioned that there are property valuations happening right now. The last valuation was 2019. There was a discussion that took place to discuss going from every 5 years to every 2 years because of the large impact from the last valuation in 2019.

K. Smith and S. Laliberte mentioned that they started a Podcast together. It's a podcast that has discussions around local government for both the town and school. The name of their Podcast is: Apples 2 Apples. Here is the link below for their first episode.

<https://soundcloud.com/john-beaulieu-54117231/apples2appless-episode-one-5-14-21>

ii. School Superintendent: Scott Laliberte

S. Laliberte mentioned that the goal and focus is to have a normal school plan and does not see any major adjustments to the default budget in FY 2023. He mentioned the school will most likely follow a default budget. As COVID numbers decrease and the school gets back to a normal plan, this gives us the opportunity to increase the professional development plans. These are all done in house which has been and is very cost effective for the district.

Londonderry Budget Committee

Meeting Minutes

June 24, 2021

S. Laliberte discussed the 10-year master plan would be presented at the July 20th school board meeting. The Trident Group will provide the school district with the preliminary results of the current use assessment that was completed. This will give the district an idea as to what needs improvement, areas that the district will need to focus on and potential future costs. With the help of B. Slater, School Board Member, discussions are underway to explore relocating the district offices closer back to the center of town.

S. Laliberte wanted to make the budget committee aware that the end of the 3-year collective bargaining agreement with the teachers' union and the Allied Health Professionals contracts will be up this year. The district has received a new intent to bargaining agreement and is in the process of reviewing and being the process of negotiations this summer.

VI. LIAISON REPORTS:

a. Department of Public Works – Joseph Gagnon

Nothing to report

b. Police Department – Steve Breault

S. Breault discussed with Chief Hart discussed the body cameras, and Chief Hart mentioned they are pursuing a grant that would potentially cover the cost of the cameras. There are 5 to 6 individuals in the hiring process currently. The lease for the police cars is coming up soon that they will start to look at. The higher end of the cost is not so much the leases but outfitting the cruisers.

c. Fire Department – Jonathan Kipp

Nothing to report

d. Capital Improvement Plan – Steve Breault

Meeting was held, abbreviated process this year with no large projects in the future.

S. Breault was appointed as the Chair for the Capital Improvement Committee.

e. Town Council – Chad Franz

Nothing to report

f. Schools

a. School Board – Tim Siekmann and Joseph Gagnon

Nothing to report

Londonderry Budget Committee

Meeting Minutes

June 24, 2021

b. Finance & Superintendent – Jennifer Kenney

Nothing to report

Community Services Grant

- We are going to continue with the same process that the Budget Committee completed last year. T. Siekmann will oversee creating the application using Microsoft forms.
- August 1, 2021, go live process for the application
- September 30, 2021, will be the deadline for the application to be filled out
- October 5, 2021, all results pushed from the applications to each member
- October 18, 2021, each Budget Committee member will need to submit their feedback and decision on the funds to the Chair C. Franz.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Glenn Douglas 6 Overlook Ave

G. Douglas mentioned a discussion that should happen regarding warrant articles. He wanted to know why we wait to complete the projects after the warrant articles are approved. For example, the paving of the Town hall offices parking lot wasn't completed for over an entire year after the warrant article was passed. Another example, that was provided was the addition to the end of the Town Hall offices was approved in 2018 or 2019 and nothing has been started. G. Douglas mentioned can there or should there be a time limit on warrant articles.

G. Douglas wanted to ask the question as to when the tax impact would happen from Granite Ridge. He mentions that it would be nice to have a heads up and not get 'hammered' with a large increase without a reasonable notification. He doesn't understand why we would wait until the July meeting to discuss a tax impact.

Mary Ann O'Connor 7 Partridge Lane

M. O'Connor stated that she came to get a better understanding of how the Budget Committee is working. She is interested in putting her name in to cover the open term until March of 2022. The deadline for the application is Friday, July 9, 2021.

Londonderry Budget Committee

Meeting Minutes

June 24, 2021

VIII. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn made by T. Siekmann and seconded by J. Kenney. Vote passes 6-0.

Member	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Chad Franz	X			
Jonathan Kipp	X			
Jennifer Kenney	X			
Steve Breault	X			
Joseph Gagnon	X			
Tim Siekmann	X			

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 PM.

XI. UPCOMING MEETINGS:

August 25, 2021, School Tours TBD

August 26, 2021, School Tours TBD

September 23, 2021, Budget Committee Meeting

October 28, 2021, Budget Committee Meeting