LONDONDERRY BUDGET COMMITTEE
Minutes for January 29, 2026

Sunnycrest Conference Room, 268B Mammoth Road, Londonderry, NH 03053

Present: Joseph Gagnon - Chair, Kate Burbidge – Vice Chair, Nicole Dery – Secretary, Patrick El Azem- Member at large, Rebecca Roe - Member at large)

Absent: Sara Meier – Member at large, Ryan Cronin – Member at large

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by J. Gagnon.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** J. Gagnon led the Pledge of Allegiance

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** N/A no members present

4. **BUDGET COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT:**
   - **a.** Discussion**:** The committee reviewed a draft of the annual report prepared by K. Burbidge. The group agreed the tone should remain collaborative and positive regarding the budget season.
   - **b.** Nicole requested an addition regarding the school lease payments. Specifically, the schools are paying $250,000 per year for 10 years. Once that period concludes, there will be no further lease payments for the schools.
   - **c.** The committee agreed to use the acronym "ABC" (Advisory Budget Committee) in the report to emphasize their advisory role.
   - **d.** Annual report is complete for addition to Town Annual Report.

5. **STRATEGIC PLAN**
   - **a.** P. El-Azem proposed a goal to provide financial and budget data in a digital, self-service format. This would allow citizens to analyze trends and line items without requiring manual exports from the finance department.
   - **b.** Members discussed the need for earlier involvement in the budget creation process to understand the strategic reasoning behind costs rather than just reviewing the final numbers.
   - **c.** Town Manager noted that while the town is not ready for "priority-based budgeting" immediately, they are planning an elongated budget process for the next cycle. This will allow the committee to be embedded earlier in the process.
   - **d.** Meeting Structure: The committee discussed separating budget presentations from Town Council meetings to avoid fatigue and allow for more focused financial discussions.

6. **LIBRARY UPDATE**
   - **a.** Incident Report**:** Town Manager provided an update on the library, which has been closed indefinitely. A radiator pipe broke causing water damage, but the root cause for the closure is a significant mold issue resulting from long-term leaks and poor insulation.
   - **b.** Operational Plan: Library services are being moved temporarily to the Police Department and are expected to be operational for limited services.
   - **c.** Insurance Issue: The insurance company is currently denying coverage, classifying the mold as "pollution." TN intends to arbitrate or litigate this, citing successful past precedents.
   - **d.** Funding Strategy: To fund the repairs without raising taxes, Sean proposed increasing the Expendable Trust Fund by approximately $250,000 using the unassigned fund balance (cash reserves).

e. Next Steps: Construction management firms are being interviewed to oversee the remediation, which is expected to take at least two months.

7. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – NA no public present

8. ADJOURNMENT

- Motion to adjourn K. Burbidge; second N. Dery, all in favor (5-0)

9. MEETING SCHEDULE:

Feb 19: Invite Budget Committee candidates to meeting