Londonderry Town Council Meeting
Monday, August 3, 2026, 7:00 p.m.
Moose Hill Council Chambers

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Meeting Link: http://173.166.17.35/internetchannel/show/14320?channel=4

Council Members Present: Chair Ron Dunn; Vice Chair Shawn Faber; Councilors Dan Bouchard, Deb Paul

Council Members Absent: Councilor Ted Combes

Other Staff Present: Town Manager Shaun Mulholland; Administrative Services Director Kirsten Hildonen; Chief Jim Young; Division Chief of Fire Prevention Brian Johnson; Deputy Chief Phil LeBlanc

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dunn called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Dunn opened public comment.

Name: Glenn Douglas
Address: 6 Overlook Avenue
Mr. Douglas described his websites and channels that provide a venue for residents to stay informed and participate in local government. He asked the Council to make a motion to waive attorney-client privilege regarding the legal opinion and to release any non-public meeting minutes pertaining to the Veterans Tax Credit to provide transparency.

Councilor Paul asked how this question could be addressed. Chair Dunn recommended adding it as an Agenda item so that a legal opinion could be obtained first. Councilor Bouchard asked which attorney would provide that opinion. Chair Dunn said he believed it would be the attorney who rendered the original opinion.

Name: Kristine Perez
Address: 5 Wesley Drive
Ms. Perez asked why most of the 91-A requests are being referred to Shaheen and Gordon. She asked why the Council will not address impact fees, noting the Planning Board sent the Council thoughts about impact fees that have not been discussed. She asked why the Council is not answering the public's questions.

Councilor Bouchard said he has not seen any information from the Planning Board regarding impact fees. Chair Dunn will follow up.

Laura Gandia of Devine, Millimet & Branch spoke to the denied abatement for 2 Litchfield Road and asked the Council to reconsider the denial of the abatement.

Chair Dunn closed public comment.

Impact Fees: Town Manager Mulholland reviewed actions taken regarding impact fees over the past year.

Strategic Plan: Town Manager Mulholland read a statement recommending the Council hold final action on the draft strategic plan in abeyance until spring 2027, to allow Administration time to produce a revised framework designed to provide meaningful direction for development of the FY2029 budget. He reviewed the process by which the current draft was developed and explained why final adoption would not be prudent at this time. He proposed a revised schedule to reassess the draft strategic plan and present a revised framework in 2027.

Councilor Bouchard expressed frustration and said the Council dropped the ball, noting the waste of Staff time and the need for Councilors to have spoken up earlier, if they wanted to downsize the strategic plan. He said a strategic plan is needed and agreed with the Town Manager's proposal. Vice Chair Faber suggested if wasting time was a concern, the Council should pass the draft plan. Chair Dunn agreed with the Town Manager's recommendation.

Councilor Bouchard moved that the Londonderry Town Council hereby holds further action on the draft FY2027-29 Strategic Plan in abeyance until spring 20207, direct the Town Manager to preserve and use the existing draft, public input, Board and Commission feedback, and Council deliberations in preparing a concise, Council-level strategic policy framework, confirm that priorities and initiatives already underway through existing budgets, policies, plans, contracts or Council action will continue, and direct the Town Manager to return no later than May 2027 with a revised plan for public hearing and Council consideration so that the adopted priorities may guide development in the FY2029 budget. Seconded by Councilor Paul.

Discussion: Councilor Paul spoke in support of utilizing the existing data and of the Town Manager's recommendation. Vice Chair Faber asked if the Council approved of everything in the current draft being moved forward. Town Manager Mulholland said there are controversial items in the draft plan that the Council has not directed him to move forward on.

Motion carried 4-0-0. Chair votes in the affirmative.

Chair Dunn noted there will be no public hearing on the strategic plan on August 17th.

Legal Subcommittee: Councilor Bouchard read an email from counsel regarding the legal subcommittee and questioned what was stated within it. Chair Faber called for a point of order and asked if this information was privileged; Councilor Bouchard said it was not. Councilor Bouchard asked about the cost of investigations and whether the subcommittee gave counsel a blank check. He asked if any Councilors were under investigation and Chair Dunn would not answer. Councilor Bouchard asked when the investigations would end and why the entire Council was not included in legal correspondence. Chair Dunn did not respond. Vice Chair Faber said these questions had already been answered.

C. BOARD APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS

1. **Accept the resignation of Harry Schwartz from the Conservation Commission.**

   Vice Chair Faber moved to accept the resignation of Harry Schwartz from the Conservation Commission. Seconded by Chair Dunn. Motion carried 4-0-0. Chair votes in the affirmative.

2. **Accept the resignation of Kaylyn Moore from the Old Home Day Board of Directors.**

   Vice Chair Faber moved to accept the resignation of Kaylyn Moore from the Old Home Day Board of Directors. Seconded by Chair Dunn. Motion carried 4-0-0. Chair votes in the affirmative.

D. PUBLIC HEARING

None

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Discuss and approve the request for an expenditure from the Roadway Maintenance Trust Fund for chip sealing.**

   Town Manager Mulholland explained that this is to apply chip seal to select roads, as discussed in earlier meetings.

Councilor Paul left the meeting.

Councilor Bouchard moved that the Londonderry Town Council hereby approves Order 2026-16 and directs the Trustees of the Trust Fund to disburse $175,000 from the Roadway Maintenance Trust Fund to the General Fund for all work associated with chip sealing Planeview Drive, Delta Drive, Aviation Drive, and Harvey Road between North Wentworth Avenue and Pettengill Road, with the final scope to be determined based on project priorities, field conditions, and available funding. Seconded by Vice Chair Faber. Motion carried 3-0-0. Chair votes in the affirmative.

Councilor Paul returned to the meeting.

2. **Discuss request by Town of Litchfield to provide ambulance and fire dispatch services.**

   Chief Young and Deputy Chief LeBlanc offered a presentation on the opportunity to provide ambulance and dispatch services to the Town of Litchfield. Chief Young reviewed the benefits of this partnership, including increased staffing and revenue, reduction of reliance on mutual aid, and reduced response times. He also reviewed the increased workload and costs of this three-year arrangement. The service will be 100% funded by a combination of the assessments to Litchfield and insurance reimbursement from ambulance transport; there will be no impact to the tax rate. The Council asked clarifying questions.

John Brunelle, Litchfield Selectboard Chair, said their Selectboard has approved this proposal and included it in the operating budget, and is ready to proceed.

This proposal will be discussed at the August 17th Council meeting.

3. **Discuss and schedule a public hearing for August 17, 2026 to approve the revisions to the General Assistance Guidelines.**
Ms. Hildonen explained this is an administrative update to the General Assistance Guidelines based on legislature passed in the 2026 Session.

Councilor Bouchard moved that this be moved to a public hearing. Seconded by Councilor Paul. Motion carried 4-0-0. Chair votes in the affirmative.

A public hearing was scheduled for August 17, 2026.

4. **Discuss and schedule a public hearing for August 17, 2026 regarding the proposed changes to the Pettengill Road TIF District.**
Town Manager Mulholland reviewed the proposal to add four properties to the Pettengill Road TIF District, one of which is leased to Enterprise Mobility and owned by the Londonderry Housing and Redevelopment Authority (LHRA). The proposal is to use the TIF revenue to make upgrades to the building that houses this business. The lease agreement will bring in extra motor vehicle revenue to the Town, which can be used to offset property taxes. The taxable value of the property will also be increased, which will bring in additional revenue for the TIF District. An MOU with the LHRA will be needed.

Dan Root, LHRA Chair, reviewed the 26-year history with Enterprise Mobility and the intent behind this proposal.

The Council asked clarifying questions.

Councilor Bouchard moved that the Londonderry Town Council hereby schedules a public hearing on August 17, 2026 at 7 p.m. to receive public input regarding the proposed changes to the Pettengill Road Area Tax Increment Financing District to include adding four additional properties. Seconded by Councilor Paul. Motion carried 4-0-0. Chair votes in the affirmative.

5. **Discuss and schedule a public hearing for September 14, 2026, regarding adding alternates to the Cemetery Trustees.**
Ms. Hildonen reported the Trustees expressed the need for alternates, which they would recommend and the Council would appoint to a one-year term. She noted the need to add this to the Municipal Code, which would require editing the Code. Other changes are needed to this Section of the Code, so these would be done at the same time. The Council asked clarifying questions.

Councilor Bouchard moved that the Londonderry Town Council hereby schedules a

public hearing on September 14, 2026 at 7 p.m. in the Moose Hill Chambers of the Londonderry Town Hall on amending Title V, Chapter III of the Municipal Code and adding Chapter 10.2 B to the Municipal Code. Seconded by Councilor Paul. Motion carried 4-0-0. Chair votes in the affirmative.

6. **Discuss and schedule a public hearing for August 17, 2026 to approve a revision to the Fire Department Rules and Regulations.**

Ms. Hildonen explained a revision is needed to reflect updated technology.

Councilor Bouchard moved that the Londonderry Town Council hereby schedules a public hearing on August 17, 2026 at 7 p.m. in the Moose Hill Council Chambers at Londonderry Town Hall to receive public input regarding amending the Londonderry Fire Department Rules and Regulations. Seconded by Councilor Paul. Motion carried 4-0-0. Chair votes in the affirmative.

F. OLD BUSINESS

1. **Discuss the denied abatement for 2 Litchfield Road**

Councilor Bouchard moved to approve the denial of the abatement request for 2 Litchfield Road. Seconded by Councilor Paul. Motion carried 3-0-1, with Vice Chair Faber abstaining. Chair votes in the affirmative.

G. APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS

1. **2026-08-03 Sewer Warrant**
2. **Town Council meeting minutes from July 20, 2026**

Councilor Bouchard moved to approve the consent items. Seconded by Vice Chair Faber. Motion carried 4-0-0. Chair votes in the affirmative.

H. OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Liaison Reports**

Councilor Paul said information on Old Home Day is available online and in local publications.

Councilor Bouchard asked if the legal subcommittee would be presenting a report and Chair Dunn said yes, but he did not have a date.

2. **Town Manager Report**

Ms. Hildonen offered an update on the status of the water projects.

Town Manager Mulholland reviewed the budget process and timeline.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Dunn opened public comment.

Name: Glenn Douglas

Address: 6 Overlook Avenue
Mr. Douglas asked what obtaining a legal opinion to release the legal opinion on the Veterans Tax Credit would cost. He asked at which Council meeting this issue would be discussed. He asked when the legal subcommittee will meet, as this needs to be done in public. He noted Councilor Bouchard read a portion of the legal opinion that he has requested, and that it was not deemed privileged information when Chair Dunn read from the same opinion. He expressed interest in seeing what cuts will be made to the budget to account for legal expenses.

Chair Dunn closed public comment.

Councilor Paul asked when the issue regarding the legal opinion about the Veterans Tax Credit would be placed on the Agenda. Vice Chair Faber said there were a lot of things to consider for the Agenda. Chair Dunn did not want to cite a date at this time. Councilor Paul said the residents deserve answers to their questions.

J. MEETING SCHEDULE

- August 17, 2026, Moose Hill Council Chambers, 7:00 p.m.
- September 14, 2026, Moose Hill Council Chambers, 7:00 p.m.

K. NON-PUBLIC SESSION

A non-public session was held under RSA 91-A:3, II(b): The hiring of any person as a public employee.

Councilor Bouchard moved to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II(b). Seconded by Vice Chair Faber. A roll call vote was taken: Bouchard – aye, Dunn – aye, Faber – aye, Paul – aye. Motion carried 4-0-0. Chair votes in the affirmative.

The camera was turned off at 9:14 p.m.

L. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes prepared by Beth Hanggeli

Town of Londonderry
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Prepared Statement Regarding the Timing of the Town Strategic Plan

Recommendation to Hold Final Action in Abeyance Until Spring 2027

Prepared Statement

Chairman, members of the Town Council, and residents of Londonderry:

After reviewing the current draft Strategic Plan, the proposed revisions, staff analysis, feedback from boards and commissions, public comments, and the status of the FY2028 budget process, I recommend that the Council hold final action on the draft FY2027-FY2029 Strategic Plan in abeyance until spring 2027. At that time, the Administration should return with a revised framework designed to provide meaningful direction for development of the FY2029 budget.

This is not a recommendation to abandon strategic planning or to discard the work already completed. The process began in June 2025 and was formally launched in July 2025. Departments, boards, commissions, residents, businesses, staff, and the Council contributed substantial time and ideas. That work was synthesized into seven functional areas, twenty measurable objectives, and a detailed record of source material. The Council held workshops, considered the plan at multiple meetings, and conducted a public hearing. The Town should preserve and build upon that investment.

At the same time, the value of a strategic plan is not measured by how quickly it is adopted, by how many pages it contains, or by whether it meets an artificial deadline. Its value is measured by whether it creates shared direction, guides real choices, aligns resources, can be implemented by the organization, and allows the Council and the public to judge progress. On those measures, the Town is not yet at the point where final adoption would be prudent.

First, we do not yet have durable consensus about what the plan should be. Substantial proposed revisions were presented late in the process. Those revisions were not minor wording changes; they raised fundamental questions about the scope of the plan, the relationship between objectives and implementation, the appropriate use of action items and performance measures, the connection to the Master Plan, and the responsibilities of the Council, boards, commissions, and staff. The feedback received since then demonstrates that these questions remain unresolved.

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Forcing a final vote now would not create consensus. It would likely produce a plan that some view as too detailed and others view as too general, or a plan that has formal approval but lacks the shared ownership necessary for implementation. A strategic plan adopted without sufficient agreement can become either an aspirational document that does not influence day-to-day decisions or a detailed administrative work plan that is viewed as exceeding the Council's intended policy role. Neither outcome would serve Londonderry well.

Second, the timing no longer aligns with the FY2028 budget cycle. The central purpose of the Strategic Plan is to establish priorities that guide budgeting and resource allocation. The FY2028 budget process is already underway: the budget calendar and related guidance have been under Council consideration, and departments must proceed with the work necessary to develop operating and capital requests. Adopting a strategic plan after that process has begun would either leave the plan unable to meaningfully shape the budget or require the budget process to be retrofitted around a document that has not yet achieved consensus. That would create confusion, unfunded expectations, and avoidable rework.

Holding final action until spring 2027 provides a more responsible sequence. The Council can complete the necessary alignment work, consider a revised plan in public, and adopt priorities before the Administration issues formal guidance for the FY2029 budget. The plan can then perform its intended function: leading the budget process rather than following it.

The pause should be active, not passive. The initiatives already underway will continue under existing budgets, policies, legal responsibilities, administrative authority, and prior Council direction. These include digital permitting and licensing, records modernization, Microsoft 365 and SharePoint implementation, asset management, water and transportation planning, facilities and capital work, public safety and emergency preparedness, financial and budget modernization, LEAN process improvement, standard operating procedures, cross-training, employee development, and improved public communication. These efforts did not begin solely because a strategic plan was proposed, and they should not stop because final action on the plan is deferred.

During the period of abeyance, the Administration should preserve the complete planning record, maintain a crosswalk showing how current work relates to the draft priorities, identify capacity and resource constraints, establish practical baselines, and concentrate on the FY2028 budget and the Town's immediate operational needs. Early in 2027, the Council should hold a focused alignment session to reassess the draft plan. The draft plan or a revised framework can then be reviewed publicly and brought forward in May 2027, before FY2029 budget guidance is issued.

Some may view a pause as lost time. I view it as protecting the time and effort already invested. Adopting a plan without sufficient consensus, implementation readiness, or budget alignment would create the appearance of progress without the conditions needed to deliver results. Taking several months to establish those conditions is more responsible than approving a document that may immediately require revision or may not guide actual decisions.

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Strategic patience is not inaction; it is responsible sequencing. The Town should continue doing the work that residents expect while taking the time necessary to produce a plan that is shared, realistic, measurable, implementable, and directly connected to the budget. Londonderry does not simply need a strategic plan on paper. It needs a strategic framework that can be carried out, funded, monitored, and trusted.

For those reasons, I respectfully recommend that the Council hold final action on the draft Strategic Plan in abeyance until spring 2027, confirm that currently authorized priorities and initiatives will continue, and direct the Administration to return to the Council with the draft plan in time to guide the FY2029 budget process.

Proposed Active-Pause Schedule

The following schedule preserves momentum while placing the final plan in the correct sequence with organizational readiness and the FY2029 budget process.

Target period	Purpose and deliverable
August-December 2026	Preserve the full planning record; maintain an interim crosswalk of ongoing work; concentrate on the FY2028 budget; and establish service, staffing, financial, and performance baselines.
March-April 2027	Schedule a discussion with the draft and discuss any revisions the Council deems appropriate, conduct a public hearing, and present the strategic framework for Council consideration.
May 2027	Bring the Strategic Plan with any revisions for approval by the Council.
June 2027	Issue FY2029 budget guidance that links proposed resources and initiatives to the adopted strategic priorities.

Recommended Council Motion

MOVED, that the Londonderry Town Council hereby holds further action on the draft FY2027-FY2029 Strategic Plan in abeyance until spring 2027; direct the Town Manager to preserve and use the existing draft, public input, board and commission feedback, and Council deliberations in preparing a concise Council-level strategic policy framework; confirm that priorities and initiatives already underway through existing budgets, policies, plans, contracts, or Council action will continue; and direct the Town Manager to return no later than May 2027 with a revised plan for public hearing and Council consideration so that the adopted priorities may guide development of the FY2029 budget.

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