Londonderry Town Council Meeting
Monday, August 17, 2026, 7:00 p.m.
Moose Hill Council Chambers

Meeting Link: http://173.166.17.35/internetchannel/show/14328?channel=4

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

Council Members Absent: None

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; Battalion Chief Bruce Hallowell; Captain Patrick Cheetham

A. CALL TO ORDER

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

Councilor Bouchard read a proclamation recognizing the members of Londonderry Trailways for their service to the community.

Captain Patrick Cheetham spoke to the success of Old Home Day. He thanked everyone involved in putting on the event, especially Kirsten Hildonen and committee president Rick Pierce. He also recognized Steve and Julie Lee for their work on Concerts on the Common.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Dunn opened public comment.

Name: Jane Cooper
Address: 73 Winterwood Drive
Ms. Cooper spoke to the behavior of the Town Council and the public not knowing how much is being spent on attorney fees. She gave the book, *Everything I Need to Know, I Learned in Kindergarten*, to each Councilor and the Town Manager.

Name: Martha Smith
Address: 38 Chester Drive
Ms. Smith spoke to the success of Old Home Day, especially the car show. Ms. Hildonen recognized the individuals responsible for putting on the car show.

Name: Richard Bielinski
Address: 89 Hall Road
Mr. Bielinski said he has not received answers to questions he asked at the July 20th meeting, and repeated the questions. They included when the fire chief would commit to Londonderry, the costs of the vehicle the fire chief is using, $131,000 in salary adjustments, the Veterans Tax Credit, and a change in the LEA contract. He noted a lack of transparency and asked for

written answers. He asked if there was an exit strategy in the agreement between Litchfield and Londonderry for ambulance and dispatch service.

Name: John Farrell
Address: 4 Hancock Drive
Mr. Farrell spoke to the agreement between Litchfield and Londonderry for ambulance and dispatch service, noting the increase in the service area and call volume, the related response times, additional staff and equipment requirements, and how the service would be funded.

Name: Patrick Cheetham
Address: 79 Stonehenge Road
Mr. Cheetham, as a resident, spoke to the merit of the agreement with Litchfield and asked the Council to consider it. He compared this agreement to the contract with the airport, citing its success. He noted the revenue that will be generated by offering this service.

Name: Chris Schofield
Address: 86 High Range Road
Mr. Schofield asked for the Council's support of the agreement with Litchfield, noting the Londonderry Fire Department's need for additional staff and the opportunity to generate revenue.

Town Clerk Sherry Farrell said the Animal Rescue League of New Hampshire thanked the Town for their donation of the proceeds from the rabies clinic. Absentee ballots are available. An ID is required for every motor vehicle transaction. She thanked everyone involved in Old Home Day and noted the Blues Festival will be held on the Common on August 22nd. The Senior Expo will be held on October 3rd in the High School gymnasium.

Name: Jason Carrasquillo
Address: 12 Ashley Drive
Mr. Carrasquillo said he and his neighbors have reviewed the new easement for the cul-de-sac on Ashley Drive, and it is the same as the one that currently exists. They asked that it be rewritten to allow children to ride bicycles/scooters/skateboards in the cul-de-sac. He noted the house belonging to the individual who owns the property is under contract, and asked that no decisions be made until the new owner is in residence.

Chair Dunn closed public comment.

C. TOWN COUNCIL ISSUES

Chair Dunn said the bill for legal services for the Town of Londonderry printed in the Londonderry Times on August 12th was privileged information and exempt from disclosure under 91-A. Providing the bill to the press was a violation of the duty of loyalty to the Town and 91-A, and could place other privileged documents in jeopardy of disclosure. When the investigation is complete, the results will be presented to the full Council.

Councilor Paul asked to schedule a virtual meeting between Shaheen & Gordon and all Councilors to obtain all information that Chair Dunn and Vice Chair Faber have been given.

She asked for clarity on the scope of the investigations, whether Councilors are being investigated, when the investigation process started and when it is expected to end, the approximate cost of the investigations, and a timeline for the investigations. She asked if a cap had been set on the cost of the investigations. She said a bill was received for over $21,000 for approximately 49 hours of work. The full Council should know about and vote on all interactions with attorneys, and know the details of the investigations.

Town Manager Mulholland said he did not release privileged information. The legal bill was provided as part of a response to a 91-A request. The Council is spending public funds and this cannot be hidden.

Chair Dunn said a legal protocol for authorization of legal services rendered to the Town was issued by legal counsel on July 21, 2026, and is a privileged document. The Town Charter authorizes the Council to initiate investigations and appoint subcommittees. He reviewed recent legal bills and the associated costs.

Chair Dunn said the Town Manager sent a memo was sent on July 30, 2026, to the DPW Director requiring expenditure controls to help address excessive legal expenses incurred in FY2027. He said legal expenses in FY2026 were largely incurred at the direction of the Town Manager and not the Council. A legal protocol has been issued stating that the Town Manager does not have the authority to direct legal counsel. The Council will exercise that authority in FY2027 with an eye on controlling costs and streamlining legal work on behalf of the Town.

Chair Dunn said the Council created a special subcommittee to interact with legal counsel to create a more efficient process, and it will report to the full Council when the investigation is complete. He said the Town Manager relies in part on RSA 37:6 for his authority to issue the directive; the RSA states the Town Manager is subject to the direction of the Council. He asked the Council to discuss the memorandum and ask the Town Manager to withdraw the directive.

Councilor Bouchard said it is the Town Manager's responsibility to manage the budget and spoke in support of his actions. He asked how much will be spent on the investigations and how long they will take, and noted the subcommittee is expending taxpayer funds. A legal bill for the investigations has not been received. He stressed the need to release the results of the investigations. He shared an email explaining that privilege is held by the client and can be waived by the client.

Councilor Paul asked about a trial date being set regarding the Veterans Tax Credit. She spoke to the need for transparency on the part of the Chair. She asked that a cap be set on the cost of the investigations. She asked why the complaint against Councilor Combes was not being investigated, and from which fiscal year the legal expenses will be paid.

Councilor Combes noted that all five Councilors would have to waive privilege, not a single Councilor. He said the legal bills are in line with last year's bills and the Council incurred 9% of the legal costs. Councilors Paul and Bouchard asked to see this research.

Vice Chair Faber said it was premature to make recissions, considering the fiscal year began

on July 1st. The recissions were not appropriate and were excessive, and the Council can control the legal budget.

Vice Chair Faber moved that the memo be rescinded. Seconded by Councilor Combes.

Discussion: Town Manager Mulholland said it is better to make recissions now; if they are made later, it could result in layoffs. One bill has equaled 10% of the legal budget for the year. He listed bills that have not been received dating back to April. He said the Council will not give him projected costs for those services. The Charter assigns him the responsibility of fiscal management.

Councilor Combes asked why budget cuts are being suggested, when there was a surplus at the end of the last fiscal year. Town Manager Mulholland said legal costs were over budget last year at a cost of $290/hour. The Town is paying $500/hour, $450/hour, and $375/hour this year, which was not budgeted. Attorneys are being paid to respond to 91-A requests that the Town normally handles. It is prudent to take action now to reduce the risk of layoffs and cutting services later.

Motion carried 3-2-0, with Councilors Paul and Bouchard voting in opposition. Chair votes in the affirmative.

Town Manager Mulholland said he will not rescind the memo.

D. BOARD APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS

1. Appointment of Planning Board nominee Brian Battaglia to the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission.

Vice Chair Faber moved that the Londonderry Town Council hereby reappoints Brian Battaglia to the Southern Hampshire Planning Commission for a four-year term beginning on September 1, 2026 and ending on June 30, 2030. Seconded by Chair Combes. Motion carried 5-0-0. Chair votes in the affirmative.

E. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Receive public input, discuss, and approve an amendment to the Fire Department Rules and Regulations.

Ms. Hildonen explained this is an amendment made at the request of the Fire Department to allow cellular/internet communicating devices to communicate with their system in order to gain revenue through the fire detection and alarm system.

Councilor Bouchard moved to open the public hearing. Seconded by Councilor Combes. Motion carried 5-0-0. Chair votes in the affirmative.

Chair Dunn asked for public comment.

Name: Kevin Foley
Address: 69 Stonehenge Road

Mr. Foley asked if the boxes were non-proprietary. Division Chief Brian Johnson said the box is proprietary at this point, and explained why and how this type of box is used. The Councilors asked clarifying questions.

Councilor Bouchard moved to close the public hearing. Seconded by Vice Chair Faber. Motion carried 5-0-0. Chair votes in the affirmative.

Councilor Bouchard moved that the Londonderry Town Council hereby approves Ordinance 2026-13 amending the Londonderry Fire Department Rules and Regulations as indicated. Seconded by Vice Chair Faber. Motion carried 5-0-0. Chair votes in the affirmative.

2. Receive public input, discuss, and approve the revisions to the General Assistance Guidelines.

Ms. Hildonen explained the need to update the guidelines to include changes made in the 2026 legislative session by HB 348.

Councilor Combes moved to open the public hearing. Seconded by Vice Chair Faber. Motion carried 5-0-0. Chair votes in the affirmative.

Chair Dunn asked for public comment; there was none.

Vice Chair Faber moved to close the public hearing. Seconded by Councilor Combes. Motion carried 5-0-0. Chair votes in the affirmative.

Vice Chair Faber moved that that the Londonderry Town Council hereby adopts the revised Town of Londonderry General Assistance Guidelines, as presented. Seconded by Councilor Bouchard. Motion carried 5-0-0. Chair votes in the affirmative.

3. Receive public input and discuss the proposed changes to the Pettingill Road TIF District.

Town Manager Mulholland reviewed the proposal to add four properties to the TIF District and to use TIF funds to make improvements to 10 Navigator Road, which is owned by the Londonderry Housing and Redevelopment Authority. These improvements will ultimately result in revenue for the Town.

Vice Chair Faber moved to open the public hearing. Seconded by Councilor Combes. Motion carried 5-0-0. Chair votes in the affirmative.

Chair Dunn asked for public comment; there was none.

Vice Chair Faber moved to close the public hearing. Seconded by Councilor Combes. Motion carried 5-0-0. Chair votes in the affirmative.

This topic will be discussed at the September 14th Council meeting.

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Receive a presentation by Londonderry Trailways regarding the status of the rail trail projects.**
   Sandy Lagueux and Bob Rimol offered a presentation on the organization, and reviewed recreation projects and projects to make the town more walkable. They also reviewed work done and work to be done on the rail trail. The Council asked clarifying questions.

2. **Discuss and schedule a public hearing for September 14, 2026 regarding an application from PurposeEnergy requesting the Commercial/Industrial Tax Exemption.**
   Sean O'Neil, PurposeEnergy, described the Southern New Hampshire Green Energy Campus, how the facility will turn organic waste into natural gas, and how it will benefit the Town. The Council asked clarifying questions. The public hearing will be held on September 14, 2026.

3. **Discuss and approve the transfer of funds from the Recreation Department Capital Reserve Fund to the General Fund to repair the West Road pumphouse.**
   Art Psaledas and Kevin Foley reported there are problems with the West Road irrigation, and listed the parts that need to be replaced and the repercussions of not doing so. The Council asked clarifying questions.

   Councilor Bouchard moved that the Londonderry Town Council hereby authorizes the withdrawal request and directs the Town Treasurer to disburse up to $22,125.97 from the Recreation Department Capital Reserve Fund to pay for repairs related to the West Road fields pumphouse system. Seconded by Councilor Paul. Motion carried 5-0-0. Chair votes in the affirmative.

Councilors Combes and Paul left the meeting.

4. **Discuss and approve the transfer of funds from the Fire Equipment Capital Reserve Fund to the General Fund to purchase defibrillators.**
   Chief Young and Deputy Chief LeBlanc offered background on this request, noting the first of five lease payments would be made with these funds.

   Councilor Bouchard moved that the Londonderry Town Council hereby authorizes the withdrawal request and directs the Town Treasure to disburse up to $112,475.93 from the Fire Equipment Capital Reserve Fund for the first payment to Zoll Medical Corporation for the replacement of the Zoll cardiac monitor/defibrillators. Seconded by Vice Chair Faber. Motion carried 3-0-0. Chair votes in the affirmative.

G. OLD BUSINESS

1. **Discuss and approve the easement for the cul-de-sac at the end of Ashley Drive.**
   Town Manager Mulholland reported a new draft easement was received from Mr. Hayward, 11 Ashley Drive. He verified that Mr. Hayward does not want children riding bicycles, skateboards, etc. in the cul-de-sac. The Council proposed waiting until the new homeowner is in place, in case they have a different view of the situation.

Councilor Paul returned to the meeting.

Matt Johnson, counsel for Mr. Hayward, said the sale of the property is speculative. The proposed easement is intended to clarify the rights and obligations of the parties, and runs with the property. The proposed easement eliminates recreational use without permission of the owner.

The Council agreed to table this discussion.

Councilor Combes returned to the meeting.

2. **Discuss and authorize the Intermunicipal Agreement with the Town of Litchfield for the Londonderry Fire Department to provide Emergency Medical Services and Fire Dispatch Services.**

   Chief Young and Deputy Chief LeBlanc reviewed the presentation that was given on August 3rd regarding providing ambulance and dispatch services to the Town of Litchfield. Chief Young reviewed the timeline, advantages of the partnership, the addition of staff and how this will be funded, the cost to provide services, and the projected revenue. He explained how this proposal would benefit the community, including providing much-needed staffing. He stressed his personal experience with providing similar services.

   The Council asked clarifying questions about staffing, insurance reimbursement, workload, projected cost of providing the service, possible overtime and the impact on the budget line, and the ability to maintain the level of service to Londonderry. They expressed concern that the revenue generated is not adequate to cover the cost of offering this service, and asked the Chief to return with a new proposal that better benefits Londonderry financially. Chief Young noted that the proposal was very conservative.

   Litchfield Fire Chief Doug Nicoll responded to questions about the population of Litchfield, and refuted the claim that Hudson is currently subsidizing the service for Litchfield.

   Deputy Chief LeBlanc spoke as a resident, stating that he would not support something that was not of benefit to the community.

   Chief Young said this proposal is designed to prevent the taxpayers of Londonderry from subsidizing this service. He asked for guidance as to what the Council wants in terms of a new proposal that better benefits Londonderry, noting that the current proposal already demonstrates that the service will be a net positive for the community. The Council discussed what they would like to see in a revised proposal.

   Chair Dunn proposed scheduling a public hearing on September 14th to obtain public input on this proposal. The Department noted that delaying the decision on this proposal complicates the ability to begin offering the service on January 1, 2027, and will impact

the budget. They asked if the Council supported investing in the partnership and if the details of the contract could be discussed later, but the Council did not support this.

Vice Chair Faber said they should have been involved in this process earlier, as it would have avoided the questions being posed at this meeting. Town Manager Mulholland said he has kept the Council informed since April, and no questions were posed or information requested. Deputy Chief LeBlanc said the members of the Department are subject matter experts and spoke to the Council's lack of trust in them. The Department needs more information regarding the discrepancy between what they presented to the Council and what the Council wants.

The Council held a side discussion on the work involved in being a Councilor, and issues between the Council and the Town Manager.

Councilor Combes offered revised projections for salaries paid at Step 2 instead of Step 4, as was included in the presentation, and suggested the new proposed revenue total for Year 1 might make the proposal more palatable to the other Councilors. The Councilors agreed this was the case.

Councilor Bouchard moved that the Londonderry Town Council hereby authorizes the Town Manager to enter into Intermunicipal Agreements with the Town of Litchfield for the Londonderry Fire Department to provide transporting ambulance services in addition to EMS and Fire Dispatch Services beginning on January 1, 2027, for a three-year period. Further, to authorize the Town Manager to take all steps necessary to effectuate the agreement. Seconded by Vice Chair Faber. Motion carried 5-0-0. Chair votes in the affirmative.

3. **Discuss and approve the Town Manager's job description for the position of Town Manager.**
   The Council agreed to move this topic to the next Council meeting.

4. **Discuss the Town Manager's recommendation to engage the Braver Angels program to enhance civic discourse.**
   Chair Dunn asked if the meetings would be public; Brian, a representative from the organization, said the meetings would be with the Town Manager, Town Council, the moderator, and possibly himself. He offered information on the process. The Council agreed to pursue this.

H. APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS

1. **Town Council meeting minutes from August 3, 2026**
2. **Town Council non-public session minutes from August 3, 2026 (sealed)**

Vice Chair Faber moved to approve the consent items. Seconded by Councilor Bouchard. Motion carried 5-0-0. Chair votes in the affirmative.

I. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Liaison Reports

Councilor Combes shared School start dates. He spoke to the success of Old Home Day and thanked the Board for their work. He also thanked Ms. Hildonen for her work.

Vice Chair Faber said all items for Londonderry were included in the ten-year plan. The plan made it to the Governor's desk and is going to Veto Day.

2. Town Manager Report

Town Manager Mulholland had no report.

J. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Dunn opened public comment.

Name: Janet Huttula
Address: 5 Stony Point Drive
Ms. Huttula expressed frustration with the Council and their behavior.

Name: Bob Slater
Address: not given
Mr. Slater spoke to the need for the Council Chair to ensure all Councilors receive all information on all topics. The Council should act as an elected body and treat each other civilly. Councilors should prepare for each Council meeting. He suggested meetings would move more smoothly if the Councilors' behavior improved. He referred to his personal experience with the School Board and his voice on the Board being removed in the past, and urged this not happen on the Council.

Chair Dunn closed public comment.

K. MEETING SCHEDULE

- September 14, 2026, Moose Hill Council Chambers, 7:00 p.m.
- September 21, 2026, Moose Hill Council Chambers, 7:00 p.m.

L. 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.

A roll call vote was taken for the Council to go into a non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II(b): Bouchard – aye, Dunn – aye, Faber – aye, Paul – aye, Combes – aye. Motion carried 5-0-0. Chair votes in the affirmative.

The camera was turned off at 12:16 p.m.

M. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes prepared by Beth Hanggeli