Londonderry Town Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 5, 2026 | 7:00 p.m.
Moose Hill Council Chambers, Londonderry Town Hall

Council Members Present:
Chair Ron Dunn
Councilor Dan Bouchard
Councilor Deb Paul
Councilor Ted Combes

Council Members Absent:
Vice Chair Shawn Faber

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

Other Staff Present:
Acting Town Manager Kim Alan Bernard
Finance Director Justin Campo
Administrative Services Director Kirsten Hildonen
Deputy Director of Public Works James Danis

Minutes Prepared By:
Kirsten Hildonen using Gemini Notebook AI

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dunn called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He requested a moment of silence for Lieutenant Michael England of Londonderry Fire, who suffered minor burns and a broken leg in the line of duty during a structure fire over the weekend, and for a Londonderry High School student who was transported via medical helicopter earlier in the day.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Dunn opened public comment:

Name: Michelle Schwartz
Address: 26 Sheffield Way
Expressed deep dissatisfaction regarding the removal of Town Manager Shaun Mulholland, legal spending exceeding the town budget, hiring multiple law firms without transparent justification, anonymous complaints against municipal leadership, and proposed revisions to the Town Manager job description lowering qualification requirements.

Name: Jane Cooper
Address: 73 Winterwood Drive
Endorsed Michelle Schwartz's remarks, criticized the exclusion of two Council members from executive decision-making and legal investigations, and called for greater transparency and kindergarten-level teamwork.

Name: Resident (Declined to state name)
Address: Londonderry, NH (Declined to state address)
Expressed safety concerns, highlighted decades of residency in Londonderry, criticized the Council majority for lack of respect toward residents, unauthorized legal expenditures without public explanation, and opening the town to potential lawsuits by denying due process.

Name: Clarissa Navarro
Address: 2 Woodbine Drive
Expressed disgust over the complete lack of transparency surrounding the vetting, contract approval, and termination of former Town Manager Shaun Mulholland, warned of severe tax impacts from potential wrongful termination litigation, and called for voter accountability in upcoming local and state elections.

Name: Brian MacDonald
Address: 6 Picadilly Circle
Represented Braver Angels (a national organization working to depolarize communities) and requested that the Council finalize three priority dates for holding a "Managing Difficult Conversations with Colleagues" workshop. Council discussed proposed dates including October 26, November 9, or November 23, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Name: Pollyann Winslow
Address: 4 Hearthstone Drive
Expressed embarrassment over the sudden dismissal of the Town Manager and the lack of public information available, urging Councilors to put community interests first to attract quality volunteers and municipal leadership.

Name: Harry Schwartz
Address: 26 Sheffield Way
Addressed the Council on fundamental principles of leadership, fiscal accountability toward struggling taxpayers, and the loss of constituent trust resulting from secretive decision-making and lack of transparency.

Name: Martha Smith
Address: 38 Shasta Drive
Expressed strong disappointment regarding the Town Manager removal and managing town affairs.

Name: John Romanowski
Address: 5 Spring Road
Raised concerns regarding commingled legal bills across municipal departments, requested itemized attorney billing by department, and questioned the necessity and million-dollar cost implications of terminating the Town Manager for cause.

Name: Beth Marrocco
Address: 4 Westwood Drive
Expressed gratitude to first responders, questioned community safety under dual-hatted leadership (Police Chief serving as Acting Town Manager), questioned the legality and process of

removing the Town Manager without honoring charter provisions or due process, criticized paying $500/hour for non-municipal legal counsel, and urged the Council to stop draining municipal reserves.

Chair Dunn closed public comment. Following public comment, Councilor Bouchard addressed pressing matters regarding the legal subcommittee formed by Chair Dunn on June 15, 2026, unauthorized legal expenditures, the lack of municipal experience among hired legal counsel, and the refusal to allow a second legal opinion regarding Town Charter Section 3.02 / Article 4 interpretations.

> ***Councilor Bouchard moved that the Londonderry Town Council seek a second opinion on the Town Charter Article 4 (Administration of Government, Sections 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, and 4.5) from one of the three law firms that responded to the RFQ with municipal law knowledge and experience (Drummond Woodsum or Upton & Hatfield). Seconded by Councilor Paul. Motion failed 2-2-0, with Councilor Bouchard and Councilor Paul voting in favor and Chair Dunn and Councilor Combes voting against.***

Chair Dunn called a 15-minute recess at 7:40 p.m.

Chair Dunn reconvened the meeting from recess at 7:52 p.m.

> ***Councilor Bouchard moved that the Londonderry Town Council reinstate Shaun Mulholland as Town Manager and allow the due process prescribed in the Town Charter and required by the courts under the 14th Amendment of the United States Constitution and Cleveland Board of Education v. Loudermill. Seconded by Councilor Paul. Motion failed 2-2-0, with Councilor Bouchard and Councilor Paul voting in favor and Chair Dunn and Councilor Combes voting against.***

C. BOARD APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS

None.

D. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Receive public input, discuss, and approve updating the Charter references.

Councilor Bouchard stepped away from the dais.

Administrative Services Director Kirsten Hildonen presented Ordinance 2026-15, updating numerical cross-references throughout the Municipal Code to align with the revised Town Charter taxonomy approved by voters on March 10, 2026, without changing any substantive code provisions or procedures.

> ***Councilor Combes moved to open the public hearing. Seconded by Chair Dunn. Motion carried 3-0-0. Chair votes in the affirmative.***

Chair Dunn called for public comment. There was none.

> ***Councilor Combes moved to close the public hearing. Seconded by Chair Dunn. Motion carried 3-0-0. Chair votes in the affirmative.***

Councilor Combes moved that the Londonderry Town Council hereby approves Ordinance 2026-15, updating the references to the Town Charter in the Municipal Code. Seconded by Chair Dunn.

Councilor Paul left the dais at 7:58 p.m., resulting in a lack of quorum.

Councilor Bouchard returned to the dais at 7:59 p.m., restoring the quorum.

Motion carried 3-0-0. Chair votes in the affirmative.

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Receive a High Range Road water main update.

Councilor Paul returned to the dais at 8:04 p.m.

Deputy Director of Public Works James Danis presented a comprehensive update on municipal water and sewer projects. High Range Road water main installation is complete to Alexander Drive with pressure testing and chlorination underway; paving and striping completed on southern sections (Pillsbury to Route 102). Old Derry Road water main is complete and scheduled for paving. South Road water main testing is ongoing. The first Saint Gobain water main extension into neighborhoods will extend water main along Royal Lane, Imperial Lane, Tyler Drive, and Colonial Drive. The Ross/Tokenal Drive EPA-directed superfund water line extension is moving forward. On sewer projects, Pillsbury Road pump station wet well construction is starting, Bancroft Rd gravity sewer is complete/tested, and Hardy Road force main testing is wrapping up with winter shimming scheduled. Addressed property damage restoration along Hardy/South Road construction corridors.

Administrative Services Director Kirsten Hildonen updated the Council on House Bill 1588 (effective September 13, 2026), which reformed state law governing Water Special Assessment Districts. HB 1588 allows town governing bodies to initiate special assessment districts directly with 60% resident assent, eliminating the requirement to track property assessed values. Council consensus was granted to present the draft Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on November 2, 2026.

Chair Dunn introduced Police Captain Patrick Cheetham, who recapped the 5th Annual Senior Resource Expo held Saturday, October 3. The event featured over 70 vendors and approximately 400 attendees, supported by the Senior Resource Committee, ALERT volunteer team, local business sponsors, and founding organizer Acting Town Manager Kim Bernard. Captain Cheetham reaffirmed that the Londonderry Police Department stands fully behind Acting Town Manager Bernard and assured residents that LPD operations remain seamless under Deputy Chief and Captain leadership.

2. Discuss and schedule a Public Hearing for the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments.

Administrative Services Director Kirsten Hildonen presented proposed amendments to the Londonderry Zoning Ordinance developed by the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission under a state HOP grant. The amendments respond to 2025 state legislative mandates regarding

accessory dwelling units (ADUs), residential parking, and development on Class VI highways and private roads, and have received a favorable recommendation from the Planning Board.

Councilor Bouchard moved that the Londonderry Town Council hereby schedule a public hearing for November 2, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the Moose Hill Council Chambers to receive public input and consider proposed amendments to the Londonderry Zoning Ordinance. Seconded by Councilor Combes. Motion carried 4-0-0. Chair votes in the affirmative.

F. OLD BUSINESS

1. Discuss and approve the inter-municipal agreement between the Town and the School District for the lease of the School District Office building addition to the Town Hall.

School Board Chair Bob Slater, Board Member Tim Porter, and Superintendent Dan Black presented the long-term intermunicipal lease agreement alongside Acting Town Manager Kim Bernard for the School District Office addition at Town Hall. Discussion emphasized intergovernmental collaboration, shared maintenance responsibilities, DPW snow removal and salting for 70 new parking spaces, and establishing a safe pedestrian walkway for students between the High School campus and Town Hall.

Councilor Bouchard moved that the Londonderry Town Council hereby authorizes the Acting Town Manager to enter into the School District Office Intermunicipal Lease Agreement and to take all actions necessary to effectuate the agreement. Seconded by Councilor Combes. Motion carried 4-0-0. Chair votes in the affirmative.

G. APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS

1. Town Council meeting minutes from September 21, 2026
2. Timber Tax Warrant for October 6, 2026

Councilor Combes moved to approve the consent agenda items as presented. Seconded by Councilor Paul. Motion carried 4-0-0. Chair votes in the affirmative.

H. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Liaison Reports

Councilor Ted Combes reported on the Manchester-Boston Regional Airport 10-year Master Plan open house and announced a new direct flight from Manchester to Nashville, TN. Councilor Deb Paul reported on Beautify Londonderry roadside cleanups and volunteer road sponsorships. Councilor Dan Bouchard commended Leach Library staff for resilient operations out of LPD/Town Hall spaces and commended DPW Director Dave Wholley for project management on the School District addition

2. Town Manager Report

Acting Town Manager Kim Bernard presented an operational report highlighting fiscal management, transparency, and departmental communication. Key updates included restricting the Town Council distribution email to councilors only, committing to itemized legal billing in a effort to accurately project legal expenses, and recommending the deferral of the police department roof replacement project to protect Emergency Maintenance Trust Fund reserves.

Discussion followed between Councilors Paul, Bouchard, and Acting Town Manager Bernard regarding notice of town emergency incidents (firefighter injury/structure fires), solar panel rebate incentives associated with roof projects, and advance agenda material delivery.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Dunn opened public comment:

Name: Jeff McGraw
Address: 9 Meetinghouse Drive
Commended Administrative Services Director Kirsten Hildonen's outstanding support to the water subcommittee and highlighted details of the Manchester-Boston Regional Airport Master Plan and direct flight service to Nashville.

Name: Glenn Douglas
Address: 6 Overlook Drive
Inquired about the duration and setup of the Council email BCC practice, criticized the lack of audio recording during the meeting recess, referenced news reports regarding a severance offer to the former Town Manager, called for a comprehensive legal review of the Town Charter, and criticized Council meeting management.

Name: Megan Donovan
Address: Leach Library Head of Circulation
Expressed deep gratitude to town departments and community volunteers for supporting Leach Library operations following the January 27 flood and mold closure, noting thousands of patron visits and a highly successful summer reading program.

Name: Beth Marrocco
Address: 4 Westwood Drive
Echoed Megan Donovan's praise for library recovery, then urged all Council members to take personal ownership of problematic behaviors, refrain from political grandstanding, maintain civil municipal governance, and raise standards of leadership.

Name: Janet Huttula
Address: 5 Stony Point Drive
Expressed full confidence in Acting Town Manager Kim Bernard, noted ongoing legal/investigative confidentiality requirements, commented on municipal administrative roles, and noted town website traffic slowdowns.

Chair Dunn closed public comment.

J. NON-PUBLIC SESSION

None held.

K. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Combes moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Councilor Bouchard. Motion carried 4-0-0. Chair votes in the affirmative. The meeting adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

L. MEETING SCHEDULE

- October 19, 2026; Moose Hill Council Chambers; 7:00 p.m.
- November 2, 2026; Moose Hill Council Chambers; 7:00 p.m.