

LONDONDERRY BUDGET COMMITTEE

Minutes for August 17, 2023

The Budget Committee meeting is at 7:00 PM on August 17, 2023, in the Moose Hill Council Chambers, 268B Mammoth Road, Londonderry, NH 03053.

Present: Patrick Cassidy –Chair, Joseph Gagnon- Vice Chair – Maureen Hardy, Secretary- Member at Large, Ryan Cronin – Member at Large, Sarah Meier-Member at Large, Ron Dunn-Town Council Liaison.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by P. Cassidy

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / MOMENT OF SILENCE

P. Cassidy led the Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment but the Budget Committee was joined by a guest of the Town, Kate Burbidge who is an applicant for the open position formerly held by Ron Dunn.

4. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

June 22, 2023 Minutes were presented. Motion to accept minutes by J. Gagnon, Second by R. Cronin. The minutes passed with a 5/0 vote.

5. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- a. Pickleball Task Force Presentation by Brian Samolyc, Chair and Steve Spaziani, Vice Chair

B. Samolyc and S. Spaziani provided great details around the research being done in order to implement Pickleball in Londonderry.

Highlights:

- Pickleball is exploding across the Country and most of our neighboring Towns and Cities have already installed courts. The courts are almost always full with people waiting to play. The players are courteous.
- The Task Force consists of five active members with a new alternate appointed by the Town Council on August 14th. They have had one official meeting so far, and the next meeting is August 21, 2023

- The task force is evaluating vendors and evaluating land parcels offered by the Town of Londonderry, for example, near West Road where there are 20 acres available behind LAFA.
- They have already met with Litchfield who has 6 courts and is planning on adding two more. They are also meeting with Kim Walsh from the Recreation Department in Derry where they have 3 courts total (Tennis courts have been converted)
- Litchfield spent \$130,000.00 for their facility but had assistance from the vendors, Continental Paving and Fences Unlimited. Question raised: Does the Town of Londonderry have town rates from certain vendors?
- Litchfield has a Pickleball association with dues of \$50.00 a year for each member and this covers maintenance
- The Pickleball Task Force is forecasting 8 courts, even if done incrementally over time.
- Whatever we build, it has to be ADA compliant.
- ARPA funds have been used by others to fund Pickleball. This is COVID relief money and has been found to be an acceptable use.
- There are currently zero places to play Pickleball in Londonderry. If the High School courts are converted, they will be voided for Scholastic play.
- The Task Force is researching multiple options and will come up with a plan to present to the Town and the Budget Committee. For example: play surfaces-- The cheapest may not be the best as it will require more maintenance. They are researching a possible Quonset hut for rain, and benches for seating. They are floating around that perhaps the benches can be built by an Eagle Scout project.
- The question of Noise was raised. Yes, there is noise but the locations being scouted are very far from any residential areas so noise should not be an issue.
- It was suggested that the Pickleball task force bring their plan to the FY25 Budget Presentation on the First Saturday in November from approximately 9 AM to 1 PM.
- M. Hardy pointed out that the second Tuesday in January is the deadline for citizen petitions
- It was stated that it is unclear if this will be a Citizens petition or a warrant article put forth by the Town (Recreation Dept?) at this point.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Motion presented by Cassidy, Chair, that Community Services Grant Applications process be opened by the Town on September 15th and run until October 15th. P. Cassidy will ask Kirstin Hildonen to send the applications to the Budget Committee as they arrive so that we have time to review them before making any decisions. The motion was seconded by M. Hardy and approved 5/0.
- b. T. Siekmann has resigned from the Budget Committee effective immediately and the Town Council accepted the Resignation on August 7, 2023. The Town Council will be seeking a replacement in September 2023.

- c. The Department tour planning continued. For the School Tours, on August 23 at 6 PM, we will be meeting at North School and continuing to the Middle School and Matthew Thornton. On August 24th, at 6 PM, We will be meeting at South School and continuing to Moose Hill and the High School.
- d. The planned Public Works Tour on August 22nd has been cancelled and has been moved to Thursday October 26th. Future decisions will be made on timing to ensure that it does not get dark when we are at DPW. We will plan on meeting, Location TBD, at 6 PM.
- e. The Fire Department tours will be on Thursday September 21st. We will meet for Budget Committee meeting first at 5 PM and then proceed to the FD. Ryan Cronin is confirming timing with the Chief.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

8. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by J. Gagnon, second by R.Cronin, all in favor, Meeting was adjourned at 7:43 PM.

Member	For	Against	Abstained	Absent
Patrick Cassidy	X			
Joseph Gagnon	X			
Maureen Hardy	X			
Ryan Cronin	X			
Pending Appointment				X
Sarah Meier	X			
Pending Appointment				X

9. MEETING SCHEDULE-Fourth Thursday of every month

- a. **School Tours** Wednesday and Thursday, August 23-24, 2023 at 6:00 PM.
- b. Thursday, September 21, 2023, **Tentative Fire Department Tour, 5 pm, BC meeting, them possibly all three facilities after meeting.**
- c. Thursday October 26, 2023, **DPW tour. Timing TBD**

