

Londonderry Budget Committee
Approved Minutes
January 16, 2012

The Budget Committee meeting was held at 6pm on this evening in the Moose Hill Conference Room located in the Town Hall, 268 Mammoth Road, Londonderry, NH 03053.

Committee Members present: Todd Joncas (chair), Rich Dillon (vice-chair), Lisa Whittemore, John Curran, Dan Lekas, Chris Melcher and Tom Dalton.

6:00 PM I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Chair Todd Joncas.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Mike Brown presented comments and questions to the Committee and Town Manager with regard to various elements of the Collective Bargaining agreements for Articles 13,14 & 15.

IV. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. None

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. This meeting was rescheduled from the original meeting that was scheduled to follow the Town Council / Budget Committee Budget meeting held on January 12th. Due to the very late hour that the meeting adjourned (~1am on the morning of January 13th), it was decided to

reconvene instead at this meeting time to enable the Committee to vote on the Articles that had not yet been voted pending additional information that was presented and discussed at the January 12th meeting with the Town Council. Such items were, the three Collective Bargaining Agreements (Articles 13, 14, 15), the addition of a new Petition Warrant Article (Article 12 for Cable Access), and to revisit the Operating Budget (Article 4) since the Town Council adjusted their Operating Budget to reflect the Default Budget which is what the Budget Committee supported.

- B. The Committee discussed and voted on Warrant Articles 13, 14, and 15 with the following voting results:

Article 13. Collective Bargaining Agreement between AFSCME Local 1801 and the Town of Londonderry.

Rich Dillon moved with a second from Chris Melcher. The voting resulted as follows:

Member	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Todd Joncas	X			
Rich Dillon	X			
Lisa Whittemore				X
John Curran	X			
Dan Lekas	X			
Chris Melcher	X			
Tom Dalton	X			

Motion to support Article 13 passed 6-0-1.

Article 14. Collective Bargaining Agreement between AFSCME LAEA-PUBLIC SAFETY and the Town of Londonderry.

Tom Dalton moved with a second from Dan Lekas. The voting resulted as follows:

Member	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Todd Joncas	X			
Rich Dillon	X			
Lisa Whittemore				X
John Curran	X			
Dan Lekas	X			
Chris Melcher	X			
Tom Dalton	X			

Motion to support Article 14 passed 6-0-1.

Article 15. Collective Bargaining Agreement between AFSCME LAEA-TOWN ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL and the Town of Londonderry.

Tom Dalton moved with a second from Rich Dillon. The voting resulted as follows:

Member	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Todd Joncas	X			
Rich Dillon	X			
Lisa Whittemore				X
John Curran	X			
Dan Lekas	X			
Chris Melcher	X			
Tom Dalton	X			

Motion to support Article 15 passed 6-0-1.

Article 12. ESTABLISH A SPECIAL REVENUE FUND FOR CABLE DEPARTMENT.

Clarifications as to the language of this Article and related tax impact that could occur and when based upon the timing of when this would come into effect was discussed. In essence, because of the language not stating to raise “and appropriate” the funds, funding needed in the interim could result in an impact to the tax payers to cover the expenditures.

After additional discussion by the members, it was generally felt that the current way in which the cable division was funded put less of a risk on Cable Access to be able to continue versus the risk of funding if this was to not pass by the voters. The current method of funding maintains the Cable Access center. The new method would reserve funds that could only be used for the cable division. The concern there was that over time, it could accumulate into a large reserve that could not be used elsewhere. The current method of funding enables flexibility.

Tom Dalton moved with a second from Rich Dillon. The voting resulted as follows:

Member	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Todd Joncas		X		
Rich Dillon		X		
Lisa Whittemore				X
John Curran		X		
Dan Lekas		X		
Chris Melcher		X		
Tom Dalton		X		

Motion to support Article 12 failed 0-6-1.

Article 4. FY 2013 Town Operating Budget \$26,741,721

At the January 10th Budget Committee meeting, The Budget Committee originally voted to not support the Town Council's Operating Budget because it was the higher of the two budget with a vote of 0-7 to not support which in essence resulted in support of the Default Budget which was / is \$26,741,721.

Since the Town Council adjusted its budget to match the same amount of the Default Budget amount which is what the Council will present to the voters at the Deliberative Session, the Budget Committee decided to reconsider its original vote to see if it would now support the Town Council's proposed budget.

There were two major reasons to reconsider the original vote was; 1.) to lesson any confusion for the voters. There would be two budgets presented to the voters at the Deliberative Session. Both budgets would now equal in amount, but the Town Council and The Budget Committee would not look to be in agreement even though the two numbers matched. Rather than to create such confusion, it was thought that it would be better to see if we (the Budget Committee) would now support their number since it matches what the Budget Committee supported. The second major reason is that at the Deliberative Session the proposed Budget submitted by the Council can change up or down to reflect the will of the people. The Default Budget remains as it is. It was thought that the Budget Committee perhaps may want to align with that as well.

Chris Melcher moved to rescind our original vote for Article 4 for the purpose of discussion and to take a second vote (to re-vote if you will) with a second from Rich Dillon. The voting resulted as follows:

Member	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Todd Joncas	X			
Rich Dillon	X			
Lisa Whittemore	X			
John Curran	X			
Dan Lekas	X			
Chris Melcher	X			
Tom Dalton	X			

Motion to rescind our original vote to not support Article 4 passed 7-0.

Article 4. FY 2013 Town Operating Budget \$26,741,721

For the aforementioned reasons discussed during reconsideration, Rich Dillon moved to support Article 4 with a second from Chris Melcher. The voting resulted as follows:

Member	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Todd Joncas	X			
Rich Dillon	X			
Lisa Whittemore	X			
John Curran	X			
Dan Lekas	X			
Chris Melcher	X			
Tom Dalton	X			

**Motion to support Article 4 passed 7-0.
The Budget Committee now supports the Town Council's Budget as amended.**

Article 9. FIRE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL COSTS AND STAFFING LEVELS

At the January 10th Budget Committee meeting, The Budget Committee originally voted to not support Article 9 mostly due to concerns related to overtime. The original amount of this Article that was voted on by the Budget Committee at the January 10th meeting was \$403,550.

At the Town Council / Budget Committee meeting on January 12th, the Council decided to reduce the amount of this Article to \$240,115. The effect of this would delay the hiring of the additional fire fighters in a “phased in” approach. The same number of firefighters would be hired, however delayed so that not all would be hired as soon as originally planned delaying those cost into the following fiscal year.

Given the new amount of \$240,115, it was decided by the Budget Committee to vote to rescind its original vote for the purpose of discussion and to take a subsequent vote after the discussion. By rescinding the original vote did not mean to say that the Committee now supported the Article. Rather, it merely meant that the Committee felt that it would be prudent to reconsider it for the purpose of taking another vote after giving it more consideration.

Dan Lekas moved to rescind our original vote for Article 9 for the purpose of discussion and to take a second vote (to re-vote if you will) with a second from Rich Dillon. The voting resulted as follows:

Member	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Todd Joncas	X			
Rich Dillon	X			
Lisa Whittemore	X			
John Curran	X			
Dan Lekas	X			
Chris Melcher	X			
Tom Dalton	X			

Motion to rescind our original vote to not support Article 9 passed 7-0.

Article 9. FIRE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL COSTS AND STAFFING LEVELS

For the aforementioned reasons discussed during reconsideration, Chris Melcher moved to support Article 9 with a second from Tom Dalton. The voting resulted as follows:

Member	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Todd Joncas	X			
Rich Dillon		X		
Lisa Whittemore	X			
John Curran		X		
Dan Lekas		X		
Chris Melcher	X			
Tom Dalton		X		

Motion to support Article 9 as amended by the Town Council failed 3-4.

This concluded the discussions of the various Articles and subsequent voting activity.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Dan Lekas/ John Curran the committee voted to adjourn.
At 7:15pm the meeting adjourned.

Member	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Todd Joncas	X			
Rich Dillon	X			
Lisa Whittmore	X			
John Curran	X			
Dan Lekas	X			
Chris Melcher	X			
Tom Dalton	X			

Motion to adjourn passed 7-0-0.

RSA: 91-A: 2 Meetings Open to Public. – II. All public proceedings shall be open to the public, and all persons shall be permitted to attend any meetings of those bodies or agencies. Except for town meetings, school district meetings and elections, no vote while in open session may be taken by secret ballot. Any person shall be permitted to use recording devices, including, but not limited to, tape recorders, cameras and videotape equipment, at such meetings. Minutes of all such meetings, including names of members, persons appearing before the bodies or agencies, and a brief description of the subject matter discussed and final decisions, shall be promptly recorded and open to public inspection within 144 hours of the public meeting, except as provided in RSA 91-A: 6, and shall be treated as permanent records of any body or agency, or any subordinate body thereof, without exception.