

Londonderry Town Council Minutes
Tuesday, March 4, 2024
7:00 PM
Moose Hill Council Chambers

Meeting Link: <http://173.166.17.35/vod/12536-Water-Town-Hall-Session-v1/vod.mp4>

Attendance: Chairman John Farrell; Vice Chairman Chad Franz; Councilor Ted Combes; Councilor Jim Butler; Councilor Ron Dunn; Town Manager Michael Malaguti; Assistant Town Manager Kellie Caron.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Farrell called the Town Council meeting to order at 6:00 PM. The Pledge was led by Chairman Farrell. This was followed by a moment of silence led by Chairman Farrell in honor of the first responders of Londonderry. Farrell explained a brief recap on the water line extension and what brought this meeting to fruition.

Farrell opened the Water Town Hall and introduced the guests. The guests were introduced as follows: Robert Scott (Commissioner of NHDES), Bill Boyd (Chair, NH DWGTF), Sherman Packard (Speaker of the NH House of Representatives), Chuck Morse (Former NH Senate President), Chad Franz (Vice Chair of Londonderry Council), Mike Malaguti (Londonderry Town Manager), Amy Rousseau (PFAS Response Admin), Brandon Kernan (Admin NHDES), Michael Unger (Water Engineer NHDES), John Boisvert (Pennichuck Water), Jeff Provost (Weston & Sampson), Ron Dunn (Councilor), Jim Butler (Councilor), Ted Combes (Councilor), Kellie Caron (Assistant Town Manager) and Cameron Maher (Executive Assistant).

Commissioner Scott opened his remarks by thanking everyone for the invitation. Scott gave a background of PFAS and PFAOS. Scott shared it is a manmade chemical which has been found to be harmful and the highest density of contamination in private wells in the state of NH. Scott urged the public this level of funding for a water project will not likely be seen again and leveraging these funds to meet the towns larger needs which include water supply, is critical to clean water. Scott explained public water systems are the preferred solution for all communities which helps the goal of regionalization by 2040 resulting in more water supply due to the increase of predicted usage of 82 million gallons per day. Scott explained if Londonderry gets involved now, the concern of needing additional drinking water in the future would be easier to address. Scott ended his comments by thanking the Town Government and praising them for their involvement.

Representative Boyd began his comments by thanking the Town Council for the invitation. Boyd explained he is a State Rep for Hillsborough County and represents Merrimack as well as the Water Commission. Boyd explained the commission's approach is to handle contamination concerns in multiple ways. Firstly, the commission addresses if the contamination is within the application of the community, then is it hindering economic development. Boyd shared it also comes down to skin in the game as well as would this be a more reliable water source than what is currently in place. Boyd expressed that Article III is a once in a lifetime generational opportunity for how Londonderry wants to deal with the water supply and PFAS issue they are currently facing.

Speaker Packard explained he feels we are in a good place to get around 8 million dollars. Packard urged if the warrant fails, then we don't get any money at all. Packard assured he is fully aware of what it is like to not have clean water. Packard explained he has been buying bottled water for over 40 years.

Senator Morse thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. Morse explained the state advised communities should participate in the process for obtaining these funds for assistance with clean water. Morse explained water is being brought to the communities, and the communities are working with the state to bring it to as many households as possible. Morse shared it is in the town's best interest to come down High Range Rd and increase the pumping stations on the eastside through Derry. Morse closed by explaining the committee treated this as a special project and there are over 1800 impacted wells in the state which Londonderry has the worst scenario with over 900 wells contaminated.

Brandon Kernan began presenting to the community more information on the PFAS issue as well as alternatives DES has looked into.

Town Manager Malaguti thanked the Town council for their involvement as well as the Utilities Committee which has done a wonderful job with this issue. Malaguti also acknowledged John Trottier, the town's engineer for all his work. Malaguti stressed we are receiving this water project for \$ 2.95 million instead of the \$25 million price tag. Malaguti shared the loan rates are very favorable which result in one percent during construction and then three percent from there on out. Malaguti explained the consent decree has over 300 residences within it which would receive water line extensions by way of an 8' pipe.. Malaguti explained the Town's perspective is to put in a 16' pipe to avoid having to upsize in 5-10 years. Malaguti shared what the PFAS task force has done to get us to where we are and highlighted the success of the Lancaster Dr project behind the Apple Tree Mall. Malaguti pointed out in 2023 there was a test vote to see if there would be support to upgrade the towns water system which passed favorably.

Chairman Farrell shared the pre-submitted questions for the panel.

Question: How will St. Gobain be contributing to the project?

Answer: Malaguti stated there is no official commitment from St. Gobain as of yet.

(Asked by Lorrilyn Juergins, 8 Kimball Rd & Martha Smith 38 Shasta Dr)

Question: How many properties to fix the problem completely?

Answer: There are around 350 residences and the water line extension and slightly more point of entry system is being proposed. Kernan explained the Federal Government is looking to make anything higher than 4 parts per trillion the new standard vs the current regulation of 12 parts per trillion.

(Asked by Lorrilyn Juergins, 8 Kimball Rd)

Question: Who are the other national lawsuits involved with the State of NH?

Answer: Currently it is 3M, Dupont, and AFFF.

(Asked by Anne Fenn, 18 Partridge Lane & Martha Smith 38 Shasta Dr)

Question: When can we expect to hear when the consent decree area starts to get town water?

Answer: Currently there are 571 POE treatments and much is still under discussion. Farrell shared they are shooting for within 3 years for it to start.

(Asked by Charlie Sullivan, 14 Justin Circle)

Question: Is there an option to re-open the Consent Decree given the contamination is spreading?

Answer: Malaguti explained it is the town's belief the state will not re open the consent decree due to the time litigation takes. Malaguti shared the case would not be completed before the funds become unavailable.

(Asked by Lynn Wiles, 46 Bartley Hill Rd)

Question: Why are HOA's remediating wells faster with State Money?

Answer: State incentivized the small communities with a treatment system with wells Kernan explained.

(Asked by Cheryl Sommese, Century Village)

Question: Was there a survey done for how many homes will connect if they wish.

Answer: Around 50% would connect to the system using other surveys. Malaguti continued with stating the state will reimburse up to 10,000 dollars to connecting to a public water system.

(Asked by Kristine Perez, 5 Wesley Dr)

Question: For people who have lived with PFAS for years, has there been research done for how it affects people?

Answer: Health impact is after a lifetime of exposure and the CDC is doing studies as well to decide the health impact. A lot of systems are in place to help with making tap water safe Kernan explained.

(Asked by Ann Chiampa, Londonderry)

The presentation Concluded after these questions and a 5-minute break was taken.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Farrell opened public comment.

Name: Richard Belinski

Address: 89 Hall Rd

Belinski explained there are election signs belonging to a Town Councilor that do not meet the guidelines of an RSA. Belinski shared the state is aware of this. Belinski also pointed out the Town Clerk has a car with signs saying to 'vote for Sherry Farrell' and questioned if this was allowed.

Name: Martha Smith

Address: 38 Shasta Dr

Smith commented on the political signs Belinski was mentioning and shared the signs mentioned can be fixed with a simple sticker per her own interaction with the AG.

Name: Kim Bernard

Address: Chief of Police

Bernard shared a command update involving the announcement of the dispatch center is now fully staffed.

Name: Sherry Farrell

Address: Town Clerk

Farrell explained dog registrations are ready for next year and to please do not forget about the upcoming election on the 12th of March.

Public Comment is closed.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Presentation by Councilor Butler

Councilor Butler began a presentation on his view of the status of housing in Londonderry. Butler went on to say Londonderry has done a great job creating housing for people in town. Butler expressed concern with the number of accidents and traffic flow coming through town. Butler stated call reports have increased over the past several years due to traffic becoming an extreme. Butler shared in the next 4-5 years there will be a traffic problem at intersections of Litchfield and Mammoth as well as Pillsbury and Gilcrest. Butler said the Council should consider a growth management ordinance. Butler ended his presentation thanking the council as well as listing the number new projects which are in the pipeline.

OLD BUSINESS

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice Chairman Franz moved to approve the February 20, 2024, Town Council minutes. Councilor Dunn seconded the motion.

John Farrell	Yes
Chad Franz	Yes
Jim Butler	Yes
Ted Combes	Yes
Ron Dunn	Yes

Motion passed 5-0-0

REAPPOINTMENTS

Adjustment of LHRA Commissioners to staggered terms.

Vice Chairman Franz moved to approve the adjustment of LHRA Commissioners to staggered terms. Councilor Combes seconded the motion.

John Farrell	Yes
Chad Franz	Yes
Jim Butler	Yes
Ted Combes	Yes
Ron Dunn	Yes

Motion passed 5-0-0.

Interview for Senior Resource Committee: Valerie Brauer

Vice Chairman Franz moved to appoint Valerie Brauer to the Senior Resources Committee. Councilor Combes seconded the motion.

John Farrell	Yes
Chad Franz	Yes
Jim Butler	Yes
Ted Combes	Yes
Ron Dunn	Yes

Motion passed 5-0-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

N/A

Liaison Reports

None

Town Manager Report

Town Manager: None

Assistant Town Manager: None

MEETING SCHEDULE

- March 18, 2024: Moose Hill Council Chambers, 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chairman Franz moved to adjourn. Councilor Combes seconded the motion.

John Farrell	Yes
Chad Franz	Yes
Jim Butler	Yes
Ted Combes	Yes
Ron Dunn	Yes

Motion passed 5-0-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Cameron Maher