Town of Londonderry 2023 Annual Report

To the inhabitants of Londonderry in the County of Rockingham in the State of New Hampshire qualified to vote in Town Affairs:

Voters are hereby notified to meet at the Londonderry High School Cafeteria in Londonderry on Saturday, the tenth (10th) day of February 2024, at nine o'clock in the morning for the Deliberative Session of the Budgetary Town Meeting.

Voters are further notified to meet at the Londonderry High School Gymnasium on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, to choose all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year, and to act upon the proposed Fiscal Year 2025 budget, as may be amended at the Deliberative Session, by official ballot, the polls to be open at six o'clock in the morning and to close not earlier than eight o'clock in the evening.

ARTICLE NO. 1: [ELECTION OF OFFICERS]

To choose all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year or until another is chosen or appointed and qualified.

<u>ARTICLE NO. 2:</u> [AMENDMENT TO TOWN CHARTER – TREASURER]

Shall the Town of Londonderry approve the charter amendment reprinted and summarized below: (words removed are [bracketed] and new words are **in bold**)?

Section 5.7. Treasurer

There shall be a Town Treasurer (hereinafter called "Treasurer") who shall have all the powers and duties granted by this Charter and state law. The Treasurer shall be [elected on an at-large basis to a term of three (3) years at the Town Election] **appointed by the Town Council upon recommendation of the Town Manager for a one (1)-year term.** Vacancies in the office of Treasurer shall be filled pursuant to state law.

If the amendment is adopted, the Town Treasurer shall be appointed by the Town Council instead of being elected. If the amendment is adopted, the elected Treasurer shall remain in office until the 2025 annual town election.

(If passed, this article will require the Town to raise \$0.00 in property taxes, resulting in a tax rate impact of \$0.00 in FY 25 based upon projected assessed values.)

<u>ARTICLE NO. 3</u>: [LOAN AUTHORIZATION FOR HIGH RANGE ROAD WATER SUPPLY EXTENSION PROJECT]

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **TWENTY-FIVE MILLION SEVEN-HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$25,750,000)** (gross budget) for the purpose of partially funding the extension of a Pennichuck East Utility public water system water main down the length of High Range Road to the vicinity of Route 102 in order to mitigate PFAS contamination and expand the availability of abundant, safe, and clean drinking water to more of Londonderry's residents.

Said sum shall be raised by the following means;

- a. Acceptance of funds from other sources to total a minimum of **TWENTY MILLION EIGHT-HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$20,800,000),** or such amount that will complete said project. Funding sources may include, but are not limited to, the State of New Hampshire, the Department of Environmental Services Drinking Ground Water Trust fund and other third-party sources.
- b. Usage of **TWO MILLION DOLLARS (\$2,000,000)**, from the funds received by the Town through the American Rescue Plan Act.
- c. The issuance of a loan through the NH Department of Environmental Services PFAS Remediation Loan Fund or a similar program, not to exceed **TWO MILLION NINE-HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$2,950,000)** under and in compliance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (NH RSA Chapter 33) and to authorize the Town Council to issue and negotiate said loan, to determine the length of the loan, the rate(s) of interest thereon and to take such other actions as may be necessary to effect the loan, as shall be in the best interest of the Town of Londonderry, and pass any vote relating thereto.

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of **TWO HUNDRED FIFTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$215,000)** for the first annual principal and interest payment on the said \$2,950,000 loan. (3/5 Ballot Vote Required)

(If passed, this article will require the Town to raise \$215,000 in property taxes, resulting in a tax rate impact of \$0.034 in FY 25 based upon projected assessed values.)

<u>ARTICLE NO. 4:</u> [FISCAL YEAR 2025 TOWN OPERATING BUDGET]

Shall the Town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$45,859,596. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$45,901,420 which is the amount of the appropriations contained in the operating budget authorized for the previous fiscal year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

(If passed, this article will require the Town to raise \$23,653,283 in property taxes, resulting in a tax rate impact of \$3.696 in FY 25 based upon projected assessed values.)

The Town Council by a vote <u>5-0</u> recommends a <u>YES</u> vote; the Budget Committee by a vote of <u>7-</u> <u>0</u> recommends a <u>YES</u> vote.

<u>ARTICLE NO. 5:</u> [EXPENDABLE MAINTENANCE TRUST FUND]

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$200,000)** to be placed in the Town's Expendable Maintenance Trust Fund for the purpose of repairing and maintaining town facilities and infrastructure and further to authorize the use of **ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$100,000)** from the June 30 Unassigned Fund Balance towards this appropriation.

(If passed, this article will require the Town to raise \$100,000 in property taxes, resulting in a tax rate impact of \$0.016 in FY 25 based upon projected assessed values.)

The Town Council by a vote <u>5-0</u> recommends a <u>YES</u> vote; the Budget Committee by a vote of <u>7-0</u> recommends a <u>YES</u> vote.

<u>ARTICLE NO. 6:</u> [ROADWAY MAINTENANCE EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND]

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **SIX HUNDRED FIFTY-THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$650,000)** to be placed in the Roadway Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund.

(If passed, this article will require the Town to raise \$650,000 in property taxes, resulting in a tax rate impact of \$0.102 in FY 25 based upon projected assessed values.)

<u>ARTICLE NO. 7</u>: [ESTABLISH AND FUND MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEM (MS4) EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND]

To see if the town will vote to establish a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System ("MS4") Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 31:19-a, to assist in funding the Town's obligations, as mandated by the Clean Water Act and other laws and/or regulations to develop and maintain a comprehensive stormwater management program and to raise and appropriate **ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS** (\$100,000) to be put into the fund; further to name the Town Council as agents to expend from said fund. (Majority vote required)

(If passed, this article will require the Town to raise \$100,000 in property taxes, resulting in a tax rate impact of \$0.016 in FY 25 based upon projected assessed values.)

The Town Council by a vote of <u>5-0</u> recommends a <u>YES</u> vote; the Budget Committee by a vote of <u>7-0</u> recommends a <u>YES</u> vote.

<u>ARTICLE NO. 8:</u> [DPW EQUIPMENT/VEHICLE LEASES]

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Manager to enter into up to a 10-year lease agreement in the amount of **SIX-HUNDRED EIGHTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS** (**\$685,000**) for the purpose of leasing two 6-wheel trucks, a one-ton dump truck, and a backhoe, and proper equipment, and to raise and appropriate the sum of **NINETY THOUSAND DOLLARS** (**\$90,000**) for the first year's payment for that purpose. This lease agreement contains an escape clause.

(If passed, this article will require the Town to raise \$90,000 in property taxes, resulting in a tax rate impact of \$0.014 in FY 25 based upon projected assessed values.)

The Town Council by a vote of <u>5-0</u> recommends a <u>YES</u> vote; the Budget Committee by a vote of <u>7-0</u> recommends a <u>YES</u> vote.

<u>ARTICLE NO. 9</u>: [FIRE DEPARTMENT TRUCK CAPITAL RESERVE FUND]

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$100,000)** to be placed in the Fire Vehicle Capital Reserve fund and further to authorize the use of **FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$50,000)** from the June 30 Unassigned Fund Balance towards this appropriation.

(If passed, this article will require the Town to raise \$50,000 in property taxes, resulting in a tax rate impact of \$0.008 in FY 25 based upon projected assessed values.)

<u>ARTICLE NO. 10</u>: [FIRE DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT CAPITAL RESERVE FUND]

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$75,000)** to be placed in the Fire Equipment Capital Reserve Fund and further to authorize the use of **THIRTY-SEVEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$37,500)** from the June 30 Unassigned Fund Balance towards this appropriation.

(If passed, this article will require the Town to raise \$37,500 in property taxes, resulting in a tax rate impact of \$0.006 in FY 25 based upon projected assessed values.)

The Town Council by a vote of <u>5-0</u> recommends a <u>YES</u> vote; the Budget Committee by a vote of <u>7-0</u> recommends a <u>YES</u> vote.

ARTICLE NO. 11: [RECREATION CAPITAL RESERVE FUND]

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate **TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS** (**\$10,000**) to be placed in the Recreation Department Capital Reserve Fund.

(If passed, this article will require the Town to raise \$10,000.00 in property taxes, resulting in a tax rate impact of \$0.002 in FY 25 based upon projected assessed values.)

The Town Council by a vote of <u>5-0</u> recommends a <u>YES</u> vote; the Budget Committee by a vote of <u>7-0</u> recommends a <u>YES</u> vote.

<u>ARTICLE NO. 12:</u> [PILLSBURY CEMETERY EXPANSION CAPITAL RESERVE FUND]

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$75,000)** to be placed in the Pillsbury Cemetery Expansion capital reserve fund and further to authorize the use of **TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$25,000)** from the June 30 Unassigned Fund Balance towards this appropriation.

(If passed, this article will require the Town to raise \$50,000 in property taxes, resulting in a tax rate impact of \$0.008 in FY 25 based upon projected assessed values.)

<u>ARTICLE NO. 13:</u> [CABLE EQUIPMENT CAPITAL RESERVE FUND]

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **THIRTY-TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$32,500)** to be placed in the Cable Equipment capital reserve fund with funding to come from the annual distribution of Public Educational and Government Access programming from the current Franchise Agreement.

(If passed, this article will require the Town to raise \$0.00 in property taxes, resulting in a tax rate impact of \$0.00 in FY 25 based upon projected assessed values.)

The Town Council by a vote of <u>5-0</u> recommends a <u>YES</u> vote; the Budget Committee by a vote of <u>7-0</u> recommends a <u>YES</u> vote.

<u>ARTICLE NO. 14</u>: [POLICE DEPARTMENT – ADD ADDITIONAL PROSECUTOR]

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$162,000)** for the purpose of adding a second fulltime prosecutor to assist in meeting increasing caseloads and providing better victim outreach and consultation. If this article passes, this appropriation will be part of both the operating and default budget in future years.

(If passed, this article will require the Town to raise \$162,000.00 in property taxes, resulting in a tax rate impact of \$0.025 in FY 25 based upon projected assessed values.)

The Town Council by a vote of <u>5-0</u> recommends a <u>YES</u> vote; the Budget Committee by a vote of <u>6-1</u> recommends a <u>YES</u> vote.

<u>ARTICLE NO. 15</u>: [FIRE DEPARTMENT – ADDITIONAL FIREFIGHTERS]

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **FOUR HUNDRED NINETY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$495,000)** for the purpose of adding additional Firefighters with the intention to bring staffing of each battalion to 13 per shift. This will improve the Fire Department's ability to effectively meet the needs and the challenges of an aging community that is rapidly growing, by enhancing Advanced Life Support (ALS) response to medical emergencies at the Paramedic level. It also assists the Fire Department by improving compliance with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) staffing standards for the Town of Londonderry. If this article passes, this appropriation will be part of both the operating and default budget in future years.

(If passed, this article will require the Town to raise \$495,000.00 in property taxes, resulting in a tax rate impact of \$0.077 in FY 25 based upon projected assessed values.)

ARTICLE NO. 16: [PICKLEBALL COURTS]

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **FOUR HUNDRED NINETY THOUSAND** (\$490,000) for the design and construction of up to ten (10) public pickleball courts and further to authorize the use of **TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS** (\$250,000) from the June 30 Unassigned Fund Balance towards this appropriation. . This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the earlier of the completion of its purpose or June 30, 2030.

(If passed, this article will require the Town to raise \$240,000.00 in property taxes, resulting in a tax rate impact of \$0.038 in FY 25 based upon projected assessed values.)

The Town Council by a vote of <u>4-1</u> recommends a <u>YES</u> vote; the Budget Committee by a vote of <u>4-3</u> recommends a <u>YES</u> vote.

<u>ARTICLE NO. 17</u>: [AMEND LONDONDERRY MUNICIPAL CODE TITLE V – ADMINISTRATIVE CODE CHAPTER III SECTION I. A.]

Shall the Town vote to amend the Londonderry Municipal Code Title V — Administrative Code Chapter III Section I. A. to include the Planning Board as elected positions? This would move the Planning Board from being appointed by the Londonderry Town Council to being elected by the citizens of Londonderry. (**BY CITIZENS' PETITION**)

(If passed, this article will require the Town to raise \$0.00 in property taxes, resulting in a tax rate impact of \$0.00 in FY 25 based upon projected assessed values.)

Non-monetary item. The Town Council will not make a recommendation; the Budget Committee will not make a recommendation.

<u>ARTICLE NO. 18</u>; [AMEND LONDONDERRY MUNICIPAL CODE TITLE I – GENERAL CODE I SECTION 8.13.B]

Shall the Town vote to amend the Londonderry Municipal Code Title I — General Code I Section 8.13. B. Committee Organization: to insert the words "include public input at the start and end of each meeting and "after the words "Each committee shall"? This will allow the general public to have a regular opportunity for public input at each public meeting, allowing for increase communication with the citizens of Londonderry. (**BY CITIZENS' PETITION**)

(If passed, this article will require the Town to raise \$0.00 in property taxes, resulting in a tax rate impact of \$0.00 in FY 25 based upon projected assessed values.)

Non-monetary item. The Town Council will not make a recommendation; the Budget Committee will not make a recommendation.

<u>ARTICLE NO. 19</u>: [AMEND LONDONDERRY MUNICIPAL CODE TITLE I – GENERAL CODE I SECTION 8.13.A]

Shall the Town vote to amend the Londonderry Municipal Code Title I – General Code I Section 8.13 A. Meetings: to insert the words "and shall be recorded" after the words "shall meet at a time the best for the general population"? This will allow the general public to access the recording at a time most convenient to them, to ensure access for all citizens to all committees' meetings. (**BY CITIZENS' PETITION**)

(If passed, this article will require the Town to raise \$0.00 in property taxes, resulting in a tax rate impact of \$0.00 in FY 25 based upon projected assessed values.)

Non-monetary item. The Town Council will not make a recommendation; the Budget Committee will not make a recommendation.

<u>ARTICLE NO. 20;</u> [AMEND LONDONDERRY MUNICIPAL CODE TITLE I – GENERAL CODE I SECTION 8.13.A]

Shall the Town vote to amend the Londonderry Municipal Code Title I – General Code I Section 8. 13. A. Meetings: to insert the words "and all official town meeting shall be recorded" This will allow the general public to access the recording at a time most convenient to them, to ensure access for all citizens to all committees' meetings. (**BY CITIZENS' PETITION**)

(If passed, this article will require the Town to raise \$0.00 in property taxes, resulting in a tax rate impact of \$0.00 in FY 25 based upon projected assessed values.)

Non-monetary item. The Town Council will not make a recommendation; the Budget Committee will not make a recommendation.

ARTICLE NO. 21: [TOWN MANAGER PLAN]

Do you favor the continuation of the town manager plan as now in force in this town? (**BY CITIZENS' PETITION**)

(If passed, this article will require the Town to raise \$0.00 in property taxes, resulting in a tax rate impact of \$0.00 in FY 25 based upon projected assessed values.)

Non-monetary item. The Town Council will not make a recommendation; the Budget Committee will not make a recommendation.

<u>ARTICLE NO. 22</u>: [AMEND LONDONDERRY MUNICIPAL CODE TITLE V – ADMINISTRATIVE CODE CHAPTER III]

Shall the Town vote to amend the Londonderry Municipal Code Title V – Administrative Code CHAPTER III – BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS Section I General Authority Section I. B. to remove the word "Advisory" from "Budget Committee" in accordance with RSA40:14-b that states the "Budget Committee" shall create the default budgets. (**BY CITIZENS' PETITION**)

(If passed, this article will require the Town to raise \$0.00 in property taxes, resulting in a tax rate impact of \$0.00 in FY 25 based upon projected assessed values.)

Non-monetary item. The Town Council will not make a recommendation; the Budget Committee will not make a recommendation.

ARTICLE NO. 23: [TRANSACTION OF OTHER BUSINESS]

To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting. No business enacted under this article shall have any binding effect upon the Town.