

# Town of Londonderry, Vermont

## Special Selectboard Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, April 12, 2022 – 5:30 PM  
100 Old School Street, South Londonderry, VT 05155

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda [1 VSA 312(d)(3)(A)]
3. Old Business
  - a. Consideration of use of funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)
  - b. [Discuss special meeting scheduled for next week](#)
4. Adjourn

**As Amended at Meeting**

**Town of Londonderry, Vermont**  
**Selectboard**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, April 12, 2022**  
**Twitchell Building - 100 Old School Street, South Londonderry, VT**

**Board Members Present:** Thomas Cavanagh, Vincent Annunziata Taylor Prouty, James Fleming and Melissa Brown.

**Board Members Absent:** None.

**Others in Attendance:** Town Officials – Town Administrator Shane O’Keefe and Town Treasurer Bettina Labeau. Others – One Londonderry representative Elsie Smith.

**1. Call meeting to order**

Thomas Cavanagh called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

**2. Additions or deletions to the agenda** [1 VSA 312(d)(3)(A)]

*Melissa Brown moved to add a discussion on the special meeting scheduled for next week, seconded by Vincent Annunziata. The motion passed unanimously.*

O’Keefe suggested that the Board should not make any firm decisions with regard to the Williams Dam matter as this was not in the agenda and could cause concerns for those who have expressed issues over the Board’s process. It was agreed to address this matter after the ARPA discussion.

**3. Old Business**

**a. Consideration of use of funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)**

O’Keefe started off by noting that the Vermont League of Cities and Towns strongly recommends that towns elect to declare the standard allowance of lost revenue, which would still allow the Town to disperse funds in accordance with the eligibility requirements. The election to take this course is required by the end of April, and once done the funds can be used right away. He stated that one of the biggest benefits of doing so is that the level of reporting going forward is greatly reduced.

Both O’Keefe and Labeau suggested that the Board make this election to avoid exhaustive reporting for the Town and funding recipients for the coming years. The Board was provided with several resource documents from VLCT and other sources.

Prouty stated that it makes sense for the Town to get some better indications are what the ARPA money is to be used for by the requestors. Brown said that for next year, as people find that it may be easier to apply for

Cavanagh suggested that the ARPA funds should be distributed to those making requests this year and that the other half should go toward Town projects that will benefit all taxpayers.

Prouty suggested meeting specific needs this year and more generalized uses next year as for all taxpayers. O’Keefe mentioned several underfunded capital projects that will need to be funded through bonds, with interest, if they are not funded through ARPA funds.

Brown stated that there are those in the community experiencing greater loss now than what they were experiencing during the pandemic, and the idea behind these funds is that they go to businesses, individuals and not-for-profits to help them stay on their feet financially. She stated that she is not comfortable not giving all of the money to the community, and Annunziata agreed.

There was discussion about which items closely met with the eligibility requirements, and several Board members suggested where they think the funding should be allocated. Cavanagh suggested the following funding allowances:

<b>1. Neighborhood Connections</b>		<b>\$50,000</b>
• General organizational operating funds		
<b>2. My Community Nurse Project</b>		<b>\$25,000</b>
• Expanded service hours for two advanced practice nurses, upgrade equipment		
<b>3. Tammy Clough</b>		<b>\$18,000</b>
• Business impacts of pandemic		
<b>4. West River Montessori School</b>		<b>\$55,000</b>
• Roof replacement	\$39,000	
• Exterior protections	\$16,000	
<b>5. Community Housing Study</b>		<b>\$23,000</b>
• To be conducted by the Town		
<b>6. South Londonderry Free Library</b>		<b>\$15,511</b>
• Lost revenue from 2020 & 2021		
<b>7. Thomas &amp; Judy Platt/ Derry Downtown</b>		<b>\$8,600</b>
• Business impacts of pandemic		
<b>8. Huzon Alexander</b>		<b>\$12,500</b>
• Dojo roof	\$8,500	
• Exterior repairs	\$4,000	
<b>9. Magic Wastewater Association, Inc.</b>		<b>\$14,911</b>
• Rebuild spray field electrical panel	\$7,552	
• Renovate pump control electrical panel	\$7,359	
<b>10. The Collaborative</b>		<b>\$12,000</b>
• Support expansion of Refuse to Use (RTU) program		
<b>11. Friends of the West River Trail</b>		<b>\$13,000</b>
• Improved access off West River ST, and construct new kiosk		

The Board members were in general agreement with the allocations suggested by Cavanagh. And it was agreed that the \$50,000 request from the Community Fund of Londonderry to establish a housing assistance fund should await the results of the community housing study.

Brown suggested coming up with parameters for next year's spending. It was agreed to add this to the agenda for the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in May. Prouty suggested that next year's process could be different to better reflect community priorities.

Cavanagh suggested that some of next year's allocation should go to the Town projects and some specific community needs.

O'Keefe read aloud the following resolution, which was drafted in coordination with the VLCT:

***RESOLUTION FOR AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) ALLOCATION***

***WHEREAS***, on March 11, 2021 the President of the United States signed into law the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to provide continued relief from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

***WHEREAS***, the ARPA program appropriates funds to assist state, local, tribal and territory governments in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

***WHEREAS***, the Town of Londonderry, Vermont has been notified of ARPA funding in the amount of \$495,044.38, payable in two tranches; and

***WHEREAS***, the Town of Londonderry is in receipt of the first tranche in the amount of \$247,522.19; and

***WHEREAS***, the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provide needed fiscal relief for recipients that have experienced revenue loss due to the onset of the COVID-19 public health emergency; and

***WHEREAS***, Treasury presumes that up to \$10 million in revenue has been lost due to the public health emergency and recipients are permitted to use that amount (not to exceed the award amount) to fund "government services."; and

***WHEREAS***, Recipients may elect a "standard allowance" of \$10 million to spend on government services through the period of performance; and

***WHEREAS***, All recipients may elect to use this standard allowance instead of calculating lost revenue using the formula provided by US Treasury, including those with total allocations of \$10 million or less; and

***WHEREAS***, the Town of Londonderry has the need to fund government services while in the recovery phase of the COVID-19 pandemic.

***NOW, THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED***, the Selectboard of the Town of Londonderry, Vermont, determines and authorizes the following:

***That the Town of Londonderry, Vermont hereby elects to declare a fixed amount of revenue loss, referred to as the "standard allowance", at the full amount of the Town's ARPA funding (\$495,044.38) to be allocated to fund government services under the "replacing lost public sector revenue" spending category.***

***Vincent Annunziata moved to adopt the resolution as read, seconded by Jim Fleming. The motion passed unanimously.***

The Board members each signed the resolution.

O'Keefe was asked to draw up a recommended motion for the allocations for Board consideration at the next regular meeting. Subject to finalization of funding allocations, it was agreed that letters should be sent to each of the funding recipients as well as letters to the Community Fund of Londonderry and One Londonderry.

**b. Discuss special meeting scheduled for next week**

Melissa Brown expressed that she was glad that a public meeting would be held for the upcoming vote on replacement of the Williams Dam, which had become a contentious item, and inquired about how the meeting should be run. Cavanagh mentioned that the Board would open with a statement and then hand it over to the engineer for a presentation, followed by questions and answers. O’Keefe noted that Moderator Doug Friant has agreed to moderate the meeting. Cavanagh added that his opening statement would be that the Board has not made any decisions, and it would be the Voters that ultimately choose the course of action.

Fleming stated that he hears from people that the vote is happening too quickly. Cavanagh mentioned that no matter which choice is made the project will take several years to take shape due to permitting requirements.

Taylor brought up the way the Town Meeting article reads. O’Keefe noted that in helping to draft the article he struggled with how to come up with language that would allow for voters to choose between options.

On those invited to attending the meeting, O’Keefe noted that in addition to the consulting engineers from Dubois & King, Inc., representatives from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, the Connecticut River Conservancy and Trout Unlimited were invited as resources. Cavanagh mentioned he had sent an invitation to both fire departments as well.

Brown stated that she feels that the fire department wants to be able to weigh in on the project and be a resource, and that she understands that the department was not spoken to earlier in the engineering review process. Cavanagh noted that fire department representatives were at the previous Town Meeting and did not reach out to the Town on any concerns, and O’Keefe noted that Emergency Management Director Kevin Beattie was on the working group seeing through the engineering study.

O’Keefe suggested that the real issue for the community is the future of the Williams Dam and not ancillary issues such as wetlands, water supply and viewsheds. If the no-cost dam removal alternative is chosen then the cost savings could be applied to solutions for the other issues such as several dry hydrants.

Prouty and Brown brought up the unfortunate and negative online discourse revolving around this matter. It was mentioned that when people educate themselves about the alternatives, they’ve come to realize that the removal option makes most sense. And that it is a vocal minority of people pushing for the dam to remain.

The idea of visual depictions of the various alternatives was discussed, and the high cost of this was mentioned as being an issue.

Brown stated that it is up to the Board to try to put everyone at ease on the process of considering the alternatives. She mentioned that removal of the dam is an emotional issue for many people, and added that she has heard of concerns in the community about non-voters looking to speak at the Town Meeting.

There was discussion about fear of change in the community. There was also discussion on alternatives to the existing dry hydrant at the mill pond should the dam be removed. Cavanagh mentioned he had spoken with the Fire Chief early on and assured him that the dry

hydrant would not be going away with the dam removal option, and would be relocated if the design called for it. Cavanagh mentioned that he had spent many hours researching the potential for other dry hydrant locations in the north village area. O’Keefe stated that he would inform the consulting engineer about concerns with the dry hydrant and to be prepared to address them.

O’Keefe noted that he had inquired of the consulting engineer the cost of dredging the entire mill pond and it is estimated at \$150,000.

Prouty suggested that cost of the options will drive the decision-making process, and that repairing the dam will only perpetuate the liability dam it represents. Labeau mentioned the legacy we would be leaving if the Town doesn’t take care of this now, and added that the local emergency management plan calls out the dam as a significant hazard. Brown inquired whether FEMA had been involved in the engineering process.

Annunziata suggested the possibility establishing dam committee to look into grants for the various alternatives. The applicability of a State of Vermont historic preservation grant was discussed, and O’Keefe noted that they are limited to \$20,000 and would only apply to the more expensive of the two repair options.

It was agreed that the Board needs to remain transparent with all aspects of this process. There was further discussion of the extreme negative statements and feedback by way of social media outlets. Fleming suggested that the Board insist that people remain civil at the upcoming meeting, and it was agreed that the meeting would likely go smoothly when folks are in-person.

Arrangements for meeting setup were briefly discussed.

#### 4. Adjourn

*Jim Fleming moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Vincent Annunziata. The motion passed unanimously.*

The meeting adjourned at 6:44 PM. The next regular meeting of the Selectboard is scheduled for April 18, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Shane P. O’Keefe  
Town Administrator

*Approved May 9, 2022.*

**LONDONDERRY SELECTBOARD**

  
Thomas Cavanagh, Chair