

FINAL

**LEBANON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES
Wednesday, January 12 2023, 6:30 p.m.
Remote Via Microsoft Teams: LebanonNH.gov/Live**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Tim McNamara, Assistant Mayor Clifton Below, Erling Heistad, Karen Liot Hill, Christian Simon, George Sykes, Douglas Whittlesey, Devin Wilkie, and Karen Zook

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Shaun Mulholland, Deputy City Manager David Brooks, Senior Planner for Planning & Development Mark Goodwin

NOTE: There was a major system failure in Council Chambers that affected the video, sound, or a combination of both for those who were attempting to attend this meeting remotely. As a result, the minutes for this meeting are limited to screenshots of the topics that were discussed by the Council and NHMA staff.

1. CALL TO ORDER: Mayor McNamara called the meeting to order at 6:41 PM

2. New Hampshire Municipal Association (NHMA) Legislative Update: NHMA staff was present and provided a legislative update on bills of municipal interest proposed for the upcoming legislative session in the NH House and the NH Senate for local officials and legislators.

Ms. Katherine Heck (Government Financer, NHMA), Mr. Natch Greyes Government Affairs Counsel, NHMA, and Mr. Alex Torpey (Hanover, NH Town Manager & NHMA Member), introduced themselves and spoke to the Council about the NHMA's policy positions; the NH House balance of power; and the Legislative Sessions coming up in 2023.

The following screenshots, while not complete, are what were discussed:



Senate Statistics: 2022

~1/3 of votes were bipartisan

Sponsorship statistics were opposite

Most Senators saw ~2/3 of their bills have bi-partisan sponsorship

Only ~1/3 were party-line



Some Important Policy Topics

Marijuana – Several bills being advanced. Unclear whether pre-session negotiation. However, House Majority & House Minority Leaders support the same one.

Bail Reform – Ongoing negotiations between interested legislators, but unclear how that will develop.

Composting – Big push coming to start putting composting infrastructure in place, particularly for food scraps, as a way to stave off landfills reaching capacity.

Primary Date – Lots of conversation surrounding moving the date of the state primary.

State Funding – Perpetual issue made more difficult by infusion of federal dollars, which will shortly be drying up.



Some Important Bills: NHMA Policy Bills



HB 50: relative to payment by the state of a portion of retirement system contributions of political subdivision employers – restoring a portion of the state's share of employer costs for police, teachers, and firefighters in NHRS.

HB 254: relative to remote participation in public meetings under the right to know law – providing for a local option remote participation of members of public bodies in public meetings.

LSR 787: relative to town council-town manager form of local government – clarifying that towns that have adopted RSA 49-D have the same powers and authority as municipalities that adopted RSA 49-C.





Property Taxes/Assessing

- **HB 98, HB 99 & HB 569**- relative to the low and moderate income homeowners property tax relief program.
- **HB 197**- relative to the proration of property tax exemptions.
- **LSR 2023-0158**-repealing the collection of the state education property tax.
- **HB 433** -providing that property tax exemptions granted prior to a home sale shall not be applied to the new homeowner.
- **HB 237**- relative to the date of asset evaluation for purposes of determining eligibility for certain property tax exemptions.
- **HB 294** -enabling municipalities to adopt a child tax credit.
- **HB 403**- relative to the authority of selectmen or assessors to abate taxes.
- **LSR 2023-0888** -enabling municipalities to adopt a property tax credit for child day care agencies.

17 Bills filed relative to the NH Retirement System

HB 50 & LSR 2023-0801

relative to payment by the state of a portion of retirement system contributions of political subdivision employers.

HB 555 - appropriating state general fund surplus toward the retirement system unfunded accrued liability.

HB 183-relative to employment of retired firefighters at the fire academy.

HB 278-relative to special duty hours worked by retired police members in the retirement system.

LSR 449
LSR 337
HB 571
HB 579
HB 461
HB 525
HB 436



Bills propose changes or modifications to GROUP II



State Aid to Municipalities through the State Budget Process

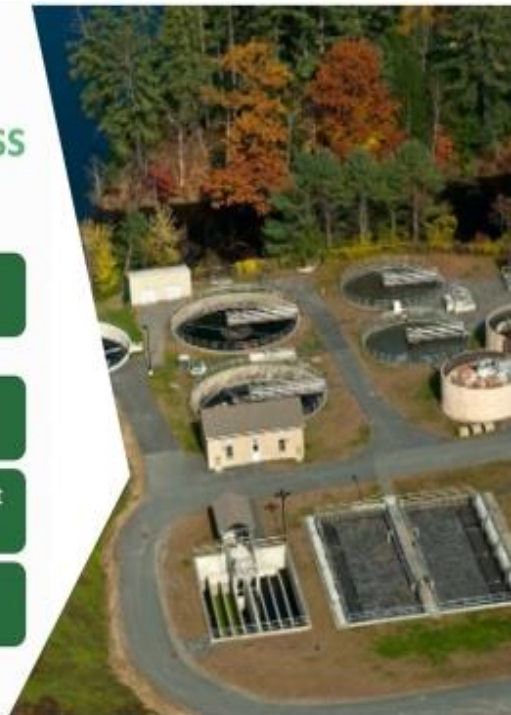
Biennial State Operating Budget and Trailer Bill.

- HB 1 and HB2 comprise the state operating budget

Appropriations are contained in HB1

The trailer bill (HB2) contains statutory changes necessary to implement the budget for the two-year period July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2025.

The state Budget has an **effective date of July 1, 2023.**



MUNICIPAL REVENUE SHARING and STATE AID SOURCES

General Funds:

Meals and Rooms Tax Revenue Distribution
State Revenue Sharing (Suspended 2010-2021)
State Normal Retirement Contribution (Repealed 2013)
Railroad Tax Distribution
State Municipal Aid Grants (One-Time Surplus: Added 2020-2021)

Environmental:

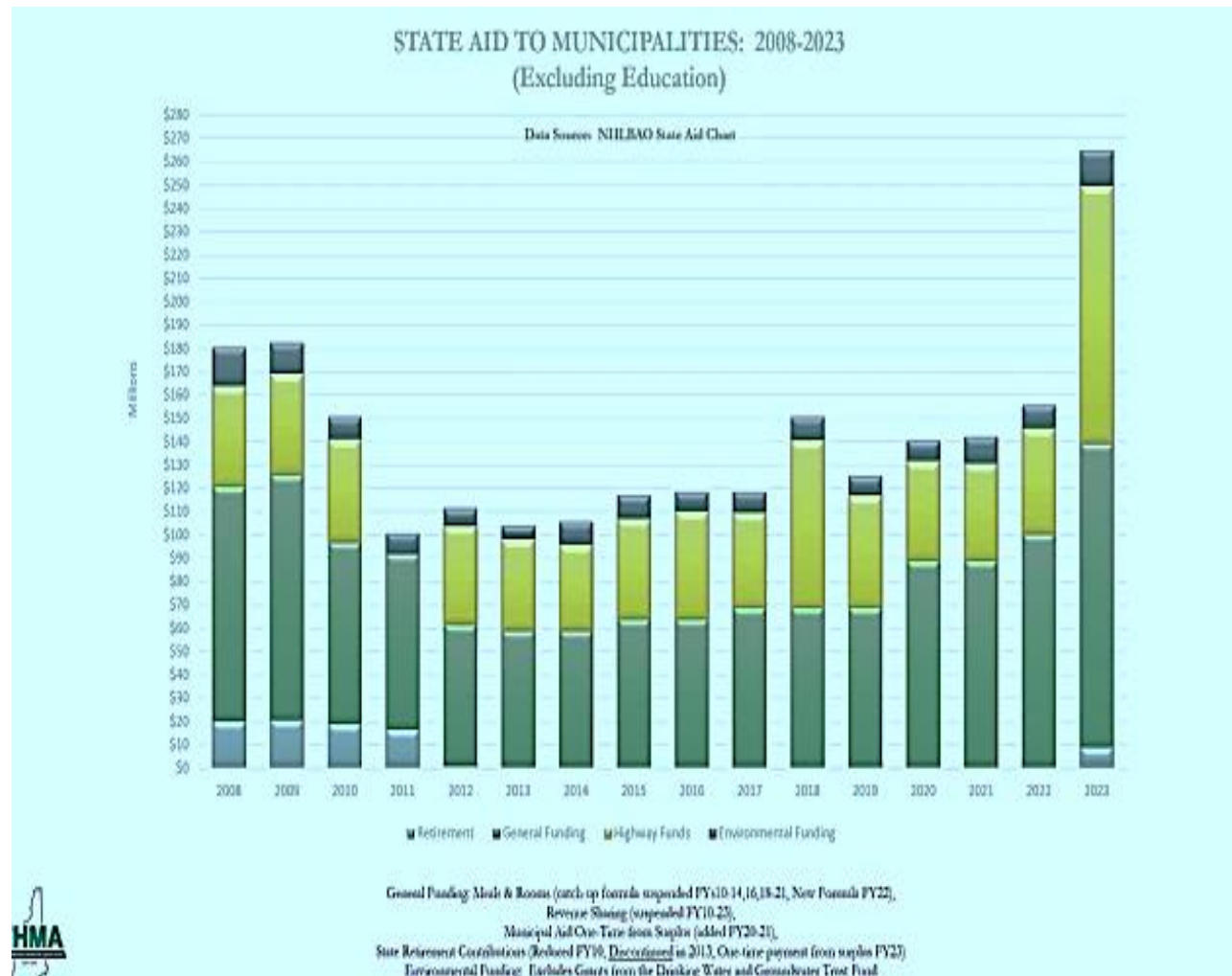
Flood Control
Landfill Closure Grants
Public Water System Grants
Pollution Control Grants – State Aid Grants (SAGs)
Water Supply Land Protection Grants

Highway:

Highway Block Grants
Highway Construction Aid
State Municipal Bridge Aid



NHMA's advocacy tool, [Municipal State Aid and Revenue Sharing \(History & Trends\) Booklet](#) is now available for download.



Ways to Engage your Legislator

- ✓ Provide your legislators with summaries of issues that are important to your town or city;
 - ✓ include accurate facts and data.
- ✓ Invite them to address a council meeting;
 - ✓ participate in city/town-hosted events;
 - ✓ visit public meeting
 - ✓ highlight projects or facilities that are important to your municipality
- ✓ Conduct “informal” meetings;
 - ✓ invite business and community leaders, non-profit partner and other stakeholder groups.
- ✓ Respond to NHMA Legislative Bulletin or a legislative alert will frequently ask for your assistance in analyzing the effects of a bill or in communicating with legislators.



Stay Informed & Get Involved

The Legislative Bulletin is NHMA's primary means of communicating legislative information to member towns and cities.

- Sent via email and posted on the [NHMA website](#).
- Using [NHMA's Online Bill Tracker](#).
- Watching Senate and House Committee hearings and Full Sessions,
 - [NH Senate Livestream](#)
 - [NH House Livestream](#)

It also serves as a communication vehicle for action needed from your municipality, including :

- Requests for letters or calls in support or opposition.
- In person testimony.
 - *If you would like to speak on a bill, you do need to sign up in-person on the day of the hearing at the noticed time and location.*
- If you do not wish to speak on the legislation but would like to have your position registered in the official record of the bill you may do so.
- [Register Position for Senate Bills/Hearings](#)
- [Register Position for House Bills/Hearings](#)

How to Participate in New Hampshire Legislative Hearings:

- For the NH HOUSE, a link to sign in and register a position or to submit a PDF of written testimony, can be found here:
- [NH House of Representatives Upload Testimony](#)
- [Submit emailed/written testimony to House committees](#)
- For NH Senate bills, a copy of your written testimony may be emailed to the committees.
- If you do not wish to speak on the legislation would like to have your position registered in the official record of the bill you may do so using the following links:
 - [Submit emailed/written testimony to Senate committees](#)



NHMA Bill Tracker: FastDemocracy

The New Hampshire Municipal Association (NHMA) represents the interests of cities and towns before the New Hampshire General Court (House and Senate) and various state agencies based on its member-adopted [principles and policies](#). The New Hampshire legislative session happens each year between the months of January and June. Each legislative cycle, NHMA tracks state actions that could significantly affect New Hampshire's 234 municipalities.

In addition to the weekly Legislative Bulletin, NHMA provides members access to FastDemocracy, an online bill tracking platform, for efficient, real-time updates to legislative activity of interest to members. Members do not need to create a FastDemocracy account to access this information, but they are able to create an account if they wish.

Click on the subgroups below to see information on bills from either the previous, or current legislative cycle within each category, and view the NHMA's stance on the measures. Subscribe to the bill list(s) to receive daily or weekly email updates, including new bill actions and upcoming hearings.

ALL BILLS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

EDUCATION FUNDING

ELECTIONS

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

LABOR

LAND USE

LOCAL AUTHORITY

PROPERTY TAX

RETIREMENT

RIGHT-TO-KNOW

STATE AID

SUBSTANCE USE

TRANSPORTATION

FAST DEMOCRACY:

OUR BILL TABLE IS NOW ONLINE



Thank you

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The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
 Dona E. Gibson
 Recording Secretary