

DRAFT

**LEBANON SCHOOL DISTRICT & CITY COUNCIL
JOINT PARTNERSHIP TASK FORCE
MEETING ROOM 3, CITY HALL OR
REMOTE VIA VIRTUAL PLATFORM
6:00PM, THURSDAY MAY 23, 2024**

CITY COUNCIL / STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

City Manager Shaun Mulholland, Douglas Whittlesey (REMOTE)

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mayor Tim McNamara, Karen Liot Hill

SCHOOL DISTRICT MEMBERS PRESENT:

Superintendent Amy Allen, Business Administrator Tim Ball, Wendy Hall, Jessica Saturley-Hall

1. CALL TO ORDER:

City Manager Shaun Mulholland called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. He reviewed the City's meeting in-person and REMOTE attendance policies and procedures.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

City Manager Mullholland said the minutes from last meeting could not be approved because there was no in-person quorum for voting at this meeting.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Projected Combined City and School District Tax Rates & Potential Impacts

City Manager Mulholland said the City produced a video for the public that discussed the projected tax rate increase. He said the rate increase for the City taxes is \$1.45 and for the School taxes is \$.73 (\$2.18 combined). He said the increase calculates as follows:

Home Value	Projected Increase in Yearly Taxes
\$400,000	\$872
\$500,000	\$1,090
\$600,000	\$1,300

He said the message his office wanted the video to convey to residents is they should plan for the increase between now and November. He said the tax bills went out for the first half of the year, which he said is an estimate based on the previous year's taxes. He said the next bill will be significantly higher. He said the video has been posted to the City's website and was mentioned

1 in the City's newsletter. He said over the next four years, the tax rate will increase by about 50%.
2 He said, next year, in addition to the tax rate increase, there will be a revaluation of properties,
3 which may result in even more of an increase for homeowner taxpayers.
4

5 Superintendent Allen said the Lebanon School District has been ranked the fourth best in New
6 Hampshire and was ranked nationally in U.S. News and World Report.
7

8 Mr. Ball suggested that residents should review the School Board's deliberative session
9 presentation, which included budget savings reductions of about \$1.5 million dollars, including
10 reducing some staffing through attrition. He said the Board has done as good a job as possible in
11 presenting a budget that was responsible and accommodated the economic realities of personnel-
12 related costs, including wages and other benefits costs.
13

14 Superintendent Allen said the School Board and team have done a great job looking at class sizes
15 and areas where staff could be reduced without making an impact on student learning.
16

17 City Manager Mulholland said he will present the proposed budget to the City Council by the
18 end of October, it will be discussed and reviewed in workshops during November, and it will be
19 finalized for City Council approval by mid-December.
20

21 **B. Future of Dana House**

22 City Manager Mulholland said lead and asbestos testing has been completed and clean-up
23 will commence soon. He said the City's Heritage Commission will decide how Dana
24 House will be used. He noted that the School District (which owns the land on which
25 Dana House is located) will be included in the discussion of any proposed plans.
26

27 **C. Evans Drive Sidewalk Project Status**

28 City Manager Mulholland said that 80% of the Mascoma Street sidewalk repair near Alice
29 Peck Day Hospital has been completed, and the work will be moving to Evans Drive once
30 school closes at the end of June or in July.
31

32 **D. Early Childhood Initiative, Housing for Staff, Capital Improvement Project** 33 **Planning** 34

35 City Manager Mulholland the city is the fiscal agent for the Home Grown Child Care Program,
36 which helps support in-home childcare programs in both Sullivan County and Grafton County.
37 He said the program is funded by a nonprofit based in Philadelphia, PA. He said the City
38 received \$100,000 in grants from Pennsylvania, which he said is being matched by state and City
39 funds. He said childcare centers are not required to be licensed, so it is hard to know how many
40 operate in the Upper Valley. Ms. Hall said she heard the CCBA will soon have a childcare
41 program for Dartmouth Hitchcock employees. City Manager Mulholland said the City received a
42 grant for \$1.6 million for the childcare facility it plans to build near the airport. He said \$21
43 million is still needed for the project.
44

City Manager Mulholland said several designs have been reviewed for the staff housing / pocket neighborhood project. He said the City Council voted to discontinue Barros Street in preparation for the development of the parking area that will be located there. He said a wetlands analysis has been done at the Hanover Street Extension site and there are substantial wetlands present, which may impact the number of homes that will be built on that site. He said plans for a quadplex on the Seminary Hill site would be condos that will be available to school or city employees via lottery.

City Manager Mulholland said the list of potential City CIP projects was submitted to the Planning Department on May 9, and meetings to review the projects will begin next week. He said the Planning Board will review the School District's CIP projects in July. Mr. Ball asked about the status of the Gas to Energy Project, and City Manager Mulholland said the final design has been completed and the City is waiting for Liberty Utilities and National Grid to upgrade the Slayton Hill Substation so that permits can be obtained and work can be completed.

Superintendent Allen said the airplane project continues to progress. She said airplane parts will be delivered within a month and she said a model plane could be available for LebFest. She said \$200,000 of the total \$250,000 needed has been raised. Mr. Ball noted that the school has received temporary occupancy for two of the three additions at the Lebanon High School. He said the band room is close to completion and renovation of the Nurse's Office and the Special Education spaces is beginning.

City Manager Mulholland said two of the City's building inspectors have retired and new inspectors are in the process of being hired and on-boarded.

Councilor Wilkie recognized the school district for its great work and for being nationally ranked. He said the school system is one of the big reasons people move to Lebanon.

4. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Budget Discussion
- Status of Dana House

5. NEXT MEETING DATE

Next Meeting date is October 24, 2004

6. OTHER BUSINESS

None

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 6:25pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Paula Roux
Recording Secretary