

MINUTES
LITTLETON SELECT BOARD
PUBLIC HEARINGS WORK SESSION
MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2026, AT 4 PM
LITTLETON COMMUNITY CENTER, HEALD ROOM
120 MAIN STREET, LITTLETON NH 03561

Present: Kerri Harrington, Chair; Paul Lehmann, Vice Chair; Taylor Caswell, Member; David Harkless, Member; Chief Chad Miller; Eric Oliver, Director Public Works; Vicki Potter, Administrative Secretary; Zack Dickinson, Zack D. Video; Robert Blechl, Caledonian Record; December Rust

Harrington opened this public hearing work session at 4:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence. She then welcomed Harkless to his first official Board meeting.

Business:

1. **Public Hearing - Opioid Abatement Community Grant (\$150,000) - Chief Miller - At 4:01 pm Harrington opened the first hearing.** Chief Miller started by saying this was a grant received from the Opioid Abatement Trust which is basically from settlement of lawsuits that occurred after the Opioid crisis what the State and the County had received from that. They have contracted with different agencies to distribute those funds. Our grant is for \$75,000 a year for two years for a total \$150,000 which will be used for the Town's Mobile Integrated Healthcare Program (MIH). Initially they thought they would hire someone part time to oversee it. A lot of the Healthcare system is siloed and while our paramedics and firefighters are great at providing care, we needed time for someone to begin to break those silos down and connect them. That is what he envisioned for this part time person would be. Since then, there has been a lot more money invested in this program at the State level, and we have another grant pending. We should receive notice on that soon. If we are awarded the new grant, the part-time position would move to a full-time position. The purpose of the grant is to provide that, and we can also bill the grant for any costs that we incur related to it. Chief Miller said they have started adding it up and have found that the opioid crisis has had a tremendous effect on the first responders as well. Moreover, we can support people in crisis to keep them from the big crisis and believe this is a good process. Caswell asked if the State got one large payment or paid out over a period. Chief Miller said they got some of both. They got a large sum of money, but it continues ongoing for a period, but he is not sure what the split is. We accessed some of the County's funds as well that the Board previously supported that was used for first responder wellness and community CPR. Harkless asked if some of this can be used to help the first responders after an incident. Chief Miller said he does not believe this specific grant does because it has a narrower scope but some of the Opioid money they received from the County has been earmarked for the first responder's wellness. They have used it for that purpose and as been very helpful. Harrington asked if anyone from the public had any questions. Blechl asked to clarify if a large part or all this money goes to the salary of the person who is going to oversee this program. Chief Miller said there is some program support and part time position. That was the plan until this new round of funding from the separate funding source was announced. He should know if we get awarded anything in the next couple of weeks. He is not going to

advertise right away. They are going to wait a short period of time to see how it goes. If they can get someone full-time instead of part time, they would rather do that instead. Harrington asked if there are any MIH programs locally and Chief Miller said yes. He said we are very fortunate because Littleton Regional Healthcare got us started in this. They received a Northern Borders Regional Grant and started this whole process. This program helps build relationships between mental health workers, community health workers and physicians to find that path forward for each one of these individuals in this program. Chief Miller said what he likes best about this program is that it is not just for those having a mental health crisis or an opioid crisis or co-core current disorders. We just received from the State that Littleton is 17th in the State for CS EMS service to provide lift assist. These are typically elderly people in their homes often with a loved one, a spouse or family member where they get called to help them out. This program can provide support to them as well to avoid emergency departments. It has been a mission of his to try and keep people in their homes as long as possible. Lehmann asked how long he sees this program lasting. Chief Miller said that it is interesting because the Feds have recognized this as innovative and they funded it through a grant program, but they don't fund it through the traditional reimbursement processes. Rust asked how this program integrates with an active overdose matter and if this covers this situation. Chief Miller said if they get a 911 call from somebody overdoing, they wouldn't necessarily initially interact with that person other than to co-respond with the on-duty crew. Priority would be to make sure they are medically stable, but the follow-up care is where they would have the freedom to check in on them and to provide them with resources. **Harrington closed this public hearing at 4:18 pm. Harkless made the motion to accept and expend up to \$150,000 from the Opioid Abatement Community Grant Program for the purpose of supporting the Littleton Fire Rescue's EMS operations and Mobile Integrated Healthcare Program (MIH). Caswell seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion passed 4-0.**

2. **Public Hearing - FEMA - Manns Hill Culvert (\$1,455,820) - Public Works Director Oliver - At 4:20 pm, Harrington opened this second public hearing.** Director Oliver started with a little background information. At the last town vote, Article 6 was voted in at 823 "yes" and 326 "no" for the town pay our part of the match which is \$500,000 or 25% of the grant. It came out to be a little bit less than at \$485,273.50. Town Manager Brown, Board Chair Harrington and Director Oliver all played a part in keeping this alive with FEMA. There was a 1.0 grade that had to be met to qualify for this grant funds. Littleton originally met that when we submitted the paperwork and we were the only qualifying project that was submitted. After further review they changed of criteria, so we went back and did the necessary work and got them to reevaluate our application again. It wasn't until July 23rd of this year that they gave us the okay to move forward with the project upon accepting this grant money in the amount of \$1,455,820. This money will be used for a new culvert box and bridge over Palmer Brook on Manns Hill Road. It will raise the elevation of the road an additional foot. It will meet 500-year flood criteria and provide critical infrastructure for the town for the next 50 years at least. Oliver said this is exciting to see something of this size coming to town. Especially with seeing Cottage Street coming to a closure this year. It will be nice having another big project on the way that is going to be beneficial to the town. Harrington thanked Oliver for all of this hard work on all these projects that are coming to him left, right and center. Caswell asked when they might be starting work on this project and how much work

needs to be done between now and then. Oliver said the previous Director, Doug Damko, reached out to HEB and they do have the completed H&H Study on it. When the Governors Council awards the grant and it is accepted by the town, we can start moving forward immediately with permitting and designs. He spoke with Chris Warner today and that is a 4 or 5-month time frame for review. Harrington said it would be a 2027 project and Oliver confirmed. His goal is to have something out to bid next year and then construction. Caswell asked if there would be paving this year on Manns Hill and Oliver confirmed again, saying it would be from Cardinal Lane up past Bear Paw Trail. Harkless said he noticed a bunch of culverts up there were replaced as well and Oliver said yes. He also said highway has had an aggressive schedule and they lost their operations foreman in April, who had 26 years of experience with the town. Oliver and Keith Reinhardt have been working together daily trying to fill that void. Oliver mentioned that the Mill Street Riverbank Project is coming along, they are through the preliminary design. They have accepted our mitigation and restoration, now it's just moving forward with getting a plan together of actual design. Lehmann asked if it would be this year or next. Oliver said this year we have the work going on at WWTP, the yearly paving, changing out culverts, and doing prep work with raising and fixing structures, Cottage Street and Dells Dam projects. So, for year 2027/2028, we will have the WWTP and Mill Street Riverbank projects happening. Harkless asked what the general percentage of a project goes to planning and engineering verses getting the actual work done. Oliver said about 25% and Harkless said that was not as much as he thought. Oliver said that was a rough estimate because permitting is in there. That's part of your engineering and has costs associated with that. Oliver said the easiest way to look at it, if we pay for engineering, we will get the finished product. Harrington asked public for questions. Blechl asked if the projects starting in 2027 wont wrap up until 2028. Oliver said that would be the goal depending on the awarded contractor's schedule. Rust said he only had a comment, which was, as he realizes the extent of Littleton's infrastructure and how immense it is. He has come to appreciate what Oliver, and his department does to make sure the Town is taken care of. He also recognizes that applying for a grant is not just a push of a button and takes a lot of leg work before any of us really sees anything happen. He wanted to extend his appreciation for what Oliver, Brown and Harrington do to make sure the taxpayers, residents and tourists coming into town have roads that are safe and planning for floods or other things that happen. Oliver added that it is a vast network of collection systems, sewer systems, roadways, sidewalks and they try their best to make sure they get everything completed. It is not a bad thing to have citizens reach out and say, "have you seen this?" It gives them a chance to address things that may have been overlooked or missed because something else came up. With no further questions, **Harrington closed this public hearing at 4:34 pm. She said there are two parts to this hearing, first one being that she needed to read into the minutes the Certificate of Authority as follows: "I, Kerri Harrington, Chairman of the Board, Littleton, NH, hereby certify that Troy Brown, Town Manager, had authority to sign and enter into a grant agreement with the State of NH Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management on August 17, 2026, for the Town of Littleton, and, further, hereby authorize Troy Brown to execute any and all contract and agreements related to the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Agreement. I further attest that Troy Brown was granted authority prior to the day the grant agreement was signed and it has not been amended or repealed as of the day the contract was signed. A true copy of the**

record, Attest: Kerri Harrington, Chairman of the Board.” Caswell made the motion to accept funds from the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) as presented in the amount of \$1,455,820.50 for the Manns Hill Road Project. Harkless seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion passed 4-0. Caswell then read into record that the Select Board, in a majority vote, accepted the terms of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) as presented in the amount of \$1,455,820.50 for mitigating local infrastructure Manns Hill Road Project. Furthermore, the Board acknowledges that the total cost of this project will be \$1,941,094.00, in which the town will be responsible for a 25% match which comes to \$485,273.50.

Harrington let everyone know that the Boards next meeting is scheduled for August 24th at the regular time of 5:00 pm. Oliver just wanted to say with the new members joining the Board, they are doing the warranty work on the clarifiers at the WWTP. That is scheduled for the first of September, after Labor Day. He is working with H2O and Brown on putting together a tour of the WWTP for the Select Board. He is hoping to do it around 3:00 pm, before the start of the first BOS meeting scheduled for September 14th.

Lehmann made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Caswell seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion passed 4-0. Meeting ended at 4:39 pm.

Minutes submitted by Vicki Potter