

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES**

**June 5, 2006**

**PRESENT:**

Douglas W. Lyon, Chair, Board of Selectmen  
Mark Kaplan, Selectman  
Ruth I. Clough, Selectman  
Jessie Levine, Town Administrator

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

DJ Lavoie, New London residents  
David Seastrand, Chief of Police  
Debbie Cross, Intertown Record  
Carolyn Dube, Argus Champion

Minutes: Mr. Kaplan moved to approve the minutes of May 22, 2006.

CAC Recap: Chair Lyon said the CAC meeting of June 3, 2006, was held at the Council on Aging and focused primarily on COA. He said the Selectmen had known that COA provided volunteer transportation services, but did not realize how much of their efforts were related to such. It is possible that COA may request additional funds from the Town in the upcoming budget season, and COA is preparing an economic benefit case. Ms. Levine said that she had just read that the City of Concord is scrutinizing their contributions to non-profit organizations in this time of budget cuts, on the basis that it is not always appropriate to ask town services to cut budgets while level funding all other spending. Chair Lyon said he understood that need for scrutiny, but added that the services provided by many non-profits save towns money that they would otherwise have to spend, and is very little money when compared to the overall budget. Mr. Kaplan asked how much the Town currently contributes to COA, and Ms. Levine said that the Town gives \$9600 to COA and \$11,600 to the VNA.

Ms. Clough said she was surprised by the number of programs that COA offers, and she was interested to hear about their liaisons with other agencies, such as the VNA. She said that COA issued pleas to get younger people involved; as the volunteers are not getting younger. Chair Lyon said COA has the image of older people sitting around playing cards, and that's not what they're about. The CAC meeting included some discussion of a name change to better reflect their mission. Ms. Clough also encouraged them to integrate with other groups, such as the community center. She said that they are excited about working with Chad Denning and the Recreation Department

Mr. Kaplan said that overall it was a good meeting, informative, and well-presented. Ms. Lavoie agreed that it was an excellent session.

Planning Board Update: Ms. Clough said that Graham McSwiney has chosen not to let Drs. Gutsell and Phipps access the King property via Lovering Lane, so the dentists are proposing their own driveway off Main Street to access the back parking area (the driveway would be between the King and McSwiney buildings, not on the Library side). There was discussion about the width of the buffer zone of the back parking lot from Library and other neighbors; the lot would have to be expanded to allow for 25 spaces.

There was also discussion about where drainage would go, as they had planned to connect to existing storm drain across McSwiney property and need to re-negotiate that option.

Ms. Clough said Hannaford managers came in to discuss parking issues and will bring back a final plan. Mr. Lyon asked if Hannaford owned the shopping center, and Ms. Clough replied that it is owned by a national management company that leases space to Hannaford.

Ms. Levine said that a representative of the Voellmans met with the Department Heads on Tuesday to discuss the proposed land swap on Messer Pond, and rather than pursue a land swap the group negotiated a different proposal that gave the Voellmans a small piece of land in exchange for an easement to the water. This needs more development and would have to go to Town Meeting.

Ms. Clough said that the next meeting, on June 13, will include meeting with Jon Feins regarding the Harborview subdivision, and the Kidders' proposal for a meat shop at the Kidder building. Ms. Levine said that she has spoken to Ari Souliotis, who said that the new gas station will include limited full service hours (either certain days of the week or certain times of the day). Hayward's will talk to the Planning Board about selling items from the building. Mr. Kaplan said the cars have been removed from the back of the property.

Third of a Century: Ms. Clough said she had gone to the ceremony at which Bob and Rita Cricenti were awarded the Third of a Century award. She said it was a lovely ceremony. Carolyn Dube said she had counted 82 people present.

E-Waste Day: Ms. Levine reminded the Selectmen of the Electronic Waste drive at the Highway Department on June 10, 2006 at 9:00 AM. Although typically the company that manages the e-waste brings a cash register and charges residents, the cost for this drive was included in the Town budget and there will be no added cost for residents. We will review the costs when the Town receives the bill and see if it works. Only residents with valid permits will be allowed to leave their e-waste.

Transfer Station permits: Ms. Levine said that with summer folks returning, there has been another round of people not having permits on their vehicles at the Transfer Station. Richard Lee has asked Dave Seastrand to assign police to the Transfer Station for occasional monitoring. Chair Lyon said despite the turmoil, he still thinks that it was the right decision to strictly enforce the policy. The residents who say they don't want to deface their cars with stickers already have an inspection sticker; this is one more government required sticker.

Public Works Update: Ms. Levine said there will be a Sewer Commission meeting today at 4:00 PM, tomorrow at 4:00 PM, and tomorrow night at 7:00 PM. On Thursday, June 1, pump #3 at Georges Mills failed at 9:00 PM and Ms. Levine and Richard Lee responded. Chair Lyon said that supports Richard Lee's argument that there should always be a backup pump on-hand, and Ms. Levine agreed. She said she delivered that message to the Sewer Commission at their meeting on Friday. Ms. Clough asked if there is a standard pump size, and Chair Lyon said that some of the pumps are sized differently due to the amount of flow through the pump stations, but there is some overlap. He said it is nerve-wracking to hold our breath and hope for the best. Ms. Levine said that she has had a subsequent conversation with Aquarion on their proposal, and she will bring that information to the Sewer Commissioners on Tuesday night.

Fiber Project: Ms. Levine said there is a series of meetings this week on the fiber project & possible funding sources. There is another public forum on Thursday night in Newport.

All Hazards Region: Ms. Levine said that after further discussion with Don Bent, who has spoken to representatives from the State Office of Emergency Management, it appears that powers-that-be think we should join the Sullivan County All Hazards Region and have our own smaller point of distribution

(POD) that includes the Kearsarge regional towns. Mr. Kaplan said that in concept, we want to be part of a smaller group, and the Town would be better served in a smaller group, but in practice we need someone to head it up. This led to a discussion about New London Hospital's role in a pandemic and the administration's concern that their resources would be split between Newport and New London. Ms. Levine said that one possibility to consider in the future is to pursue Don Bent's long-time suggestion that each Town commit a per capita amount to public health, and that money could be given to the Hospital to support a staff person. Ms. Levine said that is purely a brainstorming idea and she has not discussed it with the Hospital. Mr. Kaplan asked whether it would be better to have our own separate All Hazards Region, and Chair Lyon replied that these regional planning efforts allow coordination of resources that a bunch of individual towns does not. Ms. Levine said she will talk to the Sunapee and Newbury managers this afternoon to get a feel for their intentions, and she will report back.

Police Department: Chief Seastrand joined the Board of Selectmen at 9:00 AM. Chief Seastrand said he came to briefly update the Selectmen on the Department's Car 54 project. Car 54 is a radio interface with lights & computer developed by UNH about six years ago. The state received a \$15 million grant from the federal government to implement communication solutions to address communication problems that were experienced in Colebrook. Years ago New London was on the list to receive the program but dropped off at some point. Sergeant Andersen reconnected with the state and has assurances that later this fall, New London's cars would be brought into the Car 54 program (not unmarked cars). Three vehicles will be outfitted with system and we will integrate our existing equipment. Each car will receive about \$1,000 worth of equipment free. We just purchased an unmarked cruiser, and we will not mark or install lights until the Car 54 equipment is available in the fall. In the meantime, the detective will use that new vehicle while his replacement vehicle is identified and purchased (the old vehicle needs to be taken off the road).

Chief Seastrand said he understands that at the last Budget Committee meeting, a question arose regarding adding one more year to the rotation of cruisers for the Police Department. He said this was explored in the past and the current three-year rotation was determined to be the most economical and beneficial, but he is happy to engage in another review to make sure it's still the best option and to satisfy folks who were not involved in the discussion in the past. Chair Lyon said he would be concerned because older cars tend to be down more for repair, and it is not the cost of those repairs but the downtime and the reduced reliability. Mr. Kaplan asked how long it took to accumulate 100,000 miles on a vehicle, and Chief Seastrand said that for the frontline cruisers, it takes about three years. Backline vehicles take 5-6 years (the detective Explorer has 140,000 miles now after 10 years in service).

Mr. Kaplan asked what happens to the Car 54 equipment when a vehicle is replaced. Chief Seastrand said that the equipment would be transferred to the new vehicle. When the equipment has to be replaced at some future time, it will be a town cost. Ms. Clough asked if the free equipment going into the new cruiser this fall would eliminate the need to spend funds to outfit the new cruiser. Chief Seastrand said it will cover light bars, etc., but we will have to pay for the transfer of radios and other equipment. He would like to use some of the unspent funds towards the new detective vehicle.

Chair Lyon asked if the Car 54 equipment provided practical logistical advantage for the Police Department after it's installed. Chief Seastrand said it is safer for officers because the controls are operated by remote control and voice activated "heads up" software. For instance, there are talk buttons on the steering wheel for voice recognition, which is safer than using radio controls. He said that the computer-assisted data program can be integrated into the equipment so the officer can check licenses and other data from his car without communicating with dispatch. Ms. Levine asked if the voice recognition worked outside of the vehicle too, and Chief Seastrand said that it does but there are some constraints (such as not understanding an officer's direction if the voice is not calm). Mr. Kaplan asked if the state police would still be able to communicate with New London Police using the new system and Chief

Seastrand confirmed that it could and that Car 54 actually offers more capabilities with increased radio silence. Ms. Clough asked how radio silence balanced with the public's right-to-know, and Chief Seastrand said that the public has the right to monitor police activity, and it is up to the public to have the proper technology to do that. For instance, the average listener does not have the capability to follow encrypted conversations; that is not a responsibility that falls on the Police Department.

Chair Lyon asked if the GPS units would allow dispatch to monitor the location of police vehicles. Chief Seastrand said that it would not initially, but the department could purchase software if that is appropriate to do. Chair Lyon said it seems like there would be some advantage to using it as a management tool to track the areas of town that vehicles cover. He said the department may not be aware that people cover certain parts of town more than others and may not know that some roads are less traveled. Chief Seastrand said it could also be used to respond to complaints about speeding police vehicles by reviewing vehicle activity. Ms. Clough said it might be reassuring to summer residents who wonder if their homes are being monitored. Chief Seastrand said that residents can request house checks and the Police Department would provide dates and times that an officer checked their house.

Chief Seastrand said that with respect to the replacement detective vehicle, his staff is looking for a vehicle that provides storage of everything they want to carry around while being mindful of fuel costs (it does not have to be a V-8 engine). The vehicle will need to blend in if doing surveillance in neighborhood. They are looking at 4WD or AWD but it doesn't have to be because it adds cost to the vehicle. They are looking at minivans that may suit their needs, and test drove a Dodge Caravan and have a Chevy Ventura quote to provide to the Budget subcommittee. He said vans are attractive because a person can monitor a neighborhood from the back with tinted windows and not be noticed. Chair Lyon said that the Chevy Savannah is a full-size AWD van, and Toyota has a smaller AWD van. Chief Seastrand said that even front wheel drive could be beneficial. Chair Lyon said he knows there is a larger initial price for AWD, but it might be well worth it. Ms. Clough agreed that with the kinds of storms we have been seeing, we should have increased capability to travel in bad weather.

Chair Lyon asked if Ford had started building a police version of its 500 sedan. Chief Seastrand said that he has not seen it yet, but he received a notice from Ford that the Crown Vic will not stop being produced. Chair Lyon said that the 500 model comes in AWD. Chief Seastrand said that he would be concerned about space for separation of the front and back, and Chair Lyon replied that it has more rear seat space than the Crown Vic, but not a bigger engine yet. Mr. Kaplan asked how many car chases his department experienced every year, and Chief Seastrand said about three per year, usually fair short-lived. He will purchase stop sticks this year, which deflate tires slowly over time to reduce speed without blowouts. Unfortunately, this is the same equipment being used by the Vermont state trooper who was killed. Chief Seastrand said that the Police Department has to put others' safety before their own to protect the public.

Chief Seastrand said he had been in communication with the Town of Sunapee about dispatching for their Police Department as of July 1. The request would increase volume in dispatch and would require an occasional second dispatcher, so he has been looking at restructuring the inside of dispatch to hold two dispatchers. Other customers should not suffer because of additional workload. Ms. Clough asked when the increased volume is experienced, and Chief Seastrand said that it is Thursday-Saturday year-round, which higher calls in the summer. Ms. Levine said that the Town will pass on some of the additional costs to Sunapee. Chief Seastrand said he is also in the infancy stages of talking to the Sutton Fire Department, which may give up its red phone system and may want to be dispatched by New London.

This led to a discussion about the middle school location in Sutton and whether Sutton safety services were prepared for any additional activity. Mr. Kaplan asked if Sutton had contacted NLPD regarding the new school site. Chief Seastrand said that in the past, the Sutton chief talked to him about wanting a new officer at the expense of school district, and Chief Seastrand did not advocate that as a taxpayer. Ms.

Clough asked what Sutton does with respect to the high school, and Chief Seastrand said they cover the calls with their existing staff. NLPD has only occasionally been called to KRHS as backup. Chair Lyon asked Chief Seastrand if he thinks the new middle school would add significant volume to Sutton calls, and Chief Seastrand said that NLPD receives fewer than 15 calls per year for the middle school. Those calls are mostly smoking or tobacco use, and the occasional unruly student. Chief Seastrand said his department also deals with middle schoolers when they're not in school, such as dance nights. He does not attribute this to being school-related (kids left between end of school and beginning of dance to roam around, mostly without problems).

DJ Lavoie said that the NLPD also covers the College, although Ms. Levine pointed out that the College has its own safety and security department. Ms. Clough asked what Sutton uses for coverage at night, and Chief Seastrand said they until a certain hour and then officers and state police are on call.

Non-Public: Ms. Levine said that there are two non-public items pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 (a) personnel and (e) litigation. Chair Lyon moved to go into non-public session. Roll call vote: Lyon – yes; Clough – yes; Kaplan – yes. Upon returning from non-public session, the Board of Selectmen voted to seal the minutes. No decisions were made in non-public session.

**Building Permits:**

- Amy Hall, 335 Wilmot Center Road (Map 065, Lot 016), permit to build sunroom on deck – Approved (Permit 06-045)
- Dick and Jean Dulude, 1134 Lake Avenue (Map 054, Lot 004), amended permit to relocate driveway and garage to east side of building – Approved (Permit 06-049)
- Aristotle and George Souliotis, 384 Main Street (Map 084, Lot 002), permit to add canopy over gas pumps – Approved (Permit 06-053)
- Fairbanks Family Irrevocable Trust, 89 Main Street (Map 073, Lot 056-005), permit to build a 10' x 12' deck at bottom of back stairway from Unit 5 – Approved (Permit 06-054)
- Eleanor Goldthwait, 31 Conifer Lane (Map 045, Lot 027-012), permit to construct deck – Approved (Permit 06-055)
- David and Kathleen Almond, 80 Laurel Lane (Map 089, Lot 014), permit to construct 8' x 12' shed- Approved (Permit 06-056)
- Samuel B. Rowse, 47 Sunset Shores Road (Map 103, Lot 024) permit to install temporary office trailer for renovation of existing house – Approved (Permit 06-057)

**Sign Permit Applications:**

- Application for Permanent Sign for Barry Wright, 217 Main Street (Map 073, Lot 081) for a 15 ft. square freestanding sign and a 12 ft. square wall mount designating "Dunkin Donuts" – Approved

**Other Items for Signature:**

- Disbursement Voucher for the week of June 5, 2006 – Approved
- Petition and Pole Licenses for Public Service of New Hampshire – Approved
- Warrant authorizing Civil Forfeiture Notices regarding unlicensed dogs - Approved
- Application for Use of Whipple Memorial Town Hall for the New London Barn Playhouse for rehearsal on Thursday, June 8, 2006 from 3:30 p.m. through 6:00 p.m., Saturday, June 10, 2006 from 1:00 p.m. through 4:00 p.m., Sunday, June 11, 2006 from 1:00 p.m. through 4:00 p.m., Monday, June 12, 2006 from 3:30 p.m. through 6:00 p.m., and Wednesday, June 14, 2006 from 3:30 p.m. through 6:00 p.m. – Approved
- Application for Use of Whipple Memorial Town Hall for New London Hospital Days for “Our Town” Theater for July 26, 27, 28, 2006 from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., July 29, 2006 from 4:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. and July 30, 2006 from 2:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. – Approved
- Application for Use of the Town Office Sydney L. Crook Conference Room by Adventures in Learning for AIL Study Leaders for Wednesday, June 21, 2006 from 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. - Approved
- Veteran Tax Credit for Raymond Ettenborough, 127 Summit View Road (Map 138, Lot 005) – Approved
- Abatement Recommendations:
  - Cate Family NH Realty Trust, William Cate Trustee, 715 Route 103A (Map 103, Lot 002) – Approved
  - Messer Pond Protective Association, Forest Acres Road (Map 118, Lot 019-001) - Approved

There being no further business, the Board of Selectmen adjourned the meeting at 10:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessie W. Levine  
Town Administrator