



# TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

375 MAIN STREET • NEW LONDON, NH 03257 • WWW.NL-NH.COM

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES April 4, 2011

### **PRESENT:**

Mark Kaplan, Chair, Board of Selectmen  
Peter Bianchi, Selectman  
Jessie Levine, Town Administrator

### **ABSENT:**

Tina Helm, Selectman

### **ALSO PRESENT:**

Rich Anderson, New London Resident  
Russell Aney, New London Resident & Energy Committee Member  
Joe Cardillo, New London Resident  
Linda Hardy, Town Clerk/Tax Collector  
Bruce Hudson, New London Resident  
Renate Kannler, New London Resident  
Bob Lavoie, New London Resident  
Peter Messer, New London Resident  
David Seastrand, Police Chief  
W. Michael Todd, New London Resident & Member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment  
Pat Trader, Reporter for *the Intertown Record*

Chair Kaplan called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Minutes from March 21, 2011: IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Mark Kaplan) to approve the minutes of March 21, 2011.

Ms. Levine indicated that Mr. Lavoie had submitted a suggested paragraph to follow the second paragraph on page 7. There was some discussion as to whether what he was suggesting was actually said at the meeting. Ms. Levine recommended asking the Recording Secretary to review the tape of the meeting and approving the minutes subject to clarification from the tape.

THE MOTION WAS AMENDED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Mark Kaplan) to approve the minutes of March 21, 2011, subject to inclusion of the actual comments stated by Mr. Lavoie. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Minutes from March 28, 2011 – morning session, and March 29, 2011: IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Mark Kaplan) to approve the minutes of the morning meeting on March 28, 2011, and the minutes of March 29, 2011, as circulated. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Police Department Vehicle: Chief Seastrand noted that at the meeting held the prior Monday, the Selectmen discussed their desire to have him get bids for the new cruiser. He was to get three bids for each of the three vehicles that appeared on the State bid: Ford, Dodge and Chevy. All but two of the Ford

dealers could not get the 2010/11 vehicle, and only Grappone had a few slots left in which to order. The deadline was actually March 1. Chief Seastrand said that they could save just under \$1,000 if they ordered through Grappone, but noted that the vehicle would not be delivered for 5-6 months. The other dealers he spoke with suggested he contact the dealer who had been chosen for the State bid to get a quote. Hillsboro Ford had no vehicles left, but Irwin in Laconia had vehicles on the lot so wouldn't have to be ordered. The base price was \$23,870. Grappone had the State bid for the 2010/11 model year for Fords and their price was \$23,198. His recommendation would be to get the vehicle from Irwin, as he could get it sooner and it would be able to transfer the equipment from the older model. With Grappone they would have to wait six months for delivery. The vehicle at Irwin was about \$1,000 more, but they may end up spending more than that in repairs to the 2007 cruiser if they had to wait for its replacement.

**IT WAS MOVED (Mark Kaplan) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to purchase the Crown Victoria from Irwin Ford in Laconia for \$23,870, per recommendation from Chief Seastrand.**

Mr. Bianchi said he would opt to wait the six months to save \$1,000, but since Ms. Helm was gone, their vote would be deadlocked and then they'd have to wait until the end of April, when she returned, to move forward.

Chair Kaplan called for a vote: **THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Highway Safety Grant: Chief Seastrand explained that he had a grant from the Highway Safety agency, which pays for the overtime and expenses for an officer to come out on a night shift (Thursday-Sunday after 9 PM until 2 AM) to monitor for impaired drivers. They have done this every year and it requires the signature of the Board of Selectmen Chair before it can be finalized. Mr. Bianchi wanted to read it through before Chair Kaplan signed it. Ms. Levine indicated that it was the same grant they do every year and that the town is not responsible for coming up with matching funds.

EECBG: Russ Aney was present to discuss changes to the Town lighting project funded by an EECB grant. Ms. Levine said that when they had a public hearing to accept the three EECB grants in April 2010, the Selectmen approved spending \$3,300 as matching funds for the lighting conversion for Town buildings. They applied for the grant of \$9,000, which was half of the project, and the town would pay half of the remainder with the other half paid by PSNH through their rebate. Ms. Levine referred to the e-mail from Mr. Aney with a message from the contractor that they had missed some of the lights when they did their audit. Due to this mistake, they are asking for an additional \$1,756.09 as the Town's half of the additional cost. This money would enable them to upgrade lighting in the police holding cell area, the town hall, the fire station and some additional lighting in the library.

Mr. Aney said that they had a recent walk-through and realized that when they did the lighting audit in the Police Department, they didn't have access to the holding area where there was opportunity to retrofit. They also underestimated usage at the Town Hall, which gets more use than they thought throughout the year. They re-evaluated the hours for that building and achieved cost-effective lighting retrofits. PSNH has subsidized 50% of the upgrades, and another 50% of that will be paid for by the grant. The payback for the Police Station was less than 2/3 of a year. The payback for the Town Hall is a bit longer because it is used less, but it is a good opportunity to get the retrofits done at 50% off. Payoff for the Town Hall upgrades is estimated at 4.3 years.

Mr. Aney said from an investment return point of view, the Town will save money on this. Ms. Levine noted that the police department is used 24/7. She recommended using the Town Building Maintenance Fund for this added expense. She also thought Mr. Aney deserved a lot of thanks for getting this work done for the town and especially for his work making sure the contractor was present and would complete

the job. Mr. Aney said that they plan to get the retrofits completed that week, if the additional funding was approved.

**IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Mark Kaplan) to expend an additional \$1,756.09 out of the Town Building Maintenance Fund to finish the energy upgrades as presented.**

Mr. Cardillo wondered if there was another account to take that money out of. He wondered about using some of the library's newly bonded funding to pay for their share. Ms. Levine agreed that this was a good thought, but explained that the library portion was just \$28, so it would make a negligible difference.

Mr. Aney said that the traffic lights by the Library and at Seamans Road and Route 11 were old, incandescent fixtures. He has asked PSNH for an estimate to replace the fixtures with LED lights. Although he had not received an estimate for this request, he noted that a prior estimate from PSNH with their discount (which was not 50%) was \$535 per light and that the payback would be just two years. Mr. Aney offered that they should have a heads-up for more opportunities to save on lighting within the town.

Mr. Aney noted that he went to every street light fixture and took the meter number down and was able to reconcile them with PSNH. The town had been paying for a KRSD light, which has been transferred to the School. His only question was why the State Department of Transportation doesn't pay for the lights on state roads. He cannot get a straight answer from DOT. Ms. Levine offered that the Town probably requested the lights for safety purposes and so the State figured that the town should be responsible for them. It was confirmed that the light at Route 11 and 114 (Crockett's Corner) would not be going back in.

Mr. Aney remarked that there was a great effort five years ago to look at all the street lights in town to pinpoint only those which were needed. Some lights are still up that he opined weren't really needed. He recommended that they nominate those lights at a future meeting to be eliminated. Mr. Aney suggested they give residents who may benefit from the lights the option to pay for them on an ongoing basis. Mr. Bianchi said there were street lights on Bunker Road that may be perceived as unnecessary, but he felt they enhanced the safety of the road. Mr. Aney agreed and said they need to decide who really needs the lights and how many.

Ms. Levine said that there was an existing town policy on street lights. The Street Lighting Committee evaluated every light in town and prepared an inventory and made recommendations to remove or replace every light, but it was possible that they missed a few. The police and fire chiefs and the Public Works Director recommended keeping some of the lights that the committee had wanted to take away. Ms. Levine said that an appeal process was put in place that is still available.

Mr. Bianchi asked about the street lights at the Country Club. Ms. Levine recalled that the lights at the Country Club are now billed to the Country Club directly from PSNH.

A vote to approve the additional funding for the lighting retrofits was taken. **THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Elkins Hydro Subcommittee Interviews: Ms. Levine said that the Energy Committee subcommittee recommended awarding the feasibility study to John (Jay) Boeri from Hartland, VT. Next week they will sign the agreement. She noted that two of the three people on the subcommittee rated him #1 and one person rated him #2. Mr. Bianchi asked about the value of the study. Ms. Levine said the grant covered \$15,000, which is 100% of what will be spent. Mr. Bianchi wondered if, after they completed the study, it would ever turn into a real project. Ms. Levine said that was the reason for the feasibility study. Each of the three consultants didn't think it was a crazy idea to talk about micro-hydro and they all think it is

possible. The question is what is the investment and the payback, and that is what the study is for. Mr. Boeri thought it would generate about 20kw but they need to do the study first to be sure.

**IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Mark Kaplan) to accept the recommendation of the subcommittee to accept the contract from Jay Boeri. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Sewer Meeting with Sunapee: Chair Kaplan said that several things were discussed at the meeting with the Sunapee Sewer Commissioners on March 31. The bond issues were passed by both towns, so they can move forward with the project. He took from the meeting that Sunapee would like the decision-making with regards to design to be kept with the full committee. When they get to construction, they would like a smaller sub-committee. Mr. Bianchi thought they agreed to have a committee to go over the final design process. He understood the committee to be made up of Dave Bailey, Ed Rushbrook and two other people to be named later on, to go over it. Chair Kaplan thought that Richard Lee should be on the subcommittee.

Rich Anderson, who was also at the meeting, said he recalled when they were talking about the changes to the design, they talked about the possibility of a smaller committee to review that. He couldn't remember how it was resolved with regards to a smaller committee at construction. Mr. Bianchi remembered that Mr. Cain had explained that the plans were not as complicated as they appear. Mr. Lavoie said it would make sense for the subcommittee to work on both the design and the monitoring of the construction. Mr. Bianchi said they talked about the construction phase but did not come to a conclusion. Ms. Levine noted that construction wasn't to start until March 2012. They have a whole year to decide on the subcommittee details so that is why they probably didn't make a clear decision that night. Ms. Levine said that she would call Dave Bailey to straighten it out.

Ms. Levine said that she talked to Donna Nashawaty about a contract. Ms. Nashawaty would talk to Sunapee's town counsel and Ms. Levine would talk to Bart Mayer (New London's Town Counsel). They didn't know if a municipal contract was needed for both towns. She didn't think New London or Sunapee would feel comfortable with only one town on the contract. She would start the conversation.

Chair Kaplan said they had sent in a pre-application to DES for their portion of the grant. It was approved, but not funded. Ms. Levine said she would give a copy of the approval to Chair Kaplan. Mr. Bianchi added that funded or un-funded, they will move forward with the project.

There was some discussion of the \$24,000 in which to implement a UV system and the remaining \$38,000 requested by Neil Cheseldine that hasn't been agreed to yet. Mr. Anderson said he agreed with Ms. Levine's response at the meeting to the additional \$62,000 in charges. He noted that he recently spoke with someone who was an engineer who worked on municipal wastewater treatment plants. He had the same reaction as Ms. Levine regarding things such as the \$18,000 for making the engineer wait to work for them, and the \$24,000 for a UV system. Mr. Anderson made suggestions regarding negotiating the contract figure with Cheseldine. Mr. Bianchi suggested running this information by Mr. Rushbrook. Ms. Levine said that she sent Mr. Cheseldine's memo to Mr. Rushbrook, who said that it looked reasonable to him.

Chair Kaplan said that a UV system had been done in Jaffrey, NH, which was also a Wright Pierce design. He thought the configuration of the lights in the Sunapee plant may or may not be different than the plant in Jaffrey. Mr. Anderson thought there was a lot of vagueness of how much the plant would cost. Before they agree on anything, he thought they should get an estimate. He was surprised the engineer didn't have that information to provide. Ms. Levine thought that Mr. Cheseldine has

conversations with Sunapee and isn't communicating with New London. She thinks this needs to be addressed going forward.

Mr. Lavoie said the UV system could require some redesign but they don't have to start from scratch. Ms. Levine said they also have to design where a building is going to go. The \$500,000 is the building cost for the UV system.

CAC- April 2, 2011: Chair Kaplan said that Sen. Odell and Rep. Dave Kidder were at the meeting. At the meeting they discussed education funding. Bills that had been passed by the House and Senate were the same except for the inclusion in only one of them: "responsible." When that issue is resolved the bill will go to the Governor who is expected to sign it. The Town of New London will save a \$1 million each year for the next two years. They received a bill for education funding in December 2010 which had a due-date of March 2012. Once this bill has passed, that bill will be considered null and void.

Chair Kaplan said that the money will be dispersed exactly the same this year as it has been in the past. There will be no drop or increase for any city or town. Mr. Bianchi said that a Constitutional amendment was the only way to change this funding scenario. Chair Kaplan said that for the bill to pass it would need to be a 2/3 vote, which would be difficult.

Chair Kaplan explained that they also talked about the Retirement Reform Bill. The pension plan is in trouble; they are \$5.8 billion under-funded. SB3 is a reform bill to try to eliminate or reduce that deficit.

Chair Kaplan noted that the Governor and House have come up with state budgets but that the Senate hasn't come up with theirs yet. Mr. Bianchi said that Sen. Odell felt the changes they are projecting for the state's retirement reform was a step in the right direction. He was positive and optimistic and felt it was a good start to correct years of poor management and planning.

Ms. Levine said that SB3 changes the retirement age for 20 years service and age 45, to 25 years of service and age 50, which will apply to new hires (fire and police department), and will change the average for calculating pensions from 5 years to 3 years. They will also adjust the employees share, and change the board of trustees. They would eliminate other things that are calculated as part of a payout provision. Most of these changes are for new hires so would not have any immediate impact. Mr. Cardillo added that going forward, they are lowering the projections on the returns from 8.5% to 7.5% which was a bit more realistic.

Chair Kaplan explained that the \$30 registration fee that funds part of the Highway Block Grant is to go out of existence and won't come back. He said that at the meeting, he shared that maybe they could raise the gasoline tax, as they buy less gas now and are getting better mileage. Both Sen. Odell and Rep. Kidder both said that there would be no new taxes. Chair Kaplan opined that the gas tax would be smaller and smaller and bridges and highways would go downhill. He said that wear and tear on the bridges and roads is increased but the funds to repair them are going down.

Ms. Levine said that due to this happening, Main Street would be removed from the 10 year plan and they will receive less from Highway Block Grant. Mr. Bianchi figured that the town of New London will lose \$22,000 in FY 2013.

Joint Assessing Board: Both Mr. Bianchi and Ms. Levine will attend on April 5.

Planning Board Master Plan: Ms. Helm had asked Peter Stanley to sit in for her at the next meeting. Ms. Levine said that it is a Board decision to appoint staff to sit in their place, but she suggested that should be used only when no Selectman is available to fill the seat. Mr. Bianchi said he would go.

May 5<sup>th</sup> Regional Select Board Meeting: Ms. Levine wanted to remind the Board of Selectmen that they needed to come up with an agenda for this meeting, which will be held at Whipple Memorial Town Hall.

Ms. Levine noted that Mike McCrory from the Regional Planning Commission received a call from a New London resident who wanted to provide input about the Master Plan. She asked the Board of Selectmen to clarify that no one is allowed to take make calls to the Town's consultants without permission from the Town. She said that the proper channel to comment on the Maser Plan is to come to the hearings and voice their opinions. The Board of Selectmen agreed.

There being no further public business, **IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Mark Kaplan) to move into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (c). THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Upon returning from non-public session, **IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Mark Kaplan) to reappoint W. Michael Todd for another 3 year term on the Zoning Board of Adjustments. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Application for Building Permit:

- Noel G. Wood & James M. Hester, 7 Buker Way (Map & Lot 111-031-000) convert deck into 3 season porch – Permit #11-013 – Approved.
- Tracy Memorial Library – 304 Main Street (Map & Lot 084-054-000) interior & exterior renovations – Permit #11-014 – Approved.
- Peter Machen – 160 Sargent Road (Map & Lot 086-009-000) finish room over garage – Permit 11#015 – Approved.

Application for use of Whipple Memorial Town Hall:

- New London Recreation– UNH Red Wagon Play Group – Tuesday July 12,2011 12 noon – 9:00 PM – approved.

Applications for Current Use:

- King, 102 Wilmot Center Road – (Map & Lot 078-009-000)
- Leach, Shaker Road – (Map & Lot 099-020-000)
- Phillips, Jane, 602 Burpee Hill Road – (Map & Lot 057-009-000)

Warrant Yield Tax Levy

- Peter Messer, Map & Lot 118-003-000 in the amount of \$166.79

Other items to be signed:

- Disbursement voucher for April 4, 2011
- 14 Veteran Applications – Approved
- PSNH Pole attachment application

**IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Mark Kaplan) to adjourn. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristy Heath, Recording Secretary  
Town of New London