



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES August 9, 2010

PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Carolyn Fraley, Finance Officer
Linda Hardy, Town Clerk/Tax Collector
Dave Seastrand, Police Chief
Jay Lyon, Fire Chief
Richard Lee, Director of Public Works
Sandra Licks, Tracy Library Director
Jim Wheeler, Budget Committee Chair
Bob Meck, Budget Committee
John Wilson, Budget Committee
Bill Helm, Budget Committee
Celeste Cook, Budget Committee
Kathy Bianchi, Budget Committee
Dave Cook, New London resident
Dick Leach, New London resident
Bob & DJ Lavoie, New London residents

Chair Helm called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

Flags on Main Street: Chair Helm noted that New London resident Dick Leach had come to the meeting and wanted to talk to the Board of Selectmen. Although he was not on the agenda, Chair Helm gave Mr. Leach the floor to explain his request.

Mr. Leach said that he had recently gone through the towns of Gilmanton and Alton and noticed that they had American flags flying from their telephone poles. He asked Peter Stanley about doing this in New London. Mr. Stanley said that they would need to get permission from PSNH, as the poles belong to them. Mr. Leach said that he made some phone calls and found out who had put up the flags in Gilmanton and Alton. After gathering some details, he bought an example of the flag that would be hung from the poles. He said that the flag cost \$100 for each unit. He also documented the numbers of the poles he'd like to attach the flags to. Mr. Leach explained that he would like to pay for and install flags on the telephone poles between Seamans Road and Pleasant Street. In all there are fewer than 12 poles. He asked the Board of Selectmen for permission to proceed, since the application to PSNH would have to come from the Town.

Mr. Kaplan asked if this would be a seasonal event or if the flags would be up year round. Mr. Leach said that it would be seasonal. The Town has to apply to PSNH annually, and permission is granted for a 6-month period. He proposed having the flags up from the beginning of May until the end of October.

Ms. Levine asked if any of the poles were co-owned by TDS, as their permission would also be required. Mr. Leach said that he saw no other information on the poles other than for PSNH. Ms. Levine explained that the town would be taking responsibility for any damage done to the poles by the erection of the flags. It was asked who would be installing the flags. Mr. Leach said that he would take care of it.

Mr. Kaplan said that permission would need to be granted for any poles that are co-owned by TDS.

IT WAS MOVED (Kaplan) AND SECONDED (Bianchi) to allow Dick Leach to purchase and attach US flags to not more than 12 telephone poles between the Police Station and Lake Sunapee Savings Bank, subject to attaining permission to use the poles by PSNH and/or TDS, and for Ms. Levine to be given authority to sign the PSNH application for permission for such actions on behalf of the Board of Selectmen. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Meeting Minutes: IT WAS MOVED (Kaplan) AND SECONDED (Bianchi) to approve the minutes of July 26, 2010, as amended. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

New Business

Budget Preparation: Chair Helm thought it would be helpful for those assembled at the meeting to review the budget process. She explained that it will be an 18-month budget this year. She reviewed the upcoming important dates:

By September 15, the Department Heads are to submit their budget to the Town Administrator. Before that date, the Board of Selectmen will provide direction to the Town Administrator and to the Department Heads with regards to where they would like the budgets to be. By October 4, the Department Heads' preliminary budget, CIP, and the wage and salary survey will be submitted. A budget work session for the Board of Selectmen will be held on October 18. By November 1, the Board of Selectmen will adopt the budget and send it to the Budget Committee. On the 15th of November, the budget is presented to the Budget Committee on which they will deliberate.

Chair Helm said that one thing the Board of Selectmen will decide on is how they envision the budget process should be. It would be useful to decide on what direction they are coming from as a whole. She reminded them that only half the budget is covered by property taxes. She said that she would appreciate it if others involved could understand the process and not to push the Selectmen ahead of where they are supposed to be. Mr. Kaplan said he agreed.

Mr. Bianchi said that in preparing for the meeting, he came up with some thoughts he wanted to share. Mr. Bianchi shared his conclusions and observations, which included the following: with regards to population, New London is a unique town. He got population figures from the State Office of Energy and Planning. He learned that estimates are based on household population and group quarters. Group quarters refer to things such as dorms, prisons and nursing homes. Mr. Bianchi said that he found this data online. In 2009 OEP lists New London with a population of 4456 people, of which 921 are called "group quarter" people. This would account for the college students. Ms. Levine added that it would also include those living in places such as the Clough Center and Woodcrest. Mr. Bianchi said that after removing those people, the actual household population came to 3335 people, which is a lot different from what population numbers have been discussed in the past.

At an earlier meeting, Mr. Bianchi explained that Ms. Levine agreed to use a population demographics study to do further work on wages and salary. Information he received from Ms. Levine was used and he prepared a list of towns having between 3,000 to 6,000 people. There were 51 towns that matched this population in New Hampshire. This fact, coupled with the other information in LGC's 2009 Wage & Salary Study, and the actual gross budget in New London, left some conclusions that Mr. Bianchi found interesting: if they count everyone including the group quarter people, they rank 31st in the total population of towns in New Hampshire. If they take the population without the group quarters, they rank 43rd for population. He also made a chart for the other towns, subtracting the group quarters to see where the towns fell for population. He said when studying wages and salaries, the information given includes budgetary info. Out of the 51 towns, New London is number six in terms of total budget, with the next town up being Alton. He felt this showed that they are a very well-funded town. He said that he will use this information to help him determine where they should go regarding the budget.

Mr. Bianchi made the following recommendations:

1. The operating budget should have zero increase.

Chair Helm asked if this included wages and benefits. Mr. Bianchi said that it is just for the Department Head's operating budget, which will include wages and benefits, but those will be set by the Selectmen.

2. Any decrease in revenues and fixed costs should not be offset by an increase in taxes. They should be offset by a decrease in expenditures.

3. Any decrease in expenditure in this budget cycle should not be attained by any forced reduction of personnel.

Mr. Bianchi opined that with these guidelines they can make a good effort at keeping the tax rate close to level or even reducing it. The direction he would like to give to the Department Heads is to keep the operating budget at a zero % increase.

Ms. Levine asked how that would relate to capital costs. Mr. Bianchi said capital costs would not be included. He said the CIP Committee is working on this and there may need to be changes made in that area, but he didn't think it was appropriate for him or the Board of Selectmen to tell them what to do. They were at the beginning of the process and these were just his feelings that he thought the Board of Selectmen should convey to the Department Heads.

Chair Helm thanked Mr. Bianchi for his work.

Mr. Kaplan reminded the meeting attendees that they live in the north and from time to time they have a snowstorm. The people he talks to want the streets to stay clear. If they have more snowstorms than what they figured on at budget time, they will be out of luck because they won't have the money to take care of it. He was concerned with pulling the belt too tight and cautioned that they should think of the circumstances they live in. He also said the legislature saw fit to see an increase in the statewide property tax. It will go up \$1 per thousand in July 2011. This will hit everyone's taxes in November.

Mr. Bianchi said he went over the email that Mr. Kaplan had sent him about the statewide property tax. He said that he was referring to this current budget cycle, which would include the next 18 months. Mr. Bianchi said that without a particular approach or target, they won't get where they want to be. He wanted to get to a starting point for discussion. Chair Helm agreed that the Department Heads would appreciate

some direction and felt that they should come to a consensus that night. She asked if anyone from the audience had any input they'd like to share.

Bob Lavoie asked if there were some points in the process where there is negotiation between the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee. Ms. Levine said that after the Board of Selectmen presents the budget to the Budget Committee on November 15 they will have an opportunity to discuss it. Chair Helm added that there are quite a few work sessions planned.

Linda Hardy, Tax Collector/Town Clerk, asked why Mr. Bianchi removed the group quarters category from his population study. She noted that those 921 people he removed from the population actually require almost as much, if not as much, of the services of the town as any of the other people. Mr. Bianchi said that his rationale was that if everyone in the towns have no group people, there would be more houses and they determine population by households, not bodies. The college, for example, might require a little extra of the police force because there are more bodies, but in his opinion, the highway department is not affected at all by it. Ms. Levine disagreed and said that the employees of the college live in town, and the town keeps the roads clear for them to get to work and the sidewalks clear for students. Every department is affected by the college, from the planning & zoning office to the town clerk's office to the Fire Department. Ms. Hardy said that she is impacted by registering students' vehicles and registering them to vote.

Mr. Bianchi said that he was trying to think of some reason why there is separation of the groups of people. He didn't think the fact that there were 200-900 people in one space causes them to have to do more work in that area. Ms. Levine said they could be ranked 6th out of the 3,000 to 6,000 population size, since they were close to the top in population, but if they picked a study of 4,000 to 8,000 population size they'd be at the bottom. It is a matter of chance. Ms. Levine said that there are not many towns that are similar to New London, and that maybe the more accurate thing to do is to compare them to towns that have more similar demographics, which is the way they analyzed salaries in the past. Ms. Levine said that they need to be realistic about what type of community they are serving and explained that the college kids are part of the community.

Mr. Kaplan said that he would want to know the one or two towns before and after New London on the list. This would show them where they fall. He remembered in the past when budget cuts were needed and it was suggested that the third shift of the Police Department be cut. People didn't want that, as they expect such services in New London. Mr. Bianchi said that he was just trying to get a rational basis from the data that is provided by the LGC.

Chair Helm said she wanted to pull the conversation back to what they think would be a realistic direction to give the Department Heads.

Jay Lyon, Fire Chief, said he understood where Mr. Bianchi was going but pointed out that the infrastructure of Alton is different from New London. He said that New London is unique -- we have the college, the hospital, retirement homes, Hilltop, Highland Ridge, and large facilities in town. Chief Lyon said that the college does increase the calls to the Fire Department. He explained that their calls are largely based on weather-related incidents and population. In the end of May and June, when there is a decrease of summer residents and students and lack of weather issues, their calls go down. Calls increase when the students come back and the weather gets worse. He said he appreciated the struggle that the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee go through because there aren't comparable towns around and he understands the difficulties. Chair Helm thanked Chief Lyon.

Mr. Kaplan said he believed they cut the budget, saved the money, the tax rate went down, and now it is time to start thinking about getting the budget back to where it was in prior years.

Ms. Levine said that the budgets are made up of personnel costs, budget costs and capital costs. With the exception of benefits, which saw a major reduction in past years, and the exception of some projects that were postponed, such as sidewalks on Main Street, there are not a lot of areas to save. Ms. Levine said that the fixed costs are the costs that would not enable them to stay at zero. The retirement contributions keep going up. Ms. Levine said that there were two options of offsetting fixed costs: making personnel cuts or cutting projects and programs. Ms. Levine asked what Mr. Bianchi thinks they should cut to get a zero percent increase. Mr. Bianchi said that he didn't think the intent was for them to go through the budget line item by item. He said that he would rather see 200' of road not paved than cut personnel. If push comes to shove, maybe programs could be cut with regards to health care. He thought they should be as frugal as they can and tighten their belts as much as they can. Ms. Levine said that on the broad spectrum, it is either personnel or projects. She is not suggesting they cut any bodies either. She was trying to be realistic about their guidance to the Department Heads. Mr. Bianchi said that it was going to take some hard work and it won't be painless. He came up with the guidelines he presented in order to help himself look at the situation. He added that if his colleagues don't agree with the point of view, he was fine with it.

Chair Helm said that she was nervous about a zero % increase. She asked Ms. Levine what would be a reasonable guideline for the Board of Selectmen to give the Department Heads. Ms. Levine said that she was not prepared to give guidance to the Board of Selectmen as to what guidance they were to give back to her; she felt this recommendation should come from the Board of Selectmen, not from her. She added that in the past, the Town has used the CPI in the context of wages, but when they passed the 2010 budget, the CPI was at 3%. She said that they have left some capital items aside and need to come back to them at some point. From the economy standpoint, New London's unemployment rate has gone down by almost a full percent between June 2010 and June 2009. She was not trying to minimize the work that Mr. Bianchi had done, but said it was unfortunate that they all didn't have it in front of them to review.

Ms. Levine said this was to be a conversation from the Board of Selectmen to the Department Heads, and she would like them to be the ones to give the constraints as well as identify the projects and priorities.

Kathy Bianchi added that she thinks Mr. Bianchi's suggestion of a zero percent increase is a good recommendation to the Department Heads. She said that when looking at the budget their goal should be to try and keep it at a zero increase. She felt it would probably make a difference when approaching something with the idea of making it a zero increase. If it comes in as absolutely impossible then they will not be able to do it. To keep it as a guideline, she wondered what they had to lose. The worst that could happen is that they would save money. She felt it was a win-win and didn't think they could lose anything by asking them to keep it at zero increase.

Mr. Lavoie said that since the population is an imperfect measure for comparability, they may consider the town's valuation. Mr. Bianchi said he looked at that. He thought they couldn't justify that because New London was so high on the grand list.

Mr. Kaplan said that his understanding was the Department Heads already try to go for zero. Ms. Levine agreed. Mr. Kaplan said that they look at the projects they did last year and figure out what they can do this year. If something new must be done for some reason they put it into the budget and present reasons for it. They start at zero. Ms. Levine said that everyone approaches the budget by coming as close as possible to what they need. Then there are things that come up (county attorney fees, equipment repairs) that can't be avoided.

Dave Cook said that at Town Meeting there was a vote on capital improvements, but no one from the Board of Selectmen spoke up on behalf of it and it was announced in advance that they'd take a neutral position. It was evident that no one from the CIP spoke up in defense of the committee's work. He felt that it was disconcerting that no one in the town would stand up to speak for the capital improvements plan. Because of this capital improvement funds become easy places to cut. That is what has happened in the last two years. Mr. Cook said that they have lost ground and the current government set-up doesn't allow for capital improvements to speak as a constituency. When they were asked to come down to a percentage by the Budget Committee, the Department Heads cut capital improvements. His point was that someone has to speak on behalf of capital improvements. He noted that a capital improvement committee could be formed that speaks on its own and can defend the capital improvements as a separate constituency. He concluded that Mr. Bianchi's recommendation to not tinker with employees insinuated that they should cut capital improvements. He said he would be bothered by that notion.

Chair Helm said there were aspects of last year's budget process the Board of Selectmen felt uncomfortable with. She asked her colleagues to propose a number as direction for the Department Heads on which to base their budgets. Mr. Kaplan said he saw nothing wrong with starting out with a zero percent and allowing the Department Heads to come back to explain why they couldn't adhere to it. He said he would like to see the CIP restored but that was being taken care of by another committee.

IT WAS MOVED (Kaplan) to start out at the zero percent and allow the Department Heads to come as close as they can to it and explain their rationale for having to go above a zero increase. THE MOTION WAS NOT SECONDED.

IT WAS MOVED (Bianchi) to recommend that the Department Heads shoot for a zero percent increase of the operating budget. THE MOTION WAS NOT SECONDED.

Chair Helm said she did not agree with either of the two proposed motions. She said that they are talking about an 18-month budget this time around and she was concerned that they were not giving the Department Heads a fair guideline.

IT WAS MOVED (Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Helm) to ask the Department Heads to keep their operating budgets at a zero percent. THE MOTION DID NOT PASS. Bianchi – Yes; Kaplan and Helm – No.

IT WAS MOVED (Helm) AND SECONDED (Kaplan) to recommend the Department Heads craft an 18-month budget, and come back to the Town Administrator with a 2% budget increase. THE MOTION PASSED 2-1. Bianchi was opposed.

Chair Helm said they will be working very hard between now and November to get a budget to the Budget Committee to review, and hopefully they would not fall into the morass that they had last year.

Non-Public Session: At this time, Chair Helm asked for a motion to go into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (c), "Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine, or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant." Mr. Kaplan moved, seconded by Mr. Bianchi and passed unanimously. Chair Helm invited Linda Hardy, Jessie Levine, and Ernie Collier into the non-public session.

The Selectmen returned to regular session at 7:40 PM.

Beach Use: Ms. Levine said that complaints came up at the CAC meeting about out-of-towners using the beach and the Selectmen had promised to revisit this subject. She wondered if there was any direction of where the Board of Selectmen wanted to go. She indicated that the Police Department has been enforcing the parking more this year. She knows people from out of town use the beach but is not sure how many times they are meeting their friends there, which would render them guests. She said that there are limited resources for enforcement. Some summer is left and so they could try to see if there is some sort of a poll of beach users that could be taken, assuming people would be honest. It is a multi-faceted issue. Ms. Levine asked if they want to put it on an agenda for a further discussion.

Chair Helm said that she received a call from Ann Loeffler, who with Celeste Cook and Lizzie Klingler, were concerned about Elkins Beach. Chair Helm indicated that she would like to get through the budget process and a couple of the other upcoming items they have to get through (Mill Pond Dam) and have a real public hearing on the subject. She thinks there are some things they could do that would be kind but would arrest this issue of this discussion coming up annually. Chair Helm referred to comments from CAC member Phyllis Piotrow, who said that New London doesn't want to be a town that closes its doors to people. Chair Helm reminded the board that the town and its residents are the ones supporting the facilities. It was her preference to have this topic come up after the budget process in anticipation of the summer.

Ms. Levine said that she and Mr. Denning talked about rearranging the lifeguard schedules to allow for more coverage for later hours next year. Lifeguards would be on duty from 12 PM – 8 PM during the week and on weekends from 9 AM – 9 PM.

Chair Helm thought there could be a way to have a badge program or to charge people who are not family or guests. Ms. Levine asked who would monitor the badges. Chair Helm said that in her experience living in a town with a beach, anyone who was a town resident had the opportunity to purchase a pass. A single person paid one rate and a family paid another. Each member of the family was given a plastic card and they put it on their bathing suit. Anyone else who came to the beach paid a nominal fee. Ms. Levine said they'd have to have someone collecting money at the gate and said she could visualize this process at Bucklin but not at Elkins, as there was no designated entrance to Elkins. Chair Helm said that she had asked Ms. Loeffler and her friends how they would feel about an enclosure being put around the Elkins area to allow for just one way to enter, and they had balked at the idea and thought it would ruin the look of the beach.

Mr. Bianchi said he didn't think the beaches should be for hire. People are either a resident or non-resident, and only residents should be allowed to go there. Ms. Levine asked about Mr. Bianchi's visiting family. He said that they could still go to the beach, as they were his guests. Ms. Levine said that this is where the problem lies. There are people on the beaches currently who are being accused of not being residents, but they could very well be guests. Mr. Bianchi said that they could require an ID that everyone has to wear. This sort of thing would be given out at the same time as the dump stickers. He thought the idea of at least trying something was critical.

Chair Helm felt they owed it to the folks who were concerned, to have a public meeting. Mr. Bianchi suggested having the hearing sooner than later, as people have interest in it now and it is fresh in their minds.

Chair Helm said that she also wanted to discuss swimming off the Pleasant Lake Dam. Ms. Levine said it is prohibited and there are visible signs against it but that enforcement is a police matter. Chair Helm said that the Board of Selectmen would like to ask the police to enforce the prohibition against people swimming off the dam.

Mr. Bianchi said that come next spring, maybe something could be put in the Kearsarge Shopper or in the links to remind people. Chair Helm felt that having something in place for the start of next season would be their goal.

Mill Pond Dam: Ms. Levine said that an inspection was done on Thursday and they will have a report to discuss at the August 23 Selectmen's meeting. Following the inspection, one of the engineers told her that the dam was in worse condition than they had thought just by looking at it from the shore. The Board of Selectmen said they were glad to have spent the extra money for the more in-depth study of the dam. Ms. Levine also asked the engineers for an estimate for the Pleasant Lake Dam to bring it up to requirements from the state.

CAC – September Meeting: Ms. Levine said that Tom Galligan would be coming to make a presentation to the October CAC meeting, but she asked what the Selectmen wanted on the agenda in September. After some discussion, it was decided to have a discussion about the budget process.

Chair Helm said that at some point she would like to discuss having a bus bring people to the school deliberative session in Sutton to get more people to go. Ms. Levine said that they could advertise it more to get more people involved and get a better attendance.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Atlantic Energy Proposal: Ms. Levine said that she and Chair Helm met with a broker for energy pricing. They went out for bid with the towns of Newbury, Sunapee, Bradford, Sutton, North Hampton and Rye. They came with a proposal for a company called Gexa with a four-month contract for 7.97 cents per kilowatt hour, which is about a penny less than what they are currently paying to Glacial Energy. The other options are to enter into 12-month contract for 8.24 cents per kilowatt hour, or a 24-month contract for 8.4 cents per kilowatt hour. Ms. Levine said that she would recommend switching from Glacial to Gexa for the four months and go to bid again at the end of the year when it's known what PSNH's energy rates will be as of January 1. Mr. Kaplan said that he would rather lock in a price now; if the price of oil jumps up, the electric rates will go up. He wanted to work for a longer term contract. Ms. Levine said that it would be a gamble to see what happens after four months or sign on for a slightly higher contract for one or two years. Mr. Kaplan said he'd like to go out for a full year. He thought that stopping a contract on December 31, which was when the four-month contract would end, was a bad idea.

Ms. Levine said that it would be a savings of about \$3,000 per year by switching to this new company.

IT WAS MOVED (Mark Kaplan) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to move forward with a one year contract with Gexa and to authorize Ms. Levine to sign the contract on behalf of the New London Board of Selectmen. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Fastroads Fiber Project Update – Ms. Levine said that the Fastroads Fiber Project was a consortium of towns that received a portion of federal stimulus funds for bringing a fiber optic network to New Hampshire. One of the build outs will run through Rindge and one through Enfield. Ms. Levine said that she was part of an oversight committee for the project. There will be two switches in New London so the backbone will come right through town in the next 18-24 months. She added that this won't cost the town anything at this point. Mr. Kaplan said they should constantly explain that the difference in megabytes in what they are trying to get and what they have today is vast. Once that is explained, it shows how

advantageous it is. Ms. Levine added that the price point is much lower on a system that allows for competition. Mr. Kaplan said the mail he gets from Comcast talks about them having 3-5 megabytes, and Fastroads talks about 100 megabytes.

SWPT/Coalition Update: Ms. Levine said that she had a conference call that day and would have another on Thursday, and a meeting on Monday regarding seeking legislation to require the state to take over the collection of the statewide property tax. They plan to file legislation so the towns don't have to collect money that would eliminate the whole donor town relationship. They will meet with the DRA to see if it was practicable.

Mr. Kaplan reported that he attended the Portsmouth Coalition meeting on July 22. The Governor's Committee on Education is not a definite as yet and no one knows what the governor has in mind. There is one bill to allow towns to bill up to half of the potential increase in the statewide property tax of the June billing of 2011 to smooth out the full increase due in November 2011. Ms. Levine said that this is not the bill she is currently working on – this working committee is seeking permission to be able to estimate what the November bill will be and collect half of it. Mr. Kaplan said that the DRA bill on collecting statewide property tax was coming up at the September NHMA policy meeting. Ms. Levine said that she would be there on the Town's behalf.

Mr. Kaplan said that the committee is working on a public forum on topics of interest to them before the big vote in November. It would be a public debate between the governor and his challenger before the November election. He said that this was very successful two years ago. He said he would check with Senator Odell to support an informational meeting in their area that would support goals of the Portsmouth Coalition in conjunction with, perhaps, Dave Kidder after the election. He made the suggestion because it seemed like a lot of things were going on in terms of getting rid of the statewide property tax, but found that they were spinning their wheels. They need someone who will gather some more support and who can draw people to the meetings. They can't just say that they want to get rid of that tax.

Mr. Bianchi commended Mr. Kaplan on his stick-to-itiveness on this topic, but said that he still felt that in the end, nothing will change and the big towns will get the money from the smaller towns.

Our Voices, Our Town: Ms. Levine referred to an e-mail received from Archivist Jim Perkins regarding the 1500 copies of Our Voices, Our Town that are kept in the Archives storage room. She wondered what the Selectmen felt should be done with the books and suggested giving them away. The Selectmen discussed giving them to real estate offices to give to clients or donating the books to the Council on Aging for their annual book fair. Ms. Levine asked the Board of Selectmen to decide on whether they wanted to donate the books to COA to sell at their book fair or to give them away to anyone who wanted one. Mr. Bianchi asked Ms. Levine to ask COA if they want the books, and if they didn't, they could make the books available to anyone for free.

Bucklin Beach Plans: Ms. Levine passed around a copy of the plans that architect Wen Phillips came up with for Bucklin Beach. She noted that Mr. Phillips had talked to DES and understands what will be allowed under the Shoreland Protection Act and under the septic permit. Ms. Levine said she knows that the upgrade has not been approved yet, but the plan has been put out for estimates as she felt it important to try to get the best pricing possible before going to Budget Committee. Ms. Levine wanted the Board of Selectmen to see the plans before the CIP meeting.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS & REPORTS

Planning Board, July 27: Mr. Bianchi said that the Planning Board met and did very little as far as he could see. They spent a great amount of time having Peter Stanley show pictures of scrawny trees 13' from the lake to get permission to cut them down. He felt that the time that is spent in all the towns on

lakes with regards to these kinds of requests is a crock. He noted that the Planning Board has postponed the next master plan work session as they are still waiting for the Community Services chapter. Ms. Levine said she is still working on the draft. Chair Helm said that September 14th would potentially be the work session for the Utilities Chapter.

CIP Meeting: July 26: Ms. Levine said that there were presentations from the Police Department, the Fire Department and the Library. The Police Department had no major changes in their motor vehicle schedule. There was a recommendation to eliminate the Police Equipment Fund and return the balance to the pot as revenue.

The Fire Department proposed a new ladder truck in 2012. The cost is \$800,000 which is attainable even with reducing the capital equipment replacement budget. He recommended creating a new fund for refurbishing older equipment. They spent some time on the air pack replacement schedule, as the packs are 25 years old. They were hoping for a grant as they need 25 packs at \$6,200 each.

The Library had another long list of repairs that needed to be done. Bill Helm suggested drawing a bond so the costs could be paid by future taxpayers instead of current ones. Mr. Kaplan said it was a lot of money; between \$350,000 and \$400,000. Ms. Levine said the addition was poorly constructed at the time and was not maintained. Mr. Bianchi said he and Bob Bowers talked about it. He said that a library science major should not have to know the difference between a heat pump and a sewer pump. They are being sold things that were not the best and they should have had better oversight. They are talking about the wall in the reading room that has to be replaced. Ms. Levine said that the problem with the lack of oversight happened before Ms. Licks arrived. The library has tried to come to the town with a limited CIP and budget increases and then these things come up that need to be attended to. Ms. Levine said that this is part of her concern with the zero or even two percent increase. They need to have someone they trust to do a building analysis from time to time. They can't always rely on volunteers to do the work. Mr. Kaplan said their buildings are too big and now they have to have professional people come in to help them. They didn't used to have to have air condition, but now it is needed and it has to work with the heating system as well.

Mr. Kaplan said that this building is the kind of building the town really wants. They will spend the money they need to in order to fix it. Mr. Bianchi said that he is usually against bonding but in this case it is probably a good idea.

Ms. Levine said that the other idea for bonding was for the gravel road repairs. It will need a 2/3 vote at Town Meeting, so it asks taxpayers if they really want it to be done. They are not eligible for a draw down or construction loan.

Ms. Levine said that the next CIP is August 16, and will cover the Recreation Department, the Public Works Department, Conservation, and the administrative portion of the budget. On August 30 there will be a wrap-up meeting and soon after hopes to have a final document.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS

CIP Meetings: August 16 & August 30 at 7:00 PM

3/50 Project: August 11 at Foxstand – Mr. Kaplan and Chair Helm will attend. Ms. Levine plans to attend but will arrive late.

Other:

Chair Helm said she was concerned when reading the minutes of the last meeting, as it went on until almost 12:00 PM, after she had left at 11:00 AM. She thought that if they have concerns or items to put on the agenda, there is time to do it before the agenda is finalized. They should adhere to that model as

opposed to putting a lot of issues under “other business.” Issues being brought up are OK, but she would like to have them be brought up as agenda items if possible.

Mr. Bianchi said that he spends a lot of time getting ready for a meeting and there are a lot of things that they all wanted to talk about. Chair Helm thought that these kinds of items should be put under certain parts of the agenda. Ms. Levine said she is better prepared to respond to things if she knows what is coming. Mr. Bianchi said that sometimes he thinks of things too late to put them on the agenda.

Mr. Bianchi asked if there was a range for salaries available somewhere. Ms. Levine said that there was a pay grade classification available and that she would email it to him.

Ms. Levine thought that the Scenic Byway meeting scheduled for Thursday would be cancelled.

Application for Building Permits:

- Gary Anderson & Cornelia Boyle, 750 Little Sunapee Road (Map & Lot 021-001-000) additional changes to garage & shed – AMENDMENT #09-073 – Approved.
- John & Ruth Clough, 306 Whitney Brook Road (Map & Lot 039-007-000) continue interior renovations – EXTENSION #07-017 – Approved.
- Carlton Bradford, 326 Old Main Street (Map & Lot 107-011-000) build ramp from house to garage – Permit #10-080 – **APPROVED PRIOR TO MEETING**
- Meadowsend Timberlands Ltd. Beverly Dunning, 420 Main Street (Map & Lot 085-044-000) replace windows – Permit #10-081 – Approved.
- Constance Appel, 46 Stoney Brook Road (Map & Lot 128-012-000) replace bulkhead, deck flooring, stairs & screens on back porch – Permit #10-082 – Approved.
- Ellen Winkler, 10 Lovering Lane (Map & Lot 084-059-000) garden gazebo at Arts of Nature – Permit # 10-083 – Approved.
- Shelby Blunt Trust, 700 Route 103A (Map & Lot 091-016-000) enclose existing bay of garage for utility room – Permit #10-084 – Approved.
- Kenneth Frieze, Pilot House Road (Map & Lot 080-010-000) new 4 bedroom home – Permit #10-085 – Approved.
- 177 Poor Farm Realty Trust, 177 Poor Road (Map & Lot 091-005-000) replace windows and heat system – Permit #10-086 – Approved.
- Marianne McEnrue Trust, 17 Seamans Road (Map & Lot 085-004-000) replace & expand deck – Permit #10-087 – Approved.
- Oglsby & Pamela Young, 734 Lakeshore Drive (Map & Lot 051-012-000) install stone walkway – Permit #10-088 – Approved.
- Mary Miller, 490 Elkins Road (Map & Lot 077-025-000) remove existing dwelling & replace with new dwelling – Permit #10-089 – Approved.
- Morud Realty/Richard Hadley, 692 Bunker Road (Map & Lot 076-023-000) demo/clean up burned cottage – Permit #10-090 – Approved.
- Parsons Family Trust, 76 Bog Road (Map & Lot 106-014-000) kitchen renovation – Permit #10-091 – Approved.

Application for use of Town Common:

- Jeremy Walla, 201 Walker Road, Grantham would like to use the common for his Sunapee high school senior project. October 16, 2010 – 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM -- Approved.
- Bruce McCoy, use of Bandstand for 1 hour for wedding – August 9, 2010 6:30-7:30 – Approved.

Application for use of Sydney Crook Room:

- Adventures in Learning – Wed. Sept. 8, & Wed. Dec. 1, 2010 9:30-12:00 – Approved.

Application for Permanent Sign Permit:

- CNJJ Investments, 428 Main St. (Map & Lot 085-042-000) Bayberry Barn Christmas Shop sign attached to building – Approved.

Other:

- Disbursement and payroll voucher weeks of August 9, 2010 - Approved.
- PSNH – 3 petition & pole license – approved.
- Veteran's credit application - approved

IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Mark Kaplan) to adjourn the Board of Selectmen's meeting of August 9, 2010. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Heath, Recording Secretary
Town of New London