



# TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES March 7, 2011

### **PRESENT:**

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

### **ALSO PRESENT:**

David Seastrand, Police Chief

Chair Helm called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM.

Meeting Minutes: Mr. Kaplan move to approve minutes of February 14, 2011, seconded by Mr. Bianchi. Mr. Bianchi pointed out that on page 4, the minutes should say that the town “will be asked to pay the difference” rather than “will pay the difference.” Minutes approved as amended 3-0.

Mr. Bianchi moved to accept the minutes of February 22, 2011, seconded by Mr. Kaplan. Correction on page 1 to clarify the build-out of the connection to Sunapee, not the Sunapee plant itself. Minutes approved as amended 3-0.

At 8:10 AM, Mr. Bianchi moved to go into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (a) to discuss the hiring of a police officer. Seconded by Mr. Kaplan. The Board of Selectmen invited Chief Seastrand into the non-public session. Bianchi – yes; Helm – yes; Kaplan – yes.

The Board of Selectmen reconvened the public session at 8:35 AM.

**Mr. Bianchi moved to approve Chief Seastrand’s recommendation to offer the full-time police officer position to David Zuger at a salary of \$21 per hour, seconded by Mr. Kaplan. There was no further discussion and the motion was approved 3-0.**

Chief Seastrand updated the Board of Selectmen regarding an incident at the Park & Ride that resulted in a press release on Friday. He also brought the Selectmen up-to-date on the resolution of radio frequency problems with the Town of Croydon, as a follow-up to Ms. Levine’s letter to Croydon. Chief Seastrand also reported that there is water in the building coming in from the wall by the generator and the front hallway along Seamans Road, and that Bruss Construction has been notified.

Town Meeting Preparation: Ms. Levine referred to the draft warrant article explanations that she had left with the Selectmen before her vacation, and said that she wanted to make sure there were no comments or changes and that the Selectmen were ready to present the articles.

Mr. Bianchi suggested that Mr. Kaplan, who was on the Budget Committee, present Article 5, and Mr. Bianchi offered to present warrant article #3 on the sewer. All were in agreement with that change.

Mr. Bianchi said that the total appropriation is over \$9 million and suggested that Mark point out that the \$5.63 per \$1000 represents the total of the six-month and 12-month budgets.

Mr. Bianchi said that people in the audience will have heard myriads of rumors about how the State is cutting funds, school building aid, 10-Year Plan, etc., so he suggested that we have an understanding of what the potential changes would do to anyone or all of our budget items. Ms. Levine will compile that information but said that the only impact to the Town budget at this point would be if the retirement match is reduced to 0%. Mr. Bianchi said that it should include grants for Elkins, Pleasant Street, etc. Ms. Levine said that those are all federal grants and are not part of the State budget. Chair Helm suggested that Ms. Levine respond to those questions if they arise on the floor.

Mr. Bianchi asked if anyone had received an e-mail from Randy Foose. No one else had received an e-mail.

Discussion about statewide education funding. Mr. Kaplan will attend the hearing on Wednesday, March 16, at 9:30 AM regarding Speaker O'Brien's proposed constitutional amendment.

Retirement System: Ms. Levine brought Board of Selectmen up-to-date on amendments to Senator Bradley's bill relating to retirement system reform. She had testified at the bill's hearing on Friday, February 25.

DOT Ten-Year Plan: Ms. Levine informed the Board of Selectmen that if SB 78 passes, which would repeal the motor vehicle registration fee of \$30 that funds highway improvements, then Main Street is on the list to be removed from the State's Ten-Year Plan. She encouraged the Selectmen to speak to the Town's elected representatives about the bill.

Wind Turbine Project: Ms. Levine updated the Board of Selectmen on the wind turbine presentation to Bill Spears' marketing class, which will now conduct marketing research into public acceptance of a potential wind turbine project in New London.

Whipple Memorial Town Hall: Ms. Levine updated the Board of Selectmen about building problems in the Court Space at Whipple resulting from the HVAC failure and roof leak. An insurance claim has been filed with the Local Government Center.

Tracy Library: Ms. Levine informed the Board of Selectmen about possible air quality issues in the basement of Tracy Memorial Library that are being investigated by the Library Trustees. Mr. Bianchi said that at some point in time the Town needs to hire a good engineering firm to independently analyze Town buildings so that it does not have to be done by the Library Director or Town Administrator. The Board of Selectmen agreed with the concept of getting professional building guidance.

#### Committee Meetings & Reports:

Planning Board, February 22: Mr. Bianchi reported that the Planning Board approved Peter Messer's minor subdivision. Mr. Bianchi said that it was a large lot that Mr. Messer wanted to carve off a smaller lot for his kids, and it cost more than \$5,000 for him to do it. Mr. Bianchi's opinion is that this expense was created by our regulations. Mr. Bianchi also reported that Rachel Ruppel from the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission had updated the Planning Board on changes in laws regarding cell towers. Mr. Bianchi felt that it was a good discussion and shared that there is a new technology in other parts of the world that has transmitters the size of a Rubik's Cube.

Citizen's Advisory Committee, March 5: Chair Helm said there was a very good dialogue about the town administrator position, but nothing conclusive. This led to a discussion about appointing an interim town administrator.

Meeting Schedule: Ms. Levine suggested meeting every Monday night at 6:00 PM from March 14-April 11. The Board of Selectmen agreed.

There being no further public business, Mr. Bianchi moved to go into non-public session to talk about hiring an interim town administrator pursuant to RSA 91:A-3 II (a). Mr. Kaplan seconded. Bianchi – yes; Helm – yes; Kaplan – yes.

The Board of Selectmen returned from non-public session at 10:05 AM. No decisions were reached in non-public session.

Town Administrator Replacement: Mr. Bianchi said that the Selectmen are going to have to start working on the procedure for replacing Ms. Levine as town administrator. He had called the Local Government Center (LGC) and talked to Barry Cox. Discussion about using an outside organization for the search and discussion postponed until the Selectmen's meeting of March 14.

Application for Building Permit:

- Amendment – Rabitah Cricenti Trust of 2005, 6 Cricenti Lane (Map & Lot 058-003-000) add toilet to basement – Permit #10-071 – Approved
- Extension – John & Louise Chowanski, 1502 King Hill Road (Map & Lot 129-018-000) material delay – Permit #10-017 – Approved
- June & Tom Poliseno, 302 Wilder Lane, (Map & Lot 111-007-000) replace kitchen cabinets – Permit #11-004 – Approved
- Megan & Matt Burch, 31 Sherman Street (Map & Lot 078-012-000) interior renovations – Permit #11-005 – Approved

Application for Permanent Sign Permit:

- Rymes Heating Oils Inc. – sign attached to building – Approved.

Application for Current Use:

- Richard Dulude, Newport Road (Map & Lot 054-003-000)

Other items to be signed:

- Disbursement voucher and payroll for weeks of 2/28/2011 & 3/7/2011
- 1 Elderly tax deferral application
- 1 income and asset verification for elderly exemption
- 2010 audit agreement with Plodzic & Sanderson

Board of Selectmen adjourned meeting at 10:10 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessie W. Levine  
Town Administrator