



# TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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## **Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes December 17, 2007**

Present:

Mark Kaplan, Selectman  
Larry Ballin, Selectman  
Jessie Levine, Town Administrator

Absent: Sue Clough, Chair

Also Present:

Hardy Hasenfuss, Energy Committee  
Mark Vernon, Energy Committee  
Mark Wendling, Tennessee resident (New London seasonal resident)  
Debbie Cross, Intertown Record

Mark Kaplan opened the meeting at 8:00 AM.

Idling Policy: Mr. Kaplan recognized Hardy Hasenfuss and Mark Vernon and thanked them for coming to the meeting. Mr. Hasenfuss referred to the draft Idling Policy and noted that it was based on a shorter policy passed by the Town of Peterborough and then amended by the Energy Committee to include a few sentences on research derived from Canadian policies. Mr. Hasenfuss and Mr. Vernon met with the Fire Chief, Police Chief, and Director of Public Works, who agreed that the policy is appropriate and have already instituted similar department requirements before this came along (for instance, biodiesel for town trucks and heating the Public Works garage, which reduces idling time). Mr. Hasenfuss repeated that there were no objections from Department Heads. He also met with Kent Wheeler, who oversees New London Ambulance, and even though that is not a Town department, the policy was met with some interest at the Hospital.

Mr. Hasenfuss explained that this is a way of doing something that will reduce greenhouse emissions. The Energy Committee wanted to start out by reducing the Town's use of fuel, and will then go further to try to get the general population to buy into it, which he hopes can be done with signs and public discussion. He added that the Energy Committee will have a monthly column in the Argus to draw attention to their activities and recommendations.

Mr. Ballin said that he thinks this is a good policy and comments the Energy Committee's work. He is glad to hear that there is support from the Department Heads, and asked about input from the School District. Mr. Hasenfuss said that would be a good next step; he believes there is already a policy on bus idling but agreed that the next step would be to look at large consumers of fuel. Mr. Ballin agreed that it could be taken to commercial vendors, especially those whose trucks are in confined areas.

Mr. Kaplan asked if this type of policy is legal and could be legally enforced. Ms. Levine explained that this would be a policy of the Board of Selectmen that related to Town personnel use of town equipment, and the Selectmen could legally pass that ordinance. She advised having a public hearing, although it would not be required by law. She pointed out that it is already illegal, though not enforced, for drivers to leave unattended vehicles running, and this public hearing would give an opportunity to remind the public

of that. Ms. Levine said that violations of this policy would be handled as personnel issues; no one would be fined or hauled off to court.

Mr. Hasenfuss suggested at some point doing something about non-Town vehicles, and added that New London is not breaking ground as far as this policy is concerned. Ms. Levine asked if the Energy Committee should consider adding a policy about recommended speed of vehicles, since she was passed by a Town vehicle on Interstate 89. Mr. Hasenfuss said that traveling at high speeds uses more fuel than lower speeds. Mr. Ballin said he would not support that being part of this policy, since speeding is already illegal and employees should be following the speed limit.

Ms. Levine asked if a public hearing on January 2 would be appropriate, and all agreed. Mr. Kaplan and Mr. Ballin again thanked Mr. Hasenfuss and Mr. Vernon for their efforts.

Meeting Minutes: Mr. Ballin moved to approve the minutes from the Board of Selectmen's meeting of December 10, 2007. Seconded Mr. Kaplan and approved 2-0.

Quicklink: Ms. Levine asked the Board of Selectmen for topics to include in the next newsletter. The recommendations were: roundabout, sewer department, budget, energy committee activities, and master planning.

Town Report mailing: Ms. Levine referred to a conversation last year about reducing the number of printed Town Reports to save paper and mailing costs. The Selectmen agreed to print 1500 at a cost of \$8300. Mark Wendling recommended asking voters at Town Meeting to give an indication as to their preference.

Roundabout Update: Ms. Levine said that she is still waiting to hear back from the Water Precinct and the State Department of Transportation. The bid should be awarded by December 19, although the contractor has agreed to hold the bid price until the end of the year.

Committee Reports:

- Planning Board: Mr. Ballin said the Planning Board met on December 11 and reviewed potential zoning amendments, the Master Plan vision chapter, and the Planner's contract.
- Joint Assessing Board: Mr. Ballin reported that the Joint Board had a brief and fairly uneventful meeting in Sunapee on December 11. The program is working well and operating within budget and the managers went into non-public session to complete the performance evaluation of the assessor.
- Budget Committee: Mr. Kaplan reported that the December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Budget Committee included reviewing the most recent recommendation coming from the Personnel Subcommittee, which recommended a pool of money to distribute for staff increases. The Budget Committee supported the recommendation that all employees should receive a cost-of-living increase and an average of 1.5% of the median of each position's range rather than 1.5% of the employee's salary (this to recognize that some employees may be paid outside the range). Ms. Levine said the difference between the two approaches is less than \$2000, although that is before the latest CPI information was released that raised the CPI from 3% to 4%.

Mr. Kaplan said Tracy Library was also a subject of discussion, due to their ongoing building needs. The Library requested \$480,000 in capital reserve funding over 10 years, although the Budget Committee felt that the fund should be front-loaded with \$100,000 to help with more immediate needs. Mr. Ballin asked if anyone had suggested finding a location for a new building rather than trying to meet modern needs with an older building. He asked at what point we say "enough."

There being no further public business, Mr. Kaplan moved to go into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II(a) to discuss the Town Administrator's contract. Mr. Ballin seconded. Roll call vote: Kaplan – yes. Ballin – yes. Ms. Levine was invited to join the non-public session.

Upon returning to public session, Mr. Ballin updated Mr. Kaplan on the Camp Wallula condominium proposal that will come before the Planning Board.

Applications for Building Permits

- Benjamin & Deborah Barton, 26 Heath Lane (Tax Map: 043-004-000) change pitch of porch roof only – Approved (Permit 07-158).
- Robert & Elizabeth Kren, 39 Spruce Lane (Tax Map: 058-027-005) construct roof system over walkway to front door – Approved (Permit 07-159).
- Althea Johnson, 62 The Seasons (Tax Map: 146-002-062) construct new screen porch over existing deck 12'x26' – Approved (Permit 07-160).
- Patrick & Kathleen Mulhern, 157 Owls Nest Road (Tax Map: 141-001-000) new storage barn with guest quarters above, no kitchen facilities – Approved (Permit 07-161).
- Burton Eisenburg, Rocky Ridge Lot #5 (Tax Map: 106-013-005) build new 4 bedroom home – Approved (Permit 07-162).

Application for Tax Abatement

- Tracy Memorial Library, 304 Main Street, (Map/Lot 084-054-000) for the amount of \$78.20 – Approved (Sewer Abatement)

Other Items for Signature

- Disbursement voucher week of 12/17/07 – Approved
- Flexible Benefits Plan Amendment – Coverage for Non-Tax Dependents - Approved
- Application for use of Sydney Crook Room - League of Women Voters of the Kearsarge/Sunapee Area, town and school board candidate forum, open to the public (paid \$50 deposit and they are requesting it be waived) March 4, 2008 – 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. 50 people or less – Approved
- Application for use of Town Common and Bandstand – New London Garden Club Antique Show – set up beginning July 23, show is scheduled for July 26, 2008 – 5:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. – Bandstand to be used as dealer space and committee headquarters. – Approved

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessie W. Levine  
Town Administrator