



# TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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## BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES MAY 27, 2008

### PRESENT:

Mark Kaplan (Selectman)  
Larry Ballin (Selectman)  
Brian Prescott (Selectman)  
Jessie Levine (Town Administrator)  
Chad Denning (Recreation Director)  
Debbie Cross (*InterTown Record*)

Mark Kaplan opened the meeting at 8 a.m., and the Board addressed twelve items of business during the meeting.

### **Fence at Bucklin Beach**

Chad Denning reported that there have been on-going problems with the fence at Bucklin Beach, particularly snow load damage. The location is right across from the exit of the DOT site, and the main problem is that when snow blows off the lake and drifts across 114, the State's trucks plow it so that it is forced back into the fence. At this point it has become as much a safety problem as a visual one. He said there is a large section of it down between the playground and 114, and he is concerned about liability.

In April, he obtained a quote of \$12,275 from Andover Fencing Co. for removal of the existing fence, and replacement in kind. He noted that this is an unanticipated cost, and he has not budgeted for it; nor does he have any fat in his 2008 budget. At the same time, he observed that this is the third or fourth fence that has had to be put up there, and he would like to look at something more long-term and permanent than just a band-aid solution. He said that Richard Lee has suggested the idea of replacing it with a fence consisting of removable sections. Those could be taken down for winter, and put back up again in spring. With that in mind, he obtained a second quote from Superior Fence Co. for repair options just to get the fence through the 2008 season, and then a quote for a permanent fix for which he would have to budget in 2009.

Superior submitted quotes of \$3400 to remove the damaged top rail and replace it with 7-gauge black coated tension wire, or \$4800 to remove the top rail and replace in kind. Then in fall, the company proposes to remove the 500-feet of existing fence, leaving in only the vertical posts—for a cost of \$1500, and replace the sections in spring with prefabricated panels—at a cost of \$18,500. (Price to be discounted if any of the old materials can be reused.)

Jessie Levine agreed that this has been an on-going problem. In the past eight years, the Town has had to spend considerable money to repair this fence twice. She has spoken with the State

about the problem, and received a note from Alan Hanscom saying that the State would be willing to put up a snow fence at that location, and he forwarded a picture of a high, wooden type snow fence that they use out in the west.

Mark Kaplan asked if the Town removes the prefabricated panels along the beach, where would the snow go. Jessie Levine said it would pile up on the road just as it does now. The problem now is that the plows push it back into the fence causing more damage. Chad Denning suggested that with no fence impeding it, the snow might actually drift all the way across the road into the little wetland that is on the other side there.

Chad Denning explained that if they use money from the Revolving Fund, he would not be able to put the money back into that Fund as he does with program fees. Selectmen agreed that this is not the type of expense for which money can be taken out of the Revolving Fund. Also, Jessie Levine said she talked to Town Counsel about the possibility of using some of the \$40,000 approved by Town meeting for replacement of the septic system at Bucklin Beach (Article 18), and he said because this specific purpose was not discussed at the meeting, that could not be done.

Chad Denning said the immediate question is, can we find the \$3400 just to do the repair for the 2008 season. Jessie Levine said that right now there is only \$300 in the Beach House Supplies account, but there is \$1934 in the Bucklin Beach Equipment and Repairs account. Chad Denning said he uses that fund to purchase necessary items for the beach such as life saving boards. He also noted that Richard Lee is about to start the work at Elkins beach, and Pierre Bedard is completing septic system plans for Bucklin—so all in all, there is about to begin a lot of activity at the two beaches.

Jessie Levine said the Selectmen do have a discretionary fund of \$10,000. Selectmen agreed to take a look at the damage, and revisit this issue at the next Selectmen's meeting.

### **Minutes – May 12, 2008**

Larry Ballin moved to accept. Brian Prescott seconded. No further discussion. Motion unanimously approved.

### **Non-resident Taxpayers' Meeting**

These are scheduled for July 7 and August 25. Mark Kaplan said that what people see everyday is what will most likely be on their minds—things as the round-about project. Larry Ballin said that traffic mitigation is another topic that may come up.

Mark Kaplan asked if the plan is to complete all the pipe work for the intersection project, then stop work until August. Jessie Levine said no hiatus in work is planned. Right now and for the next three or four weeks, they will be working on water and drainage. Then they will pave

County Road from the top of the hill down to the intersection. Then they will set in the curb for the sidewalk. After Hospital Days they will be doing the intersection.

Mark Kaplan asked if they will be paving the section of County Road from the intersection to and including in front of the hospital. He observed that that road must be raised to become level with the proposed round-about. Jessie Levine said the bulk of the actual round-about work will occur after Hospital Days, and she thinks that bringing up the level of the road will probably be after Hospital Days as well.

Larry Ballin suggested that department heads do not need to attend these meetings.

**CAC – May 31** The subject will be safety issues.

### **Northeast Recycling Council**

Jessie Levine said that both Country Press and the College are interested in the tours, and given the size of both of those, she will probably not propose a third business.

Mark Kaplan asked about the discarded paper at the post office. Jessie Levine said a mail truck removes that at night, and takes it to Manchester. The Town would love to capture that, but it would have to pick it up and take it to the recycling center. The post office does not have a system to do that.

### **Fiber Project**

Jessie Levine reported that several members of the Fiber Project group will be going to Virginia in July to take a look at three or more fiber systems. Two of those are models similar to the type they want—open networks. The third is similar to Burlington Telecom's. She observed that some municipalities are already ahead of the curve because they own their own infrastructures—poles, etc.

She said the vendor has brought back another proposal that does include a fiber backbone, but still has in it the same amount of wireless system and that is not what the group is aiming for. Also, the quote shows a loss of 2%, in the proposal that goes out 9 years. The vendor said they would see a gain with a proposal going out ten years, but preparing that proposal would cost another \$4000. At this point, she said they have decided to stop consulting the vendor and develop their own spread sheets.

Brian Prescott said that Mark Violette of TDS would like to speak to the Selectmen about this. Mark Violette feels this would not be a successful project for a number of reasons. Jessie Levine said the idea is not to get into competition with existing providers, but to provide an open network that anyone can get on. There would be more competition. Selectmen agreed to schedule a discussion with Mark Violette at a future Selectmen's meeting.

**Damage Costs to Police Department Facility** (ref. p. 3 of May 12 minutes)

Jessie Levine reported that the Insurance Company has sent out an independent evaluator to inspect the damage and that person has asked for the specs from the previous project. Selectmen have looked at this and agree that there is substantial damage, and also agree that there should be a second and even a third quote. Brian Prescott observed that it appears to have been more of a latch failure than a door failure, and the recommendation will probably be to install dead bolts there. Mark Kaplan asked if this is likely to be a topic of discussion at Saturday's CAC meeting. Jessie Levine said it may come up, but she does not anticipate having the numbers from the insurance adjustor at that point.

**Committee Reports**

- Larry Ballin reported that in addressing LisAnn's plan to move into the former Snyder's, the Planning Board launched into lengthy discussion regarding the New London Shopping Center. Everyone agreed that it would be good if the owners of the shopping center would have some input into the Master Plan process, but Jessie Levine said they have not returned any of her calls. Otherwise, the Planning Board continued work on the survey.
- Larry Ballin reported that the May 14 Budget Committee meeting was an organizational one.
- Jessie Levine said that the May 14 Intersection Construction Progress meeting went smoothly. She and John Hughes have spoken to the Board of the Knight's Hill Nature Park regarding the possibility of using some of that parking space for temporary storage of materials. Also, she plans to draft a thank you letter to the businesses abutting the project.

**Sewer Bills Warrant**

Jessie Levine said that the first sewer billing is about to go out, and represents a decrease for all users (the larger users will see a larger decrease). The billing is for \$12.50 per thousand gallons. The capital portion of that has dropped from \$1.15 per thousand gallons to 50-cents, and the loan portion of that is also 50-cents per thousand gallons.

In all, the billing will raise \$383,072, while the Department's expenditures are projected at \$303,516. The billing generates more partly because they bill for a minimum usage of 15,000 gallons. Because this is an enterprise fund, they can raise more than needed, and encumber the balance.

**Other**

- Jessie Levine reported that she has heard from the owners of the building on Main Street discussed at the May 12 meeting, and they are going to be taking remedial action in the near future.

- Brian Prescott reported hearing from Pleasant Lake Protective Association with a question about cordoning off for the nesting loons. Jessie Levine said that the Town has no jurisdiction over the water. The area around the nesting loons has been cordoned off in past years, and there has never been an objection.

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At 8:45 a.m., motion was made, seconded, and approved to enter non-public session according to RSA 91-A:3 II (a), in order to discuss a personnel matter.

### **Signatures**

Selectmen reentered public session to sign the following items:

#### Applications for Building Permits:

- Amendment to previous permit. Walter Partridge, 384 County Road (Map & Lot 072-012-000) has removed old garage and in prepping to build a new garage found that he does not have enough side yard. Applicant will seek variance fro ZBA. Until variance is granted, the building permit is denied.
- Robert & Sandra Brown, 418 Bog Road (Map & Lot 119-003-000) will construct a storage shed for wood and a temporary RV shelter. Permit # 08-056. Approved.

#### Tax Abatement:

- Harold Buker Revocable Trust c/o Sallie McAndrew, 224 Shaker St. (Map & Lot 111-013-000). A mistake in 1<sup>st</sup> billing results in an abatement of \$39.07. Approved.
- Barbara Jones Revocable Trust, 19 Squires Lane (Map & Lot 096-015-000). The assessment incorrectly reflected that the property is in current use. The assessment was corrected and a supplemental bill was generated. Therefore, the abatement is \$3.58. Approved.
- Carolyn & Robert Murphy, 46 Hilltop Place (Map & Lot 144-001-046). The abatement corrects an incorrect water billing for 2008. The remaining balance is \$11.50 after payment of \$194.50 was received. Approved.

#### Application for Permanent Sign Permits:

- Merryfield Investment Management Inc. 292 Main St. (Map & Lot 084-055-000) Approved.
- Ron Brown, The Banks Gallery Fine Arts Center, (Map & Lot 073-080-000) Approved.  
Sign 1: Back side of building.  
Sign 2: Front side of building.  
Sign 3: Hanging from front of building.
- Brian's Carpet & Flooring Center, 374 Main St. (Map & Lot 084-003-000). Approved.

#### Application for Temporary Sign Permit & Yard Sale:

- LSVNA & Renaissance Shoppe, (Map & Lot 072-039-000) Spring Cleaning Sale Sign for May 24<sup>th</sup>. Approved.

- LSVNA & Renaissance Shoppe Spring Cleaning Sale in back of building on May 14, 2008. Approved.

Application for use of Town Office Conference Room:

- Adventures in Learning, CSC – Wednesday, June 25, 2008, 11:30 – 2:30. Approved.
- Adventures in Learning, CSC – Tuesdays, September 16 – November 4, 9:15-11:45. Approved.
- Adventures in Learning, CSC – Thursdays, September 18 – October 16, 1:15-3:45 Approved.
- Adventures in Learning, CSC – Fridays, September 19 – November 14, 9:15-11:45 Approved.
- Adventures in Learning, CSC – Thursdays, September 18 – October 16, 9:15-11:45 Approved.

Other:

- Disbursement & payroll voucher week of 5/23/08. Approved.

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At 9 a.m., Selectmen continued the meeting to Bucklin Beach to inspect the damaged fence there.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah A. Denz  
Recording Secretary