



TOWN OF
NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
November 9, 2015 6:00 PM**

PRESENT:

Nancy Rollins, Chairman
Peter Bianchi, Selectman
Janet Kidder, Selectman
Kim Hallquist, Town Administrator
Wendy Johnson, Finance Officer

ALSO PRESENT:

Ed Andersen, Police Chief
Phyllis Piotrow, Budget Committee member
Frank Anzalone, Frank Anzalone Associates
Renate Kannler, New London Resident
Sandra Licks, Library Director
Richard Lee, Public Works Director
Minette Sweeny, *Intertown Record*

Chair Rollins called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Academy Building Project Update – Frank Anzalone, Frank Anzalone & Associates

Mr. Anzalone said the project is moving along on schedule and weather permitting, Trumbull-Nelson will paint the siding and be done before the end of the year; if the weather does not cooperate, they will come back and paint in the spring. The project is at \$307,000, which is \$25,000 more than anticipated. This is due to structural rot they found, which is time consuming and detailed to repair. They also found some rot under the work done in 2000 which they weren't anticipating. Mr. Anzalone said when they are done with this work, all the walls and windows will be sealed. The existing AC units take air in, cool it, and put it in the building. After the building is sealed, there won't be any fresh air coming into the building. He said a fresh air exchange unit will be installed to remedy this situation, which is \$13,564. Two parts of the unit will be placed in the building; one in the mechanical room, which will tie into the AC ducts, and another unit in the attic will do the same. The units will need to be maintained; filters will need to be cleaned out twice/year.

Selectman Bianchi feels the air exchange costs should come from the capital reserve fund, not the money set aside for the siding project. Mr. Anzalone said they would have had this item included in the original estimate but they thought the AC they had pulled air from the outside, which it does not.

Mr. Anzalone said the insulation in the attic isn't the best and he suggests replacing it. He offered to write a letter for the Selectmen, stating that it was not an ideal material being used. They would go from an R-12 to an R-27, and it will be sealed. The use of this kind of insulation will make a significant difference and the building won't wrack or move any further.

Selectman Kidder offered that they should see a difference in the amount of fuel oil they use in the building as a result of the project. Mr. Anzalone agrees with this notion. He said he hopes the insulation

and siding will help regulate the temperature within the building a bit better. All the windows are in as of that day.

The Board will take the recommendation for air to air exchanges under advisement and consider again at their next meeting.

New Business

Receipt of Letters of Support for New London Dispatching Services from Sutton and Newbury

Chair Rollins asked if there has been any discussion of the future operating costs and maintenance of the system. Selectman Kidder said Newbury, Sutton and Croydon have been visited and are appreciative of the service and the fact that new equipment has been put in. She feels going forward they will be willing to discuss additional participation in the cost of running the dispatch department.

Set 2016 Dispatching Fees

The Board reviewed the proposed 2016 dispatching fee schedule. The formula used was recommended by the Selectmen's subcommittee on the issue (the subcommittee included Janet Kidder, Rob Prohl and John Wilson, with input from Jay Lyon, Ed Andersen, Kim Hallquist and Wendy Johnson). Selectman Bianchi feels the other towns are getting a good deal. The taxpayers of New London will have to pay \$400,000 in 2016 for dispatching. They haven't even talked about 2017 yet. He feels the other towns should be paying more of a fair share. Selectman Kidder agreed that \$400,000 is a lot of money; if they are going to bill people for their service, they needed updated equipment and well-trained employees. The thought is they need to get to a certain standard before they ask people to participate more in the service, financially.

Chief Andersen said in terms of equipment, once the consoles are installed and the second repeater is up, they will be a top-notch service. They still have a young dispatching group, but they are getting more experience and training. Selectman Bianchi noted that New London will pay for training. Chief Andersen agreed and said it is part of their operating costs which is shared by all member towns. Selectman Bianchi said it seems like the other towns are already happy with the service and weren't asking for more. He sees the costs of dispatching continue to rise and he doesn't see it as being fair that New London has to pay the most.

Chair Rollins said the Town made an agreement to update their services by 2016 so she was fine with the current proposal.

Selectman Kidder said they have not met with Sunapee yet. They will meet on December 14th. Selectman Kidder said Sunapee would be met with last because their selectmen's meetings are on Monday or Tuesday evenings and she attends New London's selectmen's meetings on Monday nights and Planning Board on Tuesday evenings. It has been difficult to schedule her attendance.

IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to approve the dispatching fees as reviewed that has the notation 11/9/2015 at the top.

Selectman Bianchi said they should reserve the right to revisit this decision should Sunapee decide not to join New London Dispatch.

It was agreed that the issue would be revisited if that were the case.

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Note Receipt of Positive Comments about Detour of Main Street on Halloween

Ms. Hallquist said she has only heard from people who are happy with the detour and hoped it would continue for future trick or treating on Main Street. Selectman Kidder said she received a call that day from someone who also hoped it would continue.

Chair Rollins said she heard remarks that the decision to do the detour was not well-advertised. Also, she heard comments that the traffic was re-routed but the people who live on Barrett Road still tried to have trick or treaters and it was dark and with children walking in the road, it was not an ideal situation. Also, some people were parking on Barrett Road and walking up the street to trick or treat. Halloween is on a Monday next year and perhaps they may change the date of trick or treating. Chief Andersen said they are thinking maybe having it on Saturday and having it only on Main Street. They could have a candy drive to provide candy from the whole town to those living on/near Main Street. Having trick or treating contained to Main Street has proven to be the safest option.

Budget Discussion

Tracy Memorial Library (Sandra Licks, Library Director, Christina Nguyen, Matt Hubbard, Fiona Mills)

Ms. Licks said they tried to keep increases modest this year. The budget is up 1.8% from the previous year. Of that are appropriation is up 2.7%. They have kept the cleaning contract flat. The library is requesting a capital reserve deposit of \$35,000 which is the same as last year.

Ms. Licks said there may be an upcoming project with Mr. Anzalone which may be a bath/kitchen renovation or doing additional drainage work around the building. There is still some water coming into the basement after heavy rain. Mr. Anzalone said a drain line was cut when an addition was done and was buried. It isn't there anymore. It would be nice to drain the water away from the building before it goes into it.

Highway Department – Richard Lee, Public Works Director

Mr. Lee outlined the changes in his budget from last year:

Highway Administration

- Uniforms \$200 increase for the new person.
- Travel and Meals should be \$1,475 not \$475. This pays for anyone who uses their own vehicle to go to trainings.
- Highways and Streets – add \$11,000 to Shimming of Roads. He spent \$17,000 out of the paving budget last year to make up for the overspent sand line. He observed that the Town is slipping behind with the shimming and paving of roads.
- Equipment Maintenance - \$3,000 increase. There are costs to consider with newer equipment. It costs \$85/hour for people to look at these more high tech needs.
- General Supplies: \$1,000 decrease.
- Tires: \$2,000 increase. Tire prices have gone up considerably.
- Synthetic Oil: \$1,000 decrease
- Culverts: \$1,000 increase – 20 culverts throughout the town will need replacing in the near future.
- Sand: \$10,000 increase to bring them up to what they spent last year.
- Salt: \$3,000 increase as the cost of salt seems to be going up every year.
- Signs: \$2,000 increase. The Town is supposed to be making all their signs conform with traffic control device regulations. These are expensive and last 8-10 years.

The total increase is \$31,000.

Selectman Bianchi said in 2015 nothing has been spent on paving. He asked what roads were paved and overlaid in FY2015 and what the plan was for FY2016. Mr. Lee said 2015 funds were set aside for the Elkins project. Any overruns from that project will come out of 2015 Fiscal Paving line. In 2016 they will pave Parkside and Brookside drive. They will do that in the spring. South Cove Road was completed that past Friday. He is not sure what the Town will pay in addition to the \$40,000 donated by one homeowner. He believes the total cost will be about \$57,000 but has not received the final bill yet that will include the actual tonnage used.

Selectman Bianchi noted no change in diesel fuel and gas. Mr. Lee said he knows the price of fuel and gas is going down, but he is afraid to make any big cuts because the prices are volatile, and his estimates are for the future (July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017), not today.

Selectman Bianchi asked about Calcium Chloride. Mr. Lee said they purchase it in the Spring and use it all summer to keep dust down on dirt roads.

Selectman Bianchi asked about street paint; how do they buy it? Mr. Lee said they buy a 5-gallon bucket for their projects. The roads are striped by a company but the town pays for the paint. \$4,300 was spent this year on the yellow lines. Next year they plan to spend \$4,000.

Transfer Station

Mr. Lee outlined the changes in the Transfer Station budget from last year:

- Equipment repair: increase by \$500
- Conferences and training: increase by \$7,000 because the Solid Waste Committee asked him to request this so they could have a company come in and do a study of the transfer station/stump dump, etc. to see if it ought to be re-done or expanded. NRRA (Northeast Resource Recovery Association). will do a study for free, and this \$7,000 would only be used if a second study is necessary. Mr. Lee noted that he does agree with the Solid Waste Committee recommendation for the study.
- Signs: increase by \$1,000. The Town gets points from “NH is Beautiful” for proper signage; the Town can order some signs from them and get some from NRRA. Mr. Lee noted that NRRA offers a grant to pay for half the signs.

The total increase is \$7,200.

Cemeteries

Mr. Lee outlined changes in this budget from last year:

- Equipment: \$1,000 increase for replacement lawnmower. The “zero turn” mowers are working great.
- Grounds-keeping supplies: \$3,700 increase to shingle and do repairs to maintenance building at both cemeteries and the cement block building in Elkins. This is an estimate given by Matt Grimes, Facilities Manager, who can also do the work.

Sewerage Collection

Mr. Lee outlined changes in the Sewerage Collection budget from last year:

- Insurance vehicle: decreased by \$1,100.
- Sewer Buildings: electricity increased by \$2,000. They overspent this line in 2015.
- Heating: increase of \$750.
- Maintenance building: \$9,100 increase.
- Price to paint building in the spring: \$7,350 decrease

General Government Buildings

Mr. Lee said he tried to increase some lines in the budget a bit to have enough funding to do maintenance items. Other things, like Town Hall Cleaning comes from that line as well. Selectman Bianchi said fuel expenses were up in the budget but the costs are less this year. Mr. Lee said he hesitates to decrease costs for propane so far ahead of time when the prices can change quickly. He doesn't want to end up taking money away from the maintenance line for other things that are overspent. Selectman Bianchi said he is just trying to find ways to reduce expenses due to increased expenditures in other areas of town. Mr. Lee said he is trying to preserve funds to do maintenance. Deferred maintenance has been a complaint made by the Budget Committee in the past. This is his best guess estimate using past history, for what they will need next year.

Brookside Drive Culverts

Mr. Lee said the State has preliminarily agreed to let the Town replace the three culverts with one large aluminum culvert. It would be assembled from ComTek for \$250,000. Part of that is also the cost to keep the culvert straight, as they are eschewed right now. If they require them eschewed, it would cost more as more pieces of pipe will be required. Mr. Lee noted that because of the size of the culverts, the State classifies both locations as bridges. Both locations have been placed on the State's red list because inspection revealed the culverts to be in poor condition, requiring replacement.

The State is letting the Town proceed in this manner because there is a water main 2' under the culvert, and power, fiber optic, etc... under the pipe. Mr. Lee recommended that the Bridge Capital Reserve Fund have a deposit of \$50,000 in the upcoming budget to prepare for this large expenditure. Mr. Lee observed that the Town should replace He said if they do one and have a hurricane and blows the bottom of the other ones, there will still be access for the people on that road to get in and out.

Elkins Project

Mr. Lee reported that there would be a few change orders coming. A walk-through will be held on November 25th to show what still needs to be done when work resumes in the Spring.

Town Administrator's Report – Kim Hallquist, Town Administrator

Ms. Hallquist asked if the Selectmen needed more information on the Air to Air Exchangers that Mr. Anzalone was talking about earlier in the meeting. She noted that time was of the essence to make a decision and if more information is needed, she would like to know about it before the next meeting so a decision could be made. Selectman Bianchi noted that if he had questions after reviewing the document he would let her know.

With regards to the Bandstand project, Ms. Hallquist had hoped people would be working on it sooner but additional work at the Academy Building has delayed the ability to send workers to that location. Trumbull-Nelson has come up with a plan to use epoxy instead of cutting some beams. The ramp estimate is pretty high. Ms. Hallquist noted that she is not sure when it will be done. They hope it will get done before winter, nothing that the bandstand project will likely move right along now that the workers are just about done with the Town Office. Ms. Hallquist noted that the electrical system at the Bandstand also needs to be updated as it is currently not up to code.

Ms. Hallquist noted that the temporary parking on the side of the building may be valuable to remain as a way to address the shortage of parking for visitors to the Town Office. She asked the Board to think about whether it should be made permanent.

Ms. Hallquist asked for confirmation that the Board would like Request for Proposals (RFP) for the engineering of Pleasant Lake Dam to go out before the request for funds at Town Meeting are made. The Board confirmed it did. Ms. Hallquist noted that she hoped to speak with Town Counsel Bart Mayer when he was in the office last Friday with Norm Bernaiche (Chief Assessor), however the entire day was spent on preparing for the pending tax cases. He will get back to them on enforcement issues.

Committee Meetings & Reports

Selectman Kidder reported that she, and Chiefs Andersen and Lyon met with Newbury Selectmen to discuss dispatching; the meeting was positive and the Board is supportive.

The previous Tuesday afternoon there was a Recreation meeting. They talked about winter activities coming up. Scott Blewitt (Recreation Director) discussed his budget which is similar to last year's. Everyone is pleased with the "Pumpkin People" contest. It is a good draw for the businesses in town. The Haunted Halloween walk was done by the Colby-Sawyer Players and was a big success. The Players received over \$530 in donations, which is a large increase from previous years.

The past Tuesday evening, Selectman Kidder and Chiefs Andersen and Lyon met with the Selectmen of Croydon. They are very pleased to hear what Chief Andersen had to say about what has been taking place in dispatch. They appreciated the fact that New London would take the time to meet with them.

The past Wednesday afternoon, Selectman Kidder participated in a sign webinar regarding the recent Supreme Court decision on signs. She found that Towns cannot regulate content of a sign; as long as it is the size they request, they can't regulate the text. They also cannot go on someone's property to take a sign down. They have to write a letter or call the person making the signage infraction. Selectman Kidder noted that she got confirmation of her previous understanding that the State of NH can do whatever they want with regards to interior lit signs, regardless of what Town regulations state.

Selectman Kidder said the Citizen's Advisory Committee met at Whipple Hall that past Saturday. Scott Blewitt was the host and discussed Recreation. It went well.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of October 19, 2015

**IT WAS MOVED (Kidder/Bianchi) to approve the minutes of October 19, 2015 as amended.
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Minutes of October 26, 2015

**IT WAS MOVED (Kidder/Bianchi) to approve the minutes of October 26, 2015 as circulated.
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Upcoming Meetings

- Town Offices CLOSED on November 11th – Veterans Day
- School Board Meeting discussion of 1941 building: Thursday, Nov. 12 - 6:30PM – SAU Offices on Cougar Court
- Next Regular Selectmen's Meeting – November 16th – 6:00 PM
Budget review planned: Administration, Finance, Planning & Zoning, Assessing, Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Legal
- Planning Board – Tuesday, November 17th – 6:30PM

- Conservation Commission – Wednesday, November 18th – 8:30 AM

Other Business

Selectman Bianchi feels that morning's meeting with Nobis Engineering, DES, and Peter Stanley went well. He feels a small committee could take the issue from here on in to come up with a plan to settle the issue once and for all. Mr. Rainey from DES implied they could have several years in which to take care of the lagoons. He said Paul Currier was interested in being on a committee as is John Wilson. He would also recommend that Peter Stanley and Richard Lee be asked to serve on the committee. Selectman Bianchi said he would like to serve on the committee as well. This could be productive and keep the cost down.

Selectman Kidder doesn't see the point of having a committee. What could they possibly do? That is why they hired Nobis Engineering. Selectman Bianchi doesn't feel they needed Nobis any longer. He wasn't particularly impressed with their work. He feels they could continue without Nobis.

Chair Rollins understood the Board of Selectmen need to come up with a plan, depending on ultimate costs. She understood Peter Stanley's recommendation to come up with a formal plan, using the work done by Nobis, and forward the plan to DES for them to work together on.

Selectman Kidder doesn't see a reason to do this. She feels they hired a firm to do the work. Based on what was said that day, they did what they were supposed to do. If they get a committee together it will take longer to get to the point they are at already. The committee Selectman Bianchi is suggesting is not comprised of engineers.

Selectman Bianchi said Nobis did what they asked them to do, albeit going a little overboard. He noted that Paul Currier is an engineer and said he understands what needs to be done. He said the more the Town starts paying engineers, the more expensive it will be. Mr. Rainey from DES stressed that the work could be done in-house and with his help. He feels it would be a good way to go instead of continuing with Nobis. Chair Rollins said Mr. Rainey did offer to help; he feels they should proceed with Selectman Bianchi's idea.

IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to form an ad hoc committee to study the closure of the lagoons, formulate a plan, and consult with DES as soon as possible. THE MOTION PASSED. Janet Kidder opposed.

Application for Building Permit

- Barry Wright, Wilmot Center Rd, 065-004-000, Construct a new single family home with attached garage. BP#15-119 APPROVED
- David W. & Sally J. Swartz, 13 Meadow Brook Road, 122-012-000, Garage Addition, BP#15-120 APPROVED
- Ledyard National Bank, 178 County Road, 059-017-000, Remove all siding and trim, replace with vinyl siding and PVC trim on facial windows. BP#15-121 APPROVED
- Dorr Family Farm, LLC, 258 Little Sunapee Road, 046-004-000, Demo of farm house and fill & reseed lot. BP#15-123 APPROVED
- Dennis & Roberta Aufranc, Otterville Road, 056-009-000, Construct a 10x20x8; portable hay enclosure. BP#15-124 APPROVED

- Craig & Deb Langner, 1850 King Hill Road, 128-010-000, Demolition of farmhouse, shed & barn. Site work to include tree removal, stumping and tilling. BP#15-126 APPROVED
- William & Maureen Dietrich, 67 Hayfield Lane, 128-017-000, Construct 16x10 deck, install hot tub, construct 6x8 shed. BP#15-127 APPROVED
- Bruce & Carole Parsons, 76 Bog Road, 106-014-000, Construction of in-ground swimming pool. BP#15-129 APPROVED
- Sarah Schwerdtle McCann, 605 Wilmot Center Road, 053-001-000, Build porch roof over front door. Replace shingle roof on house with metal. New windows and doors in entry. BP# 15-130 APPROVED
- Dan Bruzga, Oliver Bruzger & Company, 299 Main Street, 084-072-000, Closing off 20 inch area between dormers. BP# 15-131 APPROVED

Requests to Use Town Property

- Whipple Hall by Lake Sunapee Region Chamber of Commerce, Sara Colson, on Monday, Nov. 16, 2015 from 7:30am – 11:00am for business/educational
- Whipple Hall Michelle Gosnell, Director of Music KCPA on Friday, December 11, 2015 from 5PM to 9PM. Free Christmas vocal concert open to the public.
- Whipple Hall Michelle Gosnell, Director of Music KCPA on Sunday, December 13, 2015 from 1PM to 6PM. Pictures with Santa, “The Gingerbread Man” play and a Christmas piano concert. Free and open to the public.

Sign Permit Application

- Boundless Grace, 428 Main Street, 085-042-000, Permanent Sign APPROVED
- dbLandscaping, 299 Main Street, 084-072-000, Permanent Sign APPROVED

Other Items to be Signed

- Intent to Cut – Ed Johnson, 1359 Rt 103A, 128-009-000 APPROVED
- Intent to Cut – Deb Langner, 1299 Rt 103A, 128-007 & 010 APPROVED
- Intent to Cut – Laura Davis, 1340 Rt 103A, 127-003-000 APPROVED
- Land Use Change Tax – Bruce Herring, Lakeshore Drive, 036-012-001
- Warrant, Yield Tax Levy – Dorr Family Farms LLC, 1365 Little Sunapee Rd., 046-004 & 060-005
- PSNH/Eversource Pole License #32-1009 Carter Road (3 copies to be signed)
- Birthday cards for employees

**IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to adjourn the meeting.
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Heath, Recording Secretary
Town of New London