



TOWN OF  
NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES  
December 7, 2015**

**PRESENT:**

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

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Bob Brown, Conservation Commission Chair  
Mike Gelcius, Conservation Commission Member  
Terry Dancy, New London resident  
Mark Vernon, Conservation Commission Member  
Pam Perkins, Real Estate Agent  
Steve Ensign, Chair, Board of Firewards  
Kevin Johnson, New London School Board Member  
Cater Bascom, New London School Board Member  
Lucy St. John, Planning & Zoning Administrator  
Ed Andersen, Police Chief  
Jay Lyon, Fire Chief  
Bill Helm, Planning Board Chair  
Richard Lee, Public Works Director  
Casey Biuso, New London resident

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

**Bob Brown, Conservation Commission Chair - Possible land acquisitions**

Mr. Brown said there are three parcels he wants to update the Selectmen on with regards to possible acquisition. Conservation Commission members, Mark Vernon, Mike Gelcius and Terry Dancy (retired member) were there, as well as Pam Perkins, realtor, who is representing one of the parcels.

The Big Hilltop Property is 40 acres in size and adjacent to Clark Lookout. They have been working for a couple of years to negotiate a conservation easement. This plan did not work out but there has recently been some renewed interest with other family members associated with the parcel. They are proposing to subdivide and create two building lots (4 acres in size each), along Davis Hill Road and Route 103A. The asking price is \$150,000 for each lot. The Conservation Commission is discussing the possibility of purchasing the lots and would like the Selectmen's approval to move forward to do so. The price of \$275,000 has been verbally accepted by the owners, who would also deed the right of way to the Town so the lots would be contiguous. This is not an official subdivision yet so as it stands, the property is just one lot of record.

Mr. Brown showed a map showing the parcels in question and how the subdivision is proposed. He said the owners have come back with a "Plan B" and "Plan C" to offer the Town. In the past there were communication issues with the owners and the town including issues with the access road to the Clark Lookout being locked. Recently, an offer has come from the owners to sell the Town not only the two parcels but also the entire Clark Lookout drive for \$350,000, which would give the Town ownership over the access road to the summit. The Conservation Commission hasn't had a chance to meet and discuss this possibility. Lastly, "Plan C" is the opportunity to purchase all 40 acres for \$950,000 which Mr. Brown said is more than three times the assessed value. Ms. Perkins said the owners are willing to include the road and parcels (Plan B) for \$325,000.

Mr. Brown said the entire parcel is assessed at \$297,000 and is in Current Use. He doesn't think an appraisal will come in at \$800,000 but feels the price is firm. He isn't sure the property owners would be willing to negotiate.

Selectman Bianchi asked where this parcel fits with the Conservation Commission's land acquisition plan. Mr. Brown said he has been working on this project for over two years and the person before him for five. Mr. Vernon thinks perhaps Plan B would deter development on the rest of the parcel. Mr. Brown wondered if ownership of the access road would make the Town responsible for keeping it clear in the winter and maintain it throughout the year. There was discussion as to whether the property would be landlocked should the remaining property be developed. Mr. Brown said there is a right of way that could be used.

Ms. Perkins said with 39 acres there is a possibility of cluster building lots all with views of the lake and mountain. That is where the value is, which is considerably more than the assessed value. The owners can build another road to access the remaining property should they decide to sell the current road to the Town. Mr. Brown said he feels the Conservation Commission needs to discuss these options. He feels it important to keep the Selectmen up to date on these issues.

Mr. Brown explained another parcel that is 073-083-000 on Pleasant Street. This is the land where the Kidder Cleveland Clough trail is which is 19.2 acres in size. It is partially under easement now. The original plan was to withhold four acres along Pleasant Street and annex it to another parcel. The plan has changed and the family wants to sell the entire 19.2 acres. There is potential to expand trails, there is the beaver dam issues in that area as well. The property owners have been great, allowing the Town to take necessary measures to remedy the beaver dam situation by implementing a "Beaver Deceiver" which allows the brook to flow regardless of beaver activity.

The price of the parcel is \$117,000. Mr. Brown said most of this land is currently under easement so they will need to determine what it is really worth to them. He showed a map of the property to the Selectmen.

Mr. Brown showed on the map that there are also about 27 acres across the road from this parcel, by Bittersweet which is for sale. It is assessed at \$229,000 and is listed at \$295,000. The owners would like to sell both parcels together. He said perhaps half of the property is buildable and about 10 acres of the property is wetlands. These 27 acres were once reviewed by the Town as a possible building site for a community building/area.

Mr. Brown said he wasn't sure about acquiring both properties, but thinks they would like to move forward with discussion with the owners about the Bittersweet side piece.

Selectman Bianchi said both of these last two parcels have water issues and this should be a consideration of the Conservation Commission. Mr. Brown said he needs to walk the property again.

Mr. Brown said it has been about eight years since their last land acquisition. These opportunities are exciting to consider. He said the Conservation Commission hasn't made a request in the CIP for the past few years because they feel they have enough money in their pot. The Selectmen approved the Conservation proceeding and finding out more information on these possible acquisitions.

#### Carter Bascom & Kevin Johnson, New London School Board Update

Mr. Johnson and Mr. Bascom were there to provide information about the school district budget. Meetings have been going on the past five months. \$40,896,661 is the recommended budget amount for FY2016/2017, this is a 2.06% increase over last year. If three warrant articles pass (including teacher contracts) the increase will be a 3.04%. These figures have been approved by the budget committee and school board. Mr. Johnson said they have gone through three versions of the budget and a lot of work has been done to get the budget down as low as possible. The largest part of the budget is employee costs.

Selectman Bianchi said New London's percentage is the largest in the district. One concern he has heard is that the budget goes up but the student population goes down. He is sure the school board is aware of this, but it is hard to reconcile those numbers. Mr. Johnson said the members on the board are sensitive to this fact. They have to look at many factors that go into developing the budget. Some things they feel are important don't make it into the budget. There is sensitivity about social security actually being at a loss this year with all factors considered. They will see what happens with the employee contract warrant article.

Chair Rollins said she would like to see a pupil count over the last two years and projections over the next five to ten years. Mr. Johnson said this study is being conducted currently.

Selectman Bianchi said the three of them met with the facilities committee and heard that there might be discussions in the future of the formula used to determine the percentage each town pays into the district, based on population and valuation. Mr. Johnson said this topic hasn't been on any of their meeting agendas. He feels this is something the superintendent would bring up to the district.

#### New Business

##### **Note receipt of the proposed Merrimack County 2016 Budget – 3.97% increase in the amount to be raised by taxes (zero increase in 2015)**

Selectman Bianchi said there isn't really anything they can do about this increase. Ms. Hallquist said anyone is welcome to go to the budget meetings where these decisions are made and state their concerns or have questions answered. Selectman Kidder said people can also speak to their State Representatives.

##### **Approve final loan documents from Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund for the town's portion of the Sunapee Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade project: \$4,143,968.30 (\$1,357,629.53 amount forgiven)**

Ms. Hallquist said the first payment was made December 1, 2015. The interest rate is less than predicted.

**IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to approve the final loan documents from Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund for the Town's portion of the Sunapee Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade project, as noted above.  
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Budget Preparation - Finalize the FY2017 budget for submission to Budget Committee.

*Recreation*

Mr. Blewitt said he has gotten prices from “Patsy’s” van rental and bus companies. 14 passenger, shuttle style vans are between \$50,000 and \$55,000 depending if they are used or new. He would like the Town to provide \$15,000 to add to the \$15,000 he received from a grant, and would then take it upon himself to raise the necessary \$20,000 or more to purchase a new van in 2017. He has a letter coming from Nathan Walker (of Walker Automotive) explaining the condition of the van. The main issue with the van is the body; the van is 15 years old. Mr. Blewitt said if they find a good deal on a used van for, perhaps, \$35,000, he would be interested in purchasing it as long as he knows the history of the vehicle. He is not against purchasing a used van.

**IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to put \$15,000 in the Capital Reserve Fund for a Recreation Van.**

Selectman Bianchi said they are already at a 30% increase in the Capital Reserves from last year, without this \$15,000 added in. He’d like to phase this funding in over several years instead of just one. Mr. Blewitt said they could do \$7,500 for two years; he just wants to make sure this is a priority. Selectman Bianchi isn’t in favor of putting all \$15,000 in at once.

**THE MOTION PASSED. Selectman Bianchi was opposed.**

*Executive*

Ms. Hallquist said the only significant difference in the budget for Executive is the \$100,000 for the compensation “pool.” The salaries are left at the amounts they were the previous year. Ms. Johnson said she changed the worker’s compensation 12% from this year’s actual.

Selectman Bianchi said “Executive Wages” includes part-time wages and wondered why this wasn’t together with the other part-time line. Ms. Hallquist noted that the “wages” line was for the office staff and the part-time line is for the recording secretary. Even though the Office Assistant position is now part-time, it still remains in the “wages” line and was not moved to the part-time line. Selectman Bianchi said the front desk help increased by 20% and is 50 hours/week. He prefers to go back to a 40 hour week. Ms. Hallquist said having two part-time people takes more time to do the same work. One person at full-time can do more work. Having two part-time employees is still cheaper than having one full time person. Selectman Bianchi said this is just another step in increasing the budget. Ms. Hallquist said when the full-time employee left, she agreed to try part-time help. In the future, they may require even more time than they are using right now; the Town is still better served from a budgeting standpoint at having two at 25 hours than one full-time.

Selectman Bianchi said in the past two years the part-time help has increased and there are more requests for part-time help in Planning and Zoning. He doesn’t see the need for the extra ten hours. Ms. Hallquist said having employees working 50 hours per week serves the Town better than when two people shared 40 hours. Selectman Bianchi said the concept of hiring two employees for 50 hours a week was discussed but they never voted on it. He thinks it should go back to 40 hours/week.

Chair Rollins doesn’t agree with Selectman Bianchi. She feels the employee study will be important to help the Board decide if they have the right configuration for the work load they have. This will help them determine the efficacy in full-time staff. Selectman Kidder agrees with Chair Rollins.

Selectman Bianchi said he is against the \$100,000 compensation pool.

Chair Rollins suggests that the Selectmen stay at the \$6,000 amount (\$2,000/year per selectman). Selectman Kidder said she disagrees. Not only does she take minutes at the Recreation meetings, she also drives a lot to get to meetings, gives many hours of her time, etc. and feels that an increased compensation is warranted.

Selectman Bianchi said he understood but wanted to make a motion to the contrary:

**IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to keep the Selectmen's salary at \$6,000 for the 2017 budget. THE MOTION PASSED. Janet Kidder was opposed.**

Chair Rollins asked about Town Meeting expenses. There was an increase in costs which were attributed to chair rentals and the sound system rental.

Chair Rollins said office supplies seem to be separate in each part of the budget. She wonders if they could somehow reduce these costs by purchasing together. Ms. Johnson said they all order from Staples.

**IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to level fund the office supplies fund for \$2,000 as it was in 2016. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) to decrease the office help from 50 to 40 hours per week.**

There was no second to this motion.

**IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to approve the Executive bottom line budget of \$377,163. THE MOTION PASSED. Peter Bianchi was opposed.**

#### *Election, Registration & Vital Statistics*

**IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to put the Town Clerk Stationary line back to the \$300 amount as in 2016 and printing ballots at \$1,300 as in 2016 bringing the bottom line to \$69,485. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### *Finance*

Selectman Bianchi asked why the postage was going up. Ms. Johnson said the rates keep increasing. Ms. Hallquist observed that usage has gone up as well. The Budget Committee cut it last year and it used to be \$15,000. They try to use electronic means as much as possible, but some things the Town is required to send via US Mail, such as tax bills.

It was asked about the advertising lines. It was noted that this was for the entire town to advertise closings, meetings, and keeping people informed of things they need to know. It is pricey.

Chair Rollins questioned the office supplies line which came up again. She recommends bringing the line down to \$2,500 from \$3,000. Selectman Bianchi agreed. Selectman Bianchi recommends bringing the postage down to \$13,000. Chair Rollins agreed.

Chair Rollins feels the Registry of Deeds amount should be brought back to \$250. Selectman Bianchi agreed. Selectman Bianchi recommends going back to \$750 for the mortgage research. Chair Rollins suggests moving the Office Supplies line back to \$400.

**IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to approve the bottom line for Finance of \$258,243. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

*Reassessment of Property*

Selectman Bianchi said New London and Sunapee pay a portion of the Assessor's salary and they are paid from the Town of Newbury. Ms. Hallquist agreed. Selectman Bianchi asked what Mr. Bernaiche's salary is. Ms. Hallquist said she didn't know off the top of her head but knew it was over \$100,000. She added that the Town of Newbury is on the calendar year and New London is on the fiscal year. Therefore, the amount in the 2017 budget is a best guess. It could go up or down depending on what happens with any increase or decrease in the wages for the assessors. The assessing services budget includes more than salary, such as trainings, equipments, computers, etc. She feels the figure presented is a good educated guess. She would not recommend cutting it.

**IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to approve the budget for Reassessment of Property as presented. THE MOTION PASSED. Peter Bianchi was opposed.**

*Legal*

Chair Rollins noted the Town currently has three tax cases in Superior Court. Ms. Hallquist said cases generally settle out of court but one never knows what will happen. The amount recommended is a best guess. She didn't think it would be under \$25,000 but would likely be closer to the \$48,000 requested. Ms. Hallquist said they have already spent \$4,900 this year. Timing is another issue and will determine when and which fiscal year the money is spent.

The animal rescue fee is for kenneling stray dogs. They charge \$25/night and can charge the town for 7 nights.

**IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to approve the budget for Legal, as presented. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

*Personnel Administration*

Selectman Bianchi asked if the "Leave Time Buyout" was an estimate. Ms. Hallquist answered in the affirmative. Selectman Bianchi asked if they anticipated anyone leaving by June 30<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Hallquist said she was not aware of anyone planning to leave in the current fiscal year. She and Ms. Johnson worked together on determining these figures. There are two people who may potentially retire in FY2017. On the assumption that these two people do not use any of their leave time and retire in 2017, this fund will cover the leave time buyout.

**IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to approve the Personnel Administration budget, as presented. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

*Planning and Zoning*

**IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) to remove the Code Enforcement Officer position from the Planning & Zoning budget.**

Selectman Bianchi said the job description for the Planning & Zoning Administrator includes code enforcement. He doesn't see the need to add another \$16,000 part-time position and feels there are enough people who work for the Town who could perform the code enforcement compliance duties.

Bill Helm, Planning Board Chair, said the Town of New London has less help in this area than the other two neighboring towns. The Town has a college, hospital, four lakes, and available land for development. Lack of enforcement of the Town's regulations is a major complaint in town. Selectman Bianchi said that the previous Zoning Administrator worked four days/week and did all of this work. Mr. Helm said at that time the Town was also paying for a Town Planner through the Upper Valley Regional Planning Commission. Additional work was being done by outside sources. Selectman Bianchi said Mr. McWilliams (previous Town Planner) left several years before Ms. St. John (Planning and Zoning Administrator) came on board. Peter Stanley (previous Planning & Zoning Administrator) did all of the work and saved the Town money.

Mr. Helm advised that this is not the place in the budget to make cuts; he realizes that Selectman Bianchi wants to save money. Selectman Bianchi said he feels all of this work can be accomplished by current staff. Mr. Helm said the work is not currently being done by the staff. Selectman Bianchi said this is another issue. Ms. Hallquist said another way to look at this is to revise their fee structure. They can increase fees for permits so that the properties getting the inspections will be covering some of the additional help in Planning and Zoning. She added that New London has significant property value (a billion dollars) and spends less than 40 hours/week on Planning and Zoning services when you consider that the fulltime person must also attend meetings and trainings which takes away from available office time. There are people who come into the office with questions or need help from Ms. St. John at all times of the day. She doesn't currently have the time to go out into the field as often as she should be for adequate enforcement. Ms. Hallquist said she provided a proposed job description for a code enforcement position to the Selectmen. She knows that a lot of people in town want someone to help with code enforcement. This person would work under Ms. St. John and Ms. Hallquist.

Selectman Bianchi said the Town does very little as far as enforcing regulations and didn't think it was a good use of \$16,000. Better allocation of time and duties could alleviate some of these problems. When Ms. St. John was hired and interviewed along with the other applicants, it was made clear that it was a one person job. He thinks having a code enforcement officer will add another layer of bureaucracy before the citizens and doesn't think it will amount to any good.

**The motion was not seconded.**

Chair Rollins wonders about the office supply line that was way over budget. It was noted this was for laptops for meetings. It was recommended to move this back down to \$100. Chair Rollins said Travel and Meals should go back to \$300. Chair Rollins asked about the part-time secretary. There are separate lines for the Planning & Zoning meetings.

**IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to approve \$109,927 for the Planning & Zoning budget. THE MOTION PASSED. Peter Bianchi was opposed.**

*General Government Buildings*

Selectman Bianchi thinks if they level fund heating fuel and electricity it will save over six thousand dollars.

**IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to bring the lines for heating fuel and electricity to what was funded in FY2016, to total \$185,245.**

Ms. Hallquist asked for clarification if the vote was also to reduce the transfer station electricity to the current budget level, the Board confirmed the transfer station electricity was included in the motion.

Selectman Bianchi asked if the Clock Repair Fund needed to be funded. Chief Lyon said it does. He has used his ladder truck to clean and paint it. The clock needs repair. It was noted that there is a person who comes to maintain the clock every year. This item would be revisited once Jim Perkins, Town Archivist, could get an estimate on what it would cost to repair the clock.

Chair Rollins asked for a vote on the motion.

**THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

*Cemetery*

Selectman Bianchi noted this line went up \$3,700 for grounds-keeping supplies, including a lawn mower. Mr. Lee said the zero turn mower will not work on Old Main Street or West Part Cemeteries. The tractor they want to get is \$1,699 at Lowes. They also plan to purchase a trimmer.

**IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to approve the cemetery budget, as presented, for \$28,555.00. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

*Insurance Not Otherwise Allocated*

**IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to approve the Insurance Not Otherwise Allocated budget, as presented, for \$96,603.00. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

*Advertising and Regional Associations*

**IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to approve the Advertising and Regional Association budget, as presented, for \$18,352.00. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

*Police*

Selectman Bianchi said the only big change in the Police budget is the cruiser (\$36,000), which had been put into the operating budget instead of Capital Reserves. There is a \$3,000 increase for dues and subscriptions. Chief Andersen noted that this is mostly for one of his officers to join a special unit (Central New Hampshire Special Operations Unit) that is highly trained in situations such as active shooter scenarios. There are other participants in this unit in neighboring towns. Having members of departments in neighboring towns train together is invaluable in situations that would warrant towns to come together in an emergency. In the past, an officer from New London was part of this unit but he has since left the department; the Chief now has an officer interesting in participating in the unit.

Selectman Bianchi said at some point the Town will need to hear about the K-9 study. It was noted that the deadline for the report from the committee is due in January. There was discussion as to where possible expenses from this initiative would be placed.

Chair Rollins asked about miscellaneous fund. Chief said they need to purchase chairs to go with the new tables they purchased for the conference room area. After the chairs are purchased, Chief Andersen would like to purchase an overhead projector for the training room.

**IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) to reduce the miscellaneous line from \$2,000 to \$500.**

Selectman Kidder said other things that come from that line are towing charges and meals for defendants, newspaper advertising and unanticipated items.

**There was no second to Selectman Bianchi's motion.**

**IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to approve the Police Department budget, as presented, at \$1,012,601.00. THE MOTION PASSED. Peter Bianchi was opposed.**

***Fire Department***

Selectman Bianchi asked why the Equipment Repair and Maintenance has gone up so much. Chief Lyon said this is due to the needed replacement of hydraulic hoses, at \$8,510. There are four, 100' hydraulic hoses. The other increase is for the flow testing of the SCBA (25 packs at \$50 each). The Lifepack 15 service charge is \$1,428 per year.

Chair Rollins asked about the training line. Chief Lyon said they have a high turnover and also have several firefighters signed up to take advanced classes. He tries to have trainings in-house to get discounts in training costs.

Selectman Bianchi said the Office Supplies line went up \$750. Chief Lyon said they are looking to replace a computer that was purchased in 2007. Selectman Bianchi noted that the Fire Department went up 8%. Chief Lyon said this is their operating budget and should go down next year. Compared with neighboring towns, New London's budget is lower.

**IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to approve the Fire Department budget, as presented, for \$364,700. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

***Firewards***

**IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to approve the Firewards budget, as presented, for \$540.00. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

***Emergency Management***

Selectman Bianchi identified that the budget was up \$400. Ms. Hallquist said this is to purchase a flat screen TV for the conference room, which is also the emergency operations center. The TV could also be used for the Planning Board and other boards during their meetings.

**IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to approve the Emergency Management budget, as presented, for \$6,300.00. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

***Dispatch Services***

Selectman Bianchi noticed that the budget for Equipment Repair and Maintenance is down \$8,000. Chief Andersen said that this will appear in the Capital Reserve. The equipment is brand new and he does not expect to use funds for repair next year. Ms. Johnson thought some of the funds in this line were used for maintenance contracts. It was also noted that the new recorder (purchased last year) had a maintenance contract which came from this account.

**IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to approve the Dispatch Services budget, as presented, for \$371,213.00.  
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

***Highway Administration***

Chair Rollins asked about the Office Supplies line and whether it can come down. Mr. Lee said he was trying to keep the funds at \$2,400 in the event he or Heather would need new computers. A computer and laptop they have are five years old.

**IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to approve the budget for Highway Administration, as presented, for \$879,395.00.  
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

***Highway and Streets***

Selectman Kidder said last year at the budget hearings, people were upset that more roads weren't being paved. Mr. Lee said he has increased the requests for paving, but they are appropriating less now than back in 2013.

Selectman Bianchi asked about diesel fuel. He thinks this line could come down. Mr. Lee said he has read recently that there is a chance that the price could go back up to where it was last year. He warned that the price is volatile and they are planning far into the future.

Selectman Kidder asked if replacing the culverts on Brookside would impact the paving. Mr. Lee said it wouldn't.

**IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to approve the budget for Highway and Streets, as presented, for \$525,000.00.  
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

***Street Lighting***

**IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to approve the budget for Street Lighting, as presented, for \$17,000.00. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

***Transfer Station***

Selectman Bianchi said 70% of the increase in this budget is for Conferences and Training. Mr. Lee said the Solid Waste Committee asked him to put this amount in in the event they would need a consultant to come look at the transfer station. He said it could go into a different line item if necessary.

**IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) moved to level fund Conferences and Training from 2015.**

**The motion was not seconded.**

Selectman Bianchi asked about the \$1,000 increase for signs. Mr. Lee said the Solid Waste Committee has suggested having new signs put up at the transfer station. The signs inside look pretty ratty. They are required to have a specific 3'x5' sign posted inside and out, per State regulation. Mr. Lee agrees that the signs should be replaced and that a consultant should study the Town's transfer station. He agrees with the Solid Waste Committee and their recommendations and that is why he included the funding in his budget request.

**IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to approve the budget for the Transfer Station, as presented, for \$395,672.00. THE MOTION PASSED. Peter Bianchi was opposed.**

The Board took a brief recess to allow members and attendees to use the restrooms and to get beverages.

*Solid Waste Cleanup*

**IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to approve the budget for Solid Waste Cleanup, as presented for \$21,000.**

Selectman Bianchi said he has a problem with the landfill monitoring figure of \$17,000. He wonders why this has gone up. Ms. Hallquist said FY2015 actuals show the rates are going up. This is a best guess and they must routinely monitor the landfill and stump dump by law. Selectman Bianchi asked if this was put out to bid. Ms. Hallquist said it has not but they could; it has not been put out to bid for this service in the four years she has been with the Town of New London.

*Health Administration*

**IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to approve the budget for Health Administration, as presented, for \$5,349.00. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

*Health Agencies*

Ms. Hallquist said the Hospital is adding 2% every year. In the past, they billed the towns by how many runs made to each. She wasn't sure if billing was still being done this way. Selectman Bianchi said the hospital also billed the towns to make up for their losses in the ambulance service. He asked Ms. Hallquist to check with the hospital to see if the towns were still covering losses and/or if they are calculating their fees by runs. He feels people should know what they are paying for. Ms. Hallquist recalled at Town Meeting Don Griffin presented information to voters regarding the requested increase in ambulance billing; it was presented that the hospital bills the towns to keep the service running and so the hospital doesn't take a loss. Selectman Bianchi still would like Ms. Hallquist to find out for sure from the hospital. Chief Lyon said that the increase in services, bad debt, and historical issues are the reasoning of why the cost has gone up. Chair Rollins said it was reasonable for the hospital to provide a breakdown of the costs to the town.

**IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to approve the budget for the Health Agencies, as presented, for \$258,230.00. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

*Welfare Administration*

**IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to approve the budget for Welfare Administration, as presented, for \$3,345.00. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

*Intergovernmental Welfare*

**IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to approve the budget for Intergovernmental Welfare, as presented, for \$6,000.00. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

*Welfare Vendor Payments*

**IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to approve the budget for Welfare Vendor Payments, as presented, for \$17,500.00.  
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

*Parks and Recreation*

**IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to approve the budget for Parks and Recreation, as presented, for \$158,796.00**

Selectman Bianchi said he would like to reduce the Bucklin & Elkins Beach equipment back to \$1,000 and cut the Special Events down to \$1,000. Selectman Kidder said the beach line increase is to have the bathrooms cleaned professionally, which she feels is acceptable and is a health issue. They will be cleaned twice a week professionally. The bathrooms will still be maintained daily by the beach staff.

Selectman Kidder said Special Events line is what pays for the Easter Egg Hunt, Strawberry Festival, and the Haunted Walk; these are all programs that are free to the children and families in the area and are well-liked and attended. Selectman Bianchi thinks these expenses could be paid for by the Revolving Fund. Ms. Johnson said expenses for these events do come from the Revolving Fund, in part. The Special Events line covers the rest.

Chair Rollins called for a vote. **THE MOTION PASSED. Peter Bianchi was opposed.**

*Library Expenses*

**IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to approve the budget for Library Expenses, as presented, for \$472,825.00.  
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

*Patriotic Purposes*

**IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to approve the budget for Patriotic Purposes, as presented, for \$300.00.  
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

*Other Culture and Recreation*

**IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to approve the budget for Other Cultural and Recreation, as presented, for \$1,000.00.  
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

*Conservation Administration*

**IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to approve the budget for Conservation Administration, as presented, for \$15,897.00  
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

*Energy Committee*

**IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to approve the budget for Energy Committee, as presented, for \$989.00. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

*Other Conservation*

**IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to approve the budget for Other Conservation, as presented, for \$26,800.00**

When asked, Mr. Lee said his department helps the Garden Club from time to time with cutting down a tree or mulching, but the funds they are requesting are to get help with digging out shrubs and other more difficult, time consuming work that they would like to do. Selectman Bianchi feels that the Garden Club's presentation to the Budget Committee sounded like they didn't really have any specific projects in mind, rather, that they would find things to do with the money if it was awarded to them. He said they also don't know if this will be a one-time request or one that will come in yearly. He agrees that they do a wonderful job in town, but wasn't sure of their need.

Chair Rollins called for a vote. **THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

*Bonded Debt Principal*

**IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to approve the budget for Bonded Debt Principal, as presented, for \$291,961.00.  
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

*Bonded Debt Interest*

**IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to approve the budget for Bonded Debt Interest, as presented, for \$72,294.00.  
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

*Debt Service Transfer*

**IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to approve the budget for Debt Service Transfer, as presented, for \$1.00.  
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

*Capital Outlay Vehicles – Machinery*

**IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to approve the budget for Capital Outlay Vehicles – Machinery, as presented, for \$252,694.00  
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

*Capital Outlay – Buildings*

**IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to approve the budget for Capital Outlay – Buildings, as presented, for \$38,000.00.  
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

*Capital Outlay – Improvements*

**IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to approve the budget for Capital Outlay – Improvements, as presented, for \$12, 500.00.  
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

*Transfers to Capital Reserve*

It was noted that this section was already voted on by the Selectmen. The total is \$748,510.00 (including the \$15,000 for the recreation van approved earlier in the meeting and excluding the sewer RFP).

***Expendable Trust Fund***

This is a fund that was set up in the past when the Town was moving to the fiscal year. It has a zero balance and no funds will be added.

***Sewer Fund – General Government Buildings***

Selectman Bianchi noted that all lines starting with “02” are paid for by the users of the sewer users.

**IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to approve the budget for Sewer Fund – General Government Buildings, as presented, for \$53,200.00.**

**THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

***Sewage Collection and Disposal***

**IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to approve the budget for Sewage Collection and Disposal, as presented, for \$640,399.00.**

**THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

***Sewer – Bonded Debt Principal***

**IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to approve the budget for the Sewer – Bonded Debt Principal, as presented, for \$121,181.00.**

**THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

***Sewer – Bonded Debt Interest***

**IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to approve the budget for the Sewer – Bonded Debt Interest, as presented, for \$69,592.00.**

**THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

***Sewer – Capital Outlay – Vehicles, Machinery***

***Sewer – Capital Outlay – Buildings***

Both of these lines were zero and would remain so.

**Town Administrator’s Report – Kim Hallquist, Town Administrator**

Ms. Hallquist asked if the Selectmen wanted to plan on a flat increase for each employee (COLA) when taking into consideration the salary study and the \$100,000 pool for possible increases. Selectman Bianchi said no. The Board noted that no flat salary increase would be approved at this time, the Board will await the results of the salary study.

Chair Rollins said Ms. Hallquist feels they could get the RFP for the Pleasant Lake Dam engineering could go out that week. She contacted Newmarket who did one in October and found they received just three requests. She hopes they receive more.

A refund from the Little Sunapee Protective Association arrived for \$174.76. She also noted that the Trumbull-Nelson schedule was in. Selectman Bianchi said they were supposed to be done in November. They aren’t even going to start the bandstand work until April and no indication of when the cupola at Whipple is going to be done. He would be happy to have them come back to paint the Academy Building but get someone else to do the bandstand work and the cupola on Whipple. Their rationale for choosing Trumbull-Nelson was that they had a big crew and could get the work done quickly. He feels this hasn’t been done. He feels they had plenty of time to get the work done.

Ms. Hallquist said she has been talking with Frank Anzalone during the project and he is happy with the work Trumbull Nelson is doing. Mr. Anzalone realizes they are behind but it is because they found additional work that had to be done. Ms. Hallquist said she didn't recall anyone saying they would be working on both the Academy Building and the bandstand at the same time. They will be going to go look at the cupola at Whipple Hall but she isn't sure if they will or will not tend to that project this winter or if they will wait until spring. Ms. Hallquist noted that she has been happy with the professional way in which Trumbull-Nelson has been working and that they have been very accommodating to the needs of the office staff and visitors.

Chair Rollins asked if there was an update on Bill Helm and Mark Kaplan meeting with the school board regarding the 1941 Building and site. Ms. Hallquist said December 17<sup>th</sup> they are planning to meet with the School Board.

#### Committee Meetings & Reports

##### *Sewer Lagoon ad hoc Committee*

Selectman Bianchi said the lagoon committee met a week ago. Richard Lee, Peter Stanley, Paul Currier, John Wilson and himself met. They had a good discussion and a contact from the State to relay their plans to. They will wait to hear from Mike Rainey at the State to see where they go from this point. Selectman Bianchi said they have come up with a tentative proposal which includes working on one lagoon at a time, pump some sludge into the wastewater treatment plant, stockpile material removed, stabilize the area for vehicles to drive over, and keep working on one lagoon at a time. They will wait to hear if this proposal is satisfactory to the State. He feels it was a good meeting and a lot of good information was put forth.

##### *Planning Board*

Selectman Kidder said that there were some tree cuttings, approval of Appendix A, Section A, which are the off-street parking regulations.

##### *Budget Committee*

Selectman Bianchi said the Budget Committee met the previous Wednesday evening. They went over and voted on the non-profits, and reviewed the capital improvement information. They will meet again the following Wednesday evening at 7pm.

#### Approval of Minutes of November 16, 2015

**IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to approve the minutes of November 16, 2015, as circulated. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### Upcoming Meetings & Special Events

- Next Regular Selectmen's Meeting – December 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 PM
- Budget Committee – Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM
- Planning Board – Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM
- Conservation Commission – Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 AM

#### Application for Building Permit

- Colby -Sawyer College, 541 Main Street, (085-033-000). Install a wireless communications facility. BP# 15-143 **APPROVED.**
- W. Michael Todd, 159 Old Main Street, (045-004-000). Add 20'x24' addition to existing barn & replace garage doors. BP# 15-138 **APPROVED.**

- Williams Woods, 101 Murray Pond Road, (045-004-000). Roof mounted solar array. BP# 15-141 **APPROVED.**
- Kathryn Walker Trust, 1167 County Road, (117-001-000). Build new 26'x26' detached garage. BP# 15-140 **APPROVED.**

Requests to Use Town Property

- Sydney Crook Conference Room by Sheldon Boege for Adventures in Learning – Tuesdays, April 19, 26, May 3, 10 from 9am to 12pm and Fridays, April 22, 29, May 6, 13, 20, 27 from 1pm to 4pm for Educational classes

Other Items to be Signed

- Tax Abatement Form for Noel & Cheryl Weinstein, 324 Stoney Brook Road (137-013-000) for amount of \$3,093.09 for tax year 2015.
- Release of Lien, Robert Byron Brown, Admin. of the Estate of Elizabeth Anne Brown, 316 Bog Road, (106-011-000)
- Warrant Yield Tax Levy for \$3,042.89, Marilyn Kidder, 139 Knights Hill Road, (109-009-000)

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:35am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Heath, Recording Secretary  
Town of New London