



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES September 6, 2011

PRESENT:

Mark Kaplan, Chair, Board of Selectmen
Tina Helm, Selectman
Peter Bianchi, Selectman
Kimberly Hallquist, Town Administrator

ALSO PRESENT:

Jay Lyon, Fire Chief
Doug MacMichael, New London Resident
Bruce Hudson & Renate Kannler, New London Residents
Merry Armentrout, *The Intertown Record*

Chair Kaplan called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. The first item on the agenda was the approval of minutes from August 22nd.

IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Tina Helm) to approve the minutes of August 22nd, as amended. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The minutes will be corrected to reflect the proper spelling of Michael Cornelio's name.

Old/Pending Business

Pleasant Street sidewalks: Mr. Bianchi understands that Richard Lee (Public Works Director) is projecting that the sidewalk project will be completed by the end of the year. He asked that Mr. Lee submit an update to the Board on the project.

Lamson Lane project – Mr. Bianchi wondered when this would be started. He noted that FEMA ran out of money and they had made a statement that previous money promised may not be fulfilled because new projects for human life and safety would come first. Lamson Lane was to be done with FEMA money and he wondered if they'd have to put it off for a year. Ms. Hallquist said she had a call into the offices at FEMA and is waiting for a reply.

Tracy Library – Mr. Bianchi noted his concerns with recent events at the library. They had the ribbon-cutting on Monday for the new entrance-way; however the Library has a roof leak and the basement flooded again after the heavy rains from tropical storm Irene. They will have to rip up the carpets all over again. Mr. Bianchi reminded those at the meeting that the Town just bonded \$370,000 for work to be done at the library, and explained that the Library received a gift of \$25,000 from a local bank to finish the work. He thought the Town should be concerned that whenever it rains and the power goes out, the basement will flood because they have no back-ups for their sump pumps. He wasn't sure how much the insurance company would pay for this, and noted that the downstairs of the library is supposed to be closed for over a month. Mr. Bianchi thought they should have a conversation with the library trustees to find out what they will plan for the future to hopefully avoid these kinds of issues from reoccurring.

Chair Kaplan said that with or without the refurbishment, the basement would have flooded anyway. They had heavy rain and no power so the sump pumps stopped working. If they want to maintain the building, they will need to do something about a generator to keep the sump pumps going.

Mr. Bianchi said that there were other options to consider besides a generator. He knew of battery-backup systems that could possibly be used. Chair Kaplan noted that generators could be sized to take care of the specific job that needs to be done. Ms. Helm noted that while the library trustees have responsibility for the Library, she felt that it *was* the Board's responsibility as stewards of the town, who recommended and approved the bond, to get the trustees in to bring the Board of Selectmen up to speed. Ms. Hallquist agreed to call the library to set up a meeting with the trustees to find out what their plans for the future were so that this sort of thing doesn't happen again.

Paved Roads – Mr. Bianchi wondered if anyone knew what roads would be paved this year and when they would be done. Ms. Hallquist said she would get a report from Mr. Lee.

New Business

Dick Leach's Offer – It was noted that resident, Dick Leach, has offered to put up a flag at the town office building. They were not sure how large it would be and who would deal with taking it down and putting it up, so as to abide by the rules and regulations associated with having a flag on town property. Chair Kaplan said that he wasn't sure how involved Mr. Leach wanted to get, but thought perhaps the Police or Fire Departments would be able to help with it. Mr. Bianchi said that they needed more details on where it would be placed, who would maintain it, and who would be responsible if the flag rips or tears or needed to be replaced. He thought it was a wonderful idea but was concerned that while it was a good thought, they would like to know who would be following through with it. Chief Lyon said that at the station they used to raise and lower their flag each day but changed to having an illuminated flag, as that could be left up all the time. He offered that they go through between two and three flags per year and they also have a smaller flag which is put up in inclement weather. Chair Kaplan asked Ms. Hallquist to talk to Mr. Leach to find out the details.

Seamans Road – Chair Kaplan said he had someone ask him if passing was allowed on Seamans Road, as people had been seen doing so. He asked Ms. Hallquist to check with Chief Seastrand about perhaps the need for a "No-Passing" sign on the road. He also thought if she could call Mr. Lee to see if they would be striping the road, as stripes on the road would be another sign that passing wasn't allowed.

NLFD Ladder Truck – Chief Lyon said that during tropical storm Irene, they had a garage fire to extinguish. Also, the ladder truck is out of commission due to a bearing that had some catastrophic failure. He wanted to let the Board know that the cost to repair the truck will be \$5,000 - \$8,000. He hopes they will receive some FEMA funding as a result of the storm, but if not, there is a Capital Reserve Fund which was established for this type of repair. The materials for repair are on their way and Valley Fire Equipment in Bradford will be doing the repairs.

Mr. Bianchi said that the Board of Selectmen is agents to expend the repair fund so he would need to bring the bill before the board. Chief Lyon said that they would submit it for approval should FEMA not pay for it. Ms. Hallquist said there was \$12,000 in the repair/refurbishment fund that can be expended.

Ambulance Study – Ms. Helm asked Chief Lyon about the ambulance study and why there was such a delay. Chief Lyon said that from the time he started filling in, he has only been to a couple meetings. They are still at the information gathering stage. He has talked to Donna Nashawaty from Sunapee about the study and he hasn't heard back from her. They are collecting the information from the various towns served by New London Hospital as well as FAST Squads and the general public to get a feel for what the

communities are looking for. They had hoped to have a report by the end of August to enable proper planning for the budgetary season. Ms. Helm asked if there was anything they, as a board, could do to support him and Ms. Hallquist and to move the study along. Chief Lyon said perhaps contacting the person in charge would light a fire. Ms. Hallquist said she felt everyone knew that New London was serious about getting this study done based on follow-up by herself and by Chief Lyon. Mr. Bianchi felt that MRI should have had this done a long time ago. He was disappointed in how it was coming along. He thought they should write them a strongly-worded letter to tell them about their lack of progress on the study. Ms. Helm was in favor of them writing a letter to MRI.

Chair Kaplan asked that Ms. Hallquist first contact Terry LeBlanc of New London Hospital to see what their thoughts were and also make a phone call to Don Jutton of MRI, which may eliminate the need to send a letter out.

IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Tina Helm) to allow Ms. Hallquist to draft a letter to be sent to MRI, which will be approved by Board of Selectmen and sent out. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Hurricane Update

Mr. Bianchi thought they were fortunate that the town fared so well. He did note that neither of the generators at the Town building or at Whipple Hall worked. They both had to be fixed to get them going. He thought it imperative they have Mr. Lee or someone from the town check the generators on a regular basis. On the day of the storm, Mr. Lee had said that they didn't work because they are water-cooled engines and they were low on anti-freeze. Mr. Bianchi opined that this was inexcusable. Chair Kaplan said they thought there was a maintenance agreement for the generators. Mr. Bianchi felt they should have a good weekly maintenance log to make sure this doesn't happen again.

Chief Lyon said that there are alarms on the generators to indicate low fluids. Ms. Hallquist said that the generator at the town office went on for about 30 seconds and shut down. They determined they should get a maintenance contract if they don't already have one, and also find out what happened. Chief Lyon said that the town did have a maintenance contract for the generators.

Kearsarge Community Center

Mr. Bianchi said he and Ms. Hallquist were at a recent Community Center meeting to see if there were any interested parties who wanted to see a Community Center established at the former middle school. Mr. Bianchi noted that he has since resigned from their board because it was difficult for some to understand that he was not there as the Board of Selectmen, as he was only one member, and that his stated position was that the Town should not give any up-front money for the project. He noted that among others, Mr. Denning (Recreation Director) was there, as were some Outing Club people, and citizens from Warner and Sutton as well. He personally hopes the project gets off the ground.

Ms. Helm said it might be productive if the three of them (BOS) talked about the center from their vantage point. It may be that there is a lot of support for this in town and in some way it may be their responsibility to bring it to light for people to see. She wasn't sure but thought they should talk more about it at some point. Mr. Bianchi said it is important to get the information out to the public about it. When talking about it at the CAC meeting, many of the people had no idea what was going on. Mr. Bianchi said that at this time at the infancy stage of the project, he didn't believe that the Town should support it financially. Perhaps down the road they could, as they do with COA.

Jim Wheeler, Budget Committee, request to address CAC Meeting

Mr. Wheeler has requested to change the Budget Committee meeting with the CAC from the November meeting to the October meeting.

Mr. Bianchi said that Mr. Wheeler wanted to let people know that the general budget process was starting and to welcome any input people wanted to give at the CAC meeting. Ms. Helm felt that it might be putting the cart before the horse a bit, but as long as it could be an exercise in listening to the CAC members and their wishes, she was open to the idea. Ideally, she would prefer Mr. Wheeler coming to the CAC a bit later to allow for the BOS to deal with their process first. Chair Kaplan said that if the Budget Committee wants to query the CAC for ideas, that was fine with him. Mr. Bianchi said that Mr. Wheeler doesn't want to present any budget details to the group. Wheeler wants the 10/15 meeting and no one had a problem with that. Ms. Hallquist said she would contact Mr. Wheeler to let him know that his requested date of appearance at the CAC had been approved.

With regard to the upcoming budget process, Ms. Helm felt that the Board of Selectmen should give the department heads some direction as soon as possible as to what they should be thinking about with regards to their budgets. Chief Lyon agreed that last year, this was very beneficial. He has already submitted a preliminary budget due to the schedule of the board of fire wards. The Board noted that they would take the issue of direction for department heads at their next meeting, September 19th. Chair Kaplan asked that current budget reports be given to the Board in advance of that meeting.

Regional Planning Commission – Ms. Hallquist said she got a call from the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission who will be putting on some training sessions for local zoning and planning officials. They are doing this because the State OEP has no money to conduct trainings. She has been asked to present a session on Oct. 29th on Board of Adjustment decision-making process. The Board of Selectmen didn't have a problem with her participating in this event.

Tax Collector's Reminder Letter – Mr. Bianchi said that tax collectors' recent letter stating who had liens on their properties was confusing and understood that many people have been calling saying that they paid their taxes and wondered why they were getting a letter. The letter was to serve as a reminder but at first glance, some thought it was a notice of lien. Mr. Bianchi thought this kind of letter should be reviewed before it is sent out. Ms. Hallquist said that there probably wouldn't be another letter of this type going out because it was the result of the new billing process to quarterly payments. The tax collector was trying to help people out by reminding them about the October payment. Going forward people will be aware of the billing system and no reminder will be necessary.

Deeding of Properties

Ms. Hardy, Tax Collector, prepared a memorandum for the Board regarding two properties that could be tax dedeed, but which she recommends the Board wait on accepting deeds because she felt that the payments would be forthcoming. Ms. Hallquist noted that she spoke with Ms. Hardy on the two properties and is in agreement with Ms. Hardy's assessment of the cases. The Board agreed and will look at the issue in 30 days to see whether further action is warranted.

Committee Meetings/Reports – There were none.

Joint BOS Meeting – Ms. Helm noted that she thought there was a Joint BOS Meeting coming up soon. This is a meeting of the boards of selectmen of the towns in the school district, where they discuss issues common to the towns. Ms. Hallquist said she would contact some of the other administrators to see if a meeting was upcoming and if it was, where it would be held.

CAC Meeting – September 10th – New London Hospital representatives would be present. Chair Kaplan suggested having them bring the latest word from MRI on the ambulance study to the meeting.

Planning Board – At their next meeting (the following Tuesday) the Planning Board would be finalizing both the Land Use and Implementation Chapters.

IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Tina Helm) to enter nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A: 3, II (a) to discuss a personnel matter. Roll call vote: Chair Kaplan – yes, Mr. Bianchi – yes; Ms. Helm – yes. The Board entered nonpublic session at 7:05 PM.

The Board resumed the public meeting at 7:13 PM.

The Board review and approved the following:

Application for Building Permit:

- Igor & Natalie Paul, 116 Knollwood Road (Map & Lot 035-052-000) build new 3 bedroom house with 2 car garage and in ground pool – Permit #11-083 – Approved.
- David & Karen Demers, 624 Bunker Road (Map & Lot 076-029-000) erosion plantings & stone work – Permit #11-084 – Approved.
- Sugar River Bank, 196 Newport Road (Map & Lot 059-027-000) repair and shorten overhang – Permit #11-085 – Approved.

Application for sign permit:

- COA – sign at information booth for October 8th & 9th, 2011 yard sale at NLOC – Approved.
- NL Historical Society, sign at information booth for September 17th, November 9th, December 4th – Approved.

Application for use of Whipple Memorial Town Hall:

- New London Garden Club – Program meeting – Tuesday 9/13/2011 10AM-10PM - Approved

Other items to be signed:

- Disbursement voucher.
- Raffle Permit for New London Rotary – approved.

IT WAS MOVED (Tina Helm) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to adjourn the meeting of September 6, 2011. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 7:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Heath, Recording Secretary
Town of New London