

**APPROVED  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES  
October 31, 2011**

**PRESENT:**

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

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Wendy Johnson, Finance Officer  
Renate Kannler, New London Resident  
Michael Todd, New London Resident  
Joe Cardillo, New London Resident  
Merry Armentrout, *InterTown Record*

Chair Kaplan called the meeting to order at 9:00AM.

**Approval of Minutes of October 17, 2011. IT WAS MOVED (Tina Helm) AND SECONDED (Mark Kaplan) to approve the minutes of October 17, 2011 as amended. IT WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Typographical errors will be corrected.

**Approval of CAC Minutes of October 15, 2011. IT WAS MOVED (Tina Helm) AND SECONDED (Mark Kaplan) to approve the Citizens Advisory minutes of October 15, 2011 as amended. IT WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

*2011 tax rate:* The Board reviewed information from the State Department of Revenue (DRA) regarding the official tax rate for 2011. The official tax rate is \$17.06. Water precinct property owners will have a total rate of \$18.12. The individual rates are as follows: Town rate (18 month budget): \$5.86; Local school: \$5.73; State Education Tax: \$2.49; County: \$2.98 and the water precinct: \$1.06. The Board reviewed tax rate calculation as prepared by the DRA, noting that the local school, state education and county rates are up from 2010. The water precinct is lower by two cents and the town rate, when considered in the context of a twelve month budget, is down to \$3.91 from \$3.99 in 2010.

The Board reviewed the Tax Warrant, prepared in accordance with the DRA tax rate as discussed above, for the collection of 2011 taxes in the amount of \$10,728,181.72, representing the collection of the third and fourth quarter payments of taxes. Due dates will be January 3, 2012 and March 31, 2012. Ms. Helm moved to approve the Tax Warrant and Chair Kaplan seconded the motion. All were in favor, the Tax Warrant was signed and will be committed to the Tax Collector for billing and collection.

*Building permit amendment:* Michael Todd met with the Board to request an amendment to his previously approved building permit. He explained that he has spoken with Peter Stanley regarding this matter and Mr. Stanley informed him that any change would have to be approved by the Board. Mr. Todd informed the Board that he has recently been informed that some of his windows will need to be replaced, which will include a change in the size of the windows, and some of the sash areas are rotten and will have to be replaced. He explained that when he applied for his building permit this fact was not known to him, and thus not included in the application. He asked for approval to amend his permit to include this work. Ms. Helm moved to approve the request for amendment to the previously approved building permit application to allow for the repair and replacement of windows and Chair Kaplan seconded the motion. All were in favor, the request for amendment was approved.

*Abatement of sewer bill:* The Board reviewed a letter requesting abatement of wastewater bill as submitted by Peter Tremblay of The Garden Spa. The October 18th letter from Mr. Tremblay informed the Board that due to two leaking toilets, his business used more water (and hence sent more to the wastewater treatment plant resulting in the higher bill at issue here) than his business would normally use. The total bill was \$650.00. Mr. Tremblay asked, and was denied, an adjustment in his bill by Richard Lee, Director of DPW. Mr. Lee informed Mr. Tremblay that it is the policy of the sewer department not to abate bills that are the result of leaky toilets and faucets since the cost to treat wastewater is expensive, and is treated the same regardless if it is wastewater or clean water that is the result of leaking fixtures.

Ms. Helm noted that it appeared that Mr. Tremblay was seeking an abatement of the entire \$650 bill and she questioned how much the regular bill is, when there are no leaking toilets. The Board noted that that information was not included in either the request for abatement or denial of the request by the DPW.

Chair Kaplan noted that the concept of granting abatements for situations when a property owner has leaking toilets and faucets is not appropriate as it would not encourage property owners to make sure their fixtures do not leak. He also pointed out that the town incurs the cost of treatment in these cases and an abatement would not make these costs go away. Chair Kaplan noted that he would not be averse to allowing a payment plan in cases such as these, to allow the property owner to pay the bill over an extended period of time. Ms. Helm applauded Mr. Tremblay's quick action in fixing the leaking toilets.

Ms. Helm moved to deny the request for abatement of the wastewater bill and Chair Kaplan seconded the motion. All were in favor, the request was denied.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** *Budget Committee meeting* of October 24, 2011: Chair Kaplan congratulated Joe Cardillo as the newly appointed Budget Committee member, replacing Brian Prescott who resigned. Chair Kaplan reported that the budget process is moving along as scheduled.

*Ambulance study steering committee* of October 24, 2011. Ms. Helm reported that she attended the meeting at the New London Hospital for the presentation of preliminary results by MRI. She noted that she was disappointed in the presentation and thought that the study would be further along than it is. She pointed out that the information presented was already known to the selectmen and hospital officials. Chair Kaplan observed that the town is not going to do without an ambulance, available 24/7, of the highest quality of staffing. He noted that he has yet to hear it spelled out exactly how this situation will be resolved. Ms. Helm agreed and noted that the presentation was described as a “preliminary report” and presumably more data will be provided in the weeks to come. Chair Kaplan noted that the question before them is the same question they’ve had from the beginning regarding providing ambulance service and there are no answers yet. Ms. Helm noted that this general feeling of disappointment was also shared by other attendees. She noted that she and Peter Bianchi went to a joint board of selectmen’s meeting after the ambulance meeting, and they heard similar comments regarding the MRI presentation in that other selectmen were disappointed as well. Chair Kaplan summarized by noting that they did not get any direction as a result of the meeting.

Merry Armentrout asked if the presenters said what they would do next. Ms. Helm noted that she would recuse herself from that question as her husband is on the Board of the hospital. Chair Kaplan noted that the presentation did include some numbers on costs. Ms. Helm agreed and noted that the four choices that have been discussed in the past, and they did give some numbers associated with each choice, but there is an awful lot left dangling. Joe Cardillo asked if the report existed in writing. Ms. Helm noted that it does not. Mr. Cardillo asked if MRI was retained to give an opinion. Ms. Helm confirmed that they were hired to give a recommendation and report to the steering committee. Mr. Cardillo asked if MRI has been paid yet. Wendy Johnson, Finance Officer, reported that they have not been paid.

Ms. Helm reported that the most surprising piece she came away with is that an ambulance service run by the town out of the fire department would be the most expensive option. The Board discussed the current funding of the ambulance service as operated by New London Hospital: of the \$300,000 in expenses, \$100,000 comes from the hospital, \$100,000 from the towns and \$100,000 from elsewhere. Ms. Helm noted that it has been stressed over and over that the ambulance is staffed with the highest trained staff possible and that 60% of the calls require this level of highly trained staff due to the severity of the medical issue. Ms. Kannler asked for clarification of the \$300,000 figured and asked if the final \$100,000 is the money that the hospital does not collect, which puts the service in the red and is what is making the hospital say “we need help.” Ms. Helm confirmed it was, noting that some of these expenses come from cases where the ambulance goes out, but does not transport the patient.

*Joint Board of Selectmen meeting in Sutton:* Ms. Helm reported that the joint meeting was very useful. Jerry Frew, Superintendent of Schools, presented to the group, giving a rundown of the budget and the three community meetings that were held for strategic planning. Ms. Kannler noted that she attended one of the community meetings and she felt that it was very interactive with parents offering their opinions on what they are looking for in the schools, and Mr. Frew was very accommodating in answering questions.

Ms. Helm noted that there was a presentation by the Sutton Police Resource Officer regarding the calls to the schools and asking that the resource officer position continue to be funded. She noted that apparently some see this as only a Sutton issue when in fact the resource officer benefits the entire school community. Chair Kaplan noted that when the school was in New London there was no resource officer, instead, when there was trouble, the New London Police Department handled it. Ms. Helm noted that it is her understanding that they are looking for a more general position, not from any one police department. Ms. Johnson asked if the resource officer would be used at the Middle School or the High School. Ms. Helm noted that budget figures for both locations were given, and that it was her impression that it would be one officer for both locations.

*Planning Board meeting:* Ms. Helm reported that Colby-Sawyer representatives came to the meeting to get after-the-fact approval of an expanded parking at London House. Some of the abutting property owners were concerned about potential run-off, and these issues have been addressed. There were also discussions of the need to refurbish some buildings to accommodate the increase number of students. This work will be done in two phases, the first to get the students out of the Colby Farm as soon as possible, and then additional work to be done over the summer. Chair Kaplan observed these proposed plans will only take care of the students they have now, going from 900-950 students to 1,300 should have been planned for 4 or 5 years ago. Ms. Helm noted that the Colby Farm will be used as mixed use, included garage area for small equipment like lawn mowers.

Ms. Helm reported that COA was in attendance to discuss potential zoning amendments to allow temporary storage containers at their property.

The next Planning Board meeting will be held on November 8th when the master plan will be discussed. The intent is to present the final updated master plan by the end of the year.

**Other Business:** Joe Cardillo asked if the presentation by Fred Downey, regarding the Kearsarge Community Center project, had been cancelled. The Board noted that it had, at Mr. Downey's request, and has been rescheduled for the next meeting of the Board, on November 14th.

Ms. Helm asked if any of the Board intended to attend The First Baptist Church Veteran's Day ceremony on November 11th. There was no information available on the proposed ceremony, Ms. Helm made a note to find out and report back.

The Board reviewed and approved the following applications and vouchers:

Application for Building Permit:

- Amendment – Colby Sawyer College, 541 Main Street (Map & Lot 085-033-000) partial renovations in Burpee & Abbey halls – Permit #11-009 – Approved.

- Scott Brown, 515 Wilmot Center Road (Map & Lot 052-013-000) addition family room – Permit #11-111 – Approved.

Application for temporary sign permits:

- Lake Sunapee VNA & Hospice church fair at the Kearsarge Presbyterian Church – 2 signs – 1 at Chamber and 1 at church – Nov. 20, 2011 – Approved.

Application for permanent sign permit

- Blue 4, PLLC – 228 Main Street (Map & Lot 084-062-000) sign on wall & sign on post – Approved.

Application for use of Sydney Crook Room:

- Conservation Commission – 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month 2012– 9:00 AM – Approved.
- St. Andrews Church – search for new pastor meeting – Jan. 21, 2012 - 9AM-5PM – Approved.

Application for use of Whipple Memorial Town Hall:

- New London Recreation Dept. – Mondays January 9<sup>th</sup> – March 26<sup>th</sup> 3:30-5:30 – Approved.

Other items to be signed:

- Disbursement voucher.
- State of NH, Dept. of DMV – for Linda Hardy to serve as Boat Agent for the state of NH – Approved.
- Sewer Betterment – Edmunds Road – Property Tax 1<sup>st</sup> Levy in the amount of \$5400. – Approved.

Having no further business before them, Ms. Helm moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 AM and Chair Kaplan seconded the motion. All were in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Hallquist,  
Town Administrator