



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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DRAFT
Budget Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes
March 5, 2014

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: John Wilson, Ben Cushing, Doug Homan, Pat Blanchard, Bill Green, Rob Prohl, Phyllis Piotrow, Joe Cardillo, Tina Helm (for Janet Kidder), Board of Selectmen's Representative, Larry Dufault (arrived at 7:50pm)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Janet Kidder

STAFF PRESENT: Kimberly Hallquist, Town Administrator; Wendy Johnson, Finance Officer

OTHERS PRESENT:

Sean Carroll, *The Intertown Record*

Ed Andersen, Police Chief

Donna Larrow, Police Department Administrative Assistant

Tina Helm, Selectman Chair

Peter Bianchi, Selectman

Scott Blewitt, Recreation Director

Mark & Thelma Kaplan, New London Residents

Richard Lee, Public Works Director

Sandra Licks, Library Director

Hardy Hasenfuss, New London Resident

Bill Helm, New London Resident

Heather Wood, Communications Administrator

Fred Downey, New London Resident

Jason Lyon, Fire Chief

Renate Kannler, New London Resident

Eben Lamson, NLPD

Linda Hardy, Town Clerk/Tax Collector

Bill Hardy, New London Resident

Casey Biuso, New London Community Center Board Member

Laura James, Recreation Commission

Fiona Mills-Halls, Library Trustee

Gayle Hedrington, WNTK

Jack Sheehan, New London Resident

Chair Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Selectmen's Report

Selectman Helm reported that the Board of Selectmen approved three warrant articles:

1. **Elkins Sidewalk Project.** To appropriate and raise \$134,038, which would come from the Town. The remainder of the project funding is paid for by a Federal grant.
2. **Conservation Commission unexpended operating budget.** The Conservation Commission has asked that pursuant to RSA: 36-A:5, their unexpended operating budget funds be placed into their Conservation Fund instead of lapsing to the general fund.

3. **\$75,000 for the care and maintenance of the 1941 Building and cafeteria.**

Also, Selectman Helm noted that the Selectmen officially appointed Ed Andersen as the new police chief.

Mr. Green asked what would happen if the Conservation Commission had a lucrative logging endeavor that earned \$20,000 - \$30,000 in revenue. Ms. Hallquist said currently, funds from a logging operating would go into the general fund as general revenues. The suggested warrant article would apply only to the unexpended balance of their operating budget funds. She added that this RSA is only for Conservation Commissions. Chair Wilson explained that this approval would expire at the end of the fiscal year and would need to be approved each year.

Selectman Helm felt this was a good thing to do as the Conservation Commission contributes to the general fund. Mr. Homan didn't agree with Selectman Helm's remark and didn't feel it was necessary to allow them to keep unused funds. He wondered about the rationale. Chair Wilson said at times the Conservation Commission has about \$1,000 left at the end of the year and they would like to keep the funds to finish up projects they weren't able to complete during the fiscal year. It would prevent them from having to come back to ask for more money for things that had already been approved. His personal suggestion was that they try it for a year. If they don't like it, they won't vote it in again.

Mr. Cardillo said the warrant will say whether or not the Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend these articles. Selectman Helm said the Selectmen voted in favor of putting the three articles on the warrant. Mr. Cardillo asked if they had to vote on article I and III, because they had funds attached to them. Ms. Hallquist answered in the affirmative.

Article I

IT WAS MOVED (Joe Cardillo) AND SECONDED (Bill Green) to see if the Budget Committee will recommend the appropriation of \$134,038 for the Elkins Sidewalk Project.

Mr. Green asked if the remainder had been awarded from the grant. Ms. Hallquist said it had. It was noted that the \$134,038 had been saved for already, as planned. Ms. Hallquist said the final plans should be ready to go out to bid in July. If the project goes over that amount, they would need to take funds from the general fund, as there were no other funds available in the budget.

Chair Wilson called for a motion: **THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Article II

Mr. Green wondered if there was any new news regarding the 1941 Building, which helped the Selectmen decide to put the \$75,000 on the warrant. Selectman Helm said they had done a lot of listening and felt it was time to make a decision. She weighed the pros and cons and felt strongly that it was important to present the issue to the voters at Town Meeting. Her approval of the warrant would be contingent upon having two information sessions so voters would be well-informed of the project and people could share their concerns and suggestions. The two dates would be April 15th at 7pm and May 3rd at 9:00am. Both meetings would be held at Whipple Hall.

Mr. Cardillo said the dates chosen were beyond the dates the Budget Committee would be able to meet and after the time other articles could be put on the warrant. He thought that evening was the Budget Committee's last opportunity to make their decision on this matter. Ms. Piotrow noted that the New London Community Center (NLCC) committee had recently obtained their 501(c)(3).

Mr. Homan recalled that the NLCC claimed if they hadn't raised \$150,000 by the warrant article cut-off date, they would withdraw their request. Ms. Buiso said she felt this was a vote for the voters and not just the Budget Committee. She thought the Selectmen's decision to support the project would reflect the NLCC's decision to continue with their request or withdraw it.

Mr. Cardillo asked about the wording of the article as it makes reference to another article needing to be passed first. It was noted this additional article was the article to consider the lease.

Mr. Green acknowledged that while the NLCC worked hard to put this program together there were still some missing answers to some of the important questions. He wondered if it was reasonable to assume that the voters wouldn't be able to come to an intelligent conclusion after hearing even a couple hours of discussion about the 1941 building at Town Meeting. Selectman Helm said she hoped the informational sessions, which would be covered by the press, would be helpful. She thought the voters were more capable than Mr. Green assumed and didn't feel the Selectmen needed the blessing of the Budget Committee on this issue. Mr. Green said the purpose of the two boards is to work their way through these things. Mr. Homan agreed; he didn't think they were fulfilling the obligation the voters had elected them to do if they didn't fully vet the issue. They have been asking for a lease for two years and he was dumbfounded that they were there at this point in time without a lease.

Mr. Kaplan said the NLCC has said again and again that the capital expenditures will only be paid for through donations. The Town will not be responsible for any capital expenditures. He said the cost from the Town wasn't \$75,000 but was actually \$60,000. The School District is paying to keep the building running and heated and currently, New London pays 29-30% of that cost, which is \$15,000. Once a lease is signed, the Town won't be paying that \$15,000 anymore. Mr. Homan thought Mr. Kaplan's remark was disingenuous. The lease language would dictate what the costs would be, which may be more than they are anticipating.

Mr. Cardillo said an article could come to the warrant via petition. He thought the Budget Committee should weigh in on the article with a vote to see if they support it.

IT WAS MOVED (Joe Cardillo) AND SECONDED (Bill Green) to recommend the article for the 1941 Building.

Mr. Prohl said it is a public/private partnership and without the public side supporting them, the project has been delayed. By the April/May meetings, the lease information will be available, as well as the full details about the roof repair. The United Way's role would be disclosed as well. He thought this was a chance to save a building that was once the New London Central School, and to use it for town purposes. They have talked about this for a long time.

Mr. Downey observed that at an earlier meeting, Ms. Piotrow had said the New London Kearsarge Community Center (NLKCC) and the NLCC should combine forces. Mr. Downey has heard that this may be happening and he hopes that it does. Mr. Downey said the Granite United Way has an operation in Plymouth, NH today where they raise \$1 million dollars in the Lakes Region with a population similar to New London. He felt that there is an opportunity to raise \$22,000 with the Granite United Way in this area. This organization could also help manage the facility from a professional standpoint. He thought if the groups worked together they could come up with a number that would work for the Town.

Ms. Blanchard didn't think the Budget Committee would be getting any more information before the next vote, so they should vote on the issue with the information they have at hand. They can always change their mind at Town Meeting.

Chair Wilson called for a vote on the motion. Mr. Prohl said even though he was a member of the NLCC, he would vote on this as he had no financial gain through the vote. Ms. Piotrow thought a “yes” vote would also mean they should keep the topic on the agenda.

THE MOTION FAILED. Approved: 3. Opposed: 6

Budget Cuts

Chair Wilson said the Budget Committee members suggested various reductions in the budget, which he compiled into a list. This list was presented to the Town Administrator, who then shared it with the Department Heads. In total, Budget Committee members identified \$147,839 in reductions. Chair Wilson noted that the list as presented represents items that appeared on a majority of the committee member’s list for potential reductions.

IT WAS MOVED (Doug Homan) AND SECONDED (Bill Green) to approve the reductions, as proposed.

Ms. Piotrow thought there could be a lot of questions from those in attendance with regards to the cuts so perhaps the committee should group them by categories or departments to give an opportunity to discuss.

Mr. Helm said under the Right-to-Know Law, they are entitled to know who was in favor of the cuts and what their rationales were. Mr. Cardillo said he would be happy to speak to the reductions he suggested.

Mr. Helm said they have spent several months discussing the choices of the Department Heads; he was asking why things were taken out and why. Mr. Prohl thought they should take a vote or withdraw the motion and discuss the reductions.

Chair Wilson called for a vote: **THE MOTION FAILED.** Approved: 3, Opposed: 6

It was determined that the Budget Committee would go through the list of cuts, one at a time, to explain their rationale.

4130-100-691

Selectmen’s Discretionary Account – Proposal to cut \$10,000, leaving the balance at \$1,000

Ms. Piotrow wondered if they could cut the account by \$5,000 instead of \$10,000. Selectman Helm noted that there had been good collaboration between the Selectmen and the Personnel Committee (an employee group appointed by the Selectmen) on various issues and one item the committee came up with was merit pay opportunities. The \$10,000 requested is to be allocated using a merit based bonus system to deserving employees. The formula for how the bonuses would be awarded was yet to be determined. Selectman Helm said the Selectmen had considered the amount of \$5,000 initially, but felt it wasn’t enough. Mr. Homan didn’t think they should award merit based pay in addition to across-the-board raises. At some point he opined the administration needed to set some wage standards for their employees. After 15-20 years, employees tend to cap out for their maximum wages. Those employees continue to make more money when a raise is given across the board. The scale is then moved to make the cap higher. Mr. Homan didn’t think people who were mowing grass or plowing snow should be getting paid \$100,000 per year and he could not figure out the pay scales for the jobs because they kept changing.

IT WAS MOVED (Phyllis Piotrow) AND SECONDED (Joe Cardillo) to cut \$6,000 from the Selectmen’s discretionary account.

Chief Lyon asked if the Board of Selectmen had any comment on this motion. Selectman Helm said she felt the cuts being suggested were Draconian and counter-productive on what they were trying to accomplish in the town. She was planning on voting “nay” on all of the cuts unless she could be convinced otherwise.

Chief Lyon said the Selectmen had \$1,000 in the fund originally and \$10,000 was added. By reducing the fund to \$6,000 it is actually leaving just \$4,000 for merit compensation, not \$5,000.

Chair Wilson called for a vote: **THE MOTION FAILED. Approved: 2, Opposed: 7**

IT WAS MOVED (Doug Homan) AND SECONDED (Bill Green) to reduce the Selectmen’s Discretionary Fund to \$1,000. THE MOTION FAILED. Approved: 3, Opposed: 6

Larry Dufault arrived at 7:50pm.

Mr. Prohl said he would support the merit based raise initiative because it was the Selectmen’s responsibility and they have set up the system. He hoped they would work towards instilling only merit-based raises in the future.

IT WAS MOVED (Doug Homan) AND SECONDED (Rob Prohl) to reduce the Selectmen’s Discretionary Account to \$5,500. THE MOTION PASSED. Approved: 6, Opposed: 4

4191-300-540

PB Conferences & Training – Proposal to cut \$1,000, leaving a balance of \$1250

Ms. Hallquist said training is important for board members as well as for employees. She understood that the Planning Board intends to increase training for Board members in the coming year. Mr. Green offered that the Selectmen could move funds around in the budget if the need arises. Ms. Hallquist said if Department Heads do not have the funds in their budget, they won’t plan for training.

Ms. Piotrow offered that the Town employs many new people who are sure to need training.

IT WAS MOVED (Doug Homan) AND SECONDED (Bill Green) to cut \$1,000 from the PB Conferences & Training line item. THE MOTION PASSED. Approved: 8, Opposed: 2

4191-300-620

PB Office (CIP Software) – Proposal to cut \$2,000, leaving the balance at \$250

Chair Wilson explained that this amount is for software that would assist with the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) planning. He thought further investigation was needed before they make this expenditure. He recommended not purchasing the software this year.

IT WAS MOVED (Bill Green) AND SECONDED (Doug Homan) to cut \$2,000 from the PB Office (CIP Software) line item. THE MOTION PASSED. Approved: 9, Opposed: 1

4194-830-430

Elkins Post Office Maintenance & Repair – Proposal to cut \$1,000, leaving the balance at \$1,000

Chair Wilson said they haven’t spent this amount of money in the past and he felt it was a reasonable reduction.

IT WAS MOVED (Bill Green) AND SECONDED (Doug Homan) to cut the Elkins Post Office Maintenance & Repair by \$1,000.

Mr. Lee said the amount in the account was increased because the chimney on the building was in need of repair, as was the ramp on the handicapped entrance, gutters, and the septic system, which is freezing under the driveway and needed to be repaired. This money would be a start to the repairs needed on the building.

Mr. Homan wondered if the Government Buildings fund could be used to maintain the Elkins Post Office. Ms. Hallquist said it was possible to move the money around but opined that the funds for the other buildings were lean. She hoped that with the Facilities Manager now on staff, more repairs would be taken care of which would make use of the additional funds that had been put into the Academy Building and Whipple Hall's funds.

Chair Wilson called for a motion: **THE MOTION FAILED**. Approved: 3, Opposed: 7
The account would stay at \$2,000

4210-540-115, 4210-540-140

PD Full Time Wages & PD Overtime Wages

Mr. Cardillo said the Budget Committee was charged with finding areas to cut sensibly. The rationale behind the cuts in wages (for both full-time and overtime) was that over the years these categories have been over-budgeted in the range of 4-7%. This was due to turn-over and lags between new hires coming in after someone leaves. He took the request for full and overtime and decreased them by 4%. He thought it smart to base budgets on actual numbers.

4210-540-210, 4210-540-230

With regards to PD Health and Dental and PD NH Retirement, Mr. Cardillo reduced them by 2%, which he felt was a safe bet as it was a function of the lag in hiring for new staff as well as the time it takes for them to be trained.

4210-540-190

Mr. Cardillo observed that Special Detail Wages has never had expenditures in excess of \$5,000. He wondered why there was \$10,000 in that line item.

IT WAS MOVED (Joe Cardillo) AND SECONDED (Rob Prohl) that the five line items in the list of possible reductions related to Police Department wages be accepted as presented.

Ms. Blanchard thought they should budget for wages per what the Selectmen have indicated. She also thought by not budgeting for the amounts suggested by the Selectmen, they would be lowering their surplus. Chair Wilson agreed with Ms. Blanchard but noted that Mr. Cardillo was looking for truer numbers. Mr. Prohl said they have to decide to budget the way they expect things to be, or by anticipating the maximum exposure.

Mr. Homan thought they should make meaningful reductions, specifically those having to do with personnel as it is those costs that have been driving the increases over the last 5-10 years. He said they have been three years with a seven-man police force the vast majority of time. He asked if anyone noticed a reduced service or response time that was unacceptable in the past three years. Ms. Hallquist responded by noting that officers have come to her saying they are stressed out because they have to work a lot of overtime to cover all of the shifts and while she has not heard any complaints from citizens with regard to slow response time, she felt the NLPD staff value their time off and they should not be forced to work overtime on a regular basis due to staff shortages.

Mr. Homan thought they had added a significant amount of work-weeks back into the department due to new employees joining and having less vacation time than senior employees. Ms. Hallquist said she wasn't so sure it was that significant a factor.

Chief Andersen said the employees that have left the department have done so because of the hours they were forced to work. During most of the summer, Officer Rick Kelley worked for the department for 30 hours/week so they weren't down an entire officer, but just 10 hours. The morale of the Police Department is down now but seems to be coming up because they are anticipating a full staff and being able to take time off. With 365 days in the year, they had 178 shifts people worked with less than 8 hours of sleep which is not healthy for officers or response times to calls. They have officers who don't want overtime. Other police departments are begging for overtime, but NLPD is drawn down and shifts must be filled. They will have four new officers coming on and with current staffing, it shows there will be no retirement for the next three years. After that time, three employees will be eligible for retirement. He was concerned with the cut they are suggesting because they will probably hit that maximum for full time wages.

Mr. Cardillo said he hasn't seen the amount for full-time wages reached in the last 10 years. Mr. Homan wondered why more part-time people weren't being utilized to alleviate those who don't want to work overtime. Chief Andersen said part-time officers don't want to work midnight shifts. Mr. Homan wondered how Sunapee survived without a midnight shift. Chief Andersen said Sunapee has someone on-call 11pm – 7am but they also don't have 24-hour businesses or a college in their town.

With regards to the Special Detail Wages, Chief Andersen said they never know what will come up or be requested of them for special details. He thought there would be a lot requested of them with the Elkins project coming up, similar to when the round-about was put in. They work special detail mostly during the summer months and during the bike portion of the triathlon. The Historical Society has requested special detail at any event held on their premises when alcohol is involved (weddings). Ms. Johnson said for every dollar they reduce the special detail line item, she would reduce the revenues side as well, as this account was considered a wash.

Mr. Cardillo said historically, they have put in \$10,000 and the most it ever got up to was \$5,000.

Chair Wilson called for a vote: **THE MOTION FAILED. Approved: 4, Opposed: 6**
The funding will stay as presented by the Board of Selectmen.

4210-540-540

PD Conferences & Training – Reduction of \$3,000, leaving a balance of \$5,000

IT WAS MOVED (Rob Prohl) AND SECONDED (Joe Cardillo) to cut the PD Conferences & Training line item by \$3,000.

Mr. Prohl said they have never spent the amount requested in the past. He suggested that the Town should have one account for all training/conferences and employees should have to apply to use the funds.

Chief Andersen said they are at a unique time in the department as they have three senior officers and the rest of the officers have five, two and one year on staff. They are going to be asking these younger officers to move up in the ranks and he felt they needed more training to do be able to do this. Three to four years from now, they will have five to seven new officers that have less than seven years on the job and they will not have the training they need to move into leadership roles. He said in the past, there hasn't been enough training in the department. He thought it important to have a well-trained staff.

Mr. Homan said New London pays more for their Police Department than they do for their Public Works Department. He asked Chief Andersen where he would rather make a cut if not in the training portion. Chief Andersen said he felt it was time for the Police Department to get money for training and move forward; they have been stagnant in their training over the years. He felt they were running the department bare bones. Mr. Homan thought the Police Department needed to get creative on how to cut costs. Chief Andersen asked for a year to get a chance to operate with a budget that he can be proactive with and he would try to identify those cuts.

Chair Wilson called for a vote: **THE MOTION PASSED.** Approved: 7, Opposed: 3

4120-540-600

PD General Equipment – Proposed cut of \$14,086, leaving a balance of \$11,150

Chair Wilson said the suggestion to cut this fund by \$14,086 involved holding off on the Hirsh door locks and key pad replacements for the Police Department.

IT WAS MOVED (Rob Prohl) AND SECONDED (Bill Green) to cut \$14,086 from the Police Department General Equipment fund.

Chief Andersen said one door strike had to be removed because it was stuck on and became heated and smoking in the door jam. It costs \$500 for the company that can replace the strikes to just make the trip to New London. This company suggested replacing all the strikes. Chief Andersen thought they could replace two strikes with money from his budget this current fiscal year and perhaps they could replace a couple at a time in future years. The concern is that each time the company comes to New London, it will cost the Town \$500.

Ms. Blanchard was not in favor of cutting maintenance and repair as they have done this in the past and have gotten into trouble. She thought they were just putting off things until next year. Chief Andersen noted that this cut would also take away the funding for the maintenance of the security system at the police department.

Chair Wilson called for a vote: **THE MOTION PASSED.** Approved: 6, Opposed: 4

4220-500-364

FD Vehicle Repair & Maintenance – Proposed cut of \$2,000, leaving a balance of \$12,700

Chief Lyon said he had no issue with this reduction.

IT WAS MOVED (Joe Cardillo) AND SECONDED (Rob Prohl) to cut \$2,000 from the FD Vehicle Repair & Maintenance Fund. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

4299-580-120

Dispatch Part-Time Wages – Proposed cut of \$5,000, leaving a balance of \$43,405

Ms. Wood said she had no issue with this reduction.

IT WAS MOVED (Doug Homan) AND SECONDED (Rob Prohl) to cut \$5,000 from the Dispatch Part Time Wages. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

4299-580-530 & 4299-580-540

Dispatch Travel & Meals & Dispatch Conferences & Training – Proposed cut of \$200 and \$400 respectively, leaving balances at \$300 and \$400.

IT WAS MOVED (Doug Homan) AND SECONDED (Rob Prohl) to make the reductions in Dispatch Travel & Meals and Dispatch Conferences & Training, as presented.

Ms. Wood said this was a motion to cut \$600 for training as well as the means for employees to travel to obtain the training. She felt it was a minimal amount of money and, much like the Police Department, training in Dispatch has been overlooked in the past. There were classes that could be taken online during downtime but they are an average of \$359 per person, per class. Continuing education classes that are offered are \$99 per person per year and cover a different topic each month. They have six employees and if these funds are taken away, they will not be able to get the training they need.

Chief Lyon said he was at a meeting of the NH Dispatchers Association recently and learned of a push throughout the State to have increased training for emergency personnel. For dispatchers, a 40 hour class and 16 hours of continuing education will be required in the near future. Ms. Wood will probably be grandfathered due to her past experience in dispatch, but she has three new employees that would be required to take the 40 hour class and the 16 hours of continuing education each year. Chief Lyon warned the Budget Committee that these two line items may go up significantly in the future.

Chair Wilson called for a vote: **THE VOTE FAILED.** Approved: 0, Opposed: 10

4311-600-115, 4311-600-140, 4311-600-210, 4311-600-230

Highway Full Time Wages, Overtime Wages, Health & Dental, NH Retirement

Mr. Cardillo felt a safe reduction in the above-mentioned line items would be 2%. They have been 4-6% over budget with actuals in the past.

IT WAS MOVED (Joe Cardillo) AND SECONDED (Rob Prohl) to accept a 2% reduction to the Highway Department wages, as presented.

Mr. Homan wanted to amend the motion to take \$16,308 out of the full-time wages for the Public Works Department to compensate for the Public Works Director's vacation time pay out. Ms. Hallquist noted that the amount for vacation time buy-out has been moved out of the Public Works Department line as this pay out could happen in any department where an employee has accrued vacation time and terminates employment with the town.

Mr. Lee noted that the reduction in wages, as suggested, drops the amount to be the same as what was paid in wages in 2012.

Chair Wilson called for a vote: **THE MOTION FAILED.** Approved: 3, Opposed: 7

4312-600-380

Highway Paving Services – Proposed cut of \$6,000, leaving a balance of \$229,000

Mr. Lee said he had no issues with this reduction.

IT WAS MOVED (Rob Prohl) AND SECONDED (Pat Blanchard) to cut \$6,000 from the Highway Paving Services line item. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

4520-750-430-00 & 4520-750-430-01

Bucklin /Elkins Equip. Repairs – Proposed cut of \$2,750 in each line item, leaving a balance of \$0.

IT WAS MOVED (Pat Blanchard) AND SECONDED (Bill Green) to reduce the Bucklin & Elkins Equipment Repair Funds to \$0.

Chair Wilson said the revolving account was going to be spent down to \$25,000 and there is money in there that could be spent to pay for equipment repairs. Laura James said the Recreation Commission talked about this at their meeting the prior evening. She invited Mr. Blewitt to explain. Mr. Blewitt said the money in the fund is for facilitating programs. Maintenance line items include things such as safety equipment, docks, lines, sand and the playground equipment. If they were forced to use the revolving account for these items, it might put them in a situation where they would not have enough left to facilitate their programs. Their attempt is to get the fund down to a more acceptable level, as identified by others. Mr. Blewitt noted that the van, which had been donated by Woodcrest, would need to be addressed through this fund as there are some body issues that need to be taken care of. He thought it was a little drastic to cut the entire Equipment Repairs budgets to \$0. Mr. Blewitt asked the Budget Committee if they would entertain the thought of funding \$2,750, in total, for the two line items.

Mr. Blewitt explained that new signage is needed at both beaches, however he does not have firm estimates on the costs for the signs yet. They also needed to replace sand as there had been some erosion, especially at Bucklin. Last year they replaced the picnic tables and performed some boat repair, both of which were badly needed and he thought had been put off from prior years. Mr. Blewitt added that from the revolving account, they plan to buy a sound system and conduct van repairs. Over the next six months he estimated spending \$10,000 from the fund.

Chair Wilson called for a vote. **THE VOTE WAS A TIE.** Approved: 5, Opposed: 5

IT WAS MOVED (Rob Prohl) AND SECONDED (Bill Green) to fund \$1,375 for each of the two funds for a total expense of \$2,750. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

4915-100-908

Highway Equip. Replacement Fund – Proposed cut of \$10,000, leaving a balance of \$115,000.

IT WAS MOVED (Joe Cardillo) AND SECONDED (Pat Blanchard) to reduce the Highway Equipment Replacement Fund by \$10,000.

Mr. Lee said over the past three to four years he has worked hard with the CIP Committee and the Budget Committee to extend the life of the highway equipment. He wanted to be assured that these funds would remain sustainable so he could maintain the equipment.

Chair Wilson called for a vote. **THE MOTION PASSED.** Approved: 7, Opposed: 3

4915-100-911

Transfer to Capital Reserves: Town Building Maintenance – Proposed reduction of \$30,000, leaving a deposit of \$30,000

IT WAS MOVED (Joe Cardillo) AND SECONDED (Doug Homan) to reduce the Transfer to Capital Reserves: Town Building Maintenance by \$30,000.

Chair Wilson said there were some huge potential expenses coming up for the Academy Building and Whipple Hall. The proposal for \$30,000 was intended for maintenance items, not capital rehabilitation and replacement. The thought was that the funds they will need to make these large repairs will come from a bond. That was his rationale for removing the \$30,000.

Ms. Blanchard said the repairs needed for Whipple Hall and the Academy Building are known expenses that will only grow. She thought they were just pushing the costs to future years by taking the \$30,000 away. Selectman Helm said the Selectmen's thinking was that the \$30,000 was truly a drop in the bucket and obviously there would be more costs going forward. Ms. Hallquist said if they start saving now, there would be less they'd have to bond if they decided to go that route.

Chair Wilson called for a vote. **THE MOTION FAILED.** Approved: 2, Opposed: 8

4915-100-937

Transfer to Capital Reserve: Gravel Roads Upgrade – Proposed cut of \$10,000, leaving a deposit of \$40,000

IT WAS MOVED (Doug Homan) AND SECONDED (Rob Prohl) to cut \$10,000 from the Transfer to Capital Reserve: Gravel Roads Upgrade.

Mr. Homan asked Mr. Lee if every gravel road would be paved by 2024 according to his plan. Mr. Lee said every gravel road on the list of those to be paved would be paved by 2024; however there are 12 other roads not on the list, so they would remain unpaved at 2024 under the current plan. He noted that \$25,000 had been put into this program that had been taken from the Highway Equipment line. Now they are asking to take \$10,000 out of the Highway Equipment line *and* another \$10,000 from the Gravel Roads Upgrade line. He'd prefer that the funds stay in the Gravel Roads Upgrade. Mr. Lee reminded the Budget Committee that three years from now the CIP anticipates \$100,000 going into the Gravel Roads Upgrade.

Ms. Blanchard opined that they had once been ok with the roads being done in 2038, so why now worry about 2024? Mr. Lee said he had never been fine with 2038 as a finish date and neither had the taxpayers who live on the gravel roads and want them paved. Ms. Blanchard asked why Pine Hill Road was not on the list any more. Mr. Lee noted the water main under the road has broken several times and he doesn't want to pave it only to have to dig it up again for repairs.

Chair Wilson called for a vote. **THE MOTION FAILED.** Approved: 4, Opposed: 6

4915-650-420

Transfer to Capital Reserves: Sewer Lagoon Cleanup – Proposed cut of \$10,000, leaving a deposit of \$0.

IT WAS MOVED (Doug Homan) AND SECONDED (Bill Green) to cut \$10,000 from the Transfer to Capital Reserves: Sewer Lagoon Cleanup.

Chair Wilson said he hoped the Town would address the sewer lagoons as soon as possible and determine how much they needed to save to clean them up. Mr. Lee said there were two different approaches that would cost between \$60,000 and \$100,000, in addition to engineering costs. He noted that although DES hasn't been on the Town to take care of the lagoons recently, they could come in at any time and tell the Town they need to take care of them.

Chair Wilson called for a vote. **THE MOTION PASSED.** Approved: 6, Opposed: 4

Police Cruiser

Mr. Homan didn't think they needed to add another vehicle in the Police Department. Even though it is used, it will cost money for fuel, maintenance, etc. Just because they are short a vehicle or two doesn't justify this additional vehicle. He didn't think they should be considering expanding or enlarging departments at this point in time.

Chief Andersen said other area Police Departments have more cruisers than New London but are not 24 hour services. Multiple times they have more than one officer in a cruiser because of cruisers being out of commission. He would like to sell the car in June and assured the Budget Committee that the car wouldn't be added for a third officer to patrol in, but rather to be used as a back-up. He would like to keep it for an extra 11 months. To date, all that has been put in the car was a battery.

Mr. Homan said he wanted to take \$1,000 from the Police Department Vehicle Maintenance Fund. Chief Andersen said he already cut that fund by \$500 and said he could take care of all five vehicles with the remaining balance.

The first public hearing for the budget was planned for April 7th at 7:00pm at Whipple Hall. If needed, a second hearing would be held on April 9th at 7:00pm at Whipple Hall.

Approval of Minutes

IT WAS MOVED (Rob Prohl) AND SECONDED (Bill Green) to approve the minutes of February 19, 2014, as amended. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

There were some grammatical errors, which were corrected by various members of the Budget Committee.

IT WAS MOVED (Rob Prohl) AND SECONDED (Doug Homan) to adjourn. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Heath, Recording Secretary
Town of New London