



# TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

375 MAIN STREET • NEW LONDON, NH 03257 • WWW.NL-NH.COM

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES December 15, 2014

### **PRESENT:**

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

### **ALSO PRESENT:**

Scott Blewitt, Recreation Director  
Anthony Longo – Recreation Intern  
Dave Cook, New London Resident  
Minette Sweeney, *Intertown Record*  
Ed Andersen, Police Chief  
Celeste Cook, Welfare Officer  
Rob Prohl, Budget Committee Chair  
Laura Lorio, Recreation Commission Member  
Bruce Hudson, Budget Committee Member  
Phyllis Piotrow, Budget Committee Member  
Sarah Colson, Chamber of Commerce

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

### Update on Clark Lookout

Ms. Hallquist noted that the attorney representing the owner of the Clark Lookout access road responded to the Town's request for information regarding their reasoning behind closing the gated entrance to Clark Lookout, for which the Town holds an easement. The owners have opened the access road for hikers but have not removed the lock on the gate so vehicles cannot access the road. The Town's easement includes the right to have vehicles on the road for handicapped access. Ms. Hallquist recommended that the Town have a NH licensed forester go into the area in question to report on the condition of the access road and trees. She also recommended that the Town require the property owner to provide a key to the lock so that the town's easement rights are not withheld. The Board agreed to both recommendations. Ms. Hallquist noted that she has been in contact with Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust, who also hold an easement, and they are aware and agree with the town's course of action.

### Town Administrator's Report – Kim Hallquist, Town Administrator

Ms. Hallquist reported that Bob Harrington of the New London Highway Department has achieved the status of Senior Road Scholar which is a hard-earned achievement and demonstrates a high level of competency and expertise on the job by Mr. Harrington.

Ms. Hallquist noted receipt of a letter from Joan Lamson who is taking issue with a recent article that appeared in the *Intertown Record* regarding reporting on the Single-stream Recycling Committee (SSRC)

report. Ms. Lamson felt that the article should have been clear that the SSRC was not recommending single-stream for the town at this time.

### FY2016 Budget Review

#### ***Scott Blewitt – Recreation Director***

Mr. Blewitt noted the areas he would like to see an increase, and provided an explanation for each instance. The requested increases were as follows:

- Conferences and Training - increase from \$250 to \$1,000. Mr. Blewitt currently attends the Northern New England Recreation Conference in North Conway but would like to attend the National Conference for the first time. He would split the cost of this conference with the Town of Sunapee, for which he also serves as the Recreation Director, each town would pay half. This line item would also pay for lifeguard training.
- Office supplies & Uniforms – increase from \$400 to \$1,000. Mr. Blewitt noted that his desktop computer is old and the operating system is outdated. He would like to get a new computer. Additionally, he would like to purchase some apparel to be able to identify himself as the Recreation Director.
- Special events – increase from \$2,000 to \$3,000 to help fund free events the Recreation Department puts on for the community. Examples of this are Winter Carnival, events at the beach, and the upcoming strawberry festival to be held in June 2015.
- Lifeguard & Swim Supplies – increase from \$1,200 to \$1,500. Mr. Blewitt said the lifeguards usually get one suit per summer, however some of the guards work several consecutive days in a row. He would like to issue two suits for each lifeguard.
- Bucklin Beach Maintenance – increase from \$1,375 to \$1,875. Mr. Blewitt said the split rail fence at Bucklin Beach needs to be replaced. He thought they should combine the Elkins and Bucklin Beach Maintenance funds into one line. This would also include maintenance needed at the ice skating rink and other recreational facilities that may need maintaining.
- Waterfront Staff Wages – increase by 4%. Mr. Blewitt noted that New London pays one of the lowest wages in the area for lifeguards, starting at \$9/hour. He would like to increase the starting wage to \$9.25 or \$9.50 per hour for returning guards. Mr. Blewitt said they have a good staff and would like to be competitive with the surrounding beaches. Last year they lost one of their guards to the State beach, which pays \$11/hour to start.
- Recreation Director Salary – increase by 4%. Mr. Blewitt said he has 20 years of experience in the recreation field and would like to be closer to the middle of his pay grade instead of the bottom.

Mr. Blewitt concluded that the other line items in his budget remained unchanged. Selectman Bianchi noted that Mr. Blewitt's budget was up 3.6%. Mr. Blewitt agreed with this assessment.

Selectman Bianchi said he didn't want to discuss salaries and benefits for Town employees until they have heard from the employee committee. After that time, they would have one discussion for all the employees.

***Welfare – Celeste Cook***

Ms. Cook said she would be happy with level funding in Fiscal Year 2016 for vendor payments, which is \$16,000. Last year she spent \$13,000. Ms. Cook said she would like to have a computer in the office that is connected to a printer so she can send out letters and also assist applicants in applying for state aid on-line. She spends a lot of time helping people get on state aid, which enables them to get them off of Town aid. Ms. Hallquist thought a computer could be purchased out of the current year's office budget and she thought it was a great idea.

Ms. Cook said she works with CAP (Community Action Program), which is where the funding comes from for fuel assistance. She sends people to CAP and they do an enormous amount of work for the community and they never ask for an increase in funding from the town. She noted that she works with KREM, sends people to the food pantry, and tries to get people to the resources that are available.

Chair Kidder thanked Ms. Cook for the amount of time she spends helping people in the community.

***Archives***

Ms. Hallquist noted that Archives was asking for level funding this year.

***Patriotic Purposes***

Ms. Hallquist noted that Patriotic Purposes was asking for level funding this year.

***Health Administration***

Ms. Hallquist said a request has come in from the Health Officer (Deb Langner) to switch money between lines to increase her salary and do some special projects. There are no increases in the budget. Other requests within Health Administration include Lake Sunapee Region VNA (no change); the ambulance (up 2%); and COA (unchanged).

***Lake Protective Associations***

Ms. Hallquist said the only association not heard from yet was Little Lake Sunapee. The rest of the associations were requesting level funding for lake host programs.

***New Hampshire Municipal Association (NHMA) Dues***

Ms. Hallquist said the dues were \$5,636 which is about what it is every year.

***Chamber of Commerce***

Ms. Colson said the Chamber was asking for an increase of \$400 which would bring the funding to previous funding levels; there had been cuts several years back and she wished to restore it to \$12,500.

***New London Hospital Ambulance***

It was noted that New London Hospital Ambulance request is up 2%.

***CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates)***

Selectman Bianchi recalled that New London hasn't contributed to this organization because it isn't a New London-based organization. They understand it is a good non-profit organization, but they don't choose to fund it. Selectman Rollins said 17 children from New London were served by CASA last year. She added that they were asking for \$500.

### ***Conservation Commission***

Ms. Hallquist said the Conservation Commission has requested a delay in discussion of their budget until the next meeting.

### **Committee Reports**

Selectman Bianchi said the Planning Board Meeting the previous week was cancelled due to inclement weather. The meeting was postponed to December 16th.

Chair Kidder said at the sewer meeting in October, Sunapee thought New London should increase their contribution to 75% based on their meter readings. Based on New London's readings, 75% was not correct, and New London was not sending 75% of the total flows. After some discussion between Sunapee and New London, the board members agreed to wait a year to see if they could get more accurate measurements now that the treatment plant has a new meter and there is a new meter at the New London/Sunapee town line (which measures New London's flows). There will be a joint sewer meeting in Sunapee on Thursday night (December 18<sup>th</sup>).

### **Approval of Minutes of December 8, 2014**

**IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to approve the minutes of December 8, 2014, as circulated. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Selectman Bianchi said he wanted to make sure a discussion of dispatch would be an agenda item soon. He thought they should take a stand one way or another. Chair Kidder thought they should wait until they hear from Dispatch to get their overall budget and to hear back from the other towns as to whether they will get services from New London dispatching in 2015. Selectman Rollins suggested putting this issue on the agenda for the first meeting in January (January 5<sup>th</sup>) as the Board will have heard from Chief Andersen on the dispatching budget (scheduled for review at the December 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Board), and towns will have made the decision on whether they will be getting services from New London by the end of December.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

Recreation Commission Meeting – Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm

Planning Board Meeting – Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm

Sunapee Wastewater Treatment Plant Meeting – Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm in Sunapee

Budget Subcommittee Meeting – Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm

Board of Selectmen's Meeting – Monday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00pm

### **Application for Building Permit:**

- John & Sandra Degnan, Brookside Drive (121-010-000) – Build 3-bedroom home – APPROVED
- Eric & Viola Richter Family Wealth Trust, Westside Drive (055-012-014) – Build a 4-bedroom home - APPROVED

### **Application for Use Syd Crook Conference Room**

Colby-Sawyer College – Adventures in Learning - Thursdays 4/21 – 5/19, 9-12pm; Fridays 4/24 – 5/15, 1-4pm

### **Other Items to be Signed:**

Land Use Change Tax forms:

- Land Use Change Tax – Stephen & Mary Lou Lotterhand (055-012-012)
- Land Use Change Tax – Harry Snow (055-011, 12-005, 12-014, 12-015)
- Land Use Change Tax – Peter Bloch & Kathy Lowe (056-013-000)
- Land Use Change Tax – Deborah Perkins Trust (049-020-000)
- Land Use Change Tax – David Kidder et al (036-016-000)

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:36pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Heath, Recording Secretary  
Town of New London