



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES December 2, 2013

PRESENT:

Tina Helm, Chair
Peter Bianchi, Selectman
Janet Kidder, Selectman
Kimberly Hallquist, Town Administrator
Wendy Johnson, Finance Officer

ALSO PRESENT:

Bob Brown, New London Resident
Richard Lee, Public Works Director
Jason Lyon, Fire Chief
Ed Andersen, Acting Police Chief
Leigh Bosse, *The Messenger*
Minette Sweeney, *InterTown Record*
Jeff & Barbara Troxell, New London Residents
Ward O'Neill, New London Resident
David Hennig, New London Resident
David Hackmann, New London Resident
Barry Morrissey, New London Resident
Frank Duffy, New London Resident
Terri Bingham, New London Resident
Dan Wolf, New London Inn
Doug Homan, Budget Committee Member
Phyllis Piotrow, Budget Committee Member
Amy Rankins, Benefits Administrator
Heather Wood, New London Dispatch
Steve Ensign, Board of Firewards

Chair Helm called the meeting to order at 8:00am.

Public Hearing - Low Sand Zones in New London

Chair Helm opened the public hearing and began by noting that Mr. Lee (Public Works Director), based on at least one complaint they have received about certain roads being sanded too heavily, suggested the town consider designating some roads as low sand zones. The roads in question are: Forest Acres Road, Beaver Point Road, Fieldstone Lane, White Pine Lane, Little Cover Road and Stoney Brook Road, Newbury Town Line section. She stressed that this proposal was not initiated by the Board or by the Highway Department, but instead it is to address comments and concerns raised by property owners.

Mr. Lee said the Public Works Department (PWD) has been asked to sand a little less, especially in environmentally sensitive areas. There are water-quality concerns and concerns that too much sand is used on roads, in general. If this proposal is adopted, PWD will sand designated roads about half as much as they do currently. On certain roads, second sandings and spot-sandings would not be done.

Chair Helm noted a number of residents sent e-mails for the Board's consideration on this topic (e-mails were received from: John & Mary Doyle, Forest Acres Road (against); Stuart Nutter, Forest Acres Road (for); J.P. Paquette, Forest Acres Road (for); Don Jones, Stoney Brook Road (for common sense approach); Stanley Richard, Fieldstone Lane (against); Delbert Prothero, Forest Acres Road (against)).

Chair Helm asked for the opinions of Selectmen Bianchi and Kidder. Selectman Bianchi said he felt making any of the roads low sand zoned roads was not a critical issue. He felt the safety aspect was more important and observed that some of the roads they are considering are gravel and some are paved. Making them low sand roads would not be of any great value, in his opinion, and he felt it would be a disservice to those living on the roads. Selectman Kidder wanted to hear what the residents had to say on the issue before giving her opinion.

Ward O'Neil, Stoney Brook Road, spoke to the issue, noting that when the plow comes down the road it plows and sands and then comes back to sand again. The road is level and flat with no curves or hills and he didn't feel this much sand was needed. He pointed out that King Hill Road is maintained by the State and is never sanded and he hasn't ever seen an accident there in 17 years. Mr. O'Neil said the amount of sand that is put on Stoney Brook Road builds up, comes into their yard, their garage, and eventually into their homes. He thought sanding would be essential at the stop sign and when there is ice but is not needed as much as it has been used in the past. Mr. O'Neil considered the cost to the taxpayer with regard to plowing and sanding. Recently, there was a morning when he woke and saw a plow truck plowing nothing (sparks were coming off the road because there was no snow) and it was 38 degrees outside. The truck was also sanding. He thought this was a waste of tax dollars and thought it was unnecessary to have the plows and sanders being used in that instance. He added that something he liked about living in a small town is that there is an opportunity for citizens to address the town with their concerns, as they were all there to do that morning.

David Hennig, White Pine Lane, noted that he was also representing his neighbors, the Hughes and Denise families who also live on the road but were unable to attend. Mr. Hennig noted that he felt that White Pine Lane receives too much sand and had expressed this to Mr. Lee in the past. He thought that with the Town's interest in water ecology and their stringent shoreline protection regulations, that the Town would be more innovative when considering the amount of sand and salt used on roads near the water bodies. He appreciated Mr. Lee bringing this issue forward. He supported the environmental and aesthetic concerns and said all the residents on his road, which was a dead-end, fully supported going to reduced sand.

Jeff Troxell, Forest Acres Road, wondered if Mr. Lee would comment as to whether there were storms when it would make sense to use more sand than others. Mr. Lee said they try to determine how much sand they need to use; there are numerous areas in Town that experience different kinds of weather at the same time. Some areas get snow and some get ice. His main concern is safety. Mr. Lee understood the water quality concern but they have to consider making the roads safe for those driving on them. The PWD always errs on the side of safety and do the best they can do. Mr. Lee said if they decide to try the low sand zones, they would need to post the roads as such to inform all motorists.

Dave Hackmann, Little Cove Road, said the primary concern he has is with regard to emergency response vehicles and anything that went through 911. He asked that the Police & Fire Chiefs give their opinions. Acting Police Chief Andersen said that over the years he has seen areas of the same road freeze differently, and pointed to Forest Acres Road as an example. He explained that the sun hits one area and melts the ice. Other areas on the road that are shaded remain ice and people go off the road. Fire Chief Lyon noted that his concerns were the same as Chief Andersen's. They may be faced with additional accidents with the roads not being treated as they have been but they can't determine whether cutting down the amount of sand/salt aggregate will affect the safety of the roads. He understood all the storms were different but opined that the small dustings of snow and ice-covered roads that seem to create more accidents than large nor'easters that come through, as more people tend to stay home in those storm events.

Barry Morrissey, Fieldstone Lane, was concerned with the turn from County Road onto Fieldstone. He said many times he has had to go by the road because of ice on that turn. He would be fine with a low sand treatment on the road but only if he could be assured that Mr. Lee would have the road sanded 25-30 feet into Fieldstone Lane, as there are several accidents at that turn each winter.

Frank Duffy, Brookside Drive, suggested that the Board and PWD take a look at the topography of New London. He noted that his road is a flat, circular road yet it has multiple sandings done on it, and the sand eventually ends up on the floors of his home. He felt that PWD should experiment with different sections of the town. Perhaps multiple sandings were not necessary and some roads do not need to be sanded at all.

It was asked if the Town's legal counsel had been consulted about the ramifications to the Town if they do not sand the roads appropriately. Selectman Bianchi said they have been told by counsel that if the Town does due diligence to sand the roads, they will not be held liable for accidents. If there is an issue of slippery roads and the Town does not respond or address it, they would be liable. Ms. Hallquist said there is special legal protection for towns for road maintenance as long as they have a plan in place and they follow it. She noted that the winter maintenance policy would need to be amended if the low sand zone plan is adopted.

Selectman Bianchi felt it important to keep the trouble areas in Town in mind when considering this low sand initiative. He recognizes a problem with living in New Hampshire and having to deal with the weather. He agreed that some intersections in town were dangerous.

Bob Brown said he has lived on Forest Acres Road for about 50 years and has seen it evolve over time. He assumed that adjustments for the low sand/low salt usage on the road could be made in a particularly bad storm event. He added that people always have the option to slow down on slippery roads. Mr. Brown supported the initiative as long as the Public Works Department had the capability to make adjustments when needed.

Selectman Bianchi noted that he did not believe New London “salted” any roads in town but rather added salt to the sand to keep it from freezing. Mr. Lee said this was true and that this is a big difference from what the State does, as they spread only salt on the roads. In his department, they use 14 yards of sand to 1 ½ yards of salt; they do not “straight-salt” anything. They have tried pre-treating some hills prior to a storm with only salt, but they do not do this as a normal practice.

Barbara Troxell, Forest Acres Road, asked if they have any information on how the low salt/sand areas already in existence in the state have been studied with regard to an increase in accidents. Mr. Lee said he did not have this information.

Mr. Lee explained how his department sands the roads, noting that traffic patterns today have changed their practices. He explained that they used to straddle the center line to sand both lanes at once, however now, drivers are less likely to pull over to the side of the road to let the sand truck pass, so now they sometimes miss spots as they have to move around the cars. Depending on the time of day, especially very late at night, they are still able to go down the centerline.

Mr. O’Neil felt that the consensus was that reduced sand would be OK. He noted that they all appreciate the work the Town does but he felt there was too much sand being put down on his road. The concerns are both aesthetic and environmental. His request was that sand only be applied on one pass on his road (not going and coming, as is the current practice) when needed. Mr. Lee said this was doable.

Terri Bingham, Little Cove Road, supported the reduced sand initiative. She said all the roads are dead ends and there are many openings into Messer Pond where silt can enter. Ms. Bingham felt people should be driving more slowly in inclement weather. She added that they all appreciate the environmental and aesthetic concerns and hoped they could find the delicate balance between the two in this situation.

Mr. Hennig, White Pine Road, wondered if the Town had already started cutting back on sand usage as during a recent storm as it seemed they had done a good job using less sand than usual on the north side of White Pine. Mr. Lee said that there was no change in policy, in the instance Mr. Hennig referred to there was only half an inch of snow fall and workers were directed to put only a peppering of sand down as the snow would be melting, so only half an application was put down.

Chair Helm said it seemed the consensus of those at the meeting that a reduction of sand was fine. She said they have received quite a few emails about the discussion, the majority opposed to the plan to designate low sand zones.

A resident asked if they could get a show of hands to see who was in favor of the program and who was against. Chair Helm said they don't usually do that as it can be seen as binding. Selectman Kidder felt the program should be given a try and it can be revisited if it isn't working. She hoped people wouldn't call in constantly to complain about the roads but thought it was worth a try. Selectman Kidder said she valued Mr. Lee's opinion on this issue as he knows the roads very well.

Selectman Bianchi was not in favor of creating an ordinance at this time and putting up signage but was in favor of directing the Public Works Department to try and reduce sanding on roads around public bodies of water when it is safe to do so. Selectman Kidder asked Mr. Lee if they could do this without putting up signage. Mr. Lee said they should notify the public, as drivers need to know they are entering a low sand zone. If this was being done on a trial basis, they wouldn't need to change their ordinance but if it was to continue, they would need to indicate in the ordinance that less sand would be used in environmentally sensitive areas. Mr. Lee offered that if it is a safety issue, they will go ahead and sand the road, even if it is designated as a low sand road. They will not jeopardize safety in these zones. He would like to see them try this in a small area and if it goes well they could expand it into others. He felt five signs would be needed on the roads to be included in this program.

A resident thought they should be careful about adopting a policy as if they do something in violation of their own ordinance, they could be in very big trouble with their insurance company if an accident happened due to this temporary change. He thought Town Counsel should be consulted in this regard. Selectman Kidder wondered if there was a portion of the ordinance that addressed low-sand areas. Mr. Lee said there was not. Chair Helm suggested moving forward with this pending approval from town counsel to be sure insurance would not be affected.

IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) that Forest Acres Road, Beaver Point Road, Fieldstone Road, White Pine Lane, Little Cove Road and Stoney Brook Road Newbury Town Line section, be designated as low sand zone roads, with signage indicating as such, pending review by legal counsel.

Selectman Bianchi was said he was not in favor of this motion. Reading from the public hearing notice, he noted that the suggested guidelines say the roads will be sanded with half the regular application, that the Public Works Department will not come and spot sand as often as they currently do. They would probably cut sanding on hills in half. They would not come out after hours to sand and will sand as needed during a freezing rain storm. It was indicated that Mr. Lee could be given the ability to modify those guidelines as needed.

IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) that Forest Acres Road, Beaver Point Road, Fieldstone Road, White Pine Road, Little Cover Road and Stoney Brook Road Newbury Town Line section, be designated as low sand zoned roads with signage indicating as such, pending review by legal counsel and pending the ability for Mr. Lee to make modifications to the guidelines of the low-sand program, as necessary. Helm, Kidder: YES; Bianchi: NO. THE MOTION PASSED.

Chair Helm said they would be in close contact with Mr. Lee about how the program was going and she thanked him for trying something new in this regard.

Dan Wolf – Overnight Parking in the Municipal Parking Lot, New London Inn

Mr. Wolf said they were experiencing some problems with parking, stemming from their growing business at the New London Inn. The parking lot is often full and guests staying overnight are asked to park in the Town's parking lot on Main Street. This lot is posted "no parking" from 11pm – 7am. Mr. Wolf noted that he would like to see if an arrangement could be made to accommodate the use of parking in this area for his guests. He felt it a shame that the lot was empty and it could be used for people who need a place to park.

Mr. Lee said he understood where Mr. Wolf was coming from but it was a maintenance issue for his department if people are allowed to park in the lot overnight. If his employees can't get in to plow by 7am, the people who work at the library, the bank and other area businesses can't park there. When overnight parking was allowed there in the past, snow from cars people had cleaned off after the rest of the lot was plowed would melt and turn into ice. Public Works would then have to scrape it several times and come back to clean it up. The lot cannot be easily maintained when they have to plow the parking lot around cars.

Chair Helm wondered if some people who are parked in the Inn's spaces leave at the end of an event or dinner, which could allow overnight guests to move their cars from the municipal lot into the Inn's spaces. Mr. Wolf said that some guests who have already gone to bed would then have to wake and come move their cars. Chair Helm suggested offering valet parking. Mr. Wolf said they may have to resort to this, but he felt that using the lot on the limited number of evenings they need it could be accomplished.

Mr. Wolf said he also plows lots in the town and understands it is difficult to plow around cars but felt it was a courtesy they could extend to guests staying in New London. People who get tickets for parking across the street from the Inn they are staying at doesn't make New London look like a very friendly town. He hoped they could come to a compromise. Mr. Homan suggested that the winter is a mess anyway and thought they could designate five spots for overnight parking. Mr. Wolf thought something could be printed up and put on the windshield of cars parked in the lot for the occasional overnight parking permission. Mr. Lee said the reason the lot was changed to no overnight parking was so that they could go in and clean it up to have it ready for parking the next day. Mr. Lee noted that it would cost more to keep the lot cleaned if they allow overnight parking. Mr. Lee offered that many towns close their municipal parking lots during winter or in a snow emergency. Mr. Wolf informed the Board that he had to depart the meeting at this time to attend another meeting, and thanked them for their consideration of his request.

Chair Helm wondered what the ramifications would be if they asked the Inn's contractor to clean up the spaces they use for overnight parking. Mr. Lee explained that his method of plowing and sanding for the Town is different from private plowing contractors and he would not want to

have to call the contractor to ask him to come clean up the lot or have to fix things himself if the contractor does not plow it the way the Town does.

Ms. Piotrow said that many nights there is no snow; couldn't they compromise and allow parking in the lot if snow was not predicted that night? Mr. Lee said that the weather forecasts aren't always right and snow could still fall when it isn't predicted. Mr. Homan wondered if they could give the Inn permission to add some spaces out back on the Town's land. Chair Helm said they had talked about this a bit in the past and asked Ms. Hallquist if this had been suggested to Mr. Wolf. Ms. Hallquist said Mr. Wolf has commented about wanting to do this in the past. She thought perhaps he would even pay for a portion of the cost to create this extra space.

Chair Helm felt they needed to have Mr. Wolf back at a meeting to discuss this. Selectman Bianchi is not in favor of the use of the lot overnight. He explained that he is not against the Inn but said it would be hard to enforce. Parking passes could be covered with snow that falls on a car. He suggested asking dinner guests to park across the street and overnight guests could park in the Inn's lot.

Selectman Kidder thought they should help facilitate this request if they could. She understands the plowing issues Mr. Lee brought up but thought they needed to talk it out a little more. The Board asked that Mr. Wolf be invited to come back to the next Selectmen's Meeting, December 9th at 8:00AM.

Health Insurance – Amy Rankins

The Board reviewed the three quotes for employee health insurance policies. Ms. Hallquist said the Board must make a decision that day on the program they will choose. Chair Helm said she didn't feel that she had enough information to make a decision that day. She knew the employees have had to change programs over the last few years but felt more discussion was needed with the Employee Committee to see what adjustments could be made. Selectman Bianchi said this was a decision on the figures; it wasn't a discussion on the contribution of the employees. He wondered if, for example, they chose the 18-month rate which would cost \$460,260 to the Town if it was possible to change the employee's contribution or to change the plan afterwards. Ms. Johnson said the plan cannot change; they need a plan in place for January 1st. Employee contribution rates could change January 1st or later, as that is not something the insurance department gets involved with as far as rate setting.

Mr. Homan wondered what the increase was. Selectman Bianchi said HealthTrust for the calendar year would be a 6.21% increase for the same plan they have now, using the same employee contributions. If they go to the 18-month plan to catch up with the fiscal year, it would be a 7.99% increase. The cost would go up from \$426,204 to \$452,000 for the calendar year or \$460,260 for 18-months. This includes getting the \$16,000 back they overpaid from last year (when they Health Trust was known as LGC). Both Interlocal and SchoolCare offered higher figures. Interlocal could not provide their rates for the last six months of the 18-month period, so that was a gamble.

Ms. Rankins said they wanted to stay with HealthTrust because SchoolCare was very expensive. Interlocal is a new company, derived from Primex, and does not include dental insurance. The employees are familiar with and like the coverage they have through HealthTrust. Looking at the minimal increase for 18 months they felt the HealthTrust package was the way to go.

Chair Helm felt dental insurance was special and many people don't have it. She wondered what the attributes they liked about the plan they have now and how it might be adjusted. Ms. Rankins noted that the plan they have now is the best "bang for their buck" and the Town would have to move to a high deductible plan to realize additional cost savings. She noted the dental insurance did not go up at all; it was only the health insurance that increased. Ms. Rankins said the plans would be looked at in more detail by the Employee Committee in the coming months to give them a chance to figure out what would work best for the Town and the employees. A change could be made prior to the expiration of the 18 months.

Mr. Homan was concerned that the Budget Committee would not know how to plan for the increases if they went with the 18-month plan. Ms. Johnson thought the companies may be able to give them "not to exceed" numbers to use. Mr. Homan said he hasn't had luck getting this information in the past. Selectman Bianchi said the 18-month plan will allow the Budget Committee to plan for the next budget year as it goes through 2015. If they went to the 12-month plan there would be six months they wouldn't know the premiums for. Mr. Homan said after the 18 months they will still be on a schedule when they won't know and it will be hard to budget for insurance, which he felt was a "budget-buster."

It was noted that if they do not go with HealthTrust, the Town will not get the \$16,000 refund of premiums that is applied to renewal policies.

Chair Helm wondered if the new model from HealthTrust was in jeopardy of going down the same road that LGC did. Ms. Rankins said they didn't get into this much but said they have separated the three units of business (NHMA, Property-Liability Trust and HealthTrust). This never came up as a concern from the Employee Committee and they all felt comfortable with continuing with HealthTrust.

Selectman Bianchi said they needed to decide if they will go for the 12-month calendar year plan or the 18-month plan. He saw no sense going with another company other than HealthTrust at this time. Mr. Homan wondered if the employees had said whether they wanted to pay more for their benefits or pay the same or less for less coverage. Ms. Rankins said the employees wanted to receive the same benefits they are currently getting.

Chair Helm hoped they would have had a more open dialogue with the employees earlier on. She wanted to know what was most important to them within their policies. Ms. Rankins said they are guaranteed the rate through June 30, 2015 so they will not see an increase during that time and will not have to worry about unknown increases for the last six months of the policy. Selectman Bianchi said they will only have to work with the employees on the amount they pay in for their insurance.

Mr. Homan thought there was a plan to phase out the deductible fund where the Town pays \$1,000 per policy. Ms. Johnson said it was kept in the budget as a benefit because the health plans had changed again. She noted that about \$3,000 was used so far this fiscal year, and about \$4,000 was used the year prior. The total exposure to the Town is \$37,000 (\$1,000 for every policy).

Selectman Kidder wondered why Mr. Homan called insurance a “budget buster” when it was only 7.6% of the budget. Mr. Homan said health insurance will increase the whole budget by .5%. This is a cost the Town has been unable to control, along with retirement.

IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to go with the 18-month rate under HealthTrust. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Dispatch Update

Chair Helm said all the participating towns within New London Dispatch need to set their budgets and need to know what they will be charged. Ms. Hallquist referenced the formula used to set fees in the past: a set charge for all towns, plus a charge based on the calls for service for each town. Ms. Hallquist presented the rates should the Board decide to stay with the existing formula, given that the towns have indicated that they do not believe a new formula should be considered at this time as the service has stayed the same and equipment has not been improved. She noted that even using last year’s formula, the other towns’ fees will go up as the communications budget increased from the last billing and calls for service are up.

It was understood by Ms. Hallquist that the towns would be OK with a small increase but there was no specific percentage noted. None of them want an increase. It was noted that in the past New London did not provide a proposal to the towns; they were simply provided with a bill based on their percentage of calls for service.

Mr. Homan supplied a formula used by Lakes Region that has been used by many other towns. Ms. Hallquist said the formula she proposed was based on this same formula, but was changed a bit based on discussions with Sunapee and Newbury who felt more weight should be put on population and less on valuation. She said negotiation is necessary if they want people to stay within the service.

Mr. Homan said charging towns using calls for service is not the best way to handle billing. Ms. Piotrow felt that the factor of calls for service needs to be included in the cost. Mr. Homan said if everyone uses the service the same way, the calls for service should level out by population.

Selectman Bianchi said they would be going through the same thing next year if they don’t adjust the rates this year. He felt instilling small increases would only be prolonging the inevitable and likened this to a poker game. Chief Andersen said he was sure other towns would leave if the Town moved to the population/valuation based formula. If two or three towns leave New London will be responsible for the remainder. He knows that other towns have found they can pay less elsewhere and might sacrifice the benefits of proximity by using the New London dispatch service.

Mr. Homan said they should give a six month rate to the towns and then get together with them to hash out the problem. He felt that the other dispatch services got all their equipment and infrastructure in place over the past 15 years but New London had not and they haven't been "in the game" and now New London must catch up by investing in infrastructure.

Ms. Piotrow said the proposal offered by Mr. Homan was irrational; there was no way the towns would accept it. They need to come up with something conceivable that the towns would accept, perhaps between a 5-10% increase. If the towns pull out, New London will need to know as soon as possible what the cost for outsourcing would be. She didn't think the other towns would want to outsource.

Heather Wood said the population/valuation formula suggested by Mr. Homan is used in Lakes Region (a fire only dispatching center) but they phase the costs in over four years and the towns are not asked for the money all at once.

Chair Helm said they need to decide what to charge the towns for the next fiscal year. She was in favor of a two-step process. She also felt they needed to get the town's input in May at Town Meeting. She'd like them to have two well-advertised public meetings to allow the townspeople to understand all the issues. Chair Helm thought the majority of people in town did not understand the complexities they have been talking about over the last several meetings with regards to dispatch. It is not their role as Selectmen to make this decision without getting the input from the town; it is their job to listen to the people in the town.

Mr. Homan said he wanted to see the contract they use with the participating towns as he was told previously there was no contract. Ms. Hallquist will provide a copy of the contract to the Selectmen and to Mr. Homan.

Selectman Bianchi didn't think they were in a position to wait until Town Meeting to make a decision on this issue. He understood there was a tipping point with many of the towns and New London could be in jeopardy of paying a lot more if towns left the service. Chief Andersen thought communities would be able to handle a 5% increase and they could use this year to figure out their equipment and whether they can afford to continue with the service. If they find it is cheaper to outsource, they will be able to tell the towns they have six months to find a new service.

Chair Helm agreed that a high request next year could cause towns to leave before they could work with them to figure out the right formula. Chief Lyon said Wilmot could go to Lakes Region and it would be more than what they pay for fire and police. They would pay \$4,000 for fire and \$5,000 for police. The cost would go up incrementally to about \$14,000. He said there was a balancing point between what New London taxpayers and the other towns are willing to spend.

Steve Ensign, Board of Firewards, thought that towns should be wary of services that would offer a price that is less than what the total would actually be because they won't really know the

final amount. He noted that he did not see New London as subsidizing other towns by giving low dispatching fees, instead, he always felt that having the other towns pay in to New London dispatch service was a way for them to subsidize New London. In this way, New London is able to have its own dispatch service in town. He felt this was a different perspective on the service in town. Mr. Homan felt the town was subsidizing the other towns to be involved in the service.

Selectman Kidder said they would need time to discuss this and work it out with the other communities. She thought they should come up with a reasonable number to the towns to keep them in the service and was not in favor of disbanding the service without getting town input.

Ms. Wood said the other departments don't have a problem paying more but they want to know what more they would be getting. The Town hasn't put money into personnel and the infrastructure. If they were offering more dispatchers for the busy times and improved radio towers, there would be no qualms about an increase from the other towns at all.

Chair Helm wondered if they would be able to tell the other towns what they'd like to charge for the 2014 budget along with a clause saying they will promise to do certain things to improve the service. This could keep those communities working with them. If they increase their rates less than 15% it may keep the other towns on board.

There was discussion as to what the contract with the other towns included. Ms. Piotrow wondered who would be the negotiator. Chair Helm said Ms. Hallquist received high marks from some of the other towns with regards to her presentation to them about this issue. She would continue to represent the Town on this. Ms. Hallquist said negotiating this issue is not hard; the towns like the service and want to stay, however, the towns must consider their costs just as New London does, and they want to know what else they will be getting for the money.

IT WAS MOVED (Tina Helm) to increase the request from the towns serviced by New London Dispatch by 5% for calendar year 2014.

There was no second to this motion.

IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Tina Helm) to adopt the current funding formula for the next calendar year.

Ms. Kidder said even though the rates would be increasing for some of them, they should be in favor of the increases because it is using the same funding formula they have been using all along.

Chief Lyon suggested a lean process be done by someone who could come in and evaluate the dispatching service New London provides. If this could happen before the information sessions Chair Helm suggested, they will have all the pros and cons ready to share. This would make it easier for everyone to understand what they have and what they might miss if they did not have the service in town. Chief Lyon said he could provide some suggestions for this kind of service.

Chair Helm called for a vote on the motion.

Helm and Kidder: YES; Bianchi: NO. **THE MOTION PASSED.**

Town Administrator's Report

Ms. Hallquist noted receipt of an email from Judy and Harry Stotz thanking the Town for instituting Sunday dump hours which they very much appreciated.

Committee Meeting Reports

Selectman Bianchi said the Planning Board meeting the previous week was cancelled.

Review of Minutes

IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to approve the minutes of November 26, 2013, as amended. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Upcoming Meetings

December 3, 2013 at 5:00pm – Recreation Meeting (Whipple Hall)
December 3, 2013 at 6:30pm – CIP Meeting
December 4, 2013 at 7:00pm – Budget Meeting
December 9, 2013 at 8:00am – Board of Selectmen Meeting
December 10, 2013 at 7:00pm – Planning Board Meeting

Application for Building Permit:

- John B. Wilson, 299 Main Street (Map & Lot 084-072-000) interior renovations dental fit up – Permit #13-133 – Approved.
- Townsend Thomas, 838 Route 103A (Map & Lot 103-018-000) build garage addition and renovate screen porch into living space – Permit #13-134 – Approved.

Application for permanent sign:

- John B. Wilson, 299 Main Street (Map & Lot 084-072-000) Concord Pediatric Dentistry – Approved.

Other Items to be signed:

- Disbursement voucher
- 4 anniversary certificates

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:15am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Heath, Recording Secretary
Town of New London