



Municipal Matters

New London, New Hampshire

December 2016

Selectmen Send their FY 2018 Budget Recommendation to the Budget Committee

The first step in the preparation of the FY2018 Budget (July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018) is complete with the transfer of the Selectmen's budget to the Budget Committee. In preparing its budget, the Selectmen met with department heads, representatives from the various nonprofit agencies and interested citizens to come up with recommended appropriations that will meet the needs of the town in a fiscally responsible way.

Discussions will continue on how to address larger projects such as the Pleasant Lake Dam, Sewer Lagoons, Whipple Hall, Buker Municipal Building, the Academy Building attic and roof, roads, sidewalks and bridge projects as well as the future space needs for the Recreation Department and Police and Dispatching. Citizens are encouraged to attend Selectmen's meetings to weigh in on these important topics.

The recommended budget as submitted by the Selectmen, including general operating and transfers to capital reserve funds, is up 2.8% over FY2017.

The Budget Committee will meet on Wednesday December 7, 14, 21; January 4, 11, and 18th and hold a Public Hearing on February 1st. All are encouraged to attend these very important meetings. The final Budget Committee budget will be voted on at

Town Meeting on Wednesday, March 15th.

www.nl-nh.org

Town Offices Holiday Hours

Selectmen's Offices, Town Clerk & Tax Collector Office and Public Works will be **CLOSED** on:

Friday, December 9th from 12:30—3:00 so that town employees can take part in the holiday luncheon at Whipple Hall, and on

Monday, December 26, 2016 and Monday, January 2, 2017 for the holidays.

We wish all Happy Holidays!

New Rules for Building Permits

Survey May be Required

Responding to concerns raised by citizens and by the Planning Board, the Selectmen voted to require surveys to be submitted with applications for building permits, in some instances.

Instances when a survey by a NH licensed surveyor will be required include when a property owner requests changes in or near sensitive site features such as wetlands and streams or if the property is located in any of the town's Overlay Zoning Districts such as the Shoreland Overlay District, Floodplain Overlay District, Wetland Conservation Overlay District, Streams Conservation Overlay District, Steep Slope Overlay District, or other areas which serve to protect local natural resources of the town. If the existing property survey is more than 10 years old, the applicant must affirm in writing that there are grounds to believe the survey remains reliable. It is important for all to remember that tax maps should **NOT** be relied on to prepare the necessary plot plan for applications for building permits.

For more information on this new rule, please contact the Planning & Zoning Office: 526-4821 ext. 20.

FIRE SAFETY FROM THE FIRE CHIEF DURING THE HOLIDAYS

by Chief Jay Lyon

As we prepare for the holidays, it's a good time to also think about fire safety. Here are several things to check around your home to reduce the chances of fire:

Is your Christmas tree cut freshly, and do you check the water level daily? Dried trees burn extremely quickly. If the needles are falling off the tree, it's time to relocate the tree outside of your home.

Are space heaters at least 36" (3 feet) from combustible materials and are they turned off when you go to bed?

If you have a fireplace, is it covered by a sturdy metal screen? Sparks or logs can roll out of the firebox into the living area.

Do you have your chimney cleaned and inspected at least once a year? We respond to multiple chimney fires every year. Not only can they damage the chimney flue, but they can cause partition (the interior walls) fires.

When you clean out your fireplace or wood stove, do you use a metal bucket to store the ashes in? Is the bucket placed at least 10 feet from the home where there are not leaves or flammable materials? We just recently responded to a brush fire caused by stove ashes.

Are matches and lighters stored out of children's sight and reach? Every year thousands of fires are started from children playing with matches or lighters.

Are candles in a safe place where they can't be knocked over? Are those candles blown out when one leaves the room or goes to bed?

Do you have working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in your home?

One might think that these questions are common sense, but the area fire departments respond to tragic fires every year that have started because people haven't followed these safety recommendations.

Please have a safe and joyful holiday season and if you have any questions concerning safety, please call the New London Fire Department at 526-6073.

Mark Your Calendar

Board of Selectmen — Wed. Dec. 7th @ 6PM

Budget Committee — Wed. Dec. 7th @ 7PM

Town Offices CLOSED — Fri. Dec. 9th @ 12:30 to 3 PM

Planning Board — Tues. Dec 13th @ 6:30PM

Budget Committee — Wed. Dec. 14th @ 7PM

Board of Selectmen — Mon. Dec. 19th @ 6PM

Town Offices CLOSED—Mon. Dec. 26th and Mon. Jan. 2nd

Please see the town website for a full list of meetings and locations.



Stay Informed!

There are many ways to stay informed on what is happening in New London:

- ⇒ Sign-up to have Selectmen's meeting agendas and minutes e-mailed directly to you. E-mail your request to townadmin@nl-nh.com
- ⇒ Visit the town's website at www.nl-nh.com. Meeting notices, meeting minutes and other information is posted here.
- ⇒ Sign up for Citizen News, Recreation News and CodeRED emergency notifications from the town website: www.nl-nh.com

Emergency Management

The Emergency Management Committee is the town's coordination source for emergencies and disasters. The committee is presently assisting the community in building resiliency against all threats; have conducted and are planning emergency preparedness meetings at senior citizen housing. Future endeavors include assisting the business community in establishing emergency and disaster management plans to ensure the town's continuity of operations during an unforeseen event. —*Louis Botta, Emergency Management Director*

Municipal Matters is published by the staff of the Town of New London. Kimberly Hallquist, Town Administrator, 526-4821 ext.13; townadmin@nl-nh.com