



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES September 30, 2013

PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Norm Bernaiche, Chief Tri-Town Assessor
Leigh Bosse, *The Messenger*
John Wilson, New London Resident
Minette Sweeney, *The Intertown Record*
Sunapee Police Chief Cahill
Gayle Hedrington - WNTK Radio

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

Heather Wood – Communications Administrator – Grant Application

Ms. Wood, and Acting Chief Andersen, met with the Board to discuss a Homeland Security & Emergency Management Grant that would allow the town to purchase and install a repeater and antenna duplexer to improve dispatching coverage. Ms. Wood noted that this is a 50% grant in the amount of \$75,125, the town would be responsible for \$37,562.50, in cash and “in-kind services”. The proposed location for the equipment is on the existing tower on King Ridge. Ms. Wood noted that she was seeking Board support of this grant request.

Ms. Kidder asked if permission has been granted for use of that tower. Ms. Wood noted that the Town of Sutton is currently looking into that aspect, but she expects no issues in getting approval. Chief Andersen noted that it is important for the member agencies of New London Dispatching to see that the town is putting resources into the dispatching infrastructure. Chief Cahill summarized the process of how grants are awarded, noting that the plan now is to request grant money in phases, instead of all at once as was attempted in the past, which was not successful. He pointed out that this first phase will address a fire repeater as the FCC has already approved the use for that location, so getting the repeater installed can be accomplished quickly. Ms. Kidder asked what would happen if the grant was not awarded. Chief Andersen suggested that the town would have to consider other options as the town would likely start to lose member agencies due to lack of necessary infrastructure.

IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Tina Helm) to include a letter of support of the grant request. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Norm Bernaiche – Global Pole License Amendments

Mr. Bernaiche informed the Board that a law allowing a town to tax the use of the municipal right-of-way by users on utility poles has been in flux for several years. In 1999 there was a NH Supreme Court case which clarified that pole licenses can be amended when it is in the “public good”. He explained that in order to amend existing pole licenses, the Board would first have to hold a public hearing, and he recommended that the Board hold the public hearing. Chair Helm agreed that the Board should set the date for the public hearing. It was decided that Tuesday, October 15th would be a suitable date, pending confirmation of the required notice of the hearing. Mr. Bernaiche said he would notify the utility companies of this hearing as well.

Town of New London vs. Deacon Family/Howard Trust

Ms. Hallquist noted the receipt of the decision from the Board of Tax and Land Appeals (BTLA) regarding the denial of a motion for rehearing as submitted by the Deacon Family/Howard Trust case. Mr. Bernaiche explained that a hearing was held on the taxpayer’s appeal and the BTLA decided in the Town’s favor, the motion for rehearing was in response to that decision. Mr. Bernaiche noted that the taxpayer now has 30 days to appeal the denial to the Supreme Court, if he so desires. Mr. Bernaiche noted that he is confident in the Town’s position should they have to defend it at the Supreme Court.

MS-1 Update

Mr. Bernaiche said the Town is up \$10.2 million dollars from last year which is a combination of many things; new construction, changes in the addition to the college, abatements and adjustments within the community. This amount is less than 1% of the total valuation of the Town, which Ms. Johnson noted was \$1,096,271,482.

Joint Selectmen’s Meeting

Chair Helm noted that the Selectmen from the seven towns within the Kearsarge Regional School District met on September 26, 2013. Ms. Kidder, who attended the meeting, said the meeting was a review of the programs the school is offering throughout the district. Jerry Frew, Superintendent, gave the majority of the presentation. The school budget will be up a little over 3% but it is hard to determine with new students coming into the district who may need special, out of district services. The school district will also have to absorb the health and human services shortcomings, which had previously been handled by the state. Health benefits will be up, they have enhanced security, the high school has people monitoring the parking lots, bus monitors are present on some busses, and more funds are going towards students taking classes at the Concord technical center. Ms. Kidder noted that additional expenses are accrued when bullying incidents are reported. A report is required for each incident, which takes about 4-5 hours to complete.

Ms. Kidder explained that the Sutton Selectmen would like to put money in the budget for a Resource Officer to patrol both the middle and high school. Their Police Department has had to respond to a lot of calls to the schools and they would like some assistance with the position of a school-designated Resource Officer. The voters have turned this position down four times but Sutton Selectmen would like the surrounding towns’ selectmen to support it. They have offered to come to a New London Selectmen’s meeting to talk about the position.

The next joint meeting of the Selectmen is scheduled for January 7th in Sutton.

Town Administrator’s Report

Ms. Hallquist said the Police Chief position has been advertised and they have less than a dozen applications so far. She informed the Board that she attended an “active shooter” exercise conducted by the Police Department at the New London Hospital, noting that she was very impressed with what she

observed regarding the response by the New London Police Officers who participated. She then asked Chief Ed Andersen to share his observations on the exercise.

Chief Andersen said they have been preparing for this exercise for some time and he was pleased with the results, noting that they have learned a lot from the exercise. He also noted that his department conducted a “lock-down” exercise at the college last week that was also a valuable training exercise.

Chief Andersen explained that the hospital training was an “active shooter” event where responding officers enter the hospital with the intention of taking down the threat; there is no hostage situation. Within the exercises conducted, there were two separate scenarios. He was able to include all the part and full-time officers. The exercise enlisted the help of many actors, who played convincing roles. The Police Department felt it went well. He was proud of his officers; even the new officers handled themselves extremely well.

Upcoming Meetings

Elkins Sidewalk Project Meeting – Wednesday at 5:30pm at the Masonic Hall in Elkins

CAC Meeting – Saturday at 7:30am at Whipple Hall

The topic of discussion at the CAC meeting will be the 1941 building. Ms. Hallquist asked if the Board would like her to send a Streamsend email to notice people of the meeting and its location. Chair Helm felt that this would be helpful.

Planning Board Meeting – Tuesday, October 8 at 7:00pm

Budget Meeting – Wednesday, October 9 at 7:00pm

Insurance Carriers

Ms. Kidder wondered if LGC owed the Town any more funds. Ms. Johnson said she didn’t believe they did; she had received several checks totaling about \$100,000. Ms. Kidder felt it important to look into other carriers for the Town’s insurance. Others agreed.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were not approved, as Mr. Bianchi was not present and Chair Helm was not present at the last meeting. They would be approved at the next meeting.

Pleasant Lake Draw-Down

Ms. Hallquist said the draw-down was underway and Mr. Lee is prepared to make the repairs to the dam.

Tax Rate Sheet

Dr. Wilson asked that the projected tax rate sheet Ms. Johnson had be sent out to the Budget Committee members. They will be meeting on October 9 and this would be helpful information for the members to have.

Application for Building Permit:

- John & Rebecca Burns, 28 Oxbow Road (Map & Lot 122-014-000) build breezeway – Permit #13-102 – Approved.
- Kevin & Jessica Hathaway, 929 Main Street (Map & Lot 109-003-000) replace window w/French door – Permit #13-103 – Approved.
- Brian & Linda MacKenzie, 246 Birch Acres Road (Map & Lot 074-029-000) garden shed – Permit #13-104 – Approved.
- Arthur McMurrich, 208 Stoney Brook Road (Map & Lot 137-018-000) finish space over garage – Permit #13-105 – Approved.

- Ronald Keller, 39 Squires Lane (Map & Lot 096-018-000) generator & propane tank – Permit #13-106 – Approved.
- John MacKenna, 168 Little Sunapee Road (Map & Lot 059-045-000) sitting room w/walk out basement – Permit #13-107 – Approved.
- Bettie Howard, 46 Sugar House Road (Map & Lot 035-028-000) demo garage & build master bedroom/bathroom addition – Permit #13-108 – Approved.
- Kelliann Bogan, 332 Burpee Hill Road (Map & Lot 070-038-000) install generator – Permit #13-109 – Approved.
- Lisa & John Garrahan, 668 Lake Shore Drive (Map & Lot 050-002-000) demolish old house and build new – Permit #13-110 – Approved.

Application to use Whipple Memorial Town Hall:

- New London Community Center – use of conference room 9/12, 19, & 26, 2013 – approved.
- Center for the Arts, Jan 3rd, 2014 – 2-8PM – approved.

Application to use the New London town green

- NL Garden Club annual event – July 24th, 2014 – July 28th, 2014 – approved.

Application for use of the Sydney Crook Conference room:

- Adventures in Learning – Thursdays, 1/23, 30, 2/6, 13, 20, 27 & 3/6/2014 9AM-12PM - approved
- NL Garden Club – annual event – counting room – July 26th, 2014 - approved

Other Items to be signed:

- Disbursement voucher
- Intent to cut – P. Ohler, 553 Pleasant St (Map & Lot 048-002-000)
- Plodzick & Sandersons Audit report

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:22am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Heath, Recording Secretary
Town of New London