



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES June 14, 2010

PRESENT:

Tina Helm, Chair, Board of Selectmen
Mark Kaplan, Selectman
Peter Bianchi, Selectman
Jessie Levine, Town Administrator

ALSO PRESENT:

Gina Gioldassis, *Intertown Record*
Bob & DJ Lavoie, New London Residents

Chair Helm called the MEETING TO ORDER at 6:00 PM.

Minutes of the June 1, 2010 Board of Selectmen Meeting: Peter Bianchi said that on the 4th paragraph on page 7, regarding his report on the Planning Board. "If it had a ratio of .1..." He said that no ratios were given. It should say "For example, if a 20,000 square foot lot has a ratio of .1..." Chair Helm made small edits on the same page. Chair Helm said on page 5, second paragraph up, "saddles" should be "saddle," and on page 2, the paragraph that begins with "Peter Bianchi" should be edited for clarity.

IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Mark Kaplan) to accept the minutes of June 1, 2010, as amended. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

CodeRED All Call: Ms. Levine said that Newbury used the CodeRED reverse notification system on Memorial Day due to the smoke coming from Canada. The company that offers CodeRED has offered a free "all-call" to test the system on June 24, 2010 at 11:00 AM. This test will help to evaluate the validity of the numbers and the speed of the calls going out. They want to make sure their outgoing speed matches the Town's incoming speed so as not to saturate the lines. Ms. Levine said that this timeframe gives the Town an opportunity to publicize the system and get people to sign up. She explained that the system was used recently at the Seasons due to a propane leak, and that that call served as a good test.

Ms. Levine referenced the text that was made available to those at the meeting that will be used during the test on June 24. She indicated that people can sign themselves up on the Town's website, or with the help of Linda Jackman at the Town Office. Mr. Lavoie commented that signing up on the web was easy until the map portion, which doesn't seem to work well. Ms. Levine said that it is unfortunate that this is a problem and they have been trying to get it remedied.

Ms. Levine noted that there is a "do-not call" list, which people can be added to if they do not want to be notified of emergencies. They have to sign a release so that the Town would not be responsible for not notifying them of an emergency in the future.

Kearsarge Hockey Sign Request: Ms. Levine noted that ice hockey was just approved by the School Board to add as a high school sport. The School District, however, will not be paying for the program. It has been determined that the team will need to raise approximately \$25,000 per year to play. The people

in charge of fundraising want to put a thermometer sign next to the Bob Andrews Memorial Skating Rink to show their fundraising progress. Bob Andrews had worked hard on the ice hockey team prior to his death, and the rink is often used by area hockey players. Ms. Levine noted that there have been approved thermometer signs on Town property in the past for other fundraising efforts, such as at the Chamber of Commerce and in Elkins for the PLPA's Rock Bass Derby. She said that the Board of Selectmen may approve signs on Town property. Ms. Levine recommended that if they approved it, they limit it to the size limit for signs in the Commercial Zone District, which is up to 15' square feet in size.

Chair Helm said that she was very supportive of the idea, as long as it was not of an objectionable size. She felt that it showed that there was multi-generational activity going on in the Town. Mr. Bianchi thought they should see a sketch of the sign first before approving anything. Ms. Levine said that the sign would be in the shape of a thermometer and suggested that the Selectmen could approve the request with the stipulations of size within the motion. Chair Helm agreed with Ms. Levine. Mr. Kaplan felt there was time to have a conversation with the people and have a hand-drawn mock-up of the sign, including the dimensions. Mr. Bianchi said that they should approve the request with conditions as part of the motion.

IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) and SECONDED (Mark Kaplan) to approve the hockey sign request contingent upon seeing a sketch of it. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Board of Firewards Appointment: Chair Helm said that John C. Ryan has expressed interest in the position of Fireward, which has become vacant upon Richard Brady's move to Sutton. Mr. Ryan has owned land in town for several years and has a history that would make him a suitable Fireward. Mr. Bianchi said that he did not know Mr. Ryan personally but felt if his qualifications pleased Steve Ensign and others involved in the process, that he was fine with the choice as well

IT WAS MOVED (Mark Kaplan) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to appoint John C. Ryan to the position of Fireward. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Surplus Equipment Bids: Ms. Levine noted that there had been three pieces of Town surplus equipment listed for sale in a closed bid process. One was for a 2001 dump truck, another was for a 2006 Crown Victoria police cruiser, and one was for excess wood from clearing that had been done on the Town Common. She said that the Board of Selectmen have to decide whether to accept or reject the bids so they can issue the titles and transact the process. Ms. Levine said the winning bids are as follows:

2001 International 4900 dump truck (52,835 miles/4712 hours)	Sizemore Truck and Auto New Boston, NH 03070	\$11,666.00
2006 Ford Crown Victoria car (121,588 miles)	Tracy Claus Merrimack, NH 03054	\$2,850.00
Two cords of wood	Russell L. Smith Newbury, NH 03255	\$275.00

Chair Helm asked if they usually have a target in mind when they put the bids out. Ms. Levine said they have gotten as much as \$13,000 for a dump truck in the past, and generally they get more than the bid of \$3700 for cruisers, but they had to keep this cruiser for an extra year, so it makes sense that the bids that came in were lower.

Ms. Levine reported that the dump truck needed about \$13,000 worth of work to keep it on the road for another year. She said that people are entitled to do their own inspections of the vehicles before bidding on them.

Mr. Bianchi shared that the price of new dump trucks are sky-rocketing. He said that it is becoming more popular to keep the old trucks going instead of purchasing new ones. Older trucks are easier and cost less to repair. Ms. Levine said that they are, in fact, keeping the trucks longer than they used to. This particular one is one of the older trucks that they have kept for 12 years rather than 10. She noted that they need the trucks available when they need them and can't have them down being fixed, especially in the winter. Mr. Bianchi said the engine perhaps has much more life left in it but agreed that a truck 10-12 years old would likely have problems with rust. Mr. Bianchi said that it is too late to change anything at this point, but cautioned that this discussion would come up again during the budget process.

IT WAS MOVED (Mark Kaplan) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to accept the top bids for the three items that were put out for bid from the Town. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

OLD/PENDING BUSINESS:

Sunapee Wastewater Upgrade Funding: Ms. Levine said that New London and Sunapee have been rejected for grant funding and both have been notified that they qualify only for loans, Sunapee at 3.25% and New London at 4.125%. Ms. Levine said that Mark Kaplan spoke to Richard Lougee of Senator Gregg's office, and she has followed up with background information. Neil Cheseldine, engineer for the project, has asked the RDA to review the application again. The good news is that the State has opened up its sewer loan fund (30% grant funding for New London), but without any grant from RDA they cannot proceed unless they return to Town Meeting.

Mr. Lavoie asked how the State grant differed from the ARRA grant. Ms. Levine said that the funding depends on the user rates rather than median income. The State grant hasn't been offered of late because of the economy of the State, but it has been made available again. The federal grant would have been 45% of the total project. Ms. Levine said that the State will differentiate between New London and Sunapee and not find a median of the two. Mr. Lavoie asked if there were any other federal agencies that could be applied to for funds. Ms. Levine said she did not believe there were, as EPA funding was what was available in the stimulus funding. They were 65th on the list for that so have already missed that funding.

Ms. Levine asked the board if she could be granted the authority to send a letter to Senator Gregg about this issue. The entire board was agreeable to this. They suggested she also send a letter to Paul Hodes.

Skate Park: Ms. Levine said that the School Board approved the skate park location to be at the elementary school, behind Country Press. She said that her article in the Intertown Record this week explains the decision. The Facilities Committee is authorized to negotiate a lease with the Town. She said that she will get Jerry Frew a sample lease to review. Because it is a park, the Board of Selectmen and Recreation Commission can lease land for a park without a Town Meeting. This decision will allow the fundraising group to move forward sooner than next March.

Mr. Bianchi asked how the lease would work if fundraising were unsuccessful. Ms. Levine said that they could have the lease ready to go, but no shovel in the ground until the funding had been raised.

Chair Helm asked if there was a major wetlands problem in the area chosen for the park. Ms. Levine said that there are no major wetland problems. Any wetlands on the property are at the edge of the area, which

would most likely be used for drainage. Chair Helm said she remained supportive of the fact that it is a multi-generational effort.

Ryan Pomkoski Bench: Ms. Levine said that the Board of Selectmen approved the installation of a bench at Elkins Dam, where Keith Pomkoski's son Ryan used to fish. The positioning of the bench would be on the dam, kitty corner from the boat launch and about 30 feet away from another memorial bench. Mr. Pomkoski worked with Richard Lee on finding the best spot for the bench. Ms. Levine said that the State Department of Environmental Services has given a waiver for the shoreland permit. The bench needs a 1' x 3' section of concrete under it, which would be done by hand. Ms. Levine said that she was asking the Board of Selectmen to waive the building permit process for this project because it is on Town land. If it was a private project, they would need a permit for the concrete pad.

IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Mark Kaplan) to waive all permit requirements for a concrete slab for the Ryan Pomkoski memorial bench at Elkins Dam. Kaplan seconded. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS & REPORTS

Joint Assessing Board, June 2: Ms. Levine reported on the meeting held on June 2. The budget is on track and they have scheduled the performance review for Norm Bernaiche for the September meeting.

EMC Public Info Session, June 2: Chair Helm attended the Emergency Management Committee's presentation on June 2. She commended the entire Committee for putting on such a good presentation. Ms. Levine said there were about 20-25 people there, which was better than she had predicted. She felt there was good feedback and that good questions had been asked. They will put some finishing touches on the brochure they have and will make it more widely available to the public.

Mr. Lavoie asked about the multiple means of information. He wanted to know if they were integrated in such a way that if someone prefers one specific type of media, will they also get the information from all other forms of media as well. Ms. Levine said that this question is being addressed. She said that CodeRED would be used less-frequently because it is most intrusive. They need to agree when they will use it and who would make that call. She assured him that this issue is in the process of being worked out. She said that there may be an event where all means will be used, but there will also be events where not every means will be used. Mr. Lavoie felt they needed an operational plan to provide services to different people with different means of accepting information. Ms. Levine agreed and said that Emergency Management Director Peter Berthiaume had already provided a guideline for a communications plan.

School Board Meeting, June 10: Ms. Levine said that the Joint Boards of Selectmen had sent representatives from Bradford, Warner and Sutton to the meeting. They asked for the School District to share their capital plan as early as possible in the budget process so that they could inform their respective towns and better plan for their own public and capital planning. Dan Noyes, Facilities Director, said they hope to set up a 3-5 year master plan that would help with this request. School Board Chair Dan Wolf asked to keep the lines of communication open between the towns and the School District.

CAC, June 12: Chair Helm felt that Saturday's CAC meeting went very well. She said that Police Chief David Seastrand did a good job in engaging the people and there were lots of questions asked. At the meeting, they alerted everyone to the CodeRED system and the sewer funding process/rejection. Mr. Kaplan said people were interested in what the Police Department was doing on a day to day basis. Chair Helm thought there was one recommendation that was interesting. She didn't know until the meeting that

Chief Seastrand and his group had done so many presentations focusing on different aspects of what the department does. These presentations included information about things such as tasers and breathalyzers. It was suggested that some of those presentations should be video-taped and put on the Town's website. Ms. Levine said that the last Citizens Academy program they offered a couple years ago didn't gain much interest. She said that she has seen Chris Currier and Chief Seastrand speak before, but not on a regular basis. Mr. Bianchi said that Chief Seastrand expressed that they go and give presentations where and when asked. They have been to Hilltop Place and Barrett Road recently. There are talks that could be given for people to be able to identify and understand scams that come via email and the telephone. Chair Helm felt it was an interesting idea going forward. She felt that it should be added to their list of things to think about.

Mr. Bianchi said that he went to the Third of the Century Award gathering for Anna Green and that it was a good turn-out. A plaque hangs at the Town Office, near the elevator, in recognition of award recipients.

Chair Helm noted that at the CAC meeting, it was decided that the August CAC meeting would be cancelled.

Mark Kaplan said that it has been expressed to him that some CAC members would like to have a meeting whereby the ideas and conversation would come from them, and not the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Bianchi and Chair Helm felt that was a good idea and they said that they generally do have that sort of open forum a couple times per year. Mr. Bianchi noted that the only problem with this format is that if a question is raised and the appropriate resources/people are not available to comment, it might difficult to be able to pass on good information to group. Mr. Lavoie suggested having people submit their questions to the Board of Selectmen ahead of time so they could be prepared for the questions that were to be raised.

Chair Helm added that Mr. Markoff has volunteered to talk at a future meeting about upcoming changes to the school budget as well as the burdens that might be placed upon the towns due to the State's financial problems.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Sewer Commission, June 24: Chair Helm and Mr. Bianchi said they would both be there. Mr. Lavoie asked if Sunapee was working along with New London on the funding problem. Ms. Levine said that they were. She said that Donna Nashawaty has been working with Senator Jeanne Shaheen's office.

Coalition Communities, June 28th at 3pm in Concord: Chair Helm and Mr. Kaplan plan to attend this meeting regarding the donor town issue.

Assessing Forum, June 29: Ms. Levine said that ads for this meeting are running in the Intertown and Shopper.

OTHER BUSINESS

Old Main Street Signage: Chair Helm asked about the signage requested on Old Main Street and the "Share the Road" bicycle signs. There was also some discussion of putting a weight limit sign for trucks and switching the "No Thru Trucks" sign with a speed limit sign. Lastly, there was a request to have a "Saddle Horse" sign installed.

Mr. Bianchi said that he didn't think the weight limit sign would make a difference, but the "No Thru Trucking" sign could go up closer to the interstate. He felt they should put more pressure from the police in those areas. The Selectmen asked Ms. Levine to talk to the Police Chief about enforcement of the No Thru Trucking ordinance.

The Selectmen discussed the signage and agreed that a Saddle Horse sign and "End of Pavement" sign were not needed. The Selectmen did approve asking the State for a Share the Road sign for Route 11 approaching Crockett's Corner.

Right-of-Way Dispute: Ms. Levine brought the Selectmen up-to-date on a dispute on Elkins Road between the Town and a homeowner who wants to construct a stone wall along the edge of the road. Ms. Levine said that unless there is a surveyed right-of-way, the Town will not take any responsibility for the wall due to plowing or maintenance. If it turns out that the wall is in the right-of-way, he will have to move the wall at his own expense. She has written as much in a letter to the property owner; it is not the Town's obligation to survey the right-of-way for a private project.

The owner has now moved the wall 14 feet from the edge of road and wanted to know if he could go forward with completing the wall. Ms. Levine said that she has advised him that most likely the wall should be safe, but the Town can't authorize him to do anything in the right-of-way and cannot provide a guarantee that he is outside of the right-of-way. She said she told him they would most likely survey the area when they start the Elkins sidewalk project, but that could be a few years away and he understandably does not want to wait. Ms. Levine told him that if he goes ahead with the wall and it is found to be within the right-of-way, he will have to take it down. She told him that they can't say he is safe until it has been surveyed. Mr. Kaplan said that since the property owner is the one initiating the proposal, they should let him bring in the surveyor and find out where his property lies. Mr. Bianchi said that if the property owner finds the front corners and determines that the stone wall is on his land, would it be a dead issue. Ms. Levine answered in the affirmative and said that they told him this. Ms. Levine said that even if they own the land, the law says that they cannot build over the right-of-way.

Mr. Bianchi asked when they'll start the sidewalk on Pleasant Street. Ms. Levine said she has to apply to the Federal Government to allow the Public Works Department to complete the work, and she hopes it will be done by the end of summer.

Bids: Mr. Bianchi acknowledged that the Selectmen had approved bids for propane and heating fuel and asked if the Town went out for bids for gas and diesel fuel. Ms. Levine said they have received bids for diesel in the past, although there is only one biodiesel vendor in the area. There has only been one vendor available for gas as well. They used to use Heath and Lull, but when Jake's took it over they did not want to do the paperwork required for the federal tax exemption. Palmer's didn't want to do it either and when the MiniMart first opened, they were not interested. Therefore, the Town started using Park 'n Go in Wilmot, over the Elkins line. Ms. Levine noted that Arthur from the MiniMart approached the Town and asked to bid for gas. She asked them to make a proposal and found that it was not actually the MiniMart they'd be contracting with, but with Evans Fuel as the provider. A representative from Evans has called Ms. Levine and said that they have municipal accounts but they are usually only for towns with Evans Expressmarts. She gave them information about how much gas they use per month and will wait to receive their proposal.

Mr. Bianchi asked if the Town generally goes to bid for paving. Ms. Levine said that they usually do not, but that they price compare to see what towns in the area are getting for prices. She added that Mr. Lee has a good relationship with Continental, which has always helped them get a good price and good work product. Mr. Bianchi recommended getting bids for paving this year. He noted that Pike was already

doing work in town and could give us a competitive price. Ms. Levine responded that the State historically has paid Pike much more than the Town pays Continental. She reiterated that they price compare with what the other towns are paying. Ms. Levine said the conversation about getting bids for paving should be conducted with Mr. Lee present. Mr. Bianchi said that since it is a large chunk of money they would be remiss not to go to the major pavers to make sure the Town was getting the best price. He said that people were hurting financially and perhaps they could get some more competitive bids. He said he would be happy to talk with Mr. Lee if necessary and see about getting bids for paving. Ms. Levine said that they usually do their paving work in late summer/early fall and so the conversation would need to be had soon. She suggested having the discussion at the next Board of Selectmen's meeting. Chair Helm agreed that Mr. Lee should meet with all three of them and have the discussion at the next meeting.

Non-Public Session: There being no further public business, Chair Helm asked for a motion to enter into non-public session to discuss litigation pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (e). Helm – yes, Bianchi – yes, Kaplan – yes.

Upon returning to public session, IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Mark Kaplan) to accept the settlement for the Broom property tax appeal on Hastings Landing Road.

Items for Signature

Application for Building Permits:

- Mark & Donna Reed, 75 Goose Hole Road (Map & Lot 042-016-000) continuing with renovation project – **Extension** - Permit #08-074 – Approved.
- Dale & Jeanne Conly, 1801 Little Sunapee Road, (Map & Lot 043-021-000) remove window, replace with wall – Permit #10-047 – Approved.
- Charles P. Kelsey, 822 Little Sunapee Road (Map & Lot 020-007-000) repair garage support wall – Permit #10-048 – Approved.
- Jane Phillips, 602 Burpee Hill Road (Map & Lot 057-009-000) install 2 windows & 1 door in shed – Permit #10-049 – Approved.
- Jeff & Amanda Sullivan, 640 Bunker Road (Map & Lot 076-028-000) add deck & partial screen porch – Permit #10-050 – Approved.
- Martha & Sikhar Banerjee, 135 Lamson Lane (Map & Lot 049-018-000) replace roof & install skylight – Permit #10-051 – Approved.
- Brian & Mary Wicenski, 474 Pleasant St. (Map & Lot 061-014-002) build barn/garage – Permit #10-052 – Approved.
- Mary Ellin Stiles, 32 Knights Hill Road (Map & Lot 082-001-000) replace window w/door add steps – Permit #10-053 – Approved.
- Michael & Gatia McChesney, 344 Elkins Road (Map & Lot 077-036-000) erosion control for fieldstone wall within the shoreland overlay district – Permit #10-055 – Approved.
- Douglas Fraize & Rosemarie Bernard, 149 Barrett Road (Map & Lot 084-050-000) build two decks – Permit #10-054 – Approved.

Application for use of Town Common:

- Momentum Theatre Troupe, Scott Sweatt, theatre performance 6/26/10 from 6-10PM – Approved.

Application for Sign permits:

- First Baptist Church for sign at information booth Vacation Bible School 6/21-6/25 – Approved.

Application for use of Syd Crook Room:

- Adventures in Learning: Tuesdays 9am-12 9/21-10/12; Wednesdays, 9am-12 9/22, 29, 10/6, 13, 27, 11/3; Thursdays, 1pm-4pm 9/23-10/14; Fridays, 1pm-4pm 9/24-10/15

Wastewater Tax Abatement Request:

- Robert Schwartz, 29 Haynes Road abatement amount \$142.50 – billed in error – property was demolished 12/2009.

Other:

- Disbursement and payroll voucher weeks of June 14, 2010
- Veteran's Credit applications – Approved.
- LNH Class of 2011 Acceptance Form for Jessie Levine – Leadership NH – Approved.
- Warrant for dog licenses – Approved.
- Appointment card for John C. Ryan, Board of Firewards – Approved.

IT WAS MOVED (Mark Kaplan) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to adjourn the Board of Selectmen's meeting of June 14, 2010. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 7:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Heath, Recording Secretary
Town of New London