



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES January 24, 2011

PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Celeste Cook, Budget Committee
Jerry Coogan, Chair of Recreation Commission
Joe DiClerico, Resident of New London
Ron Koron, Resident of New London
Doug MacMichael, Resident of New London
Jack and Pat Sheehan, Residents of New London
John Wilson, Budget Committee
Chad Denning (Recreation Director)
Linda Hardy (Town Clerk/Tax Collector)
Joan Pankhurst (Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector)
Chief Seastrand (Police Chief)

Chair Helm called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Beach Use: Chair Helm said that the first item on the agenda to initiate discussion about beach use in New London.

Mr. Denning explained that recently, he requested information from all of the Recreation Departments in the State of New Hampshire and received responses from 15 departments. There were another 10 departments that indicated that they would send their information to him at a later date. Mr. Denning found that most town beaches allow residents and their guests, similar to New London. Laconia has public beaches, but they charge everyone, including residents, to go there. They use a transfer/beach pass on the cars. They also have a guest pass, which New London offers as well. Mr. Denning admitted that he didn't care for how the guest passes work currently in New London, as it is simply a piece of paper that can be passed around to more than one person. In Laconia, they have an enforcement program, as they do in New London, but the main difference in the towns is that New London's parking access is very limited. He felt that this issue was the main problem with the beaches in town. Because nearby roads are not signed for permit parking, there is no enforcement opportunity for the Police Department.

Mr. Denning recommended that every car parked in the permit parking should have to have a sticker. If not, they would get a ticket. He felt it could be cost prohibitive to have to hire someone to stand at the beach and ask patrons for proof of residency. Ms. Levine said that she thought the problem had changed from parking (who gets to park and where) and how stickers are distributed, to who is actually sitting on the beach. She said that recently there have been more complaints about this issue than about the parking. She agreed that the monitoring side of the dilemma was expensive but thought that it should be looked

into. She also thought they should think about actually keeping track and counting the residents versus non residents who frequent the beaches.

Mr. Denning said that he met recently with the Town's waterfront director, Renee Mercier, and they agreed upon a plan to gather information about patrons of the beaches. Every three hours starting at 9 AM, one lifeguard would survey who's at the beach. This process will help collect data from those who are using the beach. Mr. Coogan said it would be a census to find how many people were frequenting the beaches at what time and during the different parts of the summer. He thought many meetings would be needed to address the sticky situations they could get into (for instance, someone riding their bike or walking to the beach who was not a resident) as well as the definition for terms such as "guest." Mr. Coogan said that ideally, they would like to begin the process by introducing the topic and then get into it further in a couple of months.

Mr. Kaplan asked if children or grandchildren who come from another city would have to drive a resident's car to the beach or if they could drive themselves and tell someone whom they were the guests of. He wondered what the most agreeable way of doing this was to everyone. Those at the meeting believed this was really the main question. As of yet, there were no clear answers, however.

Mr. MacMichael offered that they should put up a hut at each beach and charge admission to everyone, resident or not. He felt that most people would just go home and that would solve the problem. Chair Helm said that while this idea may seem extreme, it wasn't far off the mark. The town where she used to live had a table set up at the beach and everyone had to check in. People would receive a sticker for the beach.

Chief Seastrand noted that recently, the Selectmen changed some of the no-parking areas in Elkins. There is currently no parking allowed on Elkins Road at all. He said that they need to sign the parking lot better when people come in. If they see the signs as they approach and pull in, it takes away the enforcement headaches. Chief Seastrand said that they don't usually enforce an expired sticker, but that they could perhaps encourage people to stay current with their stickers by issuing tickets or giving warnings.

Mr. Coogan said that he and Mr. Denning recently met with the Little Lake Sunapee Protective Association (LLSPA), whose concern was the management of the beach parking area. They thought that perhaps there would be a better management plan of how and where people could park, such as coming up with a better design for parking on Dump Road. Perhaps there could be a better model for Elkins Beach parking as well.

Linda Hardy explained that the problems haven't been as much the beach as beach parking. She thought the whole guest pass method was out of control. She and Ms. Pankhurst give out passes every day, even in the winter when people register their cars. She felt it was too loose. Ms. Hardy said that they have no way of recording who gets passes, how many, and the length of time they have the passes. Ms. Levine noted that guests could very well be a friend from the neighboring town and they have to be careful of how they define "guests." She said the complaints in the past were mostly about parking, but now that the Police Department has been cracking down on the parking, it has become more about who is actually using the beach.

Mr. Bianchi said he was against charging anyone to use the beach. They are small beaches and he felt they should be intended for the residents and taxpayers in town. He'd like to slowly add signage and make it known that if they'd like to bring a guest, they should go to a lifeguard stand and put their name and their guest down on a list. The idea is to show the intent to keep the beaches for the taxpayers of the town and their guests. He felt they should patrol the parking and give a warning first and try to be a little

friendlier to those who may forget their sticker or who might not want to put a sticker on their car. They should educate people as to what/who the beaches are for. He agreed that there was a lot to discuss, as there were lots of instances to take into consideration.

Mr. Koron said he agreed with Mr. Bianchi and would be against charging people to use the beach. They've already paid for it with their taxes and it would be unfair to charge residents again. He also agreed that the issue was the parking and felt they needed to educate people. Mr. Denning offered that they could use the upcoming summer to educate people. The first step would be to focus on the parking and then they could see where it goes and where the impacts would be.

Celeste Cook said that one of the issues at Elkins Beach is all the people who come from Wilmot, as they seem to come all day. She wondered if there was some way they can work with the other communities to let them know it is a beach for the Town of New London. Chair Helm said if they do a focused census it would give them the valuable data that frames the question of where people were coming from. Mr. Denning said one of the issues they have in the town is that they belong to a regional school district. That philosophy spills over into the other things the town has to offer. That is why there are so many other towns that come into New London. He said it isn't wrong or right, but it is the thought process.

Mr. Bianchi said they have two other things to take into consideration: Colby-Sawyer College students and those from Gordon Research. He noted that there were other areas that needed to be addressed, including people who swim at Melendy Park.

Mr. Koron asked Mr. Denning if they were able to put signs up on the road for permit parking only. Mr. Denning said if they put signs on Dump Road and Camp Sunapee Road, it would allow Chief Seastrand and his staff to enforce the parking in these areas.

Mr. DiClerico said that Mr. Denning and Mr. Coogan came to the LLSPA meeting and they had a dialogue about this beach problem. He was pleased to see them continuing their approach at the current meeting. As they think about this problem, he cautioned another serious problem at Bucklin Beach. As they come in from town, a lot of people park on the right-hand side of Little Sunapee Road before Dump Road. He has almost hit people who are trying to walk to the beach from that part of the road. One consideration is to request the State to post no-parking signs up the road for a ways. They could also post sticker parking only on Dump Road, which would make it easier for the Police Department to enforce. He thought that Camp Sunapee Road should not offer parking as it may be too narrow. They should attempt to find a happy medium with the guest passes. They won't come up with a perfect system, but they can improve on what they have in order to keep the beaches for New London residents and their guests, and to discourage outsiders from coming in. Mr. DiClerico noted that this has been a growing problem over the years. A study he did on his own showed (by counting stickers on cars) that between 25-30% of the patrons were non-residents. He felt that this was high. On closing, he noted that even in the Town Report from 1964, the year the beach was acquired from Mr. Bucklin, it was mentioned that they were thinking about putting up a gate and charging entrance fee.

Mr. MacMichael said they need to decide if they were going to be cordial or nasty about the issue. He said that people park in his mother's driveway, near to Elkins Beach, to swim. He added that someone will always complain and that people will always find a way to get to the beach.

Chief Seastrand asked if they would be taking into consideration the people who swim at Melendy Park and the boat launch. Ms. Levine said that people are already not supposed to be swimming off the dam so it is an enforcement issue.

Ms. Levine said that everyone agrees that parking is part of the problem, as well as what is considered “legal parking” adjacent to the beach. They can’t keep people from parking on private property if the owners don’t care if they do so. They can do the census this summer to get a handle on who is frequenting the beaches. She said that she is toying with the idea of residents continuing to get a sticker for the Transfer Station and the beach, which goes on the car and belongs to the owner. Then every property owner could also be entitled to one guest pass, which could hang from the rear view mirror. If they lose the pass or want additional tags, they would have to pay for them. The passes can be numbered to keep track of who has what number. If there is a slight charge to the additional tags, this might help pay for the resources needed for additional monitoring.

Chief Seastrand said that the tags should be revocable and not permanent. Mr. Denning said that everything could be color-coded and would display resident information on the back. Ms. Hardy said that they currently don’t keep a list of anything; not even the Transfer Station stickers. They will have to develop some type of list. Chair Helm thought, as a beginning of the census taking, Ms. Hardy could perhaps start keeping an informal listing of who was getting the passes. Ms. Levine said that they shouldn’t give out any guest passes while they are working this out.

Chair Helm said she would take this under advisement and would be happy to meet again to speak further on the topic. Mr. Bianchi added that if people have suggestions after they leave the meeting, they should email Ms. Levine or one of the Board of Selectmen members to let them know. Chair Helm indicated that this was the case on all meetings and topics of discussion. She said that they value the input of everyone in their decision-making.

HB 176: Ms. Levine said that HB 176 would prevent students from voting in all elections in the towns where they attend college. She has been asked by Rep. David Pierce, who represents Hanover, to testify against this bill when it comes up, and she wanted to make sure that she would be representing the Board of Selectmen if she did so. Personally, she thought the bill was a terrible idea as it restricts the students’ right to vote; they may not vote if they can’t do it in their college towns. Ms. Levine noted that New London has a relationship with the students, as do most college towns. The students frequent their businesses, volunteer in the community, fill internships, etc., and not allowing them to vote did not promote good citizenship.

Ms. Levine asked how they, as a board, felt about the bill. Chair Helm asked about the rationale behind it. Ms. Levine said that she is not certain, but one theory is that students usually vote for Democrats and the proponents want to change the outcome of elections. Ms. Levine said that it was a fairly long, well-crafted bill.

Mr. Kaplan said he wasn’t in favor of the bill, but he noted a recent newspaper article where a Dartmouth student was elected as the Grafton County Treasurer. The student was ill-prepared for the position and didn’t show up to fulfill the duty. He felt she put herself on the ballot as a lark and he said there was no way to know if people would do these things on a lark or if they were really serious.

Ms. Hardy said that there is also a concern that the students could influence a town election, which they really have no stake in or reason to vote. Ms. Levine said they have pretty low student turnout at elections other than the presidential election. Ms. Hardy said she didn’t think the bill would even comply with federal protections.

Chair Helm recalled there was a fairly tidy stipend involved with the position of Grafton County Treasurer, and that was perhaps part of the reason the student wished to win. She said she was not in favor of the bill. Students need to be part of the democratic and electoral processes. It is up to the voters to

participate whether they are students or regular residents. Mr. Bianchi said he hasn't read the bill yet, but it seemed very obvious that students should be able to vote in national and state-wide elections.

Chair Helm, Mr. Kaplan and Mr. Bianchi agreed that Ms. Levine should feel free to testify against HB 176.

Minutes of CAC Meeting - January 8, 2011: On the second page, one amendment was suggested. IT WAS MOVED (Mark Kaplan) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to accept the minutes from the January 8, 2011 CAC meeting, as amended. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting - January 10, 2011: On pages 4, 6 and 7 there were a total of three amendments. IT WAS MOVED (Mark Kaplan) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to accept the minutes from the January 10, 2011 Board of Selectmen's Meeting, as amended. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Town Meeting Preparation: Ms. Levine said that the February 7 meeting agenda would include a draft of the warrant articles. There were some blanks remaining for the budget, as it isn't final yet. She sent a draft to DRA for comments on the sequence. On February 22, Town Moderator Michael Todd will come to the meeting to preview Town Meeting with them.

Ms. Levine asked the Selectboard if they would like her to be prepared with a presentation for Town Meeting. Mr. Kaplan and Chair Helm commented that the "Quicklink" information was good and they wondered if she was hearing from people who don't understand it. She said that most people who respond seem to understand; the people who are more confused are those who are digging into the details, such as certain members of the Budget Committee. She feels that people who read it for the first time agree that it makes sense. Chair Helm said she has been polling people and most thought her explanation in the Link was very good. She added that Ms. Levine should come with the ability to explain questions but not have a formal presentation, as it would be overkill.

Mr. Bianchi said he has spent a lot of time on this subject of the Fiscal Year. It is very intricate and detailed process and he, personally, would not feel comfortable standing in front of Town Meeting and fielding questions about it. The deeper they get into it, the more confusing it can be. He said that he could not say that he understands it completely. Mr. Bianchi said if people start to break it down, Ms. Levine is the only person who could field questions. He didn't feel that any of the Board of Selectmen knew it well. Ms. Levine said that the Board of Selectmen was not expected to know every detail – that is why the Town has professional staff. Mr. Bianchi said that she shouldn't make a presentation. Mr. Kaplan said he would be willing to present the warrant article and if he can't answer a question, he would let Ms. Levine answer it.

Mr. Bianchi said that if someone asks him a question, he'll confuse matters and no one will vote for it. Chair Helm said that if that happens, he should defer the question to someone who knows more about the topic. Mr. Bianchi said that he is not confident that there is not a mistake made in the tax projections. Mr. Kaplan asked what the ramifications would be if they did. Mr. Bianchi was afraid that the taxpayers would end up paying more than they should. Mr. Kaplan said that that was impossible. Mr. Bianchi said he didn't feel comfortable getting up there answering questions. Mr. Kaplan said he didn't think that Mr. Bianchi would feel comfortable with anyone answering questions.

Ms. Levine said she understood that she would not prepare a presentation, but would be prepared to answer questions and may use an updated timeline to illustrate the fiscal year change.

Mr. Bianchi asked to be sure that there would be a voice recording of Town Meeting this year so that they would have a record of it besides the minutes. He also noted that the MS-9 table was too small in the Town Report. Ms. Levine said that she would talk to Howard Hoke about a solution during the printing process.

Selectmen's Annual Report: Chair Helm asked Mr. Bianchi if he had any questions or comments about the draft report she had prepared for the annual report, as she had not received any feedback. Mr. Bianchi said that he did not feel the second paragraph was needed. Chair Helm said that in the past they make a note about a change in staff. She asked Mr. Bianchi what bothered him about the paragraph. Mr. Bianchi responded that it didn't just say that there was an election, but that Mr. Bianchi defeated Larry Ballin and that they thanked Mr. Ballin for his work. He read it that Mr. Bianchi was there but they'd rather have Mr. Ballin. Chair Helm said that was not her intent.

Chair Helm asked Ms. Levine what was generally done when there was a turnover in Board of Selectmen members. Ms. Levine said that they generally include a thank you to whoever had left and a welcome to whoever has come in. Chair Helm said she would re-write the paragraph in an attempt to appease Mr. Bianchi.

Bond Issue: Ms. Levine reminded the Selectmen that the public hearing on the library and wastewater bond would be on Monday, February 14 at 6 PM at Whipple Memorial Town Hall. Mr. Kaplan asked what they have to accomplish at the hearing. Ms. Levine said they have to have a public hearing by statute for the bond.

Mr. Kaplan said someone mentioned they read the report from the auditor, who did not give the town a clean bill of health. Ms. Levine said that it had to do with a GASB 45 requirement for their report on liability for retirees. Retirees are responsible for 100% of their premiums, but they are still in the town's healthcare pool. Their performance as the patient affects their overall assessment. It is another GASB requirement and doesn't mean anything with regards to the operations of the town. She is annoyed that she didn't know they were going to get a qualification until it came out in the report. Mr. Kaplan said that it only has value to someone who is going to or not going to loan the town money. Any bank he has spoken to (which consists of four) said that they are only interested in whether or not they have the ability to tax. Ms. Levine said that the auditors have to follow orders from GASB.

Plan NH Charrette: Ms. Levine said that she received a flyer from Plan NH, which is an organization of architects, engineers and land use coordinators that leads the community through a discussion about redesigning a particular neighborhood or problem area. The Town of Sunapee used Plan NH to review the potential uses for the former livery. The cost is \$5,000 and she thought they could apply to have a charrette for Elkins. When they enter into a design process they will have to do this anyway, and this option could be less expensive than using engineers. Ms. Levine said that she wouldn't recommend doing this if it were not reimbursable through the grant, as there is not an extra \$5,000 in the budget to pay for it. She said that it would be a competitive process so they would have to apply to Plan NH.

Chair Helm said she was on board with the effort but recalled that they have already had two prior charrettes and wondered how this one would differ. Ms. Levine said that the first one was more useful than the second, as it resulted in a preliminary plan for Elkins. In 2005, the first charrette done was more detailed and included a verbal plan. The second was offered free by engineers and was not very thorough, and did not result in a visual design for Elkins. This new charrette would bring the two prior charrettes together.

Chair Helm urged Ms. Levine to take the next step. Ms. Levine said that she is going to consult with the State about the use of grant funds for this purpose, and asked the Selectmen if she could go forward with the Plan NH application assuming the State answered in the affirmative. Mr. Bianchi asked if it would take away from something else the \$5,000 would be earmarked for in the project. Ms. Levine said that \$149,000 was set aside for engineering, so this may actually reduce the total amount spent on engineering. Ms. Levine was given the go-ahead to go forward if funds were secured through the grant.

Cleaning Contract: Ms. Levine referred to the attached proposal from Good Clean Property Services, a division of Good Will Industries that had provided a proposal to the Town at her request. She said that the Town put the Scope of Work together and Goodwill proposed a price based on the Scope of Work. She said that for the last five years, Sodexho has been cleaning the Police Station/Town Hall, Town Office, and Tracy Library. The price of this new organization was 10% lower than what Sodexho had quoted, as Sodexho has increased its fees by 5% this year. Goodwill runs this program and does background checks and the hiring.

Ms. Levine said she would suggest that the Board of Selectmen approve the contract for cleaning, contingent on the price holding until June 30, 2012 and contingent on meeting all of the requests in the Scope of Work.

Chair Helm was interested to see that window washing was included in the contract. Ms. Levine said that Sodexho charges extra for this service and for rug cleaning, but that these services are included with this contract.

Chair Helm was concerned about the note at the bottom of the quote that said “additional services may be added as requested...” at \$24.95 per hour. Ms. Levine said that that is for work orders such as fixing a door handle or changing light bulbs and that they take this expenditure out of the repairs line. This has also been part of the Sodexho contract in the past.

IT WAS MOVED (Mark Kaplan) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to approve the Good Clean Property Services contract including all items and contingent on the price being held until June 30, 2012. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Solid Waste and Hauling Contracts: Ms. Levine said that the Town hauls its trash trailers to the Meredith Transfer Station, where Dan Clark picks it up and brings it to Berlin. Their agreement is that Meredith lets them take up space in their yard in exchange for the use of their tractor trailer if they need it when they are there. It has worked out well. Their existing hauling contract includes a 3% increase every year and includes a fuel rider that has New London paying the difference if diesel goes above \$3/gallon. Mr. Clark has only increased the price by 3% once in the last five years and hasn't always enforced the fuel rider. He contacted Ms. Levine to propose continuing the agreement for another five years. He offered to hold the contract with one 3% increase until January 31, 2016. She recommended that they go along with the proposal.

Ms. Levine said that the Androscoggin Valley Regional Refuse Disposal District, which operates the landfill, has agreed to hold the tipping fee to \$48 per ton until 2018. She is also bringing that proposal to the Board of Selectmen today.

Ms. Levine said that Mr. Bianchi had asked if the Board of Selectmen has the power to approve these long-term contracts, and Ms. Levine said that they do because the Board of Selectmen is responsible for solid waste removal and the contracts are contingent on Town Meeting approving the funds every year.

They are entering into a package price agreement on a multi-year time frame. Town Meeting could end the contract at any time by not appropriating the money.

Ms. Levine said that with respect to the hauling contract, another benefit is that Dan Clark would also come to New London to haul the trash if the Town's tractor broke down. He would charge for this, but it is an option if ever needed

Mr. Bianchi noticed that they don't differentiate for the time it takes New London workers to drive the truck and also that there is no fuel line item in the Transfer Station budget. Ms. Levine said that is correct; the fuel comes from the highway department's fuel budget and it is often a DPW employee who drives the truck to Meredith. Mr. Bianchi thought it would be cheaper for them to haul from New London to Meredith.

IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Mark Kaplan) to renew the DW Clark contract per the proposal of January 12, 2011. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Mark Kaplan) to renew the contract with AVRRDD from January 1, 2012 until December 31, 2018, as presented. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Whipple Memorial Town Hall: Ms. Levine said that she had sent an e-mail to the Board of Selectmen last week seeking approval to repair the damage caused by the leaking air handler in the ceiling. It was not her intention to have business conducted outside of a meeting, but she does need the ability to react to emergencies. She is looking for some way to be authorized to expend up to a certain amount of money out of the existing budget for emergency repairs. She thinks that having a town building in disrepair for a few days when it is going to be used by the public constitutes an emergency, and she asked the Selectmen to allow her to use her judgment in that regard. She does not think it is appropriate to ask contractors to give an estimate and then go out to bid. She thinks there is some reasonable level where she or Richard Lee or other Department Heads can oversee the budgets they manage.

Mr. Bianchi said that the magnitude of the project was unclear; no one knew if it was a \$1,000 problem or a \$10,000 problem or what the immediacy was. He asked about insurance only because his experience with this, the insurance agencies want to see estimates. He didn't want there to be a problem with their insurance. He wasn't opposed to any contractor. If things have to be fixed, they should get it fixed.

Ms. Levine didn't feel they should go out to bid for a \$2,000 or \$3,000 job. If she had called in Bruss Construction, for example, for this Whipple Hall project, and Bruss said it needed \$10,000 in repairs, then she would bring it back to the Board of Selectmen to approve. There needs to be some availability for her to make a decision within the scope of the approved budget. It could happen to any one of their town buildings.

Chair Helm said she was a believer in process but in emergency situations, Ms. Levine should be given some leeway. She felt that they should settle on a reasonable ceiling and a timeframe. Ms. Levine said that if the Board of Selectmen authorizes her to spend up to a certain number, she would send them an email saying "x" happened and "y" was hired to fix it.

Mr. Kaplan said that things go wrong in buildings from time to time. One has to be prepared to make decisions and get things fixed to go on with business. Ms. Levine said the problem occurred when an air conditioning unit froze up, burst, and water went everywhere. There was no heat. Mr. Kaplan said that to him it sounded like an emergency because they are currently using a portion of that building and they are

planning to use it within a week for a meeting. The essence is that it is an emergency because of the need. Ms. Levine said the heating repairs were addressed already. She said at some point there is a relationship established between the contractors and the town, as the Town comes to know that they will be there when they need them. Mr. Kaplan said that he has a tendency to yield to having one person in authority to decide if something is an emergency and needs to be repaired.

Chair Helm asked if it was a tenant responsible, was there any recourse they could take or anything they could address going forward. Ms. Levine said they could address it going forward. She also added that they could have a bidding policy. Projects above "x" amount could be excluded from going to bid. Mr. Bianchi said that they have the ability to get all three of them together in one day as an emergency meeting. Ms. Levine said she disagreed that this was necessary, as that is why they have a town administrator and department heads. The Board of Selectmen sets rules and parameters and the department heads and town administrator need to function within those rules and parameters. Mr. Bianchi asked what if they settled on \$5,000 or below and she could go forward, but what if it went over \$5,000. Ms. Levine said that it would then go out to bid. She said she couldn't spend out of the capital reserve fund for town maintenance, so she would be limited by the amount in the operating budget.

Chair Helm asked what she felt was an acceptable number. Ms. Levine said that \$2,500 in an emergency would be appropriate. She felt she needed some ability to react. She likened it to when Richard Lee goes somewhere for maintenance for a vehicle, which could cost more than the \$2500 for building repairs but they do not seek a bid every time equipment needs repair. She said that she approves thousands of dollars to be spent every month, and if something come up unexpectedly, there is money in the budget to have it fixed. Mr. Kaplan said that he would prefer to have the manager make the decision. She should use her best judgment to make repairs or bring requests to the Board of Selectmen.

Ms. Levine said that it appears that she is operating under a different framework than the rest of the departments. Every other department head manages the budget that was approved by Town Meeting. She is not against going out for bid, but for day to day maintenance, she should be authorized to make decisions and get the work done.

Mr. Bianchi had no problem with her spending a certain amount in an emergency situation. Mr. Kaplan felt \$10,000 would be a good number. Mr. Bianchi thought \$3,000 would be sufficient. Chair Helm thought \$5,000 would be appropriate. They decided that \$3,000 was fine and they could see how it worked.

IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Mark Kaplan) to authorize the Town Administrator to spend up to \$3,000 for emergency repairs, as needed. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

QuickLink: Ms. Levine said that the newsletter went out last week. Chair Helm and Mark Kaplan said they thought it was great.

Argus Champion: Ms. Levine noted that the Argus Champion newspaper was coming back and will start monthly and then go to weekly. They plan to do an article on the budget and another on single stream recycling.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Economic Development Meeting: Mr. Kaplan did not attend this meeting.

Upcoming Meetings

Budget Public Hearings – January 30th and February 14th, 2011 at 7pm, Whipple Hall
Bond Public Hearings – February 14th, 2011 at 6pm, Whipple Hall
Sunapee Sewer – There would be a joint meeting on February 24th.

CAC Meeting: Ms. Levine suggested talking about the Town Meeting warrant article. Mr. Bianchi thought it would be good to review Town Meeting proceedings. Chair Helm thought it would be helpful to hand copy of the draft warrant to the members of the CAC and use it as an outline for the discussion. It might give some valuable input in case there are some things that need to be tweaked. They could also start a discussion of the beach if there is time. All agreed on this agenda for the next CAC meeting.

School Funding: Mr. Kaplan reported on his meeting with Senator Odell on school funding bills pending in the Legislature. Mr. Kaplan will meet again Wednesday with Bob Odell and Pat Remick of the Coalition Communities. The governor seems to be backing off from his original position.

Mr. Bianchi said it was in the papers that the big towns were being hurt. They have the political clout that the smaller towns do not. Mr. Kaplan said that is true, but by the same token, the Town of New London got a bill for \$1 million which isn't due and payable until March 2012.

Police Staffing: Mr. Bianchi asked how they were doing on the search for a police officer. Ms. Levine said that two or three certified officers have applied. The Sherriff will help the Police Chief do an assessment panel, and Chief Seastrand wants a citizen on the search committee. She thought perhaps Marilyn Kidder would be a good one to sit on the panel and the Selectmen agreed.

Application for Building Permit:

- **AMENDMENT** 177 Poor Road Realty Trust (David Peeler & Katherine Kellogg) 177 Poor Road (Map & Lot 091-005-000) bathroom renovations, new shed dormers w/2 windows each, rebuild chimney – Permit #10-086 – Approved.

Application for use of Whipple Memorial Town Hall:

- League of Women Voters, Candidates night, February 24, 2011 – 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM – Approved.

Application for use of the Town Conference Room:

- Adventures In Learning – March 30, June 14, July 6, August 24, September 7, November 30, 9:30 – 12:00 – Approved

Application for Permanent Sign:

- Sarah Cave for Gourmet Garden, 195 Main Street (Map & Lot 073-077-000) 2 signs – 1 on post and 1 on side of building – Approved.

Other items to be signed:

- Disbursement voucher and payroll for January 24, 2011
- Veterans Credit (signatures missed back in the spring)
- Warrant Yield Tax Levy – (\$830.76) (Map & Lot 117-005-000)
- Tax Abatement – (\$830.76) (Map & Lot 117-005-000)
- Governmental Certificate – Line of credit with Lake Sunapee Bank
- 2010 Encumbrances

- 2010 Appropriation Transfers

With no other business, Chair Helm asked for a motion to adjourn.

IT WAS MOVED (Mark Kaplan) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to adjourn the January 24, 2011 meeting of the Board of Selectmen. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristy Heath, Recording Secretary
Town of New London