



# TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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## **BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES Wednesday, January 2, 2019 7:00 PM**

**BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Rob Prohl (Chair), Joe Cardillo (Vice Chair), Phyllis Piotrow, Lauren Snow Chadwick, Mark Christensen, Jerry Coogan, Chris Lorio, Bill Helm (Selectmen's Rep).

**ABSENT:** Lyndsay Lund, Suzanne Jesseman

**STAFF PRESENT:** Kimberly Hallquist, Town Administrator; Wendy Johnson, Finance Officer

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Sandra Licks, Scott Blewitt, Bob Brown, Ruth White, Maggie Ford, Joseph Kubit, Nancy Mahar, Michael Kennedy, Jay Lyon, Stanley Morano, Mark Vernon, John Garvey, Wendy Dumais, Annie Beck

Chair Prohl called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

**IT WAS MOVED (Joe Cardillo) AND SECONDED (Chris Lorio) to accept the minutes from the December 19, 2018 meeting THE MOTION WAS APPROVED.**

### **FY 2020 Budget Review**

#### **Library**

The total budget amount is \$537,100 with a separate amount of \$20,800 for the cleaning contract. Sandra Licks explained that the Library was part of the unexpected increase in the cleaning contract that took effect last April. Their portion of the contract went from \$300 per month to \$400 per month. They are hoping to be included in the town's RFP in the coming months to get better pricing.

Chris Lorio stated that Board of Selectman Chair Nancy Rollins has addressed the need for a sprinkler system at the Library several times. He asked if this was being discussed for the next budget cycle. Ms. Licks replied that the Library Trustees have discussed this but there is not a specific date established yet. It would require a major overhaul of the building to do that project.

Phyllis Piotrow asked about the LED lighting conversion. Ms. Licks responded that they were hoping to convert all of the lighting in 2019 through the Smart Start program but they did not sign up in time and there was no money left. They are looking to convert to LED lighting in the stack room through their Capital Reserve request in 2019. The plan is for the remaining lighting for the Library to be done in 2020 when there is more money in the Smart Start program.

Chair Prohl asked what the trend is for library usage; Ms. Licks noted that it is very stable, and they are constantly trying new things to stay relevant and get people into the building. Her town report will include statistics on usage.

**IT WAS MOVED (Joe Cardillo) AND SECONDED (Jerry Coogan) to accept the Library budget in the amount of \$557,900. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED.**

#### **Recreation**

The budget amount is \$192,035. Scott Blewitt attended the meeting. Phyllis Piotrow noted that a few of

the line items were below what was actually spent. She asked if there should be money added to reflect what is actually spent. Mr. Blewitt feels the numbers presented are appropriate.

Rob Prohl asked what Mr. Blewitt had in mind for the future. Mr. Blewitt stated he would like to work more with the Council on Aging for senior programs and trips. His goal is to provide programs for all populations, noting that he is working with the Recreation Commission on a strategic plan for short- and long-term future plans.

**IT WAS MOVED (Chris Lorio) AND SECONDED (Mark Christensen) to accept the Recreation budget in the amount of \$192,035. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED.**

#### **Sewer Buildings, Collection and Disposal**

The budget amount is \$883,130.

Phyllis Piotrow noted that the late fee for the sewer bill is very high and seems out of line with the penalty fee for other expenses. Wendy Johnson replied it is the same fee as the property tax late fee penalty. Joe Cardillo stated maybe Ms. Piotrow is confusing this with the water bill late fee as it is very high.

**IT WAS MOVED (Chris Lorio) AND SECONDED (Joe Cardillo) to accept the Sewer Buildings, Collection and Disposal in the amount of \$883,130. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **Transfers in/out Capital Reserve Accounts**

Chair Helm noted that the Board of Selectmen discussed adding \$10,000 to the Conservation Land Acquisition Fund but this has not been confirmed with a vote.

Phyllis Piotrow discussed the history of the Conservation Land Acquisition fund and stated that we should figure out what the average amount has been for the past 16 years and set a pattern of contributing that amount. This would equate to about \$25,000 per year and it would be structured and consistent every year. Over time when property becomes available, there will be a reasonable amount in that fund. Conservation Commission Chair Bob Brown stated they have gone 9 years without any contribution so even a small amount would help. There are 54 parcels on the desired land list. Jerry Coogan asked if there was a ranking system to prioritize them. Chair Brown stated yes, there are 12-15 parcels at the top of the list. Jerry Coogan asked if the list could be shared with them, but Ruth White is concerned about the list being made public.

Chair Prohl stated he doesn't have an issue with a \$10,000 contribution but anything over that raises the question about what the target number should be. Chair Brown would like the fund to be maintained close to \$500,000.

Selectman Helm stated the Selectmen in general are concerned with the increase in the budget and there are choices to be made. The more money put in to funds like this means there is less money for something else. At the last meeting, Selectman Helm stated there was a discussion around increasing the Capital Reserve account by \$100,000 in total. He proposed at that time a reallocation between energy, gravel roads and conservation that totaled \$100,000. There are a lot of decisions to make and a need to look ahead to see what's coming.

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, January 9, 2019.

**IT WAS MOVED (Bill Helm) AND SECONDED (Joe Cardillo) to adjourn the meeting. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Trina Dawson, Recording Secretary  
Town of New London