



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN / BUDGET COMMITTEE JOINT MEETING MINUTES October 29, 2018 6:30 PM

SELECTMEN PRESENT: Nancy Rollins (Chair), Janet Kidder

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Rob Prohl (Chair), Joe Cardillo (Vice Chair), Phyllis Piotrow, Lyndsay Lund, Lauren Snow Chadwick, Chris Lorio.

STAFF PRESENT: Kimberly Hallquist, Town Administrator

OTHERS PRESENT:

Steve Schneider, Executive Director, Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Planning Commission,
Marie Pelletier, Treasurer, Lake Sunapee Region Chamber of Commerce,
John Doyle, Messer Pond Protective Association
Will Kidder, Pleasant Lake Protective Association
Jack Sheehan, Little Lake Sunapee Protective Association
Steve Root, Little Sunapee Protective Association
Mario Capazoli, Director of Marketing and Development for COA,
Suzanne Hammond, President, New London Garden Club
Erin Reed and Beth Hayward, Community Action Program (CAP),
Celeste Cook, Welfare Officer,
Deb Langner, Health Officer,
Lou Botta, Emergency Management Director
John Raby, New London Citizen

Chair Rollins called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Minutes

IT WAS MOVED (Lyndsay Lund) AND SECONDED (Joe Cardillo) to accept the minutes from the October 15, 2018 meeting. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

FY2020 Budget Review

Social Services, Nonprofits:

Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission (RPC)

Steve Schneider, Executive Director of the RPC, met with the boards to discuss the value of the RPC to the Town. He distributed a document that highlights the benefits the Town of New London receives as a result of dues paid. The town and the RPC have a strong relationship and currently the RPC provides circuit rider services to the town two days a week and will also be assisting in master plan work. They also assist with the town's participation in the scenic byways program and there is membership availability with the transportation advisory committee. This committee helps with prioritizing and identifying TAP (Transportation Alternatives Program) grants.

The town participated in the I-89 Corridor study, specific from New London to Lebanon and Hanover. This identified the size of the service necessary to provide a reliable transportation service between New London and the Lebanon area. Chair Rollins asked for an update regarding this study. Mr. Schneider stated the study provided all the information needed to start this service, but no bus service has expressed an interest so it has been a struggle.

Mr. Schneider noted that they are in the process of a regional housing needs assessment. This will help determine the demographics and housing models that will address housing needs. These studies are available on their website. They will be doing a regional corridor study which the town will be involved in. This is examining transportation needs in our region and identifying corridors and figuring what is important along those corridors for those communities that support those corridors. They also do traffic counts.

The dues are based on population and the amount for FY2020 is \$6,037.08.

Selectman Kidder wanted Mr. Schneider to know that Adam Ricker is doing a great job and we are fortunate to have him.

Phyllis Piotrow asked if they are doing anything with regards to energy efficiency and renewable energy in the area. Mr. Schneider stated they do all kinds of things with energy including solid waste and recycling. It all depends on what the community is interested in and they could help if this were requested; the RPC is currently helping a town with their solar ordinance. She also asked if they could provide the services of a building inspection to New London if needed. Mr. Schneider responded that currently his staff does not have that skill set.

Lakes Sunapee Region Chamber of Commerce

Marie Pelletier, Treasurer for the Lake Sunapee Region Chamber of Commerce, attended the meeting. She explained that it is the mission of the Chamber to encourage, facilitate and promote commerce which enhances the quality of life in the region and community. There are approximately 215 members and over 44% of those members are located in New London. Their office is located on Main Street in New London. The Chamber is requesting \$12,500 again this year and those funds help defer operating costs, as well as pay for seasonal staffing during the summer months at the Information Booth on Main Street. They work closely with New London organizations including the Recreation Department and are involved in planning events such as Hospital Days including Band Night, the Midway and Chamber Night and the Strawberry Festival. As part of a member benefit, an information guide is printed and distributed at major rest areas. Members also have their own business page within their website. Multiple education opportunities are also offered throughout the year. They are not affiliated with any political organizations.

Lake Protective Associations

- **Messer Pond** – John Doyle attended the meeting. The request is for \$3,400 and this is the same as last year. The purpose is to inspect craft going into the pond and prevent introduction of invasive species. They work in conjunction with a \$1,400 grant from NH Lakes and used it to fund the paid lake hosts. They also use volunteers. The other focus is to educate the boaters and be good stewards of the pond.
- **Pleasant Lake** – Will Kidder attended the meeting. Their request is the same as last year and their program is similar to what Mr. Doyle described for Messer Pond.
- **Little Lake Sunapee** – Jack Sheehan attended the meeting. He coordinates the program for Little Lake Sunapee. He expressed his gratitude to the town for the support given over the past 8 years. It is critical as they are a small organization. Their request is for \$5,500. They do also

receive support from New Hampshire Lakes Association as well as the Little Lake Sunapee Association.

Lyndsay Lund asked if anyone goes around to spot check the inspectors/lake hosts. Mr. Sheehan replied that New Hampshire Lakes does it but he's not sure they've ever come to Little Lake Sunapee. Mr. Sheehan is at the ramp several times a week and communicates closely with the lake hosts. There are five paid lake hosts and 14 volunteers, and the total spent was \$9,500. The launch is staffed daily beginning on Memorial Day through Labor Day. They continue on weekends through the end of September.

Selectman Kidder asked Mr. Sheehan if he had difficulty finding people to hire. Mr. Sheehan feels they have been fortunate, he ran an ad in the Kearsarge Shopper and had good response. It does vary year to year.

- **Lake Sunapee** – The request is for \$5,000. A representative was not able to attend but will attend a future meeting to answer any questions.

New London Hospital Ambulance - Their request was submitted in writing and was a 3% increase from last year. Kim Hallquist stated if there were any questions, they could be asked to come to a future meeting. Chair Rollins stated it would be helpful if someone could come in on November 19, 2018 to explain the numbers.

Lake Sunapee VNA – Request is the same as last year.

Council on Aging – Mario Capazoli, Director of Marketing and Development, attended the meeting. They are requesting the same amount and thanked the town for its support. The program that gets the most credit is the transportation program. They are very cognizant and sensitive with their request and they do a good job keeping their costs down. They do a lot using volunteers.

New London Garden Club – Suzanne Hammond, President of the New London Garden Club attended the meeting. The purpose of the Garden Club is to stimulate knowledge, gardening, flower arranging and to protect and preserve native plants. The Garden Club does fifteen pocket gardens throughout the town of New London. They water, plant, and weed them. They also donate educational books to all schools and provide scholarships for local students interested in horticulture. They didn't apply last year because membership was low and they didn't have sufficient help to do the job. They are asking for a modest amount, but members donate almost 100% of their budget. In addition, they raise money through the antique show the last week of July. Many of the gardens need to be redone due to dry weather. The lilac bushes in front of Whipple Hall need to be pruned.

Lyndsay Lund asked if any funds were used to recruit people to join the Garden Club. Ms. Hammond stated they don't but would consider it. The total budget including donations is approximately \$10,000 and then they make about \$4,000 from the antique show. Joe Cardillo noted that he felt that the request does fit the guidelines of the Selectmen's *Guidelines for Municipal Appropriations to Social Service Organizations* because the Garden Club takes care of flowers and pruning on town owned properties, work that would otherwise be done by Public Works staff.

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) – There was not a representative that attended the meeting. CASA relies strongly on volunteers and with the exception of some grants, there is not a funding mechanism, such as third-party billing, for this program.

Riverbend Community Mental Health Center – This is a new request this year for \$1,000. Phyllis Piotrow suggested a representative attend a meeting to provide more information. This is a private,

non-profit health center. They do receive third party reimbursement from insurance companies and also through the Medicaid program for counseling. This is more to address a budget shortfall.

Chair Rollins feels that this is an entity that the State of New Hampshire should contribute its fair share to and they have a different capacity for fundraising. Everyone who works for Riverbend is a paid employee. Chair Rollins does not support this request, but she encourages the Budget Committee to read the details of this request.

Community Action Program (CAP) – Erin Reed and Beth Hayward attended the meeting. This program provides fuel and electric assistance to people in nine surrounding towns. Their request is for \$6,000 which is the same as last year.

Welfare – Celeste Cook stated that she is requesting the same amount as last year which is \$16,000 for vendor payments. Ms. Cook is requesting an increase to her stipend, explaining that she has been doing this work since 2004 but feels the work she does is very important. She currently receives \$3,000 and would like it increased to \$5,000. She works closely with other organizations in an effort to do as much as possible while trying to not spend the town's money. Chair Rollins noted that Ms. Cook spends a lot of time with very involved cases. Phyllis Piotrow asked how many hours a week are spent on this. Ms. Cook replied some weeks are higher than others, but she doesn't track her hours. Ms. Piotrow stated it may strengthen her case for an increase if she could provide this information.

Health – Deb Langner attended the meeting. Chair Rollins noted that she was reappointed as the Health Officer at the Board of Selectmen's meeting earlier. Ms. Langner explained that the Health Officer's job covers everything from asbestos to Zika. She handles building permit and Department of Environmental Service issues. She visits all houses that are in need of septic systems and oversees the design. She also does school, daycare and foster home inspections. The pay for this position was previously \$5,000 a year plus \$1,000 in travel expenses. When Ms. Langner took this over it was cut to \$2,500 and she would like it brought back up to the \$5,000. Some weeks are busier than others but she averages 7-10 hours per week.

Lyndsay Lund asked about the school system relative to asbestos. Ms. Langner replied they claim there isn't any asbestos in the school and have filed paperwork stating this. Ms. Lund referenced information recently released that stated asbestos abatement is continuing and/or in progress. Ms. Langner stated Todd Fluery has to submit paperwork, so it may be related to that and if there is any asbestos it has to be properly mitigated.

Chair Rollins asked Ms. Langner if she is involved in the water testing at the beaches. She replied yes, she does all the water sampling for DES. It needs to be done three times a year per regulation, but she does it four times per year. Ms. Lund is concerned about the cleanliness of the bathrooms at the public beach and the health issues it may cause. She would like Ms. Langner to make a recommendation about an appropriate level of cleanliness which could be achieved by an appropriate budget for janitorial services. Ms. Langner stated there is a level of cleanliness in a public bathroom that is acceptable but there are no set standards of cleanliness for a public restroom facility.

Emergency Management

Lou Botta attended the meeting to address the increase related to his Emergency Management budget request. The main reason for the increase is the CERT (Community Emergency Response Team). Travel, training and equipment will be required for this. The cost will be a lot to start the team but will be much less moving forward. Mr. Botta would like to get people trained and then they can start doing training here. There is an increase in publications due to an update of the Hazard Mitigation

Plan for New London and this is a federal requirement. With regards to phasing the formation of the CERT team, Mr. Botta feels it cannot be done this way. Mr. Botta reported that the Emergency Management committee was able to obtain a \$12,000 reimbursement to the town for a declared federal disaster last year.

Legal – Kim Hallquist recommends a decrease of \$5,000 from the previous year.

Animal Rescue Fees – These fees are for animals that are found in town and brought to Pleasant Lake Veterinary. This is the responsibility of the town to pay for; if owners are located, they pay the vet bills.

Assessing – Ms. Hallquist explained that the town is part of Tri Town Assessing which includes Newbury, Sunapee and New London. The town's cost is based on number of parcels: New London is second after Sunapee which has the largest number of parcels and before Newbury which has the fewest. This budget is voted on by the Tri-Town Assessing Board which is made up of Selectmen and citizens of the three towns. This system of assessing has been working very well for the town for a number of years.

The review of departments scheduled for review was concluded

Next joint meeting: November 19, 2018, 6:30 PM.

Budgets to be reviewed: New London Hospital ambulance service, Town Clerk, Finance, Planning & Zoning, Library, Archives, Energy Committee, Capital Reserves, Revenues.

Joe Cardillo has concerns about attendance. Rob Prohl will reach out to members to see why they aren't attending. Members that are on the committee need to understand the time commitment and need to attend the meetings.

Motion to adjourn

IT WAS MOVED (Phyllis Piotrow) AND SECONDED (Chris Lorio) to adjourn the meeting. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Trina Dawson, Recording Secretary
Town of New London