



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES Wednesday, December 18, 2019 7:00 PM

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Rob Prohl (Chair) Joe Cardillo (Vice Chair), Jerry Coogan, Chris Lorio, John Raby, Michael Williams, Suzanne Jesseman, Lauren Chadwick, Mark Christensen, John Cannon (Selectmen's Representative)

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Public Works Director, Bob Harrington; Fire Chief Jay Lyon,

Rob Prohl called the Budget Committee meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Chair Prohl asked for a moment of silence to honor Bruce Hudson who recently passed away. Mr. Hudson served as a member of the Budget Committee. Chair Prohl described Mr. Hudson as thoughtful, respectful and always well-prepared observing that he will be missed. Those in attendance observed a moment of silence in honor of Bruce.

Approval of the Minutes of December 4, 2019

IT WAS MOVED (Joe Cardillo) AND SECONDED (John Raby) to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2019 meeting. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Selectmen's Report

Selectman Cannon reported that the Board of Selectmen meeting on Monday night, the Selectmen voted to remove the Building Inspector position from the warrant article. They also approved the library increase proposal. The budget reconciliation meeting will be held on January 15, 2020.

FY2021 Budget Review:

General Government Buildings

Jerry Coogan asked for an explanation about Hydrant services. Fire Chief Jay Lyon responded that this is billed to the town by the New London-Springfield Water Precinct. They come up with a hydrant fee charge which is \$250 per hydrant and there are 174 hydrants in town. They service the hydrants, do snow removal around the hydrants and painting. Mr. Coogan asked if they flush the hydrants and asked if this was something the fire department could do. Chief Lyon stated that yes, the Fire Department could flush the hydrants but fire department staff don't have the expertise or equipment to fix them if that is required.

Michael Williams asked if we need the Pleasant Lake Dam maintenance and repair line item as it hasn't been used for a while. Public Works Director Bob Harrington responded that this would cover

any work needed on the gate. It is now computerized so it is not something they would be able to take care of. He would recommend keeping it in there.

IT WAS MOVED (Chris Lorio) AND SECONDED (Jerry Coogan) to approve the General Governmental Buildings in the amount of \$207,955. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Cemeteries

Jerry Coogan asked about seasonal wages. Chair Prohl asked why this line item has gone up. Bob Harrington stated that the line is increased to account for salary increases and the amount used is largely dependent on weather. This year was a decent year so the employee was able to do more than last year. Wendy Johnson noted that he is a part time employee so if he doesn't work, he doesn't get paid.

IT WAS MOVED (Jerry Coogan) AND SECONDED (John Raby) to reduce the cemeteries seasonal wages line item from \$28,693 to \$22,000. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

IT WAS MOVED (Jerry Coogan) AND SECONDED (John Raby) to approve the cemeteries budget in the amount of \$28,750. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Insurance

Kim Hallquist noted that Primex gives us a very good rate. They help the Town keep risk down and are responsive when we have claims.

IT WAS MOVED (Michael Williams) AND SECONDED (Chris Lorio) to approve the Insurance budget in the amount of \$98,327. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Advertising & Regional Association

IT WAS MOVED (Joe Cardillo) AND SECONDED (Jerry Coogan) to approve the Advertising & Regional Association budget in the amount of \$18,736. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Highway Administration

Chair Prohl asked for an explanation on the upgrade to a pay grade. Kim Hallquist stated that Bob Harrington recommended to the Selectmen to change pay grade 7 which includes Maintenance I employees and the Transfer station attendants. The Selectmen eliminated steps 1 and 2 so the former step 3 is now step 1. Now people that start in that grade start a little higher. Mr. Harrington made a good case that other towns are looking for employees in this department and we need to stay competitive.

There was also a request to move a part-time person to full-time. Bob Harrington stated he is looking to move Matt Grimes into a position to better monitor the town buildings. Mr. Harrington would like to have a file on all the general maintenance that has been done on all the buildings so there is a

record. This also includes the sewer, beaches and cemeteries. This could potentially help to keep costs down.

Chair Prohl asked if the Building and Facilities Committee was charged with looking into having a full-time building/maintenance person. Mr. Williams responded not necessarily to decide on whether a full-time position was needed, but the need for more organized attention to the buildings was acknowledged. Joe Cardillo stated that they have discussed having someone oversee all the buildings and facilities. The position that Mr. Harrington is proposing certainly overlaps with this as keeping track of maintenance is important.

IT WAS MOVED (Jerry Coogan) AND SECONDED (Mark Christensen) to approve the Highway Administration budget in the amount of \$936,803. ALL WERE IN FAVOR WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MICHAEL WILLIAMS WHO WAS OPPOSED.

Highways & Streets

The dirt roads that were paved most recently were Stoney Brook and Pine Hill. For general paving, Old Rt. 11 and Mountain Road still need to be done.

IT WAS MOVED (Joe Cardillo) AND SECONDED (Chris Lorio) to approve the Highways & Streets budget in the amount of \$514,500. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Street Lighting

IT WAS MOVED (Joe Cardillo) AND SECONDED (Suzanne Jesseman) to approve the Street Lighting budget in the amount of \$9,500. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Transfer Station

Jerry Coogan stated there has been talk about expanding the Transfer Station or re-configuring it; are there any active plans being discussed? Mr. Harrington responded that this has been put on the back burner for now as it isn't a critical issue. Ms. Hallquist stated the state denied the town's request for a small portion of state land that abuts the town land because it abuts the I-89 off ramp. This initial denial may be reversed in the future should the Selectmen decide to appeal the issue. The study that was done found that obtaining that additional land would be helpful in re-configuring the transfer station, however, it appears that even without the additional land, the site may be adequate. Ms. Hallquist noted that further investigations will give the town more information regarding to wetlands on the site. There is no interest in moving the Transfer Station to a different location.

IT WAS MOVED (Jerry Coogan) AND SECONDED (John Raby) to approve the Transfer Station budget in the amount of \$429,680. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Solid Waste Clean up

Chair Prohl stated he heard there were many people that brought items on hazardous waste day that weren't from New London. Bob Harrington replied that there were well over 200 vehicles that came for hazardous waste day in New London, and some who went to the other sites as well. He noted that

the collection day has volunteers and they don't physically check to verify that the people are from New London.

Chief Lyon stated from an environmental standpoint, having a collection site is a good thing or people will dump items on the side of the road etc.

IT WAS MOVED (Michael Williams) AND SECONDED (Chris Lorio) to approve the Solid Waste Clean Up budget in the amount of \$14,590. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Sewer Department

General Governmental Buildings - \$61,500

IT WAS MOVED (Jerry Coogan) AND SECONDED (Chris Lorio) to approve the General Government Buildings budget in the amount of \$61,500. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Sewer Disposal and Collection - \$659,955

Jerry Coogan noted that sewer wages have gone up. Bob Harrington replied that this is due to his request to add a second full time person. Only having one person is a safety issue so a second person is necessary.

IT WAS MOVED (Joe Cardillo) AND SECONDED (Jerry Coogan) to approve the Sewer Disposal and Collection budget in the amount of \$659,955. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Bonded Debt - Sewer - \$125,184

The only debt the sewer has is the Sunapee plant.

IT WAS MOVED (Jerry Coogan) AND SECONDED (Suzanne Jesseman) to approve the sewer bonded debt in the amount of \$125,184. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Interest - \$49,138

IT WAS MOVED (John Raby) AND SECONDED (Suzanne Jesseman) to approve the interest amount of \$49,138. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Capital Outlay

IT WAS MOVED (John Raby) AND SECONDED (Chris Lorio) to approve the transfer to Capital Reserves in the amount of \$20,000. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

IT WAS MOVED (Jerry Coogan) AND SECONDED (Chris Lorio) to approve the total budget amount of \$915,777. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Other Business

Chair Prohl stated that they received a letter of request from Riverbend. He recalls that this was discussed last year and noted that the state government funds this agency. The Selectmen and the Budget Committee voted not to fund this last year; he recommended that the board vote no again this year.

IT WAS MOVED (Rob Prohl) AND SECONDED (John Raby) to not fund the request from Riverbend. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Next meeting - The next meeting will be held on January 8, 2020

Adjourn

IT WAS MOVED (Michael Williams) AND SECONDED (Rob Prohl) to adjourn the meeting. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 8:11PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Trina Dawson,

Recording Secretary
Town of New London