



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES February 6, 2017 6:00 PM

PRESENT:

G. William Helm, Chair
Nancy Rollins, Selectman
Janet Kidder, Selectman
Kim Hallquist, Town Administrator
Wendy Johnson, Finance Officer

ALSO PRESENT:

Phyllis Piotrow, New London Budget Committee
Ed Andersen, Police Chief
John Raby, *The Intertown Record*
Jaclyn Goddette, *Argus Champion*

Chair Helm opened the meeting at 6:00pm.

Public Comment

There was none.

Expenditures to Date for the Year

Ms. Johnson said the legal line is overspent. The other departments seem to be right on track as far as she can see.

Town Hall Maintenance and Repair – The Town has spent \$22,000 and the budget is \$9,000. Ms. Johnson said that this is for painting at Whipple. They will leave it there to see if they can absorb it in the operating budget; if not, the amount can be taken from the Town Buildings Capital Reserve Fund.

Special Detail – The deficit seen here is why Chief Andersen is asking to have a revolving fund for special details. Having a revolving fund will remove the line item for details from the operating budget and payments would be made from the revolving fund instead. Ms. Hallquist said this revolving fund can be created through a warrant at Town Meeting.

Highways and Streets Drainage – The budget is \$2,500 and they are at \$4,100. Ms. Johnson said she wasn't sure what the charges were for; she would need to look it up.

Bond

Lagoons: Ms. Johnson said they had \$80,000 earmarked for this work last year. They paid \$110,000 already and there is still \$21,000 left that they need to vote on to use it towards the lagoons.

Lake Sunapee Property Owner – Sandbar Issue

Ms. Hallquist said she, Representative Karen Ebel, State Marine Patrol and some of the property owner's family members met to discuss the issues at the sandbar and the adverse impact the boaters have on the property owners'

enjoyment of their property. Marine Patrol representatives said they will step-up enforcement next summer to see if that helps the situation. The group will meet at the property in the spring to plan steps for enforcement, Chief Andersen will be asked to attend as well.

Review of the Warrant

Ms. Hallquist read through the articles and pointed out any changes from the last version the Selectmen had read through. The warrant includes zoning amendments, the Police Department revolving fund, capital reserve expenditures, completion of library foundation drainage, purchase of a fire vehicle, paving of two roads, fire department radios, a generator at the Job Seamans Road pump station, spending from the Transportation Fund for two sidewalks, a bridge on Elkins road, and a railing, and a Transfer Station study from the Transfer Station Improvement Fund. They will try to change the purpose of the Master Plan Fund to get rid of the year 1998 and have it be for the master plan in general and also to make the Selectmen agents to expend. They would also like to make the Selectmen agents to expend the Recreation Facilities Fund. There is a petition warrant article for the Veteran's Property Tax Credit, and another on nuclear weaponry limits through the Federal Government. The order of these can be changed, except for the bond; that must be first.

Ms. Hallquist said she would like the Selectmen to sign the warrant on Wednesday evening following the Budget Committee Meeting. She noted that the last day for petitions is Tuesday, February 7th, so there may be additional articles. The Board agreed to consider approval of the warrant after the budget hearing.

Dedication of the Annual Report

Selectman Kidder suggested dedicating the report to Sue Clough, John Kiernan and Lloyd Littlefield.

IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to have the Annual Report dedicated to Sue Clough, John Kiernan and Lloyd Littlefield. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMIOUSLY.

Memo from Norm Bernaiche re: Voluntary Restoration of Merged Lots

The Selectmen said regarding a merging of lots less than an acre in size, they do not feel they should go against what has been documented in the registry of deeds.

IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to deny the request, as recommended by Norm Bernaiche. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Acknowledging Report from RMI re: Sewer Lagoons

Ms. Hallquist said Mr. Lee has seen the report as prepared by RMI and sent to DES detailing the amount of material removed from the closed lagoon last summer.

Acknowledge Receipt of Sewer Abatement

Mr. Lee said the meter belonging to the Andersons is broken. Mr. Lee recommends granting the abatement but with the stipulation that the owner must install a new meter or go back on bedroom charges for billings – no more abatements will be issued.

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to abate the overage for the Andersons as recommended by Richard Lee. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Town Administrator's Report – Kim Hallquist, Town Administrator

Ms. Hallquist said the Superior Court ruled for the Gilman Family Trust and against the Town in the tax abatement case for tax years 2014, 2015, 2016. The abatement granted is \$682,242 in assessed value. The property owners will receive abatements for those years 2014, 2015 and 2016 which will result in a refund of

approximately \$35,000 - \$40,000, including 6% interest. Bart Mayer (Town Counsel) does not recommend taking this to Supreme Court.

Ms. Hallquist plans to meet with the Recreation Commission the following afternoon to talk about the Recreation revolving fund and possible policies associated with it.

Ms. Hallquist said handout materials for the Town Meeting will be put together the following day Ms. Johnson. The materials will be posted on the Town's website as well.

Committee Report

Planning Board

Selectman Kidder reported that on January 24th she attended the Planning Board meeting. There were tree cutting applications, a continued discussion of property on Owls Nest Road, and a subdivision on King Hill Road. There was discussion of a property that has been logged and abutters had concern about the extent of it. The State of NH sets guidelines for cutting so there isn't much a town can do about it. There were concerns about runoff and erosion due to the extensive cutting.

Sewer Meeting

Chair Helm said he attended the last sewer meeting. Sunapee Commissioners are concerned about issues with phosphorous at the plant and they will let New London know in the fall if they will be permitted to pump the water from the sewer lagoons into the plant. Ken Kessler from DES has been challenging the Sunapee Treatment plant about the levels of phosphorous and there is a potential violation. Chair Helm noted that he brought up the question of having an electronic meter to keep track of flows instead of doing it by hand. The Commissioners were not too receptive to the idea of adding equipment to record flows and send the data to New London automatically. Selectman Kidder said it was pointed out to them that New London likes to have the daily readings as it would help to identify problems faster.

Chair Helm said another option to get rid of the water from the lagoons is to disperse it on site.

Selectman Kidder said Mr. Lee had an idea to have college students study what the large sewer users are using in terms of phosphorus and make recommendations on how the amounts could be reduced. The college and the hospital could be major contributors. Mr. Lee and Ms. Hallquist will follow up on this.

Upcoming Meetings and Special Events

- Next Regular Selectmen's Meeting – February 21st - 6:00 PM: Public Hearing will be held: Bond issue and Police Special Duty Revolving Fund
- Recreation Commission – Tuesday, February 7th – 5:00 PM – Whipple Town Hall
- **PUBLIC HEARING on the FY2018 Budget** – Wednesday, February 8th - 7:00PM – Whipple Memorial Town Hall (a second meeting on Thursday, Feb. 9th – 7:00PM may be held if deemed necessary by the Budget Committee).
- Conservation Commission – Wednesday, February 15th - 8:30 AM
- Town Offices **CLOSED: Monday, February 20th – President's Day**

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to enter into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a): the dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee. Roll call vote: Nancy Rollins: Yes; Janet Kidder: Yes; Bill Helm: Yes

The Board entered nonpublic session at 6:38pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Heath, Recording Secretary
Town of New London

The Selectmen voted to return to public session at 7:45 p.m.

Selectman Kidder stated that she thought it would be advantageous to the Town if Mr. Lee would delay his retirement for up to a year. Chair Helm suggested that Mr. Lee remain as Director of Public Works until June 30, 2018.

It was MOVED (Janet Kidder) and SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to communicate to Mr. Lee the desire of the Selectmen for him to delay his retirement until June 30, 2018, and further to postpone the search for a replacement for Mr. Lee until the beginning of 2018. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Selectman Kidder agreed to draft a letter to Mr. Lee expressing the substance of the motion.

Signatures

Requests to Use Town Property

- Michael Gelcius of 193 Fairway Lane for Elkins Fish & Game Club on the Town Common for May 20, 2017 from 9AM to 3PM. (Fly Fishing Tutorial & Food Drive)

Other Items to be signed

- Pay Authorization Voucher by Wendy Johnson, Finance Officer
- Accounts Payable Voucher by Wendy Johnson, Finance Officer

Approved Building Permits

- Kim & Tyler Woolson, 179 South Cove Road, TM 045-030-000. Build 324 SF porch on existing deck. **BP16-149. APPROVED 2/2/2017.**
- Stanley & Pamela Bright Farmhouse Trust, 470 Burpee Hill Road, TM 070-020-000. Install 13.68 KW solar array on roof of existing barn. **BP 17-006. APPROVED 2/2/2017.**
- Charles J. & Cynthia T. Lawson, 1549 Little Sunapee Road, TM 030-007-000. Build 324 SF porch on existing deck. **BP16-148. APPROVED 2/6/2017.**

Approved Sign Permits

- **Temporary Sign Permit** at Chamber of Commerce on May 20, 2017 by Michael Gelcius of 193 Fairway Lane for Fly Fishing Tutorial/Food Drive on 33" x 22" sandwich board. **APPROVED**

A motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

G. William Helm, Jr.

Chair