



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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BUDGET COMMITTEE Public Hearing MEETING MINUTES February 7, 2018 7:00 PM

PRESENT:

Robert Prohl, (Chair)
Phyllis Piotrow, (Vice Chair)
Bruce Hudson
Joe Cardillo
Lyndsay Lund (phone)
Nancy Rollins, Selectmen's Rep
Kim Hallquist, Town Administrator
Wendy Johnson, Finance Officer
Absent: Tyler Beck, Suzanne Jesseman, Chris Lorio

ALSO PRESENT:

Jay Lyon, Chief of Fire Department
Sandra Licks, Library
Ed Anderson, Chief of Police
Scott Blewitt, Recreation
Richard Lee, Public Works
Donna Larrow, Administrative Assistant Police Department
Emily Cobb, Police Lieutenant
Bill Helm, Selectman
Janet Kidder, Selectman

Open Public Hearing

Chair Prohl thanked Town Administrator Kim Hallquist and her staff for all the work getting the budget ready. He also thanked the Selectmen for their support as well as the department heads. Chair Prohl asked the committee if they wanted to proceed or reschedule for another date, noting that the inclement weather may have been a factor in that no residents were in attendance. It was decided to move forward with the public hearing.

The Budget Committee considered the request of Lyndsay Lund to participate in the meeting via telephone pursuant to RSA 91-A:2, III, as she was not able to attend the meeting. The members present agreed. Chair Prohl asked Ms. Lund why she was not able to attend in person (she was out of town) and if anyone was present with her (no).

Ms. Hallquist provided an overview of the budget. She noted that this year the Selectmen's budget and the Budget Committee's budget are in agreement. Both groups worked hard to compromise. Yesterday was the last day to submit petition warrant articles. There were none that contained appropriations to be considered by the Budget Committee.

There will be a warrant article that the Selectmen have voted to include in the warrant. This is a request for authorization to borrow \$500,000 for the future purchase of land to be used for a town

building or buildings. There is a public hearing scheduled for next Wednesday, February 14, 2018 at 6:00pm.

Highlights for the fiscal year 2019 budget:

- The Selectmen included funds for a 1% COLA increase for town employees.
- The Step program will continue. Employees who receive an acceptable review will receive a step increase of 2.5% on their anniversary date.
- Some additional full-time employees were included in this budget. One is a part time administrative assistant that went to full time. This resulted in approximately \$10,000 in additional costs. The budget also includes a ninth full time police officer. This is funded for 9 months in this fiscal year budget. When the savings and part time wages are taken into account, the net increase is approximately \$50,000.
- Health and Dental Insurance – For the first time in many years, the increase is under 1%. The maximum scheduled is .6% so it may be lower. Dental is up 2.3% after many years of no increase.
- General Operating Budget and Transfer to Capital Reserve is up 2.93%.
- Paving Gravel Roads – the budget committee received an email from Pat and Lenore Noble of Wilder Lane. They are in support of the budget for road paving. The Nobles would like their road paved in 2018 and Ms. Hallquist believes they are scheduled for paving assuming the budget is approved.

Proposed Capital Reserve Fund Activity:

Sidewalk Project – \$30,000
Fire Department Radios - \$30,000
Fire Breathing Apparatus - \$20,000
Fire Vehicle - \$75,000
Gravel Road Upgrades and Paving - \$50,000
Highway Equipment Replacement - \$268,510
Master Plan Update - \$10,000
Tracey Library Improvements - \$35,000
Communications Equipment - \$34,000
Town Building Maintenance - \$50,000
Sewer Department - \$20,000

The Committee discussed individual Warrant Articles:

\$500,000 bond issue for the purchase of land for the future needs of the town.

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Lyndsay Lund) to approve the \$500,000 bond issue for the purchase of land for the future needs of the town. Roll Call Vote: Prohl: Yes; Piotrow: Yes; Hudson: Yes; Lund: Yes; Rollins: Yes; Cardillo:No. THE MOTION PASSED.

\$18,000 for an Asphalt Roller.

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Rob Prohl) to accept the amount of \$18,000. Roll call vote: THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

\$16,500 for Fire Department Radios

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Rob Prohl) to accept the amount of \$16,500. Roll call vote: THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

\$98,625 for Paving Gravel Roads

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Bruce Hudson) to accept the amount of \$98,625. Roll call vote: THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Sewer Fund - \$883,592

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Bruce Hudson) to accept the amount of \$883,592. Roll call vote: THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Revenue items total - \$3,453,915

IT WAS MOVED (Joe Cardillo) AND SECONDED (Rob Prohl) to accept the Revenues as printed in the amount of \$3,453,915. Roll call vote: THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Total Expenses - \$8,722,094 Including warrant articles. The general operating amount is \$7,205,377.

IT WAS MOVED (Bruce Hudson) AND SECONDED (Joe Cardillo) to accept the expenses of \$7,205,377. Roll call vote: THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Bruce Hudson) to adjourn. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Trina Dawson, Recording Secretary
Town of New London