



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

March 18, 2019

6:00 PM

PRESENT:

Nancy Rollins, Chairman
Janet Kidder, Selectman
John Cannon, Selectman
Kim Hallquist, Town Administrator

ALSO PRESENT:

State Senator Ruth Ward, State Representatives Karen Ebel and Dan Wolf
KRSD SAU 65 Superintendent Winfried Feneberg and Director of Facilities Todd Fleury
Upper Valley Sunapee Regional Planning Commission Jerry Coogan and Elizabeth Meller
Bob Harrington, Public Works Director
Katie Vedova, New London Resident
John Lewis, New London Resident
Peter Bianchi, New London resident
Bob Bowers, New London resident

Selectman Rollins called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Appointments

Legislative Update

Chair Rollins welcomed State Senator Ruth Ward and State Representatives Karen Ebel and Dan Wolf to the meeting. Chair Rollins asked for any legislative updates.

Senator Ruth Ward stated she knows that the town of New London is concerned about DOT work. She checked with the DOT and was told there is nothing scheduled for Main Street or any bridges in New London. Chair Rollins is hoping they at least come and fix the potholes.

Chair Rollins asked about SB301, a bill that restores revenue sharing, which the New Hampshire Municipal Association has supported. An estimated \$37.5 million in fiscal year 2020 and \$55.5 million in 2021 to cities and town. The funding would come from suspension of the business tax. This was passed but was immediately tabled. Senator Ward didn't have notes on this particular bill but will find out and report back.

Chair Rollins referenced studies that have been done that demonstrate how much the state has reneged on its promises of reimbursing cities and towns. She is wondering if there is any discussion in the Senate around increasing or restoring any of that so there might be some relief from property taxes. Senator Ward stated they have talked about it and there is a general understand that something needs to be done about property taxes. This is an issue that most towns are struggling with.

Representative Karen Ebel stated she spoke to the DOT District 2 Manager and he stated there are three projects planned for the New London area this year that include the New London piece of I-89, the area from Little Sunapee Road down to the Flying Goose (Rt 11) and repaving Route 11 from the intersection of Route 4 in Andover all the way to exit 11 of I-89. Representative Ebel noted that she has been told that DOT is in the process of putting the work out for bid and once they know who wins the bid it is up to

them to figure out the scheduling. Representative Ebel let DOT know they would like to get as much done as possible before tourist season, but it is hard to put together a schedule until they know who wins the bid. She can check back in 6-8 weeks. Representative Ebel noted that the business tax bill was amended to bring it to the effective rate of business taxes in 2018. Finance is in the process of doing the whole budget. As far as education funding, she feels there is an effort to raise money at the state level to increase the amount of money going to towns in adequacy aid. HB 497 is the bill that would restore the retirement for police, fire and teachers. This bill passed but has now gone to finance. Representative Wolf stated that he feels this year the legislature is not going to make things worse for cities and towns and have stopped cuts to the business profits taxes, etc. It should stay reasonably level. No one wants to raise taxes but if the state needs money they have to raise taxes or take it from the towns.

Representative Ebel stated that the state can't help with education funding unless they raise revenues. In the house a bill was passed to create a capital gains tax which is an extension of the current interest and dividends tax which is 5%. This bill is set up to put capital gains money into the education trust fund to help alleviate the problem of the property tax issue. If the capital gains tax bill passes, this would raise about \$150 million dollars which could be shared back to the towns.

Selectman Kidder asked about Keno and using those funds for Kindergarten and also for the possibility of building aid. Senator Ward commented that they have put Keno into the building aid fund and will treat Kindergarten as they would for all other students. There was a lot of discussion about education and raising money at the state level. Senator Ward feels that they need to look at the whole funding issue on how education is funded. Superintendent Feneberg stated there is not enough money for education. There will always be differences among the towns and that shouldn't be undone. More and more is being taken away and the local level is being held responsible for it.

Jerry Coogan stated that New Hampshire has been delinquent in funding education and transportation. He would be in favor of a capital gains tax and thinks the gas tax should be increased as well. Mr. Coogan observed that if the state wants tourism, we need better infrastructure. Education and transportation investments are good for the economy. Representative Ebel noted that people that support that type of funding need to be elected. Mr. Coogan thanked them for their service and the time they spend working on these issues.

Chair Rollins echoed Mr. Coogan's comments and thanked them for the work they do.

RPC Update

Liz Meller and Jerry Coogan, representatives of the Upper Valley Sunapee Regional Planning Commission attended the meeting to provide an update on the Regional Planning Commission.

Mr. Coogan stated the Regional Planning Commission will be working on a regional housing study this year. They will work in conjunction with the Three Rivers Commission in Vermont. Housing is a big issue throughout the whole state. They completed the I-89 Commuter study which calls for capital expenditures and a subsidy but there is no provider interested. The Commission has a transportation advisory committee (TAC) and Mr. Coogan would encourage Bob Harrington to become a member and get involved with this. Ms. Meller noted that for the past three years she has been advocating to enlarge the exit 12 park and ride. She feels they can't move forward with a bus line until this is done since parking is an issue.

Mr. Coogan stated they are working on workforce development through the Rockefeller Center at Dartmouth College to identify training programs for potential employees at various companies. It is hard to get qualified employees, so they are working with companies to find out what the training needs are to develop programs. They will also work with local high schools and vocational technical schools.

Chair Rollins asked if both Mr. Coogan and Ms. Meller are interested in continuing their roles on the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission and both have agreed to remain on the Commission.

John Tilley Request at Town Meeting for School District Action on Building Renovation

Chair Rollins stated that at the recent Town meeting, John Tilley requested that a letter from the Board of Selectman be sent to the School Board to expedite the renovation of the area that was attached to the former 1941 Building. Superintendent Feneberg stated that he completely understands Mr. Tilley's concern. The problem has been that renovations and building can't happen until the voters approve the money to do so. They have worked with the school board and the planning committee to expedite this. The budget committee moved to do it all at once and the board agreed so it will get done faster. Money was already in the budget for this year so they can begin, and the rest will be finished by next June. They will renovate the former cafeteria into a meeting room that can accommodate up to 125 people. This can be used for conferences and school board meetings. The community can also use this space for events. They will add a 370 square foot reception area. There also, two conference rooms that can accommodate 20-40 people available for use. There will be 8-9 bathrooms. Where the old cafeteria was, there won't be a full kitchen but rather a warming space which could be used for catering services. They will pave a small part of the road but the rest will be parking on gravel. The Capital Improvement Plan for the district will be budgeting to pave all of Cougar Court Elementary school in about 2-3 years so will do it then. Superintendent Feneberg is excited to have usable space again.

A letter will be sent to the School Board thanking them for their presentation and stating that we recognize the constraints they are operating under to get this project done as quickly as possible. A copy of the letter will be sent to Mr. Tilley.

Public Comment

John Lewis suggested the idea of Bob Bowers being assigned as the manager of the Buker Building renovation project since he has done so much work related to the project. Chair Rollins noted that the Board will take his recommendation under advisement.

Chairman, Board and Committee assignment, meeting schedule

Chair Rollins stated the Board needs to discuss the future governance structure. Selectmen Kidder stated it is important that each of the Selectmen serve as chairman. She proposes that it be done on a rotating basis and the person in their last year of a three-year term is the one to serve as the chair. Following this proposal, Nancy Rollins would serve as chair this year, Selectmen Kidder next year and John Cannon the following year. This doesn't commit future boards to this rotation.

Chair Rollins stated she is willing to remain as chair. Selectman Kidder will stay on the Planning Board as the Board of Selectmen representative. John Cannon will be the representative on the Budget Committee. The schedule of having meetings on the first and third Monday of the month will remain the same.

IT WAS MOVED (John Cannon) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to appoint Nancy Rollins as the Chair of the Board of Selectmen, Janet Kidder will be the liaison to the Planning Board and John Cannon will be the liaison to the Budget Committee. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Request of Energy Committee to Appoint Gerry Gold and Viggo Fish

IT WAS MOVED (John Cannon) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to appoint Gerry Gold and Viggo Fish to the Energy Committee. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Proclamation declaring April as Donate Life Month

This has been done for the past several years at their request.

IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (John Cannon) to approve the request to declare April as Donate Life Month. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Memo from Bob Bowers regarding Buker renovation project

Mr. Bowers understands the amount of work the Selectmen have to do and the limited amount of time they have to do it. He submitted a memo to ensure things aren't getting missed.

Mr. Bowers is wondering if the leaking issue through the front door may be able to get taken care of quickly. Also the sally port leak didn't appear to be major and perhaps could be fixed easily and pulled out of the process and dealt with. He wanted to point this out and make sure all the pieces are put together to solve the problems. Bob Harrington commented that they reviewed the drainage issues and it isn't an easy fix as it involves water coming in from the outside as well.

Chair Rollins would like to propose instituting a building and facilities committee. This committee would report to the board. She has drafted a recommendation for a charter for this committee. The committee would:

1. Review, oversee and participate in the development of the request for proposals for Buker.
2. Present recommendations for an RFP award to the Board of Selectmen based on applicants.
3. Do a complete status assessment with Bob Harrington of all town owned buildings and facilities including but not limited to, identification of need for immediate repairs, long range repair needs and long term efficacy and efficiency of any of these buildings based on future growth.
4. Assess and make recommendations for future space needs for existing departments including but not limited to the Recreation Department and the Kearsarge Regional School District SAU expansion.
5. Assess the facility needs of the Recreation Department and explore a potential affiliation with the Outing Club.
6. Assess and make recommendations for a town building inspector. Determine if we need one, determine the percent of time that would be necessary, outline job functions and job description including an outline of experience and skill set that might be needed.
7. Report as needed or at least quarterly to the Board of Selectmen on its findings and recommendations.

This is a draft only. Chair Rollins stated that with all of the work that needs to happen there should be a committee to assist the Board of Selectmen. Selectman Kidder stated that she would like some time to think about this. Selectman Cannon feels it is probably something that is needed and will take a closer look at it. Chair Rollins would like to make a decision about this at the next meeting.

Project Dashboard

Chair Rollins asked Kim Hallquist to provide an updated dashboard to understand where we are with all town projects. Ms. Hallquist would like the Board to help with prioritizing these tasks. It was decided that Buker should be the number one priority with the bridge work next in line. Ms. Hallquist will confer with Bob Harrington to get his thoughts on the timing of all of the projects. There is also one fire department project that will need a time schedule for.

Town Administrators Report

Ms. Hallquist provided the following report:

- Ms. Hallquist informed that Board that Peter Bianchi assisted the new Health Officer on his first test pit witnessing on Hall Farm Road; she appreciated Mr. Bianchi's willingness to offer his assistance.
- The New Hampshire Municipal Association contacted Ms. Hallquist to ask if the Selectmen would write a letter to the NH House Finance Committee in favor of funding the waste water treatment grants that they applied for. The Selectmen agreed.
- Ms. Hallquist provided a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding between the school district and the Police Department that will allow the PD to have access to video feeds from all of the schools in the event of an emergency. It has gone through town council and school district council. The ability

to see the video in the event of an emergency will increase the safety of the school students and staff as well as the responding public safety personnel.

Committee Meetings & Reports

Selectman Kidder reported on a Recreation meeting held on February 6, 2019. They are working on updating the bylaws and should be able to approve changes at the April meeting.

Winter Carnival was well attended, and Scott Blewitt noted how great it was to work with Colby-Sawyer College and enjoyed having the event at the college.

The Recreation Commission continues to work on the strategic plan; this should be finalized in April.

The February vacation camp was full and there are a number of trips planned. Upcoming events include the Easter Egg Hunt and the Strawberry Festival.

Scott Blewitt continues to groom the cross country and snow shoe trails at Colby-Sawyer's Kelsey Field and they've gotten a lot of use.

The Recreation Commission would like the Board of Selectmen to reappoint Justin Garcia and appoint Lyndsay Lund to the Recreation Commission.

IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (John Cannon) to reappoint Justin Garcia and appoint Lyndsay Lund to the Recreation Commission. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Meeting Minutes

IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to approve the minutes from the March 4th meetings. Selectman John Cannon abstained as he was not in attendance. THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED.

Upcoming Meetings & Special Events

- Next Selectmen's Meeting – Monday, April 1st – 6 PM
- Zoning Board of Adjustment – Tuesday, March 19th – 6:30 PM
- NL-Springfield Water Precinct Annual Mtg.– Tuesday, March 19th – 10 AM @ Whipple
- Conservation Commission – Wednesday, March 20th – 8:30 AM
- Planning Board – Tuesday, March 26th – 6:30 PM
- Recreation Commission – Wednesday, April 3th – 10 AM @ Whipple Hall

Other Business

- Chair Rollins noted that there was an incredible turnout for candidate's night and many people expressed dismay and concern that the Citizen Advisory Committee had been suspended. She would like to propose that the Citizen Advisory Committee be reinstated. She had drafted a potential charter for that as well and would like to discuss at the next meeting.
- Selectman Kidder suggested a larger flag on the flag pole in front of the Police Department. The one they currently have is too small and is in poor shape. The Police Department has a larger flag they put up for Memorial Day, Veteran' Day etc. and is much nicer looking.
- Selectman Kidder reported that she spoke with Jim Perkins regarding the drapes at Warner Town Hall and he was in favor of them. Selectman Kidder suggested having Ms. Hallquist reach out to the Selectman's office at Warner town hall to inquire about them. Ms. Hallquist stated that her staff is looking into it as well as new chairs.
- Selectman Kidder asked if this would be a good time to start having a select group of people approach various property owners about the possibility of a Police Department going on their site.

An example would be asking President Steubner about the maintenance shed property. Chair Rollins is open to doing inquiries to see what is available.

Items to be signed

- Accounts Payable Voucher
- Payroll Authorization Voucher
- Proclamation – National Donate Life Month
- Veteran Credits
- Intent to Cut – Mountain Road
- Birthday cards

Applications Approved &/or Denied

Sign Permits

- Temporary Sign – The Outing Club for an A-frame sign at the Information Booth for lacrosse and baseball registration during March 8th – April 1st. APPROVED

Building Permits

- Scytheville Row Assoc., 75 Newport Road. TM 072-037-000. Interior renovations for new tenant. BP 19-008 APPROVED
- Michael & Karen Miles, 278 Poor Road, TM 090-003-000. Demo existing house. Build new single family 5800 sq. ft. BP 19-014 APPROVED
- MG Holdings, 51 Rowell Hill Road, TM 122-004-000. Interior renovations kitchen & baths, furnace, windows. BP 19-018 APPROVED

IT WAS MOVED (John Cannon) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to adjourn. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Trina Dawson
Recording Secretary
Town of New London