



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES April 24, 2017

PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Leigh Bosse, *The Messenger*
Peter Bianchi, New London Resident
Rob Prohl, Budget Committee Chair
Richard Lee, Public Works Director
Joan Lamson, New London Resident
Ed Andersen, Police Chief
Ernest "Buddy" Rowe, Police Detective
Karen Ebel, NH State Representative
Ruth Ward, NH State Senator
Dave Kidder, Former NH State Representative
John Wilson, New London Resident
Dan Wolf, NH State Representative
Jaclyn Goddette, *Argus Champion*
John Raby, *Intertown Record*
Linda Nicklos, Town Clerk/Tax Collector
Amy Rankins, Land Use & Assessing Coordinator
Maureen Prohl, New London Resident
Phyllis Piotrow, Budget Committee Member
Jeremy Bonin, Planning Board Member
Renate Kannler, New London Resident

Chair Helm called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Introduction of New Detective, Ernest "Buddy" Rowe - Chief Andersen

Chief Andersen said that Buddy Rowe is on full-time detective duty and comes from the Town of Newport. Detective Rowe said he grew up in Sunapee and attended Plymouth State University. He began work for the Town of Newport right out of college. He worked for 11 years in Newport and jumped at the chance to come and work for New London. The Board welcomed Detective Rowe to the Town of New London.

Legislative Update: State Reps Karen Ebel and Dan Wolf, Senator Ruth Ward, Former Rep. David Kidder

Chair Helm thanked Karen Ebel for the effort she put in for the Town to receive the park and ride video feed, which has been a request of the New London Police Department for many years.

Mr. Kidder said he is concerned about telephone poles and taxation and attempts to remove assessing authority from the towns and put it with the State Department of Revenue. Mr. Kidder cautioned the Board to be mindful of changes in laws that will put more financial burden on the backs of the taxpayers.

Representative Ebel reported that the House version of the budget didn't pass. There was quite a bit of money in the budget that would have been sent back to the towns. There was a substantial effort on the part of the finance committee to amend the Governor's version of the budget to get some money back to the towns. She feels that there is a relentless effort to cut at the state level and the shortfall comes to the county. She is very interested in local control issues. She is always on the lookout for bills that are in favor of municipalities. She is on the Capital Budget Committee.

Senator Ward said she has had many calls and emails in opposition of the Goose Hole boat ramp in Newbury. She noted that the concern with the broadband expansion bill is that the towns that wanted it weren't quite ready to take on the responsibility to manage it. She will meet with a senator from District 10 and DRED to see what they can do to find where the underserved areas are and how can they provide broadband to all. Most likely they will have it ready by November 1st. With regard to the legislation regarding assessing of utility poles (as mention earlier by Mr. Kidder), the towns she has heard from would like the town officials to continue to determine the value of the utility poles. Senator Ward pointed out that the high cost of energy is mostly due to the taxation of the power company's properties; if they have to pay more taxes they will pass the cost on to the users. She agrees with Ms. Ebel on the importance of local control.

Representative Wolf said they all want local control. He is on the education committee and explained that HB 191 is to provide funding for full-day kindergarten in NH. The State has said they will fund half a day of educational instruction and a half day of socialization which is what the State is offering; they will provide the funds but there will be no local control. HB 193 is for a freedom savings account which allows money to go to individuals and parents to use as they want, which will take away from the school districts. So far this year the education bills have involved a lot of parental control issues; being able to remove a child from testing, certain courses, assessments, and whether there is an opt in/out choice. They had 78 bills in the education committee and about 45 were passed or rejected unanimously. There are 19 members on the education committee. Representative Wolf added that the boat ramp issue at Wild Goose is not fully decided yet. The Senate Capital Budget Committee is working on it and there is some opposition.

Representative Ebel said the Public Works Committee has a 10-year plan and they review it each year. The process starts organically; the towns send projects to the Regional Planning Commission that they would like to have done, and then this is sent to DOT for assessment. Representative Ebel said she sees the DOT people frequently so it is good to keep her in the loop with the plans New London has in mind.

Selectman Rollins said what was in the house finance committee budget was favorable to the municipalities but when compared, what was not favorable was aid for property tax relief. 2018/2019 had 25 million dollars targeted for this relief. Additionally, state retirement contributions need to be reinserted. It is a drain on municipalities. She observed that it is unclear to her which budget is being reviewed. Mutual aid with regards

to highways, bridges and grants needs to see more funding with this as municipalities are seeing the brunt. She commented that SB3 in regards to election law, is unreadable. It does not make sense and there isn't a moderator or attorney in the state that can figure out what it is saying. It is a poorly written bill and an unfunded mandate and needs to be looked at. HB561 is currently in committee; they look at the retirement system every 10 years. She doesn't want this impacting their state or municipal employees. Lastly, SB155 is intended to delay the Medicaid managed care program for seniors and for those with developmental disabilities. It pushes it off to 2019; there is no plan and advocates don't want it to go out without being pre-procured. It needs more than just an amendment.

Representative Wolf said when the house rejected passing the budget it was one of his most disappointing days in Concord, noting that it is a shame that they are being compared to Washington. Selectman Rollins said there is a budget surplus and there are some care providers that have not had a raise in 10 years. It makes no sense to not use the surplus for these things otherwise the municipalities become responsible for added expenses.

Representative Ebel said the towns need to be vigilant about their representatives keeping them in mind when voting, especially for the budget. Ultimately someone needs to pay to repair things like bridges and highways. In Concord they feel if the state doesn't have to pay, they don't have to worry about it. The municipalities suffer from this way of thinking.

Representative Wolf said it is important and extremely helpful when the Town government attends hearings. Selectman Helm said they need to be kept in the loop about when to attend. It was agreed that there needs to be better communication between the representatives and the selectmen.

Selectman Kidder said there are a number of ways the different towns have taken over doing things the state used to do. Mr. Lee, Public Works Director, agreed pointing out that there are a number of rules and regulations the state puts in place now that are problematic for towns. As an example, Mr. Lee noted that the town has to spend more money to engineer a bridge than to build one. His department has been working on the Brookside Culvert for almost a year and they are only just getting the permitting done.

Chair Helm extended the offer to Senator Ward to attend more of their meetings and communicate with them about bills that they may be interested in. Senator Ward said she would be interested in knowing what municipalities are interested in and is happy to come meet with the Town as she is able.

Public Comment

Mr. Raby said there are sources available to get information about what is going on in Concord and when bills will be discussed. One is "Justiceforall.com" and another is "statehousewatch.com."

Old Business

Consider Memorandum of Agreement between State and Town for park & ride video feed

The Board reviewed the agreement as prepared by Attorney Steve Labonte of the Attorney General Office for the town to acquire the video feed from the park & ride. Ms. Hallquist noted that it has been reviewed by town counsel and can be signed by the Board. Selectman Kidder asked if the Police Department has seen the images and do they know if they are adequate? Ms. Hallquist said they have and they are.

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) that the Board of Selectmen sign the agreement with the State DOT to have the security camera feed at the New London Park and Ride. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Adopt Selectmen's Rules of Procedure Changes as Recommended at April 10th Meeting

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to adopt revisions to the rules of procedure as discussed at the last Selectmen's meeting. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Discuss Academy Building Repairs

The Board noted receipt of a memo outlining the options available for renovations for the attic of the Academy Building. Selectman Kidder thanked Mr. Lee and Ms. Hallquist for the comprehensive memorandum on the issue.

Mr. Lee said the cost to replace the units in the attic would cost the same as putting the Mitsubishi heaters in. To move them to the closet would be \$5,000 or \$6,000 more because there would need to be duct work added; Mr. Lee does not recommend moving the units to the second floor.

Selectman Rollins asked about the sprinkler and how the water would be forced. Mr. Lee said the water comes from the main and into the valve system. Once the sprinkler heads pop, the water force from the town system will force the water out of the sprinklers. They won't need a compression system unless they are going to sprinkle the attic. Mr. Lee noted that in the past, Chief Lyon said he would be satisfied if the space regularly occupied by people (basement, first and second floors) is sprinkled, the attic need not be sprinkled.

Selectman Rollins asked if the roof needed replacement at this time. Mr. Lee admitted that no one can say for sure when it will have to be replaced; it could be two years it could be longer: five or 10 years before this is needed. Everyone he has heard talk about the roof has said this; it will not need replacement next year.

Chair Helm asked if the sprinkler system heads will be buried in the ceilings or piped through the rooms. Mr. Lee said 90% will be put over the top of the drop-down ceiling. There might be some piping coming up the inside of the wall which will be boxed in and painted by Matt Grimes, Facilities Manager.

Chair Helm asked if the Town Public Works Department can run the water into the building. Mr. Lee said they have too much on their plate right now to be able to do this project. The water precinct doesn't do this kind of work either. He recommends hiring a contractor and putting in the materials that the Town will buy.

Ms. Hallquist informed the Board that Frank Anzalone could not attend the meeting but he has reviewed Richard's memo and offered the following comments: he suggests that the Board consider the noise from the wall units, it will likely won't be much, but it will be different from what people experience with the current system; he questioned whether the air exchanger duct work relocation will be included in the cost given; and he likes the cellulose insulation but is concerned that if it is moved around in the future it may not be replaced the right way.

Mr. Bianchi asked if the sprinkler system would give a positive effect to the Town's insurance rates. Ms. Johnson wasn't sure but said she would find out.

Dr. Wilson said he has used these kind of heating units before and more than one unit can use each condenser. He added that the noise from them is minimal.

IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to install the Mitsubishi units, install cellulose, and sprinkler system with the project not to exceed \$100,000 , which will be funded by the bond approved at the March, 2017 Town Meeting. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

New Business

Consider Richard Lee's Recommendation for Purchase of Monitoring Equipment for Pleasant Lake Dam
Mr. Lee said last winter the power went out and someone went down and opened one of the breaker boxes which automatically shut the breaker off causing the dam not to go back on-line when power was restored. Between these two things, the power was shut off and it was off a few days which is why the lake level went up last winter. Mr. Lee has resolved this situation by adding an additional lock to the breaker box. If the monitoring equipment is installed, the Town can put a link on the site to see what the level is, how much the gate is open, etc. It might stop a few phone calls from people who are concerned with the level of the lake. He tries to keep an eye on the gate as he drives by it every day to go home however when he is no longer working for the Town, this likely won't be possible.

Selectman Kidder said the controller was fixed a while ago and wondered how much it cost. Mr. Lee said the new probe, installed, was about \$1,500. It was asked what happens if they lose power. Mr. Lee said the gate won't move but they will know that it is off. They can close the gate manually with a wheel if they had to, depending on the level of the lake. The alerts from the monitoring equipment can go out to anyone they wish.

Selectman Kidder asked what happens when this kind of thing happens on a weekend. Mr. Lee said the wastewater department has people on call 24/7 for the wastewater system. The highway department does not have anyone on call 24/7, however, the wastewater people could be contacted and steps could be taken to address issues that could not wait until public works people came in for their regular shifts. He pointed out that three public works staff will be trained to take care of the dam.

Dr. Wilson was thanked for helping Mr. Lee with this project. Dr. Wilson said with the dam work going on this summer, part of it is moving the dam house over and putting on a new foundation. He suggested not waiting to install the new equipment as it is simple to do a disconnect and the company doing the work will put in extra cabling to insure things fit correctly after the house is moved.

IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to approve the Canary Systems proposal of March 22, 2017 for \$1,663.10. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Selectman Rollins asked that Ms. Hallquist and Mr. Lee contact Canary Systems to ask that they work with the engineers to insure the work be done in tandem so as to eliminate issues with the new system and the upgrading of the gate house.

Discuss Process for Hiring Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector – Linda Nicklos

Ms. Nicklos noted that she spoke with Chairman Helm about possibility opening up the candidate pool to include those candidates from other towns. The open position has been advertised in the *Intertown Record* and blanketed with the Tax Collector/Tax Clerk association. She has only received one application so far from the *Intertown Record*. Ms. Nicklos said she doesn't want to rush this process and would like to get a good group of candidates to choose from. She asked if the Selectmen wish to be included in the interview process and questioned how involved the Board wanted to be.

Selectman Rollins said she would prefer to hear more detail about what Ms. Nicklos' expectations are for the role and function and beyond the job ad, and what kinds of recommendations they get when they post these positions. Her preference would be that they choose from a pool of candidates. She'd like to interview just those that are recommended by Ms. Nicklos. Selectman Kidder agrees that they should interview only the ones suggested by Ms. Nicklos. She would like to see all the resumes, however.

Ms. Nicklos said they are advertising the position as "Assistant to the Town Clerk/Deputy Tax Collector" to allow for a non-resident of New London to be hired. This person could never become the Town Clerk/Tax Collector, however, as it is a requirement that that position be filled by a resident.

Selectman Kidder asked if there would be a cut-off date for applicants. Ms. Nicklos said she prefers to advertise it as "until the position is filled." Selectman Kidder suggests making sure that it notes that non-residents can apply.

Ms. Nicklos said the hours are 25-32.5. She doesn't feel that they need a fulltime person during all months of the year but to attract someone to do this job, perhaps they should make it a fulltime job. It includes a lot of responsibilities. Part of her feels that it is a lot of money for benefits, but a fulltime opportunity will attract better candidates. May through November is extremely busy. Chair Helm suggests having a schedule available to show candidates at interview time.

The Selectmen would like to see the resumes that come in, and would like to meet with those Ms. Nicklos feels are qualified.

Ms. Nicklos said she has Ann Bedard helping her out right now who is doing a great job. She wonders if having Ann available to help with training the new person and helping when it is extremely busy in the office. Chair Helm suggests working this out with Ms. Hallquist; they need to keep within their budget and will be able to work with the Budget Committee to request more money to meet this added expense should it be needed.

Discuss Topic for May 5th Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting

The Selectmen decided to discuss the projects the Town has been working on. Ms. Hallquist would have her dashboard ready for this meeting.

Status of the Street Sweeper

Mr. Lee said the sweeper has arrived. They may be sweeping the next day if the weather is good. They just had their training on the equipment that day.

Potential for Thursday Opening of the Stump Dump

The Board asked if opening the stump dump an additional day would be possible. Mr. Lee said he would have to look at the possibility. This will take staff from somewhere else. Selectman Rollins said she has been approached by several people about this possibility. Mr. Lee said perhaps to fill this seasonal need, they can figure out a way to cover the hours with the existing staff – he will report back.

Applicants for Open Position at Public Works Department

Mr. Lee said he has about 12 applications that have come in; they will interview some the following day and on Wednesday.

Seamans Road Sidewalk

Mr. Lee said this will be done when the curb company can come. They want to get the spring clean-up done first. The paving on that road didn't get done last fall; they chose the low bidder and that company never showed up and haven't let him know if the prices from last year will remain.

Town Administrator's Report

- *Crockett Corner Meeting with DOT:* On Friday, April 14th, the town met with DoT representatives to discuss the town's safety concerns of Crockett Corner due to the many motor vehicle accidents that occur there. The meeting was productive and the State will be adding signs to warn motorists and will also evaluate accident data to see if additional steps should be taken.
- *The Employee Committee:* Will present to Department Heads on May 9th and should be ready to meet with the Selectmen at the end of May or beginning of June.
- *Sale of surplus equipment:* Richard tried a new way to sell surplus property: we generally put an ad in the newspaper and accept sealed bids; this time we used Auctions International and they handled the sale of the old recreation van, highway dump truck and trash trailer. The auction was very successful and we feel that the town realized more on the sales than the sealed bid method. As an example, when we tried to sell the trash trailer last year the highest bid was \$750 – via the auction we got \$2,750.
- *Meeting with County Commissioners:* May and June meetings in Boscawen are out, would the Board like to switch to Concord on May 19th or June 16th at 8:30 am or try for August in Boscawen. The Selectmen would like to get a tour of the facility in Boscawen and so a meeting in August (likely August 7th) would be anticipated. Ms. Hallquist will communicate with the commissioners on this.
- *Expiring terms:* The Board has a list of expiring terms of members of the appointed boards – that issue will be placed on your May 8th meeting agenda.
- *Joint New London – Sunapee Wastewater Meeting:* Thursday at 5:30pm. Selectman Kidder and Chair Helm will attend, Selectman Rollins has another commitment and cannot attend. Ms. Hallquist informed the Board that Dennis Thompson, the contractor engaged by the Town to close the sewer lagoons, informed her that Sunapee Wastewater will accept the water from the lagoons as they did last summer.
- *The \$875,000 bond as approved at Town Meeting:* The Board directed Wendy Johnson, Finance Officer, to begin the process of getting quotes from banks for the bond; the bond should be in the form of a line of credit where the money can be withdrawn as needed, not all at once.
- *Project updates:* Pleasant Lake Dam: Chandler Engle of Dubois & King informed her that the project is out to bid and the bid opening will occur on May 18th; if the low bidder is known to Dubois

and King, they may have a recommendation to the Selectmen for their May 22nd meeting, if not, their recommendation should come out shortly after May 22nd. Sewer Lagoons: Dennis Thompson is optimistic that he'll start the middle of June. RFP for Transfer Station Study: The Solid Waste Committee has put out an RFP for the Transfer Station Study; they will come to the Selectmen on June 5th to discuss the proposals and their recommendation.

Committee Meetings & Reports

Chair Helm said he went to the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission (UVLSRPC) meeting and heard a presentation by Mascoma Bank for a lending program for communities in the region including Claremont and part of Newport. Steve Schneider is the Executive Director of UVLSRPC. Their annual meeting is June 20th from 5-8pm at Bistro Nuveau at the Center at Eastman. He welcomed the other two Selectmen to accompany him.

Chair Helm met with owners of Crosspoint (owners of the New London Shopping Plaza) about the work they are starting; he noted that Crosspoint is interested in being part of the Town's economic activities into the future.

Approval of Minutes

Approve Selectmen's Minutes of April 10, 2017

IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to approve the minutes of April 10, 2017, as circulated. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Upcoming Meetings and Special Events

- Next Regular Selectmen's Meeting – Monday, May 8th - 6:00 PM
- Planning Board – Tuesday, April 25th – 6:30PM
- Conservation Commission – Wednesday, May 17th - 8:30 AM
- Recreation Commission – Tuesday, May 2nd – 5:00 PM – Whipple Town Hall
- Citizen's Advisory Committee – Saturday, May 6th – 7:30 AM

Other Items to be signed

- Payroll Authorization Voucher by Wendy Johnson, Finance Officer
- Accounts Payable Voucher by Wendy Johnson, Finance Officer
- Applications for Elderly Exemptions
- Petition For License Utility Poles/Underground Conduit
- Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber (four)

Approved Permit for temporary Sale or Event

- Lake Sunapee Region VNA & Hospice, 107 Newport Road. Job Fair on April 28, 2017.

Approved Building Permits

- David & Karen Demers, 586 Bunker Road, TM 076-032-000. Interior renovations. BP 17-021
APPROVED 4/20/2017

- Malcolm Wain, 408 Sugarhouse Road, TM 034-015-000. Installation of 22 solar rooftop panels. BP17-023 **APPROVED 4/20/2017**
- Stephen S. Chellis, 344 Columbus Avenue, TM 081-006-000. Extension of BP 15-035 for new home. **APPROVED 4/20/2017**
- Greg Berger – Calerin, LLC., 37 Main Street, TM 073-053-000. Install a 12'x 8' open-faced shed. **APPROVED 4/20/2017**
- Craig & Deb Langner, 1299 Route 103A, TM 128-007-000. Expand 1st & 2nd floor including new kitchen, baths (2), windows, doors, insulation and flooring. Add front porch. **APPROVED 4/20/2017**

IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to enter non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a): the dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee and RSA 91-A:3, II (d): consideration of the acquisition, sale or lease of real or personal property. Roll call vote: Kidder: Yes; Rollins: Yes; Helm: Yes

The Board entered nonpublic session at 7:34 PM.

The Board reentered the public session at 8:50 PM.

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to withhold the nonpublic session minutes pursuant to RSA 91-A:3,III. Roll call vote: Kidder: Yes; Rollins: Yes; Helm: Yes.

IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to adjourn the meeting. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Heath, Recording Secretary
Town of New London