



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 9, 2020

7:00 PM

Whipple Hall, 25 Seamans Road

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert Prohl, (Chair) Joe Cardillo (Vice Chair), Jerry Coogan, Chris Lorio, John Raby, Lyndsay Harkins, Mark Christensen, Michael Williams, John Cannon (Selectmen's Representative)

ABSENT: Lauren Chadwick Snow

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jay Lyon, New London Fire Chief

Emily Cobb, New London Police Chief

1. Welcome

Chair Prohl called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. Approve Budget Committee Minutes of February 5, 2020

IT WAS MOVED (Joe Cardillo) AND SECONDED (John Raby) to approve the minutes from the February 5, 2020 meeting. THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Selectmen's Report

- Selectman John Cannon reported that the town's cash flow remains steady. The grand list has increased by 1.5%. The town is managing issues well amidst the Covid 19 pandemic.
- The Building and Facilities Committee is close to finalizing its report for their final recommendations regarding the Buker Building.

4. Review Past FY2021 Budget Process

Kim Hallquist reported that the Selectmen released funds to allow for the hiring of the three full time positions that were approved during the last budget cycle. They also approved paving projects as savings were realized as a result of having it done now.

There was concern in March and April that there would be less car registrations and tax payments would not be timely but that has not been the case. Our cash position is comparable to this same time last year. Also, the state has given municipalities a set amount of money through the CARES act to reimburse for things that were needed due to the pandemic.

5. Discussion of FY 2022 meeting format, visitations with Department heads given Covid 19

Chris Lorio commented he would like to discuss ways to make the meetings more efficient. There were a lot of duplicate questions during the second round of presentations.

The Budget Committee agreed to continue the joint meetings on Monday nights with the Board of Selectmen and felt that zoom meetings would probably work the best as it would be difficult to practice social distancing.

Beginning in December, the Budget Committee will meet at 7:00pm.

6. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

It was moved (Joe Cardillo) and seconded (John Raby) to elect Rob Prohl as chair of the Budget Committee. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

It was moved (Jerry Coogan) and seconded (John Raby) to elect Joe Cardillo as vice chair of the Budget Committee. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. Other Business

John Raby asked what the town is going to be doing moving forward with regards to Covid 19. Kim Hallquist responded that they are doing the best they can to encourage voluntary compliance with wearing masks. All employees are encouraged to practice good hand washing hygiene and practice social distancing. Until the Governor decides to do something different there isn't anything else the town can do that would be accepted by the public.

Colby Sawyer College has done a great job rolling out their plans bringing students back to campus with required testing and having students abide by the college and town rules. Ms. Hallquist has witnessed several students walking around town wearing masks. The town has an excellent rapport working with all of the stakeholders in town. The Chamber was happy that the Selectmen adopted the mask resolution because it gave businesses some support even though there is no penalty. Selectman Cannon feels there is more and more public acceptance of wearing masks in public.

Joe Cardillo commented that the recent election seemed to flow well and was handled efficiently. There were over 800 absentee ballots and 1500 voters. The plan is to hold the election in November at the Highway Department as well.

8. Motion to Adjourn

It was moved (Michael Williams) and seconded (Jerry Coogan) to adjourn the meeting. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Trina Dawson

Recording Secretary
Town of New London