



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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APPROVED
Budget Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2015

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Rob Prohl (Chair), Joe Cardillo (Vice-Chair), Christopher Lorio, Suzanne Jesseman, John Wilson, Bruce Hudson, Larry Dufault, Bill Green, Phyllis Piotrow, Nancy Rollins (Board of Selectmen's Representative)

STAFF PRESENT:

Kimberly Hallquist, Town Administrator
Wendy Johnson, Finance Officer

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ed Andersen, Police Chief
Donna Larrow, Police Department Administrative Assistant
Peter Bianchi, Selectman
Linda Hardy, Town Clerk/Tax Collector
Sandra Licks, Library Director
Richard Lee, Public Works Director
Bruce Parsons, Library Trustee
Christina Regan, Library Treasurer
Steve Ensign, Board of Firewards
Jason Lyon, Fire Chief

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

Minutes of February 11, 2015

IT WAS MOVED (Joe Cardillo) AND SECONDED (Bruce Hudson) to approve the minutes of February 11, 2015, as amended. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Selectmen's Report – Nancy Rollins, Selectmen's Representative

Selectman Rollins said she had just come from the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission's regional plan meeting that was held in Grantham. She suggested everyone look at the plan. The plan is posted on New London's website and she said it is an impressive report.

Reviewing the last Selectmen's meeting: the Selectmen discussed a letter from the Town of Newport which stated that Newport would no longer provide back-up ambulance service to New London Hospital Ambulance, which serves several surrounding towns including New London. Selectman Rollins noted that she briefly spoke with Jeff Kessler, Selectman from Newport, and he communicated to her that Newport is re-thinking their decision. Newport ambulance will continue servicing the Town of Newbury (Mount Sunapee) throughout the ski season. The Newport Selectmen understand the concerns of the Town of New London and the hospital.

Selectman Rollins said they have discussed the report from Dennis Mires, P.A., regarding Whipple Hall. At the next meeting they would ask Richard Lee (Public Works Director) and some others to discuss the report. They would discuss the life safety issues that need to be addressed sooner than later, as well as the

future plans for Whipple Hall and other town buildings. Selectman Rollins said the Selectmen agreed to go forward with an engineering study of the sewer lagoons and they have started to discuss the need for a schedule of projects to lay out the needs of the Town so they can get a plan in place.

Selectman Rollins noted that the Selectmen agreed that should it be appropriate for the Budget Committee to meet with them over budgeting differences at the end of the budgeting season, the Selectmen would be in favor of doing so.

Ms. Piotrow suggested the Whipple Memorial Town Hall report, or a portion of it, should be made available at the next Citizen's Advisory Committee meeting, which would feature Jim Perkins giving a presentation on the History of Whipple Hall.

Review of FY2016 Budgets

Tracy Library – Sandra Licks, Director, Bruce Parsons, Library Trustee, and Christina Regan, Library Treasurer

Ms. Licks noted that the Town appropriation request is up by 1.7% over the previous year. They have tried to put forward as modest an increase as possible.

It was noted that as a circumstance of the last two pipe bursts at the library, the children's department is still temporarily being housed in the meeting room. Drywall was put up that day in the children's room and they are evaluating the radiant floor heat to see if it can be salvaged. They need to put down new plywood and flooring, paint, put things back into place, and clean. Ms. Licks believes they are several weeks away from opening the children's area again. She said they are working with the insurance company to see what they can do. Mr. Parsons said they need to determine if the radiant floor heating was filled with hot water or with glycol. There was some residual glycol in the system from their previous heating system so they need to do some testing to see if the system can be salvaged.

Ms. Licks said they are a very busy library and are quick to respond to what the community is asking for. Mr. Cardillo noted the library was over last year's budget number for equipment. Ms. Licks said they purchased three stand-alone air purifiers, which were purchased after the pipes burst and caused flooding. They will have to adjust other line items to make up for the overage.

Ms. Piotrow asked about gifts and memorials and whether or not they were tax deductible. She also wondered if donations to the library could be spent on books or if they went through the "Friends of Tracy Library" to be spent on whatever was needed. Ms. Licks said donations are tax deductible as long as no services were rendered for the money. Sometimes the library receives modest donations and the library uses them to buy books. Sometimes funds are earmarked by the donor for certain things.

Ms. Piotrow wondered if there were more ways to get people to donate to the library. Ms. Licks said she feels lucky that their customers come to them with donations and even though they may be modest, they all add up and do make a difference. Ms. Piotrow thought people should be made aware that the library is accepting of gifts and donations.

It was noted that the Computer Maintenance line was \$16,000 last year and this year they are asking for \$14,000. Ms. Licks said last year they replaced all the patron computers. Next year they don't foresee a project of that size.

It was asked if library employees would see the same pay increases that the rest of the Town's employees were offered. Mr. Parsons said they had initially thought they would offer a 3% raise overall, but it

wasn't going to be across the board. The Selectmen have recommended going to 4% raise and the Library Trustees would be discussing this at their next meeting.

Mr. Cardillo asked if they were planning to have some scheduled event in FY2016 as he saw an additional \$2,500 in income. Christina Regan said the gift funds were invested in a CD which had a .35% return. She suggested extending it out 1.5 years to receive a higher interest yield, which accounts for the higher income.

Mr. Hudson wondered where the insurance money goes when it comes in for the damages at Tracy Library. Ms. Johnson said the money comes to the Town and they give the money back to the library.

IT WAS MOVED (Joe Cardillo) AND SECONDED (Bruce Hudson) to approve the budget for the library in the amount of \$460,800, including the \$15,600 for cleaning, as presented. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Public Works, Highway, Transfer Station, Cemeteries, Sewer, Town Buildings, Capital Reserve – Public Works – Richard Lee, Public Works Director

Mr. Lee said he asked the Selectmen to restore the full-time position that he gave up two years ago. At the time he agreed to give up the position, he said he would try having one less full-time person but that if it didn't work out, he would come back to them to request that the position be restored. He explained that after evaluating the issue for the past two years, he believes it to be in the best interest of the town to restore the full-time position now. This full-time position adds \$57,000 to the budget.

Mr. Lee said he has been working in the Public Works Department for 43 years and in that time they have added one position to the highway dept and have added 26 new roads (10 miles) plus they have expanded from the center of town and beyond. Stoney Brook Road, Whitney Brook Road, Sugarhouse Road, and others have been added to the list of roads that the Town must maintain. They are getting a lot of calls from people who need their roads plowed early in the morning to commute to their jobs in places like Boston. It is tough for the Department to get everything done, especially the plowing, being one person down.

Mr. Lee said for Highway Administration and Highways and Streets, if they take out the Facilities Manager person's wages (which was put into this budget because there was no other place to put it), his budget for FY2016 is \$27,000 less than it was in 2012, as presented, because of the position he gave up.

Mr. Lee said that as of that day, the Highway Department has spent \$59,000 in sand, which is over budget by about \$22,000. He has to order \$2,300 in salt the following week which will put them over by \$200 for the salt budget and he expects to be over budget by \$5,000 by the end of the season. He cautioned that there will be more storms coming before winter is over. He added that they are going through between 800-1100 gallons of diesel fuel per week, which has just gone up 37 cents a gallon in just the last few weeks. Prices are going up steadily after dropping for a few weeks.

Ms. Piotrow wondered why two people have to be put out together at once in the Highway Department. Mr. Lee explains that a highway crew is generally two people; when cleaning culverts and ditches, one person runs a machine and one is in the truck hauling the debris away. If they have a third person there with another truck, that person is waiting half of the time to get their truck loaded, which he feels is a waste of time. Having an additional person would let them send out another crew to do work. Having one less person means they are short on people to repair equipment while others are on the road plowing, sanding and salting.

Dr. Wilson asked why \$21,000 was added to the paving line. Mr. Lee said this was done to get the line back where it used to be. It costs \$56,000 per mile to shim a road. Asphalt was \$72.50 per ton last summer and he estimates it to be about the same this summer. All the money in the budget this year that hasn't been spent is for the Elkins sidewalk project to grind and pave.

Mr. Lee noted that there are six culverts on Brookside Drive that were recently put on the State's "red list" as they have holes in the bottom of them and need to be replaced. A letter from DOT says that weight restrictions or closures could be enforced on that road if they are not repaired. Mr. Lee said they need to be tended to because there are 10-14 homes that need to be reached by the current bridges. If the State enforces closures of weight restrictions, the Town may need to rent temporary bridges so residents could access their homes.

Mr. Lee offered that in most places, DOT is not allowing towns to replace the culverts in kind as they want the culverts to be more open and similar to what they put in at Lamson Lane last year. The town will have to find out if the state will allow replacement in-kind, which will decrease the cost greatly. If not, and the state requires bridges in place of the culverts, it will cost the town much more. He estimates the project to cost about \$140,000 if replacement in-kind is allowed. Mr. Lee said that DES and NH Fish & Game will make the decision about what kind of replacement is necessary. An engineering firm may need to come in to come up with a plan.

Mr. Green wondered if the engineering company they are using for the lagoons could be hired to also do the engineering for the culverts to maybe get a deal. Mr. Lee said the engineers from Nobis Engineering are specialized in their expertise and he wasn't sure that would work. Perhaps the same firm could be used, but the engineers are specialized. Mr. Lee said the culverts have been in for about 28 years. The developer chose, and the Planning Board agreed, to put culverts in instead of bridges because it was the cheaper option.

Mr. Cardillo asked if the need for manpower was greater during the winter versus the summer. Mr. Lee said it was equal. They have different things they have to do every season. He has two people mowing and trimming grass all week to keep up with things. They also have the wastewater portion they have to manage, they help the Facilities Manager if he needs help, as well as the Water Department and the Transfer Station when needed. One person makes a big difference in the amount of stuff they can get done. Mr. Cardillo wondered if they ever subcontract for plowing help. Mr. Lee said they don't. The State subcontracts for plowing and pays \$82/hour. He didn't think that would work for the Town and questioned if it was cost effective for the State to contract as they do now.

Mr. Lorio thinks that part-time people would probably not stay with the department but would be looking for more full-time work. There would be a continual need to re-train individuals, which could become counter-productive. Mr. Lee agreed. He said he doesn't want to pull someone off the street to run an \$80,000 piece of equipment. He wants a full-time person who is more likely to care about the job and the equipment. He said it is tough finding decent part-time help.

Mr. Green asked if there is ever a piece of machinery that sits idle because they are down a person. Mr. Lee said not exactly, but he has to choose between two jobs that need to be done because he doesn't have the help to do both. If they had another full-time employee, the current workers who are plowing would get done plowing 3-4 hours sooner, decreasing overtime. They are getting tired of plowing and they are spending a lot in overtime. Mr. Lee added that it is also a morale thing; the employees are tired and are working a lot of hours to get everything done.

Mr. Prohl asked how many bids they will need to get to get the work done on the Academy building. Mr. Lee said all the work needed on the building wouldn't be addressed by the proposed plan for \$150,000. It will cover the cost to strip the siding and trim off the building, apply breathable material back on the building, and replace with primed clapboards and trim, and includes one coat of finish paint on the building. There is \$10,000 added into the figure in case they find structural damage behind the rotten clapboards and trim, or if the tower and trim on the columns need to be replaced. This is based on a bid they have from one company. Mr. Lee explained that four companies were called to give estimates. One came and spent two hours gathering data but didn't call them back with a quote, even after he called them asking for it for a couple weeks. The second company called said they weren't interested and wouldn't give a price. The fourth contractor came, measured and provided a price to do the job.

Chair Prohl wondered why more contractors wouldn't come do business with the Town. Mr. Lee said he wasn't sure. He reminded the Budget Committee that the Town asked two contractors to give a price for repairs to the roof on the bandstand 2 years ago. The quotes came in with prices which were felt to be too high by the Selectmen so the job was put out to bid. And Mr. Lee said those two contractors who gave the initial bids on the bandstand will not give the Town any price on work; one of them was asked to bid on the town office building work. People don't want to give a price and spend their time gathering information to do so when the Town will just take the lowest bid. Contractors don't want to work for towns because they always want the cheapest price and there are contractors that won't do it because they can't do a quality job for less. Ms. Jesseman said if the town nickels and dimes a project the work won't be as good as a higher priced job. Mr. Lee agreed and said lower-grade materials are used with lower priced bids.

Mr. Cardillo asked if Mr. Lee is physically behind a plow truck during a storm if they need the extra body and when do they most often need the extra person. Mr. Lee said they would run a 5th full-sized truck if they had another person. They have two one-tons now instead of one because they plow a lot of parking lots and don't need something larger. The pick-up he drives has a plow on it. On Sunday he plowed 2.5 hours in the pick-up and spent another four hours in the loader. If he has to, he will plow. When he came to work for the Town, the road agents were not behind a desk. Ms. Hallquist noted that the Department Heads are considered exempt employees (exempt from overtime, they do not get paid overtime when they work more than 40 hours) because they are supervisory and if exempt employees routinely perform work as non-exempt hourly employees do, the Town will be required to pay them overtime as non-exempt employees. She noted that it is important to treat exempt employees as exempt employees to avoid a problem with the State or Federal Department of Labor.

Mr. Lee said his crew all works together to fix machinery and they do what they need to get the work done.

Mr. Green said the cost for fuel to heat the buildings seems to be the same over the years. Ms. Johnson said she chose an average amount each year for the cost of fuel per gallon, which seems to be working. Mr. Green asked if they had thought of pre-buying now for FY2016. Mr. Lee suggested that if the Town starts looking around for propane, they should make sure the company they choose works with the other company and the tanks can be swapped. In the past, they had to dig up tanks when they switched companies and got new tanks. Dr. Wilson suggested looking into pre-buying for propane now as it was about \$1.10 rack price.

Mr. Cardillo asked if the part time line would go down if they hired the full-time position back. Mr. Lee said he would put \$7,000 of part-time wages towards the full-time wages if they gave him \$50,000 for the full-time position. Part-time wages could go down to \$38,000. The remaining part-time wages would be

used for the facilities person and for seasonal part-time help. It was noted that the total of \$57,600 for the full-time employee included FICA and retirement.

Mr. Hudson asked Mr. Lee if he was correct in his calculation that there were eight full-time and two part-time employees in the Highway Department. Mr. Lee agreed. Mr. Hudson asked out of the eight full-timers, how many have their CDL (Commercial Drivers License). Mr. Lee said all of them but one full-time and one part-time didn't have a CDL. Mr. Hudson asked if a new employee would be required to have a CDL. Mr. Lee said one person who currently runs the one-ton and has been with them a while would go up to the bigger vehicle and the plan would be to bring someone in at the lower level to run the one-ton.

IT WAS MOVED (Phyllis Piotrow) AND SECONDED (Suzanne Jesseman) to accept the FY2016 Highway Department budget of \$889,227, which includes funding for an additional full-time position.

Dr. Wilson said by passing the above motion, they would increase the budget by almost 1% and he didn't feel comfortable with that number. He would like to accommodate everyone while still staying true to their constituency. Chair Prohl said they need to prioritize their needs and he feels that when giving a 4% raise, which is generous, they have to cut back in some other areas. He was concerned they would get the budget up at such a high number they would get some push back.

Mr. Prohl said they would save money by adding the full-time employee because they would use less part time help and have less overtime. Right now, the department is wasting money and is inefficient with one person down. They need to pay for the things and services they need. Mr. Prohl asked if the overtime budget would go down if the additional person was hired. Mr. Lee said he didn't know. It has been between \$53,000 and \$57,000 all along and he anticipated it would go down some but wasn't sure how much.

Mr. Green said the easiest thing to do is add money to the budget. Mr. Lee said if he hadn't given this position up two years ago, this would be a moot point. Mr. Green asked if they could hire people who are laid off from places such as Carroll Concrete to work the winter months. Mr. Lee said those people want regular hours and don't want a job where they may need to get up at 1am. Most of those workers go to the mountain (Sunapee) to work and go back to the concrete business in the spring.

Mr. Cardillo said if they are going to add another full-time person, he thought it was possible to cut back on the overtime line. They have never reached the overtime maximum and he thought they could put in about \$30,000 for the new job and pull out some in the overtime budget. They are averaging \$42,000 in the overtime budget. Mr. Cardillo said he understands this has been a difficult winter and he knows it is a difficult job. Mr. Green wondered where the Selectmen came down on this and what their thinking was. Selectman Rollins said they voted not to fund the position. At this point in time something had to give relative to the budget. It was a very compelling argument but they voted not to fund it.

Mr. Prohl said if they took \$20,000 out of the overtime line, \$5,000 out of the fuel line, and the balance out of paving, would they get the position back? Mr. Green wondered if it was worth taking paving money out of the budget to be able to hire another person.

It was noted that the Town does carry a surplus for the unknown. Mr. Lee said the paving line is his fall-back line if they overspend on salt and sand in the winter. Mr. Cardillo asked if \$25,000 would give him back his extra person if they took some things out of his budget. Mr. Lee said he would sacrifice other things in his budget to enable him to get the full-time person back.

IT WAS MOVED (Joe Cardillo) AND SECONDED (Chris Lorio) to amend the motion on the floor to take \$21,000 out of the Paving line, \$7,000 out of the part-time line, \$20,000 out of the overtime line, and adding \$30,000 to the Highway Administration budget to equal \$869,227 for FY2016.

Mr. Hudson said the list of employees across the board is over 40% in benefits. Once a full-time employee is hired, it includes benefits. It was noted that these costs were included in the \$57,000 cost for the full-time employee.

Chair Prohl called for a vote.

THE MOTION PASSED. Bruce Hudson was opposed.

IT WAS MOVED (Joe Cardillo) AND SECONDED (Phyllis Piotrow) to approve \$869,227 for the FY2016 Highway Administration budget.

THE MOTION PASSED. Bruce Hudson, John Wilson, and Bill Green were opposed.

Highway & Streets

Ms. Piotrow asked if paving roads increased or decreased the cost to maintain them. Mr. Lee said it costs more year round to maintain a gravel road versus a paved road. Once a road is paved, they save money on maintenance.

Mr. Lee said professionally he believes he needs another person. The paving line may go up in the future to make up for what they have taken out this year. He understood they can't get everything they want this year. He is willing to give up the paving for one or two years to get the additional person.

Mr. Green said this is increasing the operating budget which is a reoccurring issue each year.

Mr. Lorio said it was a suggestion to reduce the fuel line by \$5,000. It seems the line was already dropped down by \$5,000 from Mr. Lee's initial request to the Selectmen.

Equipment Oil

It was noted that this line looked to be over-budgeted each year. Mr. Lee said synthetic oil is used for the new trucks which is more expensive. He wasn't sure what the totals would be at the end of the year.

Equipment & Repair

Chair Prohl asked why this line had gone down. Mr. Lee said they had put money in for two years in a row to make repairs to the grader. This was done to extend the life of it for 5-6 years. He also dropped it a bit because the main line trucks are relatively new. Chair Prohl asked Mr. Lee if this line could be reduced by an additional \$5,000. Mr. Lee said two of the trucks they have right now are off warranty. He was worried about cutting \$5,000 more from this part of the budget.

IT WAS MOVED (Joe Cardillo) AND SECONDED (Chris Lorio) to approve the FY2016 Highways and Streets budget of \$494,000. Paving services are reduced by \$21,000 and Gravel reduced by \$2,000. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Street Lighting

IT WAS MOVED (Chris Lorio) AND SECONDED (Phyllis Piotrow) to approve \$16,000 for the FY2016 Street Lighting budget. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Transfer Station

Chair Prohl asked about the Waste Disposal line. Mr. Lee explained that this is what they pay to dispose their solid waste to the Androscoggin Landfill in Berlin, NH. Mr. Lee feels the amount of trash is still down at the 2014 level. They are running the same amount of trips as last year, he believes. \$120,000 has been budgeted. Mr. Lee said the amount of trash goes up and down with the state of the economy. He thought they could probably drop it to \$110,000 (line 01-4324-650-417).

Mr. Cardillo wondered why the brush couldn't be burned instead of hiring someone to grind it. Mr. Lee said that it would be difficult for them to abide by burning regulations as they don't have the proper facilities to do so. They have burned brush in the past and due to the way the wind was blowing, filled two different people's homes with smoke. It is just too tricky to be able to burn the brush without negatively impacting those living nearby.

Mr. Lee said they spent \$4,000 last year to grind part of the year's brush. He anticipated grinding two full days in FY2016, which would cost \$8,000.

IT WAS MOVED (Joe Cardillo) AND SECONDED (Bruce Hudson) to approve the FY2016 Transfer Station budget of \$385,668, which includes a reduction of \$10,000 to the waste disposal line to \$110,000. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Solid Waste Cleanup

Dr. Wilson asked when they spend the \$19,000 for the monitoring. Mr. Lee said in 2013 they spent \$11,000. If the State requires them to do an extra round of water sampling, this is where the funds will come from. He wasn't sure what it would cost to do a round of testing today. He said they could drop it down to \$14,000, which would be a decrease of \$5,000.

IT WAS MOVED (Joe Cardillo) AND SECONDED (Chris Lorio) to approve the FY2016 Solid Waste Cleanup budget of \$18,400. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Cemeteries

Mr. Lee said he asked the Selectmen for an additional \$5,000 to do survey work on the Old Main Street cemetery but it was cut. After talking to the cemetery commission, Mr. Lee is okay keeping the funding as the Selectmen set it and would come back to request the work be done next year.

IT WAS MOVED (Suzanne Jesseman) AND SECONDED (Phyllis Piotrow) to approve the FY2016 Cemeteries budget of \$24,837. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Sewer Department

Dr. Wilson asked if Sunapee was going to ask for \$100,000 more this year. Mr. Lee said it was over \$100,000 more that they charged the Town last year than what was in the budget. Dr. Wilson asked about the irregular meter readings and if the issue was settled. Mr. Lee said he believes Sunapee is still negotiating with the Selectmen and they haven't set the exact rate they would use for this year. Dr. Wilson asked if the flow meters were accurate at this point in time. Mr. Lee said New London's meter is. It is calibrated every quarter and is brand new. The flow didn't change to show the old meter was bad. There is a meter to an EOS system that faxes the information to his office each night at midnight. He has been checking daily and the readings are consistent. Sunapee gets their meter calibrated by the same company as New London on the same day. The Town line meter is functioning the way it should be. He couldn't speak to Sunapee's meter because he has nothing to do with it. There is a new meter in a new

facility so it is assumed it is okay. They deduct the New London Town line flows from the total flows at the plant to determine Sunapee's portion of the gallons going to the wastewater treatment plant.

Mr. Lee said New London's portion has been 65% and Sunapee's has been 35%. Sunapee wanted to increase New London's portion of the flows to 70% or 75%. New London disagreed with this suggestion so the issue was put off for one year to see what the new meters would show. Ms. Hallquist said Sunapee now agrees that the 75% is not correct, however Sunapee is not confident that the new meter at the plant works so they have asked for another year to study the flows because their new meters are reading much higher than the 35% flows currently assessed for Sunapee's portion.

IT WAS MOVED (John Wilson) AND SECONDED (Bill Green) to approve the Sewer Department FY2016 budget of \$928,117.

Mr. Green asked if there had been a dispute about the gallons, was there some additional money being held in escrow to possibly have to pay for more than 65% of the flows. Ms. Hallquist said they are still paying the same percentage. Mr. Green asked if the volume is actually lower than what Sunapee has been saying it is, how that would work. Ms. Hallquist said they will readjust the percentages in September of 2016.

Chair Prohl called for a vote.

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Town Buildings

Dr. Wilson said largest increase in this budget is for the Fire Station's floor re-finishing. Chief Lyon said it also would be increased by the traffic light outside the station but it would depend on where they can take the funds from. He noted that they are putting off replacing the trim on the station that needs to be replaced. Chief Lyon said he thought the floor was \$11,350 for the 3-part epoxy finish. They have painted the floor three times themselves and it isn't holding up. If they could do it, they would. The price of \$11,350 also includes fixing the cracks in the floor due to salt. Grates will be fabricated to prohibit salt damage again. An aggregate is added to the epoxy to make it a non-skid product. Mr. Lee noted that \$600 in this line is for the heating/ac maintenance contract.

Chair Prohl asked if the floor could wait another year. Chief Lyon said anything can be put off for another year. He noted that an estimate was given of \$57,000 to paint the entire station and they are doing it themselves for only the cost of the paint. If they could repair the floor themselves, they would. This is the cheapest solution. Mr. Green asked if there was a guarantee on the floor. Chief Lyon said there is but he wasn't sure the length. The Town of Sunapee has it on their floor and it still looks new. It isn't just aesthetics but a maintenance issue as well. For it to not be slippery they have to squeegee the floors, which is easier on this material than on unfinished concrete.

**IT WAS MOVED (John Wilson) AND SECONDED (Bill Green) to reduce the Town Buildings budget for FY2015 by \$11,350 to eliminate the floor refinishing at the fire station.
THE MOTION FAILED. 2 in favor, 8 opposed.**

IT WAS MOVED (Chris Lorio) AND SECONDED (Phyllis Piotrow) to approve the Town Buildings FY2016 budget of \$207,280.

Ms. Piotrow asked about the \$10,000 for the Academy Building Maintenance and Repair. She wondered what that amount would do. Mr. Lee said that is for general maintenance; painting inside, repairing lights, doors, and the furnace contract.

With regards to the Elkins Post Office, Mr. Lee said his initial estimate was brought down by \$5,500 by the Selectmen. He will shingle the roof this year. He put \$395 in the budget for the heating contract, \$5,500 to paint the building and \$500 to repair the loading dock and some skirting around the outside.

Mr. Cardillo felt they would need to discuss pooling all these jobs and bonding them to get everything done. He felt this would enable them to spread out the costs over 10 years. They could also add the firehouse floor to this bond. He said some debt service would be retired over the next year or two. Do they want to put the Elkins Post Office into this “bundle”? Mr. Cardillo noted that he has been told that it is not possible to get a bond this year. Ms. Hallquist said getting a bond this year wasn't out of the question but since they don't know the details about all the other needs, she did not feel it prudent to ask voters for money without knowing exactly what it would be used for. She noted that she felt they should take care of the Academy Building now and then work to get the other details and figure out how much they would need to bond.

Ms. Hallquist said if they increase the contribution to the Town Buildings capital reserve by \$40,000 over what was paid in last year, to \$100,000, they would be able to have enough to repair the Academy Building, paint Whipple Hall, and possibly fix the cupola at Whipple. If they are going to ask for a large sum of money, the voters will want to know what they are going to do with it. She didn't think they could find out enough information for the voters about all the other needs in the Town before Town Meeting in May.

Mr. Green asked if the \$160,000 would complete everything the Academy Building needed. Ms. Hallquist said it would not; it is only for the outside clapboards, trim and paint. She thought that people at Town Meeting could be convinced of the need of this work by having photos of the building available for them to see. Mr. Green said an energy audit on the Academy Building was done a few years back and it would be helpful to consult. Chair Prohl said the other option would be to take the \$100,000 out of the building maintenance fund and include it in a bond.

Mr. Hudson asked if the fire hydrant cost was a fixed rate per year. Ms. Hallquist answered in the affirmative and said the Water Precinct sets the rates, shovels out the hydrants, flushes and paints them.

Chair Prohl called for a vote on the motion on the floor.

THE MOTION PASSED. Cardillo was opposed.

It was determined that the Capital Reserves would be discussed at the meeting on March 4th.

IT WAS MOVED (Phyllis Piotrow) AND SECONDED (Suzanne Jesseman) to adjourn the meeting. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 9:38pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Heath, Recording Secretary
Town of New London