



# TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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**APPROVED**  
**Budget Committee Meeting**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**February 4, 2015**

**BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Joe Cardillo (Vice-Chair), Christopher Lorio, Suzanne Jesseman, John Wilson, Bruce Hudson, Larry Dufault, Bill Green, Phyllis Piotrow, Nancy Rollins (Selectman)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Rob Prohl (Chair)

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Kimberly Hallquist, Town Administrator  
Wendy Johnson, Finance Officer

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Ed Andersen, Police Chief  
Peter Bianchi, Selectman  
Linda Hardy, Town Clerk/Tax Collector  
Sandra Licks, Library Director  
Richard Lee, Public Works Director  
Jason Lyon, Fire Chief  
Scott Blewitt, Recreation Director  
Donna Larrow, Police Department Administrative Assistant  
Jim Wheeler, New London Resident  
Jack & Pat Sheehan, Little Sunapee Protective Association  
Casey Biuso, New London Resident  
Terri Bingham, Messer Pond Protective Association  
Bill Hardy, New London Resident  
Sara Colson, Chamber of Commerce  
Bob Brown, Conservation Commission Chair  
Ron Koron, New London Resident  
Nancy Friese, New London Council on Aging (COA)  
Donald Griffin, New London Hospital Ambulance  
Will Kidder, Pleasant Lake Protective Association  
Geoff Lizotte, Lake Sunapee Protective Association  
Carol Foss, New London Resident

Vice-Chair Cardillo called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. He noted that Chair Prohl was undergoing hip replacement surgery after a skiing accident.

Minutes of December 3, 2014

**IT WAS MOVED (Bill Green) AND SECONDED (Phyllis Piotrow) to approve the minutes of December 3, 2014, as amended. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**FY2016 Selectmen's Budget Overview – Town Administrator, Kim Hallquist**

Ms. Hallquist noted that as it stands, the operating budget as presented by the Selectmen is up 6.6% over FY2015, which equates to an increase of \$418,952. Taking into account all spending: the operating budget, transfers to capital reserve funds (CRF), the sewer department and purchases using capital reserve funds, the FY2016 budget is up 0.1% from the previous year.

#### *Highlights*

Ms. Hallquist said that the Selectmen voted to include funds for a 4% raise across the board for employees. The overall budgeted appropriation for employee wages and benefits is up 1.5% over the previous year. This increase in employee expenses follows the 2.5 % decrease in the FY2015 budget, which was down in large part due to the savings from two full-time positions being replaced by part-timers. In this budget, employee health insurance rates are down 12% .

Ms. Hallquist noted that nearly 50% of increase in the budget comes from an increase in transfers to capital reserve accounts. She noted that Capital Reserve funds can be thought of as savings accounts for future purchases. The largest part of the increase is for the Highway Equipment Replacement fund, which was increased to get the fund on track for future purchases. Some errors were made in the past so not enough money had been appropriated in the fund. There is a \$40,000 increase for the Town Buildings Maintenance and Repair fund, a \$15,000 increase is for the GIS mapping update project and two new funds are being requested: \$15,000 for new radios for the Fire Department, and \$5,000 for dispatch equipment. Other increases are due to the start of paying back the \$5.2 million dollar Sunapee Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade project bond (\$92,673), accounts to maintain various town buildings (\$30,000) and Property Liability Insurance is up (\$24,197) These items account for 84.5% of the increase in the FY2016 budget as presented by the Selectmen to the Budget Committee.

#### *Items the Selectmen Did Not Support*

Ms. Hallquist said the largest single decrease by the Selectmen was \$57,000 from the Highway Department for one full-time position. She noted that three years ago Mr. Lee, Public Works Director, voluntarily replaced a full-time position with part-time help. He has now come forward saying that it is not working out and would like the full-time position restored. The Budget Committee will have the opportunity to hear from Mr. Lee about his reasoning for restoring the position and will decide whether it will be supported in the budget.

Ms. Hallquist said the Selectmen decreased their discretionary account by 82%. This is the account that maintains funds for the employee holiday party and the previously-discussed employee merit program funds. The Selectmen feel that given that the bonus program wasn't finalized yet and that a 4% increase in wages is planned for employees, it was appropriate not to fund the program at this time. They do, however, encourage the employee committee to continue working on the merit program details.

The Selectmen also voted to recommend a decrease in the four lake protective associations for a total decrease of \$5,000. There were other areas that were decreased by the Selectmen for lesser amounts, as documented in the budget printouts provided to the Budget Committee.

With regards to warrant articles that may come forward, Ms. Hallquist said she is only aware of one, which is \$135,000 for the dispatch consoles. That amount is included in the 6.6% budget increase mentioned earlier. She is not aware of any others that may come forward.

#### Revenues – Finance Officer, Wendy Johnson

Ms. Johnson said that revenues are mentioned at this point in the budget season because they are part of the budget that is presented to the voters at the public hearing.

Ms. Johnson offered that the Town uses revenues to apply against the appropriations to reduce the amount of money needed to be raised by taxes. During the normal operation of the Town, about \$1.7 million dollars is raised each year through motor vehicle fees, other permits & fees, Meals & Rooms taxes returned from the State, and the Highway Block grant from the State. Generally the remainder of the revenues are from Capital Reserve Funds and Sewer User fees and do not have an impact on the tax rate.

Ms. Johnson explained that for FY2016 they have identified several capital reserve funds that have outlived their purpose and they are recommending discontinuing these funds which would add \$244,295 to the revenue side. She cautioned that the revenues are always an estimate and they are allowed to revisit their estimates in October before the tax rate is set.

#### Selectmen's Report

Selectman Rollins said the Fire Department hosted the Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting at the fire house the previous week. They provided a light breakfast, which was very nice. This meeting followed the CAC meeting that was held at Tracy Library the month prior. It is the Selectmen's desire to hold the meetings at various areas so the committee members will get to hear what is going on in the different areas of the Town.

As a result of the budget process and trying to determine raises, Selectman Rollins plans to make the recommendation that a personnel compensation and benefit committee be created so the system is more equitable. She would like to look at it in regards to other towns that are similar to New London and get input from the New Hampshire Municipal Association (NHMA). There was already a study done in 2006 and she thought they could use that information but also move forward with more research.

Selectman Rollins noted that the HVAC report for Whipple Hall has been completed and they will start working on that issue since their budget work is done. They want to look at possibly bonding to get some of the larger items taken care of with Town Buildings, including the Highway Department's salt shed. She would also like to look at the bandstand. At a recent Selectmen's meeting, the Selectmen were encouraged by Arne Vesilind, the former Chair of the Bandstand Committee, to approach the Committee about how funds from the Mendelson trust could be used to make needed repairs.

#### Discuss Procedure for Increasing or Decreasing a Budget Line Item

Vice-Chair Cardillo said last year the committee didn't vote until the end of the process. He hopes to change that process, and vote on items as they review them, with the ability to revisit things if necessary. He asked for comments on this. Ms. Piotrow thinks it makes a lot of sense to make decisions on each department as they come up instead of waiting until the end to vote.

Mr. Dufault asked if the department should identify where cuts should be made, or if the Budget Committee would cut things specifically. He opined that last year's method of making cuts was a disaster. If the statute allows them to, he would rather let the department heads decide how to use the funds the Budget Committee decides should be appropriated.

Ms. Hallquist said that would not be appropriate because the Budget Committee is looking at the items presented and they have to decide if the funds are needed for each individual item. The Selectmen can move within budgets or out of budgets to make ends meet, if necessary, but the Budget Committee, in preparing the budget for presentation to Town Meeting voters, needs to specify how much should be spent on each item. Vice-Chair Cardillo suggested they would come to a recommendation on each line and then vote on the whole thing at the end. Ms. Piotrow said a lot of line items are very small and would not need discussion. The Budget Committee was in agreement that they would handle department items as presented each week instead of waiting until the end to vote.

Vice-Chair Cardillo said the past several years the Selectmen have not chosen to set a target goal they would like to see department heads coming in at. The Budget Committee has always attempted to set a target. They are looking at a 6.6% increase which includes a 4% increase for salaries. He thought they should set a target the following week at the meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> and asked how the other members felt about this.

Ms. Piotrow thinks it would be a mistake to set a target. Items in the budget demand the need for funding, for example repairs to Whipple Hall and the Town Office Building, which is totally different from other departments' needs and pay raises. There are different needs and they cannot average out the costs for them and arrive at an acceptable, rational figure. Mr. Lorio agrees with Ms. Piotrow and feels if they set a limit, they would be painting with a broad brush before hearing the stories of why things are needed in the departments. He didn't think they should set a target just to set a target.

Mr. Green said this is an ongoing argument, and noted that unless the committee has a target or a goal, how can they achieve one? He pointed out that 6.6% might not sound bad but it is four times what inflation has averaged the last three years. How can they come up with a budget without setting a goal unless money is no object?

Mr. Dufault said he thinks they should have come up with a target in December to let the Department Heads know ahead of time. Everyone has already come up with their budgets and it has gone through the Selectmen. He said he has always been in favor of setting a percentage goal.

Ms. Piotrow thinks each department should be funded as low as it can to function as well as it can. Setting a goal didn't seem to make sense.

Mr. Hudson said he compared the 2015 budget to the proposed budget for 2016 and he said there was money in surplus that was not used in 2014. He questioned how much will be left this time around. The history says there is significant money left over at the end of the year and thought it was about \$400,000. Vice-Chair Cardillo said the tighter they budget, the smaller the surplus will be at the end. Last year, \$450,000 of this surplus was used to reduce the tax rate. This year, if the budget is accepted as presented, the tax rate would be at \$4.60 per thousand (before the application of surplus funds), up from \$3.92 per thousand.

Ms. Johnson said the Selectmen agreed to use more of the fund balance than was generated last year. The Selectmen vote on how much fund balance to use, if any, in the fall just before the tax rate is set.

Vice-Chair Cardillo asked to get a sense of the board on how they feel about setting a goal for the FY2016 budget.

**IT WAS MOVED (Joe Cardillo) AND SECONDED (Bill Green) to have the Budget Committee consider setting a target increase for the FY2016 budget.**

Ms. Jesseman said if they were going to set a goal, it should have been set before this time.

Vice-Chair Cardillo called for a vote.

**THE MOTION FAILED by a vote of 4 in favor and 5 against.**

Vice-Chair Cardillo said due to this vote, they will not work towards setting a target. Mr. Green said it is the Selectmen that need to dictate to the Department Heads that a target is adhered to.

### Non-Profit Requests

It was noted that several members of the four Lake Associations were present to contest the cut to the milfoil prevention accounts made by the Selectmen.

#### *Little Lake Sunapee Protective Association – Pat Sheehan, President*

Ms. Sheehan read from a prepared statement. She informed the committee that the Selectmen's decision to recommend reducing their funding by 27% and by a similar amount for other lakes, is a clear indication that they do not understand the value of the lakes to the economy of the town. In May, 2003 the New Hampshire Lakes Association gave a grant to Little Lake Sunapee to begin a lake host program. The following year New London gave \$4,500 to continue the program. Since then, the program has grown in size and value to the town. Grants from the Town over the past 10 years have ranged from \$5,000 to \$6,000 per year. The result is that they have a class-A lake, free from milfoil and other invasive species. The Lake Host Program is a value in the protection of Little Lake Sunapee and other nearby lakes in New Hampshire. They cannot let down their guard now just because they have been successful at keeping invasive species out of their lake for the past 10 years. Ms. Sheehan explained that a reduction of \$1,500 translates to a reduction of 150 hours of monitoring boats entering Little Lake Sunapee. This past summer volunteers and other concerned residents who use Bucklin Beach provided 305 hours of volunteerism in the program. The association gives volunteer hours; they don't just ask for money. Ms. Sheehan felt they would have a difficult time increasing the volunteer hours as they are currently at their max. The result would be fewer boats being monitored. She urged the Budget Committee not to cut the funding for the lake host program. She offered that last year funding for COA was increased by 75% and the rationale was that if COA didn't exist the rest of the town would need to provide the services that they give. If they cut funding for the lake host program and their lakes become infested with milfoil or other invasive species, the entire town will be affected - not just those who live on and own property on the lakes in town. Ms. Sheehan said the lakes belong to all of them and she asked the Budget Committee not to cut the funding.

Ron Koron said he lives on Little Lake Sunapee and is not a board member of the Little Lake Sunapee Protective Association, but used to be its president. He pointed out that many people come from out of state to visit the pristine waters and mountains. Once it is perceived that there is milfoil in a lake, a study by DES shows a reduction of 16% of assessed values. How much will that cost the Town? They will also lose people coming to their town to spend money in their local economy. He was disappointed in the Selectmen that they didn't understand the value of the lake. Mr. Koron said he paid approximately \$25,000 in taxes for his property this year and his assessment went up 20%. He questioned what benefits will he get from the town and state with that 20% increase in that assessed value.

#### *Messer Pond Protective Association – Terri Bingham, President*

Ms. Bingham said she would echo all that Ms. Sheehan and Mr. Koron said. The Selectmen took \$5,000 out of some important protection that is being done in New London. If they get milfoil it will cost a lot more than the \$5,000 they are trying to save. It would cost more like \$35,000 to \$40,000 to treat it.

Ms. Bingham said Messer Pond is popular with fishermen because they don't have rock bass in the water. Messer Pond is also smaller and shallower than the other area lakes, so they are especially vulnerable should there be an infestation. They work hard to get a volunteer work force to keep Messer Pond infestation-free. She shared the disappointment with the other Lake Associations and urged the Budget Committee not to accept the recommendation posed by the Board of Selectmen.

#### *Lake Sunapee Protective Association – Geoff Lizotte*

Mr. Lizotte pointed out that it is more than just milfoil that is a threat to the lakes. He noted that for the last 15 years LSPA has had a program and it has been successful. If something did get into the lakes they can almost guarantee it will spread to the other water bodies in the area. He showed a map outlining where visiting boaters come from, most of which are bodies where invasive species are present. Just last year in southern New Hampshire, milfoil was found in two lakes. The State of New Hampshire doesn't have a policy or anything requiring disinfection of boats, which is why their own Lake Host Programs are so important. The money is important in keeping the programs going, and the lakes attract people to the area.

*Pleasant Lake Protective Association – Will Kidder, President*

Mr. Kidder said the lakes are important to the Town as they are part of the infrastructure. If something happens, it will be costly. They do as much as they can with volunteers but they need help with the dollars. If they are going to look at cutting things, he suggested they look at the non-profit requests as a whole. Looking at the return on investment, the potential is good with funding the Lake Associations.

Vice-Chair Cardillo said the requests were the same this year as last and the total was \$20,500. It was noted that the vote to cut funding to the Lake Associations by the Board of Selectmen was not a unanimous one. He said the Budget Committee can discuss the issue and either vote to accept the cut or entertain a recommendation to change the funding amount.

Mr. Green asked how much is spent on the lake host program. Ms. Sheehan said the New Hampshire Lakes Association gives them \$1,800. New London routinely gave \$5,500 in the past. They paid their lake hosts and had \$410.04 left at the end of the season which they returned to the Town of New London. Every year they return what they don't spend to the Town. They match the amount appropriated by the Town and the Lakes Association with 300 hours of volunteerism.

Ms. Bingham said Messer Pond is similar. They use all they get from the Town and would be out 100 hours of Lake Host monitoring if the cut remains.

Vice-Chair Cardillo said he is opposed to the cut the Selectmen made. He believes the lakes to be vital components to the Town and an asset. He didn't think this is a place to make a cut.

Ms. Sheehan said volunteers work full-time on the weekends and are paid \$10/hour. Those being paid are employed by the New Hampshire Lakes Association. The association sends the money they get from the Town to the NH Lakes Association, who does the payroll and pays the lake hosts directly.

Dr. Wilson said he operates a weed watcher program where they have volunteers inspect the shoreline and is for the benefit of people living there and for the Town. Funding from the New Hampshire Lakes Association comes from DES which used to come through Federal Grants. The lakes have to pick up more of this funding as grant availability is dwindling. He noted that the Pleasant Lake Protective Association averages 1,400 – 1,600 inspections per year and by doing this they are able to maintain a pristine lake.

**IT WAS MOVED (Phyllis Piotrow) AND SECONDED (Bill Green) to increase Other Conservation 01-4619-100-811 to \$20,500 to return it to the requested amount by the Lake Associations as in previous years.**

Mr. Koron said if the Board of Selectmen would like to be better educated about the Lake Host program, they would be happy to teach them.

**THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

*Regional Planning Commission Funding – Increase of \$100*

Selectman Rollins said there are several Regional Planning Commissions throughout the State and feels the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Commission is the most active one in regional planning. Their most recent regional plan that has been issued is posted on the Commission's website. She indicated there would be a Public Hearing on February 18, 2015 at the Grantham Town Hall at 6pm which will cover various things from energy to transportation and what makes the upper valley a living community. A study is being done currently for alternative transportation options for the towns along the "1-89 Corridor North" which runs from the park and ride in New London to Hanover. Other studies have been done which prove to be important components when creating things like master plans and capital improvement plans. She sees the commission as a wealth of knowledge and encourages the Budget Committee members to look at the website to see some of the work they have done.

Mr. Green asked how many hours have been used by the Town and how many hours of assistance in included in the membership fee. Ms. Hallquist said Lucy St. John (Planning & Zoning Administrator) will explain those details when she does her budget presentation for the Planning & Zoning Departments. Ms. Hallquist noted that the Commission helped the Town with the Elkins project, among others. Towns are not required to be a member of the regional planning commissions, but she thought the majority of towns in the State do chose to be members.

**IT WAS MOVED (John Wilson) AND SECONDED (Joe Cardillo) to approve \$5,796 for dues to the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

*Lake Sunapee Region Chamber of Commerce – Sara Colson, Director*

Ms. Colson said she is asking for an increase of \$400 to bring their total appropriation to \$12,500. She said that several years back there had been a cut of \$400 to their usual budget and they were hoping it could be brought back to their past level of funding.

Ms. Piotrow thinks it is strange for a business organization that is generally against government involvement to ask the government for money. Ms. Colson answered that most of their income (90%) comes from memberships and three fundraisers a year. The part they ask from New London is due to the fact that they have a physical location in the town, pay taxes and own the building. Money that goes towards the operating costs is what they are asking New London for. The businesses in town asked the Chamber to have weekend hours at the Info Booth, which added an expense. They are supporting tourism and the businesses in the town which is why they request funding from New London.

Ms. Colson said the towns of Newbury and Sunapee have info booths that are fully funded by their towns.

**IT WAS MOVED (John Wilson) AND SECONDED (Chris Lorio) to approve \$12,500 for the Chamber of Commerce FY2016 budget. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

*Kearsarge Area Council on Aging (COA) - Nancy Friese, Director*

Ms. Friese said that as has been the case in the past, the needs of seniors in the town are increasing. Out of a total of 522 rides given in 2014, residents of New London were given 485 rides. This total number of rides equates to about two rides per day, and about 12,000-15,000 miles driven for New London residents. Many of these residents are going to New London Hospital or Dartmouth-Hitchcock Memorial Hospital. Many ask for rides to the grocery store, bank, or other doctor's offices. Their units of

participation are up almost 8,000 units (one person attending a program is equal to one unit). New London accounts for roughly 50% of the service base. Ms. Friese commented that in New London, about 50% of the population is over 50 years old, which gives an indication that the increase in needed services through COA will continue.

Ms. Friese said she thinks it has been two or three years since COA has asked for an increase; this is the third year in a row they are asking for level funding.

**IT WAS MOVED (Larry Dufault) AND SECONDED (Suzanne Jesseman) to approve \$35,000 for the Kearsarge Area Council on Aging for the FY2016 budget. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

*New London Hospital – Donald Griffin, CFO*

Mr. Griffin asked that the Budget Committee approve a 2% increase to their annual contribution from the Town for the ambulance service. The ambulance runs at a loss but becomes sustainable from contributions from the towns. Management from the hospital has continued to carry the service at a reasonable loss. 2% would cover the predictable increase in cost of living and the cost of running any business. New London Hospital will be covering a larger loss than in prior years because of the State's decision to apply its 5.5% Medicaid enhancement tax to ambulance service revenue. They are required to pay on the net patient service which is the number before operating expenses, etc. are extracted. They are paying \$21,000 in taxes on a service that runs at a loss.

Mr. Griffin said they have been able to cut costs within the hospital to tighten the belt. They haven't had a salary increase across the board for several years. They do give market adjustments from time to time to avoid losing personnel to other hospitals. The ambulance service still runs at a loss, but they are willing to accept the loss because they feel the service is of value.

Ms. Piotrow asked if they used a formula to determine the costs per town. Mr. Griffin said the formula is based on the number of calls. New London represents 40-45% of the total calls that are taken care of by the ambulance service.

**IT WAS MOVED (Phyllis Piotrow) AND SECONDED (Larry Dufault) to approve \$128,823 for the New London Hospital FY2016 budget. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

*Lake Sunapee Region Visiting Nurse Association (LSRVNA)*

Ms. Hallquist said that a representative from the LSRVNA was unavailable to attend the meeting that evening, however they would like the Budget Committee to know that they appreciate and need the funding they ask for each year to assist the people of New London. The representative was willing to attend another budget meeting if necessary to answer questions.

**IT WAS MOVED (Chris Lorio) AND SECONDED (Suzanne Jesseman) to approve \$12,277 for the LSRVNA FY2016 budget. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

*Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)*

Selectman Rollins said CASA has made requests previously to the Town but the Town has not funded the organization in the past. She explained that they are trained volunteers who become the voice of children in abuse and neglect cases. They are not dissimilar to organizations that serve multiple towns. Their request is \$500. In 2014, CASA served 17 children from New London in Newport Family District Court, which included seven volunteers who worked with the children. When this is broken down, \$500 is less than \$30 per year, per child.

It was noted that this request has not gotten past the Selectmen before so the Budget Committee was not aware of it. Vice-Chair Cardillo said they are able to entertain new groups as they feel appropriate. He asked the Budget Committee if they wished to entertain funding CASA this year.

Selectman Rollins continued that if there is no CASA, there is no help for the children. Prosecution is done by law enforcement or the Division of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF). This is not necessarily an objective voice for the children. CASA represents infants through adolescents. They do a lot of work and provide an invaluable voice in the court proceedings.

Chief Andersen said he has had personal experience with CASA and he finds the organization to be very helpful in advocating for the child who are facing some very difficult family issues. Dr. Wilson asked by what other means CASA receives funding. Selectman Rollins said they hold fundraisers and used to get some federal funds. Like many other organizations, federal funds have been dwindling.

Ms. Jesseman said she was an educator for 40 years and believed CASA to provide an invaluable service; she felt \$500 was a very small amount and thought they should approve the expenditure.

**IT WAS MOVED (Chris Lorio) AND SECONDED (Bruce Hudson) to approve \$500 for CASA for the FY2016 budget. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

*Community Action Program (CAP)*

Ms. Hallquist said this program is invaluable to Celeste Cook, New London's Welfare Director. They assist low-income and elderly individuals, operate food pantries, and help with fuel and electric assistance. They come into the office once/month and meet with applicants. She added that they also and help applicants apply for state assistance. Ms. Friese noted that CAP also runs the "Meals on Wheels" program.

**IT WAS MOVED (Chris Lorio) AND SECONDED (Suzanne Jesseman) to approve \$3,809 for Community Action Program for the FY2016 budget. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

*New Hampshire Municipal Association (NHMA) Membership*

Ms. Hallquist said towns and cities are members of this association. They conduct educational workshops, alert towns to new planning & zoning laws, lobby to try and keep changes in laws to be favorable to towns and cities, and attempt to stop downshifting from the State onto the towns and cities. She noted that Budget Committee workshops are put on by NHMA, and there is a law lecture series that Planning & Zoning Board members can attend, among other workshops. They provide free legal advice for local officials, offer wage and salary studies. Ms. Hallquist and both she and Ms. St. John (Planning & Zoning Administrator) call on them with questions from time to time.

**IT WAS MOVED (Phyllis Piotrow) AND SECONDED (Suzanne Jesseman) to approve \$5,636 for the membership dues to NHMA for the FY2016 budget. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

*The Red Cross*

It was noted that the Board of Selectmen chose not to fund the Red Cross in FY2016.

**IT WAS MOVED (John Wilson) AND SECONDED (Bill Green) not to fund the Red Cross in the FY2016 budget. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

*Conservation Commission – Bob Brown, Chair*

Mr. Brown said the request for the Conservation Commission is down slightly for 2016. He noted that the Commission has had a lot of great accomplishments over the past year including beaver management in two locations, which they believe has solved some long term problems in those areas. They had two land projects (one acquisition and one easement) that didn't happen in 2014, which was unfortunate. They ended up expending only 52% of their budget last year. They hope one of the land projects will materialize in 2015. It is hard to tell what is going to happen and projects take longer than they like them to.

Mr. Brown said they plan to continue with the Trail Maintenance Intern position and they hope the individual they hired last year will return. New London has nearly 30 miles of trails to maintain which is done largely with volunteer help. Mr. Brown opined that it is difficult to find people to volunteer their time. They have utilized the New Hampshire Merrimack County of Corrections Labor 4-6 days a year, which works great. They will continue to try to get as much help as they can at no charge. He reiterated that it is important to have the trail intern included in their budget.

Dr. Wilson asked if the Conservation Commission is allowed to carry over unused funds from one year's budget to the next. Ms. Hallquist said that had been discussed during last year's budget process but the Conservation Commission decided not to put it on the warrant. Unused funds go back into the general fund.

**IT WAS MOVED (Chris Lorio) AND SECONDED (Larry Dufault) to approve \$15,847 for the FY2016 Conservation Commission budget. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

*Recreation Department – Scott Blewitt, Director*

Mr. Blewitt noted that he understood the Budget Committee was just getting his budget and they have not had a chance to review it so he would highlight the increases and give an explanation of each. He noted that the Selectmen voted on Monday to reduce his budget by \$4,500. He urged the Budget Committee to reconsider and put \$2,000 back in under Special Events. Other cuts the Selectmen made were \$1,000 in advertising and \$500 in travel and meals. Mr. Blewitt noted that he could manage with these reductions but he felt strongly that \$2,000 should be restored to Special Events.

Mr. Blewitt explained that "Special Events" include winter carnival, Halloween events, the Easter Egg Hunt and other free events that draw people to town. In the past the account had \$2,000 in it. He asked for \$3,000 for FY2016 and the Board of Selectmen zeroed out the account. He asked that the Budget Committee restore the line to \$2,000.

Ms. Piotrow asked about the recreation van. Mr. Blewitt said it is 18 years old and was donated to the Town by Woodcrest. It will be fine for the next two or three years but he felt there should be a plan to replace it, whether it is a capital reserve or a lease to purchase program. His budget includes appropriations for vehicle maintenance (\$1,500) and fuel (\$500).

Casey Biuso, a New London resident, said everyone is looking for volunteers. Special events are when people come out and draw the community together. The more they do things like that, the more the information about things like the Conservation Commission, the Lake Associations, etc. gets out and perhaps new volunteers can be found. She thinks Mr. Blewitt puts together a great plan on very little money and she thought the Budget Committee should put the \$2,000 back in to the Recreation budget.

Selectman Rollins was asked why the Selectmen took the \$2,000 out. Selectman Rollins noted that the Board felt that the revolving fund could be used for these activities.

Vice-Chair Cardillo thought it had been suggested that some of the money for activities should come from the revolving fund. He asked Mr. Blewitt about this. Mr. Blewitt said the revolving fund is utilized when there is a fee for service. The “Special Events” fund is used for events that are free like the Haunted Walk and the Easter Egg Hunt. The Jack Frost dinner expenses came out of the revolving fund because people were paying to participate.

Mr. Blewitt said it has been his charge to get the balance of the revolving fund reduced. It had been \$25,000 - \$30,000. Now it is about \$15,000. He explained that a lot of money has been spent on the van recently using the revolving fund money. He explained that he still needs a certain amount of money in the revolving fund to front things like Red Sox tickets, which then gets revenue deposited back into it when people purchase the tickets from the Recreation Department.

Mr. Green said the Recreation Department took the van as a gift with a proviso, knowing it was old, that it would last as long as it would without any capital investment and then disposed of. Mr. Blewitt noted that he was unaware of this plan and said the Recreation Commission authorized \$7,000 in maintenance on the van. He pointed out that the van is a heavily utilized town vehicle, and it is used daily in the summer.

Dr. Wilson asked where the other money went from the revolving fund after the \$7,000 in van expenses were accounted for. Mr. Blewitt said the balance of the fund changes over the year. Ms. Hallquist read from a list of expenses that had come out of the fund. It was noted that past comments from the Budget Committee indicated that the revolving fund had too much money in it, so the Recreation Commission decided to keep a lower balance in it.

Mr. Lorio asked Mr. Blewitt what the goal balance would be for the revolving fund. Mr. Blewitt answered that he felt \$15,000 would be sufficient.

Dr. Wilson said the Budget Committee had asked the Recreation Director to divert funds to other things using funds from the revolving fund. Ms. Hallquist said they can't use the revolving fund monies for just anything; it has to be recreational in nature. She said that Mr. Blewitt didn't have the money in his budget to do the work to the van, so he used the revolving fund. Mr. Blewitt said he also used the fund to purchase paddle boards for Bucklin beach, as well as to replace a motor for the boat there, which had been stolen.

Ms. Piotrow said they are always trying to find ways to attract families and young people and these activities are all doing just that. Mr. Lorio commented that the activities attract all in the community, not just the people with young families. Ms. Biuso said these activities pull people in the community together. She felt it was important to create bonding through the community. Mr. Hudson asked if there is any collaborative effort being taken with the Outing Club. Mr. Blewitt answered “absolutely.” It was asked if there was any duplication of programming between the New London Recreation Department and the Outing Club. Mr. Blewitt said there was not.

Mr. Green wanted to have more time to look at the Recreation budget more before voting on it.

**IT WAS MOVED (Chris Lorio) AND SECONDED (Phyllis Piotrow) to put \$2,000 back into the Recreation Department's “Special Events” line the FY2016 budget.  
THE MOTION PASSED. Bill Green voted NO.**

**IT WAS MOVED (Chris Lorio) AND SECONDED (Suzanne Jesseman) to approve the budget for the Recreation Department for FY2016.**

Mr. Hudson said he would rather hold off for a week to be able to read the information and process it. Dr. Wilson agreed with Mr. Hudson and Mr. Green.

Vice-Chair Cardillo called for a vote:

**THE MOTION FAILED by a vote of 3 in favor and 6 against.**

**IT WAS MOVED (John Wilson) AND SECONDED (Bill Green) to delay the vote on the FY2016 budget for the Recreation Department. THE MOTION PASSED.  
Phyllis Piotrow abstained from the vote.**

*Health Administration – Health Officer*

Ms. Hallquist pointed out that the Health Officer Budget request is for level funding this year. A change for FY2016 is requested in the travel reimbursement line and the health officer salary line: Deb Langner, Health Officer, has submitted a request to change the travel reimbursement from \$1,000 to \$500 and to put the \$500 reduction into the Health Officer salary, making it \$3,000 per year.

Ms. Hallquist noted that a \$5,000 non-lapsing account was due to lapse in 2014 and Ms. Langner worked with Chief Lyon to purchase communicable disease protection (masks and suits. That expenditure is shown on line 01-4411-700-610.

**IT WAS MOVED (Phyllis Piotrow) AND SECONDED (Bill Green) to approve \$5,329.00 for the FY2016 Health Administration budget. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

*Welfare Administration*

Ms. Hallquist said this account is increased due to an increase in workman's compensation insurance.

**IT WAS MOVED (Phyllis Piotrow) AND SECONDED (Suzanne Jesseman) to approve \$2,822 for the FY2016 Welfare Administration budget. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

*Welfare Vendor Payments*

It was noted that the request for \$16,000 matched the request from the previous year.

**IT WAS MOVED (Phyllis Piotrow) AND SECONDED (Suzanne Jesseman) to approve \$16,000 for the FY2016 Welfare Vendor Payments budget.  
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

*Archives*

It was noted this request was a decrease from last year's \$4,000 to \$1,000 for FY2016.

**IT WAS MOVED (Phyllis Piotrow) AND SECONDED (Suzanne Jesseman) to approve \$1,000 for the FY2016 Archives budget. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

*Patriotic Purposes*

**IT WAS MOVED (Phyllis Piotrow) AND SECONDED (Suzanne Jesseman) to approve \$300 for the FY2016 Patriotic Purposes budget. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

*Energy Committee*

**IT WAS MOVED (Suzanne Jesseman) AND SECONDED (Chris Lorio) to approve \$989 for the FY2016 Energy Committee budget. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Other Business:**

Vice-Chair Cardillo asked members of the Budget Committee to review when expenditures will happen for each department for capital reserves. He advised them to read the minutes from the capital reserve subcommittee and review the tables where cuts had been made and where the Selectmen have added funds back. He asked them to keep in mind that there are some capital reserve funds that may be discontinued, and if so, \$244,295 would be available either to go into the general fund or can be targeted for special areas.

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm and would cover Recreation, Public Safety (Police Department, Fire Department, Dispatch, and Emergency Management).

**IT WAS MOVED (John Wilson) AND SECONDED (Phyllis Piotrow) to adjourn. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:12pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Heath, Recording Secretary  
Town of New London