



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES June 24, 2013

PRESENT:

Selectmen
Tina Helm, Chair
Janet Kidder, Selectman
Peter Bianchi, Selectman
Kimberly Hallquist, Town Administrator
Wendy Johnson, Finance Officer

ALSO PRESENT:

Casey Biuso, Leigh Bosse, Merry Armentrout, Acting Chief Ed Andersen, Donna Larrow, Peter Messer, Doug Homan, Bill Green, Phyllis Piotrow, John Wilson, Joe Cardillo, Renate Kannler, Bruce Hudson, Doug MacMichael

Chair Helm opened the meeting at 6:00pm.

Casey Biuso, member of the New London Community Center group, met with the Board to request that the Board consider giving their support to the idea of locating the Recreation Department at the 1941 Building should the town acquire the building. She updated the Board that her group is in the process of getting its 501(c)(3) designation and they are in the process of having an inspection done of the building's condition.

Mr. Bianchi noted that while he is not opposed to the idea of having the Recreation Department in the building, he felt it is premature at this point to make a commitment with regard to what use the town may have as far as which town departments might go into that building. Ms. Biuso noted that since the project is a public-private endeavor and the building will be a community based building and programming, her group felt that the town would be the first to make a commitment on use of the building by locating its biggest community directed department, recreation, in the building. Chair Helm noted that she was not intrinsically opposed to seriously considering relocating the Recreation Department to the 1941 building, however, she agreed with Mr. Bianchi that a commitment at this time is premature. She asked Ms. Biuso to submit an overall written proposal, or two proposals: one would include active participation by the Recreation Department in the building and one showing less active participation by the Recreation Department. Questions were posed to Ms. Biuso concerning the status of fund raising efforts and which organizations might be interested in committing to using space, to which Ms. Biuso noted that she was not prepared to answer those types of questions at the present time.

Joe Cardillo inquired about the timeline for submission of information to the Selectmen, and then the Budget Committee, to consider any funding requests that might be forthcoming. Ms. Biuso responded that her group is aware of the need to submit their material in time for the budget preparation and they are planning to submit their materials in December. Chair Helm noted that she has confidence that Ms. Biuso's group will present a complete proposal answering the questions being posed, in time for consideration by the Selectmen for budget preparation, and then it will be passed on to the Budget

Committee for their consideration. Chair Helm thanked Ms. Biuso for coming in and bringing the Board up to speed on her group's efforts to date.

Gould Road resident's letter on PSNH poles

The Board noted receipt of a letter from Janis Wallace and Lindsay Holmes, residents of Gould Road, expressing concern that PSNH has contacted them about the possibility of installing telephone poles near their property so that additional power can be brought to Colby-Sawyer College. The residents noted that when they built their homes they paid extra money to bury their power lines, so that they would not have power lines going by their home. This proposal will result in power lines going past their home. The residents suggest that PSNH bring the necessary power to the college via Main Street. The Board noted that they would take the matter under advisement should they get a request from PSNH for a pole license.

Discussion of the Merrimack County Sheriff Department's review of New London Police Department

Chair Helm invited her colleagues to begin the discussion of the report. Ms. Kidder inquired as to the timeline for the installation of the new equipment purchases for the Police Department and Dispatching. Acting Chief Andersen reported that the new equipment should be installed by the end of the week. He noted that he has begun the review of the policies by looking at other town's policies and at LGC model policies. Chief Andersen noted that he has not gotten Chief Deputy Saltmarsh's written comments yet, but expects to have those soon.

Mr. Bianchi inquired about staffing. Chief Andersen noted that they are not yet at full staff given that two officers are in the Police Academy, one is in for an abbreviated session. One of these two officers can take shifts now, when he not at the Academy as he is certified from the State of Maine and only needs a small portion of the Academy offerings while the other officer will not be available to patrol on his own until probably in October. Chief Andersen also pointed out that while he often hears that the town has two detectives, they really have one fulltime detective and one patrol officer who is trained to fill in when the detective is on vacation or when the case load is such that additional manpower is needed.

Bill Green questioned how the town could spend money on upgrading equipment at the Police Department and the time spent on the review of the Police Department policies and procedures, when they have not looked into what happened at the Police Department (the incident which lead to the resignation of Police Chief David Seastrand). Chair Helm stressed that an investigation into that matter is ongoing at this time. She further pointed out that upgrading of the equipment now is largely the result of letting the equipment fall into disrepair when they perhaps should not have. She observed that the equipment being purchased is common in all Police Departments. Doug Homan asked if anyone was aware of any requests made in the past for the replacement of any of the equipment. Chair Helm noted that to her knowledge there has not been a request. Mr. Homan expressed his concern that no one in the administration appeared to be aware of the lack of equipment at the Police Department.

Phyllis Piotrow agreed with Mr. Homan that it is disturbing that no one seemed to know the condition of the equipment. She informed the Board that she spoke with former Selectman Mark Kaplan about what he remembered about equipment requests and was informed by Mr. Kaplan that he did not recall any equipment requests from the Police Department, during his tenure, that were not approved. Mr. Bianchi agreed that his recollection was also that requests for equipment were approved and the town has been supportive. Donna Larrow observed that she is aware of an occasion when equipment was requested but the request did not make it past the Town Administration level to the Selectmen and the Budget Committee. Chief Andersen noted that the officers would make equipment recommendations to former Chief Seastrand; however, the officers were not involved in the budget process once it was taken by Chief Seastrand to the Town Administrator, Selectmen and Budget Committee.

Chair Helm assured those present that she sees the Sheriff's Department report as a work in progress and the Board will seek to make sure that the lines of communication are open as the Town moves forward.

Board and Committee Appointments

The Board reviewed a list of the expired terms of members of various boards and committees. The Board noted that requests were sent out asking those members if they would like to be considered for reappointment. Ms. Kidder suggested asking Doug MacMichael to join the Citizens Advisory Committee. Mr. MacMichael thanked her for the offer but noted that he would not be able to accept at this time given the amount of time he needs to spend helping his parents who are not well. He noted that he would be happy to serve at some other time.

IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to appoint Doug Lyon to the Board of Firewards as recommended by the Firewards. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Board noted that it would consider further appointments at its next meeting.

Sunday Transfer Station Hours

The Board noted receipt of a memo from Richard Lee, DPW Director, regarding various possible options to staff the transfer station on Sundays on a year-round basis. The Board noted that the issue of Sunday Transfer Station hours is raised often by non-resident taxpayers who find it difficult to dispose of trash before leaving at the end of the weekend. The Board will review the options as presented by Mr. Lee and will discuss it further at their next meeting, when Mr. Lee is scheduled to attend.

IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to enter nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (b), the hiring of any person as a public employee. Roll call vote: Bianchi: yes, Kidder: yes, Helm: yes.

The Board entered nonpublic session at 7:49pm.

The Board reentered the public session at 7:55pm.

Application for Building Permit:

- Colby-Sawyer College, 541 Main Street (Map & Lot 085-033-000) construction of a 1,197sf education classroom – Permit #13-052 - Approved.
- Charles & Miriam Nelson, 493 Burpee Hill Road, (Map & Lot 070-012-000) demolish 30x32 garage – Permit #13-053 – Approved.
- David P Cahill, J. MacDonald, M. Miller, 52 Elkins Road (Map & Lot 077-011-000) remove two buildings – Permit #13-054 – Approved.
- Bonin Properties, 210 Main Street (Map & Lot 084-064-000) interior renovations and add AC – Permit #13-055 – Approved.
- Blanck Hasletters Stonefield Realty Trust, 906 Main Street (Map & Lot 109-019-000) demolish existing deck & rebuild deck w/672 additional SF – Permit #13-056 – Approved.
- Erno & Katherine Pongratz, 17 Elkins Road (Map & Lot 087-004-000) rebuild house including basement foundation – Permit #13-057 – Approved.
- Gordon & Terri Bingham, 82 Little Cove Road (Map & Lot 105-002-000) remove screen porch and add heated family room with deck – Permit #13-058 – Approved.
- Mary Jane Johnson, S. Huse, J Estes, 44 Stanley Farm Lane (Map & Lot 070-024-000) remove existing bathroom and build new – Permit #13-061 – Approved.

The Board reviewed and approved pay vouchers.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Hallquist
Town Administrator