



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES February 2, 2015

PRESENT:

Janet Kidder, Chairman
Nancy Rollins, Selectman
Peter Bianchi, Selectman
Kimberly Hallquist, Town Administrator
Wendy Johnson, Finance Officer

ALSO PRESENT:

Ed Andersen, Police Chief
Jason Lyon, Fire Chief
Steve Ensign, Board of Firewards
Richard Lee, Public Works Director
Sandra Licks, Library Director
Phyllis Piotrow, Budget Committee Member
Joe Cardillo, Budget Committee Member
Bruce Hudson, Budget Committee Member
Rob Prohl, Budget Committee Chair
Steve Ensign, Board of Firewards
Donna Larrow, Administrative Assistant - Police Department

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

Town Administrator's Report

Library Update

Ms. Hallquist said the library will be re-opening the following day. Library Director Sandra Licks commented that the children's department needs quite a bit of construction and repair and would remain closed for a while longer. Temporarily they are using the meeting room to serve as the children's department. They will have a regular schedule otherwise. Ms. Licks explained that the floor in the Children's area, which includes a radiant heating system, will be taken up and repaired. She observed that this the third time the floor has had to come up during her time at the library. Chair Kidder wondered if a different heat source other than radiant heat should be considered.

February Citizen's Advisory Committee Meeting

Ms. Hallquist said that Jim Perkins, New London Town Archivist, agreed to be the next CAC speaker and will do so on February 21st at the Town Office building. The subject will be Whipple Memorial Town Hall.

Police Department Update

Chief Andersen explained that on Sunday New London PD was contacted by the State Police for assistance in stopping a car that was traveling on Route 89 North. The subject had ties to New London so the State Police felt it was likely that he would exit Rte 89 in New London. Spike strips were employed which flattened two of the tires on the vehicle. The subject was able to make it to the Squires Lane address of his family member. A Police K-9 was sent after the assailant by the State Police, but was unsuccessful in stopping the subject before gaining entry into his home. The subject eventually did follow requests of officers to come out of the house and was placed under arrest and taken into custody by State Police. During this event, Chief Andersen issued a reverse 9-1-1 call to alert local businesses and residents that they should stay inside as they weren't sure if the subject might escape out of the rear of the home. He also contacted Colby-Sawyer College and instructed them to issue a lock-down, given the college's proximity to the home. Chief Andersen was thankful that the New London portion of the event lasted only about 15 minutes and was resolved without injury to anyone.

FY2016 Budget Preparation

Executive

The Board noted receipt of a memo from the employee committee giving their recommendation, as requested by the Selectmen, on salary increases for FY2016. The employee committee recommended a 4% raises. Selectman Bianchi said he does not agree with the 4% raise. He suggests giving a 2% raise which would save \$3,500. He also thinks they should reduce the Executive line for the Board of Selectmen Salary to \$6,000 which would save \$3,000. This is a total of \$6,500 and would bring the increase for the executive line to about 2.9%.

Selectman Rollins said she supports the 4% salary increase for employees. She thought the Selectmen's Salary line could stay at the FY2015 level of \$6,000.

Chair Kidder thinks the Selectmen should make the same as the highest paid volunteer in Town, which is \$3,000 for the Treasurer. She said she was OK with reducing it to \$2,000 though. Chair Kidder thought they should take \$9,000 out of the Selectmen's Discretionary Fund and leave \$2,000. This is a \$12,000 savings. She thought the 4% raise was significant and they didn't need to have funds in the budget for merit raises at this time. Selectman Bianchi said he doesn't have a problem with having merit raises. He thinks they should start a merit raise program as they have been discussing it for several years.

Chair Kidder said with the changes she has suggested, she would recommend \$274,538 for the Executive line.

IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to approve \$274,538 for the Executive budget for FY2016.

Selectman Rollins said she appreciates the work the Employee Committee did and feels that the Board should direct either the employee committee or form a new salary committee to look at salaries and benefits competitively, with local towns with regards to how New London sets their base salaries. Maybe another formula should be used. She thought the whole package should be

looked at differently. She was willing to remove the money for merit raises at this time if this study was done.

THE MOTION PASSED. Selectman Bianchi voted No.

Town Clerk

Selectman Bianchi said he suggests a 2% raise. He is not in favor of the rate increase for the Deputy Town Clerk. He thought it was a substantial increase and didn't feel it necessary at this time. He had no problem increasing it a bit but felt it was too high as-is. Ms. Hallquist said the deputy is working about 25-30 hours/week currently but is available to work a bit more, which Linda Hardy (Town Clerk) would like. Selectman Bianchi said he is worried about how Obamacare would impact the Town with regards to those working over 30 hours/week. Ms. Hallquist said they keep a close eye on the regulations and they already offer regular part-timers healthcare (a provision of the Affordable Care Act for certain employers) but have to pay 100% for it. Selectman Bianchi is worried about ending up having to pay for insurance for more employees. Ms. Hallquist noted that an employee that works 35 or more hours is considered fulltime and would be eligible for town paid insurance benefits, so all department heads that utilize part-time labor is very careful not to have employees work 35 hours. She noted that office staff are staying on top of these issues.

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to approve \$72,919 for the Town Clerk's FY2016 budget. THE MOTION PASSED. Peter Bianchi voted No.

Finance

Selectman Bianchi said he would prefer to see a 2% raise in this department. He said he had the same issue with the rate increase for the Deputy Tax Collector. He had no other issues. Selectman Rollins was fine with the budget as it is. Chair Kidder suggested reducing the advertising budget by \$1,000 and trying to do more though electronic means. The amount would be \$258,380.

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to approve the amount of \$258,380 for the FY2016 Finance budget. THE MOTION PASSED. Peter Bianchi voted No.

Assessment of Property

Chair Kidder said the amount this year is \$92,200. Selectman Bianchi noted there were really no options with regards to this line in the budget.

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to approve \$92,200 for the FY2016 Assessment of Property budget. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Legal

Chair Kidder said since they have gone through the revaluation they could take this line down to \$20,200.

**IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to approve the amount of \$20,000 for the FY2016 Legal budget.
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Administration

Chair Kidder thinks the Employee Tuition Reimbursement can be reduced by \$500 which would still leave \$1,500. It was noted that this employee benefit hadn't been used in a while.

**IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to approve \$94,640 for the FY2016 Administration budget.
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Planning and Zoning

Selectman Bianchi thinks they should decrease the part time secretary so it increases by only \$500. He feels the conference line should go up only \$250 and not \$1,500. The \$4,000 total would go to \$3,000. Chair Kidder thinks \$2,500 would be appropriate for the part-time secretary, and \$1,250 for the conferences and training line.

**IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to approve \$87,492 for the Planning and Zoning FY2016 budget.
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

General Government Buildings

Selectman Bianchi asked about the Fire Station Maintenance and Repair line, which had an increase to \$15,585. Ms. Hallquist said Mr. Lee put \$585 in for maintenance contracts of heating and AC equipment. Chief Lyon requested \$15,000 which will include \$11,350 have the bay floor painted and the remainder for routine maintenance of the building.

Selectman Bianchi said the Elkins Beach Maintenance and Repair line has a \$1,500 request, the Bucklin Beach Maintenance and Repair fund has a \$3,000 request, and in the Recreation budget there is also \$3,250 for the beaches. The total is \$7,750 and he doesn't know if they needed all this money for the beaches. Ms. Johnson said the maintenance items are to take care of the buildings and properties and the money in the Recreation budget is for materials and equipment at the beaches. Ms. Hallquist said last year they paid over \$6,000 at one beach and \$3,000 at the other.

Selectman Bianchi said Mr. Blewitt (Recreation Director) requested that the two accounts for the beaches be combined into one.

Chair Kidder asked Mr. Lee about Pleasant Lake Dam Maintenance and Repair. She wondered if \$1,500 would be enough. Ms. Hallquist said this fund was set up after the gate malfunctioned

and they had to have it repaired. It cost about \$1,500 just to get the company there from Maine and to do the work.

Selectman Bianchi noted that \$212,280 for the bottom line in this section of the budget was up about 20%. He wondered if they were funding too many “just in case” lines. Chair Kidder said there has been a lot of deferred maintenance and it is time to get some of these things fixed. Selectman Rollins asked Selectman Bianchi if he was planning to make any specific recommendations.

Selectman Bianchi recommended decreasing the Elkins Post Office Maintenance and Repair fund by \$5,000 to bring it to \$9,895. The Board agreed.

**IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to accept \$207,280 for the General Government Buildings FY2016 budget.
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Cemeteries

Chair Kidder suggested that the request for \$5,000 to survey the Old Main Street Cemetery for possible future expansion could be deleted from the budget and completed at a later date.

**IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to accept \$24,837 for the Cemeteries FY2016 budget.
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Insurance – Property Liability

Ms. Hallquist said the claims increased in size and numbers, which accounts for the increase in this line.

**IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to accept the amount of \$91,122 for the Insurance FY2016 budget.
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Advertising and Regional Associations

**IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to accept \$18,296 for the Advertising and Regional Associations FY2016 budget.
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Police

Selectman Bianchi said when looking at the Police Department employee raises, they went up \$1,800 which isn't the 4% they were talking about. He was concerned that the Police Department wasn't getting their raises. The sheet looks like they are only getting a .4% raise. Ms. Hallquist assured Selectman Bianchi that the salaries in that department would go up 4% and the figure given in the total is adequate for those employees to get a 4% raise. Chief Andersen said under PD Miscellaneous he would like to reduce the \$3,000 he was asking for to purchase tables and chairs by \$1,000 because he found a better deal at BJ's instead of Staples.

Selectman Bianchi isn't happy about the \$11,000 for part-time officer wages and would like to see it decrease by \$5,000. The \$15,000 for officer training he'd like to see decreased by \$7,500. Chief Andersen reminded Selectman Bianchi that he did cut his overtime by \$6,000 to compensate for the part-time officer wage increase. He added that there are required trainings that they have to pay for to train their officers. They have four officers with less than four years of experience and they need training. Training overtime and court overtime had been combined, but he has separated them this year to keep better track of those expenses.

Chair Kidder asked if he anticipated needing as much this year for computer support and service. Chief Andersen said he struggles with this line because they just never know when they will have the need for support and service of their computer equipment. They just went through issues with the computers in dispatch and Systems Plus charges \$115/hour. When the computers and equipment go down, they are the ones who know the systems and they can get in and get things fixed. He said unfortunately, he is not computer-savvy enough to make these repairs himself.

Chair Kidder wondered if they needed to fully fund the New Employee Expense line since they have all their positions filled finally. Chief Andersen said they have received one resignation recently from a part-time officer, and there are a couple more who are nearing retirement age. He offered that it costs about \$5,000 to outfit an officer and these funds could be needed at some point throughout the year.

Chair Kidder asked Chief Andersen if, instead of purchasing his own new tables and chairs, he could hold big meetings at the library. Chief Andersen said they do a lot of training that requires the use of materials they keep at the station, they discharge tasers, and mats are there when they practice wrestling, hand-cuffing, etc. If it was just a discussion, they could hold the meeting somewhere else, but they do a lot of hands-on tactical training that wouldn't really be appropriate to have at the library.

Chair Kidder didn't think this was the year to purchase new tables and chairs for the Police Department. She opted to take \$2,500 out of that line. Mr. Lee said the Highway Department also uses the space at the police station for trainings where they act as the host. By doing this, it allows for some of New London's employees to get free training later on. He didn't think the library would be a good place for this kind of training either. Chief Andersen said the New London Police Department has become a central location for area police departments to come for training. It is also utilized for the area cadet program, Highway Department meetings, and even the Recreation Department has made use of it on rainy days during the summer camp program to facilitate arts and crafts activities.

Selectman Rollins suggests leaving the \$2,000 in the budget for the tables and chairs. She would like to move the computer support line down \$200 to help compensate for the increase posed by the meeting room equipment.

Selectman Rollins wished to keep the part-time wages and the training lines as Chief Andersen suggested in his budget.

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to approve \$964,735 for the Police Department's FY2016 budget. THE MOTION PASSED. Selectman Bianchi voted No.

Fire Department

Chair Kidder asked Chief Lyon about Conferences and Training as it is substantially higher this year than in the past. Chief Lyon said in the past they haven't paid for the level II firefighting class. Last year they had four students go through it. The class requires that they take two nights out of their week and pay for a class that only benefits the Town. If people are willing to take the time for 4-6 months, he felt the Town should pay for it. Chief Lyon added that they have had substantial turn-over and it is essential that their firefighters go through training. They require that officers go through some specific trainings and he has anticipated needing to send five firefighters through the level I and II trainings, all of which amounts to \$7,170.

Selectman Bianchi commented that the Fire Department budget has gone up 7.1% for FY2016. He said something needs to be done to bring the budget down. Chief Lyon said their regular operating budget is \$78,000 up from \$68,000. For the services they provide, their budget is relatively small. The salaries for part-time wages, compared to Newbury, are low. Newbury pays \$120,000 which is more than New London pays with two less people.

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to approve \$334,723 for the Fire Department's FY2016 budget. THE MOTION PASSED. Selectman Bianchi voted no.

Board of Firewards

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to approve \$541 for the Firewards' FY2015 budget. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Emergency Management

Chair Kidder said the bottom line was \$5,900 and there were no proposed changes by the Selectmen.

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to approve \$5,900 for the FY2016 Emergency Management budget. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Dispatch

Selectman Rollins asked about the new equipment and a description of the ergonomic chairs in the budget. Chief Andersen said they have been trying to get by with cheaper chairs but end up having to replace them and make repairs to them more often. The proposed chair is made from a fabric that is also easier to clean than the current chairs. The chairs are used 24 hours/day, 365 days/year. Selectman Rollins thinks \$1,300 per chair seems high. Selectman Bianchi wondered

why they were asking for two. Chief Andersen said there are two dispatchers on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights and there are other times when more than one dispatcher is needed. Selectman Bianchi said he was under the assumption that Dispatch had only one functioning console. Chief Andersen said both were working at this time.

Selectman Bianchi said he wasn't in favor of having two chairs. He sees two \$1,000 miscellaneous lines that he thought should be defined. Chief Andersen said one piece of equipment in dispatch that holds the heavy books (a carousel bookcase) the dispatchers must use costs \$1,000. He also noted that people in the department have been paying for cleaning materials. They would also like to keep some money in the budget for when things break, like the microwave or other things they use routinely.

Selectman Bianchi recommends that the new equipment line be cut by \$1,800 and cut the miscellaneous line by \$600. The Board agreed.

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to approve \$377,119 for the FY2016 Dispatch budget. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Highway Administration

Selectman Bianchi said he read Mr. Lee's explanation that increased the line item for full-time wages by 13%. He said he was not in favor of hiring another full-time employee. Ms. Johnson said \$32,635 was the amount for a new employee. Along with the benefits, it would cost an estimated \$57,000. Selectman Bianchi calculated that the bottom line would be \$839,454 without the new employee.

IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to approve \$839,454 for the FY2016 Highway Administration budget. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Highway and Streets

Chair Kidder suggested that the paving line could be reduced to the FY2015 level of \$229,000. Mr. Lee said he added \$21,000 to the \$229,000 to do another ¼ mile of paving in Town. Selectman Bianchi wasn't opposed to keeping the amount Mr. Lee suggested in the paving line because he was skeptical about the price of asphalt going up. For the diesel line, Mr. Lee said they have spent \$32,000 in fuel so far and they are burning between 700-800 gallons a week right now and they anticipate spending \$59,000 in fuel this year. Selectman Bianchi said he would like to reduce the gasoline and diesel line back to the FY2015 level of \$60,000.

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to approve \$517,000 for the FY2016 Highway and Streets budget. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Street Lighting

IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to approve \$16,000 for the FY2016 Street Lighting budget.

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Transfer Station

Selectman Bianchi recommends planning to chip brush twice this year for a total cost of \$8,000.

IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to approve \$395,668 for the FY2016 Transfer Station budget.

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Solid Waste Clean-up

IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to approve \$23,000 for the FY2016 Solid Waste Clean-Up budget.

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Health Administration

IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to approve \$5,329 for the FY2016 Health Administration budget.

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Health Agencies

Selectman Rollins spoke to the request from C.A.S.A. and noted that it references specific cases in which 17 New London children were served. Their \$500 request amounted to less than \$30/child per year for the work the volunteers do. She was in favor of the \$500 appropriation for C.A.S.A.

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to approve \$176,600 for the FY2016 Health Agency budget.

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Welfare Administration

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to approve \$2,822 for the FY2016 Welfare Administration budget.

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Intergovernmental Welfare

IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to approve \$3,809 for the FY2016 Intergovernmental Welfare budget.

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Welfare-Vendor Payments

IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to approve \$16,000 for the FY2016 Welfare-Vendor Payments budget.

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Parks and Recreation

Chair Kidder thought Travel and Meals could be reduced by \$500. She thought advertising could be reduced by \$1,000 and encouraged more social media advertising. Chair Kidder thought the Special Events line item could be zeroed out as the revolving fund could be used to pay for the events generally funded by this line.

**IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to approve \$146,431 for the FY2016 Parks and Recreation budget.
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Library

Selectman Bianchi isn't sure the 4% raise was included in the figures. Ms. Licks said the line item for wages would be sufficient to account for a 4% raise due to the fluctuation of employees at the library. She said the trustees of the library had not met since the Selectmen's decision to give a 4% raise but she believed there would be enough funding in the current amount to cover the 4% raise.

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to approve \$460,800 for the FY2016 Library budget. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Patriotic Purposes

**IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to approve \$300 for the FY2016 Patriotic Purposes budget.
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Other Culture and Recreation (Archives)

**IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to approve \$1,000 for the FY2016 Other Culture and Recreation budget.
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Conservation Commission

**IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to approve \$15,847 for the FY2016 Conservation Commission budget.
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Energy Committee

**IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to approve \$989 for the FY2016 Energy Committee budget.
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Other Conservation

Chair Kidder thinks they can reduce the amount they give for milfoil. She suggested cutting the entire line by \$5,000 and appropriating the following amounts to the following protective associations:

Lake Sunapee Protective Association: \$4,000

Pleasant Lake Protective Association: \$5,000
Little Lake Sunapee Protective Association: \$4,000
Messer Pond Protective Association: \$2,500

Chair Kidder offered that each lake has a protective association and they collect fees from their members and she felt they could withstand these reduced appropriations. Selectman Bianchi disagreed and thought the protective agencies depended on the money they got from the Town each year. He thought they should do all they could to help prevent milfoil in the lakes. Chair Kidder agreed that it was important to keep milfoil out of all of the lakes but she said they have to make some hard decisions and thought this was an area where a reduction could be made.

IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to approve \$20,800 for the FY2016 Other Conservation budget. THE MOTION PASSED. Selectman Bianchi voted no.

Bonded Debt

Selectman Bianchi said they need to keep their eye on this section of the budget. There was discussion of the payments incurred by the wastewater plant in Sunapee. Those using the sewer system will be hit harder than those not. Selectman Rollins thinks they should give adequate warning to people letting them know the increase in their sewer bill was coming.

Capital Outlay - Vehicles

Selectman Bianchi said the budget for dispatch is up 42% which included \$135,000 for the console. There is also \$135,000 listed in Capital Outlay. Ms. Hallquist said the \$135,000 wasn't in both places. Ms. Johnson indicated that the expense is listed in different places in two different sheets (the budget worksheets versus the summary sheet), but the bottom line is the same on both sheets.

Selectman Bianchi said it used to be that Capital Outlay was money taken out of a Capital Reserve account. Ms. Johnson said last year they had the repeater and the console in the same line, which was \$123,625. Selectman Bianchi said they haven't decided yet how they will get the \$135,000; either by having it in the body of the dispatch budget or through a warrant article.

Chair Kidder said there was no need to vote on this issue at that time. This review of dispatch was initiated by the Budget Committee, not the Selectmen. She wanted to focus on the budget at this time and not the dispatch issue.

Selectman Bianchi was opposed to the \$41,000 for the pick-up in the Highway Department's budget, which was pushed up one year. Selectman Rollins was fine to leave it in the budget as Mr. Lee had requested.

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to approve \$418,907 for the FY2016 Capital Outlay - Vehicles. THE MOTION PASSED. Selectman Bianchi voted no.

Capital Outlay – Buildings

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to approve \$55,000 for the FY2016 Capital Outlay – Buildings. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Capital Outlay – Improvements

Recreation Facility Upgrades

Ms. Hallquist explained that the funds in this line are intended for upgrades to the Elkins Beach bath house and the docks, which is coming out of the Capital Reserves. Mr. Blewitt has determined \$15,000 would be sufficient for the bath house, and \$10,000 is for the dock replacement.

IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to approve \$25,000 for the Recreation Facility Upgrades under Capital Outlay – Improvements for FY2016. THE MOTION PASSED. Selectman Bianchi voted no.

Transfers to Capital Reserves

Selectman Bianchi said he is against the Fire Vehicles Refurbishment line with a request of \$12,000, the GIS Update line with a request of \$20,000, and the Sewer Lagoon Cleanup line with a request of \$10,000.

Chair Kidder asked Mr. Lee about the Sidewalk Project and whether \$30,000 was needed in the budget. Mr. Lee said this is intended to rebuild the sidewalk from the school to Homan's Corner. Chair Kidder felt this project could remain unfunded for FY2016. Mr. Lee commented that the sidewalks are not currently ADA compliant and this could pose a problem for the Town if someone were to complain.

Chair Kidder felt the Tracy Library Improvements fund could be reduced by \$5,000. She thought the sewer lagoons needed to be cleaned up and it shouldn't be put off any longer.

Selectman Bianchi is concerned that there weren't enough bids for the Academy Building repairs to determine the amount needed in the Town Buildings fund. Ms. Hallquist stressed that the question now is whether to add \$100,000 to the capital reserve fund. The Board has not been presented with a contract to sign for the repairs, however the one quote they do have is sufficient to have a reasonable estimate of the work needed to support the request for appropriation at Town Meeting. More information may come forth later on, but right now, the one quote is all they have to work from. Chair Kidder thought the Academy Building needed to be taken care of. Selectman Rollins agreed with Chair Kidder.

Selectman Rollins thinks the Sidewalk Project should be funded.

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to approve \$691,510 for Transfers to Capital Reserves for FY2016. THE MOTION PASSED. Selectman Bianchi voted no.

Sewer Fund

Selectman Bianchi asked if all this money was offset by revenue. Ms. Johnson answered in the affirmative.

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to approve \$928,117 for the FY2016 Sewer Fund budget. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Other Business:

Dispatch

Selectman Bianchi observed that the Board has never actually come out in support of keeping dispatch in New London and he felt that the Board should make a statement one way or the other.

IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) to keep dispatch in New London and revisit the formula to be much more equitable to all towns, especially New London.

There was no second to Selectman Bianchi's motion.

IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to continue New London dispatch and review the formula for all towns.

Ms. Hallquist observed that "equitable" could mean one thing to one person and an entirely different thing to another. She thinks Selectman Bianchi might want to hold off on his motion until he sees the funding formula they come up with to see if he feels it is fair and equitable.

Chair Kidder opined that those serving on the New London Board of Selectmen care about the taxpayer and offering a service that is reasonable to them. They have the best interest of their town at heart. She thinks they should meet with each town separately and get feedback from them and then consider the options available for the funding formula.

Mr. Hudson said they are looking at FY2016 so it didn't seem that the dispatch issue would be resolved until FY2017. Mr. Prohl said he didn't think a decision whether to keep dispatch in New London should be made until the funding formula is created. Selectman Bianchi feels this issue has been "kicked down the road" too long as it is. He is frustrated that they were still working on determining the best way to proceed. Mr. Prohl agreed that had the process started a year and a half ago, they would probably have all the answers now, but it was not.

Chair Kidder reminded Mr. Prohl that last year members of the Budget Committee were looking for ways to cut staff and possibly a department. To her it seemed that Dispatch was being looked at as a department to cut. This whole issue has stemmed from the Budget Committee. The Selectmen have not heard any negative remarks from citizens about Dispatch. Eliminating a department overnight is just not something that can be done.

Mr. Prohl said Ms. Hallquist said she hasn't been directed by the Selectmen to engage the member towns earlier, and he felt that the process has gone too slow. He is in favor of a regional dispatch service but not unless they have more answers.

Ms. Piotrow said it wasn't the entire Budget Committee that wanted to outsource dispatch, but there were a few members who suggested it. There was no vote taken.

Selectman Bianchi wanted it known that Chair Kidder's remarks about why the Dispatch issue came up is not shared by all of those on the Select Board.

Mr. Cardillo said the current Budget Committee will start to review the budget the Selectmen have been working on. He hoped the Selectmen would be open to changes. He understands that things don't happen quickly and agrees that some things get pushed down the road. He feels the Selectmen and Budget Committee need to find a way to deal with budgetary limits. There has to be a cooperative and not adversarial attitude between the two groups. He hoped they could work together to ease some of the (financial) pain they would feel this year.

Revenues

Ms. Hallquist said that revenues are revisited in October before the tax rate is set, but for now, the information they have is their best guess.

Ms. Johnson said they anticipate \$3.2 million dollars in estimated revenue. The Town receives \$1.7 million dollars annually for things such as motor vehicle fees (\$778,000), State Rooms & Meals Tax (\$220,000), Highway Block Grant (\$120,000), reimbursement from the library and sewer department for insurance and payroll (\$103,000), Dispatch and Recycling (\$236,000), and cable franchise fees (\$68,000). Sewer is a wash \$928,000 in the budget and \$928,000 in revenues. Additionally, Ms. Johnson suggested that the Board consider asking voters to discontinue some Capital Reserve funds that are not used any more (\$244,295). The amount of \$48,500, which was the amount appropriated last year for the console that will not be purchased this year, can also be seen as revenue. This is where the \$3.2 million dollars comes from.

Selectman Bianchi said the projection this year is 18% lower than last year. Ms. Hallquist noted that revenues are down in large part because this year there are not as many capital expenditures planned. If the Board would like to spend more using capital reserve funds (which show as revenues) then they could increase revenues and not have an 18% decrease.

Referring to the potential discontinued capital reserve funds, Mr. Cardillo thinks the Selectmen may want to allocate these funds towards things in the budget that they are trying to jumpstart or complete, and then any remaining balance could go back into the general fund. The voters would appreciate using monies already saved by the Town to purchase things in the budget rather than raising additional taxes to do so.

Old Business

Ms. Hallquist asked Chief Andersen about the noise level from the Kearsarge Community Band affecting meetings held at the Police Department. Chief Andersen said he felt they could work

with the band on this and possibly holding off on rehearsing if/when training needs to take place in the conference room below Whipple Hall.

Chair Kidder said the band would be charged \$25 per evening and it was noted that no storage of instruments or equipment would be available at Whipple Hall. Ms. Hallquist noted that there are 17 dates requested by the band.

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to allow the Kearsarge Community Band to use Whipple Hall at the rate of \$25 per evening, with no storage area available for instruments or equipment. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Board noted that since they were able to complete their FY2016 budget for submission to the Budget Committee on February 4th, they would not need to meet the following evening at 4:30pm. That meeting was cancelled.

Upcoming Meetings

Next Selectmen's Meeting – Tuesday, February 17th, 2015 – 6:00 PM

Planning Board – Work Session - Tuesday, February 3rd – 7:00 PM

Budget Committee – Wednesday, February 4th, 2015 – 7:00 PM

Conservation Commission – Wednesday, February 18th – 8:30AM

Town Office is closed on Monday, February 16th for President's Day

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Heath, Recording Secretary
Town of New London