



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES July 27, 2015

PRESENT:

Nancy Rollins, Chairman
Janet Kidder, Selectman
Peter Bianchi, Selectman
Kimberly Hallquist, Town Administrator

ALSO PRESENT:

Gayle Hendrington, WNTK Talk Radio
Frank Anzalone, Frank Anzalone Associates
Michael Williams, Tom Little, JK Kiernan – New London High School Reunion Committee
Chief Edward Andersen

Chair Rollins called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

Academy Building Project

Frank Anzalone met with the Board to discuss the results of the interviews with the three contractors that submitted Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the Academy Project: Trumbull-Nelson, Granite Roots Construction and Milestone Engineering & Construction. He noted that Chair Rollins and Town Administrator Hallquist joined in the interviews. Mr. Anzalone informed that Board that all three contractors are reputable and capable of doing the job, and he noted his appreciation for their willingness to respond to the RFQ.

Selectman Bianchi reviewed the summary material prepared by Mr. Anzalone and questioned if the \$96,500 total for Trumbull-Nelson was a firm number for the entire project. Mr. Anzalone noted that it was not, the summary sheet was merely an effort to compare some of the prices for certain items of the project (painting, demo and siding) among the three contractors. He stressed that none of the contractors could say for sure at this early stage how much the job will cost as it is not clear how much damage is beneath the siding. Mr. Anzalone explained that there will be an investigation phase where more siding is removed so a GMP (Guaranteed Maximum Price) can be given. Mr. Anzalone noted that his educated guess on the GMP at this point is \$230,000, including the windows and the cupola at Whipple Hall.

Mr. Anzalone noted that it was his recommendation, joined by Chair Rollins and Ms. Hallquist, after review of the RFQ's and interviewing each contractor, that the Board award the contract to Trumbull-Nelson.

**IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) that the Board of Selectmen award the Academy Building project to Trumbull-Nelson Construction Co, Inc.
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Bandstand Project

Two estimates were received to make repairs to the bandstand: Trumbull-Nelson \$68,683 and Foremost Builders: \$78,186.25. The Board requested supporting material from Trumbull-Nelson and that was received by the Board. Mr. Anzalone noted that he spoke with Trumbull-Nelson about the bandstand project and they agreed that there would be savings in the Academy project if Trumbull-Nelson was awarded the bandstand project as mobilization of equipment and over-sight of the project could be shared between the two projects.

**IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) that the Board of Selectmen award the Academy Building project to Trumbull-Nelson Construction Co, Inc.
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

New London High School Reunion Committee Request for Alcohol on Town Property

Tom Little met with the Board to request permission to have alcohol on town property at the reunion dinner to be held on the Academy Building front lawn on Saturday, August 1st from 3pm – 7pm. He apologized for not seeking permission earlier, noting that he has been speaking with Chief Andersen for several weeks, and was unaware that Selectmen approval was also needed. Chief Andersen noted that there will be a duty police officer at the event and a fence around the area is required.

Selectman Bianchi asked if there would be anyone checking IDs or to check to make sure attendees are actually invited New London High School graduates and their guests. Mr. Little noted that there are no tickets required so there will be no checking of who comes into the area. Chief Andersen noted that if the duty officer observes anyone drinking alcohol who appears to be under age, that person will be asked to produce an ID. Mr. Little explained that this is a BYOB event, and that attendees are being told that they may drop off their beverages to him home prior to the event, and he will transport it to the event. He will be responsible for making sure the alcohol is not removed from his vehicle until it is picked up by the owners for the event.

**IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to approve the request of the New London High School Reunion Committee to have alcohol on town property (a fenced area on the lawn of the Academy Building) on August 1st, 3pm-7pm.
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Promotion of Officer David Keith to Sergeant

Chief Andersen asked the Board for approve his recommendation to promote Officer David Keith to the position of Sergeant, the position vacated by David Zuger who resigned his position to accept the position of Police Chief of Wilmot.

**IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to promote Officer Keith to the position of Sergeant.
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Chief Andersen noted that he would be happy to speak with the Board about his recommendation to establish the position of Lieutenant when they have had a chance to consider the issue further. The Board agreed to take up the issue at a future meeting.

Sign-on Bonus Policy for Police Department

Chief Andersen asked the Board if they would approve the sign-on bonus policy he discussed at their last meeting. He noted with the resignation of Sergeant Zuger, there is a vacancy in the department and he

would like to include in the employment ad that the town offers a sign-on bonus for NH Certified Officers who are hired. He noted that he is recommending a \$5,000 bonus.

Selectman Bianchi questioned if adopting this policy would mean a sign-on bonus must be paid to all new hires. Chair Rollins noted that a police officer must receive extensive training before they may work, which is not typical of all town employees. Selectman Bianchi noted that he would prefer more discussion before they adopt this plan. Chief Andersen noted that since they are an officer down, he would like to place the ad as soon as possible. He reminded the Board that the last officer the Town hired who was certified was Matt Pickering (2004). Chief Andersen stressed that even with a signing bonus, he can't guarantee that a certified officer will be hired, but it is his opinion that they may get more applications from certified officers if a bonus is offered; hiring a certified officer will save the town about \$15,000 in training costs.

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) that in this circumstance, to offer a \$5,000 signing bonus if a NH Certified fulltime police officer is hired to fill the current opening in the Police Department.

MOTION PASSED, with Janet Kidder and Nancy Rollins voting yes; Peter Bianchi voted no.

Town of Newport – backup ambulance issue

Ms. Hallquist noted that she did not have any additional information on what could be expected at the 6:30pm Newport Selectmen's Meeting where the topic for discussion will be New London Hospital's request that Newport's decision to cease providing backup ambulance service is reconsidered. Chair Rollins, Selectman Bianchi and Ms. Hallquist will attend the meeting in Newport at the conclusion of this meeting.

Other Business

Recreation Commission Report

Selectman Kidder reported that Health Officer Deb Langner completed water quality tests at Bucklin and Elkins Beaches for e-coli and both tests came back negative, which means the town's beaches are in excellent condition for swimming. Selectman Kidder also reported that Scott Blewitt received a letter of thanks from Scott Ellison for the Recreation Department involvement making the track team a success.

Selectman Kidder reported that she attended a meeting at DES with Nobis Engineering, the town's consultants on the sewer lagoon project. She noted that it was a very productive meeting and DES is encouraged that the town is making progress on this project. Meeting minutes will be sent to the Board when they are completed. Nobis will attend the August 17th selectmen's meeting to discuss the project.

Pleasant Lake Dam Lake Level Schedule Informational Meeting

Selectman Bianchi questioned the upcoming hearing on the public hearing on Pleasant Lake Dam Lake Level Schedule. He noted that it was his understanding that the hearing would only address the timing of the lowering (winter level) and raising (summer level) of the lake, and not the lake levels to be maintained. Ms. Hallquist responded that the Pleasant Lake Protection Association (PLPA) would like its recommended schedule from June 2010, which differs from the schedule currently on file with DES, to be adopted by the town. Selectman Bianchi noted that several years ago there was a lot of discussion and work, which included participation from Fish & Game and DES, to get to the proper lake level and he did not think it a good idea to change it. Ms. Hallquist noted that it has been brought to her attention that the form on file with DES does not have the correct elevations on it, and in fact the town has been operating the dam gate consistent with the PLPA recommended elevations for several years now. This public

hearing will allow the town to make the corrections to the form (Operation, Maintenance and Response Information) with regard to the elevations and also change the timing of going to winter and summer levels.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

- Next Selectmen's Meeting – August 3rd – 6:00PM including:
 - Nonresident Taxpayers Meeting
 - Public Informational Meeting on Pleasant Lake Dam Lake Level Schedule – 6:30PM
- Recreation Commission – Tuesday, August 4th – 5:00PM – Whipple Town Hall
- Planning Board CIP Subcommittee – Monday, July 27th – 8:00AM
- Planning Board – Tuesday, July 28th – 6:30PM

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

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Hallquist
Town Administrator