



# TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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## BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES January 9, 2012

### **PRESENT:**

Mark Kaplan, Chairman  
Tina Helm, Selectman  
Peter Bianchi, Selectman  
Kimberly Hallquist, Town Administrator

### **ALSO PRESENT:**

Wendy Johnson, Finance Officer  
Jim Wheeler, Budget Committee  
Jay Lyon, Fire Chief  
Peter Stanley

Chair Kaplan called the meeting to order at 8am. He announced that Brian Prescott, former Selectman, passed away. He suggested the Board send a letter of condolence to Mr. Prescott's widow expressing the sorrow of the Board at his passing. The Board agreed. It was also noted that there is an on-line guestbook to post personal messages to the family.

The Board completed a final review of their FY2013 budget that will be presented to the Budget Committee later in the evening. Ms. Johnson noted that the only change she made was to page 7: adding \$70 to the Bucklin Beach water expense line item. Chair Kaplan noted that the total for that section is now \$181,391.

Mr. Bianchi noted that the health insurance appropriation is \$479,413 for FY2013. Assuming a 10% increase when the new rates come out, that would mean an additional \$23,970 for 6-months of the increase. He suggested three ways to plan for that increase: (1) increase all line items within department budgets by 5%; (2) establish a new single line item for the expense; or (3) establish a capital reserve fund (CRF) account. Mr. Wheeler suggested that for the sake of transparency, the additional amount should be placed in a separate line item. Mr. Bianchi noted that the benefit to establishing a CRF is that the money will only be able to be used for that purpose while money in the operating budget can be transferred to other purposes as the need arises.

The Board discussed that the possible shortfall from new insurance rates does not only include health insurance as similar issues may occur in the town's property-liability coverage and workers' comp coverage. The exposure for those insurances might be: \$3,000 and \$4,000 respectively, for a total of \$24,000 for all three insurance policies.

**IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Tina Helm) to establish a new capital reserve fund for the purpose of unanticipated insurance increases and to place \$31,000 into the CRF. The Selectmen to be named agents to expend. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Bianchi questioned the sewer bond interest and principal payment budget lines. The Board noted that Wright-Pierce, engineers for the sewer upgrade project, must be contacted to get information on how much, if any, payments will be due in FY2013.

**IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Tina Helm) to approve the Selectmen's FY2013 budget as prepared with a total amount of \$7,934,579. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Ms. Helm thanked Mr. Bianchi for his careful review of all of the budget requests and for his preparation of questions in advance. She observed that for the first time in this process she feels she has a good understanding of the budget, and feels that Mr. Bianchi's hard work was a big help to her.

Mr. Bianchi noted that he felt the process went very well this year. He observed that Ms. Johnson and Ms. Hallquist were new to their positions and thanked them for their hard work in getting the Board the information it needed to complete the budget.

Ms. Helm asked Budget Chair Jim Wheeler to use Ms. Hallquist and Ms. Johnson's time judiciously as they have other duties to complete as the budget committee process moves forward. Mr. Wheeler noted that the "heavy lifting" is done so he does not anticipate any adversarial issues to emerge.

Complete discontinuance of Old Rowell Hill Road

The Board noted receipt of an e-mail from James DeAngelis, a property owner on Old Rowell Hill Road. Mr. DeAngelis would like to have the Town vote to completely discontinue this road and wanted to know if the Board would place the question on the Warrant or if he would have to submit a petitioned article on the question. Mr. Stanley explained that the records show that in 1834 the town "discontinued" the road, making it a class VI road. The question now is whether the town will vote to "completely discontinue" the road, so that the public have no rights to travel on it. Chair Kaplan asked if the road was off Rte 114. Mr. Stanley confirmed that it was, it is a driveway into Old Crockett Farm. Mr. Bianchi asked how long the road was. Mr. Stanley noted that it is approximately 700' long. Mr. Bianchi noted that he would not have a problem with the request as it is not a road that the town will ever want to use.

Mr. Bianchi asked if there was anything in the plan that could cost the town money. Ms. Hallquist replied that property owners affected by the complete discontinuance could sue for damages, if they could prove damages as a result, for example lower property values.

Chair Kaplan noted that in the interest of full disclosure, the person making the request is currently his tenant, so he will recuse himself from all discussion and voting on this issue.

Mr. Stanley observed that consideration of the "complete discontinuance" of this road is a "loose end" that should be resolved by the town, but approving the request.

The Board asked that Mr. DeAngelis be contacted to seek a consensus of the property owners to this matter. Absent new information, the Board was generally in favor of placing the question on the Warrant for Town Meeting.

Other Business

Mr. Bianchi noted that now that the budget has been prepared, he would like the Board to take up the issue of the personnel policies, to review them and consider possible changes. The Board agreed that work on the personnel policies is in order.

Items to be signed

- Intent to Cut – Melody A, Cassista Rev. Trust, Map 109-020-000
- Three PSNH pole licenses on Old Coach Road

Having no further business before them, Chair Kaplan asked for a motion to adjourn.

**IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Tina Helm) to adjourn the meeting.  
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:41am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Hallquist, Town Administrator  
Town of New London