



# TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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## BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES February 17, 2010

### PRESENT:

Larry Ballin, Chair  
Mark Kaplan, Selectman  
Tina Helm, Selectman  
Jessie Levine, Town Administrator

### ALSO PRESENT:

Richard Lee, Public Works Director  
Bob & DJ Lavoie, New London residents  
Jack and Pat Sheehan, New London residents  
Bob Nilson, New London resident  
Bill Helm, New London resident  
Tina Naimie, New London Hospital  
Gus Seamans, New London resident  
Aarne Vesilind, New London resident  
Neil Cheseldine, Wright Pierce  
Dave Bailey, Superintendent, Sunapee Water and Sewer Department  
Ted Gallup, Chair, Sunapee Water and Sewer Commission  
Ben Leubsdorf, Concord Monitor  
Ken Jacques, NL-Springfield Water Precinct  
Bob Bowers, Chair, Tracy Library Board of Trustees  
Pat Trader, Intertown Record

Chair Ballin called the **MEETING TO ORDER at 6:00pm**. He noted that the first item on the agenda was a public hearing regarding the Sunapee Wastewater Treatment Plant bond. The amount of the bond was not to exceed \$5,200,000 for New London's portion of the project. The plant, which is jointly owned with the town of Sunapee, was constructed in 1974 and is in need of upgrades. David Bailey, Superintendent of the Sunapee Water and Sewer Department was present at the meeting, as was Neil Cheseldine, engineer from Wright Pierce Engineering. Ted Gallup, Chair of the Sunapee Water and Sewer Commission, was also in attendance.

Chair Ballin asked Mr. Bailey to share a video of portions of a tour that was given to Katie Richardson from the Intertown Record. The film showed the present facility and the parts of it that needed repair and/or upgrading. Sections of the facility have either never worked well or are currently not working properly. Some parts are rusting. There are problems with parts of the facility freezing in the winter. Mr. Bailey stressed that they have a problem with grease coming into the facility. Additionally, a lot of sludge and water gets hauled from the facility, which is costly. Ultimately, it is best to haul dried or completely separated sludge, as it weighs much less and costs less to dispose of in facilities as close as Claremont, NH.

Chair Ballin then recognized Mr. Cheseldine, who began his presentation of the proposed upgrades to the facility and explained that he has been working on the Sunapee Wastewater Treatment Plant project for about 1.5 years. He shared that his engineering firm does a lot of work with municipalities in New

England and that they find this sort of work enjoyable. He said they looked at the options for the new plant in terms of what would be needed over the next 20 years.

Mr. Cheseldine gave a brief history of the plant, which included the following information:

- The design for the plant took place in 1969 and the plant was constructed in 1974.
- No significant upgrades have been made since its construction.
- In 1996, they were commended by the EPA.
- In 2007 a new permit required the plant to limit phosphorus amounts being discharged. This required additional treatment of the sewage to meet the requirements. Staff was able to create their own process to get by and have been holding to the required standards.

Mr. Cheseldine went on to provide some more information about the project, including funding and the future:

- The USDA Rural Development Funding application was believed to be the best option for the funding of this project.
- Having the plant located near a small river creates a problem with discharging.
- Nitrogen is a pollutant they may eventually have to treat for, but are not required to as of yet. The recommended plan will address these requirements if they become real.

Mr. Cheseldine indicated that there have been some discharge violations in the past due to lack of adequate equipment redundancy at the plant. He offered a diagram which showed how wastewater treatment plants should work. To summarize:

1. **Screening.** Raw Sewage goes through screening devices to comb out debris that won't be biologically treated to prevent clogging and the binding up of equipment. Currently, only anything larger than 1.5" is stopped, so there are many things getting through this step which should not.
2. **Grit remover.** Grit can build up in the tanks and has to be shoveled out. Having a remover would eliminate the need for this step which has to be done by hand.
3. **Biological Treatment.** Using an aeration tank is best. Sunapee currently has an oxidation ditch. Aerobic bacteria live and mix with the waste that comes in to break it down.
4. **Clarifier.** This is a tank where sludge settles to the bottom and the clear water floats to the top.
5. **Chlorine.** Next is a disinfection step using Chlorine to kill any bacteria. The water is then treated with Sodium Hypochloride and is discharged into the river.

Mr. Cheseldine explained that sludge has to be removed from the tanks and taken away. Currently they take sludge and water to Concord for disposal and it is very expensive. The current system is 35 years old. Processes in place are no longer operational and they continually have to find other ways to handle treatments. He added that the buildings are too small and need renovations to be brought up to proper standards. Mr. Cheseldine showed some photos to illustrate these points, and to show the needs of the facility.

Some photos showed some results of poor screening in the beginning of the treatment process, the oxidation system that has been deteriorating over time, a close-up picture of some concrete that has been

eaten away over time, a close-up of some metal that has become badly corroded, clarifiers that are too small for the needs of the plant, and the sludge pumps, which are being used for too many processes.

These sludge pumps, of which there are only two, service the entire plant. Mr. Cheseldine said that this is just not enough pumps. The chemical systems they have in place are stored in sheds currently, but used to be in tanks out in the open. A problem arose when it was found that the Sodium Bisulfite, which is used to de-chlorinate the water before discharging into the river, freezes at 40 degrees. Sheds were constructed to house the tanks to prevent the chemicals from freezing. They also house Sodium Hypochloride, which is 3-4 times stronger than traditional bleach, to treat the water. Mr. Cheseldine indicated that such sheds were not appropriate to store the chemicals in. The sludge storage tank that had been erected had piping outside of the tank to allow for the draining of water from the sludge. The tank kept freezing, so they built housing around it to keep it warm enough. Mr. Cheseldine showed a photo of some of the roofing that is becoming corroded due to the chemicals being used in the process.

Currently, sludge disposal is done by trucking the waste to Concord as a liquid. There was another option of using something called "Geobags" which hold the sludge and let the water seep out of it until only sludge remains, but Mr. Cheseldine said it is a slow process and they do not have enough space to do this sort of process at the facility. He added that this process doesn't work well in the winter time due to freezing temperatures.

Mr. Cheseldine went on to talk about the building where the staff is located. One building holds 5-6 employees. He opined that people and administration should be located in one area, and the operations should be in another. Currently, the workshop is small, as is the laboratory for testing the water. There is one very small bathroom.

Mr. Cheseldine shared that doing an upgrade now insures not having more violations in the future and also, being told when and how (by DES and EDA) to upgrade the plant. Some parts of the plant cannot accept the flows that are being demanded of it. He noted that there would be no capacity of growth on the system but that this upgrade would help with the efficiency of processes. He said that funding is available from the government but will probably not be available in the future. Mr. Cheseldine felt that this would be a good time to go forward with the project. He explained that the total capital needed for the project would be \$8.57 million dollars, which included the design engineering, which has already been done.

To explain who pays and how much they will pay, Mr. Cheseldine explained that they hope to get outside grant funding from the USDARD. Sunapee is eligible for up to 45% grant funding. Typically the Government doesn't give the entire 45% that is available. There would still be a loan portion which would be paid over 30 years at a subsidized interest rate of 3.5%. Mr. Cheseldine noted that stimulus funding is a once in time chance at grant funding.

New London's share of the project is \$5.5 million dollars, which would be cut down to about \$3.6 million dollars with the grant. If the vote at Town Meeting enables them to go forward, they will move forward with the ARRA.

Mr. Cheseldine explained that equipment maintenance costs would go up if the plant is not repaired. New London owns 65% of the plant, due to the amount of flow they send there from the Town. He noted that it was hard to operate the plant successfully, as it sits and that more violations would surely be coming along. At some point in time, the plant will need to be upgraded.

Chair Ballin said that this isn't something they'd love to do but is something they have to do. He hoped for a favorable grant from the federal government, which may not be available in the future. Chair Ballin asked the public for comments.

Ted Gallup said that they didn't want to bring this to the people due to the current economic situation, but now that this grant money was available, it seemed to be a good time to do it. He stressed that anyone in New London who has any questions or wants to see the plant, should stop by. He said that Dave Bailey would be happy to walk them through it and answer any questions they may have.

Ms. Levine pointed out the cost impact of the bond. She said they would be asking to approve \$5.2 million dollars. They would have to borrow \$3.38 million dollars if they got the grant. The Board of Selectmen have said that the sewer users would be responsible to pay 2/3, and 1/3 would be paid for by all tax payers. The annual cost would be \$187,000 per year. This would break down as \$124,460 on the sewer budget and \$62,000 on the town budget. Sewer users would pay \$5 more per 1000 gallons used. The current rate is \$13 per 1000 gallons. She noted that this was a significant addition to their sewer bills. The impact of the tax payer is about \$0.06 per thousand dollars of evaluation.

Ms. Levine said that the impact of placing 100% of the cost on the sewer users would amount to an addition of \$7.56 per thousand gallons, compared with an additional \$5 per thousand gallons.

Gus Seamans thought it was time the Town was addressing this issue of the wastewater treatment facility. He said they need to find a way to get it approved. Mr. Seamans asked Mr. Cheseldine where the Town stands with the State on this project and wanted to know if they were looking over New London's shoulder. Mr. Cheseldine said that the draft report has gone through the State and that the preliminary design and final designs will go through the State, as well. They are not anticipating any problems. Mr. Seamans felt it would be a hard sell to the townspeople and was curious as to how they got to the 1/3-2/3 split. He understood that Sunapee was not charging their townspeople anything for this project.

Chair Ballin said sewer users are mostly at the top of the hill. He noted the vibrant commercial community, and the sensitive soil issues that force the use of this system. Chair Ballin explained that this part of the community adds value to the community as a whole. He compared it to the Town's support of the Milfoil program. Not everyone lives on the lake, but everyone in Town realizes the value of the lakes in the area, so are willing to pay for keeping them in good condition. Chair Ballin said that the 2/3 vs. 1/3 split was brought up as a fair equation that they felt would work to take the enormous burden off sewer users and add a small burden on all the tax payers.

Mr. Kaplan said that they had run the numbers as 50/50 or 100% on the sewer users. Their best chance at having it passed was by breaking it down to 2/3 vs. 1/3. He added that Sunapee has been putting away money over the years for this eventual upgrade. The New London sewer commission should have encouraged tax payers to put money aside to upgrade the facility. They did not put money away so will need to borrow everything they'll need to in order to pay for the project.

Mr. Seamans said that the Town's business district is important to the Town and felt it was different from the character of Sunapee. The Town should support this district, the college and hospital. Mr. Kaplan agreed and indicated that some people who feel that they don't use the sewer may not want to vote for it.

Ms. Helm said that she enjoyed the presentation by Mr. Cheseldine. She welcomed any suggestions regarding presentations to help convince voters of the need for this upgrade.

Chair Ballin said they want to avoid having to make upgrades due to the system failing. New London has had a problem with sewage in their history that has cost the Town dearly. Ms. Helm said they have been living on borrowed time for 15 years and perhaps they don't even know how close they are to the system failing.

Mr. Cheseldine said that they have looked at the flows and have talked about growth projections for the next 20 years for each town. They felt that they could keep the plant rated at its original size. They looked at the entire un-sewered areas and want to plan to receive septage, which they currently cannot do. This provides some level of service to un-serviced facilities in the Town.

Mr. Sheehan asked if the plant was as bad as it is described, why would the project only go forward only if they received 35% funding? He wanted to know why they were making the project contingent on the funding. Shouldn't they go forward with the project anyway? Chair Ballin said at this point, they should not. They have spent a lot of time working over the numbers and they felt that the amount, with the 35% funding, was a number they could work with. To go forward with the project this year, this was the number they chose.

Ms. Levine said that Sunapee votes by ballot, not like they do at New London's Town Meeting. The voters needed some sort of assurance that they were doing their best to offset the cost of the project with funds from the federal government. This way, it gave people a little bit of a comfort level. Mr. Kaplan said that they needed to have some kind of funding to be able to move forward. With 35% Sunapee could handle the expense without going too far into the bank. Sunapee is borrowing for this project as well, but not as much.

Ken Jacques asked if Sunapee had put money away over the years and if it was put away from users of the sewer, or by the entire town. Mr. Gallup said that hookup and replacement hookup fees went into an account for this project. Most of the money they have set aside has been raised off of users.

Ms. Lavoie asked if Sunapee's tax payers were not going to be taxed at all and it would only be the users who would pay. Mr. Cheseldine said that in Sunapee they have a flat rate for their sewer users. Since there are a number of houses that don't have full-time occupancy, their user rates are much lower and so they are able to generate revenue from this method.

Mr. Jacques asked about the 30 year loan when the life of the plant was only 20 years. Mr. Cheseldine said they typically work in 20 year increments. The current plant is still working over a 30 year timeframe.

Pat Sheehan said that as a sewer user she is anxious to see the project proceed. She said that it would cost users about \$300/year more on the average for this new plant. She opined that people who have a septic tank would have to spend at least that to pump it out each year. Ms. Sheehan felt it was worth \$300/year to have confidence in the Town's sewer system, but she was afraid that some people would not vote for the plan because they were not sewer users and did not want to pay for it.

Ms. Helm said she was more optimistic about the issue. She noted that she had recently spoken with a non-sewer user, and by end of the conversation, they had talked through the reasons why non-sewer users should help pay for this project. Ms. Helm explained that everyone in Town uses the services the Town provides, and that this new system would contribute to the quality of life in this area.

Ms. Sheehan asked what the next step was if the project gets voted down at Town Meeting. Chair Ballin said that both towns need to vote "yes" on this to proceed. If it is not passed by both towns, they'll have to reorganize and negotiate again to come up with another plan. He opined that the next plan was almost guaranteed to be more expensive than the one before them now.

Ms. Helm compared this issue to that of "It takes a village to raise a child." By the same token, it also takes a village to make a quality of life in the village. Everyone should contribute in some way. Ms.

Helm said that the sewer system contributes to the overall quality of the village. Ms. Sheehan agreed and hoped they could convince the non-sewer users to vote "yes" on this issue.

Bob Lavoie asked for estimates on cost savings once the new plant was in operation. Mr. Cheseldine said that the energy required for aeration would go down about 40%. Sludge disposal would go down from \$130,000 per year to \$40,000 per year. He noted that new buildings will need to be heated and so they'd most likely stay at where they currently with costs to run the plant, but they may rise a bit for the new buildings.

Mr. Cheseldine said that the town of Jaffrey is completing a \$10 million sewage project in which they did a similar 1/3 vs. 2/3 split for the funding. Septage was handled by using a reduced rate for members of the two towns the facility serviced. Outsiders had a doubled rate. The cost was about \$100 to the trucker for 1,000 gallons. If the Sunapee plant can take septage, the rate to use the facility would be lower for local town residents. He felt that perhaps this would help with selling the project to the townspeople. If people are pumping their septic tanks yearly, there would be a \$40-\$50 dollar savings to them.

There being no further comments with regards to this issue, Chair Ballin closed the public hearing and moved on to the regularly scheduled selectmen's meeting.

Tracy Library: Mr. Bowers was at the meeting on behalf of Tracy Library to touch base with the Board of Selectmen on the impending construction. He explained that the capital improvements plan (CIP) included upgrades to the building. Because the building is leaking heat and because it has a moisture problem (some of the clapboards are bad, and the structure may be less than solid), the right thing to do is to strip off the clapboards on the old part of the building, go inside and insulate and seal it, and then re-clapboard it.

Mr. Bowers said that they had hoped to include replacing the window sashes as well, but because of budgetary concerns, they have a limited CIP available. They have decided that they can do all the work they want in two steps rather than one. The window part is less of a problem with regards to heat seepage than the clapboard replacement and insulating, so they chose to do the windows as the second step (next year). Since the library is a Town building and the library board controls the functioning and interior, he felt it was good policy that the Board of Selectmen come on board with the projects that are of a structural nature to the building and to be part of the contract with whichever contractor they decide on.

Mr. Bowers shared that they have looked at five bids for the work but have not yet voted on one to move forward. A bid that he brought to show the Board of Selectmen had resulted from some back and forth negotiations and they are hoping it is in its final form. He said that if the library board votes to go forward, he would like the Board of Selectmen to be prepared to sign the contract alongside them. Mr. Bowers said that the next meeting was not until March 1 and he hoped to be able to have the bid reviewed and signed off by the Board of Selectmen by then.

Mr. Bowers said that he would ask the contractor to add lines at the end of the contract for the Board of Selectmen to sign, as well as a line for Tracy Library to sign, as they had done the negotiating. Ms. Levine said that the Select Board could authorize Chair Ballin to sign off for them and then they wouldn't have to wait until March 1. Mr. Bowers felt this would be the best solution.

Mr. Kaplan asked if they had any concept as to what that expenditure would result in for heat savings or electrical savings. Mr. Bowers said that some simulations had been done for the grant proposal, which Russ Aney of the Energy Committee was spearheading. There was a limited amount of money available and the heat savings, he felt, would be about \$1,200/year based on the current costs of propane. He didn't

understand all the elements of it at this point. He did say that \$1,200/year in savings did not create a lot of excitement for grant funding, but they are hopeful to get some grant funding, just the same.

Mr. Bowers explained that if the Town votes to give the Library this capital improvement money and they also get the grant, they'll have some money left over to do other projects at the Library.

Mr. Bowers shared that they have built things into the contract to protect them and make the project go the way they want it to. For example, they wrote it in a way to be able to stop the contract if they need to at any point. They also included the use of voluntary help with the project. He explained that volunteers could paint clapboards that have been pre-primed, which was a cost-saving measure. They like this contractor because they were amicable to this kind of cooperation to get the prices down.

The contractor they are leaning towards (Bruss) has worked with the Town previously on the Whipple Hall basement project. Chair Ballin said that this project came in on time and under budget and noted that they have experience working with volunteers. He felt they should have a 3<sup>rd</sup> party billing overseer to make sure it was being done right. Mr. Bowers said they will see every bill before paying it and that the contractor will be documenting everything they have accomplished on a daily basis. He added that they are asking for \$20,000 in grant money, but could really justify \$35,000.

IT WAS MOVED (Mark Kaplan) AND SECONDED (Tina Helm) that if the library trustee should vote to let the contract to Bruss, that it is the sense of the Board of Selectmen that the chairman can sign for the three of them. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Meeting Minutes:

- CAC Meeting of February 6, 2010: There were no amendments. IT WAS MOVED (Tina Helm) AND SECONDED (Larry Ballin) to approve the minutes from the CAC meeting on February 6, 2010, as circulated. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.
- February 8, 2010: Ms. Helm thought that it should be written that the "building" should be retrofitted, and not the "compactors." IT WAS MOVED (Mark Kaplan) AND SECONDED (Tina Helm) to approve the minutes from the Board of Selectmen's meeting on February 8, 2010, as amended. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Board Appointment Process: Ms. Levine said that there were current board members whose terms were up this year. She had not yet contacted those individuals to see if any of them wanted to be reappointed or who would be leaving. She explained that the CAC was part of the appointment process and was sort of a "feeder" system for other positions in the Town's government programs. In 2005 they set a two-term limit. Those on the list which she had crossed out have served two three-year terms. They will need to find new people to fill those slots. Ms. Levine said that she would keep this on the agenda for the next few meetings to see who wants to continue or to sign up.

Ms. Lavoie asked if there was anything written about what the CAC does. Ms. Levine said that there was nothing written as it is not a statutory committee but just something the Board of Selectmen created. She said that it was originally a business advisory committee and transformed into a Community Advisory Committee.

Warrant Article Assignment: Ms. Levine said that they should begin assigning the articles starting with Article 3.

Article 4 – Ms. Helm said that she would do this one. She felt it was a good time for her to propose the thought of amending the budget relating to the salary increase from the discussion at the last budget hearing, where it was voted down. She said that they, as the Selectmen, could amend the budget to go to a 2.0% increase instead of 1.5% for employee raises. Mr. Kaplan asked Ms. Levine how that would be possible, process-wise. Ms. Levine said it would be an amendment to the personnel administration line for \$“X” and would amend the bottom line total for the same amount. The number they used for the budget hearing would need to be refined because of FICA, etc.

Mr. Kaplan asked Ms. Helm if she was asking to make a motion to raise the personnel administration number by \$10,000 that would change one line item and the bottom line. Ms. Helm answered in the affirmative. She asked what doing this would add up to for the employees in terms of an increase. Ms. Levine said it depended on the employee because it would be based on their current salaries. Ms. Helm said it is such a small amount in terms of how much it would affect the individual tax payers. She opined that this issue has been tough on the employees and the Town administration and didn't feel that the Board of Selectmen had been as outspoken as they should have been until perhaps it was too late.

Mr. Kaplan said that after it was voted down at the Budget Committee meeting it occurred to him, after the meeting was over that what happened to the budget surplus year-end to year-end was that it went up almost \$400,000. The responsibility of coming in under budget to the tune of \$400,000 and then have the Budget Committee say they wouldn't give \$10,000 for another .5% increase for the employees, bothered him. He didn't think of this during the time of the proposal, or else he would have said it. He thought of this afterwards and was happy that Ms. Helm brought the subject up.

Chair Ballin said that he thought in December when they were going through with the issue of salary increases that they were comfortable with the 1.5% and were happy to be giving it. Some towns were remaining flat and giving no raises to their employees. He did not have a problem with the 1.5% and thought they have an excellent workforce and is proud of them. The next budget cycle he hoped to attempt to turn the process around so these numbers don't come in the third week in January. If they want a 3.5% raise for budget year 2011, they should put that on the table in June and not wait.

Mr. Kaplan said that in November when they all agreed on the 1.5%, they didn't know that they would be saving more than \$400,000 on the budget for the year. He made the motion at the hearing to go from 1.5% to 2% and it didn't pass. He said he felt terrible because it was such a small amount of money (\$10,000) and they still saved the Town almost \$400,000.

Bob Lavoie suggested they use the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter CPI to set whatever they want to set for raises for the next year. He said that he got a letter from his retirement program letting him know that this is how they determine his increase.

Ms. Levine said historically they have used the January CPI. Then the personnel subcommittee wanted to use October's CPI, which was 4%. They didn't want to give a 4% raise and so decided to go back and use January's CPI. Because it was a negative CPI, they recommended giving 1.5% to offset the healthcare costs. Ms. Levine said that she agreed that they should pick an indicator earlier in the year. Next year they will be developing an 18-month budget and will also be conducting a review of salaries. She hoped it will be a proactive approach in this way.

Ms. Helm had concerns about the budget process this year. She said they have a tiny opportunity to ameliorate this and it would not cost the tax payers anything. This higher increase would assure the Town employees that they are appreciated even though they wished they could give more. She felt it was the right thing to do.



Ms. Helm said this could be an amendment on the floor to Article 4. Mr. Kaplan said he'd like to see it coming from the Board of Selectmen, as it was time to show some leadership. Chair Ballin said that they have shown leadership but that they sometimes disagree on things. Ms. Levine said that there was no reason for it not to come from the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Kaplan said he would make the amendment, as the motion should be the same person introducing the article. He said he would introduce Article 4 and would not do it as a representative of the Board of Selectmen, but as an individual.

DJ Lavoie said she didn't have anything against employee raises. It is a token increase but they are also asking sewer users to pay an additional fee on sewer use. She felt next year they could move ahead and that they should leave it as-is for this year. For the citizens of the Town who are on a fixed income, prices are going up already and this would just hit them harder. Ms. Helm said that this increase would amount to an additional \$.01 on the tax rate.

Mr. Lavoie asked if they could use surplus to offset the tax rate. Ms. Levine said that they could but that she would lobby hard against this because next year they will need to save for the 18-month fiscal year.

Mr. Kaplan said that he would read the article and state his amendment, if Cotton would recognize him. They decided to ask Cotton at the March 1<sup>st</sup> meeting on how best to proceed due to the board's position on the topic.

Legislative updates: Chair Ballin said that they continue to fight the battle on the Donor Town Tax, and thanked the Concord Monitor, the Valley News and the Intertown Record for shedding some light on the issue. The petition that they have created has a lot of names on it so far. He said that one bill was shot down in the House and there was another pending.

Mr. Kaplan asked if they should be talking to their Senator. Chair Ballin said that it wouldn't hurt to stay in touch with him. Ms. Levine said that she emailed the Selectmen the revised potential figures that donor towns could be responsible for, and that they have gone up. She noted that Hanover was off the list and Unity had been put on there by mistake.

Ms. Levine noted that the Broadband Bill was sent to interim study by a 14-1 vote. She went to Concord without hopes of it passing and the first motion to send the bill to interim study failed 7-7. A motion to pass was called and the Chairman called a recess until today, saying that problems with the bill needed to be addressed. The Chairman sat at the testimony table with her back to the audience and led the committee through a speech about the bill before them being like sourdough bread and like the dough, they needed to let it bubble. She expressed her concern that the bill was not ready yet. The Chairman said that in her 15 years there, she had never had a bill cause this much controversy. She called the executive session to order and announced that she spoke to the person who made the motion for "ought to pass" and that person, Rep. Garrity, withdrew his motion. A motion passed 14:1 for an interim study.

People who were supportive of the bill apologized and said they felt this was the only way to keep the bill alive for now. The committee promised to work with Fairpoint, the towns, the PUC and interested parties to come to some sort of compromise. Ms. Levine opined this to be a disgusting display of politics. Ms. Levine said that she believes the chair has had conversations with and has made promises to their opponents. A lot of time has been taken up with this, and the rural towns of New Hampshire have been shafted by telecommunications companies and the State and the PUC.

Mr. Kaplan asked what the State's interest was in Fairpoint. Ms. Levine said that the Fairpoint plan was supported by State and they want to see their plans follow through. She was not sure if money had changed hands but felt this bill would make Fairpoint go out of business, create competition and

undermine everything the State has worked for. She didn't think it make a lot of sense. Ms. Levine said that they are trying to discourage competition from municipalities.

Ms. Levine was told by the Chairman that she had been heard and that they were watching Fairpoint. She told them that they would be watching Fairpoint as well. She opined that Fairpoint wasn't able to bring the type of bandwidth this state needs.

#### Upcoming Meetings

- MAC Meeting – Chair Ballin said this would happen on Friday, February 19.

Ms. Levine said that on March 1<sup>st</sup> the Board of Selectmen will meet again. The CAC will meet on March 6<sup>th</sup>, and March 8<sup>th</sup> will be the last Board of Selectmen meeting before Town Meeting.

#### Meeting Reports

Budget Committee: There were no comments from the Select Board.

#### Other Business

- Chair Ballin indicated that Russ Aney from the Energy Committee called in a panic because Bradford decided they were not interested in applying for the grant for KRSD. They were afraid their inclusion in the grant would jeopardize their own grants. Chair Ballin suggested to Mr. Aney to ask them to support the grant but not to address any dollar amount to their own town. This idea was well received by Mr. Aney. Chair Ballin said they were lucky to have Mr. Aney working with the Town. Ms. Levine said he has done a great job. He did work for a library grant, a lighting grant, the school system grant, and has worked to explore the possibility of micro-hydro power in the area.
- Ms. Levine noted that they put the police cruiser for surplus auction/bid process. One bid came in for \$2,100. The Kelly Blue Book value for the same vehicle in fair condition was \$6,000. Chief Dave Seastrand said that the vehicle needed electrical work, as well as some other work, and suggested they take the bid. Ms. Levine said they usually get between \$3,500 and \$4,100 on a 3-year rotation for a cruiser that usually has about 90,000 miles. The Expedition is a 2003 and has 82,000 miles. Ms. Levine asked the Board of Selectmen to authorize the acceptance of the bid, if they felt so moved. She added that the bidder's name was Rebecca Partridge.

IT WAS MOVED (Mark Kaplan) AND SECONDED (Tina Helm) to accept the bid of \$2,100 for the 2003 Ford Expedition. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

- Ms. Levine mentioned that last summer the Recreation Department leased a van from the Hospital for use for the summer camp and some trips. It was in poor condition and is not available for use. Mr. Denning has found out that Woodcrest would be replacing their van, which was a 12 passenger van with a lift. They are willing to lease it to the Recreation Department for \$300/month starting in April. The hospital lease was \$250/month. Ms. Levine thought that this was a really good opportunity for the Recreation Department. Mr. Kaplan asked how many months the lease would be for. Ms. Levine said that to start it would be month to month through the summer. Mr. Denning would determine if he would want to use it beyond that. She added that the van would be paid for out of the Recreation Department's revolving fund. Ms. Helm asked what the van could be used for in the winter. Ms. Levine said it could be used to take people on trips of a recreational in nature. Chair Ballin said perhaps they could look at it as a lease-to-buy situation. Mr. Lavoie asked if they Recreation

Department would have unlimited use of the van. Ms. Levine said they would. She and Chad Denning will return with more information.

- Ms. Levine asked Chair Ballin if he would like Mr. Cheseldine at Town Meeting to make a presentation. Chair Ballin said it would be good to have him there to answer questions but not to make a presentation. Ms. Levine asked about having some displays on hand with photos of the current facility. Chair Ballin said that it would be great if Mr. Cheseldine could prepare something to display at Town Meeting.

Application for Building Permits:

- Barbara Troxell Trust – 357 Forest Acres Road – (Map & Lot #118-020-000) build screen porch under existing deck – Permit #10-009 **DENIED**.
- Donald & Elizabeth Kintis – 80 Edmunds Road – (Map & Lot 095-033-000) interior renovations/finish basement adding bath – Permit #10-010 – Approved.
- Nancy Broadhead Living Trust – 559 County Road – (Map & Lot #082-035-000) add 42x50 pole barn over existing barn – existing barn roof is weak – Permit #10-011 – Approved.
- Gary Anderson & Cornelia Boyle – 750 Little Sunapee Road – (Map & Lot 021-001-000) demolish boathouse structure only – Permit #10-012 – Approved.

Application for use of Ausbon Sargent Common:

- Center for the Arts – Farmers' Market – Wednesdays June 30, 2010 - September 15, 2010 – 1:00 PM – 7:00 PM – approved.

Application for Temporary Sign Permits:

- LSVNA – Renaissance Shop – sign at 107 Newport Road – sale 2-27-2010 8 am – 4 pm – Approved.
- NLOC – OCIC – sign at Information Booth – Mystery Dinner Show Saturday March 13, 2010 6:00 pm – Approved.
- NLOC – OCIC – sign at Information Booth – All Sport Sale – March 26 & 27, 2010 – Approved.
- NLOC – OCIC – sign at Information Booth – Hoop Fest – April 10, 2010 – Approved.

Application for Permanent Sign Permits:

- Robert Stahlman, 74 Pleasant St (Map & Lot 084-079-000) sign #1: Stahlman Building 74, sign #2: Stifel Nicoulas Investment Counselors – Approved.

Other:

- Disbursement voucher week of February 15, 2010 - Approved.
- Notice of Intent To Cut – Kathi Kelly – Map & Lot 048-003-000 – Approved.

IT WAS MOVED (Mark Kaplan) AND SECONDED (Tina Helm) to adjourn the Board of Selectmen's meeting of February 17, 2010. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristy Heath, Recording Secretary  
Town of New London