



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES March 22, 2010

PRESENT:

Tina Helm, Chair
Mark Kaplan, Selectman
Peter Bianchi, Selectman
Jessie Levine, Town Administrator

ALSO PRESENT:

Michael Doheny, New London resident
Debbie Cross, Reporter for *The Villager*
Erle Blanchard, New London resident
Leigh Bosse, Owner, *The Messenger*

To begin the meeting, Mark Kaplan noted that they would need to nominate a board member to take over as chair.

IT WAS MOVED (Mark Kaplan) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) that Tina Helm take the role of Chair of the Board of Selectmen for 2010. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chair Tina Helm called the meeting to order at 6:01PM.

Meeting Minutes: Ms. Helm noted that the first thing on the agenda was to approve the minutes from March 1 and March 6. IT WAS MOVED (Mark Kaplan) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to approve the minutes from March 1, 2010. Chair Helm asked to postpone approval for the minutes before them, as she had not read through them yet. The rest of the board agreed to review the minutes at the next meeting.

Board/Committee representation: The next item on the agenda was to appoint Select Board representatives to several boards. The Planning Board, the Budget Committee and the Economic Development Committee each have a seat meant for a representative from the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Kaplan noted that in this case, there was a special circumstance, in that two of the Board of Selectmen members had spouses on one of the aforementioned boards. Therefore, they would need to select representatives from the Board of Selectmen keeping that fact in mind.

IT WAS MOVED (Peter Bianchi) AND SECONDED (Tina Helm) to nominate Mark Kaplan as the Budget Committee representative from the Board of Selectmen. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chair Helm noted that since she is now the Chair of the Board of Selectmen, she would relinquish her position of representative to the Planning Board.

IT WAS MOVED (Mark Kaplan) AND SECONDED (Tina Helm) to nominate Peter Bianchi as the Planning Board representative from the Board of Selectmen. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Kaplan explained that he has been attending the Economic Development Committee meetings as an interested citizen. He was agreeable to continue going to the meetings as the representative of the Board of Selectmen. Chair Helm asked for a motion to confirm this idea.

IT WAS MOVED (Tina Helm) AND SECONDED (Peter Bianchi) to nominate Mark Kaplan as the Economic Development Committee representative from the Board of Selectmen. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Projects & Priorities for 2010: Jessie Levine explained that the list before the Board of Selectmen was the list they had used in 2009, with the addition of things that had come up during the year, as well as some new things that were planned for 2010.

- **GASB:** Ms. Levine explained that the GASB compliance had been done. This pertains to the fact that they have listed the fixed assets and liabilities as part of their financial statements for the Town. It will be effective for the 2009 audit. Since it had not been done as of the end of the year for 2008, it was not reflected in the most recent town report. Ms. Levine said that the audit report will be early this year, and that the auditors have already come and gone. She hopes to have the letter by the end of May. She added that it will be done in a timely fashion this year as she chastised them for their very late turnaround last year.
- Ms. Levine said that projects added this year included the statistical update, a salary study, and the Elkins and Main Street projects. Ms. Levine noted that with respect to the Elkins project, the Town should hear about the final grant approval formally by letter in July but she hopes to find out informally before then. She shared that both she and Richard Lee (Public Works Director) went to Concord to present the final project. The revised grant total would be \$792,000, down from \$862,000. They had to remove the Mesa building and the State also asked them to add inflation to the construction estimate. Ms. Levine explained that the right of way figure had been \$125,000, which included the building, and the archaeological and historical review was \$24,000. She still thinks the archaeological impact study will need to be done.

Ms. Levine said there is some private interest in the building that they are no longer planning to purchase. What they heard from the Federal Highway Administration was that if they were not going to use the whole building, they wouldn't give the Town the full amount. The FHWA did not want to pay for New London to tear down a building. Peter Bianchi asked about the \$2,000 that they had been approved to spend to study the building. Ms. Levine said that the money was never used.

- Main Street Paving: Ms. Levine said that on March 30, there would be a construction meeting for the paving project on Main Street. Richard Lee, Chief Seastrand and Chief Lyon would be going to the meeting to be involved in the planning. This would not be an entire rebuild, but just paving to re-surface the road. The Town will be doing some drainage work in conjunction with the paving. Chair Helm asked if a Board of Selectmen member should also attend. Ms. Levine said that it was not necessary.

Mr. Kaplan asked if the Town needed to do anything about contacting the Department of Transportation to give them their desired plans for Main Street when they eventually fix it. Ms. Levine said that the Main Street project is currently at the end of the 10-year Plan, and that nothing is going to be done in the near future with the road. Mr. Bianchi opined that it seemed like a shame to spend so much money paving the road because at this time next year it will be in bad condition again. He felt it would be better to get the road ready to fix by perhaps putting in a new culvert here and there. Ms. Levine said that the State will grind one portion of the road but would not be digging it up.

She added that the State wants to be done with this project by August 1st so will be starting at some point this summer. No start date has been given to the Town as of yet.

Mr. Bianchi asked if the intersection for Main Street and Pleasant Street was a different project than Main Street. Ms. Levine said that she had applied for a grant to make the intersection safer. They didn't get the money and so the project is still on the back burner.

- Public Works Department: On the list of projects is to establish a road acceptance policy. They have one currently, but it is not streamlined and needs to be re-written. Ms. Levine noted that at some point Harry Snow will be coming in with a few roads that he would like the Town to begin to maintain. Mr. Snow has created his roads with the thought that the Town would one day take them over. Ms. Levine explained that the road(s) would have to meet the specifications put forth by the Planning Board in order for the Town to take over maintenance of it.
- Single Stream Recycling: Ms. Levine explained that this project was added to the list. She said that she and Mr. Lee talked about this plan last week. The question was whether they want to consider pursuing a relationship with NRRA or the Concord Regional Coop. Ms. Levine is of the thinking that they will probably recommend the Coop and not NRRA.

Mr. Bianchi asked if there would be a long term contract with the Coop. Ms. Levine answered in the affirmative and explained that it would be a 15-year contract. Mr. Bianchi said that he was worried about such a lengthy contract. Chair Helm asked how long NRRA had been in business. Ms. Levine said that it had been quite a while, but that they have changed executive directors a lot. Ms. Levine felt that the outreach from NRRA wasn't as good as it has been in the past. She said that optimally, she would like to bring the Board of Selectmen two choices with regards to Single Stream recycling vendors.

Chair Helm said she thought there was a provision for pulling out of the contract before the 15 years was up. Ms. Levine said that this was true. If the tipping fee for recycling exceeds the tipping fee for trash, they can get out of the contract. She felt they may be able to negotiate with them a bit on the length of the contract or the specifics of how they could get out early if need be.

Mr. Bianchi said that Mr. Kaplan's presentation on Single Stream recycling at Town Meeting gave him some ideas of how this new plan may cause the Town to lose money. He appreciated that Mr. Kaplan had some experience with this sort of scenario. Ms. Levine noted that there was some talk of getting involved with the Concord coop for trash disposal. Hopkinton and Webster just pulled out and there was interest in talking with New London on using their facilities. Mr. Lee and Ms. Levine both feel that they do not want to recommend to the Town joining another coop. In addition, the Town's current vendor has offered no increases to the tipping fees until 2017.

Mr. Kaplan said that in terms of single stream itself, the offset is that they give up the "long dollar." They sell their paper and tin and plastic but the current pricing, due to the poor economy, is that they are paying people to come pick it up. The numbers will go back up, but he wasn't sure when. Ms. Levine said that with a poor economy, trash tonnage comes down, but it will go back up when the economy comes up. Mr. Kaplan said that when people have more trash to get rid of, the Transfer Station gets cumbersome and crowded and is very hard to get in and out. Mr. Bianchi said that they could do things to alleviate this crowding, such as open on Sunday mornings, even if it adds cost.

Mr. Bianchi asked how many tractor trailer loads were currently being brought per week. Ms. Levine said it was between two and three per week.

Ms. Levine shared that the “Pay as You Throw” (PAYT) and Single Stream (SS) generate about the same increase in recycling. By putting both programs together they would not expect to double the increase. She explained that they would not want to start a PAYT program without improving the way the Town recycles. She said that single stream could be done without PAYT, but PAYT should not be done without single stream. Chair Helm shared that Hopkinton just went to PAYT.

Mr. Kaplan asked about the existence of a Solid Waste Committee. Ms. Levine said that there are interested people in a committee, but no one wants to chair. There was some discussion of those interested people, and after some time, Chair Helm suggested shelving this discussion until the Board of Selectmen discusses board and committee appointments.

- Transfer Station Regulations: Ms. Levine explained that these regulations had not been updated since 1988. They were still valid but need to be updated. Chair Helm asked about how much time it would take to complete this task. Ms. Levine said about 20 hours. The project entails getting samples from other towns, and getting a boiler plate from DES. Mr. Bianchi opined that if the Solid Waste Committee was revived, they could do this project.
- Sewer Project: Ms. Levine said that she and Sunapee Town Manager Donna Nashawaty had spoken and concluded that New London would not have to independently seek any bonds or notes for their share of the sewer project. They do have to pay Sunapee back, but they will appropriate each year their share of the principal and interest. Ms. Levine has confirmed this with Town Counsel Bart Mayer. Ms. Levine said that Ms. Nashawaty has spoken with Neal Cheseldine of Wright-Pearce and he said that it looks like they will be required to borrow from USDA RDA, whose interest rate is down to 3.25%. The RDA wants a letter from the local banks saying that they won't lend the Town the money. Ms. Levine explained that Lake Sunapee Bank (LSB) has been willing to loan but is offering a variable rate. She opined that the whole outlook of how they will pay the money back for this project is improving.

Ms. Levine noted that when they go to the joint meeting with the Sunapee Sewer Department on April 29, they will be prepared to talk about this with them. She added that due to the fact that New London doesn't have to borrow for 30 years, Sunapee would like a rider to the joint agreement saying that New London will pay Sunapee back over the next 30 years. Ms. Nashawaty has now said rates are at 3.25% and they seem to keep coming down. Mr. Kaplan felt that if they were to go directly to a local bank, they could possibly get a loan for less than 2.65%. His point was that if the RDA is going to give them a grant and loan them the money, he wants to be sure that we have the right to pre-pay without penalty. He asked if there could be a clause included in the contract to reflect this option. Ms. Levine said that there is currently prepayment language in the contract, which she would send to him for review. Mr. Kaplan thought perhaps they could borrow money at a lower rate and then pay off the RDA early, if possible. Ms. Levine said she thought the language said they could pre-pay. Mr. Kaplan felt it would be good for RDA to get paid back early so they could re-lend the money to someone else.

- Police Department: No upcoming projects.
- Skateboard Park: The Skatepark Committee is still trying to find a suitable site and is now considering the Kidder-Cleveland property next to Bittersweet on Pleasant Street.
- Zoning: Ms. Levine said that for some it has been on their list to bring more public education and awareness of zoning regulations and practices.

- Facilities: Ms. Levine said that at one point the Selectmen had hoped to have Peter Stanley chair a Town Facilities Committee, which would be involved in setting up maintenance plans for Town buildings. The idea for this committee came after the library and Whipple Hall went through renovations, which were costly and lengthy. Mr. Stanley has been too busy to take this on.
- Info Booth: It has been on the projects list to revisit the sign regulations for the Information Booth.
- Cell Tower: Mr. Bianchi suggested adding this to the list of projects and all agreed it should be there.
- Portsmouth Coalition: Mr. Kaplan suggested adding the Town's legislative efforts with the Portsmouth Coalition. He said that that day they got something from Pat Remick about a Coalition Message Working Group. This would be a group that would work to prevent donor towns from coming back. Ms. Levine said that she would respond to Ms. Remick's email, saying that Mr. Kaplan would be interested in becoming involved with the group.

Mr. Kaplan asked about the pension funding and whether there was anything they could do to straighten it out. He also wanted to know where they stood with the Highway Block Grants and the Rooms and Meals Tax. Ms. Levine said that she monitors those things and will let them know if she needs more bodies to help represent New London. She noted that both the Highway Block Grants and the Rooms and Meals Tax are still on the chopping block. Right now they haven't been touched but that could change. She said that they are suggesting increasing the employees' share of unemployment.

Ms. Levine asked if there were any other additions to the project list for 2010. There were none.

Meeting Schedule: The next item on the agenda was to set the meeting schedule for the Board of Selectmen. Since Mr. Bianchi preferred evening meetings, Mr. Kaplan preferred morning meetings, and Chair Helm was flexible for either timeframe, it was decided to alternate every other week with morning and evening meetings. The upcoming meetings were scheduled for:

- Monday, April 5 at 8 AM
- Saturday, April 10 (CAC Meeting) at 7:30 AM (Ms. Levine cannot attend).
- Monday, April 19 at 6 PM
- Tuesday, May 4 at 8 AM
- Saturday, May 8 (CAC Meeting) at 7:30 AM (Chair Helm and Ms. Levine will both be absent from this meeting)
- Monday, May 17 at 6 PM
- Tuesday, June 1 at 8 AM

Ms. Levine noted that John Wilson has asked to schedule the first budget meeting on May 19 at 7 PM.

Chair Helm asked about whether the DOT had updated the Town on their plans to finish their project at Crockett's Corner. Ms. Levine said that they haven't scheduled anything yet but are planning to come back sometime in April. She will find out more information.

Mr. Kaplan asked about the meeting honoring Lew Feldstein. Ms. Levine said that she had received a "Save the Date" card for the event on June 15. She said that she wasn't sure she was going to go to it. Mr. Kaplan said that he'd like to go.

Board and Committee Appointments: Ms. Levine referred to the Board Appointment Process that was decided in 2005. She asked if the Board of Selectmen wanted to continue conducting interviews for returning members or for new members. For the Planning Board, Michael Doheny and Deirdre Sheerr-Gross (as alternate) both want to serve another term. Karen Ebel would be stepping down after 18 years, leaving a vacancy. There is the option to recommend that either Ms. Sheerr-Gross or John Tilley (alternates) move into the permanent seat if they are willing, and the Selectmen could appoint another alternate or they could appoint someone directly to Karen's seat who is not currently serving on the Planning Board.

Ms. Levine said that there is one alternate stepping down from the Zoning Board. She said that the position can be filled but they haven't needed to use all the alternates they currently have. Zoning Board alternates are only called to serve if five full members are not able to attend a meeting. There are other alternates still, and so it is not vital that this alternate position be filled.

Ms. Levine noted that all three Conservation Commission members want to come back for another term. She added that the two commissioners on the Recreation Department want to be reappointed.

Mr. Bianchi asked if the Board of Selectmen would need to appoint the Firewards. Ms. Levine answered in the affirmative. It was noted that Dick Brady would be moving, which would leave an opening. Ms. Levine said that Chief Lyon has been talking to various people to find out who would be willing to serve.

Ms. Levine said that Amy Rankins (Land Use Coordinator) has spoken to Bill Green (Chair of the Zoning Board). Ms. Levine has spoken to Tom Cottrill (Chair of the Planning Board) and Andy Deegan (Chair of the Conservation Commission) and all are happy with the people who are currently serving on their boards.

Chair Helm said that if the chairmen of the boards were happy with the job those returning individuals are doing, it is not a good use of time to re-interview them. New people should probably be interviewed. Mr. Bianchi said they are always trying to make the boards representative of the Town. They need to make sure that they don't end up stacking their committees with one category over another. He opined it a tough decision if the three of them think the board is leaning one way or another. He said that he has no personal knowledge of anything like this happening, but felt they should be interviewing everyone. Ms. Levine agreed. Mr. Bianchi said that it probably would not happen very often, but that it would be the Board of Selectmen's job to decide whether someone should or should not be reappointed. Ms. Helm said even if they have the interview as part of the process, it doesn't mean they have to exercise it this year. Mr. Kaplan noted that there were no term limits for these appointed positions. Ms. Levine said that they should look for a balance of experience and fresh ideas.

Ms. Levine noted that the CAC had a limit of two three-year terms and there were 13 people who had reached that term limit. She explained that the Board of Selectmen has tried to use the CAC as a feeder program for other committees in the Town. Paul Gorman, member of the CAC, has written a letter of interest for a seat with the Planning Board or the Zoning Board. She suggested that he could possibly be interviewed as an alternate for either one of these boards.

Mr. Bianchi said that he looked at the 2003 Town Report and noticed that there were many members of the CAC listed there, who were still serving today. Ms. Levine said that she would suggest interviewing prospective board members (not including CAC) at the April 5 meeting. It was agreed that they would not need to interview those being reappointed, however they will need to interview new applicants for the Planning and Zoning boards.

Mr. Bianchi opined that the Planning Board is a critical board and felt it would be better to have one of the alternates move to a full member position. He felt that would be the logical way to move members around. Ms. Levine asked them to decide what they wanted to do for the Planning Board vacancy. Mr. Bianchi said he would like to interview Paul Gorman. Chair Helm said she would be inclined to check with John Tilley first and that she would contact him directly.

It was decided that the Board of Selectmen would also interview candidates for the Fireward seats.

Ms. Levine said that there were six CAC individuals who had been on for only one term. She thought they should keep those people on for a second term. This would mean a reappointment of Rip Cross, Jack Harrod, Howard Hoke, Anne Loeffler, Gary Markoff and David Payne. Mr. Kaplan said that he had no problem with any of these people being reappointed for another term.

Mr. Bianchi said that he thinks that long time residents bring a historical perspective to the CAC and felt if the committee only consisted of “newcomers,” it wouldn’t be as beneficial. He felt Bob MacMichael enjoyed being on the committee and added a lot to it. He said that he had no problem breaking the rules to allow him to stay on for another term. The entire Board of Selectmen felt they should reappoint Mr. MacMichael. Chair Helm asked if doing this for one person would set a precedent for others in the future. It was decided that it would not set a precedent.

Ms. Levine had been collecting some names as possible CAC additions, including: Ted Lockhart, Phyllis Piotrow, Jerry Gold, Carolyn Lockhart, Trisha Tilley, Jack Sheehan, Ben Cushing, Karen Ebel, Beth Swanson, Terri Bingham, and Bud Dick. For business representatives she suggested: Marcy Vierzen, Bernie Wesoja, Tally Jones, and Read Clarke. Ms. Levine said that this was just her first stab at a list and that they usually invite people who ran for office and didn’t win.

Ms. Levine said she would give those seven people to be reappointed a call, and that she would also email the list of people she read off, to see if they were interested in joining the CAC. Chair Helm said that she would be willing to call these people if Ms. Levine would forward their contact information to her.

Fiber Project: Ms. Levine gave a broadband project update for Mr. Bianchi’s benefit, since he was new to the board. She said that the group started as WCNH.net, working to bring fiber optics to the towns. Now there are 43 towns, partnering with UNH and Dartmouth, DRED, and the Community Development Finance Authority, and even Fairpoint Communications has been part of the discussion. They are working on an application for broadband stimulus funds. She is drafting a report, which doesn’t commit them to anything, but explains their eagerness to have broadband brought to the towns.

Mr. Bianchi said that he would like to sit down with Ms. Levine to get some background on this project. Ms. Levine explained that there is a need for fiber to future-proof the region. There is no capacity for high bandwidth for the future. Without broadband New London won’t be a player in the New Hampshire or US economy. The other thing they don’t have right now is a lot of competition. At the Town Office, for example, they can get Comcast or TDS. Other parts of Town can choose between Fairpoint or Comcast. Ms. Levine shared that 70% of Hanover is on dialup. Towns like Enfield, Springfield, Newbury and Sunapee are feeling that the whole economy of the region relies on real bandwidth and real fiber access. This is what got them started in 2005 on the project.

Ms. Levine said that there definitely is an argument against participating in this project. She said, however, that the application where they were applying for federal stimulus money available wasn’t going to cost the Town a penny. She added that the funds would be matched by private funds. They are trying to establish a revolving loan fund to allow broadband to be built out over the state. New London is not high on the list. It will go around them the first time and then they would get it on the next round. Mr.

Bianchi said he couldn't make an informed decision on the issue because he is not familiar with the technology.

Mr. Kaplan said that he thought of it in this way: if a town has dirt roads, some people may believe that because they have them, they do not need paved highways. At some point the dirt roads will not be good enough. Broadband is like a paved superhighway. If they are going to go to high speed, they may as well go to the best.

Ms. Levine said that another point of the project is that because they will be using stimulus funds, the system will have to be open access. Any vendor can come on and use it. The idea is that they will build the road and others can come in and use it and provide services. Fairpoint has said that they will come in and use whatever road is made. Mr. Bianchi said that he would need to think about whether this will benefit the entire town.

Chair Helm asked where the private funds would come from. Ms. Levine said that it would be coming from banks and from private vendors partnering in the project, such as Teljet and Bayring. She stressed that the Town was not in a borrowing situation for this project.

Mr. Bianchi asked about some of the language used in the letter Ms. Levine had drafted. He asked about the words "intent to purchase." Ms. Levine said that they would intend to purchase services over this new system, should it be constructed. She said this is an intent, not a commitment, because obviously the availability and pricing of the services are not known yet. She said, for example, they would like to have offsite storage for backing up files for the Town but that it is not currently possible; the bandwidth is not large enough.

He asked about the phrase "We encourage the construction...". Ms. Levine urged that the letter is not a commitment letter. It is a letter of intent. The system could use the current providers or new providers who are not here now. If the Town wanted to add a service, she would bring it to the Board of Selectmen to decide. There wouldn't be a need for a vote of the taxpayers to change vendors. She gave the example of when the electricity supplier changed, they did not need the support from the townspeople.

Ms. Levine explained that the towns of Enfield and Rindge would be the first towns to get the build-out. New London doesn't meet any of the grant requirements or the "need" requirements. Mr. Kaplan said that this work being done is the future of high speed internet access in the Town. If they don't go through with this and get it, they'll wish they did in about four year's time.

Mr. Bianchi said that as long as it isn't a commitment to spend any money, he was fine with it. Ms. Levine noted that the Town can't spend any money and the State can't hold them to committing to the services, as they don't even know who the vendors are or what the services to be provided are.

Committee Reports: There were none.

Citizens Advisory Committee on April 10: Ms. Levine asked if there were any agenda items for this meeting. Ms. Levine said that she would not be at this meeting, as she will be at a class in Manchester. The Selectmen asked if Richard Lee could come to the meeting to update Committee members on Public Works projects.

Scenic Byways: Ms. Levine said that there would be a public presentation of this program on Wednesday, April 14 in Newbury. It would be a presentation of the corridor management plan. The scenic byway loop around Lake Sunapee will now include New London and Main Street. Chair Helm said that she was planning to go to the meeting.

Regional LGC dinners: Ms. Levine said that LGC is holding regional dinners to brief their members about activities and events relating to LGC. In response to changes in the LGC, and because of the lawsuits and negative press LGC has been receiving, they want a forum to explain who they are and what they do. Ms. Levine said that they are trying to reach out to the people. She said that since the April 22 dinner conflicted with a joint Board of Selectmen meeting, she would email the other towns and perhaps reschedule the meeting so that more people could attend the regional meeting. Everyone felt that this was a good idea.

Joint Board of Selectmen meeting: This meeting may be rescheduled (see above).

Joint Sewer Meeting on April 29: Ms. Levine explained that this is a quarterly meeting between the Board of Selectmen and the Sewer Commission. They will focus on where they stand with project design and the funding schedule for the updated facility. Mr. Bianchi said he would try to go. Chair Helm said that she is planning to go. Ms. Levine reminded the Selectmen that this is a quarterly meeting among both boards and is required by the joint agreement, so all Selectmen should attend if they can.

Other business:

Mr. Bianchi said that at Town Meeting he made some observations. He said he was surprised that the Selectmen didn't stand up and speak against the Article 10 amendment by supporting what they put in the Town Report as recommended by the Budget Committee. This was Dave Cook's amendment. Mr. Bianchi said that he has talked to Ms. Levine about the position the Board should have when it comes to supporting the decisions it makes. He said this bothered him. Ms. Levine said that they were all at the Board of Selectmen meeting where they voted not support the article. Mr. Bianchi opined that if something is recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee at Town Meeting, someone from the Select Board should defend the position. Ms. Levine said that hypothetically, couldn't the Selectmen support the original article and also the amendment? She felt they could. Mr. Bianchi did not agree. Ms. Levine said that earlier in the year they talked about amending Article 4 for personnel raises. She felt that the Selectmen can both support the article and an amendment to it.

Chair Helm felt that Town Meeting was where residents have an opportunity to speak and express themselves if they desire. The Board of Selectmen clearly stated where they stood and she subscribed to letting the process take its course and let it go to the voters to decide.

Mr. Bianchi also remarked that at Town Meeting he questioned whether or not it was understood by the people about the 2/3, 1/3 split for the sewer fees. He got the impression that the way it was presented, it was going to go 2/3, 1/3. He said that at a selectmen's meeting it was 2/3, 1/3 but that it was not voted on at Town Meeting. Mr. Kaplan said that if the Board of Selectmen doesn't change their mind the 2/3, 1/3 is exactly how it will happen. Ms. Levine noted that the sewer project won by 300 votes and there were only four questions asked and that there didn't seem to be a lot of confusion. Mr. Bianchi said that he didn't think that by voting the bond issue, that they thought they were voting on 2/3, 1/3. Ms. Levine said they were voting on the bond and that the Selectmen had said that they planned to use a 2/3, 1/3 formula. He said that to him, it would be much more open if they explained that if the Town approved the sewer bond, the appropriations suggested by the Board of Selectmen were 2/3, 1/3. The other members of the Board said that this was how it was presented at Town Meeting.

Mr. Bianchi asked about the upgrade to the sewer plant. He wanted to know what the gallonage had to do with the cost being charged to sewer and non-sewer users. Ms. Levine said that it has to do with how the sewer users pay, but not how the tax payers pay. He said that he was confused as how the rate charged for the sewer goes towards fixing the plant. Ms. Levine said that the Sunapee plant is part of the

maintenance and operations the Town pays for the plant. The plant is half of their sewer budget. The payments they pay to Sunapee are half of what it costs to operate the facility. Ms. Levine explained that the biggest users pay the highest amount.

Mr. Kaplan said that the capital costs would be split 2/3, 1/3 and after the grant there would be borrowed funds to pay off plus interest every month. This must be added to the operations fees. The fees are passed on back to the New London Sewer Commission, and then to the users. Ms. Levine said the more you use, the more you pay at a fixed rate for everyone.

Ms. Levine noted that some towns have block rates where the higher users pay more. The rate goes up in addition to the gallons going up. They felt that this formula would be too complicated, and so the 2/3, 1/3 formula was agreed upon.

Mr. Bianchi asked another question about the paying of \$5,000 to fix the Police Cruiser's transmission. Ms. Levine said that it was \$3,700 to fix transmission and another \$700 to fix something else that broke on the vehicle afterwards, plus other maintenance during the past year.

Ms. Levine said that she had heard one suggestion to think about for next year's Town Meeting. She heard that the Selectmen's presentations were not informative or well-heard. People would like to hear more from the Department Heads. Ms. Levine said that there were no questions on any articles and so the public didn't hear from the Department Heads. Chair Helm thought that hearing more from the Department Heads was a good idea. She said that they work hard to craft their budgets and if for no other reason, the voters should have an idea of who they are. Erle Blanchard said that perhaps at a minimum they should be introduced.

Chair Helm said that she was happy to see more of the Budget Committee members sitting in the front row at Town Meeting. Ms. Levine noted that she was surprised at how many Budget Committee members voted against the cell tower project. Chair Helm said she had heard that the Selectmen hadn't had enough transparency on the talk of the cell tower project. She felt, however, that there were plenty of opportunities for the townspeople to learn about this project. Mr. Kaplan said that no matter how many meetings are held and advertised, people come to the Town Meeting without having any idea about what is going on. Chair Helm said they have to keep reminding themselves that they are completely immersed in these things and they sometimes assume that everyone else is at the same level of comprehension.

The Messenger: Leigh Bosse, owner of *The Messenger*, introduced himself to the Board of Selectmen. He explained that over the next couple of months they will be mailing *The Messenger* to the post office boxes. They hope to develop some more business by doing this. He noted that the publication has been alive since 1868 and that small weekly newspapers are dying. They are trying to fight and expand. Mr. Bosse said that he had seen an article where Ms. Levine had indicated that it was hard to get the word out about meetings and goings on in the Town. He said that he would be happy to have a page for the Town's news, or even for their newsletter. Ms. Levine said that she was interested and would be happy to submit something to the publication.

Application for Building Permits:

- Robert & Brenda Montagna, Westside Drive, (Map & Lot 055-012-004) construct new 4 bedroom colonial with attached 2 car garage – Permit #10-016 – Approved.
- John & Louise Chowanski, 1502 King Hill Road, (Map & Lot 129-018-000) construction of new barn – Permit #10-017 – Approved.
- Gordon & Teresa Bingham, 82 Little Cove Road (Map & Lot 105-002-000) renovate basement – Permit #10-018 – Approved.

- Bruce & Nancy Stetson, 89 Little Cove Road (Map & Lot 106-019-000) renovate basement – Permit #10-019 – Approved.
- John & Mary Shea, 134 Hastings Landing road (Map & Lot 103-010-000) repair foundation walls, install drainage and slab under existing porch – Permit #10-020 – Approved.
- JBM Realty Trust, 59 Fieldstone Lane (Map & Lot 093-007-000) replace top decking and possibly some supports – Permit #10-021 – Approved.
- Carr Land Holdings, Soo Nipi Park (Map & Lot 136-007-000) remove patio and shuffle board courts and replant using erosion control plan – Permit #10-022 – Approved.

Application for use of Clark Pond Lookout:

- Tom Gallo & Kerin Nestor, 7-24-2010 1:00-2:00 Wedding – Approved.

Application for use of Sydney Crook Room:

- Franklin Pierce Law Center – training for 6 students – Thursday, March 25, 2010 8:30AM-12:30PM – Approved.

Application for use of Whipple Memorial Hall:

- Town of New London Recreation Department, June 28-July 2, 10AM-2PM and July 6-August 19, 12-4PM Tuesdays & Thursdays only – Approved.

Application for Permanent Sign:

- Charles & Mikiko McGee, 26 Stoney Brook Road (Map & Lot 128-013-000) McGee Tile Installations – Approved.

Application for Temporary Sign:

- Annual Garden Party – Tracy Library Garden, June 27, sign to be posted at Chamber 6/20-6/27 – Approved.
- Kearsarge Community Presbyterian Church – 82 King Hill Road, New London, 2 signs – one at Information Booth, 2nd at church – Yard Sale May 29, 2010 – Approved.

Other:

- Disbursement voucher week of March 15 & 22, 2010 - Approved.
- Veteran's applications– Approved.
- 2010 Town registration form for NH the Beautiful/Litter Free NH program– Approved.

IT WAS MOVED (Tina Helm) AND SECONDED (Mark Kaplan) to adjourn the Board of Selectmen's meeting of March 22, 2010. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Heath, Recording Secretary
Town of New London