



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

375 MAIN STREET • NEW LONDON, NH 03257 • NEWLONDON.NH.GOV

NEW LONDON BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 24, 2024

Whipple Memorial Town Hall

6:30 PM

BUDGET COMMITTEE PRESENT: Chris Lorio, (Chair), Colin Beasley (Vice Chair), John Wilson, Hannah Bianchi, Mark Christensen, Melissa Leintz, Charles Kelsey, Lyndsay Harkins, Lou Botta, Bebe Casey, Selectman Representative

STAFF: Kimberly Hallquist, Town Administrator; Lynn Lewis, Finance Officer

ALSO PRESENT: Robert Harrington, DPW Director; Police Chief Emily Cobb; Fire Chief Jay Lyon; Joe Cardillo; Karen Epstein; John Ellis; Selectman Bill Helm; Bob Bowers; Rob Prohl and Mark Vernon, Conservation Commission members, Janet Miller Haines; Sherry Williams and Steve Soloman, Tracy Library Trustees

Chair Chris Lorio opened the meeting and asked Selectman Casey for her Selectman's report.

Selectmen's Report

Selectman Casey gave the following report:

Selectman Casey noted that the Selectmen have not met since that last Budget Committee meeting, however she wanted to correct something she said at the last meeting with regard to the Selectmen's decisions on capital reserve funds as she misunderstood what Selectman Helm said. Selectman Casey noted that Colin Beasley's PowerPoint does reflect the correct information.

Capital Reserve Transfers In and Out

Chair Lorio noted that the Committee left off hearing from the Conservation Commission and their request for funds into the capital reserve fund (CRF). He has also heard that there was a change to the request from the Library Trustees. Selectman Casey agreed and noted that the Trustees reduced their capital reserve fund request to \$60,000 however the Selectmen decided to keep the payment into the Library fund at the \$100,000 that was originally requested.

Colin Beasley updated the committee on prior discussions with Bob Brown of the Conservation Commission: (1) suggestions that the CRF purpose be changed to allow funds to be used for infrastructure improvements which the Conservation Commission decided not to support and (2) they were considering requesting another fund but have decided against pursuing it in this budget year.

Rob Prohl, Conservation Commission, asked the committee to consider making a deposit into the Conservation CRF as it is very important to conserve whatever land they can given that the population density of New London is the highest in the area. He asked that the committee consider including \$1 in the fund so that people at town meeting could vote to increase it if they wanted to. Colin Beasley noted that with the increasing property values in New London, would the town ever have enough money in the CRF to buy it. Mr. Prohl noted that having the fund with a balance of \$750,000 would show potential sellers that money was available for the purchase, pointing out that use of the funds would need to go to town meeting. There was a discussion surrounding encouraging property owners to sell their property for conservation at lower than market prices as a donation to the town. Lou Botta

suggested that the Conservation Commission explore purchasing land where the seller sells to the town for a reduced price. Charlie Kelsey asked if the 15% figure of conserved land in New London includes lands of Ausbon Sargent and other conservation organizations. Mark Vernon confirmed that it does include those lands. Mr. Kelsey suggested the town work collaboratively with non-profit conservation organizations to protect lands either by purchase of the land or by easement. Mr. Vernon confirmed that the Conservation Commission does work closely with other conservation organizations.

Finalize FY2025 Budget

The Chair announced that the committee would proceed through the budget and will vote on the various department budgets. Charlie Kelsey observed that with budgets he has prepared in the past there is often “wiggle room” included and he suggested that the committee look to those areas to see if reductions can be made without impacting safety or the execution of town functions, observing that even modest reductions can add up. He noted that his review of the budget resulted in potential reductions of \$111,000 or 1.1% of the budget that he feels could be made without risk to safety.

There was a discussion of the size of the increase in the budget. Selectman Helm noted that it is misleading to say the budget is up 20%. He pointed out that the Selectmen approved a budget that is up 7.5% ; the \$900,000 petition warrant article is not supported by the Selectmen or Budget Committee so it is not part of the budget, however it will be voted on at town meeting, so that total should not be included in discussions of budget increases.

Colin Beasley made a statement to the department heads letting them know that suggestions to make changes in their budgets should not be seen as not supporting them or the work they do for the town. He stressed that he personally supports all town departments, however he feels that looking at what is the cost and what is the risk could result in some reductions that will help taxpayers while not impacting the services provided.

There was a discussion of the other parts of the tax rate that have an impact on taxpayers including the school and county and it was noted that the Budget Committee is tasked with coming up with the town budget only.

Executive: \$400,354

IT WAS MOVED (Lou Botta) and SECONDED (Charlie Kelsey) to approve the Executive budget in the amount of \$400,354. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Town Clerk & Election: \$139,028

Charlie Kelsey noted that looking at previous years he would like to recommend three reductions.

IT WAS MOVED (Charlie Kelsey) and SECONDED (Colin Beasley) to reduce the town clerk advertising budget by \$300, office supplies by \$200, and election misc. food supplies by \$300.

Chair Lorio noted that the Town Clerk-Tax Collector was not present to respond to the reductions suggested. Lynn Lewis noted that there is a Presidential Election in FY2025 which will result in increased expenditures.

Lou Botta noted that he did not feel that the reduction of \$300 in food and supplies was prudent given the upcoming Presidential election. Hannah Bianchi agreed that she would not support the reduction of \$300 in the election food and supplies. Chair Lorio noted that the original motion would be voted on and if it failed another motion could be offered.

Vote on the motion: In favor: Wilson, Beasley, Kelsey Opposed: Casey, Harkins, Bianchi, Lorio, Leintz, Botta. THE MOTION FAILED 3-6

IT WAS MOVED (Charlie Kelsey) and SECONDED (Colin Beasley) to reduce the town clerk advertising budget by \$300, office supplies by \$200. Vote on the motion: In favor: Bianchi, Wilson, Beasley, Kelsey, Leintz, Botta. Opposed: Casey, Harkins, Lorio. THE MOTON PASSED 6-3.

IT WAS MOVED (Charlie Kelsey) and SECONDED (Lyndsay Harkins) to approve the Town Clerk – Elections budget in the amount of \$138,528. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Finance: \$462,980

Charlie Kelsey recommended the following reductions: in Finance: \$150 in travels & meals, office supplies by \$250, in Tax Collector reduce mortgage research by \$350, travel and meals by \$850, conference and training by \$400, and tax bills by \$200.

Kim Hallquist noted that during the last three years during Covid there was no ability to go offsite for training but that is no longer the case, and she is aware of plans to resume training. Lynn Lewis noted that like the tax collector

Mark Christensen joined the meeting.

IT WAS MOVED (Charlie Kelsey) and SECONDED (Colin Beasley) to reduce the finance budget by \$150 in travels & meals, office supplies by \$250.

Colin Beasley noted to put some perspective on the reduction being considered, they amount to .08% of the Finance budget.

Vote on the motion: In favor: Bianchi, Wilson, Beasley, Kelsey, Leintz. Opposed: Casey, Harkins, Lorio, Botta, Christensen. THE MOTION FAILED 5-5.

IT WAS MOVED (Charlie Kelsey) and SECONDED (Colin Beasley) to reduce the Tax Collector mortgage research line by \$350.

Kim Hallquist explained that the funds are used to conduct research on properties prior to the filing of liens by the town for unpaid taxes. She noted that the amount needed depends on how many people are late in paying taxes as that results in more liens. Mr. Kelsey noted that he was looking at the three actuals which show that less funds are actually spent.

Vote on the motion: In favor: Bianchi, Wilson, Beasley, Kelsey, Leintz. Opposed: Casey, Harkins, Lorio, Botta, Christense. THE MOTION FAILED 5-5.

IT WAS MOVED (Charlie Kelsey) and SECONDED (Colin Beasley) to approve the Finance budget in the amount of \$462,980. Vote on the motion: In favor: Casey, Harkins, Bianchi, Wilson, Lorio, Kelsey, Leintz, Botta, Christensen. Opposed: Beasley. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED 9-1

Assessing and Tax Map Updates: \$95,777 and Legal & Animal Rescue Fees: \$15,500

IT WAS MOVED (Charlie Kelsey) and SECONDED (Colin Beasley) to reduce animal control fees by \$499.

It was noted that when stray dogs are found the town must pay the cost to kennel them which can include rabies vaccines as well.

Vote on the motion: In favor: Bianchi, Beasley, Kelsey, Leintz. Opposed: Casey, Harkins, Lorio, Botta, Christensen. THE MOTION FAILED 4 - 5

IT WAS MOVED (Bebe Casey) and SECONDED (Lou Botta) to approve the Assessing and Tax Map Updates: \$95,777 and Legal & Animal Rescue Fees: \$15,500 . Vote on the motion: In favor: Casey, Harkins, Bianchi, Wilson, Lorio, Kelsey, Leintz, Botta, Christensen. Opposed: Beasley. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED 9-1

Personnel Administration: \$142,836

IT WAS MOVED (Lou Botta) and SECONDED (Lyndsay Harkins) to approve the Personnel Administration budget in the amount of \$142,836.

Charlie Kelsey asked about the employee tuition reimbursement line noting that it has gone unspent over the past several years. Kim Hallquist noted that she has one employee who has requested reimbursement, and she hopes that more will take advantage in the future.

THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Zoning & Planning: \$142,358

Charlie Kelsey asked about the RPC Planning Services budget of \$1,500 noting that there has been no expenditure over the past several years. Kim Hallquist noted that the funds would be utilized if the Planning Board had a special project or a site plan that required additional professional input.

IT WAS MOVED (Charlie Kelsey) and SECONDED (Colin Beasley) to reduce the RPC Planning Services by \$1,000. Vote on the motion: In favor: Bianchi, Wilson, Beasley, Kelsey, Leintz. Opposed: Casey, Harkins, Lorio, Botta, Christensen. THE MOTION FAILED 5-5.

IT WAS MOVED (Lou Botta) and SECONDED (Lyndsay Harkins) to approve the Zoning & Planning budget in the amount of \$142,358. In favor: Casey, Harkins, Bianchi, Wilson, Lorio, Kelsey, Leintz, Botta, Christensen. Opposed: Beasley. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED 9-1

Town Buildings: \$282,455

IT WAS MOVED (Colin Beasley) and SECONDED (Melissa Leintz) to reduce the Academy Building maintenance and repairs by \$6,000.

Colin Beasley noted that there has been a considerable amount of work done over the past three years and funds are being added to the Capital Reserve Fund so he would expect less need for funds from the operating budget. Bob Harrington, Public Works Director, pointed out that the budget is for routine maintenance and upkeep that comes to an extensive list.

Vote on the motion: In favor: Wilson, Beasley, Kelsey, Leintz. Opposed: Casey, Harkins, Bianchi, Lorio, Botta, Christense. THE MOTION FAILED: 4-6

IT WAS MOVED (Lou Botta) AND SECONDED (Lyndsay Harkins) to approve the Town Buildings Budget of \$282,455. Vote on the motion: In favor: Casey, Harkins, Bianchi, Wilson, Lorio, Kelsey, Leintz, Botta, Christensen. Opposed: Beasley. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED 9-1

Cemetery: \$30,967

IT WAS MOVED (Lyndsay Harkins) AND SECONDED (Charlie Kelsey) to approve the Cemetery budget of \$30,967. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Other Insurance: \$140,840

IT WAS MOVED (Lou Botta) AND SECONDED (Charlie Kelsey) to approve the Other Insurance budget of \$140,840. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Advertising & Regional Association: \$19,597

IT WAS MOVED (Charlie Kelsey) AND SECONDED (Colin Beasley) to approve the Advertising and Regional Association budget of \$19,597. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Police: \$1,606,981

Charlie Kelsey questioned the request for \$5,000 in travel and meals, he moved to reduce the line by \$1,000. Chief

Cobb explained that she increased the line as she would like to attend a conference that is being held in Boston. She has not attended in the past as the conference has been held further away and would be more expensive in travel to attend. Mr. Kelsey withdrew his motion.

Colin Beasley offered a motion on the police cruiser, explaining that it would be used as an alternate vehicle and the research on K-9 usage is 6-9 years, he recommends removing the cruiser this year. Chief Cobb agreed that it is unclear how long Vilo will stay in service and whether the program will continue after Vilo retires, however she feels that the vehicle should be purchased this year as scheduled. She explained she is trying to extend the life of the front-line patrol vehicles, but to delay a vehicle now might mean replacing three cars in one year. There was no second to the motion to remove the police cruiser.

IT WAS MOVED (Lou Botta) AND SECONDED (Mark Christensen) to approve the Police budget of \$1,606,981. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Fire: \$686,246 and Firewards: \$435

Charlie Kelsey questioned overtime wages, noting that at a previous meeting the Chief explained that there is a new employee who is very good and inspired and goes to every call so there is more overtime. Mr. Kelsey questioned whether it is a case of the employee wanting to go to every call or is he needed at every call. Chief Lyon noted that the calls the firefighter goes to are the general alarms, where additional staff is needed.

Colin Beasley recommended, subject to the Chief's explanation, bringing dues and subscriptions down to \$3,500 which is above what has been spent in the last few years. Chief Lyon reviewed the organizations that are covered within the line and the larger portion which is for the ESO software that he has not gotten yet, he is waiting to see what happened with the police department and their software to see how it will interact with dispatch. This software will allow Captain Matthey to do inspections and complete reports more efficiently.

IT WAS MOVED (Charlie Kelsey) AND SECONDED (Lou Botta) to approve the Fire budget of \$686,246 and the Firewards budget of \$435. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Emergency Management: \$18,600

Lou Botta, Emergency Management Director, recused himself from the discussion and voting.

IT WAS MOVED (Charlie Kelsey) AND SECONDED (Melissa Leintz) to approve the Emergency Management budget of \$18,600. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Dispatching: \$625,583

Charlie Kelsey recommended reducing shift differential by \$1,500 based on past expenditures. Chief Cobb explained that the hours subject to shift differential has been expanded as police officers and dispatchers have gone from 8-hour shifts to 12-hour shifts. The Chief explained the need for an additional \$6,000 in computers noting that she has moved to leasing computers from VC3 so that they can be changed immediately if there is an issue.

Colin Beasley asked for information on new equipment for \$5,000, noting that in the past the line has not been spent. Chief Cobb explained that it is not always evident when new equipment will be needed, pointing to a dispatch chair that costs about \$2,400 due to the need for special chairs that can withstand 24-7 use.

IT WAS MOVED (Charlie Kelsey) AND SECONDED (Lou Botta) to approve the Dispatching budget of \$625,583. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Highway Administration: \$1,168,108

Colin Beasley asked Bob Harrington if he intended to require employees who get their CDL through the town to stay for a certain period of time of payback the cost of the CDL training. Bob Harrington agreed that he plans on

including that as a condition of getting the training.

Charlie Kelsey moved to reduce the drug testing line by \$500 based on historical expenditures. Bob Harrington noted that the tests are a state requirement for all highway employees with a CDL and randomly selected for testing. He noted that he expects to have more CDL drivers soon. Mr. Kelsey withdrew his motion.

IT WAS MOVED (Melissa Leintz) AND SECONDED (Lou Botta) to approve the Highway Administration budget of \$1,168,108. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Highways and Streets: \$592,100

Colin Beasley asked about the paving services line of \$235,000. Bob Harrington noted that it is to maintain paved roads. He noted that he retains some of the budgeted amount to repair damage from storms. He noted that he has not raised the line in several years, so he is actually doing less paving because the cost is higher.

Charlie Kelsey moved to reduce the repair and maintenance line by \$8,000 due to buying new vehicles. Mr. Harrington would agree however it is taking a long time to get new vehicles, so they need to maintain the older vehicles as he waits for the new vehicles. Also, the line is also used to repair other equipment like chainsaws. Mr. Harrington noted that he hopes that in the next budget he can reduce the line. Mr. Kelsey withdrew his motion.

IT WAS MOVED (Lou Botta) AND SECONDED (Lyndsay Harkins) to approve the Highways and Streets budget of \$592,100. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Street Lighting: \$12,000

IT WAS MOVED (Lou Botta) AND SECONDED (Charlie Kelsey) to approve the Street Lighting budget of \$12,000. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Transfer Station: \$534,433

IT WAS MOVED (Melissa Leintz) AND SECONDED (Lou Botta) to approve the Transfer Station budget of \$534,433. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Solid Waste Cleanup: \$28,000

IT WAS MOVED (Chris Lorio) AND SECONDED (Charlie Kelsey) to approve the Solid Waste Cleanup budget of \$28,000. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Health Administration: \$6,367; Health Agencies: \$258,351; Welfare Administration: \$5,497; Intergovernmental Welfare: \$6,000, Welfare payments: \$25,000.

IT WAS MOVED (Lou Botta) AND SECONDED (Charlie Kelsey) to approve the Health and Welfare budgets as presented. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Recreation: \$243,371

IT WAS MOVED (Charlie Kelsey) and SECONDED (Melissa Leintz) to reduce beach front staffing by \$8,000.

Mr. Kelsey noted in support of his motion that he felt that beach front staff line is up significantly and he feels it could be managed differently to stay within the reduced amount he is recommending. Chair Lorio noted that the line

includes a differential for returning staff as staffing is difficult to attract and retain. Also, the Rec Department is planning on 7 days per week coverage instead of 6 days.

Mr. Kelsey withdrew his motion to reduce.

IT WAS MOVED (Charlie Kelsey) and SECONDED (Colin Beasley) to reduce beach equipment by \$1,200.

Mr. Kelsey felt that one of the metal Bucklin picnic tables could be removed and brought to Elkins, instead of buying a new one.

Vote on the motion: In Favor: Bianchi, Beasley, Kelsey Opposed: Casey, Harkins, Lorio, Leintz, Botta, Christensen. THE MOTION FAILED 3-6

IT WAS MOVED (Melissa Leintz) AND SECONDED (Chris Lorio) to approve the Recreation budget in the amount of \$243,371. Vote on the motion: In Favor: Casey, Harkins, Bianchi, Wilson, Lorio, Leintz, Botta, Christensen Opposed: Beasley, Kelsey. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED 8-2

Library: \$709,895

IT WAS MOVED (Lyndsay Harkins) AND SECONDED (Lou Botta) to approve the Library budget in the amount of \$709,895. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Patriotic Purposes: \$300; Other Culture/Archives: \$1,000; Conservation: \$28,093; Energy Committee: \$900

IT WAS MOVED (Charlie Kelsey) AND SECONDED (Melissa Leintz) to approve the budgets listed above as presented. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Other Conservation (Care of trees, lake protective associations, Garden Club): \$31,400

Colin Beasley noted that he would like to give the Garden Club \$1,000 more because he has seen other towns with flowers on posts and he would like to see that happen in New London. He noted that it would likely require watering by Public Works as they have the equipment to reach the hanging pots. Lou Botta agreed that it was money well spent.

IT WAS MOVED (Colin Beasley) AND SECONDED (Mark Christensen) to increase the Garden Club to \$2,500 and the total of Other Conservation to \$32,400. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Housing Commission: \$16,302

IT WAS MOVED (Chris Lorio) AND SECONDED (Charlie Kelsey) to approve the Housing Commission budget of \$16,302. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Debt service principal: \$437,311

IT WAS MOVED (Lyndsay Harkins) AND SECONDED (Charlie Kelsey) to approve the bonded debt principal budget of \$437,311. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Debt service interest: \$156,376

IT WAS MOVED (Lou Botta) AND SECONDED (Melissa Leintz) to approve the bonded debt interest budget of \$156,376. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Tax Anticipated Notes (TAN): \$1

IT WAS MOVED (Lyndsay Harkin) AND SECONDED (Melissa Leintz) to approve the TAN budget of \$1. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Capital Outlay:

- Vehicles and Equipment: \$678,303

IT WAS MOVED (Lou Botta) AND SECONDED (Charlie Kelsey) to approve capital outlays vehicles & equipment in the amount of \$678,303. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

• Buildings : \$1,212,500 revised to \$60,000 for library and \$900,000 for the petition warrant
Colin Beasley asked for clarification, \$100,000 for Academy upgrades and \$87,500 for the Academy roof. Kim Hallquist noted that those funds would not appear on the warrant as the \$100,000 will come from ARPA funds and \$87,500 will come from the town buildings CRF which the selectmen are agents to expend. It was explained that these funds are disclosed during the budget process to aid in decisions of how much to place into the town buildings capital reserve fund. The \$900,000 petition article will go on the budget as a petition warrant article.

IT WAS MOVED (Charlie Kelsey) AND SECONDED (Hannah Bianchi) to approve capital outlays buildings for \$960,000. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

- Capital Improvements: \$22,600

IT WAS MOVED (Colin Beasley) AND SECONDED (Chris Lorio) to approve capital outlays improvements for \$22,600. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Transfers to Capital Reserves: \$1,000,000

- Sidewalks: \$50,000
- Fire Vehicles Replacement: \$250,000
- Highway Equipment Replacement: \$350,000
- Town Building Maintenance: \$150,000
- Fire Breathing Apparatus: \$100,000
- Tracy Library: \$100,000

John Wilson noted that they are not bringing the numbers back to what they were before the reductions of last year, they are bringing them in higher by \$160,000, for example fire vehicles is now \$250,000 instead of the \$210,000 it was. He suggested the following amendments totally \$110,000:

- Sidewalks: reduce by \$20,000 as there are no plans to do Main Street until the water project is done.
- Fire vehicle replacement – reduce by \$40,000
- Highway equipment – reduce by \$10,000
- Library Improvements – reduce by \$40,000

Selectmen Helm noted that when the Board of Selectmen came up with their recommendations for funding of capital reserve funds, they did so by looking out 4 years at expenditures and funded them to spread out the funding to keep them from going to zero balances. He noted that as the years go on the deposits will need to increase. Chief Lyon noted that it is difficult to forecast the cost of fire apparatus with the unusually large increases experienced over the past several years and the extended wait time to receive delivery of apparatus. He suggested that staying on the replacement schedule currently in place makes the most sense. He pointed out that it is the most economical way to go to avoid increased costs of new vehicles and also increased costs of maintaining older equipment.

Colin Beasley suggested they look at the funds to see when they go negative and make changes now to address those instances. John Wilson noted that he raised his suggested changes for discussion only, he was not prepared to make motions on them. Mr. Beasley suggested bringing the library down to \$60,000 as they asked for. He suggested reallocating the \$40,000 by putting \$1 in Conservation Land Acquisition so the Conservation Commission can take their request for more funding to the voters at town meeting and \$39,999 in one of the accounts that will go negative soon: fire breathing apparatus, gravel road paving and sewer. His preference would be to put the \$39,999 in fire breathing apparatus.

IT WAS MOVED (Colin Beasley) AND SECONDED (Lyndsay Harkins) to approve transfers to capital reserves for \$1,000,000 with changes to Conservation by adding \$1, reducing Tracy Library to \$60,000, increasing fire breathing apparatus to \$139,999. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Sewer Buildings: \$39,750 and Sewer Collection: \$917,011

Colin Beasley asked Bob Harrington to address sewer OT as the budget has never gone as high as the budget. Bob Harrington noted that it is like an insurance policy, he can never tell when there will be a sewer break that can take round-the-clock work. Mr. Beasley suggested that there should be more discussion of forecasting amounts closer to actual instead of thinking in terms of 'insurance policies'.

IT WAS MOVED (Lyndsay Harkins) AND SECONDED (Hannah Bianchi) to approve Sewer Buildings for \$39,750 and Sewer Collection for \$917,011. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Sewer Bonded Debt Principal: \$137,425; Bonded Debt Interest: \$37,770 and Capital Outlay: \$50,000

IT WAS MOVED (Lyndsay Harkins) AND SECONDED (Charlie Kelsey) to approve Sewer Bonded Debt Principal: \$137,425; Bonded Debt Interest: \$37,770 and Capital Outlay: \$50,000. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

John Wilson asked how the sewer department worked with sewer users paying the bills. Kim Hallquist noted that sewer users are billed, if the revenues collected exceed the amount spent the excess funds are placed in a sewer enterprise fund, if revenues are below the cost to run the sewer department, then rates are increased.

Selectman Helm asked the Board to reconsider the \$500 in cuts to the Town Clerk budget and he felt sure that the Selectmen would agree to the increase to the Garden Club in the amount of \$1,000 which would avoid the need for a reconciliation meeting.

IT WAS MOVED (Lou Botta) AND SECONDED (Mark Christensen) to reverse the reductions approved earlier in the meeting in the town clerk budget: \$300 for advertising and \$200 for office supplies. In favor: Casey, Harkins, Bianchi, Wilson, Lorio, Kelsey, Leintz, Botta, Christensen. Opposed: Beasley. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED 9-1

IT WAS MOVED (Chris Lorio) AND SECONDED (Melissa Leintz) to approve the town clerk budget in the amount of \$139,028. In favor: Casey, Harkins, Bianchi, Wilson, Lorio, Kelsey, Leintz, Botta, Christensen. Opposed: Beasley. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED 9-1

Lynn Lewis announced the total budget approved as \$12,915, 200.

IT WAS MOVED (Chris Lorio) AND SECONDED (Melissa Leintz) to approve the budget in the amount of \$12,915,200. In favor: Casey, Harkins, Bianchi, Wilson, Lorio, Kelsey, Leintz, Botta, Christensen. Opposed: Beasley. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED 9-1

Colin Beasley noted that as he objected to parts of the budget he could not vote in favor of the overall budget.

John Wilson asked what the operating budget is. Lynn Lewis noted that it is: \$9,072,341.

Colin Beasley asked if the committee would meet to discuss strategic issues that they have been discussing. Chair Lorio asked if they should wait until after the election when there may be new members joining. Mr. Beasley noted that he wanted to meet prior to the deadline for petition articles to see if there is interest in using surplus to address certain initiatives like solar or the sidewalks or water capacity issues.

Selectman Helm questioned Mr. Beasley as to what he means by surplus as there is no 'surplus' in municipal accounting. Mr. Beasley noted that he is thinking about it in terms of budgeted versus actuals. Selectmen Helm noted that the subject of unreserved fund balance is a complex topic and discussions of using it will take some time and would be a good topic for a future meeting. He stressed that having a healthy unreserved fund balance is important for the town as it impacts the town's bond rating. Selectman Casey agreed that a meeting on this topic would be helpful, noting that the way the school district funds its reserves is different from how the town does it. Charlie Kelsey agreed that it is a topic that is worth having. Lou Botta suggested that the Budget Committee spend some planning instead of being reactive.

Colin Beasley noted that he would like to hold a meeting before town meeting to discuss process issues so that those are currently on the committee, who may not be on the committee after the election, can participate.

The Budget Committee set the Public Hearing for February 7th at 6:30 PM.

If the Selectmen do not agree to the changes to the transfers to capital reserves funds, there will be a reconciliation meeting with the Budget Committee.

IT WAS MOVED (John Wilson) and SECONDED (Hannah Bianchi) to adjourn the meeting. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Respectfully submitted,
Kimberly Hallquist
Town Administrator

Note: RSA 91-A:2, II provides that "*Minutes of all such meetings, including nonpublic sessions, shall include the names of members, persons appearing before the public bodies, and a brief description of the subject matter discussed and final decisions.*" A video of the entire meeting may be available for viewing on the town website, [New London.NH. gov](http://NewLondon.NH.gov), if more than the brief description contained in these meeting minutes is desired.