



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES January 25, 2021 6:00 PM Via Zoom

PRESENT:

Janet Kidder, Chairman
Nancy Rollins, Selectman
John Cannon, Selectman
Kim Hallquist, Town Administrator
Wendy Johnson, Finance Officer

ALSO PRESENT:

Emily Cobb, New London Police Chief
Jay Lyon, New London Fire Chief
Bob Harrington, Public Works Director
Will Kidder, Town Tax Collector
Lou Botta, Emergency Management
Nathan Sheon, Emergency Management
Tina Helm, New London Resident
Barry Wright, New London resident
Liz Meller, New London Resident
John Dwyer, New London Resident
Celeste Cook, New London Resident
Nancy Marashio, New London Resident
Meghan Butts, Upper Valley Lake Sunapee RPC

Building and Facilities Committee members: Colin Beasley, Peter Hoglund, Bob Bowers

Budget Committee members: Rob Prohl, Joe Cardillo, Michael Williams, Howard Hoke, Chris Lorio, Mark Christensen, Lauren Chadwick, Jerry Coogan

Fiscal Policy Panel: Peter Bianchi, Doug Lyon, Bill Helm

Chair Kidder called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and read the Zoom authorization information. Chair Kidder called the roll: Nancy Rollins: present, John Cannon: present, Janet Kidder: present.

Appointments

Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission (UVLSRPC) – Meghan Butts

Meghan Butts, Interim Executive Director of UVLSRPC, informed that Board that she is reaching out to the 27 municipalities that make up the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission, to review what the RPC does and to see if there are issues that they can assist with. She explained that the benefits of being part of the RPC is to have representation on the commission; New London currently has

two, Liz Meller and Jerry Coogan. Another benefit is having a voice on decision making for regional funding sources and projects such as transportation plan, solid waste plans, housing needs assessment etc.

They provide contractual services; Adam Ricker is current contracted to the town for planning services and they also provide master planning support. They also have a robust GIS staff which includes mapping, training, and data collection. Contractual services are provided at a reduced cost.

Selectman Rollins stated she previously served on the Regional Planning Commission and always found it a worthwhile organization. She noted that New London has formed a Housing Commission and the first meeting will be held in February. She would like to work with the Upper Valley RPC and hear about any projects they are involved in with regards to housing.

Chair Kidder stated that Adam Ricker has been an incredible representative of the UVLSRPC and they have valued his assistance over the past couple of years.

Request for prohibition of “Jake Brakes”

John Dwyer attended the meeting and stated he has lived on the corner of Wilmot Center Road and Lakeshore Drive in New London for the past four years. He has noticed more recently the influx of trucks due to construction and logging. As trucks are coming down from Wilmot Center Road they are using their air brakes and its very loud and he feels unnecessary. If people were going the speed limit, which is 25mph there would not be a need to use their air brakes. He is asking the town to consider posting a sign that states the use of air brakes is not permitted on this road.

Barry Wright stated this winter there have been a lot of logging trucks and they make a lot of noise when they use their Jake brakes; he agrees it would be helpful to have a sign.

Selectman Cannon stated he appreciates the concern, but the air brakes make a big difference with safety and wear and tear on the trucks. It may be an inconvenience but the safety they provide by slowing the trucks down is important.

Peter Bianchi clarified that air brakes and Jake brakes are two different things. All big trucks have air brakes that do not make any particular noise. Jake brakes is a device that helps slow the vehicle down without putting your foot on the brake. He understands the concern but does not think posting a sign is going to make a difference with the noise on that small section of road.

Public Works Director Bob Harrington stated there have been complaints about vehicles going fast down that section of the road. If you limit trucks from being able to use their exhaust brakes that could potentially increase the speed of the vehicle coming through that section. If there is not a way to help the trucks slow down the complaints will be that they are going too fast.

Police Chief Emily Cobb stated she did some research about this and some towns have enacted an ordinance, but her concern is more about the enforcement of it. If a sign were to be put up the enforcement of that would be difficult. If trucks are going too fast, they can set up enforcement efforts related to speed.

Chair Kidder responded that while she is sensitive to people wanting a quiet community, she would not want to impose restrictions on a truck if it might compromise the safety of that vehicle. She is not in favor of posting signs asking truckers not to use their Jake brakes. Selectman Cannon and Selectman Rollins agree.

Fiscal Policy Panel – Report

Bill Helm thanked the Selectman and Finance Officer Wendy Johnson for their help in addressing some of the aspects of the town's fiscal policy. Mr. Helm submitted a report a few weeks ago with recommended policies.

The first recommendation is a proposed debt policy to be adopted by the Selectmen. The suggested policy states that the Town of New London shall limit its total long-term debt and debt service shall not exceed 10% of the annual General Fund budget of the town. Only nonrecurring projects with a value of \$250,000 or more or with a useful life of five years or more shall be financed with long term debt.

The second recommendation is a proposal to ask town meeting to adopt a statutory provision under RSA 674:5 to form a new committee for responsibility for the annual Capital Improvements Program (CIP) for the town. Currently the CIP is the responsibility of the Planning Board.

Selectman Rollins stated with regards to the recommended debt policy, she would like this vetted through the Budget Committee and would like to hear from them as well as the town treasurer.

Bob Bowers feels the decision on the preparation of the CIP is a decision that should be made by the Selectmen and the Building and Facilities Committee does not want to interfere with that process. If the Selectmen choose to use a committee format, he advises them to think this through clearly and establish how it will function and create a charter. If the committee format is not used, and the CIP remains with the Planning Board, they should also adopt guidelines for the process. Selectman Rollins agrees that having a charter or clear written policies with regards to the expectations of for the Capital Improvement plan committee. She also stated that she appreciates the people that volunteer in the town of New London. She finds it disheartening when a duly sanctioned board or committee is bypassed or is undermined in the course of the work they are asked to do. In this case she is talking about the Building and Facilities Committee which is a very skilled and knowledgeable group of professionals that have been working tirelessly on our behalf. She wants to reaffirm the expectation that all department heads, town employees, officials and the Board of Selectmen will work with the Building and Facilities Committee with regards to their expertise and their consultation. To bypass that committee would be a huge and costly mistake. Doug Lyon stated he agrees with having a charter and there is no intention to bypass any existing organizations and the CIP committee would collect information that is being produced by other groups. Selectman Rollins stated she was referring to appendix F which discusses the Police Station relocation and the petition that is going around town. She feels that any work done on that building needs to go through the Building and Facilities Committee. It could be costly and detrimental to the town.

Bill Helm responded that he is the individual that has been circulating the petition and he is doing that as an individual citizen and is not an employee of the town or a representative of any body appointed by the town. He would like a Town Meeting discussion about it and have it on the warrant.

Chair Kidder stated the Planning Board is meeting tomorrow night and they will discuss the issue of the CIP and make a recommendation for this proposal.

Joint Meeting with Budget Committee: FY2022 Reconciliation Meeting

There were several items that were different from what the Selectmen approved for the budget and what the Budget Committee approved. There are three areas that are different and one new item to discuss tonight.

\$10,000 Town vehicles and equipment
\$18,858 Computer licenses and fees for three departments
\$4,500 CERT and Emergency Management

IT WAS MOVED (John Cannon) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to accept the Budget Committee's recommendation to add \$10,000 in the Town Vehicles and Repair fund and \$18,858 towards Computer licensing and fees for three departments. John Cannon: yes, Nancy Rollins: yes, Janet Kidder: yes. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chair Kidder stated the Selectmen had zeroed out the line item for CERT and Emergency Management in the amount of \$4,500. The budget committee felt it was important and put that amount into its budget. Budget Committee Chair Rob Prohl stated when they listened to the presentation by Emergency Management Director Lou Botta, the Committee felt it was important to put the funds back in.

Lou Botta stated they have been working on establishing a CERT team for about 6 years. The CERT team has been certified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and have the networking needed throughout the state. It is the only regional CERT in the entire Kearsarge/Lake Sunapee area. The region looks to New London to be the regional leader and this is a service to the community that is invaluable.

Nathan Sheon, CERT Coordinator and Director has worked to put together the structure and capabilities of a CERT team. A CERT team requires constant training and accreditation. There is a good plan of operations for the Shelter program. He wanted to emphasize that the CERT program is not simply a disaster response organization. One of the biggest parts of their mission is education, training and engagement with the public. They want to increase community resilience throughout the year. There will always be opportunities to engage with the public and keep their skills up to date in a low cost, high impact way. The CERT budget is largely focused on equipment and training. The equipment cost is an initial investment and will not be a regular request.

Kim Hallquist stated that she became aware of the value of CERT teams during a presentation by a Police Chief in the southern part of the state who explained how invaluable his CERT was during emergencies, when they could be mobilized for tasks like traffic control, freeing up his officers to do other work. She noted that ways the CERT team could help in New London, even during non-emergency times, would be with traffic control, hospital days and elections. They could help in areas where we would normally use our Police and Fire departments. She is in favor of the CERT team and views it as an investment and a supplement to those departments that would typically take on these tasks.

Michael Williams stated in order for Emergency Management to be effective it requires a lot of volunteers and if they aren't properly trained, they are useless. Generally, expenses during a disaster are reimbursed by the Federal Government but only if it is documented appropriately. Documentation is a big part of managing an emergency and without the training, no one knows how to do it. Having trained people on hand during an emergency could make a huge difference and could pay for itself.

Selectman Rollins stated in terms of the budget and trying to keep it at a reasonable amount she does not think they should fund this at this time. She supports the concept of a CERT team but does not agree that we should be training these individuals to help with voting and traffic. That is not the purpose of an emergency response team. Selectman Cannon agrees and does not think it provides the value we need.

IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (John Cannon) to include \$4,500 in the Emergency Management budget for a CERT team. John Cannon: no, Nancy Rollins: no, Janet Kidder: yes. THE MOTION DOES NOT PASS.

Housing Commission – Kim Hallquist stated the Housing Commission is new and will begin meeting on February 8, 2021. There will be expenses related to taking minutes and other office related items. She recommends a budget amount of \$1,500.

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (John Cannon) to put \$1,500 in the budget for the recording of the Housing Commission’s meetings. John Cannon: yes, Nancy Rollins: yes, Janet Kidder: yes. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

IT WAS MOVED (Rob Prohl) AND SECONDED (John Raby) to put \$1,500 in the budget for the recording of the Housing Commission’s meetings. Joe Cardillo: yes, John Raby: yes, Chris Lorio: yes, Mark Christensen: yes, Lauren Chadwick: yes, Jerry Coogan: yes, Michael Williams: yes, John Cannon: yes, Rob Prohl: yes. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Town Administrators Report

Ms. Hallquist provided the following report:

- On Friday, the Governor issued executive order #83 which allows towns to postpone the business and election portions of town meeting to April, May, June or July. There will be a recommendation from the Moderator and Town Clerk at the next Board of Selectmen Meeting on February 1, 2021.
- Sewer bills have gone out and she has received two calls today regarding deduct meters. Last summer there was a drought which means some people used more water in order to water lawns and gardens, so that water went through the meter and those are the readings used to determine sewer rates, resulting in higher than usual sewer bills. She recommends that people get deduct meters so they don’t pay sewer bills on water that doesn’t make it into the sewer system (instead going into the ground via watering or washing of cars).

Committee Meetings & Reports

Board of Firewards – Fire Chief Jay Lyon reported that they have hired Michael Mathy as the Fire Prevention Compliance officer. He was formerly a firefighter in Florida and in 2015 he was hired by the New Hampshire State Fire Marshall's office. Last year he transitioned to DHHS. He has a lot of knowledge in fire prevention and fire response and suppression.

Planning Board Meeting – Chair Kidder reported there was a Planning Board meeting on January 12, 2021. The two items on the agenda involved tree cuttings.

Recreation Commission – Chair Kidder reported there was a Recreation Commission meeting this morning and they discussed the ad they will be placing for the part-time year-round Director. They also discussed beach personnel and rate of pay. There is a need for more members to join this committee. Selectman Rollins asked if when they discussed the need for more members if they talked about inviting a representative from the Outing Club board. Chair Kidder stated they have not gotten that far yet. Three people have expressed an interest and Ms. Hallquist was going to send them volunteer forms. They will certainly keep that in mind.

Meeting Minutes

IT WAS MOVED (John Cannon) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to approve the minutes of the January 4, 2021 meeting. John Cannon: yes, Nancy Rollins: yes, Janet Kidder: yes. THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED.

Upcoming Meetings & Special Events

- Next regular Selectmen's meeting – Monday, February 1st – 6:00 PM – via Zoom
- Budget Committee – PUBLIC HEARING – Wednesday, February 3rd – 7:00 PM – via Zoom
- Planning Board – Tuesday, January 26th – 6:30 AM – via Zoom
- Citizens Advisory Committee – Saturday, February 6th – 7:30 AM – via Zoom
- Housing Commission – Monday, February 8th – 6:00 PM – via Zoom
- President's Day – Monday, February 15th – Town Offices CLOSED

Please see the calendar on the town website for a complete listing of other meetings, including subcommittee meetings, of the various town boards: www.nl-nh.com

Items to be signed

- Accounts Payable Voucher
- Warrant for Wastewater Charges
- Abatement
- Solar Energy System Exemption
- Birthday Cards

Applications Approved &/or Denied

Sign Permits – approved

- Permanent Signs 21-28 – Gavin Campbell Holdings, LLC, Chiarella Law Office, 71 Pleasant Street, TM 073-083-0-0-0. Approved 1/14/21

Building Permits

- Ballin Family Trust, 244 Blueberry Lane, TM 087-003-0-0-0. Interior& exterior renovations. BP 20-157 approved 1/6/21
- Anthony & Stephanie Burnell, Barrett Road, TM 084-018-0-0-0. Build new house. BP 20-137 approved 1/14/21.

Motion to Adjourn

IT WAS MOVED (John Cannon) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to adjourn. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 7:32PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Trina Dawson
Recording Secretary
Town of New London