



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

375 MAIN STREET • NEW LONDON, NH 03257 • WWW.NL-NH.COM

BOARD OF SELECTMEN/BUDGET COMMITTEE JOINT MEETING MINUTES October 1, 2018 6:30 PM

SELECTMEN PRESENT: Nancy Rollins (Chair), Bill Helm, Janet Kidder

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Rob Prohl (Chair), Joe Cardillo (Vice Chair), Phyllis Piotrow, Lyndsay Lund, Mark Christensen, Lauren Chadwick, Suzanne Jesseman, Bill Helm (Selectmen's Rep). Members absent: Jerry Coogan, Chris Lorio

STAFF PRESENT: Kimberly Hallquist, Town Administrator, Wendy Johnson, Finance Officer

Chair Prohl called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. This is the first meeting to review the FY2020 budget. Selectman Helm reported that Paul Gorman presented the Capital Improvement Program proposal at the Board of Selectman meeting earlier in the evening.

Selectman Helm distributed a form that shows the past two years of contributions to the capital reserve funds and the proposed contributions for fiscal year 2020. This would be for July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020. He identified three changes to the Fire Department (radios, apparatus and fire vehicle) that are all amounts that were agreed on with the Fire Chief as a result of changes made last year. The net result is \$30,000 of increased capital reserve contribution but this is a carry-over from last year. Everything else is the same as the current year, except the Conservation Commission has recommended that \$50,000 of additional funds be put into the conservation land purchase capital reserve fund. This is to save money for future purchases. Selectman Helm suggests not putting funds in the conservation land purchase fund and instead would propose creating a new reserve fund for energy conservation. He would like to add \$100,000 to start that fund. This is related to the vote at Town Meeting that suggested that the town become energy independent from existing sources by the year 2030. The town hasn't engaged in discussion on how to do that yet, but this would be a beginning and hopefully will provoke discussion. Selectman Kidder commented that legislature defeated the net metering proposal this past session stating it wouldn't be beneficial for towns or cities to try to increase energy production; observing that until that law changes, we can't benefit from it.

Lyndsay Lund suggested researching what other towns are doing with regards to implementing energy conservation efforts. She recommends developing a strategy in order to do this.

Selectman Kidder agrees that it isn't necessary to put \$50,000 in the Conservation Land purchase fund. She would propose that the amount for gravel road upgrades and paving be increased. She would suggest accelerating this and would increase this from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

Selectman Helm discussed the current debt of the town. He noted that about 1 million dollars of debt will be maturing in FY20. In FY25 another 1+ million dollars matures. In another 2 years after that is \$800,000 and all the way out into FY35 the wastewater upgrade money matures (\$4,143,968). Selectman Helm noted that in reality, this is not much debt. According to the department of revenue, we can borrow up to 34 million dollars. Selectman Helm suggested that they should create a placeholder for the warrant on funds to renovate or replace the Buker building and possibly purchase the adjoining site. That piece of land is currently assessed at \$252,000. He noted that they should

consider asking for approval this year for \$1 million dollars to finish the bridge infrastructure issues that are outlined in the CIP. This includes Brookside culvert (\$250,000), Pingree Bridge (\$200,000), Goose Hole (TBD) and Bunker Road guard rail (\$20,000) projects. Funding the Police and Transfer Station projects using the estimates that have been proposed would cost between 5-15 million dollars.

Other possible capital topics are Parkside Road drainage and sidewalk issues, workforce housing, a community center and town water capacity. Chair Rollins noted that she has not heard of water capacity issues during her tenure on the Board. Selectman Kidder explained that one of the commissioners from the water precinct, Ken Jacques, spoke several times stating the water usage has decreased considerably since there is no longer a middle school in town and the college has implemented a number of water saving measures; he didn't feel there was any problem with water capacity. The senior living facility will not have a negative impact and there is a good amount of capacity. Lyndsay Lund suggested prioritizing these projects based on the catastrophic costs if not done.

Joe Cardillo asked Selectman Helm to speak to the amount of money needed for the transfer station and what the plan is. Selectmen Helm replied that a study was done and the low-end cost was \$5.5 million and the high end was \$7 million. The state notified the Board of its decision to deny the request of the town to acquire land adjacent to the transfer station. The Board has approved work to have a topographical survey and wetlands delineation of the transfer station completed so they can better understand what can be done on the site, even without the state property.

Lyndsay Lund wanted to know what the issues are with the current transfer station that justify spending \$5 million dollars. Chair Rollins stated a significant issue is overall storage, as well as traffic flow and safety issues. Selectman Helm recommended that the Budget Committee read the study if they haven't.

The Selectman agreed to ask Ms. Hallquist to begin to size the request for funds for the Buker project and to research acquiring the adjacent property to get a number on it. Ms. Hallquist will also work with Bob Harrington to get estimates for the road and bridge infrastructure items. Selectman Helm proposed doing an RFP to do the engineering work on Goose Hole using the bridge repair fund which currently has \$120,000 in it.

Phyllis Piotrow asked for clarification regarding the CIP recommendation of expanding radio communication. Chief Ed Andersen explained that this is related to phase 3 for dispatch and this phase includes putting the tower on Sunapee. This will cost between \$100,000-\$150,000.

Joe Cardillo asked about the developers of the hospital project with regard to paying for the sidewalks on Parkside. Selectman Kidder noted that the Planning Board has not gotten to that level of detail yet but there have been general discussions of the topic including the developer would pay for the materials and the highway department could construct the sidewalks. Mr. Cardillo noted that it is not uncommon for developers to incur the cost of upgrades like sidewalks and he felt that it should be considered for this project.

IT WAS MOVED (Lyndsay Lund) AND SECONDED (Joe Cardillo) to adjourn the meeting. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Trina Dawson, Recording Secretary
Town of New London