



TOWN OF  
NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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NEW LONDON BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 6, 2022

Whipple Hall

6:00 PM

**PRESENT:**

Janet Kidder, Selectman  
Bill Helm, Selectman  
Kim Hallquist, Town Administrator  
Lynn Lewis, Finance Officer

**ABSENT:**

Nancy Rollins, Chair

**ALSO PRESENT:**

John Ellis, New London resident  
Putnam Kidder, Recreation Director  
Will Kidder, Town Clerk - Tax Collector  
Jay Lyon, New London Fire Chief  
Steve Ensign, Board of Firewards  
Janet Haines, New London resident  
Bob Harrington, Public Works Director  
Emily Cobb, New London Police Chief  
Ken Jacques, John McKenna, Jim Cricenti; New London - Springfield Water Precinct  
Budget Committee members: Joe Cardillo, Melissa Lentz, John Wilson, Hannah Bianchi, Lindsay Harkins, Colin Beasley, Chris Lorio, Lou Botta

Selectman Helm called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**ARPA Funds** – Ken Jacques, Commissioner of the New London-Springfield Water Precinct attended the meeting. He stated he had discussed ARPA funds with the Board of Selectmen in the past and wasn't sure if money was going to be allocated to the precinct. Kim Hallquist responded that the Selectmen have approved 25% of the town's APRA fund allocation (approximately \$101,000+) of the ARPA funds for the precinct. The Selectmen just need to decide if the Precinct should pay a bill and then get reimbursed by the town or give the town a bill to pay using the ARPA funds; she stressed that backup documents will be required prior to expenditure of the funds. The Selectmen have directed or asked that the money be used towards the Main Street replacement project. If it is to be used towards other projects, the Selectmen can decide whether to approve that. Mr. Jacques asked if it is acceptable, they can copy the town on any bills paid and the town will reimburse until the funds are used.

Mr. Jacques discussed the Twin Pines and the New London Place projects that are currently being proposed in town and shared that the zoning changes that were made in the commercial zone will add

stress to the water supply. They will address this the best way they can as more information becomes available.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

John Ellis asked about the status of speed signs for Bunker Road. Police Chief Emily Cobb responded they are in the process of getting quotes to get signs ordered.

Mr. Ellis asked about the status of the Newport property. Police Chief Emily Cobb responded that at the last meeting they were asked to go tour the property so Lieutenant Keith, Chief Cobb and Adam Ricker went and did that earlier this week. Chief Cobb noted that she expected continued discussions of the property.

Mr. Ellis asked about the status of hiring a full time Recreation Director. Kim Hallquist responded that applications are currently being accepted for the position.

Heather Perrygo shared that she recently attended a Recreation Department meeting. She wanted to thank Chief Cobb and Chief Lyon for coming together with the Recreation Department to find a solution for Halloween this year. There are a lot of children that love Halloween, and she appreciates how everyone came together to make it happen. It shows that this community can pull together and be a good resource with regards to volunteers, time, creativity and the ability to help solve problems. When something like this happens in the future, she asked the Selectmen to please communicate because there are people in the community that can help. Matt McClay agreed and thanked the town for closing down Main Street and making it happen. He wanted to address the timing for when to have trick or treating and suggested that it should be held on the actual day of Halloween.

## **FY2024 Budget Review: Public Safety: Police, Fire, Dispatch, Emergency Management**

### **Police**

Police Chief Emily Cobb shared that some of the decreases in the Police Department budget include Part-time officer wages, computer license and fees, travel and meals and investigation supplies. Increases in the budget include wages, telephone shift differential, computer support, new cruiser, Conferences and training, general equipment, gas, canine and a new line item for accreditation.

Chief Cobb explained the reason for the increase for shift differential. When shift differential was reinstated in fiscal year 2017, police officers and dispatchers were working a traditional 8-hour shift. As it stands right now, they pay a shift differential of \$1.00 an hour for 8 hours of continuous work. Over the years shifts have changed and transitioned to ten- and twelve-hour shifts. This offers more flexibility; however, coverage of open or partials shifts can be difficult. Chief Cobb is asking for the differential to be expanded and funded for the \$1.00 per hour more for overnight hours between 6:00pm and 6:00am and for 6 hours of continuous work.

The increase for the telephone line item is due to a monthly bill increase and the internet upload speed needed to be increased to meet the need of the body and dashboard cameras. The increase of \$70,000 in the new cruiser line item will be for replacement of the chief's vehicle. The estimate for a Tahoe at the end of August was \$55,000 and the remainder would be used to outfit it.

John Wilson stated that when the subcommittee met, it was mentioned that there was concern about taxpayers and high inflation etc. and asked for help to find areas that could be reduced or put on hold.

He stated the new cruiser was one of those items discussed. Chief Cobb responded that she looked over things again and the Dodge Durango has 70,000 miles on it. She doesn't want to continue to put off replacing the chief's vehicle for too many years and then get behind with cruiser replacements.

An increase of \$1,000 in conferences and training was requested due to the increase in the cost of the trainings. Ammunition has also gone up and that comes out of this line item as well.

A new line item for accreditation in the amount of \$2,000 has been added. This was discussed in a previous budget presentation a few years ago and Chief Cobb is an advocate for accreditation. It involves meeting an established set of professional standards that involves having a set of written directives. Chief Cobb anticipates they would already meet some of the accreditation standards. It is an ongoing internal assessment of their policies and practices and helps them keep up with best practices in the profession.

General Equipment – this line item shows a large increase and the majority of this increase is due to the request for new pistols. The duty pistols were purchased in 2015 and are starting to require more maintenance. They have been looking into purchasing new pistols for a few years but started researching options this past spring. They decided to go with Glock pistols for both on and off duty pistols. Some other major changes to the handgun program include going to a different caliber (9mm from 45mm) and the addition of red dot sites on their pistols. Chief Cobb reported that there is a trade in value for the pistols that they currently have and will utilize that as much as they can to offset costs. Transitioning to both on and off duty pistols at the same time is beneficial so officers don't become accustomed to shooting a pistol one way and then having a pistol without red dot sites at other times. It would not be her preference to get half of the new pistols this year and the rest next year for this reason. Chief Cobb recognizes this is a big ask as they would be replacing 32 pistols (16 on duty and 16 off duty pistols).

John Wilson reiterated that the subcommittee asked for help this year to put some things off until next year. Chief Cobb stated there aren't other areas in the police or dispatch budget that she is asking for significant increases. Pistols were last purchased in 2015 and she feels it's an appropriate request for them to be replaced.

Chief Cobb reported that the line item for gasoline has increased quite a bit due to the increase in gas prices. The canine line item has increased to \$4,500. They use funds from the canine donation fund as it becomes available to offset costs.

### **Dispatch**

Chief Cobb stated for the dispatch budget there is decrease in travel and meals. Some increases include part time and overtime wages, equipment repair and maintenance and uniforms.

John Wilson discussed some of the items Chief Cobb addressed in the equipment repair and maintenance line item. He stated there is \$34,000 a year put into capital reserves for dispatch. He asked what this is supposed to cover, and could they pay for these equipment replacement items out of the capital reserves accounts. Chief Cobb responded that those funds are typically used for larger capital items.

### **Fire Department**

Fire Chief Jay Lyon presented the budget for the New London Fire Department. The Fire Department currently has three full time firefighters that work 4 ten hour shifts. They are supplemented by ten officers who are all responsible to take call. The line item for part time wages has an increase of almost \$20,000. The on-call line item has increased as on call pay will increase to \$50 an hour and \$100 for the weekend. The on-call system is beneficial in reducing costs for the town. Other increases include vehicle repair and maintenance, gasoline and diesel and Uniforms/Safety Equipment.

John Wilson discussed the issue of aging vehicles and asked if the capital reserve fund should be reexamined for this. Chief Lyon responded that last year they came up with the alternative of a lease to own option and also started setting aside \$100,000 for future acquisitions. The next piece of equipment to replace would be the tanker.

**Firewards** – level funding of \$292 which is used for the recording secretary services.

### **Emergency Management**

Lou Botta stated the Emergency Management budget has been reduced by 34%. A lot of supplies were given to them from the state and were free of charge to the town. A community response team has been created and built up for the next two years

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Kim Hallquist stated she will meet with town counsel tomorrow and expects the purchase and sales agreement to be finished by then. She is waiting to hear back about the appraisal and from the engineer about phase one of the environmental study.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Merrimack County tax bill for 2022: \$3,346,334**

Kim Hallquist stated the town received their Merrimack County tax bill. Of the 27 towns in Merrimack County, New London is the third highest payer. This is based on valuation and population. A large portion of taxes go towards the support of the Merrimack County Sherriff's department, the jail and the nursing home.

### **TOWN ADMINISTRATORS REPORT**

- Kim Hallquist reported on the 2022 Whipple Hall project meeting that was recently held. They finalized the scope of work summary and will be speaking with two construction management firms next week to come up with recommendations on who to hire.
- The three-year contract for transfer station hauling fees expires on January 1, 2023 so a new contract will be coming. Rates are expected to increase significantly.
- The Selectmen all got a copy of the state's solid waste management plan.
- The Waste Reduction Committee is conducting a compost pilot program and several application have been submitted from people wanting to participate.
- Sewer rates were set last week and our percentage of payment to the Sunapee wastewater treatment plant is down to 66.47%. Last year is was 70.53% and the decrease is directly related to the hard work of wastewater staff who found areas of infiltration and fixed them.
- The auditors will be here next week.
- A copy of the MS-434 was provided to the Selectmen. Finance officer Lynn Lewis worked on the estimated revenues and increased them to \$189,000 from what was estimated during the budget process. This is adjusted as more information becomes available.

## **COMMITTEE MEETINGS & REPORTS – No reports**

**MEETING MINUTES:** Approve the Selectmen’s Minutes of September 8, 2022 – Deferred until the next meeting.

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS**

- Next Regular Selectmen’s meeting – Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup> - 6:00 PM
- Selectmen’s Budget Review – October 13<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 PM
- Whipple Hall 2022 Project Committee – Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 AM
- Planning Board – Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 PM
- Future Uses of Buker Committee – Friday – October 14<sup>th</sup> – 8:30 AM @ Whipple Conf. Room
- Citizens Committee – Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 AM

## **APPROVAL OF PAY VOUCHERS, PERMITS etc.**

### **Items to be signed:**

- Accounts Payable Forms
- Intent to Cut – South Cove Rd
- Voting Polls Declaration
- Town Use Applications
  - Bradford Country Square Dance-only thru February 2023
  - Elkins Fish & Game-Already past 10/5/22

### **Applications Approved &/or Denied**

#### Building/Zoning Permits – approved

- Fitts Revocable Trust, TM 058-001-0-0-0. Build 225 sq ft ground level deck w/raised platform. BP 22-114. Approved. 10/4/22.
- Matthew T Conway, LLC, TM 084-002-0-0-0. Moving K's Candy to DR front office. ZP 22-11. Approved. 10/4/22.

**IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Bill Helm) to adjourn. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:04PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Trina Dawson  
Recording Secretary  
Town of New London