



# TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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## BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES Whipple Town Hall November 15, 2021 6:30 PM

### **PRESENT:**

John Cannon, Chairman  
Nancy Rollins, Selectman  
Janet Kidder, Selectman  
Kim Hallquist, Town Administrator  
Lynn Lewis, Finance Officer

### **ALSO PRESENT:**

Jay Lyon, New London Fire Chief  
Will Kidder, New London Tax Collector  
Crystal Schimpf, Tracy Library Director  
Bob Harrington, Public Works Director  
Paul Gorman, Planning Board Chair  
Janet Haines, New London Resident  
Steve Ensign, New London Resident  
Bob Bowers, New London Resident  
Joe Kubit, New London Resident  
Winfried Feneberg, Superintendent  
Bebe Casey, School Board member

**Budget Committee Members:** Chris Lorio, Lyndsay Harkins, Joe Cardillo, Melissa Leintz, John Raby, Hannah Bianchi, Colin Beasley, Michael Williams, Jerry Coogan

Selectman Cannon called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

### **Appointments**

#### **Addition to High School**

Superintendent Winfried Feneberg attended the meeting to present a plan for a redesign and an addition to the high school in the area of science, technology, math, engineering and applied arts. The school board has been discussing this plan for the past several years. Some parts of the school have not seen an upgrade in over 50 years. The goal is to develop programs that are meaningful for students, but they don't have the facilities to support that effort. Some of the spaces that are inadequate include computer science and robotics, tech Ed, wood shop and digital photography. The culinary program has nearly doubled, and they cannot accommodate all the students that want to take these courses. Another area to look at is the library because books are not used much but a media center to encourage communication and research is needed.

Superintendent Feneberg stated about 75% of the students go on to post-secondary schools after high school. There are about 25% of students that do not choose that path and go into the family business or the workforce. For these kids, school doesn't carry a lot of meaning but there is an opportunity to give

these kids skills that can be used effectively after high school. It also benefits kids that want to go to college because they will be taught skills and competencies before they go to college. This is meaningful learning. It is no longer good enough to just have a diploma, you need to show competency, have people skills and be adaptable and flexible. It's about cross-disciplinary learning.

The project includes a renovation of locker rooms. These lockers rooms are 55 years old and there is good space that is not being used. This will cost about a million dollars, but it needs to be done. There are also maintenance items that need to get done including a new roof and HVAC upgrades. Administrative offices will move to the front of the building, along with a lobby and a community area to be used for evening events etc.

If this proposal passes in March 2022 the project will start in July 2023. The proposal estimate is \$22.3 million which includes the 5 million in maintenance costs. They are looking to fund this with a bond spread over 20-25 years. The business office is calculating what the impact would be using a \$300,000 house for all seven communities but will most likely be a few hundred dollars per household. Lyndsay Harkins would like to know what the town of New London would be responsible for financially. Superintendent Feneberg will follow up regarding the finances but feels this is the right time as it is needed and many of the elements discussed in this presentation haven't been upgraded in over 50 years.

Selectman Rollins asked if the ARPA funds could be used. Superintendent Feneberg responded they are trying to use a large amount of those funds to upgrade the middle school air conditioning system. This project will most likely not be using those funds. Bebe Casey stated the school board is in full support of this project.

**Budget Committee: Joint meeting of FY2023 Budget: Personnel Administration, Capital Improvement Program, Bonded Debt Principal & Interest, Capital Outlays & Transfers to Capital Reserve Funds**

**Personnel Administration** – this includes health & dental, life & disability and FICA and Medicare which are expenses for the library and the library reimburses the town for these items. Leave time buyout is also included. This is when an employee leaves the time and if there is a lot of saved vacation time they are paid out for that.

Insurance deductibles - The town pays for up to \$1,000 for a deductible per employee.

Tuition reimbursement is available or employees that seek higher education.

**Capital Improvement Program** – Paul Gorman, Chair of the Planning Board explained that the process of the Capital Improvement plan is assigned to the Planning Board. A sub-committee was convened that consisted of three members of the Planning Board, a member of the building and facilities committee and a member of the budget committee. They began the process of talking with department heads across the town to find out issues they have identified in the next five to ten years. Chair Gorman stated they put together a spreadsheet and summary document that details their findings. It is an advisory document for the Board of Selectmen.

Chair Gorman stated an area that was of interest to him was related to the fire department and the need for a new truck. This truck is not needed for several years but it will not fit in the current garage. It is too tall and wide so an addition will need to be done to house that truck and will be a significant cost to the town. Another issue is the location of the Police Department and its needs. Whatever the solution to that is, it will cost the town significant money in the future.

Lyndsay Harkins stated this is the cost of doing business and is needed. When the amount is broken down for cost per household it doesn't seem as large an expenditure as it is presented in meetings.

**Bonded Debt Principal & Interest** – Lynn Lewis provided a chart of statement of bonded debt. New debt in the amount of \$250,000 for the library was added which was approved two town meetings ago. No additional debt is being requested this year. Three bonds were refinanced. Our debt is well below our debt capacity.

### **Capital Outlays & Transfers to Capital Reserve Funds**

A new roof for the Fire Department in the amount of \$43,000 has been recommended and \$50,000 for the Whipple Hall Generator replacement has been included. These figures have been entered to help the budget committee decide how much to transfer into the Capital Reserve. These will not show on the town warrant as the Selectmen are agents to expend without a vote at town meeting. \$24,000 needs to be put into the computer maintenance and replacement fund.

\$30,000 has been entered into the Energy fund to work towards purchasing solar panels. In 2025/2026 there should be enough funds in the capital reserve fund to make that purchase and hopefully have some left over to work on another solar project.

\$145,000 has been entered in the Fire Department vehicle fund account. Currently \$130,000 was put in but the increasing cost of apparatus is alarming. There are two options and the first is to put money in the capital reserve fund and once the dollar amount is met, they purchase the piece of apparatus. The problem is, in order to stay on track with the current replacement schedule, they would need to put in \$265,000 this year as well as next year to replace the Rescue Engine in FY2025.

Option two would mean that \$210,000 would need to be put into Capital Reserve this year and to stay on schedule also for the next five years. This option is a lease to own proposal. Steve Ensign stated Chief Lyon presented this to them at a recent Board of Fire wards meeting, and they felt it gives the opportunity to lock in pricing now as part of the contract. They encouraged Chief Lyon to pursue this option.

### **Upcoming Meetings & Special Events**

Wednesday November 17 8:30 AM Conservation Commission – Whipple Hall  
Wednesday November 17 8:30 AM Energy Subcommittee – Whipple Hall Conf Rm  
Wednesday November 17 6:00 PM Housing Commission – Whipple Hall  
Thursday November 18 6:30 PM Building & Facilities Committee – Whipple Hall  
Wednesday November 24 TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECT OFFICE CLOSED  
Thursday November 25 **CLOSED** Thanksgiving Day-Town Offices CLOSED  
Friday November 26 **CLOSED** Thanksgiving Holiday-CLOSED  
Monday November 29 6:30 PM Board of Selectmen/Budget Com – Whipple Hall  
Tuesday November 30 7:30 AM Planning Board – Whipple Hall

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

- Accounts Payable Voucher
- Sewer Application
- Town Use

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

### Sign Permits – approved

- Temp Sign-TM 084-007-0-0-0. NL Historical Society Holiday Open House. Approved 11/15/2021

### Building Permits-approved

- Allison & Peter Angus, TM 060-014-0-0-0. Kitchen renovation. BP 21-137. Approved. 11/8/2021
- Janet Lines & William Dickman, TM 085-009-0-0-0. Amend approved BP 21-106-moving 10x12 shed location. BP 21-139. Approved. 11/8/2021
- Alan Z & Kathleen Shulman, TM 084-011-0-0-0. Roof mount solar 8.9kW. BP 21-140. Approved. 11/8/2021.

**Next Meeting:** The next Board of Selectmen meeting will be held on Monday December 6, 2021.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:38PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Trina Dawson  
Recording Secretary  
Town of New London