



# TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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## **BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, December 16, 2020**

**7:00 PM**

**Via Zoom**

**BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Robert Prohl, (Chair) Joe Cardillo (Vice Chair), Jerry Coogan, Chris Lorio, John Raby, Lyndsay Harkins, Lauren Snow Chadwick, Michael Williams, Mark Christensen, John Cannon (Selectmen's Representative)

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

### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Jay Lyon, Fire Chief

Emily Cobb, Police Chief

Bob Harrington, Public Works Department

Tom Manion, New London Hospital CEO

Lisa Cohen, New London Hospital CFO

Sean Riley, New London Hospital EMS Director

Will Kidder, Town Clerk/Tax Collector

Peter Winship, Pleasant Lake Protective Assoc.

Ashlee Rowley, Chamber of Commerce

Meghan Butts, UVLSRPC

Steve Ensign, Board of Firewards

Beth Hayward, CAP

Doug Baxter, Pleasant Lake Protective Assoc.

Steve Root, Little Sunapee Protective Assoc.

### **Welcome**

Chair Prohl called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and read the zoom authorization information.

Chair Prohl called the roll - Joe Cardillo: yes, John Raby: yes, Chris Lorio: yes, Mark Christensen: yes, Michael Williams: yes, John Cannon: yes, Rob Prohl: yes, Jerry Coogan: yes, Lauren Chadwick: yes, Lyndsay Harkins: yes.

### **Approve Budget Committee Minutes of December 2, 2020**

**IT WAS MOVED (Jerry Coogan) AND SECONDED (John Raby) to approve the minutes from the December 2, 2020 Budget Committee meeting. Joe Cardillo: yes, John Raby: yes, Chris Lorio: yes, Mark Christensen: yes, Michael Williams: yes, John Cannon: yes, Rob Prohl: yes, Jerry Coogan: yes, Lauren Chadwick: yes. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **Selectmen's Report**

#### **Selectman Cannon provided the following report:**

Selectman John Cannon reported at the last Selectmen's meeting they interviewed potential candidates for the Housing Commission. They also approved a \$0.50 increase for the sewer rate. There hasn't been an increase in several years and there are concerns about the infrastructure. The goal moving forward would be to do smaller increases more frequently.

### **FY2022 Budget Review**

#### **Town Clerk/Elections**

Chair Prohl asked Town Clerk Will Kidder if there is still a need for additional help now that the elections are over. Mr. Kidder stated yes. According to the recent voter roll they have seen a substantial increase in numbers. The DMV and vital records numbers are up as well. It would help to have another person trained that could help with vacation and illness coverage.

**IT WAS MOVED (Jerry Coogan) and SECONDED (John Raby) to approve the Town Clerk/Elections budget in the amount of \$95,716. Joe Cardillo: yes, John Raby: yes, Chris Lorio: yes, Mark Christensen: yes, Jerry Coogan: yes, Michael Williams: yes, John Cannon: yes, Rob Prohl: yes, Lauren Chadwick: yes. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **Tax Collector**

This budget is essentially the same.

**IT WAS MOVED (Jerry Coogan) and SECONDED (Joe Cardillo) to approve the Tax Collector budget in the amount of \$338,568. Joe Cardillo: yes, John Raby: yes, Chris Lorio: yes, Mark Christensen: yes, Jerry Coogan: yes, Michael Williams: yes, John Cannon: yes, Rob Prohl: yes, Lauren Chadwick: yes. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **Health Administration/Agencies**

##### **Health & Welfare**

**IT WAS MOVED (Joe Cardillo) and SECONDED (John Raby) to approve the Health & Welfare budget in the amount of \$6,871. Joe Cardillo: yes, John Raby: yes, Chris Lorio: yes, Mark Christensen: yes, Jerry Coogan: yes, Michael Williams: yes, John Cannon: yes, Rob Prohl: yes, Lauren Chadwick: yes. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

##### **Health Agencies – LSRVNA, COA, New London Ambulance, CASA**

Tom Manion, New London Hospital CEO, Lisa Cohen, CFO and Sean Riley, EMS Director attended the meeting. Mr. Manion noted they are not asking for an increase this year.

Sean Riley provided a presentation on the services they provide. There are 7 towns (New London is their biggest and busiest town) that they provide primary 911 transporting EMS services for. In New London there are two 24-hour ambulances that are staffed. One is stationed at NLH and one is at the substation at the Sunapee Fire Station. The trucks are staffed with Paramedics and EMT's. There are 21 full time employees and about 12 per diem staff to help with coverage. They have also hired a part time EMS Medical Director.

Chair Prohl asked how they absorb the loss of money they have each year. Mr. Riley responded that generally Critical Access hospitals view it as part of their community contribution. CFO Lisa Cohen stated although it is not a profitable service line, they are very dedicated to being a good partner.

Joe Cardillo asked what formula they use when they bill the towns. Lisa Cohen responded it is a combination of population and number of calls. Tom Manion commented that they lost a lot of money in the past year due to the pandemic and not being able to do elective surgeries.

**IT WAS MOVED (Michael Williams) and SECONDED (Jerry Coogan) to approve the Health Agencies budget in the amount of \$233,161. Joe Cardillo: yes, John Raby: yes, Lyndsay Harkins: yes, Chris Lorio: yes, Mark Christensen: yes, Jerry Coogan: yes, Michael Williams: yes, John Cannon: yes, Rob Prohl: yes, Lauren Chadwick: yes. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

##### **Welfare Administration**

Celeste Cook is the Welfare Administrator and does a great job.

Beth Hayward of the Community Action Program (CAP) thanked the town for their support year after year. They are currently not open to the public, but their food pantry is in full swing as is their fuel and

electric assistance programs. Ms. Hayward has seen a significant increase in the need for food due to the pandemic.

Welfare Vendor payments relate to paying rent, mortgages, electric bills and car payments for residents in need. Joe Cardillo does not feel this would be the year to make any adjustments to this area.

**IT WAS MOVED (Joe Cardillo) and SECONDED (John Raby) to approve the Welfare Administration budget in the amount of \$27,463. Joe Cardillo: yes, John Raby: yes, Lyndsay Harkins: yes, Chris Lorio: yes, Mark Christensen: yes, Jerry Coogan: yes, Michael Williams: yes, John Cannon: yes, Rob Prohl: yes, Lauren Chadwick: yes. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **Upper Valley Lake Sunapee RPC**

Meghan Butts, Executive Director of the RPC attended the meeting. She reviewed the benefits that New London receives through the RPC.

**IT WAS MOVED (Jerry Coogan) and SECONDED (John Raby) to approve the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission budget in the amount of \$6,236. Joe Cardillo: yes, John Raby: yes, Lyndsay Harkins: yes, Chris Lorio: yes, Mark Christensen: yes, Jerry Coogan: yes, Michael Williams: yes, John Cannon: yes, Rob Prohl: yes, Lauren Chadwick: yes. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **Tourism – Chamber of Commerce**

Ashlee Rowley attended the meeting and reported that the Chamber of Commerce is not asking for an increase this year. She noted there was a five-part proposal to the state to get money to put back into the communities of the Upper Valley business alliance, Claremont, Newport, Kearsarge area and Lake Sunapee Region Chambers. They are also working on a marketing campaign to let people know they are still available to help.

**IT WAS MOVED (Joe Cardillo) and SECONDED (John Raby) to approve the Chamber of Commerce budget in the amount of \$12, 500 Joe Cardillo: yes, John Raby: yes, Lyndsay Harkins: yes, Chris Lorio: yes, Mark Christensen: yes, Jerry Coogan: yes, Michael Williams: yes, John Cannon: yes, Rob Prohl: yes, Lauren Chadwick: yes. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **Care of Trees, Milfoil & Garden Club**

Kim Hallquist reported that the Care of Trees budget is used by our tree warden. He plants new trees to replace trees or wherever trees are necessary.

#### **Milfoil**

It was a busy year on Pleasant Lake due to the pandemic. They had a record number of boat inspections at the Elkins boat ramp. They are proud to report they do not have any invasive species. They appreciate the support of the town. Chair Prohl thanked them for their work keeping the lakes clean. Steve Root reported Milfoil is a real threat and the cost to the town is a well justified expenditure to protect the lakes. They appreciate the support of the town.

**Garden Club** – There is no request this year.

**IT WAS MOVED (Joe Cardillo) and SECONDED (John Raby) to approve the Other Conservation budget in the amount of \$24,400. Joe Cardillo: yes, John Raby: yes, Lyndsay Harkins: yes, Chris Lorio: yes, Mark Christensen: yes, Jerry Coogan: yes, Michael Williams: yes, John Cannon: yes, Rob Prohl: yes, Lauren Chadwick: yes. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **Debt Service**

Finance Officer Wendy John sent the details of our three highest interest rate loans to the Bond Bank to see if they will reconsider refinancing. They are reviewing it so it is a possibility.

**IT WAS MOVED (Michael Williams) and SECONDED (Jerry Coogan) to approve the Bonded Debt Principal budget in the amount of \$372,303. Joe Cardillo: yes, John Raby: yes, Chris Lorio: yes, Mark Christensen: yes, Jerry Coogan: yes, Michael Williams: yes, John Cannon: yes, Rob Prohl: yes, Lauren Chadwick: yes. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **Bonded Debt Interest Total & TANS**

**IT WAS MOVED (Michael Williams) and SECONDED (Joe Cardillo) to approve the Bonded Debt Interest budget in the amount of \$103,939 and the TANS amount of \$1. Joe Cardillo: yes, John Raby: yes, Chris Lorio: yes, Mark Christensen: yes, Jerry Coogan: yes, Michael Williams: yes, John Cannon: yes, Rob Prohl: yes, Lauren Chadwick: yes. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **Transfers to Capital Reserve Funds**

John Raby suggested a \$10,000 increase in Conservation Land Purchase and another \$10,000 for Energy Projects. Joe Cardillo noted he would like to know more about what Energy Projects are being planned. Knowing what is going out would help him justify putting more in. Chair Prohl recommended having the Energy Committee come to the next meeting to discuss future projects.

Chair Prohl suggested putting \$10,000 as a place holder for the Town Vehicle and Repair fund. Historically when this was set up the goal was to get the fund to \$36,000 and leave it. Now that it is being spent the goal should be to get back to \$36,000 over the next few years.

### **Motion to Adjourn**

**It was moved (Michael Williams) and seconded (Jerry Coogan) to adjourn the meeting. Joe Cardillo: yes, John Raby: yes, Mark Christensen: yes, Michael Williams: yes, Chris Lorio: yes, Jerry Coogan: yes, John Cannon: yes, Lyndsay Harkins: yes, Rob Prohl: yes, Lauren Chadwick. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:55PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Trina Dawson  
Recording Secretary  
Town of New London