



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

7:00 PM

Via Zoom

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

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jay Lyon, New London Fire Chief

Emily Cobb, New London Police Chief

Bob Harrington, Public Works Department

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

Approval of Budget Committee Minutes of December 2, 2020 – Deferred until the next meeting.

Selectmen's Report

Selectman John Cannon reported that the Selectmen did not make any significant changes to the budget last week. There was some discussion at the Recreation Commission meeting that they will review their budget again with Town Administrator Kim Hallquist to come up with some alternatives based on the recommendations of the Outing Club. They are trying to figure how to best align their missions with different funding levels. They are hoping to have this done before they meet with the budget committee on January 6, 2021.

FY2022 Budget Review: Public Works

General Government Buildings

Academy Building - Chair Prohl questioned the heating fuel line item. In 2020 the actual was \$1,324.51 and there is \$3,000 budgeted. Wendy Johnson stated in the past the price for propane has gone up and down. The last two winters have been mild. Chair Prohl asked if this amount could be reduced by \$500. Chris Lorio would prefer to leave it as it is and the Budget Committee agreed.

Transfer Station - Chris Lorio asked if the Maintenance and Repair line item is sufficient. Mr. Harrington feels it is fine for now but in the future they may to address some issues.

IT WAS MOVED (John Raby) and SECONDED (Joe Cardillo) to approve the General Government Buildings budget in the amount of \$213,175. 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.

Cemeteries

IT WAS MOVED (Joe Cardillo) and SECONDED (Chris Lorio) to approve the Cemeteries budget in the amount of \$30,359. 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.

Insurance not otherwise allocated

IT WAS MOVED (John Raby) and SECONDED (Joe Cardillo) to approve the Insurance not otherwise allocated budget in the amount of \$98,818. 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.

Highway Administration

Joe Cardillo asked for an explanation of the pay increases and how the town determines what the contribution for retirement is for all departments. Ms. Johnson stated the state legislature sets the rate the employer pays for a two-year term. For the past two years the town has paid 11.17% on regular employees (not including Police and Fire Department). There will be a significant increase for the next two years.

There was discussion about the Computer Support line item. This is a new vendor for the town and the total amount for this contract is \$72,000. This amount has been divided up among several departments.

IT WAS MOVED (Jerry Coogan) and SECONDED (John Raby) to approve the Highway Administration budget in the amount of \$986,627. 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.

Highway & Streets

Rob Prohl asked Bob Harrington about paving of dirt roads. Mr. Harrington stated that he plans to pave a short apron on Pingree Road to protect the new bridge that was installed and also Lamson Lane will be paved.

IT WAS MOVED (Joe Cardillo) and SECONDED (John Raby) to approve the Highway & Street budget in the amount of \$527,700. 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.

Street Lighting

IT WAS MOVED (Jerry Coogan) and SECONDED (Chris Lorio) to approve the Street Lighting budget in the amount of \$10,000. 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.

Transfer Station

Bob Harrington stated the bottom of the hopper of the trash compactor has worn unevenly and caused the pistons to sag. It has been leaking hydraulic fluid and repair is recommended so they will rebuild the bottom section of it and the pistons will be redone. It should be back up and running by Friday or Saturday, but all compacting capabilities have been lost at this point. The lights on one of the trailers failed and needed to be repaired as well.

Chair Prohl asked where things stood with trying to obtain more land to provide more space. Bob Harrington stated this is being revisited by the Buildings and Facilities Committee and he expects that the Selectmen will be asked to reach out to the state again to see if they will agree to give the town additional land.

Joe Cardillo encouraged the Budget Committee to read the study that was done at the Transfer Station. In his opinion there is a solution for the Transfer Station at the site it is currently on. He feels it is high priority and should be looked at sooner rather than later.

IT WAS MOVED (Michael Williams) and SECONDED (Joe Cardillo) to approve the Transfer Station budget in the amount of \$448,037. Joe Cardillo: yes, John Raby: yes, Mark Christensen: yes, Jerry Coogan: yes, Michael Williams: yes, John Cannon: yes, Rob Prohl: yes, Lauren Chadwick: yes. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Solid Waste Cleanup

Ms. Hallquist stated the Landfill Monitoring appropriation is to cover what the State requires; there are different types of testing each year and the cost is dependent on that. The Special Waste Drives is the town's portion of the RPC Household Hazardous Drives that the town participates in.

IT WAS MOVED (John Raby) and SECONDED (Michael Williams) to approve the Solid Waste Cleanup budget in the amount of \$19,000. 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.

Sewer Fund

General Government Buildings

IT WAS MOVED (John Raby) and SECONDED (Michael Williams) to approve the General Government Buildings budget in the amount of \$61,500. 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.

Sewage Collection & Disposal

John Raby asked for clarification regarding the increase in the Payments to Sunapee line item. Ms. Hallquist responded that the rate is set in September and the town's percentage of plant costs went up again as the flow from New London to the plant has increased. The Wastewater staff are always looking for areas of infiltration, such as via manhole covers, to reduce flows.

IT WAS MOVED (Michael Williams) and SECONDED (Jerry Coogan) to approve the Sewage Collection and Disposal budget in the amount of \$784,888. 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.

IT WAS MOVED (Chris Lorio) and SECONDED (John Raby) to approve the Sewer Fund budget in the amount of \$1,070,711. 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.

OTHER BUDGETS:

Reassessment of Property

IT WAS MOVED (Joe Cardillo) and SECONDED (Chris Lorio) to approve the Reassessment of Property budget in the amount of \$90,947. 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.

Legal

IT WAS MOVED (John Raby) and SECONDED (Jerry Coogan) to approve the Legal budget in the amount of \$10,500. 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.

Personnel Administration

IT WAS MOVED (Chris Lorio) and SECONDED (John Raby) to approve the Personnel Administration budget in the amount of \$95,562. 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.

Planning & Zoning

Jerry Coogan asked if there has been any consideration of combining Planning and Zoning and having one full time Planning and Zoning Administrator. Ms. Hallquist responded there has not been any recent discussion and she believes the Selectmen are happy with the model they are currently using.

IT WAS MOVED (Jerry Coogan) and SECONDED (Joe Cardillo) to approve the Planning and Zoning budget in the amount of \$157,130. 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.

Patriotic Purposes

IT WAS MOVED (Chris Lorio) and SECONDED (John Raby) to approve the Patriotic Purposes budget in the amount of \$300. 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.

Archives

IT WAS MOVED (John Raby) and SECONDED (Chris Lorio) to approve the Archives budget in the amount of \$1,000. 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.

Energy Committee

IT WAS MOVED (Chris Lorio) and SECONDED (John Raby) to approve the Energy Committee budget in the amount of \$450. 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.

Administration

Joe Cardillo asked about health and dental insurance increases. Ms. Hallquist responded that 9% is the maximum the health insurance will go up, the rates should be issued in early February. Dental rates did not change this year.

IT WAS MOVED (John Raby) and SECONDED (Chris Lorio) to approve the Executive budget in the amount of \$333,154. 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.

Finance

Chair Prohl questioned if the Finance Officer salary line item was adequate. Ms. Hallquist stated she and Finance Officer Wendy Johnson discussed this and felt it was a fair salary. The town's grade scale appears to be competitive when compared to other towns. Ms. Hallquist noted surprise that there was not more interest in the position.

Other Business

Chair Prohl noted that Ms. Hallquist is charged with making an analysis of the Outing Club's proposal, so all questions committee members might have should be sent to her, to be shared with the Outing Club and Recreation Commission. This information should be available prior to the January 6, 2021 budget meeting.

John Raby asked if the Outing Club and the Recreation Commission have arrived at any understanding and agreement as to how to move forward. Ms. Hallquist responded they are working on this now, they had a good meeting earlier today and they will continue to meet. He also asked if there was any assurance that services offered were accessible to folks in New London regardless of income. Ms. Hallquist noted that today the Outing Club did say they will be offering assistance to New London residents who have need. Chris Lorio stated in the presentation part of the Outing Club request, some of the funds will go help fund people that are in need.

Jerry Coogan noted that he continues to question how the Outing Club came up with \$95,000. He also questioned when and if other communities would contribute or will it only be New London subsidizing it for other towns. Joe Cardillo asked Mr. Coogan if he has reviewed the recent information from the Outing Club, Mr. Coogan stated that he had. Mr. Cardillo noted that New London is the town with the

problem, not the other towns as those towns have part-time recreation directors now, New London has no one in the position. He noted that this is almost a leap of faith and suggested that this is something the town should try. Mr. Prohl questioned who is going to run which program, that is not clear to him. Chris Lorio noted that he has spoken to Pete Smith and urged him to be specific about what they intend to do in terms of programming as he agrees with Mr. Prohl that it is not clear. Mr. Lorio also asked for the job description of the Recreation Director and of the Outing Club Executive Director.

Mike Williams noted that the Outing Club is not a department of the town and it's likely that if they ask for \$95,000 this year it will be more next year. Why doesn't the Recreation Commission use its budget to pay the Outing Club for programs that it can't offer, and they could management the expenditure. Mr. Cardillo noted that while the town needs to hold groups accountable, the town writes a check, and the Outing Club should be treated the same as other groups that get funding, no more and no less.

John Cannon noted that he expects the two groups to finalize agreements to get the issue clearer as to which group will do what. He noted that the Outing Club has said they will ask surrounding towns for financial assistance as well. He stressed that he expects to see much clearer information for the January 6th meeting.

Mr. Prohl noted that committee members should consider how much the town wants to spend on recreation and consider how programming has been offered in the past and what people want to see in the future – who will do what programming. He noted that this is an important discussion on the 6th and asked members to send questions to Ms. Hallquist. Committee members expressed their hope that the Outing Club and Recreation Commission meet to resolve the outstanding issues.

Motion to Adjourn

It was moved (Jerry Coogan) and seconded (Mark Christensen) 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, Rob Prohl: yes, Lauren Chadwick. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Trina Dawson
Recording Secretary
Town of New London