



# TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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## BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES February 17, 2022 6:00 PM

### **PRESENT:**

John Cannon, Chairman  
Nancy Rollins, Selectman  
Janet Kidder, Selectman  
Kim Hallquist, Town Administrator

### **ALSO PRESENT:**

Fire Chief Jay Lyon  
Building & Facilities Committee: Colin Beasley, Rip Cross, Phil Sherman, Joe Cardillo, Peter Hoglund,

Chair Cannon called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and opened the Public Hearing to receive comment on the proposal to enter into a long-term lease/purchase agreement in the amount of \$946,000 payable over a term of 60 (sixty) months for the replacement of Fire Engine #2.

Phil Sherman noted that he is in favor of the plan. Chief Lyon noted that he wishes he could have entered into this agreement before now as last summer the price was in the range of \$790,000+, since then things have increased significantly. Chair Cannon also pointed to the challenges of the extended delivery date. Rip Cross asked what would happen to the old vehicle. Chief Lyon explained that the last one was traded in for \$36,000, there is not much of a market for used apparatus. He also pointed out that the town has replacement value in today's dollars for apparatus that is less than 20 years old, while apparatus that is 20 years and older that is involved in an accident the town would only get market value – that could mean a payment of only \$10,000-\$30,000 for the town's apparatus of 20 years or older.

The Chair declared the public hearing closed at 6:04 PM.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were none

#### Whipple Hall shades for arch portion of windows

Kim Hallquist informed the Board that she spoke with Dan at Portsmouth Blind & Shade about the shades that are scheduled to be installed at the top of the windows, in the arch. He stated that they have not been ordered yet and if the town wants to cancel, the bill will be credited \$1,800. Ms. Hallquist confirmed with the vendor that the shades could be added at a later date if necessary. Ms. Hallquist noted that the drawback of not installing the arch shades is that there will be 3 areas where sun will come in, which will require someone to move a chair, and, depending on when the arches are installed, there may be a color difference between the new arch shade and the older window shade, but she did not feel that these drawbacks outweighed the benefit of being able to see the top of the windows with the distinctive design. She noted that she received comments from citizens that being able to see the tops of the windows would be preferred.

Selectman Rollins noted that aesthetically it looks nice, and she thinks they should skip the shades covering the arches. Selectman Kidder agreed and noted that while she was not initially in favor of the shades, now that they are up, she thinks they look great, and she would not like to the top of the windows covered. Chair Cannon agreed.

Rip Cross, Building & Facilities Committee, noted that it is difficult at this time of year to determine if the sun coming in from the arches will be too much, as the summer months is when there is the problem. Ms. Hallquist agreed and noted that when the shades were being discussed last summer, the areas of sunlight were clearly visible on the floor – the windows allowed large areas of sun while the three arch areas were smaller. She agreed that without arch shades, people sitting in the three spots from the arch windows would likely want to move their chairs, but it might be worth trying, to keep the decorative windows visible. Phil Sherman noted that future air conditioning of the room might impact the discussion as well. Mr. Cross noted that adding a mylar film to the arch windows might be an effective alternative to the shades, should it become necessary.

The Board directed the Town Administrator to inform Portsmouth Blind and Shade to cancel the shades for the arch. Ms. Hallquist informed the Board that she spoke with the company earlier in the day about having one shade fixed as it does not stack evenly – a technician will be sent to make the necessary adjustment.

Information regarding sale of town property as approved at Town Meeting 2020: King Hill Road – Map 136, Lot 1.

The Board noted receipt of information from Nathaniel Stevens, SooNipi Land, LLC, the property owner who got permission from town meeting voters in 2021 to purchase land on King Hill Road, that explains why the title being offered by the town is not marketable, thus his request for town meeting voters to remove the requirement to merge the lots. This issue will be discussed as a warrant article on March 9<sup>th</sup>.

DES Inspection report of Pleasant Lake Dam

The Board noted receipt of the State DES inspection of the Pleasant Lake Dam. Public Works Director has the report and will address any issues found. This is a routine inspect by DES as they are responsible for ensuring the safety of all dams in NH through its dam safety program.

Moderator's request for appointment of Inspectors of Elections

The Board reviewed a list of individuals for re-appointment as Inspectors of Election for a term of two years as provided by Moderator Michael Todd: Kathleen Belko, Kathy Colby, Conrad Boulton, Lyndsay Harkins, Kimberly Ilg and Joan Trabucci.

**IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (John Cannon) to appoint the Inspectors of Election as recommended by the Moderator. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Campaigning at the Transfer Station

Selectman Rollins inquired about the town's position on campaigning at the Transfer Station; she was recently informed by staff that the Town Administrator said no campaigning is allowed. Ms. Hallquist agreed and explained that this has been her position from the beginning of her tenure in the position because there are safety concerns at the transfer station already, adding to it by having people campaign was not seen as prudent. She has discussed this issue with former Public Works Director Richard Lee and most recently with the current Public Works Director Bob Harrington when the school district asked if they could hand out material on the upcoming vote on the school renovation bond. Ms. Hallquist noted that transfer stations are popular places for candidates to want to campaign, because just about all citizens

go there, however the purpose of the area is to safely dispose of trash, not have meetings or gatherings not related to trash disposal.

Selectman Rollins noted that she has been aware of the practice in the past, Ms. Hallquist noted that had she been aware of it, she would have instructed staff to inform people that they could not do it. Ms. Hallquist noted she checked back in past meeting minutes and did not see any discussion of candidates appealing to the Selectmen to allow campaigning there, pointing out that if the Selectmen want to allow the practice, they certainly could.

The Board noted that given that the area for trash disposal is limited, allowing campaigning at the transfer station should not be allowed due to safety concerns. Candidates can stand outside the gate with signs, so long as they don't stop cars creating a backup. It was noted that no signs are allowed to be affixed to any town property, but people can stand and hold one, outside of the transfer station property.

### **COMMITTEE MEETINGS & REPORTS**

Housing Commission – Selectman Rollins stated the Housing Commission met on January 4, 2022. There was not quorum present but they did hear from the consultant Mark Fougere who has begun researching the town's ordinances.

Building and Facilities Committee – Chair Cannon noted that he would be attending the next meeting at 6:30 PM that evening.

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS**

- Next Regular Selectmen's meeting – Monday, March 7th – 6:00 PM - Whipple Town Hall
- Building and Facilities Committee – Thursday, February 17th – 6:00 PM – Syd Crook Room
- Town Offices Closed – Monday, February 21st – Presidents' Day
- Planning Board – Tuesday, February 22nd – 6:30 PM – Whipple Town Hall
- Police Station Site Review Subcom. – Tuesday, March 1st – 1:00 PM – PD Training Room
- Town Elections- Tuesday, March 8th – 7:00AM – 7:00PM – Kearsarge Professional Development Center, 165 Main Street (see town website for directions)
- Town Meeting -Wednesday, March 9th – 7:00 PM - Kearsarge Learning Campus Gymnasium, Cougar Court (see town website for directions)

**IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to enter into a nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a): the dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee.**

Roll call vote: Kidder: Yes; Rollins: Yes Cannon: Yes

The Board entered nonpublic session at 6:23 PM.

**IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (John Cannon) to seal the nonpublic session meeting minutes.**

Roll call vote: Kidder: Yes; Rollins: Yes Cannon: Yes

The Board reentered the public session at 6:33 PM.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kimberly Hallquist  
Town Administrator