



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

February 22, 2021

6:00 PM

Via Zoom

PRESENT:

Janet Kidder, Chairman
Nancy Rollins, Selectman
John Cannon, Selectman
Kim Hallquist, Town Administrator
Wendy Johnson, Finance Officer

ALSO PRESENT:

Emily Cobb, Police Chief
Jay Lyon, Fire Chief
Lynn Lewis, Finance Officer
Janet Haines, New London Resident
Rob Prohl, Chair, Budget Committee

Will Kidder, Town Clerk-Tax Collector
Mike Matthy, Fire Department
Peter Hoglund, Buildings & Facilities Committee
Kim Bonin, Tracey Library Trustee

Chair Kidder called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and read the zoom authorization information. Chair Kidder called the roll: Nancy Rollins: present, John cannon: present, Janet Kidder: present.

Tracy Library Sprinkler System project

Kim Bonin, Tracy Library Trustee, attended the meeting to update the Board on the Tracy Library sprinkler project. She explained that they are currently in the process of contract review of the sprinkler project with Milestone Engineering and Construction. Once the review is completed, the Library Board chair will sign the contract and the shop drawings will begin. Once the shop drawings are completed, construction will begin immediately. The construction is estimated to take between 2-3 months so should be done by late spring, early summer.

Chair Kidder noted that the estimate is \$310,752.76 and the bond that was passed was for \$250,000. Ms. Bonin stated there is a contingency in there for \$25,896 which is included in the estimated price. This brings the cost down to \$284,000. Milestone Engineering will work on value engineering options in order to reduce costs whenever possible, but costs have risen substantially over the past few years. Ms. Bonin noted that there are sufficient funds in the Library Building Capital Reserve Fund that can be used for that purpose, if needed.

Nancy Rollins asked if the Building and Facilities Committee was involved in this process and Ms. Bonin responded no. Selectman Cannon stated the Building and Facilities committee was aware of what was going on, expressed their concerns and is now satisfied with the project.

Public Comment – None

Warrant Article to sell town land to abutter: King Hill Road Map 136 Lot 1

Town Administrator Kim Hallquist explained that the Selectmen previously agreed to place this item on the warrant for Town Meeting. The abutter that would like to purchase the property would like to know if the

Selectmen think it is appropriate to include the purchase price in the article. The Board agreed that including the price was reasonable.

State Fire Marshal issuing commercial and multi-family building permits

Kim Hallquist stated back in December when the Building and Facilities Committee presented their recommendation to have the State Fire Marshal issue commercial and multi-family building permits, given that New London does not have a building inspector, the Selectmen were in agreement with the plan, pending confirmation that the State was willing to do the inspections. She asked for confirmation from the Board that that continues to be their position, as the State Fire Marshal has confirmed that they can take on the work.

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (John Cannon) to have commercial and multi-family building permits issued by the State Fire Marshal. Roll call: Nancy Rollins: Yes, John Cannon: Yes, Janet Kidder: yes. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Debt Policy Proposal

Selectman Rollins stated on January 25, 2021 the Fiscal Policy group provided a report and had two recommendations. The first proposal relative to the debt policy asked that it be vetted with the Budget Committee and the Town Treasurer. Has that been done? Wendy Johnson stated the Town Treasurer has received it and has read it but has not responded yet. The Budget Committee also received it but has not met to discuss. Selectman Rollins would like the Budget Committee and Treasurer to be asked to submit their recommendations.

The second recommendation was in regard to the CIP and the Planning Board. The Planning Board was going to discuss and make a recommendation. Chair Kidder responded that a Planning Board is scheduled to meet tomorrow night and they can discuss it if time allows.

Participating in the Coalition Communities 2.0

Ms. Hallquist stated that material from the Coalition Communities 2.0 was sent out previously and she hopes everyone had a chance to review it. New London was a part of a similar group back at its first iteration when the issue of donor towns was originally raised more than twenty years ago. The Coalition Communities 2.0 is now looking to hire a lobbyist to assist the towns navigating the legislative process (more than 70 towns will be impacted by higher costs should the legislature change the way school funding is figured). The question before the Selectmen is whether they want to join with the Coalition Communities and be a participant in the financial piece of it by hiring a lobbyist follow this issue on behalf of New London and the other towns. The estimated cost will be shared by all towns that join; for New London, if all 70+ communities join, the cost will be \$2,200. Since it's likely that not all towns will participate, the actual cost will be higher. Ms. Hallquist noted that she understands that Sunapee has joined already, and Newbury is expected to join as well.

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (John Cannon) that the town of New London join the Coalition Communities 2.0 group that has been formed to address the Commission on Education Funding recommendation of return to donor town. Roll call: Nancy Rollins: Yes, John Cannon: Yes, Janet Kidder: yes. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Ms. Hallquist noted that a representative must be named to represent the town at Coalition meetings. She noted that the representative could be one of the Selectmen, the Town Administrator, or some other person that the Board wanted to appoint. She noted that the representative's roll is to keep the Selectmen informed and to bring the Selectmen's stated positions to the Coalition and vote those stated positions when needed.

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (John Cannon) appoint Kim Hallquist, Town Administrator, as the Town of New London's representative for the Coalition Communities 2.0 group. Roll call: Nancy Rollins: Yes, John Cannon: Yes, Janet Kidder: yes. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Request of Will Kidder, Tax Collector, for appointment of Dianne Bottari as Deputy Tax Collector

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (John Cannon) to allow Will Kidder to appoint Dianne Bottari as Deputy Tax Collector. Roll call: Nancy Rollins: Yes, John Cannon: Yes, Janet Kidder: yes. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Petitioned warrant article for June Town Meeting – purchase Stahlman Building

The Board noted receipt of a petitioned Warrant Article for inclusion on the warrant for the June Town Meeting. Town Clerk Will Kidder has certified that the petition has the required 25 signatures; 35 signatures were included on the petition. The petition was timely filed. Chair Kidder noted this will go before the Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen for consideration because it includes an appropriation. There will be a bond hearing.

Meeting schedule for March

The March Board of Selectman meetings will be scheduled for March 8 and March 22, 2021.

Kim Hallquist stated that the outdoor location has not been secured yet for Town Meeting on June 9, 2021.

Town Administrators Report

Ms. Hallquist provided the following report:

- A Building and Facilities subcommittee meeting was held today. They will meet again next week and the goal is to get good estimates for the cost of improvements to Whipple Hall. Ms. Hallquist will be talking with the Trustee of the Trust Funds to get a better idea on what are considered maintenance issues and where the funds to pay for the improvements will come from.
- Adam Ricker started working full-time for the Town of New London today and is now doing both Planning and Zoning.
- Jim Perkins has been made aware of a demolition that will be happening on Main Street. He will take pictures as it was an old building and he will do what he can to memorialize that building with pictures.
- Ms. Hallquist has been in contact with the Department of Transportation on the issue of the Transfer station land. The idea of leasing the land was discussed and may be a possibility.
- A hockey puck broke a window at the New London Inn; the town's insurance company has been contacted to see if there is coverage. Thankfully there were no injuries.
- There are issues with the furnace in Public Works which may be a costly repair. Ms. Hallquist has asked Bob Harrington to get a better idea as to whether it's worth fixing or should be replaced.

Committee Meetings & Reports

Housing Commission – Selectman Rollins stated the Housing Commission met for the first time two weeks ago. A presentation about what Housing Commissions are doing or not doing in New Hampshire was given by Ben Frost from NH Housing Authority. At the second meeting which will be held tomorrow night, they will choose a chair, co-chair etc.

Building & Facilities Committee – Selectman Cannon stated the Building and Facilities Committee continues to meet and they are doing a lot of work with Chief Cobb to obtain more information on the Stahlman Building. They are also trying to come up with a charter for the committee to identify what their mission and goals are to bring before the Board of Selectmen soon.

Planning Board – Chair Kidder stated a Planning Board meeting was held on February 9, 2021. There was a storm water & erosion control application, a temporary access path in the shore front buffer and a lot line

adjustment that was approved for New London Hospital Association. There was a long discussion with Continuum regarding the senior living facility they are planning. Construction is planned to start this spring and they have reduced the number of cottages from 24 to 17. They have also reduced total units from 157 to 135. The main building will be reduced by 40,000 square feet and they have added more parking. The public hearing for the master plan was also held and the final hearing will be tomorrow night.

Recreation Commission – Chair Kidder stated a Recreation Commission meeting was held this morning. They need more commission members. Carol Kinzler and Janet Kidder intend to resign from the Commission to make room for new members. The Commission recommends five new members. There have been numerous inquiries and Justin Garzia interviewed all the individuals that filled out a volunteer form last week. He has also spoken with Peter Smith from the Outing Club and has asked someone from their board to join the Recreation Commission. A motion was passed to increase membership on the Recreation Commission from 5-7 members from 5-9 members so there will be plenty of people to help on the commission. A motion was made to appoint five individuals and they would like the Selectmen to approve both motions.

Selectman Rollins would like to review the volunteer forms prior to approval. Ms. Hallquist will forward the applications to Selectmen Rollins and Cannon.

Meeting Minutes

IT WAS MOVED (John Cannon) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2021 meeting. Roll call: Nancy Rollins: Yes, John Cannon: Yes, Janet Kidder: yes. THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED.

IT WAS MOVED (John Cannon) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2021 meeting. Roll Call: Nancy Rollins: Yes, John Cannon: Yes, Janet Kidder: yes. THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED.

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (John Cannon) to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2021 meeting. Roll Call: Nancy Rollins: Yes, John Cannon: Yes, Janet Kidder: yes. THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED.

Upcoming Meetings & Special Events

- Next regular Selectmen's meeting – Monday, March 8, 2021 – via Zoom
- Housing Commission – Tuesday, February 23rd – 6:00 PM via Zoom
- Planning Board – Tuesday, February 23rd – 6:30 PM via Zoom
- Buildings & Facilities Committee – Thursday, February 25th – 6:30 PM via Zoom
- Supervisors of the Checklist – Saturday, February 27th – 9:00 – 9:30 AM – Whipple Town Hall
- Citizen's Advisory Committee – Saturday, March 6th – 7:30 AM via Zoom
- Conservation Commission – Wednesday, March 17th – 8:30 AM via Zoom

Please see the calendar on the town website for a complete listing of other meetings, including subcommittee meetings, of the various town boards: www.nl-nh.com

Items to be signed

- Accounts Payable Voucher
- Yield Tax Levy
- Warrant for Wastewater Charges
- Proration Application for Damaged Buildings
- Veterans' Tax Credit Application

Applications Approved &/or Denied

Building Permits

- Michelle & Frank Occhiuti, 524 Otterville Road, TM 041-006-0-0-0. Build addition and deck. BP 20-145 approved 2/17/2021
- Juliana Anderson, 72 Fairway Lane, TM 124-003-0-0-0. Finish screen porch add 7x13 section and garage dormers. BP 21-004 approved 2/17/2021
- Bar Harbor Bank, 331 Main Street, TM 084-089-0-0-0. Demolish all structures. BP 21-005 approved 2/17/2021
- GNC NH Trust, 910 Lakeshore Drive, TM 065-015-0-0-0. Roof mount solar. BP 21-006 approved 2/17/2021
- Peter Brooks, 55 Spruce Lane, TM 045-029-0-0-0. Finish basement. BP 21-007 approved 2/17/2021
- John Ellis Revoc. Trust, 37 Old Main Street, TM 095-031-0-0-0. Roof mount solar. BP 21-011 approved 2/17/2021

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (John Cannon) to adjourn. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 6:39PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Trina Dawson
Recording Secretary