



# TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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## NEW LONDON BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 8, 2024

Whipple Memorial Hall

5:30 PM

### PRESENT:

Janet Kidder, Chairman  
Bill Helm, Selectman  
Bebe Hammond Casey, Selectman  
Kim Hallquist, Town Administrator  
Lynn Lewis, Finance Officer

### ALSO PRESENT:

Emily Cobb, New London Police Chief  
Heidi Dunlop, New London Police  
Administrative Assistant  
David Keith, New London Police Lieutenant  
Eben Lamson, New London Police Sargeant  
Geoffrey Daley, New London K9 Officer  
Jay Lyon, New London Fire Chief  
Andrew Sarnevitz, New London Firefighter  
Connor Heath, New London Firefighter  
John Galloway, Sunapee Fire Chief  
Rob Riessle, Sunapee Fire Lieutenant  
John Gosselin, Sunapee Safety Officer

Greg Barthol, New London Communications  
Specialist  
Nancy Barthol, Public Works Administrative  
Assistant  
Will Kidder, Town Clerk and Tax Collector  
Adam Ricker, Planning and Zoning  
Administrator  
Leigh Bosse, Publisher for *The Messenger*  
John Ellis, New London resident  
Karen Epstein, New London resident  
Rich Epstein, New London resident  
Colin Beasley, Budget Committee member  
Bob Bowers, New London resident  
Janet Miller-Haines, New London resident

Selectman Kidder called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

### Recognition of Dispatcher Greg Barthol

Police Chief Emily Cobb presented a Certificate of Exceptional Duty Award to Communications Specialist Greg Barthol for his work on dispatching and managing significant fire calls in two towns back-to-back, starting on the evening of January 18, including the multi-alarm apartment fire at Prospect Hill in Sunapee. Representatives from the Sunapee Fire Department, New London Fire Department and New London Police Department attended the meeting to show their support for Communications Specialist Barthol and he received a standing ovation from the Board of Selectmen, as well as the public.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Bob Bowers expressed his appreciation to the Department of Public Works for their excellent work clearing the sidewalks this winter. He shared that the wide swath clearing has made it safer and easier to navigate the sidewalks this year. Janet Kidder thanked Mr. Bowers for his comments and noted that Public Works is using newer equipment which is wider than in years past.

### **Grant for Mobile Data Terminal**

Chief Cobb gave an update on an opportunity to amend the State of New Hampshire Highway Safety Grant previously awarded to the Police Department in the amount of \$8,200. Because of that original application, the department became eligible to apply for additional funds to support new equipment in the cruisers. The grant will be amended to \$29,421.48 however the funds will only cover 75% of the equipment cost. Chief Cobb noted that the current equipment is outdated, and this would be an ideal time to update it as the replacements will work seamlessly with the new software being rolled out this month. She believes the matching funds can be absorbed into the current operating budget by deferring some projects previously scheduled for this year.

Chair Kidder complimented Chief Cobb on the number of grants she has been able to obtain over the last year and asked if she had a summary to share of that work. Chief Cobb shared that not all funds are in hand, however the amount totals approximately \$577,000 over several projects. She thanked the Selectmen for their support of these grant submissions.

**IT WAS MOVED (Bill Helm) AND SECONDED (Bebe Casey) to approve the application of the grant for Mobile Data Terminals. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **Application for InvestNH Municipal Grant Program**

Adam Ricker gave a background of the NH Housing affordable housing grant program that is a part of the Governor's InvestNH initiative. There is some documentation required for the grant that won't be available for the Twin Pines Long Meadow Commons project until the property transfers, however the Town has been encouraged to apply with the materials available. There is the potential for \$600,000 to be granted to the Town, with no specific restrictions on use.

Selectmen Casey asked how many projects have been approved for grants in the state. Mr. Ricker said he did not have total numbers, but he was aware of projects in Lebanon and Dover that resulted in grants for those communities. Selectmen Helm asked if Mr. Ricker could provide an update on the Twin Pines project timeline. Mr. Ricker replied that the exact timing could shift, however the target is a mid-summer of 2025 move-in. The test wells may be dug within the next few months, and a zoning permit application will be submitted to the Town after that. Once the town's zoning permit is approved, the State Fire Marshall building permit process would be next so Twin Pines could possibly break ground by the fall of 2024.

**IT WAS MOVED (Bebe Casey) AND SECONDED (Bill Helm) to approve submission of the grant application. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

John Ellis asked if there was an update on the Continuum project. Mr. Ricker shared that the test wells have been drilled and the results are encouraging, however they have not yet completed a 72-hour pump test. Due to the size of the project, they are designated a public water supply and must work with DES on the approval process. Chair Kidder asked if they would need to return to the Planning Board at any point in the future. Mr. Ricker said the current approved plan includes 106 independent living units, 12 independent cottages and an assisted living and memory care facility with an occupancy of 60. If that changes, they would need to return to the Planning Board.

Karen Epstein asked what the unit counts of the Continuum and Twin Pine projects translates to for number of people. There was a discussion on the difference between occupancy, such as in the

assisted living and memory facility, and the independent units that include kitchen etc which could support a single person, or a couple.

### **House Bill 1281**

Kim Hallquist gave an update on a proposed House Bill impacting zoning restrictions on residential rental property. House Bill 1281 was brought to the Town's attention after Durham sent a letter to the state legislature regarding the bill and copied all other towns with colleges and universities. The bill would restrict towns from having prohibitions on occupancy of less than 2 people, per bedroom, per unit. The Town of New London Zoning Ordinance prohibits more than 5 unrelated individuals per residential housing unit.

Ms. Hallquist suggested that if the Board was in opposition to the bill, they could write a letter to the legislature. Selectmen Helm was in favor of opposing any interference by the legislature with zoning regulations. Selectmen Casey agreed that local control was important.

**IT WAS MOVED (Bill Helm) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to send a letter to the state legislature opposing HB 1281. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **Request for use of Town Parking lot for New London Day 2024**

The annual town clean up, known as New London Day, is scheduled for May 11, 2024. The event organizers would like to use the town parking lot across from Tracy Library, as they have in years past. It does not conflict with Colby-Sawyer graduation. There was a discussion on what impact the Water Main replacement project might have on upcoming events. Chief Lyon stated that the replacement phases are small increments which will potentially start much later in the summer near Squires Lane. There have been discussions regarding alternative sites for staging equipment that would not impact Town parking. There are no closures planned for the project and more information will be provided to the public as the project details get finalized.

**IT WAS MOVED (Bill Helm) AND SECONDED (Bebe Casey) to approve use of the lot. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **Town Meeting Warrant**

There were no changes to the order of the articles for Town Meeting.

**IT WAS MOVED (Bebe Casey) AND SECONDED (Bill Helm) to approve the Warrant for Town Meeting. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

Kim Hallquist recently travelled to Concord to testify on a lobbying bill of interest to NHMA. Another letter was sent in support of a bill, co-sponsored by Representative Karen Ebel, that would allow municipalities to lower speed limits seasonally. Ms. Hallquist has testified in support of this bill in the past. The full-time opening in the Selectmen's office has been filled and the new employee will be introduced in a future *Municipal Matters* article, after she starts.

### **COMMITTEE MEETINGS & REPORTS**

Selectmen Helm gave an update from the most recent New London-Springfield Water Precinct meeting which included their annual budget hearing and a public bond hearing. Both hearings were recessed until Monday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. The Water Precinct expects to have received five bids

for the water main construction project and will select one ahead of the next meeting. Bob Bowers was appointed as the new Moderator of the Water Precinct temporarily and may run for the office next month.

Chair Kidder reported that Jaime Hess, Energy Committee Chair, accompanied her to the Sunapee wastewater treatment plant to talk with Superintendent Dave Bailey about a solar array at the treatment plant. Chair Kidder believes there could be significant savings in the treatment plant electric bill for both towns if solar was installed at the facility.

**MEETING MINUTES:** - Approve Selectmen's Minutes of January 17<sup>th</sup>, January 25<sup>th</sup>, and February 3<sup>rd</sup>

**IT WAS MOVED (Bill Helm) AND SECONDED (Bebe Casey) to accept the minutes of the January 17<sup>th</sup>, January 25<sup>th</sup> and February 3<sup>rd</sup> meetings. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED (Janet Kidder abstained from voting)**

The next regular Selectmen's meeting will be Thursday, February 22 at 5:30pm.

#### **APPROVAL OF PAY VOUCHERS, PERMITS etc**

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

- Payroll Authorization Vouchers
- Land Use Change Taxes, A5 & A5W - Peter Bloch & Kathy Lowe, Roberta Storm
- Center for the Arts – use of Whipple Hall – March 1, 2024, 4:30-9:00pm & December 6, 2024, 4:00-9:00pm

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

###### Building/Zoning Permits – Approved

- Gilman Trusts, TM 055-004-0-0-0, BP 23-123, rebuilding attached dwelling unit/annex – Approved 1/22/24
- John Moses, TM 074-023-0-0-0, BP 23-139, roof mount solar – Approved 1/30/24
- Elaine Murphy, TM 076-014-0-0-0, BP 24-001, demo breezeway add mudroom – Approved 1/30/24
- Marion Willse Trust, 108-002-0-0-0, BP 24-003, replace fireplace insert – Approved 1/30/24
- New London Historical Society, TM059-035-0-0-0, BP 24-006 – foundation & roof repair – Approved 1/31/24
- MCHC Rentals, LLC, TM 059-012-0-001-102, ZP 23-11, renovating interior of unit, adding sinks to treatment rooms and enlarging the waiting area – Approved 2/2/24

**IT WAS MOVED (Bill Helm) AND SECONDED (Bebe Casey) to adjourn. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:11 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Cara Leone  
Recording Secretary

Town of New London

Note: RSA 91-A:2, II provides that “*Minutes of all such meetings, including nonpublic sessions, shall include the names of members, persons appearing before the public bodies, and a brief description of the subject matter discussed and final decisions.*” A video of the entire meeting may be available for viewing on the town website, [New London.NH.gov](http://NewLondon.NH.gov), if more than the brief description contained in these meeting minutes is desired.