



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

March 7, 2024

Professional Development Center
5:30 PM

PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Will Kidder, Town Clerk/Tax Collector
Michael Todd, Town Moderator
Laura Abrahamsen, Tracy Library Interim Director
John Wilson, Budget Committee Member
Peter Nichols, Housing Commission Chair
Bob Bowers, New London resident
John Ellis, New London resident
Rich Epstein, New London resident
Nancy Marashio, New London resident

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

IT WAS MOVED (Bill Helm) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to allow Bebe Casey to participate remotely, via Zoom. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

ELECTION AND TOWN MEETING

Chair Kidder introduced Town Moderator Michael Todd and Town Clerk Will Kidder. They were invited to give an overview of the process for elections and Town Meeting.

Michael Todd explained how Town Meeting works in New London, with voting all day on Tuesday, and the remaining articles addressed Wednesday night. Training has been ongoing for ballot volunteers and there will be some new processes in place to streamline any secret ballot voting that occurs. Logistical planning has been challenging however the elections team is continuing to refine their plans to make the event as smooth as possible.

Will Kidder gave an update of his remaining work, including ballot machine testing and poll pad testing. One more poll pad has been ordered, to make absentee ballot processing more efficient, and it is expected to be in use at the elections. Will Kidder invited any residents interested in being an elections volunteer to apply at the Town Offices.

Michael Todd has received many calls regarding the process for Town Meeting on Wednesday night. He explained that it is the people's meeting and any voter may submit a motion for a procedural rule,

however the goal is to facilitate robust discussion within a reasonable time frame. Residents who have submitted a petitioned warrant article will be invited to explain to the voters their position. Students from New London Elementary, led by Nicole Densmore, will lead the pledge of allegiance and the national anthem at the beginning of the meeting, as they have in years past.

Selectmen Helm asked if there were any restrictions on Chair Kidder volunteering at the polls on Tuesday, as all the Selectmen were planning on taking a shift. Michael Todd explained that if you are on the ballot you are ineligible to handle ballots on election day and further, you may not electioneer inside the polling location. There are other duties that can be performed by an election official who is also on the ballot. Mr. Todd is also running for reelection as Town Moderator so he has appointed Deputy Moderators to assist when ballot handling may be required. These restrictions do not apply to the Town Meeting on Wednesday as that is not an election.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

John Ellis asked if a time limit would be proposed by the Moderator. Michael Todd referred to the New London Town Moderator Rules for Town Meeting rules that were published in the Town Report. A time limit was not specified but could be proposed by any voter at the beginning of the meeting and would then be voted on by the voters. Mr. Todd gave a summary of electioneering restrictions for the day of the elections.

There was a discussion of logistics and what the process might be if Town Meeting attendance surpasses the capacity of the Kearsarge Learning Campus Gymnasium. Voter turnout has increased in recent years but is still well below the projected maximum. Nancy Marashio wanted to know why the poll pads cannot be used to check voters in at Town Meeting as she feels the check in lines are too slow. Will Kidder explained that he has been researching the issue however there are legal considerations for how Town Meeting must be conducted.

John Wilson presented his concerns regarding Zoning Amendment 4 and asked voters to vote no on that amendment on Tuesday, March 12th. Peter Nichols offered his perspective, as Chair of the Housing Commission, on why he supports voting yes on Zoning Amendment 4.

Rich Epstein offered his support for John Wilson's position on voting "no" to Zoning Amendment 4 and asked for a review of procedures for how Zoning Amendments are summarized on the ballot. Chair Kidder assured Mr. Epstein that the Planning Board is aware of his concerns regarding the summaries for this year. Kim Hallquist clarified the current process, which includes an administrative review by Town staff. Michael Todd reminded interested voters that the proposed language to be added, and deleted, from the full text of the Zoning Ordinance is available online, and in the Town Report. Will Kidder stated that there is no legal limit on length of the ballot however the longer it is the more expensive it is to run the election.

OLD BUSINESS

Selectmen Helm offered a clarification of his remarks at a previous Selectmen's meeting, regarding the New London-Springfield Water Precinct. Selectmen Helm has attended most of the Water Commissioners' meetings over the last year. He feels the Precinct is well run and noted that, at the Selectmen's invitation, the Commissioners have spoken at a recent New London Board of Selectmen meeting regarding the history of the Precinct. The Precinct's focus is to serve its current customer base plus a small incremental increase of new customers. Development is still occurring in New London, with Continuum and Twin Pines pursuing on-site water options rather than hooking up to the Precinct for 100% of their water needs. The annual meeting of the New London-Springfield Water Precinct will be

held Tuesday, March 19th at 6:30 pm, at Whipple Memorial Hall and it is important Precinct residents attend in order to vote on the New London Main Street water main replacement bond.

WARRANT REVIEW

There was a review of the warrant articles scheduled to be voted on at Town Meeting on Wednesday, March 13th. The Selectmen agreed on which articles they each would present.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Kim Hallquist reported that the Town Meeting is the current focus of the Town Offices. A new edition of *Municipal Matters*, which includes candidate bios, is available on the Town website.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS & REPORTS

Selectmen Casey reported that she participated in a call for Education Coalition Communities 2.0 which gave an update on *Rand, et al. v. The State of New Hampshire* case. Motions were filed to the NH Supreme Court asking for an appeal, and a motion for an emergency stay ahead of Town Meeting day. There are no other updates on those motions.

Chair Kidder reported that she attended a Lakes Management Advisory Committee meeting where there was a discussion of pending legislation which included the topics of wakeboarding and pollution.

MEETING MINUTES: - Approve Selectmen's February 22nd and February 27th

IT WAS MOVED (Bill Helm) AND SECONDED (Bebe Casey) to accept the minutes of the February 22nd and February 27th meetings. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED

The next regular Selectmen's meeting will be Thursday, March 21st at 5:30pm, at the Professional Development Center

APPROVAL OF PAY VOUCHERS, PERMITS etc

Items to be signed:

- Payroll Authorization Vouchers
- New London-Springfield Water Precinct - use of Whipple Hall – March 19, 2024 1:00pm – 8:00pm
- Sewer Connection Application – Jessie Carman, 12 Dogwood Lane

Applications Approved &/or Denied

Building/Zoning Permits – Approved

- Nicholas Gilman Sunapee Trust & Deborah Gilman Sunapee Trust, TM 055-004-0-0-0, BP 24-2A, exterior and interior renovations, 14x32 addition – Approved 3/4/24

IT WAS MOVED (Bill Helm) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to adjourn. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 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, NewLondon.NH.gov, if more than the brief description contained in these meeting minutes is desired.