



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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NEW LONDON BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES Wednesday, May 24, 2023 Kearsarge Professional Development Center 5:30 PM

PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Police Chief Emily Cobb
Bob Harrington, Public Works Director
Will Kidder, Town Clerk-Tax Collector
Steve Ensign, Board of Firewards
Adam Ricker, Planning & Zoning Administrator
Peter Nichols, Housing Commission
Renee Theall, Housing Navigator
Colin Beasley, Budget Committee
Pete Hogle, New London Resident
Bob Bowers, New London Resident
Fire Chief Jay Lyon
Nancy Marashio, New London Resident
Rip Cross, Whipple Hall Project Committee

Selectman Kidder called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM and asked that those wishing to speak come to the front of the room to use a microphone.

Rip Cross, Whipple Project Committee: Update on project

Today the hall is completely scaffolded so work can be done in the attic. A safety inspection was held last week and everything was in order. The electrician has started his work and the new wall insulation will start on Friday. A new floor finishing contractor has been identified. HVAC design is nearly complete and ready for review and approval. Good news: the sprinkler flow test was completed and came back as expected so that design can be finished. North Branch feels they are on track for an August 15th completion date. There is no change on the budget from the last report, chair dollies are still not in and the chair casters are being dealt with. The tables have not been ordered yet. The project will be closed on Monday for Memorial Day.

Chair Kidder noted that she received a request to order two chairs with 19" height as it would be easier for some people to get out of a higher chair. Mr. Cross noted that at the end of the project they can look at that along with the additional chairs with casters.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Colin Beasley asked if the materials that are given to the Selectmen could be linked to the agenda so they reviewed prior to the meeting so that interested citizens could review it in advance. The Selectmen agreed.

Regarding the speeding issue, Mr. Beasley asked if the meetings of the various interested groups that were supposed to happen a few times a year have happened yet and if the meetings could be summarized at a Selectmen's meeting. Chief Cobb noted that Dave Demers was heading up that issue and was reaching out to other areas of town; she has not heard from him when the groups could get together.

Chair Kidder asked for information on pending legislation from Lake Sunapee Protective Association (LSPA). Ms. Hallquist noted that she and Selectman Casey attended at meeting at LSPA of the Triton Watershed group, with representatives from Sunapee, Newbury and LSPA to discuss a health regulation adopted by Sunapee that will require lakefront property owners to pump their septic systems at least every three years. Newbury and New London are encouraged to enact similar health regulations to protect the quality of the lake. She noted that the planners from the three towns have been invited to a meeting in June to discuss zoning regulations in the three towns as they relate to protection of the various water bodies; Adam Ricker will attend for the town.

Appointment of Chris McKee to the Waste Reduction Committee

Selectman Helm noted that Chris has attended a few meetings and she would be a good addition.

IT WAS MOVED (Bill Helm) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to appoint Chris McKee to the Waste Reduction Committee. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

TOWN ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Ms. Hallquist noted that the continuing audio video issues they are experiencing is a good reminder on the importance of attending meetings in-person when there is a topic of importance to a person as the availability of the video is not a definite. She noted that school staff have been extremely helpful in trying to resolve the issues with town staff and it is hoped that the problem will be resolved soon. Ms. Hallquist pointed out that Public Works staff have been working hard to get the town in shape for the holiday weekend with line painting, crosswalks, grass mowing and mulching activities in full swing.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS & REPORTS

Selectman Helm reported that the Planning Board approved an ADU on Wilmot Center Road, there was a conceptual plan presented by Mike Hansen for property a building on 10 Main Street. They met with members of the Housing Commission and had a free-flowing discussion about possible priorities for the future and the Housing Commission will meet with the Selectmen in June.

PRIORITIES

Wage Survey and Classification Study: Ms. Hallquist reported that work has started on this project. Carol Granfield of MRI has the town's job descriptions, personnel policies, grade scale and Selectmen's Compensation Philosophy and she is reviewing that. In the coming weeks department heads will meet with Ms. Granfield to discuss the process. Employees will be asked to submit information on their jobs to

ensure that job descriptions are accurate for what the employee is actually doing. Eventually the project will come before the Selectmen for a discussion of the project.

Colin Beasley asked if there will be a discussion of the towns used for the study prior to the recommendations by the consultant to ensure that the positions used are comparable. As examples he noted that some towns have town managers while New London has a town administrator and some public works directors have responsibility for highway, sewer and transfer station and some towns do not have sewer. Ms. Hallquist agreed that the consultant takes those differences into consideration, and it is why the job description portion of the project is at the start of the project. Mr. Beasley stressed that he felt that a review of the job descriptions is important in order to get valid data for comparison. Staff will meet with the consultant, but it will not be done at a public meeting, although a selectman may decide to attend. Ms. Hallquist stressed that much of the work is done in the office via phone calls with the consultants however reports on the work of the consultant will be given at selectmen's meetings and the consultant will attend a meeting and will be able to explain her methods of comparing the various positions to other towns.

Police Station: Chair Kidder reported that she, Kim Hallquist, Adam Ricker, Chief Cobb and Lieutenant Keith toured the Broom Building last week to see if it might work as the future location of the Police Department. She noted this follows up the suggestion made by the former Police Station Site Review Subcommittee.

Mr. Beasley asked about the video that was discussed at the last Selectmen's meeting. Chair Kidder explained that the Selectmen want to have a video made that will illustrate the reasons the Selectmen feel a new building is needed. It will include information from the Chief and will be made available to the public to help them decide whether they feel a new police station is needed. Mr. Beasley asked if it will include information from those who feel that the current station can accommodate the needs of the police. Chief Cobb noted that she always tries to be fair and when she gives tours of the station, she points out the views that others have raised that are contrary to hers. Mr. Beasley noted that as a matter of fairness he feels that both sides should be given and asked if there was another video was made could it be posted to the town website with the Selectmen's video. Chair Kidder noted that she did not think that would be appropriate. Selectman Helm noted that the video would be presented at the Selectmen's meeting and there can be a discussion at that time and there will be a video of that dialog. He agreed that having competing videos posted on the town website would not be productive. It was noted that the cost of the proposed video is not known at this time.

Capital Reserve Funds: Ms. Hallquist provided the Board with an updated list of all capital reserve funds. Selectman Helm noted that the Budget Committee would get the schedule of funds with information on its purpose and whether the selectmen are agents to expend. He prepared information on the laws of the various types of funds and funding sources. At the Budget Committee meeting following this meeting, Chair Kidder will ask them to meet on June 7 with the Selectmen to discuss the various accounts.

MEETING MINUTES: Approve Selectmen's Minutes of April 6th, 27th, and May 12th

IT WAS MOVED (Bill Helm) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to approve the minutes of April 6th, 27th and May 12th meetings. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS

- Next Regular Selectmen's meeting – Wednesday, June 7th - 5:30 PM – Professional Dev. Center
- Whipple Hall Project Committee – Thursday, May 25th – 1:00 PM – Whipple Hall Conference Rm
- **Memorial Day – Offices Closed – Monday, May 29th**

- Housing Commission – Wednesday, May 31st – 6:00 PM – Syd Crook Conference Room
- Recreation Commission – Thursday, June 1st – 5:30 PM – Syd Crook Conference Room
- Citizens Committee – Saturday, June 3rd – 7:30 AM – Syd Crook Conference Room
- Planning Board – Tuesday, June 13th – 6:30 PM – Professional Dev. Center
- Conservation Commission – Wednesday, June 21st – 8:30 AM – Syd Crook Conference Room

Ms. Hallquist corrected the location of the Housing Commission meeting on May 31st – it will be held at the Kearsarge Professional Development Center.

Selectman Helm noted that the Waste Reduction Committee will meet tomorrow at 10:00 AM in the Syd Crook room and they will be discussing the expansion of composting program that was approved at Town Meeting.

APPROVAL OF PAY VOUCHERS, PERMITS etc

Items to be signed:

- Payroll Vouchers
- Town Use
- Sewer Connect/Expansion Application
- Tax Abatements (2)
- Land Use Change Tax
- Raffle Permit Application – Elkins Fish & Game
- Birthday Cards (June)

Applications Approved &/or Denied

Building/Zoning Permits – Approved

- TQM Real Estate, LLC, TM 059-025-0-0-0. Replace fascia on existing fuel canopy. ZP 23-06.
Approved. 5/22/2023

The meeting adjourned at 6:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Kimberly Hallquist
Town Administrator