



# TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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## BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES June 12, 2024 Whipple Memorial Town Hall 5:30 PM

### **PRESENT:**

Bill Helm, Chairman  
Bebe Hammond Casey, Selectman  
Janet Kidder, Selectman  
Lynn Lewis, Finance Officer

### **ALSO PRESENT:**

Will Kidder, Town Clerk & Tax Collector  
Thomas Carley, Tracy Library Trustee  
Karen Epstein, Budget Committee member  
Rich Epstein, New London resident  
Bob Bowers, New London resident  
Janet Miller Haines, New London resident

Chair Bill Helm called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM

### **PURCHASE OF BALLOT MACHINES**

Will Kidder asked the board to consider approving the purchase and use of new ballot machines from VotingWorks, starting with the elections of March 2025. The purchase cost is a one-time amount of \$7,500, which is already in the current budget. In future years, there is expected to be a \$500 annual cost, and a \$500 programming cost per election, which has been budgeted for.

**IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Bebe Casey) to approve the purchase and use of the VotingWorks ballot system for all elections starting with the Town Elections of March 2025. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mr. Kidder asked anyone who has not yet registered their dog to please do so as soon as possible. He will be returning to the Selectmen to ask them to approve Civil Forfeitures.

### **UPDATE ON POLICE FACILITY PROJECT**

Chair Helm reported that the contract with Lavallee Brensinger Architects, which the Board voted to move forward with at the last meeting, was ready to be signed. The price is \$69,900 on a fixed fee basis and the timeline is sixteen weeks. He asked the Board if there were any other concerns or questions regarding the most current version of the contract. Selectman Casey noted she appreciates the work done by the Police Facilities Advisory Committee and Colliers Project Leaders.

There was a discussion of the scope of the work: the original proposal received in January included test fits for up to three sites. To accommodate adjustments based on feedback from the committee, while keeping the proposed price flat, the prepared contract specifies that the current site be considered as one of two test fits.

Residents Bob Bowers and Rich Epstein both asked for more clarification on the timeline and progression of changes that led to the current contract.

Chair Helm explained that the original request for proposal was sent out last fall and three organizations responded with proposals in January. Also in January, there was a petitioned warrant article for Town Meeting that, if passed, would have limited the Selectmen's ability to spend any money on the project. The Selectmen chose to pause and wait for the voting results before making any decisions on the proposals. At the Town Meeting in March, the Board of Selectmen made it clear that they intended for the current site to be included in the assessment and the petitioned warrant article did not pass. The Board of Selectmen were then able to proceed with creating the Police Facilities Advisory Committee, for resident feedback, as well as updating the language for the scope of work.

With the proposed timeline of 16 weeks, the expectation is that potential options can begin to be communicated to the Town in the fall.

**IT WAS MOVED (Bebe Casey) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to approve the agreement, dated June 10, 2024, between the Town of New London and Lavallee Brensinger Architects. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

Chair Helm read from the Police Facilities Advisory Committee Statement of Purpose, available on the committee page, and explained that the Board will be attending the Police Facilities Advisory Committee, 8:30am on June 14<sup>th</sup>, to discuss with the committee members what the Board of Selectmen needs from them for the next steps. The Board feels that with an architect hired, the committee will be able to move quickly to the next phase of their work.

#### **ABATEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

Chair Helm asked if there were any questions from the Board regarding the recommendations of the Assessors for the twelve following abatement applications:

- Recommended to be Denied:
  1. Lazdowski, 197 Woodland Trace Parcel 094-019-0-0-0
  2. John W. Furlong Trust 89 High Pine Lane 044-006-0-0-0
  3. John W. Furlong Trust 65 Hemlock Lane 089-004-0-0-0
  4. Chellis 344 Columbus Avenue 081-006-0-0-0
  5. Ellison, Carolyn & Scott 29 Forest Acres Road 105-010-0-0-0
  6. Ellison, Carolyn & Matthew 90 Burpee Hill Road 082-028-0-0-0
  7. Carolyn A. Ellison Rev. Trust 188 Elkins Road 088-003-0-0-0
  8. Carolyn A. Ellison Rev. Trust 322 Elkins Road 077-037-0-0-0

**IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Bebe Casey) to accept the recommendations of the Assessors to deny abatements for the eight listed requests. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- Recommended to be Granted:
  1. Pleasant Corner LLC, 792 Bunker Road 076-019-0-0-0
  2. Cynthia E. White Rev. Trust 75 Wilmot Center Road 065-001-0-0-0
  3. Davis & Smith 1340 Route 103A 127-004-0-0-0
  4. Barth Rev. Family Trust 144 Hastings Landing Road 116-009-0-0-0

**IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Bebe Casey) to accept the recommendations of the Assessors to grant abatements for the four listed requests. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **CAPITAL RESERVE REQUEST**

Lynn Lewis provided details from a memo she provided to the Board of Selectmen regarding approval of a Communications Equipment Capital Reserve Fund expenditure for \$12,410 to Beltronics. The Communications Dispatch servers that were replaced are the original servers from 2016 and have been running on obsolete software. After this expenditure, there will be \$229,725 remaining in the account.

**IT WAS MOVED (Bebe Casey) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to authorize the expenditure of \$12,410 from the Communications Equipment Capital Reserve for Beltronics. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **REQUEST FOR USE OF TOWN PROPERTY**

This is an amendment to a previously approved Use of Town Property Application for Hospital Days 2024. The Chamber of Commerce would like to serve beer and wine at the “Meet the Chamber Night” on August 1<sup>st</sup> and the “Chamber Band Night” on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. They would use a vendor with a mobile liquor license.

**IT WAS MOVED (Bebe Casey) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to approve the request by the Chamber of Commerce to serve alcohol on Town Property on August 1<sup>st</sup> and August 2<sup>nd</sup> with the three provisions that they serve beer and wine only, use an independent mobile liquor license to serve, and pay for a police detail. MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **TRACY LIBRARY**

Thomas Carley asked the Board to consider appointing Emma Phipps as an alternate Tracy Library Trustee. There was a discussion of current members regarding which ones had been appointed, and which ones had been elected to their positions.

**IT WAS MOVED (Bebe Casey) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to appoint Emma Phipps as an alternate to the Tracy Library Board of Trustees. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Chair Helm asked Mr. Carley the status of the Tracy Library Director vacancy. Mr. Carley stated the Trustees expect the new director will start July 1<sup>st</sup> however he did not have all the details to share with the Board regarding the new hire. Chair Helm asked for the Library Trustees to extend an invitation, on behalf of the Board of Selectmen, for the new director to join them at their summer Gathering on June 27<sup>th</sup>.

#### **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

Chair Helm thanked Ms. Lewis for her work managing the office while Ms. Hallquist is on vacation and extended his appreciation to the rest of the office staff as well.

#### **COMMITTEE MEETINGS & REPORTS**

Selectmen Casey reported on the successful completion of phase one of the Bucklin Beach Project, which involved creation of a rain garden. Resident Mike Morgan organized the project with the help of Geoff Lizotte, Watershed Director for Lake Sunapee Protective Association (LSPA), Charlie Hirshberg from Sunapee, and Nick Scheu, former Landscape Director for the Fells. Selectmen Casey thanked all the volunteers, including members of LSPA, Little Lake Sunapee Protective Association, and neighbors,

who worked on this project. Selectmen Casey explained that the second phase, this fall, will be to work on the drainage on the far-right side of the beach.

Consultants from Resilience Planning & Design were at the June 11<sup>th</sup> Housing Commission meeting to present on the project they will be working on with the funds from the \$103,000 Housing Opportunity and Planning (HOP) Grant that the town was recently awarded. Selectmen Casey noted that the anticipated work will answer many questions that came from voters at the last Town Meeting. There will be three phases, lasting 18-20 months, and after each phase there will be community events to share the results of each phase.

Chair Helm reported on the monthly New London-Springfield Water Precinct meeting. The Main Street Water Main Replacement project has been proceeding as planned and now that they have begun digging, they have a better understanding of how long future phases may take. The actual time to lay pipe will be 23 days, spread over all the phases, and not including the additional time for paving etc.

Chair Helm attended the annual meeting of the Twin Pines Housing Trust and reported that Andrew Winters, Executive Director, shared that they are continuing to look for water at the Long Meadow Commons Project in New London.

**MEETING MINUTES:** - Approve Selectmen's Minutes of May 22<sup>nd</sup>  
**IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Bebe Casey) to accept the minutes of the May 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Selectmen have posted a meeting for 8:30am Friday, June 14, 2024, at Whipple Memorial Hall, concurrent with the Police Facilities Advisory Committee meeting as they will all be attending and participating.

The next regular Selectmen's meeting will be Wednesday, June 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm, at the Professional Development Center. Meetings will continue to be held on Wednesdays throughout the summer.

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

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

- Payroll Authorization Vouchers and Account Payables
- Supplemental Sewer Warrant – Colby-Sawyer College Windy Hill Building
- Sewer Connection Application – 125 & 126 Hilltop Place
- Application to Use Town Property – Center for the Arts Lake Sunapee Region (Whipple Memorial Hall, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3:30-6:30pm)
- Raffle Permit – Elkins Fish & Game Club

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

#### Credit and Exemption Applications

- Elderly Exemptions (2)
- Service-Connected Total Disability (1)

#### Building/Zoning Permits – Approved

- New London Hospital, TM 072-018-0-0-0, ZP 24-02, replace AHU roof unit – Approved 5/20/24
- New London Hospital, TM 072-018-0-0-0, ZP 24-03, roof mounted pumps and enclosures – Approved 5/20/24
- MacKenna Family Trust, TM 059-041-0-0-0, BP 24-22, 10x16 deck off back of house – Approved 5/30/24

- John & Elizabeth Ziegler, TM 137-006-0-0-0, BP 24-26, 5'4" x 12' attached shed – Approved 5/30/24
- Verne and Susan Datthyn, TM 073-064-0-0-0, BP 24-28, replace all windows & front door – Approved 5/30/24
- David A. Law, TM 123-026-0-0-0, BP 24-30, new concrete pad in carport – Approved 5/30/24
- Steven C Root Trust, TM 021-007-0-0-0, BP 24-32, Roof mount solar 11.4 kW – Approved 5/30/24
- Hilltop Place Community Association, Lynn Thiesmeyer, Brad and Jay Leavitt, TM 059-016-0-06A-125 & TM 059-016-0-06A-126, BP 24-33, Rebuilding of condos #125 and 126 – Approved 5/30/24
- Heidi Rousseau, TM 118-003-0-0-0, BP 24-34, 12x24 sunporch over existing deck – Approved 5/30/24

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 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](http://NewLondon.NH.gov), if more than the brief description contained in these meeting minutes is desired.