



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES Monday, June 21, 2021 Whipple Town Hall 6:00 PM

PRESENT:

Nancy Rollins, Selectman
Janet Kidder, Selectman
Kim Hallquist, Town Administrator
Lynn Lewis, Finance Officer

ALSO PRESENT:

Bob Harrington, Public Works Director
Ken Jacques, New London –Springfield water precinct
Bill Helm, New London resident
Janet Haines, New London resident
David Cook, New London resident
Celeste Cook, New London resident
Erica McCullough, New London resident
Paul Gorman, Planning Board Chair
Will Kidder, New London Tax Collector
Emily Cobb, New London Police Chief
Building and Facilities Committee members: Peter Bianchi, Bob Bowers, Phil Sherman, Colin Beasley, Rip Cross

In the absence of Chair Cannon, Selectman Rollins called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Appointments

Request for ARPA funds – Ken Jacques, Chair, New London-Springfield Water System Precinct

Ken Jacques attended the meeting to discuss ARPA funds that are available to the Town of New London for water systems. Mr. Jacques stated the precinct has retired all of its debt in the past year and are looking to do other projects. They have anticipated the need to do something on Main Street. There have been 5 major water line breaks and the lines were put in in 1952.

ARPA can be used for water infrastructure, so he is asking the Board of Selectmen to consider it as it is important to the community. Town Administrator Kim Hallquist stated the town is awarded ARPA money; these funds can be used for broadband, wastewater, and water needs. There are needs for wastewater and water, but Ms. Hallquist is unaware of any broadband needs at this time. The project Mr. Jacques is discussing is multi-million-dollar project.

The Board will consider the projects under consideration for wastewater and determine how the funds will be allocated.

Mr. Jacques also noted that as recommended by the State of NH, the Precinct instituted a water ban until further notice. Ms. Hallquist noted that the town's website has the information posted.

Public Comment

John Raby commented that today the Union of Concerned Scientists reported a high temperature of 105 degrees in Omaha, 118 degrees in Phoenix and 123 degrees in Palm Springs. It also said the hard heat of summer is now hitting earlier than ever. The report suggested it is likely to continue for the rest of the summer and this is the new norm going forward. Mr. Raby stated the last thing we need to protect our water supply is a water main system that is about to expire.

Next steps for Police Station Planning

Building & Facilities Committee member Phil Sherman stated he feels there is a need to have a discussion in the town about the need for a Police Station. A lot of time has been spent on this but there needs to be a dialogue to see what people in town are thinking. Selectman Rollins noted that at a recent Citizen's Advisory Committee meeting it was suggested that a public forum be held that presented all the facts relative to the study's that have been done. This would help determine the best course of action.

Colin Beasley feels this would require more than one meeting to accomplish. It would be helpful to prioritize items identified in the Master Plan. Planning Board Chair Paul Gorman reported the Planning Board stated in both 2018 and 2019 that as a result of the data at their disposal there was a need for the town to develop a better facility for the Police Department to fulfill its mission to the town. Selectman Rollins replied that the Master Plan showed a difference in terms of prioritization of that matter. Selectman Rollins asked if there was any interest on the part of the Planning Board to work cooperatively with the Building and Facilities Committee and the Board of Selectmen to conduct some stakeholder meetings. Chair Gorman replied of course. Selectman Rollins suggested holding meetings at the end of August and in September and feels these meetings need to be facilitated and well-advertised.

Colin Beasley suggested having a panel so different perspectives are represented. Police Chief Emily Cobb commented that she would like the employees of the Police Department to have a voice in this process. Selectman Rollins would like to think about this because she would look to the Chief to represent this group. She is looking to have the taxpayers of New London come together and hear what it is they want to pay for and support. Will Kidder also suggested offering a tour of the Police Department.

Janet Haines stated she feels the next step is for the Building and Facilities Committee and the Planning Board to agree on what the facts are.

Enforcement of Beach Use Ordinance – procedures for ID's and beach parking passes

Town Administrator Kim Hallquist stated the Recreation Commission is planning to complete their review and revision of policies for the Selectmen to review this week. Celeste Cook commented that she is very concerned that the town of New London is not offering swimming lessons or summer camp this summer. She feels the fact that there is no Recreation Director in place negates everything that is going on and stressed that she felt the town needs a Recreation Director to generate activities on the town green. Selectman Rollins responded they can ask the Recreation Commission to update them on what is going on. The Outing Club and Colby-Sawyer College are doing day camps.

Request to rent town's recreation van

Kim Hallquist reported that the coach of the Kearsarge girls' basketball team has asked to rent the town's van as he is unable to rent a 15-passenger van. He would need it July 30, 31 and August 1, 2021 for a tournament in Massachusetts. Ms. Hallquist is not aware if this has been done in the past. She suggested that if the Board allows the group to borrow the van, they the group provide adequate liability insurance and require them to indemnify the town against any claims of damage or liability. Since it is town property it is at the discretion of the Board of Selectmen to approve it or not. As with the use of any town

property, even with waivers, there is always the risk of liability to the town should something happen when town property is used by others.

Public Works Director Bob Harrington stated it would be a good idea for someone to drive the van as it has not been used for a while and it is not good for vehicles to sit. Selectman Kidder commented if it has been sitting for a while it should probably be serviced, regardless of if the basketball team uses it.

Selectman Rollins feels that this is not a use that she feels the town should accept additional liability of having its van used out-of-state for three days, noting that day trips by local groups would be more appropriate. She would like to bring this to the Recreation Commission and ask that they come up with creative ways to utilize the van.

Parking Ordinance – No Overnight Parking on Main Street

Kim Hallquist reported the current parking ordinance prohibits overnight parking on Main Street and the Police Department recently enforced this by giving a ticket; the person who received the ticket would like to ask that the ordinance be changed. This parking policy was adopted in 2009 and amended in 2011. Chief Cobb stated there are 8 signs on Main Street that state there is no parking from 11PM – 7AM. Chief Cobb noted if the Board did decide to rescind this policy, they need to understand the consequences of that which means there would be no limitations for parking at all on Main Street and there is limited parking for businesses as it is.

Erica McCullough, owner of Switchback Consignment Store attended the meeting and explained she was ticketed for overnight parking. She often works until after midnight and parks in front of the store on Main Street. She has parked there consistently without any problems. She stated there is confusion as some of the sign's state "no overnight parking" and others state "no parking from 11pm-7am". Ms. McCullough looked up the definition of overnight and it states it is a period of 6 hours or more during the hours of 11pm-6am and stated that she was not there for more than 6 hours during that period.

Police Chief Emily Cobb agreed there are two different signs, but they are in line with the ordinance. Ms. McCullough asked which one they go by? This should be defined and clarified. Selectman Rollins noted they should be consistent. Selectman Kidder responded that while she is glad the police officer enforced the ordinance, it is unfortunate there are two different signs. Furthermore, she does not think there should be no parking on Main Street in the summer. It makes sense in the winter due to plowing but not in the summer. She suggested having a public hearing and make sure all businesses on Main Street are advised of this meeting so they can weigh in. The proposed hearing will be held at the next Board of Selectmen's meeting

Town Administrators Report

Ms. Hallquist provided the following report:

- Town Meeting on June 9th went well and there was a great turnout.
- There is a water ban in place and it has been posted on the town website.
- On July 12, 2021, in addition to the public hearing announced tonight, there will be a public hearing for the Conservation Commission's purchase of land.
- Chair Cannon is absent tonight as he is out fighting a fire.

Meeting Minutes

IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to approve the minutes of June 7, 2021 meeting. THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED.

Upcoming Meetings & Special Events

- Planning Board – Tuesday June 22nd, 2021, 6:30pm
- Buildings & Facilities Committee – Thursday June 24th, 2021, 6:30pm
- Friday Night Bandstand Concert – Friday June 25th, 2021, 4:30pm Town Green
- Housing Commission – Tuesday June 29th, 2021, 6:00pm
- TOWN OFFICES CLOSED – Monday July 5th, 2021.

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
- Town Use (4)
- Charitable/Religious Exemptions (15)
- Birthday Cards (July)
- PA-28 Taxable Property
- Unlicensed Dog Warrant

Applications Approved &/or Denied

Sign Permits – approved

- Temporary Sign – Town of Wilmot Bandstand Committee Sandwich board, 7/5/21-8/23/21. TM 084-007-0-0-0. Approved.

Building Permits-approved

- Louise & John Moses, 11 Jenny Ln, TM 074-023-0-0-0. Convert garage and screen porch to living area, add heat, change windows and doors. BP 21-060. Approved 6/11/2021.
- Jeffrey Pope, 98 High Pine Ln, TM 044-010-0-0-0. Build 2nd story on garage. BP 21-064. Approved 6/11/2021.

Temporary Event/Sale Permits-approved

- Our Lady of Fatima Parish Attic Treasure Sale – Church Basement 096-009-0-0-0, Saturday, August 7, 2021, 9:00am-2:00pm. Approved.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Trina Dawson
Recording Secretary
Town of New London