



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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**NEW LONDON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, August 4, 2022
Kearsarge Professional Development Center
165 Main Street
6:00 PM**

PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Kris McAllister, Chief Assessor
Will Kidder, New London Tax collector
John Ellis, New London resident
Howard Hoke, New London resident
Colin Beasley, New London resident

Selectman Rollins called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Ellis asked the Selectmen to consider and authorize the purchase of a first aid kit and defibrillator for Whipple Hall. Currently neither are in Whipple Hall. It could be placed in the hallway where the fire extinguisher currently exists. He thinks this would be a worthwhile purchase for the safety of citizens. Even though the police department is next door and does have a defibrillator, the issue is whether an officer is present when it is needed.

Chair Rollins responded that she is surprised there is not a first aid kit onsite. As far as the defibrillator goes, it is prudent to have people who are able to use it in order to have one. As we go forward with the work being done at Whipple Hall it should be something that is considered at some point. Chair Rollins also suggested that this could be a fundraising activity.

Selectman Helm asked Town Administrator Kim Hallquist to research how many defibrillators we have around town and where they are located. Ms. Hallquist stated we are designated as an AED community due to the number we have. She agrees that having one at Whipple Hall would be a good idea. She also noted that it is her understanding that there is a recording on the defibrillator that walks people through how to use it if necessary. The retail cost ranges from \$1,300 - \$2,800.

Mr. Ellis also stated that the Energy Committee will be having a solar open house this Saturday for those that are interested in learning more about solar for their homes. They are also continuing the electric bike loaner program through August 9, 2022 which is held at Whipple Hall.

On September 24, 2022 there will be an electric vehicle expo which will be held at the New London Historical Society with Kearsarge and Sunapee regions.

Consider recommendation on charitable tax exemption for King Solomon's Lodge #14 as prepared by Chief Assessor Kris McAllister

Chair Rollins thanked Howard Hoke for pulling together and providing the additional documentation that was discussed at the last meeting. Town Assessor Kris McAllister stated although more information was provided, she still stands by her recommendation to deny the request for tax exemption. Town Administrator Kim Hallquist stated she agrees with Ms. McAllister that there is nothing in the new document provided that changes the original recommendation. She was hoping that the document stated the organization would be property tax exempt by an act of the legislature, but it doesn't say that.

Howard Hoke responded the legislative piece of the document states that it is a corporation, and it is for the purpose of charitable and benevolent activities. The only other thing to add is that he has been a mason since 2003 and to the best of his knowledge they have not used any money collected from the public to support the upkeep and maintenance for improvements for the building or the property. He is unsure how to better qualify as a potentially tax-exempt organization.

Selectman Kidder stated that she would have to support the recommendation by Kris McAllister. She suggested he go to the State Board of Tax and Land Appeals (BTLA) to see if they would rule the organization as a charitable and eligible for tax exemption. Selectman Helm agreed and stated at the last meeting that the appeals process would be the best way to try to resolve this issue.

IT WAS MOVED (Bill Helm) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to accept the recommendation of the Chief Assessor to deny this request for tax exemption from King Solomon's Lodge #14. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Discuss request of the First Baptist Church for funds for the repair/refurbishment of the Town Clock – estimate \$8,675

Kim Hallquist explained the clock on the First Baptist church is owned by the town of New London. The most recent repairs of any significance were in 2006. There was a warrant article at town meeting in 2006 to see about raising \$10,000. This motion was tabled because adequate funds were raised privately. The Church will have having repairs done to the steeple and they would like to know if the town would like to repair the clock at this time, when the scaffolding is up for the steeple repairs.

The Selectmen need to decide if they want to make necessary repairs to the clock remembering it is in a historic building and an important part of the town. They also need to decide if money should come out of town funds or if they should try to fundraise for it. They are looking to do this work soon. Ms. Hallquist noted the clock is checked each year or every other year and there is a line item in the budget that covers that.

Chair Rollins proposed that fundraising be done to raise money for this. Selectman Kidder stated she does want to see the clock repaired as it is important to the community but is not sure how to go about forming a committee to do that. Many of the people involved in this fifteen years ago are no longer around. Selectman Helm stated it is his understanding that the clock is still operational. The proposal includes a lot of cosmetic work and although this work needs to get done, he is increasingly concerned about the budget. He suggests putting it in the next *Municipal Matters* and then see if there is interest in people donating towards this.

Discuss FY2024 budget calendar

Selectman Helm stated he is the Selectman's representative on the Budget Committee and he wants to make sure the Budget Committee understands that the joint sessions will be held on Thursday nights, not on Monday nights. He went through the schedule from last year and put together a suggested calendar for this year. Town Administrator Kim Hallquist stated the department heads are usually asked to have their budgets ready by mid-September. Selectman Helm suggested that the joint meetings start on September 22, 2022 noting that this is earlier than last year. The Board agreed to starting early this year.

TOWN ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Kim Hallquist provided the following report:

- It was announced in the recent edition of *Municipal Matters* that there will be a sticker check day at the transfer station. Staff will be standing at the gate to make sure there are stickers on cars and people will be turned away if they don't have one. This will be held on a surprise date.
- The Household Hazardous Waste Day will be held on Saturday from 10:00am – 3:00pm.
- The generator switch at the town offices has been fixed and is now in compliance with the code.
- The Budget Committee subcommittee meetings have started. So far recreation, administration, highway and transfer station have had meetings.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS & REPORTS

Chair Rollins stated the Whipple Project Committee met on Monday. They discussed three issues which included furniture, air conditioning and a construction manager. Work is being done on proposals for color scheme as well as types of chairs and tables. Frank Anzalone will be meeting with a mechanical engineer to discuss the air conditioning and what would need to happen relative to insulating the building or not. Mr. Anzalone will also be reaching out to two different groups to do some preliminary proposals for pre-construction managers. They will meet again on August 22, 2022.

MEETING MINUTES: Approve the Selectmen's Minutes of June 23rd and July 14th

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Bill Helm) to accept the minutes of the June 23, 2022 meeting with one correction. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Bill Helm) to accept the minutes of the July 14, 2022 meeting. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS

- Next Regular Selectmen's meeting – Thursday, August 18th – 6:00 PM - 165 Main Street
- Recreation Commission – Thursday, August 4th – 5:30 PM – Whipple Town Hall
- Planning Board – Tuesday – August 9th – 6:30 PM – Whipple Town Hall
- Waste Reduction Committee – August 11th – 10:00 AM – Syd Crook Meeting Room
- Conservation Commission – Wednesday – August 17th – 8:30 AM – Syd Crook Meeting Room

OTHER BUSINESS:

The Bike/Walk Coalition has requested \$4,500 to put bike racks at Elkins Beach and Bucklin Beach. The Recreation Commission approved the request to support the use of the recreation activity fund

for this purpose. This fund has approximately \$60,000 in it currently. Selectman Helm stated that he is in favor of bike racks but suggested they come back with this proposal in March of next year since the beaches will be closing in a month. The Selectmen will also have a better understanding of spending and the budget by then. The Selectmen were all in agreement with this.

Acceptance of the Police Body Cam grant - \$49,560

The application for the grant was approved by the Selectmen in February 2022. The total cost is \$107,414. Ms. Hallquist noted that the remaining \$57,854 can come from resources that include ARPA funds, the Police Equipment Capital Reserve Fund and the operating budget if funds are available. This will include 14 body cameras and 6 dashboard cameras.

IT WAS MOVED (Bill Helm) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to approve the grant agreement with the Department of Safety in the amount of \$49,560 for the purchase of body cameras and dashboard cameras for the police department. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

APPROVAL OF PAY VOUCHERS, PERMITS etc.

Items to be signed:

- Accounts Payable Forms
- 2022 Encumbered funds
- Town Use Application - New London Democratic Town Committee – use of town common & bandstand, 10-15-22, 1-3PM – approved
- Wastewater Abatement - Brendan & Kimberly Higgins, 202 Birch Acres, (TM 074-032-0-0-0) extra billing of \$215. Needs to be removed – approved

IT WAS MOVED (Bill Helm) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to enter into a nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II RSA 91-A:3, II (d): “consideration of the acquisition, sale, or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community and a): the dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee..”

Roll call vote: Rollins: Yes; Kidder: Yes; Helm: Yes.

The Board entered nonpublic session at 6:42PM.

The Board reentered the public session at 6:56 PM.

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Bill Helm) to seal the nonpublic session meeting minutes. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Trina Dawson
Recording Secretary
Town of New London