



TOWN OF
NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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**NEW LONDON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
Whipple Town Hall
Thursday, September 29, 2022
6:00 PM**

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

Nancy Rollins, Chairman

ALSO PRESENT:

Bob Harrington, Public Works Director

Budget Committee members: Lou Botta, Chris Lorio, Colin Beasley, Melissa Lentz

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

FY2024 Budget Review: Public Works: Highway, Transfer Station, Sewer, Town Buildings, Cemeteries

Bob Harrington shared that most of the increases this year are mostly due to fuel prices. There are less equipment repairs needed but the expense increase is due to the cost of parts. Oil and anything made with plastic has also increased.

Mr. Harrington stated he is looking to purchase a new truck. Over time the trucks and plows need to be replaced and although it could be repaired, the list of items to repair would be long.

There was an issue with the tractor at the transfer station and also issues with the trash trailers.

Sewer bond – the department is second in line for a grant with the state for a low interest rate.

Mr. Harrington stated he is looking into an asset management plan for buildings and facilities. He attended a webinar with Phil Sherman and is still in the process of gathering more information. If this is a possibility a placeholder in the amount of \$30,000 could be put into the budget. The program would assist in making work orders and would track the history of items to help with decision making for replacement or repairs.

The Selectmen asked if the \$10,000 line item for Whipple Hall maintenance and repair needs to be in there since most of the funds will be coming out of the bond to cover expenses.

Selectman Helm noted that in a previous meeting, the Selectmen voted to pay for clock maintenance in the amount of \$6,800 which is not reflected in the budget. The hope is to offset this cost with donations.

The Selectmen asked Mr. Harrington about the \$10,000 line item for upgrading dirt roads as this has not been spent in several years. Mr. Harrington responded that normally he would use it but if he had overspent in other areas, he tried to not spend a few of the line items to hold back and make sure he had funds to cover other areas that were overspent. Selectman Helm feels this may be an area that they can look at if they need to save some money. Selectman Kidder agreed and stated she would rather see Mr. Harrington have an accurate estimate of other line items rather than put in line items that haven't been used.

Prices for sand and salt have gone up so those line items have increased. Selectman Helm stated that the actual data for the past three years shows that what was budgeted has not been spent. Mr. Harrington responded it is an area that is hard to predict as it is dependent on the weather. Selectman Helm stated they will probably take a closer look at that since it has been underspent for several years.

A request was made to have finance officer Lynn Lewis provide a summary and total of the computer support line-item costs across all the different departments.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS & REPORTS

Planning Board – Selectman Kidder reported that the Planning Board met on September 27, 2022 and had a public hearing on the final site plan review and subdivision for the Planned Unit Development behind New London Hospital. The Planning Board did not approve, and this was continued to October 11, 2022 as there were several suggestions made by abutters with regards to lighting and egress from the hospital and express care. Russ Moore provided a presentation on the New London bike walk. The Planning Board shared with Mr. Moore and the bike walk group that there is no money in the budget for bike racks. Some possible zoning amendments were reviewed as well as the Capital improvement plan.

Waste Reduction committee – Selectmen Helm reported that the Waste Reduction committee met again and approved a 15-household trial plan for composting. This will be discussed again at the Citizen's Committee meeting on Saturday morning. This is an attempt to create a composting culture in New London.

MEETING MINUTES: Approve the Selectmen's Minutes of September 8th - Deferred until the next meeting.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS

- Next Regular Selectmen's meeting – Thursday, October 6th - 6:00 PM
- Selectmen's Budget Review – Thursday, October 6th – 6:30 PM
- Future Uses of Buker Committee – Friday, September 30th – 8:30 AM @ Whipple Conf. Room
- Waste Reduction Committee – Friday, September 30th – 10:00 AM – Syd Crook Meeting
- Citizens Committee – Saturday, October 1st – 7:30 AM
- Whipple Hall 2022 Project Committee – Tuesday, October 11th – 9:00 AM
- Planning Board – Tuesday, October 11th – 6:30 PM

Please see the calendar on the town website for meeting locations and a complete listing of other meetings, including subcommittee meetings, of the various town boards: www.newlondon.nh.gov

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are held in Whipple Town Hall, 25 Seamans Road

OTHER BUSINESS: None

APPROVAL OF PAY VOUCHERS, PERMITS etc.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:49 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Trina Dawson
Recording Secretary
Town of New London