



# Municipal Matters

New London, New Hampshire December 7, 2020

## Selectmen Complete FY2022 Budget Submit to Budget Committee

**T**he first step in preparing the town’s budget is for the Board of Selectmen to prepare its budget for submission to the Budget Committee. This process began in September when town departments, and organizations requesting funding, submitted budget requests to the Selectmen. The Selectmen then review and discuss these requests with town department heads and with representatives of the nonprofit organizations that seek funding. The Selectmen evaluate the requests to ensure that appropriations are in the best interests of the town in terms of needed equipment and services as well as being fiscally responsible. This process resulted in an increase of 4.4% over the previous budget; 6.9% when transfers to capital reserve funds are included.

Increases in employment related expenses impacted the budget. These increases included funding for the town’s step program which provides for salary increases when an employee achieves an acceptable annual evaluation, a COLA adjustment, increased employer contribution for the State Retirement System and increased health insurance costs. Funding for a 10-hour per week office assistant in the Town Clerk’s office will enhance the service provided there as the increased population of the town over the past year has resulted in significantly more work in that office.

Capital reserve funds will be used to purchase a dump truck with sander, transfer station trash trailer and a highway tractor. Projects using capital reserve funds will include sidewalk improvements and gravel roads upgrades/paving.

A new request from the Outing Club for funding in the amount of \$95,000 was included in the Selectmen’s budget. The Selectmen would like the Recreation Commission to explore opportunities for collaboration between the Outing Club and the town’s Recreation Department as a way to enhance recreational programming and to avoid a duplication of efforts. The budget is now in the hands of the Budget Committee for preparation of the budget that will be considered by Town Meeting voters in March. The Budget Committee meets on Wednesday evenings via Zoom. Sign-on information is available on the meeting agenda.



Left: Sewer main break on Barrett Road near Pearl Street. The excavated area is pictured before the installation of a trench box that is designed to protect the workers in the trench.

Public Works crews were kept busy into the early hours of Saturday, November 27th to address a sewer main break. The 10” main was 12’ deep, requiring major excavation to get to the broken pipe to repair it, while avoiding the fiber optic and communication lines located above the sewer main (white pipes pictured above).

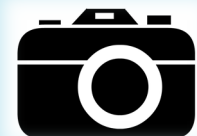
Assisting town staff were contractors Stearns Septic Service and Clarke & Co.; New London—Springfield Water Precinct and Town of Sunapee Water & Sewer assisted with the loan of equipment.

A more permanent repair will be made in the coming days by sliplining the sewer main with another pipe. Public Works staff thanks residents in the area for their patience during the repair, which went to 3am, likely disturbing the sleep of many. And special thanks to the family that came out with brownies for the crews!

### Share your photos in the 2020 New London Annual Town Report

Looking for photos taken of New London town events, buildings, scenery, animals, etc. during 2020. Photos may also be included in the Municipal Matters newsletter or town web site. Please submit with a photo credit. No hard copies or watermarks.

Forward to  
Dianne via email:  
[office@nl-nh.com](mailto:office@nl-nh.com)



## Current Use Assessment - Assessing Office

With so many real estate transactions occurring in and around New London I would like to remind and possibly educate people on what is and is not allowed on land enrolled in Current Use. RSA-79-A

New London consists of 13,354 acres, of that 6,628 are in Current Use. The requirement to be in Current Use is to own a parcel or parcels contiguous to another under the same ownership consisting of 10 or more unimproved acres. The benefit of Current Use is a reduced per acre assessment. When a parcel is no longer compliant with the Current Use Statute, the disqualified land is Assessed a Land Use Change Tax which is 10% of current market value. Example; you purchased a 10 acre parcel and plan to build a house with a lovely one acre groomed yard. Once the excavator starts digging the land is no longer in its natural state and the entire 10 acre parcel is removed from Current Use. You paid \$150,000 for the parcel, and area sales support that value. Within 18 months I must issue a tax bill for the value of the lot at time of change.

**Example:**                 **Sale Price \* Land Use Change Tax \* Bill to ( owner at time of change)**  
                                  **\$150,000 x 10% = \$15,000**

There is no “buy out” provision, nor can you request land be removed from Current Use. Once in Current Use the land remains enrolled until a disqualifying event occurs.

### Current Use OK List

- Logging \* Hiking \* Gardening \* Pasturing \* Agriculture
- You can post land, read Duty of Care in the CU booklet, link is below.
- If you post, check with town to remove recreation credit.

### Current Use Disqualifying Events

- Any Structures (sheds, tent platforms included) Grooming/Mowing that extends a yard. (bush whacking ok)
- Uses Beyond Passive Recreation- such as race tracks. Waterfront, if a man made beach or dock(s ) are present.

Read the Current Use Booklet – here is the link:

<https://www.revenue.nh.gov/current-use/documents/cu-booklet-2020-2021.pdf>

## **~PROCESSED GLASS AGGREGATE~ ANOTHER GREAT RECYCLING PROGRAM WE HAVE IN NEW LONDON**

### **ATTENTION CONTRACTORS:**

**DID YOU KNOW PGA IS A GREAT DRAINAGE MATERIAL?**

**DID YOU KNOW SOME USE IT TO REPLACE STONE?**

**Check out this informative video about the uses of PGA, featuring our own Public Works Director, Robert Harrington. If you have any questions give us a call at NL Public Works during normal business hours at 603-526-6337.**



## ***Citizen's Advisory Committee notes from November 7th meeting***

The CAC met on the Zoom platform, with 19 participants. The first part of the public meeting was devoted to setting the tax rate for the town. Kim Hallquist presented an outline of the components and the computations involved in setting the tax rate. Wendy Johnson then presented a spreadsheet filled with actual numbers; the computation was then demonstrated with the resulting tax rate of \$4.30. The Selectmen voted on and approved this rate.

The guest was Mr. Tom Manion, the new Chief Executive Officer of New London Hospital. He began his work there three days before the WHO declared the world pandemic. He spoke about hospital finances, changes in the hospital resulting from the pandemic, staffing and plans for the future. He described the relationship of New London Hospital to Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center in response to a request after the online CAC meeting.

In terms of finances, there was substantial loss of revenue from March through May when there were no routine doctor visits, procedures or surgeries taking place in NLH. After receiving stimulus funds from the CARES Act, New London Hospital still had an operating loss of \$2.5 million for fiscal year 2020, which ended this past June.

Moving furniture to assure 6 feet distance, introduction of different types of PPE, and new deep cleaning procedures were all new to the hospital, beginning in March. Currently, the hospital must also keep abreast of changing CDC guidelines, all the while keeping an eye on rising rates of infection in NH and locally.

PCR tests are available at NLH upon referral from medical providers in the area. These tests are for those who have been exposed to COVID-19 or are symptomatic. These are drive through tests, and are by appointment only.

There have been other changes in procedures, including introduction of telemedicine, phone and video conferencing. At this time, physicians have recovered approximately 80%-90% of the patient volumes prior to the pandemic. Some medical care providers and other staff, especially those over 65 years of age, have left the hospital since the pandemic. Mr. Manion noted that there is 14.5 turn-over rate, per month, in employees from all areas of the hospital. Seeking and finding new employees, especially nurses, is a challenge, since compensation at the NLH is low compared to that for similar positions elsewhere. In addition, there is a

problem with affordable housing. Nancy Rollins invited Mr. Manion to have a representative from NLH come to the new town Housing Commission. The build-out of Colby Sawyer's nursing program, and the closure of two hospitals in the lakes region may be opportunities to attract new staff.

Mr. Manion has several ideas about "how to turn this ship around" at NLH. He hopes to grow the Orthopedic service, especially as it relates to a new GE employee program for which NLH received an award. He would like to institute a new Behavioral Health program to address community needs in the area of psychiatric care and medication management. Other goals include improving access to Primary Care, and increasing the use of the NLH Infusion Suite. He is working on improving Emergency Department services. Lastly, he is hoping to have "Express Care" services, which are similar to Urgent Care services. Currently, Lebanon and Concord are the nearest Urgent Care.

Mr. Manion was pleased to announce that, as of October 10, 2020, NLH has a fully functional electronic medical record system named EPIC. This medical record is integrated with DHMC and local physicians.

Request: Could you elaborate on the relationship between NLH and DHMC?

Mr. Manion: NLH is an affiliate in the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health (D-HH) system. While DHMC is the flagship in our system, they are also equally considered an affiliate like NLH. Each affiliate has its own board and enjoys a certain degree of autonomy. One of the powers the system enjoys is its ability to appoint 1/3 of our board members from the system level while the other 2/3 are community members selected by our own governance committee. As a smaller organization, NLH enjoys the scale a system brings to our community that we would not otherwise be able to afford. A perfect example of this is our new electronic medical record, Epic. Instead of paying the full amount (hundreds of millions of dollars) for a system that is considered the best EMR in healthcare, we pay a fraction of the cost while also ensuring great continuity of care for our patients who see specialists at DHMC. We are also able to share providers between our locations by purchasing fractions of their time. For example, we have a gastroenterologist who is only at our hospital on Wednesdays. To find a provider who will work one day a week is not realistic and we would likely need to hire someone full-time without truly having the demand. By having this relationship, we are able to serve our community with more services while achieving balance financially. The same principles can be applied to other

Joint Loss/Wellness Committee Members Police Chief Emily Cobb, Fire Chief Jay Lyon and Administrative Assistant Dianne Bottari take a break before welcoming town staff to the annual Holiday Luncheon. This year was COVID safe, mask wearing 'grab-and-go' lunch so social distancing could be maintained. Chair Janet Kidder, representing the Board of Selectmen, thanked staff for their hard work and dedication to the town. Longevity awards recognizing staff serving 5, 10, 15, 20 and 30 years were handed out by Chair Kidder.



### *Snow at the Voting Polls*

Just as the polls opened on Election Day, November 3rd, snow began to fall. Voters and volunteers took it all in stride, New Hampshire-style. The record breaking voter turnout was no problem thanks to the hard work of election officials, town staff and many, many dedicated volunteers. We are grateful to all who made Election Day 2020 a success!



*Photo courtesy of Chris Lorio, pictured above, who greeted everyone with smiling eyes!*



### **Citizens Advisory Committee continued -**

shared services, such as helpdesk support, HR, communications, marketing, etc. Mr. Manion noted that the only downside he sees as an affiliate is the loss of some autonomy. For example, the budget must be approved by the system board annually. To date, he was not aware of any issues with this process, but it is an acknowledgeable loss of control. He observed that in other systems he has worked in, this is a fairly common practice.

*-Maureen Prohl, CAC Vice-Chair*

### **WE ARE VILO SUPPORTERS!**

Vilo and Officer Daley thank the following members of the Vilo Support Team:

- ◆ Gordon & Terri Bingham
- ◆ Celeste & David Cook
- ◆ Gail Goddard
- ◆ George Green & Ruth White
- ◆ W. Michael Todd



**PLEASE JOIN**  **OUR TEAM!**

### **I want to be a K9 Vilo Supporter!**

Here is my donation in the amount of: \_\_\_\_\_

to help support the New London Police Department K9 Program.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

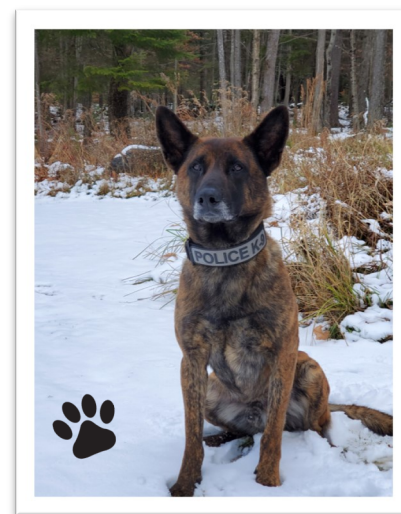
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to:

**Town of New London K9 Fund**

**Mail to: 375 Main Street, New London, NH 03257**

**Thank you for your support!!**



## Town Of New London



**Holiday CLOSINGS**  
**All Town Offices**  
**will be CLOSED**  
**Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**

### REMINDER from the Town Clerk/Tax Collector

Aqua Therm (Bubbler) Permits are required!!  
They are currently available & can be downloaded  
from our website: [www.nl-nh.com/clerk](http://www.nl-nh.com/clerk)  
The completed form and associated fee (fifty cents  
each) can be placed in our drop box. Include your  
contact info and we will call when complete.

**Will Kidder & Lynn Lewis**  
**603-526-1244 or 603-526-1245**

## The Conservation Commission will be hosting three winter activities this season

Depending on conditions, snowshoeing will be an option.  
Please contact each trip leader for details as the date  
approaches. The first hike is:

### **Saturday, 5 December, 9 AM, Clark Pond Hike.**

Meet at the Clark Pond trail head on Bog Road.  
This will be an hour and a half, fairly easy hike.  
Trip leader: Rick Davies, rd.nh291@gmail.com.

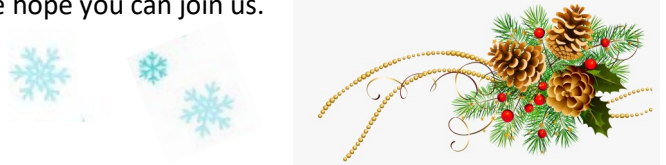
### **Saturday, 2 January, 1 PM, Phillips Memorial Preserve**

**Hike.** Trip leaders: John Kiernan, kiernan-  
nlh@yahoo.com and Nick Martin, nico-  
lasdmartin52@gmail.com.

### **Saturday, 6 February, 10 AM, Esther Currier WMA Wood Duck Box Maintenance.**

Trip leaders: Mike Gelcius, eaglesmg@gmail.com and Ruth  
White, rbwhite117@comcast.net.

We hope you can join us.



## Tracy Memorial Library Walk-Through Service

**Main Floor: Wednesdays 2 PM – 5 PM**

**Youth Floor: Thursdays 10 AM – 1 PM**

We've missed you and are excited to welcome you back  
to the Library. Walk-Through service hours for  
browsing on the main floor are Wednesdays 2pm –  
5pm with limited capacity, first come, first-served.

**If the sign on the main door is green, please ring the  
doorbell to be admitted.**

**If the sign on the main door is red, we are at capacity,  
please try again later.**

Walk-Through service hours for browsing on the  
youth floor are Thursdays 10am – 1pm by appointment  
only, one household at a time. Please book  
your [youth floor appointment online by clicking here.](#)

Walk-Through service hours are for you to come in &  
browse our collections, pick up holds, & check out  
materials. For now, the hours are limited and so is the  
building capacity. All patrons must wear a face cover-  
ing & limit their time in the Library to 20 minutes.

**Municipal Matters** is published by the staff of the Town  
of New London. Kimberly Hallquist, Town Administrator,  
603-526-1240 Email: townadmin@nl-nh.com

## Meeting Calendar

Please check the town's web calendar for additional  
information, location and updates.

- **MON, DEC 7 @ 6 PM - BOARD OF SELECTMEN**
- **TUE, DEC 8 @ 6:30 PM - PLANNING BOARD**
- **WED, DEC 9 @ 7 PM - BUDGET COMMITTEE**
- **THUR, DEC 10 @ 8:30 AM - MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE**
- **THUR, DEC 10 @ 6:30 PM - BUILDINGS & FACILITIES COM**
- **TUE, DEC 15 @ 6:30 PM - ZONING BOARD**
- **WED, DEC 16 @ 8:30 AM - CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**
- **WED, DEC 16 @ 7 PM - BUDGET COMMITTEE**
- **THUR, DEC 17 @ 8:30 AM - MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE**
- **THUR, DEC 17 @ 6:30 PM - BUILDINGS & FACILITIES COM**
- **MON, DEC 21 @ 6 PM - BOARD OF SELECTMEN**
- **FRI, DEC 25 - ALL TOWN OFFICES CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY**
- **SAT, JAN 9 @ 7:30 AM - CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMM.**

For a complete list of meetings, check the town website:

[www.NL-NH.com](http://www.NL-NH.com)