

**JOINT BOARD  
OF THE TOWNS OF  
SUNAPEE, NEWBURY AND NEW LONDON  
March 22, 2017  
NEWBURY TOWN OFFICE  
(DRAFT MINUTES)**

Present: Dennis Pavlicek (Newbury Town Administrator), Janet Kidder (New London Select Board), Donna Nashawaty (Sunapee Town Manager), Gary Daniels (Town of Newbury Resident), Kim Hallquist (New London Town Administrator), Sue Gottling (Sunapee Select Board), Norm Bernaiche (Chief Assessor)

Kim Hallquist called meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

**Minutes of December 13, 2016:** Dennis Pavlicek made motion to approve minutes, seconded by Kim Hallquist. All in favor.

**Budget Recap (2016 final)** 2017 budget is \$4000 more than the 2016 budget. We were \$600 underspent in 2016. The purchase of a new laptop added an additional \$1000 expense. Dennis said there should be no need to purchase new laptops for a few years as both were replaced recently. When the first quarter of 2017 is complete and we have all expenditures on the books thru March, Dennis will send a copy of those expenditures to everyone. Kim Hallquist asked if there are any questions. There were none.

**Board Members (new appointments)**

Donna Nashawaty asked when we will be bringing new members on board and saying goodbye to member's who's terms will be up. It was decided that at the June meeting the board will welcome new attendees and say farewell to the old. Dennis Pavlicek said historically everyone shows up at the changing of the guard meeting.

**Quarterly Recap: Norm Bernaiche**

Mr. Bernaiche stated the schedule is pretty much back to normal. Ms. McAllister and I are waiting for the weather to break before visiting a majority of the construction sites and other building permits. We have been contacting people for permission on no trespassing properties. We are going to adjust our schedule to focus on one town at a time so that we can get it all completed in time for the first tax billing. Gary Daniels asked if the towns have seen more construction this year than last. Mr. Bernaiche said it has been about the same. Kim Hallquist asked how long will it be until the assessing schedule returns to normal. Mr. Bernaiche said sometime in May. Dennis Pavlicek asked if there are more pick-ups then last year. Mr. Bernaiche said it is about the same. Mr. Bernaiche said they will be doing more inspections during the summer this year as it is a non-reval year.

**Staff Training**

Mr. Bernaiche and Ms. McAllister will be going to Mystic for training sessions this year. One of the sessions they are most interested in is regarding appraising high end homes.

## **ASB**

Mr. Bernaiche says the legislative system has been active and is proposing 4 bills against assessors. Sue Gottling attended one of the legislative hearings and testified on one of the bills. One of the bills proposes to move rule making authority to the Department of Revenue. The bill proposes to remove public members and 2 assessors from the board. This would make the ASB the only board with little professional representation. Mr. Bernaiche's opinion is that the assessors on the board do all the "heavy lifting", run subcommittees and propose the rule making language. Donna Nashawaty feels this comes about due to the influence of the telephone companies who lost in court and got nowhere with the legislature so are now using the ASB. The ASB meeting Mr. Bernaiche attended last was packed. Mr. Bernaiche stated that the good news is most of bills have not gone anywhere. Ms. McAllister is not at the Tri-town meeting today because she is attending the training meeting regarding poles and conduit.

### **Pending Cases:**

Mr. Bernaiche stated that the Town of New London lost the Gilman case again. Mr. Bernaiche thought the judge "got it", but at the end of day she did not see his arguments. The judge is at the same value as the previous judge. Mr. Bernaiche stated there was a sale in Newbury for 5.7 million, a 12.6 ac parcel with most of the land in current use. Very similar to the property owned by the Gilman's. Donna Nashawaty asked if we lose a case, do you change value? Janet Kidder stated that we cannot afford to go to court again. There was discussion on remedying the sand bar issues. Some ideas were to get rid of the sand bar entirely or pass a law that only allows 2 boats raft together at a time. There was discussion on installing cameras facing sand bar to prosecute people for littering. Mr. Bernaiche asked if anyone considered putting cameras to prosecute people for littering. New London will talk to Chief Anderson about the possibility of installing cameras. There was discussion regarding the lack of man power and boats to monitor the area.

Mr. Bernaiche said he is still waiting to hear back on the Carr (New London) case whether their filing was considered on-time given the timing of the fire. Another case, Brown (Town of Sunapee), the assessors and property owner or agent is required by court to meet prior to a hearing for possible settlement. The owner/agent has not submitted an appraisal yet nor responded to setting up a mediation meeting. Ms. McAllister has filed a motion to dismiss.

Mrs. Nashawaty read an email inquiry from another manager regarding assessments. Mrs. Nashawaty asked how to answer the question, "has anyone seen an increase in assessments because of new municipal buildings and schools?". Mrs. Nashawaty replied to inquiry by stating that Sunapee has made several improvements recently including a new library, improvements to the school and fire department and is not sure it increased local assessments. Mrs. Nashawaty informed the board that the Town of Sunapee proposed zoning change to turn a stretch of Route 11 to commercial failed by an overwhelming amount of votes. The community off Route 11 should remain as is for quite a long time.

Mr. Bernaiche informed the board that he met with Bob Vachon (Senior Director of Facilities at Colby Sawyer College). Colby Sawyer has met their quota for the upcoming year. The college hired a company to recruit new students. Mr. Bernaiche stated that in the past, Colby was growing like crazy, than had a couple down years. Mrs. Hallquist said the economy effects college enrollment. There was discussion about the effect the new health care act will have on small hospitals as many people stand to lose health

care benefits and the effects on a municipality level as there may be an increase in welfare applications. In addition, jobs may be cut which will affect the local economy. There is fear our local small communities will feel a huge impact.

### **Other Business**

Dennis Pavlicek inquired when the board is going to address a compensation increase for Kris McAllister. It was agreed that Ms. McAllister's evaluation should be completed first. Mrs. Nashawaty motioned the board to authorize 3 managers to work with Mrs. Bernaiche on Ms. McAllister's compensation for the upcoming year. Janet Kidder seconded. All in favor.

### **Set Next Meeting Date**

The board chose **June 21, 2017 at 8 a.m. in Sunapee Town Office building**. Having no further business before them, Kim Hallquist moved to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Donna Nashawaty. All were in favor, the meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Patricia MacDonald*

Land Use & Assessing Assistant