

Joint Board
of the Towns of
Sunapee, Newbury and New London
September 17, 2019
Newbury Town Office

Members Present: Kim Hallquist (New London Town Administrator); Janet Kidder (New London Resident); Gary Daniels (Newbury Resident); Dennis Pavlicek (Newbury Town Administrator); Donna Nashawaty (Sunapee Town Manager); Linda Tanner (Sunapee Resident); Norm Bernaiche (Chief Assessor); Kris McAllister (Assistant Assessor)

Ms. Hallquist called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

Review the Minutes of June 5, 2019:

Mr. Pavlicek made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Daniels seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, Ms. Kidder and Ms. Hallquist abstaining from the vote as they were not present at the meeting.

Budget Recap – Mr. Pavlicek said 3rd quarter numbers are good. Mr. Pavlicek continued he is waiting on health insurance numbers and asked if the Board would like to schedule a special meeting to adopt the budget. Ms. Hallquist asked if the Board should wait until after the tax rates are set. Mr. Pavlicek said the second week of October should be good.

Mr. Pavlicek said the only difference was in Workers Compensation, there was a discount, so the final payment is \$5,000 and not \$7,200.

Mr. Pavlicek said he did not expect any big changes in the 4th quarter. Ms. Nashawaty asked if the budget includes the updated parcel counts. Mr. Bernaiche said the 2019 parcel counts will be used for the 2020 budget. Mr. Bernaiche said the parcel counts were finalized in the spring, but New London's count may change due to the tax mapping project. Ms. Nashawaty asked as soon as parcel counts and budget are finalized to send to her.

Quarterly Recap: Norm Bernaiche

New London Revaluation – Mr. Bernaiche said that the New London revaluation is nearly completed with new software, new tax maps and new tax map numbers. Mr. Bernaiche continued there is a lot of moving pieces and the vendors (MuniSmart, Avitar, Cartographics) have all been great. Mr. Bernaiche said the informal reviews are around 2 1/2 %, usually they are 8-10%. Mr. Bernaiche credits the low percentage of informal reviews to Ms. McAllister and the public relations efforts and getting information out to the taxpayers. Mr. Bernaiche said there is around an 8% overall increase in value. Mr. Bernaiche said they will be wrapping everything up and submitting the MS1. Discussion followed.

Abatements – Mr. Bernaiche said that he has not heard of any abatement appeals going to the BTLA.

Utility valuation – Mr. Bernaiche said the way utility valuations are arrived at are changing, each utility will start back at a baseline valuation established in 2018 and by using different formulas will generate a valuation. Mr. Bernaiche continued that all 3 towns will be a winner under this model, with Newbury and New London seeing benefits from the onset and Sunapee in 2020 because of the conservative valuation that has been used in the past.

Sunapee Reval – Mr. Bernaiche said the New London revaluation has been a learning curve and with its completion the assessors will move back to regular schedules in the 3 towns. Mr. Bernaiche continued that they will be ahead of the game going into the Sunapee revaluation. Discussion followed.

Other Business – No other business.

Next Meeting – The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 15th at 8:00 am in New London.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Tiffany A. Favreau
Newbury Land Use & Assessing Coordinator