

**Enfield Board of Selectmen
Whitney Hall
Enfield, New Hampshire**

MINUTES of March 4, 2013

Board of Selectmen: Donald J. Crate, Sr., Chairman John W. Kluge; Fred Cummings

Administrative Staff: Steven Schneider, Town Manager; Alisa D. Bonnette, Executive Assistant; Jim Taylor, Director of Public Works; Richard A. Crate, Jr., Chief of Police

Others: Cecilia Aufiero, Dan Kiley, Richard Martin, Debra Messer, David Beaufait

BUSINESS MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Crate called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Kluge noted a correction to the minutes of February 19, 2013. Page 5, Lakeview Septic, second paragraph should read, "Mr. Kluge thinks they have to pay for it. Their system is getting old and they now need to replace it."

Mr. Kluge moved to approve the minutes of February 19, 2013 as corrected, Mr. Cummings seconded, vote unanimous.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

Town Clerk's Report – February 2013:

February revenues are up significantly with year-to-date revenues up \$17,000 over last year.

Tax Collector's Report – February 2013:

2012 Second Issue tax collection is at 96%. At this time in 2011 collections were at 95%.

Wetlands Application – 111 NH Route 4A, Seasonal Dock

Shoreland Permit by Notification – Doolittle Drive, Building Addition:

Mr. Kluge noted that the addition is on the side of the building furthest from the shoreline.

IV. BOARD REPORTS

None.

V. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Curbside Solid Waste & Recycling Collection:

Mr. Taylor and Mr. Schneider met with Casella recently to go over the proposed contract numbers with them, as well as to discuss the term of the agreement. Casella has submitted a revised proposal for a 5 year term with a 5 year option. The option allows the Town to back out of the agreement after 5 years if Casella doesn't comply with the terms of the agreement. If Casella does comply with the terms of the agreement there is an automatic renewal for an additional 5 years.

The talked about the numbers, wanting a better feel for what we're spending for everything we're doing now versus what we can expect with the new proposal. The new solid waste agreement would result in \$70,000 more, but taking into account other fees and numbers it's closer to a \$24,000 difference just on the collection and disposal side. If we're reducing the amount that goes to the landfill we'll see a reduction in tipping fees. Casella feels comfortable that we'll see a 10% savings on the tipping fees, but we may see closer to 30%.

The different size toters, 95 gallon, 60 gallon and 35 gallon, were discussed. People can select the size toter best suited to their household and can change sizes if they wish.

The program would happen probably in July as Casella needs to make a change in a neighboring community and order a truck.

Statistics were provided for the Town of Proctor, VT, a community that is one year into this type of program. Their recycling has increased from 20% to 30%. Solid waste has gone down the same number of tons. They have collection of both solid waste and recycling every other week.

Mr. Schneider recommends we really engage the Town. A decision sooner, rather than later, is recommended. We can give people the opportunity to see the toter sizes and understand the program.

Mr. Schneider added that with adoption of this proposed program there are no plans to change anything at the Transfer Station the first year. This would give people the opportunity to take trash to the Transfer Station if they don't want to wait 2 weeks for pickup. Over time what we do at the Transfer Station may change. It may turn to more of a compost facility for food waste.

Mr. Kluge asked if we're looking at 10% savings initially. He was informed by Mr. Schneider that the first year we wouldn't look for any savings. If we start in July we'll only have a ½ year with the program. Going forward we'll probably see 10%, then up to 30%.

Mr. Kluge asked about public education.

Mr. Schneider explained that Casella will do some, like providing totter information and how much will fit in each size. Also, what is accepted as zero-sort recycling. We can prepare a list of Frequently Asked Questions and get the experiences of other community residents who already live with a similar program.

Mr. Schneider reported that the mid-60% of individuals favored doing this. We'll have to do some intensive publicity, perhaps talking about it with Terri Dudley on her radio show, mailings from Casella, publication of information on the Enfield Listserv and in the newspaper.

Dr. Beaufait added that information can be provided at the end of Town Meeting as well.

The Board considered the proposal.

Mr. Crate asked if this doesn't pan out during the first 5 years we can't get out of it. Mr. Schneider confirmed that we're committed for 5 years; that's the one variable that's a concern.

Mr. Cummings moved to move forward with this program with an estimated start date of July 1, Mr. Kluge seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Cecilia Aufiero – Regional Recreation Director:

Ms. Aufiero saw the ad in the Valley News for a Regional Recreation Director and expressed concerns. She had not seen discussion of this in the meeting minutes and is surprised this hasn't gone before the Town.

Mr. Cummings replied that the Selectmen did discuss this at previous meetings. The Board had all of the same reservations that Ms. Aufiero expressed about the use of Enfield resources and the commitment of Enfield funds. There are no financial resources being spent directly on this; it's covered by grant funding.

Ms. Aufiero noted that we have a Recreation Commission. Now we're going to include Canaan. We're a small town. She doesn't want our resources overrun by other communities.

Ms. Aufiero was assured the Selectmen had these same concerns. Funding is coming from a grant and the Town reserves the right to pull the plug at any time. The Selectmen will be very much in tune with whether Enfield is getting what it should out of this program.

Mr. Schneider shared the history of various discussion had by the Recreation Commission, Upper Valley HEAL (Healthy Eating Active Living) and the Board of Selectmen. We don't want to subsidize Canaan and this will be watched closely. Nothing is going to change what we do from a recreation point of view. The focus will be on developing recreation programs for people age 12 to 100. We offer a lot of programs to younger children, but not older individuals. We have just started a stretching class for adults. To have more offerings we need someone who can put in more hours and can administratively assist the youth recreation leagues.

Ms. Aufiero asked if Enfield would handle any money which would mean time spent by Enfield on this. Even if it works and you want it, she believes it should go before the Town.

Mr. Kluge responded there is no guarantee this will continue beyond one year. Ms. Aufiero should be confident the Selectmen will watch it, and they will.

Cecilia Aufiero – Salt Shed:

Ms. Aufiero asked where the new proposed salt/sand shed would be located. She was informed it would be located near where the compost pile is now.

VII. BUSINESS

Town Meeting Review:

Town Reports were mailed today. People should receive them over the next couple of days.

Dr. Beaufait informed Chief Crate of the need for police coverage at Tuesday's election. He expects a fairly low volume.

Earl Brady has offered to act as a ballot clerk. Mr. Kluge moved to appoint Earl Brady as a Ballot Clerk, Mr. Cummings seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

Mr. Schneider believes turnout will be a little higher than normal due to the school vote, but not as much as the November Presidential Election. He would anticipate fewer than 1,000 people.

Dr. Beaufait considered whether we needed a greeter/coordinator as we had at the November election, but had decided we can do without it.

At the deliberative session on Saturday, March 16, Article 4 is for long-term borrowing. This article requires a paper ballot and polls must be open for one hour, though we can continue on with other business.

For Articles 6 through 13, Lee Carrier will have a general Capital Improvement Program presentation.

Discussion ensued regarding obtaining authorization for Jim Taylor, Director of Public Works and non-resident, to speak at Town Meeting. This should be taken care of at the beginning of the meeting.

According to the Secretary of State's Office, two selectmen or their representatives need to be present throughout the day on Tuesday.

Mr. Kluge moved to appoint Steve Schneider and Alisa Bonnette as the Selectmen's representatives as needed on Tuesday, March 12, 2013, Mr. Cummings seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

Hardship Abatement:

Mr. Kluge moved to enter non-public session at 6:42 PM to discuss a hardship abatement, Mr. Cummings seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

Mr. Cummings moved to come out of non-public session at 6:44 PM, Mr. Kluge seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

Recreation Commission Application for Appointment:

The Board considered an application for appointment to the Recreation Commission from Cindy Wells.

Mr. Cummings moved to appoint Cindy Wells to the Recreation Commission, Mr. Kluge seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

Planning Board Member Reappointments:

Paul Withrow and Kurt Gotthardt are interested in reappointment as regular members of the Planning Board. Paula Rowe Stone is interested as reappointment as an alternate member of the Planning Board.

Mr. Cummings moved to reappoint to the Planning Board, Paul Withrow, Kurt Gotthardt and Paula Rowe Stone (Alternate), Mr. Kluge seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

FastRoads Update:

Last Tuesday Mr. Schneider spent time in Concord. There is a House Bill that would allow communities to bond for broadband infrastructure. A grant is paying for 1/3 of our community to get fiber, while others in Town have Comcast or Fairpoint internet. Comcast and Fairpoint speeds, while better than dial-up, aren't anywhere near what fiber can offer. Typically fiber is not strung in rural areas, but if this bill passes, communities could bond for broadband infrastructure.

Telecoms are well funded and have well paid lobbyist to voice opposition to the bill. While these companies may have done great things in larger communities, New Hampshire is made up of many smaller communities.

FastRoads was mentioned throughout these discussions. We don't have any local representatives on this committee, but Chuck Townsend, previously an Enfield representative, is on this committee and is a co-sponsor.

There's one utility pole in Sunapee holding up the north-south connection of the fiber network. A license needs to be obtained and some work on the pole needs to be done.

Because of the number of connections possible in Enfield we have a large space in the mezzanine at the Public Works Facility to house equipment.

Axia, the Massachusetts version of FastRoads, will be bringing a series of vendors to NH FastRoads.

The only part of the fiber not strung is Ibeys Road and Choate Road where some poles need to be installed.

Water/Sewer Rates:

The Board was provided with a spreadsheet of proposed rates. Water rates really aren't going to change. Sewer rates will reflect the Lebanon increase of 9%.

Some changes have been made to the Class charge. Most households are in Class 3 or 4 and won't see much change in this charge. Class 6 and 7 will be less so they'll see a savings in the Class charge. They will see an increase in their consumption charge. The Laundromat's bill will probably remain flat.

Mr. Cummings asked how rates will change. He was informed by Mr. Taylor that rates will be increased by 9%.

Mr. Schneider clarified that the Laundromat's Consumption charge will go up but his Class charge will go down. Even with the reduced Class charge we can cover expenses. We can expect to see more savings with improvements to infiltration, which may lessen the impact of Lebanon's 9% increase.

Mr. Taylor said the other thing to consider is how much we want to put into capital reserves for potential repairs and replacements.

Mr. Schneider responded that as we get more users on Route 4 it should be easier to put funds in reserves.

The Selectmen schedule a public hearing for March 18, 2013 at the Public Works Facility to discuss the setting of water & sewer rates, amendments to the Cross Connection Ordinance and amendments to the Sewer Ordinance.

Administrative Items:

The Board signed certificates for presentation at Town Meeting.

VIII. OTHER ITEMS

Auction Poster Donation:

Mike & Marie Jane Brailey donated an auction poster to the Town. Mr. Brailey said the property was the Bernard Cummings, Sr. Farm and he would like it in Bernard Cumming's name. He asked for the historic preservation of the poster to be placed where the Town can enjoy it. The frame was made by Mr. Cummings and hay bailing twine was used to hang it.

Mr. Kluge moved to accept the donation of the auction poster, Mr. Cummings seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

Road Posting:

Roads will be posted Tuesday, March 5, 2013

Next Meeting:

Monday, March 18, 2013, 6:00 PM Public Works Facility, 74 Lockehaven Road

CONFERENCE

I. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Kluge moved to adjourn at 7:07 PM, Mr. Cummings seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion, meeting adjourned.