

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

MINUTES of April 15, 2013

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

Administrative Staff: Steven Schneider, Town Manager; Alisa D. Bonnette, Executive Assistant; Jim Taylor, Director of Public Works

Others: Kurt Gotthardt, NH Representative Wendy Piper, John Polinski

BUSINESS MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Cummings moved to accept the minutes of April 1, 2013 as printed, Mr. Kluge seconded the motion. Mr. Cummings and Mr. Kluge in favor of the motion, Mr. Crate abstained as he was absent from this meeting. Motion carried.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

Tax Collector's Notice of Final Tax Bill Mailed 11/19/2012

Trustees of Trust Funds Report – 1st Quarter 2013:

The Town is seeing a 1% return on investments.

IV. BOARD REPORTS

Planning Board:

The Planning Board met on April 10. Acquisition Holdings (Dollar Store) plans were resubmitted after being changed significantly to meet the Town's design standards. One more meeting and they will be all set.

Conservation Commission:

The Conservation Commission met at the beginning of the month and reviewed the boundary line agreement.

The Commission is planning to apply for a grant for a watershed plan. The grant application will take a year to create before the application can be filed.

V. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Solid Waste/Recycling Collection:

There's been a flurry of comments on the Enfield Listserv regarding the change in the curbside solid waste and recycling pick-up. Some good questions have been forwarded on to Northeast Waste. For instance, how do you handle buildings that have just a few units, being bigger than a single family home, yet not large enough to have a dumpster. There are number of buildings in the village with just 2 or 3 units. This is one issue that needs to be ironed out.

There's been a delay on the truck ordering. While they may be able to phase in some things in July, August 1st will be a better date for a full transition. Mr. Schneider will prepare a letter to announce the changes, what they'll be and when they'll occur. Northeast Waste will do a mailing regarding ordering totes, pickup days, etc.

Mr. Kluge noted that there seems to be a lot of confusion.

Mr. Schneider acknowledged there will be concerns about storage. Residents will have the option of using the Transfer Station if they're concerned about odors. Some folks have been into the office to talk. As we get more information out to the public it will be easier to understand.

Ambulance Billing Revenues:

Mr. Cummings asked about the revenues from Ambulance billing. He was informed that in March the Town received just over \$3,300. We're doing better with the most recent bills. There's still about \$29,000 over 120 days. Comstar is tagging it to a specific insurance company - Anthem. We recently got a large group of checks from Signa.

Mr. Kluge asked if Anthem is slow to pay or resistant to paying. He was informed by Mr. Schneider that they are slow to pay.

Mr. Cummings inquired about the total collected so far. Mr. Schneider will obtain this information. Mr. Cummings added that he'd like a regular report like the Board receives from the Tax Collector and Town Clerk each month.

Telephone Poles:

Mr. Kluge questioned the status of the telephone poles the Town was hoping to have removed. He was informed by Mr. Schneider that they're moving at their own pace.

Main Street Flag:

Mr. Kluge reported that he is working with the Enfield Village Association on the replacement of the flag on Main Street. Discussion ensued regarding who can, in the meantime, bring down the flag that is tattered.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kurt Gotthardt – Whaleback:

Mr. Gotthardt asked about the status of Whaleback. Mr. Schneider informed him that someone would pay the taxes. The bank has been in contact with the Tax Collector. John Polinski heard the property was going on the auction block. Mr. Schneider said they owe the Town about \$80,000 in taxes.

VII. BUSINESS

Wendy Piper: State “Gas Tax” Revenue Projections:

Representative Wendy Piper serves on the State Public Works and Highways Committee. This is a bill initiated by David Campbell who is chair of the Committee. Ms. Piper provided spreadsheets indicating the revenues anticipated from the 4-4-4 “Gas Tax” bill.

Mr. Cummings stated that the House passed the Gas Tax bill, but the Senate is not likely to pass it. The Senate is more likely to pass the Casino Bill and the House is not.

Discussion ensued regarding Ms. Piper’s stand on the “Casino Bill” vs. the “Gas Tax” bill. Ms. Piper stated that the “Casino Bill” is not a reliable source of revenue and she does not feel it’s a good fit for the State of New Hampshire. Her research suggests that the Casino Bill will create new construction jobs at first, but that local businesses will be hurt because food and drink prices at casinos are often lowered. She does not feel the Casino Bill is good for our residents and it is not good for our brand. We’re different from Maine, Massachusetts and Connecticut and it is not what New Hampshire is about.

Ms. Piper went on to say that the Committee has heard from a lot of residents and businesses. The Road Toll does not pass through to consumers penny for penny as prices at the pump vary from station to station. The cigarette tax didn’t increase the cost of cigarettes; wholesalers lowered the price.

Ms. Piper informed the Board that there’s a public hearing on expanded gambling on Tuesday, April 16 if anyone wishes to attend. She reiterated that gambling is not a reliable revenue source and she doesn’t like what it does to our state, and not just in terms of crime.

Mr. Cummings noted the difficulty of passing on a tax to residents. People and their families will be hurt by this.

Ms. Piper agreed that there’s no question the road toll fee will be felt. She added that they’ve worked hard to put up firewalls to protect the use of the revenues realized. Un-refunded road toll money goes into the Highway account.

Mr. Crate expressed concern that these new taxes will be used to pay for improvements to I-93 at the expense of local roads.

Discussion ensued regarding the designation of portions of I-93 as part of the turnpike system funded through a separate Turnpike Fund and other portions of I-93 which are not designated as part of the turnpike system and could receive funds from the new Gas Tax.

Mr. Cummings noted that we can't get 2" of pavement on Shaker Hill Road.

Ms. Piper reported that the Commissioner of DOT is from private industry; that's important. He's very conscientious about trimming the budget.

John Polinski – Veterans Memorial Park:

Mr. Schneider informed the Board that Mr. Polinski contacted the Town Manager's Office, state and federal representatives, the Town Historian and others, seeking the placement of a handful of names on stones at the Veterans Memorial Park. While the Town owns the park it has not been involved in day to day operating of obtaining stones and putting names on them. The Town primarily maintains the grounds.

Mr. Polinski explained that he'd spoken with Henry Cross and Richard Crate, Sr. about missing names. Not only was his own name missing, but so was that of his brother, Edward Polinski, Richard Barnes and Tom Campbell. In October the name of Richard Barnes was added. Mr. Cross and Mr. Crate thought the other names would be put on by November. Since that time, Mr. Polinski was told there was no room on the stone for more names, the stone would look unbalanced with more names added, there was no money to replace the stone and it was too much work to replace the stone. Mr. Polinski then called several state and federal offices, the American Legion, and more, and everyone was very supportive of his position. John Polinski served August 1964 – August 1968. His brother, Edward, served from March 1964 – March 1966. They moved to Enfield in 1955 and John Polinski is still living in the old homestead.

Mr. Cummings wondered why Mr. Polinski wasn't encouraged to come to the Selectboard before calling everyone else. This could have been handled much more quickly than it has been.

It was mentioned that the Veterans Memorial Park Committee did a great deal of research and did their best to obtain a complete record of names and the project was well advertised.

Mr. Schneider spoke to Henry Cross today. He said they'll be adding the names either on the existing stone or another one. Richard Crate, Sr., said the same; it will get done.

Mr. Crate and Mr. Kluge said it would be nice if this could be done by Memorial Day.

Mr. Cummings encouraged Mr. Polinski to come to the Board of Selectmen any time. He assured Mr. Polinski that Steve Schneider will make sure this happens.

Mr. Polinski said they should have taller stones and leave room for more names. He also mentioned that at least one of the original donors to the Veterans Memorial Park is willing to donate again.

Lions Club Donation – Huse Park Bleachers:

The Lions Club would like to donate new bleachers for Huse Park to replace the existing bleachers. It was questioned whether a public hearing is required to accept this donation. This will be looked into.

Mr. Kluge moved to accept the donation of bleacher for Huse Park pending confirmation of the need for a Public Hearing, Mr. Cummings seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

Mr. Cummings asked when the pillars would be repairs. Mr. Taylor responded that they were supposed to be done last fall. He will follow up on this.

The Board briefly discussed the replacement of the fencing at Huse Park. Fencing that matches the bridge railings in the village is prohibitively expensive. Mr. Crate noted the need for fencing that kids can't jump or climb on. Mr. Taylor will look into fencing options. Mr. Cummings asked if the TIF Committee is still committed to ½ of the cost of replacement. Mr. Schneider can inquire at the next TIF meeting on April 30th.

Electronic Payment of Taxes, Utilities, etc.:

Mr. Schneider asked Carolee Higbee, Tax Collector and Town Clerk, to look into the acceptance of electronic payments. We get inquiries once or twice a week. Acceptance of electronic payments requires the authorization of the Board of Selectmen.

There is a fee, usually in the range of 2% - 2½% per transaction. The transaction fee could be accepted as overhead by the Town or passed on to the consumer. Before proceeding the Town would need to look closely at companies to process these payments.

Mr. Gotthardt pointed out there is a fee associated with using credit cards, but a lot of people use debit cards. He was informed by Mr. Schneider there are fees associated with debit cards as well. Mr. Gotthardt can't see the Town taking on that cost.

Mr. Crate moved to adopt RSA 80:52-c authorizing the acceptance of electronic payments, Mr. Cummings seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

Route 4 Water/Sewer Notice to Property Owners:

Mr. Schneider has drafted a notice to the property owners along the Route 4 Water/Sewer Extensions to let them know of the changes and giving the timeframe within which they need to connect to the municipal system. While the systems should be operational May 1, he would recommend pushing out the start date to June 1 to provide an additional month for them to make arrangements with contractors.

Mr. Kluge asked if they have to wait until June 1 to connect or can they start early?

Mr. Schneider replied they could start early.

Mr. Taylor asked when the Town wants to start charging the base rate. He suggested the 3rd quarter to eliminate the need to pro-rate it. Mr. Schneider agreed.

Mr. Cummings moved to designate June 1st as the beginning of the notification period, Mr. Kluge seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

NH DOT Notice of Discontinuance of State Maintained Streetlights:

The Board received notice of two State maintained streetlights that are slated for removal unless the Town chooses to take them over. One is located at the intersection of Shaker Hill Road and Crystal Lake Road. The other is located near the NH DOT District 2 entrance at Exit 16. A draft letter to the utility company notifying them of the Town's request was also provided for the Town's use.

Chief Crate, Jim Taylor and the Energy Committee are in favor of taking over the streetlight at the corner of Shaker Hill Road and Crystal Lake Road as this would be deemed a major intersection.

The Board was unanimously in favor of accepting the light at the intersection of Shaker Hill Road and Crystal Lake Road.

Mr. Gotthardt stated that he has been working on the streetlight issue in Town. He has no issues with keeping the streetlight at the intersection of Shaker Hill Road and Crystal Lake Road, but requests the wattage be reduced from 250w to 100w. He pointed out that the light at the intersection of Shaker Hill Road and Lockhaven Road is only 100w. He doesn't know who decided on the wattage of the brighter light, but doesn't think the intersection warrants that size light.

Mr. Crate stated that he wants to look at it before he makes a decision.

Mr. Schneider stated that we would notify Liberty Utilities that we would like to take over the light at the intersection of Shaker Hill Road and Crystal Lake Road.

Personnel: Regional Recreation Director and Town Planner:

Mr. Schneider interviewed two great folks for the Regional Recreation Director position and ended up hiring Katie Lary Jopek, a Canaan resident. She started today. She has already scheduled a number of meetings. She will work 20 hours/week and will be in Enfield the majority of the time, though not 100% of the time. She will be in Canaan about 1 day/week.

Mr. Schneider interviewed two candidates for the Town Planner position. He made an offer to one individual but has not heard back. If the person to whom he made the offer does not respond, the second person is a strong candidate and will serve Enfield well. The plan is to have the new hire work with Nate Miller for the last week and a half of April.

Mr. Schneider will be at the next Planning Board meeting as Nate will be out of town.

Mr. Crate asked if the new dollar store was going to go.

He was informed by Mr. Kluge that yes, it was. They made the design changes required by the Planning Board. It's a good looking building. Mr. Kluge hears there is also a business located elsewhere in Enfield that may make a move to Route 4.

FastRoads Update:

None.

Administrative Items:

The Board reviewed and approved the following documents: Veterans Exemption, Property Tax refunds and abatements, Treasurer Delegation.

VIII. OTHER ITEMS

Board and Committee Appointments:

The Board reviewed the Board and Committee positions that are up for reappointment. Shirley Green, via email, expressed her desire to be reappointed to the Conservation Commission and Heritage Commission.

Mr. Cummings moved to reappoint Shirley Green to the Conservation Commission, Mr. Crate seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

Mr. Cummings moved to reappoint Shirley Green to the Heritage Commission, Mr. Crate seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

Mr. Cummings moved to reappoint Dan Kiley and Gary Gaudette to the CIP Committee, Mr. Crate seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

Mr. Cummings moved to reappoint Sue Hagerman and Gary Gaudette as regular members and Jeanine King as an alternate member of the Conservation Commission, Mr. Crate seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

The Board tabled appointments to the Energy Committee pending a recommendation from the Committee. The current members will continue to serve until they are reappointed or someone else is appointed in their stead.

Mr. Cummings moved to reappoint Marjorie Carr to the Heritage Commission, Mr. Crate seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

Mr. Cummings moved to reappoint Kurt Gotthardt and Paul Withrow to the Planning Board, Mr. Crate seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

Mr. Cummings moved to reappoint Sharon Kiley and Jeanine King to the Recreation Commission, Mr. Crate seconded, vote unanimous if favor of the motion.

The Board tabled appointments to the TIF Committee.

Mr. Cummings moved to reappoint William Shoemaker as Tree Warden, Mr. Crate seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

Transfer Station Shed:

Mr. Cummings asked if the shed had been ordered yet. He was informed by Mr. Taylor it had not as they are working on Jones Hill.

Street Sweeping:

Mr. Crate asked if the streets would be swept before Memorial Day. He was informed by Mr. Schneider that they would. Mr. Taylor added that the Highway Department has a broom that fits the loader and the backhoe.

Next Meeting:

Monday, May 6, 2013, at 6:00 PM in the Whitney Hall Conference Room, 23 Main Street.

CONFERENCE

I. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Cummings moved to adjourn at 7:15 PM, Mr. Crate seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion, meeting adjourned.