

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

MINUTES of September 3, 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; Richard A. Crate, Jr., Chief of Police

Others: Dan Kiley, Doug & Meredith Smith, Cecilia Aufiero, Kurt Gotthardt, Mary Ann Haagen, Paul Mirski

BUSINESS MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Crate moved to approve the minutes of August 5, 2013, Mr. Kluge seconded. Mr. Crate and Mr. Kluge voted in favor of the motion, Mr. Cummings abstained, motion carried.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

Tax Collector's Report – August 2013

Town Clerk's Report – August 2013:

The Town Clerk's revenues are the best indicator of economic health. These revenues are higher than they've been post-recession.

Wetlands Permit Application:

Flint, 526 Shaker Blvd. – Repair and reconstruction of retaining wall along the shore of Mascoma Lake.

IV. BOARD REPORTS

None.

V. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

2013 Capital Projects:

Mr. Schneider presented a report borrowed from Jim Taylor with the breakdown of Public Works projects, budget and bid amounts.

Jones Hill Road budget: \$265,504. Cost: \$266,904, however some aggregate needs to be re-accounted for and may apply instead to other projects. Even the worst case scenario puts us over by only 1/2%.

Salt/Sand Shed: \$150,000. Two bids were received, one from Tim Jellison, the other from Jim Mason Barn Store. Our staff has reviewed the bids and recommends Mason at a cost of \$139,955. There is some site work we need to do. This is projected to be built this year. The location has been staked out at the Public Works site. It will be a 6 bay shed: 3 regular sand, 2 salt and 1 manufactured sand.

Pole Shed at Transfer Station budget: \$15,000. This project is on hold pending the impact of the new curbside rubbish and zero-sort recycling program.

Mr. Cummings asked why not build it now? When we approve projects, if we don't do them and ask for it later we look foolish.

Mr. Cummings was informed that the question is where and what. If we go to zero-sort recycling at the transfer station we may change the arrangement of the transfer station site. We can encumber the funds for expenditure in 2014. At Town Meeting the voters were informed this project was pending changes to our rubbish & recycling program.

Marsh Well Meter Vault came in at the budgeted amount of \$5,200. This project does not affect the general fund.

"Pig" Launcher for Sewer Force Main Cleaning budget \$15,000. This project is waiting until the sagging Lower Shaker Village line is repaired. We finally have the permits for the project, which has to be done at Lake Drawdown around Columbus Day.

DPW Waste Oil Burner budget \$8,500. Cost: \$7,160

Community Building Heating/Cooling System budget \$15,000. Before spending this money we should have an energy audit conducted. Once the audit is complete we can make the changes we need to. The existing burner and cooling system was sized for one floor. We can keep those units and do units only downstairs to supplement.

Mr. Cummings noted that supplemental units are not what were intended.

Mr. Schneider responded that he wanted to have all options for Selectmen review.

Community Building Tile & Floor Refinishing budget \$7,500. Three bids were received and Brown's Hardwoods, at \$4,145, is recommended. Some tile work will be done on the landing by the lift using slip resistant tile. The work is scheduled to be done after Christmas.

Mr. Crate asked if any of the contractors are local Enfield contractors. He was informed that bids were submitted by firms in White River, Meriden and Sunapee.

Parking Lot Paving budget \$15,000. Five bids were received. The lowest, at \$14,737, was by IV Generation. The next lowest, at \$16,240, was submitted by Blaktop. The Board is not familiar with the work done by IV Generation and wondered if it was better to use a company they know. Mr. Taylor looked at some of the work by IV Generation and saw no problems with it, but has no direct experience with the company.

Mr. Crate moved to go with Blaktop, Mr. Cummings seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

Whitney Hall Repairs budget \$40,000. Whitney Hall needs repair of the front porch and roof. One proposal has been submitted and two more are expected. The due date for proposals is September 13th. This is a tricky project due to how the roofs are done on that section of the building.

Ambulance Building budget \$12,000. The building has been painted and minor carpentry work done. They didn't change the profile of the building. The projected came in at the budgeted price.

FastRoads:

They are in Town and have one Beta customer in Enfield. They've done the same process in Rindge. There are two providers of residential service signed up with FastRoads. Wi-Valley will be in Town on September 12th for an open house and demonstration of what they can provide. Bay Ring is centered more in the Concord area and the southern part of the State, but will provide data and voice services. SoverNet will be a commercial provider on the network.

We've spoken to SoverNet about the Town's needs as a municipality, will speak to Wi-Valley on September 12th and then later on would like to talk to Bay Ring.

We expect residential connections to start this fall. We are pushing 400 connection agreements. Postcards were recently mailed out. If a homeowner's name was on the card they've already signed up, otherwise the card was addressed to "Broadband-eligible Resident." They are moving pretty quickly now, after a long delay. The fiber network should reduce our costs for what we do internally, including our voice systems. Residents in the service area should be getting provider mail soon. There is no TV product offering at this time, but eventually people should be able to get all three services.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Meredith Smith – Enfield Center Town House:

Mrs. Smith noted that the project has stalled. Windows were re-glazed but not painted and the western side should be painted before snow flies. The railing to the building is loose and the fascia needs nailing.

Celie Aufiero said they had asked for this over a couple of years and thought we had budgeted \$5,000. Mr. Schneider explained to Ms. Aufiero that was not the case.

Mrs. Smith feels the building is a precious resource and needs to be preserved. Mr. Schneider does not disagree with this. Mr. Crate said he's brought this up a couple of times.

It comes down to money and the funds put aside for Enfield for Enfield Center have been inadequate. The re-glazing of the windows is the investment that building has seen since April Whittaker was here.

Mr. Schneider asked how much money we want to put into a building that we don't use often and that has no services.

Ms. Aufiero commented that the Board should take it to Town Meeting if they don't want to keep the building.

Mr. Kluge said the Selectmen aren't interested in getting rid of the building.

The Board discussed budget constraints, lack of land for parking and other services. Ms. Aufiero stressed the need to take care of the building before it gets too bad.

Ms. Haagen pointed out there are a few things that won't cost a lot of money, such as painting the bottom 4' of the siding. Does the Heritage Commission have a role in preserving our historic buildings? Is this something someone wants the Commission to be attending to?

Mr. Schneider noted that during budget season, discussion of building maintenance by the Budget Committees is sporadic, so members of the Commission would have to attend all of the meetings to be sure to be there during discussion of the building.

Mr. Kiley suggested the Commission bring it to the CIP Committee. It should be in the Capital Improvement Plan rather than the budget.

Painting of the building was discussed. The Heritage Commission can obtain quotes. Any painters used would have to be lead certified. Mr. Taylor pointed out that since we're talking about lead abatement it would be better to do the entire building rather than just a small portion of it. He is happy to make bids and contracts but would need a committee or group to determine what needs to be done in a prioritized list of projects.

Ms. Aufiero asked how much money was left in the budget for the building and if the glazing could be painted. Mr. Schneider replied that he thought that could be done. That's the goal. Nailing the fascia should also be a quick fix.

Doug Smith – Utility Pole Removal:

Several meetings ago the Board said they'd push for removal of some telephone poles. Mr. Smith inquired about the status of that project.

Mr. Schneider has asked for removal of the poles, but will reach out to them again. This includes the pole at the Greeley House as well as poles at the Shaker Bridge. Mr. Schneider added that the lights for the Shaker Bridge have been ordered.

VII. BUSINESS

Main Street Rail Trail:

A couple of weeks ago, Mrs. Smith and Mr. Schneider met with Alex Bernhard, of the Friends of the Northern Rail Trail of Merrimack County (FNRT), at the Main Street Rail Crossing site. The stakes are still there to delineate the location of Alternative 5 for the Rail Trail crossing so Mr. Bernhard was able to see the impact of that plan.

They spoke about this being the gateway to Enfield, parking, access to the rail trail, use as a boat launch, and the potential of a park and beach/swimming area on the adjacent parcel.

Alex asked the Town to consider putting everything on the other piece. It's only .86 acres. Together the two parcels are about 2 acres. Alternative 5 doesn't provide sufficient space for parking. We'd have similar issues with boat launch parking as we have on the other side of the lake. There is not enough room to put everything we want to do on the small piece. The FNRT group still feels that maintain the bridge span is the safest possible alternative for rail users, even though the proposed grade is 2%, less than that at other at-grade crossings. The Town does not see how it's preferred Alternative is inherently unsafe. The Rail Trail groups don't see safety issues for the rest of us. They feel they have a strong argument and that waiting will only hurt the Town.

Any work that's going to be done will impact the Rail Trail, so there's going to be an impact in any case. The Town has reached out to Senator Ayotte's office, also Kuster's office. We asked them to push for our cause at the federal level. This project was supposed to be done before the bridge was replaced. Work will not begin now until 2014 and use of the property won't be possible until 2015. The Rails Bureau would own the land and the Town maintain it.

Mr. Kluge feels the Town needs to keep pushing, and vigorously.

Ms. Aufiero suggested a petition. Mr. Schneider responded that we had one with over 150 signatures.

Mrs. Smith asked where the underpass stands. She was informed by Mr. Schneider that there is a refusal to sign off on removal since they found options with lesser impact on that aspect. Under the Town's preferred Alternative 2, the underpass would be gone.

Mr. Smith said this is important for downtown revitalization. He asked if there would be any benefit to inviting the Rail Trail people to participate in planning the parkland. If we invite them to participate the Town still has the option to change it.

Mr. Schneider does not see a benefit in having the Rail Trail groups involved in park planning.

Paul Mirski asked if we had survey information on the properties.

He was informed by Mr. Schneider that it's pretty clear on the tax map. Conversations Mr. Schneider had with Rail Trail groups start with talking and end in the same place. We have what we think the Town wants.

Mrs. Smith pointed out that they still have an at-grade crossing.

Mr. Smith stressed the need to have a plan on paper for the use of the park land.

Ms. Aufiero asked what the Rail Trail right-of-way is. She was informed it's about 80'.

Mr. Mirski doesn't believe trying to work with the Rail Trail people will get us anywhere. Our coalition has to have more political muster than the Rail Trail people can gather.

Mr. Schneider doesn't think we're willing to accept Alternative 5.

Mr. Smith said he was not saying to go with Alternative 5, but compromising.

Mrs. Smith asked what Mr. Bernhard's major objection is.

Mr. Schneider asked him that question. His response was safety.

Mr. Smith noted that he didn't say preservation.

Mr. Schneider explained that historic preservation is the tool they're using to get the safety they want.

Mr. Kluge said the Town's preference would benefit them.

Mrs. Smith pointed out to have a nice, highly visible parking area would be a huge advantage.

Linda Jones asked if the underpass is supposed to be preserved, does it have to be preserved right there? Can it be moved to another location?

Mr. Schneider explained that it's not the original span to the Rail. The abutments are original. The State is willing to reuse them in another location as we'd like. Everything along the rail, the bridge the corridor, is historic. NH Dept. of Transportation doesn't have an issue, Historic Preservation does – though 10 years ago they were OK with removing the underpass.

Mr. Mirski reiterated that we have to move on and accept the Rail Trail people won't accept anything else. We need to get support that exceeds that of the Rail Trail groups. We need to do the best proposal we can, get other allies, and forget about the Rail Trail people for now.

Mr. Schneider spoke about a recreation group being organized to plan what to do with the State land. It was also suggested that the Conservation Commission, snowmobile groups with members outside the community, as well as other groups outside of Enfield be invited to participate to reach out and gain more supporters. Mr. Schneider added that we have a new regional recreation coordinator who could become involved.

Ms. Aufiero asked if the Main Street group can help. She was informed that the State's Main Street Program no longer exists.

Mr. Mirski stressed the need to have a proposal that has impact, something that builds regional interest. We need something with drama to it.

Alf Elvestad suggested getting Lebanon involved. Mr. Mirski agreed as they have camps on the Lake.

Mrs. Smith mentioned that Alex Bernhard has spoken to the NH Dept. of Resources and Economic Development (DRED). Would it be beneficial for the Town to contact DRED? Mrs. Smith heard from Mr. Bernhard that the Town can only have the property if we go with the Rail Trail groups preferred Alternative 5. She'd like to know if that's true.

Proposed Land Donation – Bog Road:

Gordon & Blanche Bagley have offered to donate two parcels of land to the Town. The parcels are on Bog Road. Map 4, Lot 2 is 39 acres and wet. Map 5, Lot 1, located on the opposite side of the road, is 11 acres and might have a section that could be developed.

Acceptance of the land would need Town Meeting approval.

Mr. Kluge asked if there were any stipulations as to what the Town could do with it.

Mr. Crate pointed out that it's more or less conservation land.

Mr. Gotthardt asked if the Bagleys have contacted Fish & Game. Town ownership would protect resources out there. If the Town takes it and the current owner gets a tax write-off, the Town could then sell it to a conservation group with an easement, such as Mascoma Watershed Conservation Council.

Mr. Cummings asked what the benefit is to the Town.

Ms. Aufiero said it's a good resource and a prime wetland. Any development would require a State level public hearing.

Mr. Kluge and Mr. Cummings noted that as a prime wetland it's pretty well protected. Discussion ensued regarding the change in rules when there is a change in people making the rules.

Mr. Crate thought there was an article on the warrant that allowed the Selectmen to accept gifts of land. This will be researched. Mr. Crate thinks the land is worth keeping. Mr. Kluge concurred.

Community Building Fee Schedule:

The Board were asked to consider changes to the Community Building fee schedule including the possibility of a reduced charge for a ½ day rental and classes held on a weekly basis for which a full day's rental would not be feasible and to perhaps double the ½ day rental charge for non-residents, restriction on employee's renting the building at a reduced rate for other than immediate family, and elimination of the non-resident rate as few rentals are made to non-residents. Most often non-residents find an Enfield resident to rent for them at the reduced Enfield rate. The Board was also asked if it might be time to increase the private function rental rates for full day rentals.

Mr. Crate also thought the agreement with the Lions Club stated that individual Lions Club members could use the hall for free. This will be looked into.

It was questioned what other communities charge for rental of their spaces.

This issue was tabled pending further information.

Curbside Trash/Recycling:

We have just had our third pick-up and 2nd full cycle of the new curbside rubbish and zero-sort recycling program. We did an initial mailing to property owners and a subsequent mailing to Enfield and Enfield Center Postal Patrons, so property owners and most renters should have received information. The latest mailing included an update on the holiday schedule. This is the first time using the Casella toters was required.

Between now and the next collection people can take their rubbish to the Transfer Station for free. Curbside excess needs to go in special bags which are available for purchase from the Town at a cost of \$3 each. The results of this curbside program have been outstanding. We're at close to 50% recycling now; a huge jump. Compared to 2 weeks before the program started we had 14.5 tons of rubbish, there's been a 25% reduction in the amount were disposing of.

Two trucks are coming through, one to collect trash, the other to collect recyclables.

Mr. Kluge noted that sometimes trash falls out of their trash truck.

Some folks are still frustrated with the change. We'd tried our best to accommodate their requests. Casella needs to do a better job following up on our issues. Casella did have some trouble with Daniels Park with the issue of dumpsters vs. containers. They'll be going with containers which should be delivered this week.

The Board received email correspondence from a family that is larger than the average household. Mr. Kluge suggested they be instructed to go to the Transfer Station.

Mr. Schneider informed the Board that we're working with apartment buildings to have the appropriate number of toters.

Mr. Kiley noted that on Route 4 by the Veterans Memorial Park there is a building where they never bring the toters in. At some point do people have to bring their bins out of the public right-of-way?

Mr. Kluge thought the Town had an ordinance that talks about bins at curbside. Mr. Taylor informed him they can't keep them from keeping them on their property near the road.

Mr. Kiley mentioned that Anderson hill has a 2-yard recycling dumpster.

2014 Budget:

Budget season has begun. Jim Taylor, Police Chief Crate and Mr. Schneider had a discussion this afternoon. Mr. Schneider wants to know how the Board feels before a memo goes to all departments. We've been at a maximum 2% overall increase every year; close to the CPI. The Northeast is at 1.8% and Boston maybe a bit lower. The 2013 budget addressed a lot of deferred maintenance projects for Highway and Buildings, so there won't be that need in 2014. CIP projects at Public Works are only a couple of trucks and small projects.

Mr. Kluge feels 2% is probably where we out to keep it, keeping in mind the CIP adds 5 cents so it's a 7-10 cent bump. He's not comfortable going over that.

Mr. Cummings said 2% is a good goal. If it goes over that it needs to be justified.

Mr. Schneider noted that the Budget Committee wants the number not to be random, but a need.

Discussion ensued regarding a joint meeting of the Selectmen and Budget Committee. The Selectmen would like to wait until a later date.

Sewer Connection Waiver Request: 448 US Route 4:

This property has a functioning septic system installed in 2010. Mr. Cummings move to approve the waiver for sewer connection to the system, Mr. Crate seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

32 Johnston Drive – Sanborn:

The request received at the last meeting was for the road to be given some material and attention as well as a reduction in rent of up to 50%.

Mr. Kluge recalls the Board saying at the last meeting that granting both seemed unlikely.

Mr. Taylor explained that the road needs just a little bit of hand work. A little water washed out the drive slightly.

Mr. Kluge was in favor of the road repair.

Mr. Cummings said we own the land so he would approve the drive repair, taking down trees and brush removal.

Mr. Taylor clarified that the brush is in a pile and they simply want it taken away.

The Board granted no break on rent.

Administrative Items:

None.

VIII. OTHER ITEMS

Huse Park Pavilion Lights:

Mr. Crate asked if a new timer has been put on the lights at the Huse Park Pavilion. Mr. Taylor thinks it has either been done or parts are ordered.

McConnell Road Pump Station Mowing:

Mr. Crate reported that the left side of the McConnell Road Pump Station property has not been mowed.

Mr. Taylor explained that the neighbor wanted a hedge or to let things grow to block the view.

Mr. Crate said to do the hedge and mow because it looks terrible.

Baltic Street Paving:

Mr. Crate asked if they were going to dig out the end of Baltic Street. He was informed that was included in the paving bid.

Transfer Station Sunday Hours:

In answer to his inquiry, Mr. Crate was informed the Transfer Station would be open two more Sundays, through September 15th.

Water Hook-up at PetroMart:

Mr. Crate spoke to the plumber about the PetroMart water hook-up. The water runs through the store to the home behind it. PetroMart is responsible for providing water to the resident in that home. They would like to put in one line that is big enough for both uses rather than do a separate water connection to the home.

Mr. Crate explained the woman living in the home doesn't want sewer and has already received a connection waiver.

Mr. Taylor informed the Board there is an existing stub for each building. He is concerned about the next person that allows them to use the PetroMart water. It's the Board's call, but is the Board setting a precedent for future properties? Mr. Taylor would like to see the deed to see if providing water to the residence behind PetroMart is required in the deed.

Mr. Crate said it would be tight to get 2 lines in with water and sewer and the necessary distance between them.

Sale of Property:

Mr. Cummings pointed out that the Board has talked about putting the Grafton Pond Road properties on the market.

Mr. Schneider confirmed the parcels in question have been subdivided and surveyed.

Mr. Cumming would like to see these go out to bid and would like to see a list of properties that can be sold.

Interest in these properties has been expressed to both Mr. Cummings and Mr. Schneider.

Further information will be provided at the next meeting.

Boat Exchange:

Mr. Cummings asked if it would be possible for the Firefighter's Association to exchange the new boat being purchased with the old one in order to offset some of the cost of the new one. Is that possible?

Handicapped Signs:

Mr. Crate understands some emails have gone back and forth between Police Chief Crate and Jim Taylor about handicapped signs that are supposed to be on posts. Mr. Taylor informed him this was done taken care of last week.

Donation of Jaws of Life and Boat:

Mr. Kluge asked Mr. Cummings if he was going to do something for the Jaws of Life. Mr. Cummings informed him that yes, a new cutter would be purchased. The Firefighters Association agreed to kick in the last bit until they can recoup it. They voted to purchase both the Jaws of Life cutter and boat last Wednesday night.

Mr. Cummings informed the Board that shipping of the boat was quoted at \$2400. They would need permission to use a Town pick-up, but if they drove down to get it they could save money. It's about 1200 miles each way.

School Property Appraisal:

Mr. Kiley reported that the School is getting an appraisal of the property behind the SAU.

Family Dollar:

Family Dollar hit a snag with NH Dept. of Transportation, but has worked things out. They need to move the SAU sign and some brush.

Next Meeting:

Monday, September 16, 2013, 6:00 PM, Whitney Hall Conference Room, 23 Main Street.

CONFERENCE

I. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Cummings moved to adjourn at 8:00 PM, Mr. Crate seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion, meeting adjourned.

John W. Kluge, Chairman

B. Fred Cummings

Donald J. Crate, Sr.
Enfield Board of Selectmen