

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

MINUTES of February 7, 2012

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

Absent/Excused: Fred Cummings, Chairman

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

Others: Dan Kiley, David Beaufait, Moderator, Louis Russo

BUSINESS MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Kluge called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm.

II. MINUTES

Mr. Crate moved to accept the minutes of January 17, 2012 as printed, Mr. Kluge seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

Tax Collectors Report – January 2012:

Collections are on par with the previous year.

Town Clerk's Report – January 2012:

January was not a strong month with revenues about \$1,000 below the previous year.

DOT District 2 – 2012 Resurfacing Program:

The State plans to Shim 2.5 miles of US Route 4 in Enfield during the coming paving season. There is no pavement work scheduled for Shaker Hill Road.

IV. BOARD REPORTS

None.

V. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Employee Vacancies:

Mr. Schneider updated the Board on current employee vacancies, including one full-time position in the Police Department and two EMT positions. We've received several resumes for EMT positions. Next week is the deadline for applications. The Police Department has received a few applications for the Police Officer position as well.

Shaker Bridge Theatre Lease:

The Board received a draft copy of a lease with Shaker Bridge Theatre for the Whitney Hall Auditorium space. The three year lease addresses alterations to Town property and our ability to use the space for events such as elections/voting, library book sale, etc.

Mr. Kluge noted there has been some concern about the flooring put down that people have tripped on.

Dr. Beaufait replied that it has been improved with the installation of quarter-round.

Mr. Kiley told the Board that he doesn't believe any for profit association should have exclusive use of a Town facility, which is what Shaker Bridge Theatre is.

Mr. Kluge noted they do get quite a bit of support from the Town.

Mr. Kiley responded that his piece is the exclusive use of the space.

Mr. Schneider pointed out that there wasn't a lot of demand for that space.

Mr. Kiley said there were meetings of the Conservation Commission once a month.

Mr. Schneider responded that, while Mr. Kiley has a good point, there are other spaces available. The current rent is \$100/month. The new lease is \$125/month. Essentially, this pays for electricity.

Dr. Beaufait said it would be better if the Shaker Bridge Theatre was a non-profit group, but the theatre brings a lot of people into the community who are pleasantly surprised and appreciative.

Mr. Kluge would not be averse to increasing the rent.

Mr. Crate has seen people come to plays and then go to Mickey's for dinner, this brings revenue into town.

Mr. Kluge feels we need to make the point that Shaker Bridge Theatre needs to be attentive to the needs of the Town regarding that space.

Mr. Crate asked this be postponed to another meeting when Mr. Cummings is present.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

VII. BUSINESS

Alternate Polling Place:

Mr. Russo came before the Board to suggest establishment of an alternate polling place. When he learned the turn out for the Republican run-off voting was kind of low at 25% of registered voters, he thought this may be because they didn't want to come all the way across the lake.

The Town has used other polling places, besides Whitney Hall, but it has not had two voting places for a single election.

Dr. Beaufait said a second polling place has to run the same as the central polling place. It would require an assistant moderator and assistant town clerk, a supervisor of the checklist and a selectman for a non-partisan election. There would be logistics involved regarding prevention of duplicate voting and could potentially be complicated.

Mr. Kluge's feeling is that it's not a big drive around the lake. He didn't think 25% was very low considering it was only the Republicans duking it out. He's not sure the lack of the Shaker Bridge was a deterrent.

Mr. Schneider said the Town could do wards but he's not sure we're big enough to do that.

Mr. Crate questioned the additional cost to establish an alternative polling place.

He was informed it would be not quite twice the cost of a single polling place. It could be done with a ballot box and bring the ballots, under police escort, to the ballot counting machine. There would be additional logistics. If the Town is considering doing it, it could be done.

Mr. Kluge moved not to pursue an alternate polling place at this time, Mr. Crate seconded the motion.

Dr. Beaufait said we still have a primary. He would not want to do this for the first time with a presidential election.

Mr. Kluge does not think it's worth what we would have to do.

The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to not pursue an alternate polling place.

Town Meeting Warrant:

There is one contested race: Fire Ward.

We did get positive financing news from Mascoma Savings Bank with two options for repayment of a \$3.2 million note: 30 years and 28 years. 30 years would be locked in at 5-year

increments and capped at 3%. 28 years would be locked in at 7-year increments and capped at 3%. Both have principal and interest payments within our TIF revenues. Mr. Schneider feels this is ready to go to Town Meeting. If we opt for the 30-year loan we can make larger payments.

The NH Department of Revenue didn't have standard language so the warrant article is highlighted in those parts where we are unsure how specific we need to be.

If you add all of the articles with the operating budget with the exception of the full-time ambulance and articles with funding from capital reserve funds, the amount of the tax increase is estimated at 10 cents vs. 15 cents at \$6.05/\$1,000 valuation or a 1.6% increase overall.

Our attorney asked us to be more specific with the wording of the CIP capital reserve fund, so the departments were specifically named.

Mr. Kiley asked if Jones Hill Road was not included. This can be adjusted by adding infrastructure to the article.

A nickel of the tax increase is resulting from the CIP capital reserve fund article.

Mr. Schneider explained that the leases without escape clauses are like any other long-term borrowing. If approved we can use capital reserve funds (CRF) to make payments on the leases. If there is an escape clause we can't use CRF dollars. Articles 8 & 9 are for the lease of two cruisers. If Article 8 passes, Articles 9 & 10 can be passed over. Article 10, to purchase a cruiser, is our fallback article. The same concept is used for the lease of Public Works trucks in Articles 11 & 12, but \$300,000 isn't something we can manage in a single year so there is no fallback article.

Article 13 is for the implementation of a full-time Ambulance Department. \$117,362 is the difference between hiring people and the status quo, which is included in the operating budget.

Vacations for the full-time Ambulance crew would be filled with per-diem personnel. The Budget Committee recommends this article by a vote of 6-3. John Markowitz met with the Woodstock, VT ambulance crew and explained how their department runs; it's similar to what we're proposing. There will be questions about on-call response. On-call personnel will be paid to be on-call and must respond to calls; it is not optional. Response from current FAST Squad members to this proposal is mixed. They try to have the on-call environment now, but for some it's a bigger commitment than they may be willing to make. The amount of training they have as EMT's is considerable. Mr. Schneider will meet with the FAST Squad again before Town Meeting.

The Warrant Narrative will describe what we intend to strive for. Mr. Schneider thinks this subject will take at least an hour of our time at Town Meeting. Mr. Schneider and/or Mr. Cummings will present the Ambulance article.

Dr. Beaufait asked if there will be a majority and minority view from the Budget Committee.

Mr. Schneider is unsure we have one strong minority voice though he does not expect they'll be shy about sharing their individual opinions.

Fire Department Transport Vehicle: This article will have no impact on the tax rate as funding would come from the Fire Vehicle & Equipment CRF.

Wellhead Protection/Land Swap: This returns from last year. This article will have no impact on the tax rate as funding would come from the Land Acquisition CRF.

Cemetery Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund: This is an annual article that has no impact on the 2012 tax rate.

Article 17 is for any other business.

There are no petitioned articles this year. Today was the deadline for submission.

The Regional Organizations are all included in the budget this year. The Budget Committee is providing up to 1% of the operating budget for Regional Organizations.

The operating budget can be amended at Town Meeting, but it's up to the Board of Selectmen's judgment on spending.

Lee Carrier has a presentation on the CIP to make at the Budget Hearing tomorrow night.

FastRoads Update:

An envelope of over 50 connection agreements have been mailed to FastRoads and people are continuing to sign up.

Jim Taylor has been approached by contractors who will put in pole license requests.

Mr. Crate asked if we would be taxing these poles. He was informed by Mr. Schneider that Fairpoint is looking for a tax exemption.

Dedication of the Annual Report:

The Board discussed the dedication of the Annual Report. It was suggested that it be dedicated to Shirley Green who organized the Crystal Lake Boat Parade for the Enfield 250th Celebration, served on the Library Building Committee, serves on the Conservation Commission, Budget Committee and more.

Budget Hearing:

The Board briefly discussed the public hearing schedule. The Board will first hold a hearing on a bond or note over \$100,000, then the Budget Hearing will be held, followed by a meeting of the Selectmen and Budget Committee to vote to recommend or not recommend the monied warrant articles.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Kluge moved to adjourn at 7:06 PM, Mr. Crate seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion, meeting adjourned.