

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

MINUTES of March 19, 2012

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

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: Jeff Hinman, Suzanne Hinman, Bob Cusick, Philip Henry, Kim Quirk

BUSINESS MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Cummings called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

II. ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD

Mr. Kluge moved to nominate Don Crate as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen for the coming year, Mr. Cummings seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

Mr. Crate moved to reappoint Ken Hill as the Selectmen's representative to the TIF Committee, Mr. Cummings seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

Mr. Cummings moved to maintain the Selectmen's representatives on other Board the same as the prior year, Mr. Kluge seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

Selectmen's representation and ex-officio membership will be as follows:

Budget Committee – Fred Cummings

CIP Committee – Fred Cummings

Conservation Commission – Don Crate

Planning Board – John Kluge

Enfield Village Association – John Kluge

There will be no Selectmen's representative to the Energy Committee or Heritage Commission, however, a member of the administrative will attend these meetings.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

March 5, 2012:

Mr. Kluge asked that Page 4, paragraph 2 read, "Mr. Kluge thought at the time that the Board was being unusually harsh and he did not support this. Exemptions such as they requested happen in

many places.” Mr. Kluge wanted to grant a 75% exemption. Mr. Crate wanted to grant a 25% exemption. Mr. Cummings wanted to grant a 50% exemption. At the end of the discussion Mr. Cummings and Mr. Crate agreed to a 25% exemption to which Mr. Kluge was opposed.

Mr. Kluge moved to accept the minutes of March 5, 2012 as corrected, Mr. Crate seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

NH Board of Tax & Land Appeals – Maureen Bacon v. Town of Enfield:

Maureen Bacon appealed the Board’s property tax abatement decision to the Board of Tax and Land Appeals. The BTLA decided in the Town’s favor. Julie Huntley has been in touch with the Bacons. We don’t have to offer them anything other than the original determination by the Town’s assessor.

Tax Collector’s Report – February 2012

Town Clerk’s Report – February 2012

V. BOARD REPORTS

None.

VI. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Equipment Bids:

Mr. Schneider provided the Board with copies of bid results for a walk-behind mower and Grounds trailer.

The Town Manager and Director of Public Works recommend accepting the mower bid from Joe’s Equipment for \$5,579. The lower bid submitted by L.F. Trottier did not meet the Town’s specifications. The mower from Joe’s Equipment has the same engine and mower deck as the Town’s current mower so parts would be interchangeable.

The Town Manager and Director of Public Works recommend accepting the trailer bid from Maurice Auto and Truck for \$3,995. This trailer bid, while \$310 more than the other bid, offers more features and better suits the Town’s needs. The Town’s current trailer is work more than the \$310 difference in total price. Plans are to sell the existing trailer locally by sealed bid or through the State Auction in April.

The Board concurred with the recommendations for the purchase of a walk behind mower and Grounds trailer.

Town Meeting:

Mr. Schneider received an email from Jim Raymond, the Town’s attorney who attended the March 17th Town Meeting. Mr. Raymond was impressed with our meeting. He attends a lot of meetings and is moderator in his own town. Enfield had a lot of complex issues to discuss. The presentations were well done.

Bob Cusick added that the voters seem to like technical presentations that show we did our homework.

Mr. Schneider expressed disappointment only in the low turnout. Of 2543 registered voters only about 137 attended the Town Meeting.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bob Cusick – Ambulance Warrant Article:

Mr. Cusick said he and his wife were disappointed with the results of the ambulance warrant article (Article 13). He believes that the Board should proceed with the policy decision to implement billing for ambulance services. He feels detailed records should be maintained including, but not limited to the time of the first tone, who responded, how long it took to respond, they type of services provided, and whether or not a transport was involved. He was informed by Mr. Cummings that the Board would be discussing this later in the meeting.

Philip Henry – Shaker Hill Road Streetlight:

Mr. Henry said a streetlight was installed on Shaker Hill Road opposite his home and the light now shines in his bedroom window at night and even lights his back yard on the other side of the house.

Mr. Henry was informed the light is not a new one but replaces an existing light that was removed during the bridge construction at that location.

Mr. Cummings suggested that Mr. Henry work with Jim Taylor to see if it can be fixed.

Jeff Hinman said National Grid tipped a light and spray painted it to help him with a similar problem. Beyond that you can petition for removal.

VIII. BUSINESS

Town Meeting Follow-Up:

Mr. Schneider stated that we need to issue Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for trucks and cruisers then work with Bob Cusick regarding who is going to buy the loans (leases). Then the sewer project must get under way. Mr. Schneider spoke with the engineer today and will meet again tomorrow. A pre-construction meeting will be held this month and construction should begin in April. Mr. Schneider will talk to Chief Crate, Jim Taylor, the Water & Sewer staff and Alisa Bonnette to be sure we're getting information out to the public. They will meet with Bill Warren regarding the easement we're seeking on his property. By the next Selectboard meeting in April, we should have some significant progress. Once we know the date we're going to start and the time the work will begin and end each day, then we'll meet with business owners.

Mr. Kluge added that the Enfield Village Association has something plans to work on how to let people know these businesses are still open for business using signage etc.

Mr. Cummings expressed disappointment that the ambulance article did not pass. Mr. Cummings moved to proceed with billing immediately, using Comstar to bill for calls we're currently doing so we have firmer numbers for next year. Mr. Crate seconded the motion for discussion purposes.

Mr. Kluge pointed out that we're not then doing what we said we would do and enhancing service.

Mr. Crate asked if we are going to pay people for being on call.

Mr. Kluge said we'd have money coming in. Is there any reason the money wouldn't cover on-call personnel?

Mr. Schneider said there is a budgeted salary line for volunteers. Theoretically revenues would cover payment of on-call personnel.

Chief Crate heard some people would leave the FAST Squad if billing and on-call status is implemented. He'd look at the options of what we would do if members quit.

Mr. Kluge suggested someone meet with the entire crew and explain what the Selectmen intend to do. Mr. Crate agreed.

Mr. Cummings pointed out the Selectmen set policy. The billing question is a policy decision.

Bob Cusick said this is a multi-faceted thing. If we start billing we want to see who wants to be on call, who wants to belong. He suggested the Town first tell the City of Lebanon of the situation in the event we need more coverage. Mr. Cusick went on to discuss response times and the need for improvements. He stressed the importance of gathering data on every single call, looking for whether Enfield responded or Lebanon did, whether there was a transport or not, services provided, at what time was the first tone, at what time was the call responded to, etc.

Mr. Cusick added that we need someone to respond who can administer drugs. We need to sell people on the viability of this program.

Mr. Cummings wants to start billing now. Mr. Crate said we first need to get our ducks in a row. Mr. Kluge said we need to talk to the Ambulance crew and do something with the revenues, such as on-call pay. We need to know if this on-call process will work.

The Board went on to discuss the change of the relationship from volunteer to employee and the possible reasons the FAST Squad may not have been in favor of the ambulance article at Town Meeting.

Mr. Schneider will reach out to Richard Martin, EMS Chief and the members of the FAST Squad. Mr. Schneider has received an email from Comstar that they are still committed to honoring their proposal for billing services. Mr. Schneider expects to have further information for the Board at their next meeting in April. Mr. Crate said he would absent from the April 2nd meeting.

Mr. Cummings withdrew his motion. Mr. Cummings asked Mr. Crate if Mr. Schneider meets with Richard Martin and the FAST Squad and everything is OK, is it alright for the Board to proceed on April 2nd. Mr. Crate responded that it was.

Kim Quirk – Enfield Energy Committee:

Ms. Quirk came before the Board to discuss lighting issues. She wished to address when is the best time to get the Energy Committee involved, expressed the desire for the Town to follow its own lighting ordinance:

419 OUTDOOR LIGHTING

Purpose

To prevent inappropriate and poorly designed or installed outdoor lighting, that causes unsafe and unpleasant conditions, limiting residents ability to enjoy the nighttime sky, and results in unnecessary use of electric power.

419.1 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1. All lighting shall be located on the owner's property.
2. All new or replacement street lighting will be a full cut off type fixture.
3. All building lighting for security or aesthetics shall be designed, located, installed, and directed in such a manner as to prevent objectionable light trespass and glare across property lines, or cause disability glare at any location off the property.

Philip Henry came before the Energy Committee in February about the new streetlight on Shaker Hill Road that shines light in his bedroom window. Mr. Crate informed Ms. Quirk that the light is not a new one, but was there before the bridge construction and has not been replaced.

Ms. Quirk asked, if any new lights were to go in would the Energy Committee have an opportunity to talk to neighbors?

Mr. Schneider responded that the last time a request came to the Board the light was not approved. The Town does not have a lot of streetlight requests.

Ms. Quirk said the Shaker Bridge lighting does not meet dark sky compliance. Will the Energy Committee have an opportunity to come up with something better?

Mr. Cummings informed her that the Selectmen voted at their March 5th meeting to go with the same lights as on Main Street.

Jeff Hinman shared a photo of the Mascoma Lake taken from the southern end, at Crescent Beach, looking north to show how much light comes down the lake from various sources. The brightest of the lights comes from Defiance Electric. Mr. Hinman pointed out that the acorn lights on Main Street are shielded by buildings. With acorn lights on the Shaker Bridge light will be shining down the lake.

Mr. Cummings pointed out the need to have the Shaker Bridge well lit as there are problems with visibility on and under the bridge. Mr. Cummings, personally, doesn't see a problem with the light. He feels the light from the fixtures on Main Street is rather subdued. He does not think the fixtures the Selectmen are proposing will cause any problems.

Mr. Hinman pointed out the amplification of the light by snow. He also noted that the lights can be shielded to prevent light from shining sideways.

Mr. Cummings contends that we need to light around the bridge.

Suzanne Hinman, a member of the Heritage Commission, came to express the Heritage Commission's concerns for both natural and constructed historic preservation. The Commission is concerned about the historic image, but they don't feel it's necessary to match the lights on Main Street. They feel the lights should conform to the Town's ordinance. They don't want algae blooms, and are concerned with health hazards. The Commission would be supportive of lights that are visually compatible but meet Town ordinances.

Ms. Quirk noted that there's not a lot of agreement, but if the Energy Committee can recommend another fixture is this something the Committee has time for and that the Selectmen will be willing to look at? She was informed by Mr. Cummings that the Selectmen want the same fixtures.

Mr. Kluge added that he's in favor of keeping with a similar style light but with a cap to keep the light from shining upwards. We do want the bridge pretty well lit for pedestrians. He's comfortable with the acorn style with a cap.

Mr. Taylor informed Ms. Quirk that the only time issue is the post; we need the bolt pattern.

Ms. Quirk noted that the lights need to light the bridge but asked about under the bridge.

Mr. Schneider replied that Alex Vogt, NH DOT, has indicated that there are no plans for light under the bridge.

Chief Crate added that with pedestrians we need to keep things well lit. Boat traffic needs to be able to see the bridge. Common sense dictates that there be some light under the bridge, but the light fixture under the bridge gets splashed with water and shorts out, so some light shining outward would help.

Jeff Hinman commented that skylights should be included in the Town's light ordinance.

Mr. Cummings stated that he's not downplaying what is being said, but it was the opinion of the Selectboard at the last meeting to go with the same light fixtures. Maybe we can go with a yellower light rather than the bridge white. The Board is more than willing to listen to suggestions.

Jeff Hinman responded that if the lights are shielded and the Board goes with a yellow light it might be better.

Mr. Crate said he wants to see what it will look like with the same lights.

Route 4A Project/Shaker Bridge/Rail Trail:

The State will hold a meeting on Thursday, March 29th at the Community Building at 7:00 PM to talk about the Route 4A drainage and paving project as well as the Shaker Bridge construction and the Main Street Rail Trail crossing.

The rail trail crossing is on a path to build the Town's preferred option. There will be two travel lanes, a sidewalk, shoulders, Main Street will be realigned and there will be a compromise between the level of the roadway and the level of the rail trail.

Mr. Crate asked how the roadway will meet up with Sargent Street and Brendan Lane. He was told by Mr. Schneider that is a good question for the Thursday meeting. The existing rail trail bridge will be removed and the granite stones put where we want them.

Discussion ensued regarding the old motel property. This is a good asset for the Town. NH DOT will declare it surplus after the construction is completed. Other State agencies get the first chance at it. Only DRED (Dept. of Resources & Economic Development) may have an interest. The Town may want to reach out to DRED now. Chief Crate's biggest concern is the rail trail people and the potential for a political fight.

Mr. Cummings also wants to talk to the State about the need for improvements to the boat launch, specifically the installation of a concrete ramp like they have at the Lebanon boat launch on Mascoma Lake.

Whitney Hall Generator Update:

The installation of a 12 kW generator is 24 hours away after the pad is done. The ground needs to dry out then a stone and railroad tie pad will be constructed. The generator will then be set in place. Wiring is completed. The generator has an automatic transfer switch.

FastRoads Update:

FastRoads is meeting with banks to secure \$1.3 million in funding. Some banks are good about lending funds, others are reluctant. Funding has been secured from Mascoma Savings Bank, Peoples Bank, Sugar River Bank, Lake Sunapee Bank, plus others. UNH, the awardee, is the least understanding and is putting pressure on to acquire the funding.

FastRoads has engaged a firm to develop a valuation. Cornerstone will be used for the valuation. With an estimated value of \$3 million without the fiber being dropped the project is in a good loan-to-value range. Building should happen this spring.

Administrative Items:

The Board reviewed and approved the following documents: MS-2 Statement of Appropriations, a veteran's tax credit and property tax abatement requests.

IX. MISCELLANEOUS

Next Meeting:

April 2, 2012, 6:00 PM. Whitney Hall Conference Room.

Septage:

Mr. Cummings inquired about dumping septage into the Enfield sewer system. There's an added cost to private homeowners for trucking septage to locations beyond Lebanon.

Mr. Taylor explained that the difference between septage and regular sewer is a matter of concentration which can be problematic when added to the sewer system.

Discussion ensued regarding the Stearns property off I-89 at exit 14, which would be a good location for a sludge plant. Mr. Stearns would need 3-phase power at the location, something which is currently not available.

LiftFest:

The Board briefly discussed the LiftFest event that was held at Whaleback over the previous weekend. Turnout was lower than expected. Some arrests were made.

CONFERENCE

I. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Kluge moved to adjourn at 7:29 PM, Mr. Cummings seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion, meeting adjourned.