

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

MINUTES of May 21, 2012

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

Others: Dan Kiley, Dwight Marchetti, Henry Cross, Woody Simonds of Dartmouth College

BUSINESS MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

May 7, 2012:

Mr. Kluge moved to approve the regular session minutes of May 7, 2012 as printed, Mr. Cummings seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

Mr. Kluge move to approve the non-public session minutes of May 7, 2012 as printed, Mr. Cummings seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

Standard Dredge & Fill Application: Granite State Electric – Proposed Electric Utility Work

IV. BOARD REPORTS

Enfield Village Association (EVA):

Mr. Kluge reported that EVA heard from the Bank regarding the Greeley house. The deed has been located and they are moving forward, though nothing has been signed.

The Clean Up Day was pretty good though attendance was lower than in years past. The trash company donated a dumpster, which didn't get filled.

The Development Committee is talking about how to deal with businesses on Route 4 during the construction.

Planning Board:

On May 9th they'll discuss possible zoning changes for the area affected by the Route 4 Sewer & Water Extension Project.

Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Committee:

There was discussion at the last CIP meeting of the thought process given the Fire Department SUV. The Committee feels it was “back doored.” They feel it would have been advisable to go to the CIP Committee regarding the purchase of the truck before it went to the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Kiley pointed out that this comes more from the Budget Committee. The Fire Department went to the Budget Committee looking for two vehicles. The Budget Committee cut them to one and they ended up with two – one new and one used vehicle transferred from the Police Department.

Mr. Crate responded that there was no “back door” as this was discussed at Town Meeting that the truck was going to Enfield Center.

Mr. Cummings informed the Selectmen that the Budget Committee chairman was not happy about the purchase of a new pickup vs. a used one. Mr. Cummings added that if the committee has any other concerns he feels they should meet with the whole Selectboard rather than one member.

Tax Increment Finance Advisory (TIF) Committee:

The TIF Committee met last week. They want to meet with the Selectmen in June so have been set up for the June 4th meeting. They want to discuss what other programs, if any, the Committee should be concentrating on. There are other projects included in the TIF District Plan.

V. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**Surplus Vehicles:**

Bids for the surplus Fire Department vehicles were received – one bid each from the same bidder: \$450 for the Econoline ambulance and \$850 for the Blazer; \$1300 for the two of them.

There were no other bidders. The sale of the vehicles was advertised. Mr. Crate recommended accepting the bid offers, Mr. Kluge agreed.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

VII. BUSINESS**2011 & 2012 Charitable Tax Exemptions:**

Dartmouth College – The Board received a letter from Dartmouth College in response to the discussion at the April 16, 2012 Selectboard meeting. The college feels the 75% tax exemption represents a fair payment to the Town of Enfield. The College is not willing to waiver from its request to reinstate the 75% tax exemption, but the Athletic Department has agreed to offer a 10% discount to residents of Enfield as long as memberships are offered to the public.

Mr. Cummings responded that, the way he reads it, if the Selectmen don't give the College a 75% exemption they're taking the Town to court anyway.

As a property owner in Enfield, Mr. Simonds also would like to see Dartmouth College pay more taxes. He is at this meeting to relay that Dartmouth College feels that 25% taxation is fair. In their research they found the property could be 100% exempt. The College feels the 75% exemption is fair – it's been in place for years.

Mr. Cummings asked about the dollar impact of the change in exemption. He was informed that the old tax payment was \$3,000 - \$4,000. The change to 25% bumped the tax payment to about \$12,000, a substantial bump.

Mr. Cummings stressed that if the Town doesn't give an exemption of 75% it will go to superior court.

Mr. Simons pointed out that it's one department budget being impacted by this. By state statute the College has tax exempt rights.

Mr. Cummings asked if Mr. Schneider agreed with that statement.

Mr. Schneider responded that there are a lot of ways to interpret the statute.

From Mr. Cummings' perspective as a taxpayer and selectman we're being approached by a big conglomerate telling us if you don't give us what we want we'll take you to court.

Mr. Simonds contends the College has made a good faith attempt with a discount for Enfield residents.

Mr. Kluge noted that Dartmouth has so much property and such interest in protecting this property they have to go to court because they can't take the chance. Since none of the Selectboard members are lawyers, we need to seek legal advice.

Brief discussion followed regarding the Town's position vs. the College's position.

Mr. Cummings moved to seek legal advice, Mr. Kluge seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

Living Waters Bible Church – The Living Waters Bible Church radio station is active. It airs on 90.5 FM. Services are held every Sunday. It's a going concern with money in the bank and 15 regular congregants.

Mr. Kluge move to grant Living Waters Bible Church the 2012 exemption they've requested, Mr. Cummings seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

Fire Department Truck:

Fire Chief, David Crate, found the truck in Littleton that Miller Auto had advertised. It's equipped the way he wanted it to be. It's a 2012, red, Chevy Silverado. We can move ahead and release the funds. The Board approved the purchase.

Route 4 Zoning Update:

Our consultants were at the Planning Board meeting. The proposed zoning was split into two zones: south of Route 4 and north of Route 4. This approach was described by one of our consultants as "cutting edge." It allows more uses than regular zoning would, allowing all the uses but putting restrictions on how the properties appear.

Mr. Kluge added that it allows more uses and more density of use.

About 10 people were in the audience, including some of the larger property owners in the area. Tim Taylor, Planning Board Chairman, is on the Fire Department so knows how the development will impact emergency services. There will be some tweaking of the plan. This will steer how we want things to look. It regulates landscaping. There was no push-back on the landscaping requirements. There was some discussion about building heights.

Mr. Crate asked what the general public thought of the plan. He was informed there was not much general public attended the meeting, it was mostly people with an interest.

Mr. Kluge added that there was discussion of interconnected parking lots as well as talk of a walking bridge to Wescott Road. Mr. Crate responded a bridge should be put in there.

Mr. Schneider said the plan will be reviewed and tweaked at multiple Planning Board meetings.

Mr. Cummings inquired about lighting. He was informed by Mr. Schneider and Mr. Kiley that there are existing lighting regulations in place. Mr. Cummings anticipates a huge problem with lighting. It was pointed out that the Main Street and Shaker Hill decorative street lights were in place before the lighting portion of the zoning ordinance was adopted.

Mr. Marchetti expressed concern with zoning and adopting all of these ordinances with only one person taxed with enforcing them. He asked if there has been any thought to giving review of the work tasks. He this person taxed too much? Mr. Marchetti pointed out that he has a junk ordinance, zoning ordinance, and more, to enforce. One place in town has a pool that's fenced on just three sides, another pool has no fence. One individual has all of these jobs. Is he overburdened?

Mr. Kluge replied that the may be something the Town Manager can discuss with the Board of Selectmen. There's a philosophy of zoning enforcement. Phil Neily, Zoning Administrator, doesn't actively look for violations, but waits for complaints.

Mr. Marchetti noted that he's being reactive instead of proactive.

Mr. Cummings said we can't enforce some things and not others. If we're going to look at new zoning, we should look at what's already out there.

Mr. Kiley responded that this zoning is less restrictive than existing regulations.

A brief discussion ensued regarding zoning restrictions and lack thereof and encouragement of business to help the tax base. If zoning doesn't change it will impact what can be built in this area.

Mr. Kiley reported that the Planning Board voted to get a grant. There's \$1 million for Town's that want to redo zoning or their master plan. \$30,000 in grant funding requires a match of \$1,500. The remainder can be in-kind.

Tim Taylor was re-elected as chairman of the Planning Board, Dan Kiley was elected vice chair and Kurt Gotthardt was elected secretary.

Ambulance Rates:

The rates Lebanon charges Enfield residents are the same rate structure the Town of Enfield will use.

UVLSRPC Transportation Advisory Committee:

The Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission is looking for an Enfield representative on the Transportation Advisory Committee. Jim Taylor is currently serving on the Transportation Management Committee and will serve on one or the other. The Selectmen approved having an employee serve on this committee. Mr. Taylor and Mr. Schneider will find someone to fill the vacancy.

Hands On Pianos Project:

In July the HOP is distributing pianos that will be placed outside at various locations in the Upper Valley. Mr. Schneider proposed to the Board having a piano placed on the green grassy area at Huse Park. Mr. Kluge added that EVA would pay some attention to it. The Board approved participation in the project. The Town has the opportunity to keep the piano at the end of the project. Mr. Kluge stated the Town does not want to do that.

Huse Park Paving:

The paving at Huse Park was completed ahead of schedule. Ken Hill was there a good part of the day on Friday. Mr. Hill and Mr. Schneider reviewed the striping as it was done. The lot includes 5 dedicated handicapped spaces and in total more spaces than Mr. Schneider anticipated.

Mr. Cummings asked how long it would be before the final coat is done. He was informed by Mr. Taylor that the pavers recommended a year or two.

The Town crew has done some clean up today. There's a little grading they want to do to get the drainage right. Some loam and seeding needs to be done. Will Shoemaker and his crew will do some landscaping to discourage vehicular traffic in pedestrian areas while still allowing emergency vehicle access.

Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of a dumpster at Huse Park and a potential location. If there's a dumpster it must be locked and preferably fenced as well. A dumpster will be tried first at the back edge of the handicapped ramp if there's enough room for a truck to access it. It was suggested that if the dumpster is too far from the Community Building people won't use it.

Route 4 Water/Sewer Extension Update:

Mr. Schneider met with the EVA Economic Development Committee regarding advertising and getting businesses involved with hot to limit delays. To list all of the businesses would require a big sign, so they are looking for a couple of phrases to use. Advertisements will be done on Sundays. Things in print will be more inclusive than on-site signs. Construction will begin on the afternoon of May 29th or the morning of May 30th.

FastRoads Update:

Mr. Schneider talked at the last Selectboard meeting about bank financing. FastRoads is in a better position now than they were. The Federal Government is allowing first position for banks. Several banks have committed funds. The Town Offices are continuing to receive license service agreements from property owners. FastRoads has begun the "middle mile" construction in Orford so should be in Enfield this summer. A new area of Enfield is also eligible for this program, including Wescott Road and Lapan Circle.

Cemetery Lots:

Mr. Cummings inquired about the status of a cemetery lot issue dating back to 1974. Mr. Schneider has not heard from the family. The issue involves the sale of a cemetery lot and a burial. Thirty-eight years later it was found they never bought the lots. It was proposed that they be offered the lots at the 1974 price of \$50 each. Mr. Cummings said he would give them the deed to the lot where the individual is buried and charge them \$50 for the other two lots.

Mr. Taylor informed the board they can expect to see this type of situation come up again as there were other things done in that era.

Enfield is currently charging rates that are comparable to area towns.

Jones Hill Improvements:

Mr. Cummings reported that improvements to Jones Hill were discussed at the Capital Improvement Program Committee meeting. The CIP allocates money for engineering, which Mr. Cummings feels is a waste of money. He would rather the money be used for drainage and let the Highway department do what they feel they need to do.

Mr. Crate agreed that an engineer isn't needed and the funds should go into drainage work.

Mr. Kluge agreed with this approach as long as the Public Works Department is comfortable with this.

Memorial Day Preparation:

Mr. Crate asked if flags will be put in the cemeteries for Memorial Day. He was informed by Mr. Taylor that they would.

Bark will also be done on Main Street as soon as Huse Park is completed.

Administrative Items:

The Board reviewed and approved the following documents: Abatement of Property Lien, SegTel Pole Request, Petition & Pole License.

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS**Miscellaneous Items:**

Today was Courtland Smith's first day on the Police Department. It was also the first day for the seasonal grounds workers.

Mr. Kiley asked if we know what we're getting for pole taxes. This is not known at this time.

Bog Road has been taking a beating with the weather. Mr. Taylor asked if the Town wants to consider posting the road to heavy traffic outside of mud season if weather conditions warrant it. The road is about 5 times the maintenance costs per mile compared to other roads in Town.

Mr. Crate requested a dollar figure for grading the road. Once we figure out how much it's costing us it might be worth considering putting some asphalt down. There will be reduced truck traffic in a few years as locations on Bog Road will be running out of material.

If bonding is required the cost to grade the road must be known. The bonding process is not uncommon.

Selectmen's Summer Meeting Schedule:

The Selectmen will meet once each month in June, July and August on the first Monday of each month with the August meeting only being held at the Enfield Center Town House.

Henry Cross – Dartmouth Exemption:

Mr. Cross thanked the Board for sticking to their guns for Dartmouth. Mr. Cummings took the tone of the letter from Dartmouth as Mr. Cross would; they are threatening. "They want to try to be big boys and sue." He thanked the Board for their vote.

Next Meeting:

March 5, 2012, 6:00 PM. Whitney Hall Conference Room.

CONFERENCE

I. NON-PUBLIC SESSION

Mr. Kluge moved to enter non-public session at 8:07 PM, RSA 91-A:3 II (b), Mr. Crate seconded. Roll call vote: Mr. Kluge – aye, Mr. Crate – aye, Mr. Cummings - aye, vote unanimous in favor of the vote.

Mr. Kluge moved to come out of non-public session at 8:12 PM, Mr. Crate seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

II. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Kluge moved to adjourn at 8:12 PM, Mr. Cummings seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.