

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

MINUTES of November 19, 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; Richard A. Crate, Jr., Chief of Police

Others: Dan Kiley; Wendy Piper; Carol Lammert; David Stewart, Cemetery Trustee; Kurt Gotthardt

BUSINESS MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board reviewed the minutes of November 5, 2012. Mr. Kluge asked for a correction to section IV. BOARD REPORTS, Enfield Village Association (EVA), paragraph 2. Lainie Doe was incorrectly reported as the new part-time administrative assistant so her name should be removed from the minutes.

Mr. Kluge move to accept the minutes of November 5, 2012 as corrected, Mr. Cummings seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

IV. BOARD REPORTS

Budget Committee:

The Budget Committee met on Thursday and reviewed Library, Recreation and Enfield Village Association budget requests. They are in the process of reviewing every department as they do every year.

Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Committee:

The CIP Committee will not be funding the paving of the Public Works Facility driveway. Other paving projects, including the fire station parking lot and ambulance parking lot will be included in regular maintenance or highway paving lines. The CIP Committee feels the Public Works paving

should be included in the operational budget because they don't support it. The Committee also opted not to fund the replacement of the Huse Park fence.

The Board of Selectmen will meet with the CIP Committee and Budget Committee at the Public Works Facility on December 17th. The CIP Committee will make a presentation of the CIP at this meeting for the 2013 budget.

Planning Board:

The Planning Board held a public hearing on November 14, which went well. The Board spoke primarily about the zoning on along the Route 4 strip and the public hearing process. There is funding for an informational brochure which they hope to have mailed and available in the near future. There will be a public information meeting on January 9, 2013, a public hearing on January 16, 2013, plus another public hearing on February 5, 2013, if needed. Mr. Kluge believes this will take a lot of public awareness even though it opens up possibilities.

V. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

2012 Excellence in Annual Reports Award:

Alisa Bonnette was able to go and collect the Town's first place award for the 2012 Annual Report. This is the second year in a row the Town has received a first place award. Ms. Bonnette was commended for a job well done.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

David Stewart, Cemetery Trustee – Tree Removal:

Mr. Stewart imparted the Cemetery Trustees concerns about a tree that is hanging over the Shaker Cemetery on NH Route 4A. The large tree is hanging over the cemetery and is dead. While it is the neighboring properties owner's tree and the owner would be responsible for any damage caused by the tree, should it fall, the Cemetery Trustees would like to prevent damage and have the tree removed at Town expense.

In 2007 the owner was amenable to the removal of the tree, but the owner did not want to pay to have it done.

There are sufficient funds in a Cemetery trust fund to pay for the removal of the large tree, plus other trees and limbs that pose a hazard to the Shaker Cemetery. The cost of the removal is estimated at about \$5,500.

The Selectmen were supportive of the tree removal if there are sufficient funds to do so. Mr. Schneider will obtain written permission from the property owner to remove the trees and limbs.

Kurt Gotthardt – Street Lights:

Mr. Gotthardt asked if the Selectmen would support a warrant article or motion to do a streetlight analysis to identify streetlights, determine their original function and whether it still serves that purpose, to determine which streetlights are no longer required and that could be removed or paid for privately rather than with taxpayer dollars.

Carol Lammert, a former Energy Committee member, informed the Board that the Committee looked at all of the streetlights in Town and based on 5 criteria did a preliminary assessment and which

might be candidates for removal. The Committee did not determine the original purpose for the lights.

Mr. Kluge noted that removing streetlights would not be an easy process.

Mr. Gotthardt pointed out that there are light that may have had a specific purpose when installed, but no longer have an obvious reason for their existence. Should the taxpayer be paying for that light?

Mr. Gotthardt asked the Selectmen what they feel should be the criteria. He informed the board of the criteria he would use including, but not limited to, whether they light a sidewalk or major intersection.

Mr. Kluge would not like to see anything that ends up on the warrant as he'd like to keep it as simple and clear cut as possible in 2013.

Police Chief Crate is, in general, in favor of lights. Anything you can see more makes things safer.

Mr. Cummings feels there are places that we should add streetlights and related a personal desire for streetlights on a rural road in Enfield for children who are not picked up by the school bus at their driveway but who would have to walk about a mile to the school bus stop.

Ms. Bonnette suggested this issue going through the Energy Committee. Mr. Kluge agreed.

Mr. Gotthardt replied that he has spoken with the Energy Committee.

The Selectmen would like to see a list of the streetlights that are proposed for removal.

Mr. Crate added there he doesn't think we have enough in the right spots. He also pointed out that some of the new lighting doesn't amount to much as it's not bright enough.

David Stewart informed the Board there are people who use streetlights as beacons – a destination in the event of poor visibility or imminent breakdown of their vehicle.

Mrs. Lammert explained that when she was on the Energy Committee they considered this a long process which required coordination with safety agencies and having a busload of people to review the lights identified for possible removal.

Wendy Piper – State Legislature:

Ms. Piper, recently elected as Enfield Representative, re-introduced herself to the Board and asked if the Board has any additional concerns they would like to share with her.

The Board identified the State's maintenance of Shaker Hill Road as crucial – the biggest State issue facing the Town.

Mr. Kluge identified the Rail Trail crossing of Main Street as another major issue, as well as the Town's desire to obtain ownership of the old motel property after the Rail Trail crossing is completed.

Mr. Schneider informed Ms. Piper that as a manager there's a lot of things he'd be interested in having addressed, including retirement issues, shared revenues, downshifting from State to local governments. Since retirement has changed it has cost the town about \$100,000 and the only way to raise revenues is through taxation.

VII. BUSINESS

2012 Election Recap:

The Board received an email from Carol Lammert inquiring as to the possibility of moving elections to the Community Building. After witnessing difficulties that individuals using wheelchairs or walkers encountered in the crowded hallways leading to the elevator, as well as limited handicapped parking, she thought a move to the Community Building might provide better handicapped access. She also feels it might be easier for pollsters who would have the use of the kitchen and a break room.

Mr. Cummings is in favor of the Community Building after watching people trip on the flooring in the auditorium again. This has been a problem for the past three elections.

Mr. Kluge noted that the virtue of having it at Whitney Hall is that you can have a long line in the stairwell that allows people to get out of the cold or rain. Also, the office is at Whitney Hall. Election officials would have to haul a lot of things over to the Community Building.

The Board discussed the size of the Community Building vs. Whitney Hall. The Community Building feels smaller, but the space will be measured to see if it will accommodate all of the voting booths. Mr. Schneider will also speak with the Moderator about the issue.

The issue of when to open the polls was also discussed. Many people thought the polls at the November 6th election were open at 7 AM. The Board agreed to consider a 7 AM opening of the polls for future Federal elections.

2013 Budget:

Mr. Cummings wants to be sure paving for the Fire Station and Ambulance. He also feels the DPW paving needs to be discussed as it will need to be put in the budget if the Board wants it done.

Mr. Schneider responded that the Selectmen can share their rationale for the paving at DPW at the meeting of December 17th.

Mr. Cummings would like both the Fire Station and Ambulance parking to be striped as well.

Mr. Kiley said the Board can always do a warrant article for the DPW paving.

Recycling/Solid Waste:

The Town is awaiting pictures of the different sized totes. After the pictures are received a survey will be put together.

Mr. Cummings provided those present with a summary of what was discussed at the last meeting regarding zero-sort recycling and the receipt of totes for this purpose. Zero-sort would accept a greater variety of recyclables than the Town current accepts. There would be no cost to the consumer. The Town anticipates a savings with the proposed program.

Healthcare Costs:

Mr. Stewart asked the Board to discuss healthcare costs due to federal healthcare reform. He was informed the Town's insurance was going up 7% but we don't know that there's a relationship to healthcare reform. The Town is also looking at a holiday from the Local Government Center so the taxpayers may see no immediate increase in costs.

Route 4 Taxes:

At the last Board meeting the Selectmen wished to take some time to consider the options for helping out those businesses affected by the Route 4 construction.

Mr. Kluge was still in favor of using the abatement process to address the concerns of property owners.

A break on water & sewer bills for a specified period of time might also be considered for businesses.

Mr. Crate left the meeting for a short time, so this issue was tabled until his return.

FastRoads:

There has been no resolution in terms of the issue from the last meeting. The Board can expect to see a press release either this week or next from either FastRoads or Waveguide regarding the trouble getting the fiber onto the poles. The issue is before the PUC but they are not known for a quick turn around and FastRoads is afraid they'll take too long to decide the issue. Funding ends June 30, 2013.

Route 4 Water/Sewer Extension Update:

Mr. Schneider reported that they are finishing up Route 4 and reviewing erosion control so they can remove things if they have to. They are finishing up manholes and remaining driveway aprons. Pavement plants are closing soon. Baltic Street is to be paved on Wednesday. They are just paving the one lane they've disturbed.

Directional drilling under the river is done. Testing is underway.

The pump station footers were being poured today. The pump station work should continue into early next year.

Ninety-five percent of the issues on Route 4 are done until spring when the final paving, striping and manholes will be done. We'll try to get the State to do a shim coat.

Mr. Kluge asked when the system would be operational. Mr. Schneider informed him that it will be effectively live when the pump station is done, but mid-winter connections would be more difficult so they won't be done until the ground thaws. This is from Shaker Valley to the Town line. From the top of the hill toward Baltic Street connections could be done now as this is a gravity feed.

Administrative Items:

The Board reviewed and approved the following documents: 2nd Issue Property Tax Warrant, Property Tax Refund.

The Tax bills were mailed today and will be due December 20th. The tax rate is down by 30 cents.

Route 4 Taxes, continued:

Mr. Kluge expressed his opinion that property owners can apply for tax abatements.

Mr. Cummings thinks the Town should do something for the businesses on Route 4.

Mr. Crate pointed out that nothing was done for George's while the Shaker Bridge was out. Give something to the Route 4 businesses would be setting a precedent.

Mr. Kluge suggested a reduction for a short time for water and sewer charges, perhaps.

Mr. Crate responded that the Town can't afford to hand out money.

Mr. Kluge agreed about the money; the average taxpayer might be offended.

Mr. Cummings stated that regardless of his personal opinion, when he's asked to approach the Board with an issue he'll bring it up.

Mr. Kiley believes 80% of the back up on Route 4 was because people refused to use the detour.

Mr. Crate stated he might agree to a short water/sewer rate adjustment, but handing out a blank check? No.

VIII. OTHER ITEMS**Generator Connections:**

Mr. Cummings asked Mr. Schneider to check on the status of generator connections at the Community Building and Enfield Village School.

Dump Trucks:

Mr. Crate inquired as to the status of the dump trucks. Mr. Schneider will ask Mike Sousa and report back.

Shaker Bridge Lights:

The Town is waiting for plans from the State for power from the Pine Street pump station to the lights. The lights being installed will be dimmable and programmable so the lights can be adjusted to lower levels from midnight until dawn, if desired.

Mr. Crate asked that Defiance Electric be contacted to find out where the lights are.

Next Meetings:

Monday, December 3, 2012, 6:00 PM. Whitney Hall Conference Room

Monday, December 17, 2012, 6:00 PM, Public Works Facility. This will be a joint meeting with the Budget Committee and CIP Committee.

CONFERENCE

I. NON-PUBLIC SESSION

Mr. Kluge moved to enter non-public session at 7:15 PM, RSA 91-A:3 II (c), Mr. Cummings seconded. Roll call vote: Mr. Kluge – aye, Mr. Cummings – aye, Mr. Crate – aye. Vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

Mr. Kluge moved to come out of non-public session at 7:16 PM, Mr. Cummings seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

II. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Kluge moved to adjourn at 7:16 PM, Mr. Cummings seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion, meeting adjourned.