

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

**MINUTES of December 3, 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:** Rick & Leslie Barrow, Dan Kiley

**BUSINESS MEETING**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Crate called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**November 19, 2012:**

Mr. Kluge moved to approve the regular and non-public session minutes of November 19, 2012 as printed, Mr. Cummings seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

**III. COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

**IV. BOARD REPORTS**

**Enfield Village Association:**

Hometown Holidays on Saturday, December 1 were good.

**V. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Kluge would like to commend Steve Schneider on the high quality Town Manager's Updates.

Mr. Schneider explained that a lot of information is supplied to him by department heads and he simply pulls it together.

## **VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

### **Dan Kiley – Ambulance Billing:**

Mr. Kiley inquired about the status of the ambulance billing.

Mr. Schneider reported that to date about \$27,000 has been billed but that we haven't received that much. It comes in dribs and drabs. Insurance companies are also sending the checks to the Town which then have to be forwarded to Comstar, the third party billing company, so the funds can be appropriately accounted for. Mr. Schneider will report hard numbers at the next meeting.

Mr. Cummings pointed out that with the approximately \$47,000 in funds paid to the City of Lebanon for ambulance service would almost pay for a single full-time person in Enfield with benefits. Plus, Lebanon turns around and bills anyway. Do we want to continue to spend money on services from Lebanon and then have them turn around and bill when we can do the same thing?

## **VII. BUSINESS**

### **2013 Water/Sewer Budget:**

Mr. & Mrs. Barrow attend the meeting to learn more about the Water & Sewer Budgets.

As Water/Sewer Commissioners this is the Selectmen's budget to solely review and comment on. The Budget Committee does not have a lot of input because these budgets are not supported by the tax rate but are instead supported by user fees.

Mr. Taylor expects expenses for 2012 to come in just under budget. He has tried to level fund for 2013, but some things come up every 2 or 3 years, such as the storage tank inspection.

Significant repairs and upgrades to controls were done which should reduce overtime due to a reduction of "gremlin" calls. Mr. Taylor went on to explain how the system works to alert the Department of issues with wells and sewer pump stations such as low pressure, power issues, etc.

Mr. Barrow inquired about the \$20,000 put into capital reserve funds (CRF) annually for each department. It was explained to him that these funds are typically used for line replacements. Much of the water lines are over 100 years old. Some CRF was used toward the sewer relocation under Mascoma Lake. Only a portion of the cost was borne by the Sewer users. A portion of the costs will also be borne by the taxpayers as this project was deemed to be a benefit to the Town as a whole.

Some sewer pumps will need replacing. The Department is seeing signs of its aging infrastructure.

Discussion ensued regarding the desire to keep budgets down, costs affordable, the benefit of added users due to the water and sewer extensions on Route 4, the effect of increased rates in Lebanon, the need for treatment of the Town's water supply (for hardness) only if the McConnell

well were to be needed to a great degree, and the potential for a new water supply on the 4A side of Mascoma Lake sometime in the future.

There was a question about the wages budgeted within the Sewer Department for 2013 as the request dropped slightly from the previous year. This will be looked into. Debt service will also be looked at as it appears there was an oversight and the Water Department debt services is not yet included in the budget requests.

The water rates have not been raised since 2007. The cost of wastewater treatment alone is \$275,000 and is dependent upon the City of Lebanon. The Selectmen, acting as Water/Sewer Commissioners will have to have a discussion of rates, then hold a public hearing should there be a need to change rates.

Mr. Barrow pointed out the Selectmen that his customers are truly at the lowest end and a 25 cent increase per load makes a difference to them. He also noted that he was bumped from the 6<sup>th</sup> tier to the 7<sup>th</sup> tier thereby increasing his bill by \$1,000, 10% of his water usage goes into the dryers and the resulting sewage is graywater.

Mr. Taylor would not be opposed to looking at a single rate for all users, but who's going to pay more, the elderly woman living alone on a fixed income? Mr. Barrow can raise rates, but she won't have her income increase.

Mr. Kiley noted that with more users on the system due to the Route 4 expansion with the bond being paid by the TIF fund, any business going in is a financial benefit to anyone else on the water or sewer systems.

### **Rail Trail Bridge:**

The Board of Selectmen received a copy of a report from the Friends of the Northern Rail Trail regarding the proposed Main Street Rail Trail crossing. The group is now pushing for the crossing to remain as it is today, with the old, narrow underpass and the bypass road for school buses, large trucks and emergency vehicles. The Rail Trail corridor and underpass are considered State historic resources. Previously they had signed off on removing the underpass as well as significant changes to the rail corridor. They are now "throwing everything against the wall."

Mr. Crate is concerned that Alex Vogt, NH Dept. of Transportation, may have a conflict of interest as he is involved in a rail trail group in another part of the State.

The Board discussed the effects of historic groups and safety of at-grade crossings.

It was noted that the Rail Trail groups solicit donations for trail maintenance but have money to hire an attorney for this case.

Mr. Schneider has had meetings regarding how to approach this. There are changes in State and Federal officials due to the recent elections. This may require some phone calls.

It was agreed that the Enfield Listserv should be used to disseminate information to the Town's residents.

On a side note, the electric for the Shaker Bridge lights is soon to be installed.

**McConnell Road Pump Station Subdivision:**

A survey has been done. The Town will go before the Zoning Board of Adjustments on December 11, 2012 and the Planning Board on December 12, 2012 regarding the subdivision of property on McConnell Road for the pump station. The subdivision will create a non-conforming lot on which the pump house would sit.

**FastRoads:**

Waveguide continues to install fiber where possible. There has been no progress on the issue of installation on poles in Lebanon which are required for Enfield to be connected to the network.

**Route 4 Water/Sewer Extension Update:**

Concerns about the paving of Baltic Street were discussed. The road is narrower than it was prior to construction. There is also a portion of Tim Taylor's yard on Baltic Street that may require some additional work.

The contractor has work left to do on the pump station and McConnell road. There will be a 1000 gallon propane tank buried for the generator. They'll build the building around the generator. It will be possible to remove the generator through the double doors of the pump house though the doorway will be only slightly wider than the generator.

**Administrative Items:**

The Board reviewed and approved the following documents: Property Tax Abatements, Property Tax Refunds.

**Miscellaneous:**

**Emergency Response:**

Mr. Crate inquired about an ambulance response in the early morning on Thursday. He was a Lebanon ambulance respond. He wondered why Lebanon was coming out at 5 AM when we have people on call.

Mr. Cummings responded that the on-call shifts are voluntary and the Fast Squad does not have people scheduled to be on call all the time.

**Boys Camp Road Bridge:**

Mr. Crate mentioned the need to do something with the bridge on Boys Camp Road, it's too narrow. It was suggested he bring this up at the next Selectboard meeting when the CIP Committee is present.

The cost for a new bridge would be about \$800,000 - \$900,000 with 2 lanes; cost prohibitive even with 80/20 State financing. It was suggested that perhaps a bridge similar to that put in on

Shaker Boulevard after Tropical Storm Irene would be a solution. A bridge of at least a lane and a half wide would allow a snowplow to cross it.

**Enfield Community Building:**

It's been noted that the Enfield Community Building is filthy and the Town needs to hire a crew to clean. A periodic professional cleaning might be necessary.

The Board was informed that Phil Neily and Jim Taylor are working on an RFP for cleaning of Town buildings. The Community Building will stand alone so proposals can be submitted separately for that building or on that building, plus the others. Ms. Bonnette suggested that time can be slotted on the reservations calendar so there is a designated time for cleaning.

Mr. Crate said people also need to be responsible for kids in the building, who now are not adequately supervised.

The ice maker is still broken. Parts are on order. The stove is currently shut off and is awaiting repair.

**Solid Waste/Recycling:**

Mr. Cummings asked where we are on the trash issue.

Mr. Schneider responded that we'd get a survey out. Jim Taylor has a picture of the different size toters.

Mr. Crate said the people need to know, if we go this route, how long of a commitment must be made.

The hauler is currently requesting a 10 year commitment.

Mr. Kiley added that if the Town isn't saving money three years down the road are the Selectmen willing to go to Pay-As-You-Throw? That may be the only way encourage recycling.

**Next Meeting:**

Monday, December 17, 2012, 6:00 PM, Public Works Facility, with Budget Committee and Capital Improvement Program Committee

Budget items that Mr. Cummings want to be sure are included are paving for the Union Street fire station parking lot and Depot Street ambulance parking lot. Richard Martin also has quotes for some work to be done on the ambulance building.

An inquiry was made into the Union Street building maintenance line which has \$10,000 expended. This will be looked into.

Mr. Crate wondered if there was any way to pave the Public Works entrance. It needs paving due to the dust and the dirt tracked into the building.

Mr. Taylor said he could add it to his budget line. It would be roughly \$22,000, but he can more closely estimate the cost. About 700' to 800' need 2" – 3" and material underneath it.

Mr. Cummings noted that it's easy to justify fixing existing pavement, but harder to justify new paving.

Mr. Kluge thinks the voters will say \$22,000 is a lot of money. It might be helpful to tie it in with the other projects and get a good price.

Mr. Schneider would like to approach the CIP Committee again about including it in the CIP.

## **CONFERENCE**

### **I. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Cummings moved to adjourn at 7:41 PM, Mr. Kluge seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.