

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

MINUTES of January 5, 2009

Board of Selectmen: Rebecca S. Stewart, Chairman; Donald J. Crate, Sr.; John W. Kluge

Administrative Staff: Steven Schneider, Town Manager; Alisa D. Bonnette, Executive Assistant; Richard A. Crate, Jr., Chief of Police

Others: Sergeant Ken May; Officer Roy Holland; Dan Kiley; Kurt Gotthardt; Debra Truman; Bruce Hettleman

BUSINESS MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Stewart called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Kluge moved to approve the minutes of December 15, 2008 as printed; Mr. Crate seconded, vote unanimous.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

MVRSD Notice of Change in date for 1st Deliberative Session to January 31, 9:00 AM, IRS Gym. Snow date of February 7, 2009

Comcast Programming Change: Eff. 1/9/09 CN8 network no longer available

Shaker Landing Condo Assoc. Standard Dredge & Fill Application & Notification of Wetland Project

NH DES Shoreland Rule Waiver ~ Smith Pond Road Access Road

NH DES Exemption for Vested Rights ~ Dike and Dam Restoration, Smith Pond

**Town of Haverhill correspondence ~ New County Correctional Facility Project:
See discussion under Town Manager's Report**

Town Clerk's Report ~ Year End 2008

IV. BOARD REPORTS

No Board Reports

V. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Budget:

Mr. Schneider provided the Selectboard with a copy of the 2009 proposed budget, to-date and a memo explaining the major cuts made. Through a lot of hard work and review of all aspects of operations, Mr. Schneider and his staff were able to come up with cuts to maintain the budget at the target set by the Budget Committee.

Big changes include no capital outlay expenditures and no payments to capital reserves.

Hydrant maintenance was cut from \$19,000 to \$1,000. Hydrant maintenance is a figure the General Fund pays back to the Water Fund as a courtesy. The amount to maintain the hydrants is paid by the Water Department. This cut will have no impact on operations at all.

The Police Department has reduced hours for part-time officers and the intern position. There will also be no cruiser replacement in 2009.

Pavement maintenance was reduced by \$50,000 to \$120,000.

Tax mapping was cut in its entirety for a savings of \$30,000.

Through these cuts the Town will be able to keep departments fully staffed, including the Police Department and Buildings & Grounds.

Mr. Schneider thanked Police Chief Richard Crate and Public Works Director Ken Daniels for their input throughout the process.

There is still some fine-tuning of the budget to be done between now and the next Budget Committee meeting on January 8.

Mr. Kluge asked if this budget is in line with Budget Committee goals. Mr. Schneider replied that it does. Mr. Kluge added that this puts money into people. He likes this.

Mrs. Stewart stated that it's good to have department heads look over the budget and determine where to cut.

Mr. Crate asked the members of the Police Department present if they understand what this means. Chief Crate replied that yes, it means \$50,000 was cut elsewhere in the budget.

The Board discussed Public Works staffing, shifts and hours, Police Department staffing and cruiser maintenance, which may increase slightly in 2009 due to the lack of a new cruiser.

Mr. Kluge asked what happened to the \$2,500 for the regional SWAT team. Chief Crate informed the Board that funding for that is still in the budget. The Town is providing manpower (one person) to the team.

Mr. Schneider added that in the Police Department there is a six month lead time for an officer to be fully trained, so when discussing not filling a position for 6 months what's really being discussed is not having an officer for one year.

Mr. Crate asked if the Police Department is happy with this. Chief Crate replied that yes, the Department was. Long-term effects were looked at. The Department will take time to hire someone. While the economy hasn't affected police departments yet, with the economy the way it is, it may be possible to hire someone who's trained.

Mr. Schneider announced that the Board would have another budget to review at the next meeting.

Cable Franchise Agreement:

The Board received information regarding the Cable Franchise Renewal Process. An agreement is ready for the Board of Selectmen to sign.

Tax Increment Finance (TIF) District:

Mr. Schneider has done some research and reported that if there is a petitioned warrant article to change the TIF District boundaries the Town is responsible for holding a public hearing.

Mr. Schneider provided the Board, Debra Truman and Kurt Gotthardt; an independent report entitled *Housing and School Enrollment in New Hampshire: An Expanded View*. This report provides information on the number of children that can be expected per housing unit, breaking it down into how many children can be expected per each size unit. In a multi-unit development such as the Laramie Farms Development, someone in the range of 30 children can be expected based on this information.

The report provides more information to consider when the Selectboard has further discussions about TIF.

County Correctional Facility:

The Town of Haverhill send correspondence to the Grafton County Delegation and Grafton County Commissioners informing them of a unanimous vote of the Haverhill Selectboard to communicate their concern about the cost of the County Correctional Facility project during these difficult economic times. The Haverhill Selectboard feels the project should be placed on hold until it can be downsized and the need makes financial sense for the citizens of Grafton County.

The Town of Hanover sent out e-correspondence asking the County not to build the jail at this time. The County is not in a place to be able to support a new jail at this time. The Town of Hanover is asking other Town's to send a letter as well.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS**Kurt Gotthardt ~ Flagging on Town-Owned Bicknell Brook Lot:**

Mr. Gotthardt asked about flagging on the Town-owned Bicknell Brook lot. It looks to him like the lots for potential sale.

Mr. Gotthardt was informed that it was believed that Jim Taylor, Community Development Director, arranged for the survey of the lots using 2008 funding and that Jim Taylor should have more information.

Kurt Gotthardt ~ Budget Process:

Mr. Gotthardt suggested to the Board a policy change that would solicit input from the general public to determine areas in the budget that the public is willing to cut. Cuts might include a reduction in streetlights, which would translate into an annual savings, or reduction in the use of salt on paved roads. People making suggested cuts should be required to provide specific information to justify their request.

Mrs. Stewart replied that the Selectboard is always open to cost saving ideas. The Board would be happy to hear anyone that wants to come before the Board with savings ideas.

Mrs. Stewart added that there has been discussion on the Budget Committee level of a change in trash removal whereby individuals that exceed a certain allotment of trash in a week would be charged on a pay-as-you-throw (PAYT) basis by having to purchase special trash bags.

Mr. Gotthardt feels that if the cost cutting ideas come from the public and are discussed at a public hearing the Selectboard will have more support at Town Meeting for those cost reductions.

Mrs. Stewart replied that every public hearing costs the Town money. The Selectboard meets every two weeks and cost saving ideas can be brought before the Board for discussion.

Mr. Kluge said that it's easier to say we aren't going to install new streetlights than to remove existing ones.

Mrs. Stewart added that there's an esoteric value in streetlights and road salt. She spoke of road safety and feels that what the Town has is appropriate. She even feels that the Town could stand to add a streetlight or two.

Mr. Gotthardt feels the safety argument can be used for anything the Town does. Why don't we have a full-time Ambulance or full-time Fire Department? It's a safety issue, but the Town has decided it can't afford it.

Mr. Kluge feels that suggested changes in streetlights should come from the Energy Committee.

Mrs. Stewart stated that generally things are being done the way they are because that's the way people like things to be done.

Dan Kiley stated that there was a Committee on trash. The report was ignored. They came up with PAYT. It was DOA. This group met for over a year.

Mrs. Stewart replied that there has been a compromise discussion about PAYT.

Mr. Crate said there was a maximum amount of rubbish allowed curbside. Mrs. Stewart knows it isn't being abided by and it's being revisited.

Mr. Kluge added that we're in an economic climate that even what we didn't consider last year may be revisited. Ambulance billing may be one of those issues.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Budget:

See discussion under Town Manager's Report.

Tax Increment Finance (TIF) District:

See discussion also under Town Manager's Report.

Ms. Truman said that Mr. Schneider was going to come up with some numbers as to how many children would affect the tax base.

Mr. Kluge replied that Mr. Schneider did provide a report that Ms. Truman was provided a copy of. That's what the Selectboard has so far. We don't know yet how to turn that into dollars. We did hear from the principal that the high school could take on 20 students without any change in the school budget.

Mr. Hettleman pointed out that there is also a municipal impact of the 154 units.

Mrs. Stewart has been thinking about the TIF issue. What occurred to her is that if and when the developers finally put in an application the project will likely be built in phases and it may take several years to complete all of the units. So the impact, while ultimately may be 154 units, it won't be all on Day One. Given the school principal's comments it gives Mrs. Stewart less pause. The Town may only see 10 to 15 children in the first year. Once they put in an application it could be 18 months to 2 years before the Town will see any money in the TIF fund. She thinks changing the boundaries now is jumping the gun since it could be a number of years before the project is completed and the Town sees the full impact.

Mr. Kiley stated that the first million and a half would be infrastructure; it's going to be roads.

Mrs. Stewart added the dollars coming into the TIF fund are from the increase in value. So as it incrementally improves money is incrementally added to the TIF fund.

It was explained that a certificate of occupancy must be in place before anyone can move in and the Town could have the impact of children in the school. Mrs. Stewart also added that school enrollment has been decreasing.

Mr. Hettleman replied that the School Board says otherwise now. He added that Mrs. Stewart seems content that the Laramie Farms Development is not going to happen quickly and the money won't be going into the TIF fund.

Mrs. Stewart contended that was now what she was saying. She stated that if the TIF is not changed the impact wouldn't be felt immediately.

Mr. Hettleman and Ms. Truman stated that the boundaries couldn't be changed once a project is bonded.

Mrs. Stewart replied that there has been no discussion before the Selectmen about bonding. TIF money doesn't have to be bonded, so it wouldn't fall into that issue.

Ms. Truman, a member of the TIF District Advisory Committee, stated that the first project is the completion of Huse Park, then the sewer extension on US Route 4.

Mrs. Stewart stated that Huse Park doesn't have to be bonded.

Ms. Truman said it would only be a couple more years without a bond.

Mr. Kluge stated that because this is a project that's going to be phased in the impact on the schools would be phased in.

Mrs. Stewart added that in these economic times the developer might not choose to go forward with this project at this time.

Mr. Hettleman replied that there's an economy of scale. We don't know what they'll do. We also don't know what impact of development will be on Police and Fire.

Ms. Truman believes Kurt Gotthardt had information on the impact of development.

Mr. Gotthardt stated that the Planning Board asked for an impact study when the Rocky Ridge housing development was proposed on Methodist Hill. Jim Taylor would have a copy. This study broke out the cost of services.

Discussion ensued regarding the once proposed school behind the SAU building, which is no longer being considered due to ledge. The School is looking at alternative sites and solutions.

Chief Crate was asked for his insights into the cost by the Police Department. The impact would depend greatly on who moves in. A couple of years ago Earl Sweeney suggested taking on 2 more officers in Enfield. The biggest thing Chief Crate looks at is, what level of service do people want?

Mrs. Stewart said that the costs of these particular units leads her to believe the residents will be middle to upper middle class, snowbirds and retirees. Ms. Truman is not sure this would be the case.

Discussion followed regarding whether the apartments would be rental units or condominiums. The initial plans indicate they will be rental units with the option to become condominiums at a later date.

The Board also discussed whether the project would be considered commercial or residential. Mrs. Stewart feels it's a commercial project. The property owners would be responsible for trash disposal, and as a private road, plowing and road maintenance would be the responsibility of the property owner as well.

The developers have only been to the Planning Board twice and the Selectmen once. Mrs. Stewart thinks it may be jumping ahead a little bit to change the TIF boundaries now. They haven't even put in an application to the Planning Board yet. Mr. Crate doesn't think they're going to build soon, if at all with the current economy and housing not selling.

Mr. Hettleman asked when the TIF District expires. He was informed that it expires 12 years from the date of adoption and that it will be 4 years in 2009. Mr. Gotthardt added that the Town Meeting could vote to extend it.

Mrs. Stewart feels efforts could be spend on getting other issues taken care of. She doesn't see the Laramie Farms development as imminent.

Ms. Truman pointed out that if Town decides to put something out for bond there would no longer be an opportunity to change the TIF boundaries.

Mr. Hettleman feels Kurt Gotthardt seems to be most knowledgeable and asked for his take on it. Mr. Gotthardt stated that his is opposed to the Laramie Farms development being included in the TIF District. Why do we have a large residential development included?

Mr. Hettleman expressed his fear that if you look at the worse case scenario the schools may not get their due.

Mr. Kluge clarified that is not the case. The school will get its money; only the distribution will change.

Mr. Hettleman agreed the cost would be shifted to other taxpayers for as long as the TIF District lasts.

Discussion ensued regarding the financial impact of students on taxpayers and the need for the school to reduce its budget as the Town is doing. Mrs. Stewart believes the school needs to be told to do more with less. She added that the cost of teacher pensions and health benefits greatly impact the school budget. Mrs. Stewart passionately expressed her views on school district spending and the importance of education for our children.

Mr. Crate told Ms. Truman and Mr. Hettleman they have the right to petition for a warrant article. He suggested they do that. He wasn't in favor of the TIF District to begin with, and feels if the Town needs a sewer extension it should bond it. Rather than revisit this issue every meeting for 3 or 4 meetings he encouraged them to do a petition.

Discussion followed regarding school funding and the cost to educate students, the commercial vs. residential status of the project, and the Hooksett TIF district, which was empty space when the TIF District there was created.

Mr. Gotthardt asked if the 20 children the school budget could absorb, was that Enfield only or district-wide? He was informed that would be district-wide.

Mrs. Stewart called the discussion of the TIF District to a close at 7:35 PM

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Administrative Items:

The Board reviewed and approved the following documents: Land Use Change Tax, Property Tax Abatements, 2008 Equalization Municipal Assessment Data Sheets Certificate.

IX. OTHER ITEMS

Parking Problem:

Mr. Crate reported a parking problem over the weekend. There were quite a few bob houses on the lake over the weekend and some people parked in the road creating one-way traffic near the underpass.

Chief Crate reported that tickets were issued and “no parking” signs could be put on the fence. Signs could not be posted on the road, as this is a State road. The Police Department will continue to monitor the situation.

2009 & 2010 Winter Sand Bid:

The Board received a recommendation from Ken Daniels, Director of Public Works, to award the Winter Sand Bid to Conkey Enterprises, the only bid received. The unit cost remains the same as in the past at \$7.00/cubic yard.

Mr. Kluge moved to award the sand bid to Conkey Enterprises as recommended; Mrs. Stewart seconded. Mr. Kluge and Mrs. Stewart in favor, Mr. Crate opposed.

Mrs. Stewart asked why Mr. Crate was opposed.

He asked her if she had read the bid specs as he feels no one would bid based on the specs and how they're written up.

In response to Mrs. Stewart's question about what he found to be deficient, Mr. Crate told the Board to read the bid specs and then he'd discuss it.

2008 Town Report:

The Board was asked to consider what to use as a photo for the cover of the Town Report, who to do the report in memory of and who to dedicate it to. The Board agreed to have the Town Report in memory of Ann Tarney. The cover and dedication will be decided at the next meeting.

CONFERENCE

I. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Kluge moved to adjourn at 7:47 PM; Mr. Crate seconded, vote unanimous.