

**Enfield Board of Selectmen
Community Building
Enfield, New Hampshire**

Public Hearing MINUTES of August 10, 2009

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

Administrative Staff: Steven Schneider, Town Manager; Alisa D. Bonnette, Executive Assistant; Carolee Higbee, Town Clerk; Dr. David Beaufait, Moderator

Members of the Public: Linda Jones, Mary Quintana, Vern Bond, Tim Taylor, Robert LaCroix, Effie Bachand, Kurt Gotthardt, Henry Cross, Gayle Hulva, Steve Stancek, Kim Withrow, David Stewart, C. James Martel, Linda LaCroix, Jean Patten, and other members of the public

PUBLIC HEARING / SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Moderator David Beaufait opened the meeting at 6:30 pm in the Enfield Community Building. Present were the Board of Selectmen Donald Crate and John Kluge, Town Manager Steven Schneider, Town Engineer Charles Hirshberg, Town Clerk/Tax Collector Carolee Higbee, and various members of the public.

The Moderator explained that there may be no amendments made to the wording of the article, only to the dollar amount. There would be a public hearing on the article, with a question and answer period, then the official vote on the article. He read the article:

Article 1. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **five hundred eighty-three thousand, six hundred forty dollars (\$583,640)** for the purpose of preparing plans and specifications, land acquisitions, and/or easement and for the construction of **a replacement sewer line located at the Shaker Bridge** that will qualify the Town for federal and state funds, such sum to be raised by the issuance of serial bonds and notes not to exceed **\$583,640** under and in compliance with the provision of the Municipal Finance Act (NH RSA 33:1 et seq., as amended) and to authorize the Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes to determine the rate of interest thereon, and to take such actions as may be necessary to effect the issuance, negotiation, sale and delivery of such bonds or notes as shall be in the best interest of the Town of Enfield, additionally to participate in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) program administered through the State Revolving Fund (SRF) RSA 486.14 established for this purpose, and to allow the Selectmen to expend such monies as become available from the federal and state governments and pass any vote relating thereto. Any income derived from temporary investment of the bond proceeds shall be returned to the General Fund.

J. Kluge made the motion to accept Article 1 as printed, D. Crate seconded.

J. Kluge made the motion to open the public hearing, D. Crate seconded.

Steven Schneider explained that this meeting is a little different from normal Town Meeting. The public hearing has been opened, he will make a presentation, there would be an opportunity for questions, then a return to the Special Town Meeting.

Mr. Schneider provided information in a PowerPoint slide presentation:

The Shaker Bridge will be replaced starting late summer 2010. In June 2010 the project will be going out to bid, then the bridge and causeway will be pre-loaded and weight tested. Our existing sewer line is attached to the bridge. We need to relocate the line before the bridge is replaced. Pictures were shown of the existing sewer line on the Shaker Bridge and the NH Department of Transportation (DOT) Shaker Bridge site plan.

Replacement Choices include: 1) drilling a permanent line under the lake or 2) temporarily relocating the line and then re-attaching it to the new bridge. The Town has been assured by the State that they will leave room on the bridge to put the line there.

Replacement Option 1 offers a permanent solution and funding assistance. With Option 1 the Town won't have to redrill. The Town is currently using only 1/3 of the maximum capacity allowed by the City of Lebanon. There is 2/3 capacity left and the Town is not adding a lot of customers. Replacement Option 2 offers a lower overall cost, but the Department of Environmental Services (DES) is not as comfortable with concept and it involves more complex engineering. Overall the cost is about \$200,000 less, but there is no guarantee of federal funding for any portion of the project.

Enfield Directional Bore (Option1) Engineering involves: 1,300 feet of 8" HDPE (plastic) pipe deep under the bottom of Mascoma Lake, traffic maintained over the Shaker Bridge, Use of the public boat ramp at the intersection of Route 4A for construction staging and new motors for the pumps, required due to increased pressure in the force main.

Temporary Relocation (Option 2) Engineering: temporary alternatives were considered, the cost is estimated at \$400,000 with no guaranteed Federal/State funding, DES Wetlands Bureau and Wastewater Engineering Bureau approvals unlikely, and high risk in Mascoma Lake since it is a recreational and drinking water source.

The firm, CLD Consulting Engineers, has experience with the Alton water main directional bore.

Existing town debt service includes: Public Works Building at an annual cost of \$114,742, which will be paid off in 2011, Sewer at an annual cost of \$15,556, which will be paid off in 2016, and Water at an annual cost of \$22,423, which will be paid off in 2021.

Financing for Option 1: Project cost \$583,640, of which the ARRA share (stimulus dollars) would be \$291,820 and the Town share would be \$291,820.

Project costs for Option 1: Boring costs at \$227 per foot for 1,300 feet \$295,100, Engineering at \$50,155 and site work/contingency/land acquisition/bonding fees/pump motors at \$238,385.

Financing: Bonding (available for Option 1 only) at ARRA bond rates: 3.744% for 20 yr APR, 3.510% for 15 yr APR, 2.340% for 10 yr APR or 1.170% for 5 yr APR.

Financing: Annual Costs: Debt Service: \$20,345 annually for 20 years totaling \$429,596, \$24,588 annually for 15 years totaling \$385,881, \$32,349 annually for 10 years totaling \$332,022 or \$59,737 annually for 5 years totaling \$302,287.

Mr. Schneider presented the financial impact to taxpayers and sewer users under different funding options.

In Summary, the sewer line needs to be replaced, the entire Town has to assume the debt, the voters at the Special Town Meeting will be voting on Option 1 only and the voters will direct the Town regarding payment of debt and the impact on taxpayers and sewer users.

Mr. Schneider introduced Charles Hirshberg of CLD Consulting Engineers. Mr. Hirshberg explained that the NH Department of Transportation (DOT) informed the Town that the State would be replacing the bridge and the Town would have to relocate the sewer line at least temporarily. In this instance, temporarily could be 2 years. The line is currently attached to the bridge and is buried in the causeway.

The State will be load testing the entire causeway. The original structure had timber cribbing. The lake has about 30' of sediment. The causeway is somewhat supported by the cribbing. Is the causeway stable enough? When they test with the loading of the causeway, the pipe in the causeway could flex and break.

A temporary solution might involve placing a line along the bottom of the lake or floating it on top of the lake. Neither is a good solution due to the use of the lake and possible contamination.

Mr. Hirshberg spoke to DES about a temporary solution. It's about \$400,000 and not wholly stable. The temporary solution would apply for about 2 years' time, the line would then go back on the bridge.

Direction boring under the lake was explained. They would like to bore in ledge below the lake. They use a 3" boring tool and go all the way across and come up on the other side. They would then use a larger drill head to drill out the small hole. By using progressively larger drill heads they would bore out the necessary diameter.

Mr. Hirshberg explained the process of drilling and pulling the pipe back through the hole. The pipe is 1" thick.

The cost is approximately \$300,000 for drilling and \$288,000 to dig in the area of the ends to connect to the existing force main.

The pump station on Pine Street would be used but with the pipe lower in elevation the motor size of the pumps must be increased.

About \$50,000 in engineering costs, plus site work costs and easement acquisition, the total project cost is about \$588,000.

In the short time the entire project would be paid for by the Town. The loan for the full amount would include 50% forgiveness of principal at each payment interval.

Mr. Schneider added that they would bore from the NH Route 4A side and come up in the State right-of-way on the Enfield village side.

Mr. Schneider again reviewed the information provided in the slide presentation. The longest available bond is 20 years. A 5 year bond would overall be the least expensive due to a lower interest rate and faster payback, but the annual cost would be higher. Mr. Schneider pointed out the annual savings that could be realized by opting for a shorter term bond and the affect on the tax rate of having differing amounts paid by the sewer users.

Mr. Schneider pointed out that at Town Meeting the voters were informed the tax rate would be lowered by 5 cents. Any payment option chosen that is less than a nickel won't raise the taxes above what they are currently. Because the entire Town has to take on the debt does not mean there can't be a blend of how we pay for it. This Special Town Meeting is specifically to vote on the option to drill under the lake bottom due to the ARRA Special Town Meeting process.

Questions were invited.

Linda Jones asked to be told more about Option 2 (temporary relocation). Why does the Board of Selectmen approve Option 1?

Mr. Kluge explained that Option 2 is more expensive to the taxpayers by \$110,000. DES is being very cautious about whether they'd even allow the Town to do Option 2 and the engineers seem to suggest that Option 1 is environmentally the safest Option.

Mr. Schneider added that Option 2 is only \$400,000, but must be fully supported by the Town. It would be considerably more expensive to the townspeople. Mr. Schneider has all the numbers, but because the vote is on Option 1 they were not included in the presentation.

Mary Quintana asked if the Town is sure to get stimulus dollars.

Mr. Schneider informed her that the Town is guaranteed stimulus funding. The pre-application has been approved and the Town of Enfield is placed high on the list of projects for funding. Of the overall cost of Option 1, half is forgiven.

Vern Bond asked to which side of the bridge the new sewer line would be located. He was informed that it would be on the opposite side from where it is located now, on the south side of the bridge.

Mr. Bond asked if there would be no land acquisition. Mr. Schneider informed him that there is the potential need for an easement on the old marina property depending on whether the line stays within the State right-of-way. If it impacts that property the Town will need to secure an easement.

Tim Taylor asked if the cost per foot is the horizontal distance. The distance is 1,300 feet, but it's probably 70' deep. Will boring stay the same? Mr. Taylor was informed by Mr. Hirschberg that they obtained several quotes based on borings 70' down.

Mr. Taylor asked if the existing pipe size is 8" and why different pumps would be needed. He was informed the pipe size is 8" and different motors are needed not different pumps. There reason for the new motors is to maintain a certain velocity in the pipe due to the changes in elevation in the pipe.

Mr. Taylor expressed concern about the ability to maintain the pipe, which would be inaccessible. What happens if there's a failure in the pipe?

Mr. Hirschberg explained that if there was an earthquake, a pipe on the bridge would break as well. Mr. Taylor pointed out that it could then be fixed.

Mr. Hirschberg explained that the pipe is 1" thick and has some give to it. He also explained the process of using bentonite that provides some compression capability and would be located between the pipe and the bored tube.

It was noted that ledge can have fractures. Could a leak move through fractures? What would we do if that were to happen, rebore or replace the pipe?

Mr. Hirschberg replied that if possibly could happen that a leak could move through a fracture. If the pipe were damaged and leaking the pipe would be replaced in the existing boring.

Effie Bachand asked if they had done this type of project before. Mr. Schneider informed her that this firm did one for the Town of Alton.

Kurt Gotthardt asked about possible land acquisition; is the owner aware? Mr. Schneider has spoken with him and he appears to be open to it.

The normal life of sewer lines is about 50 years.

Gayle Hulva asked if the Town is getting a lower interest rate. Mr. Schneider explained that Enfield would be combining with other towns through the bond bank, which would provide a rate a little lower than the market rate.

Steve Stancek asked how far from the bridge the boring would be done. Mr. Hirschberg informed him that it would be 50' to 75' outside the State's construction area.

Kim Withrow asked if reattachment was included in the \$400,000 estimate for the temporary relocation in Option 2. Mr. Schneider replied that yes, it was included.

Henry Cross asked if there was a leak, would there be a sensing device? He was informed by Mr. Hirschberg that if there was a break there would be a loss in pressure. Mr. Cross stated that if you don't have a large leak you would see little loss in pressure.

Mr. Hirschberg explained that if the leak is within the bore it's contained. The pipe on the bridge is moving. Movement affects the joints. Under the lakes it's out of sunlight and unless the ground moves significantly, it's very safe.

Robert LaCroix stated that laying at the bottom of the lake it would be safe from frost and if there was a leak anyone would see it. The only problem is it is Lebanon's drinking water. If there's a fracture in the ledge there would be the same problem with contamination of Lebanon's water supply. With a fracture in ledge it could take a long time for a leak to show. A leak would be easier to find with the line at the bottom of the lake or attached to the bridge.

Mr. Schneider expressed the concern about the stability of the soils at the bottom of the lake and weather it would keep the line stable enough.

Mr. Hirschberg stated that, ideally, we don't want to go down 70'. If there is good soil they would bore in that. Unfortunately there's 30' of silt at the bottom of the lake. A sewer line couldn't be effectively anchored because of the conditions of the bottom of the lake. There is not a lot of stability. There was limited resistance, like going through liquid vs. dense soil, when test holes were done.

Vern Bond asked if Lebanon has made any comments. Mr. Hirschberg replied that DES was reluctant to allow something with the potential of contaminating Lebanon's water supply.

David Carr said there are many project in NH where the State is using stimulus money as a loan. Is this a gift from the State of NH?

Mr. Schneider explained that every year the State would forgive a portion of the debt. 50% of the principal is forgiven and the rest the Town is repaying. Mr. Hirschberg added that in simple terms, 1/2 of the total project cost is a grant, 1/2 is a loan that the Town will pay back.

Mr. Carr said this system must have been used someplace. He questioned chaffing problems, since pipes move. Is there some idea of the life of the line?

Mr. Hirschberg stated that tubes in the ground similar to this directional boring have been around 15 to 20 years. They would be using heavy grade polyethylene with a little bit of give to it. Bentonite fills the void and holds the pipe in place.

Mr. Hirschberg said the sewer line could be laid at the bottom of the lake if we had stable soil. We simply can't anchor to what is at the bottom of the lake. It's like mud. The line would have to be secured in cradles and the cradles would have to be secured.

David Stewart asked what type of assurance the Town has that the State will forgive a portion of the principle. Has the Town looked into strings attached to stimulus dollars?

Mr. Schneider responded that one of the conditions is that we buy American. The Town will be audited. Money is allocated to the State for that purpose.

Mr. Stewart asked if this would affect Shakoma Beach.

Mr. Schneider replied that it would not. The work will take place on the other side of the bridge. With the timing of the work it could be done late this fall so there's less impact on the boating community. There are no other requirements other than to buy American or have a good reason why not. The Town will be audited.

Mr. Hirschberg confirmed that the EPA has \$25 million set aside just for auditing. Paperwork is more straightforward with an SRF loan.

Jim Martel said that from an environmental point of view he likes Option 1. By being under the lake the line isn't subject to vandalism and rupture. He recommends voting in favor of it.

Tim Taylor asked what if they have fresh water coming in during the boring. Mr. Taylor is not worried about Lebanon's water supply but Enfield's. He's concerned the boring could affect the aquifers. Mr. Hirschberg said that bentonite fills the void. Mr. Taylor asked how they can get the bentonite in if there's water coming in. Mr. Hirschberg explained they use pressure to put it in, but is it unknown what they'll find.

Mr. Taylor stated that we've been told Option 1 is the most environmentally friendly, but now we're told we don't know.

A member of the public asked to call the question. Because this is the public hearing portion of the meeting, no vote could be taken.

Mr. Schneider hoped the engineer was able to answer the technical questions regarding the boring. Funding makes Option 1, boring under the lake, attractive to the Town vs. Option 2, temporarily relocating the line. Mr. Schneider felt it important to discuss how the debt should be paid. Though it's the Selectmen's decision, it's something that needs to be discussed.

The town has to assume the debt but it can be by sewer user fees, taxpayer dollars or a blend of the two.

Linda LaCroix asked who put the pipe on the bridge originally. Mr. Schneider informed her that the Town did so. The pipe is hooked to the bridge. From the State's perspective it's not their infrastructure. They won't accept responsibility for relocating the line.

Ms. LaCroix doesn't know why the project can't be consolidated. They'll probably damage it when they do the bridge work.

It was suggested by a member of the public that the people vote and discuss financing after the vote.

Mr. Schneider explained that the polls have to stay open for an hour and discussion could take place while the polls are open.

Discussion ensued regarding the process of discussion to decide financing.

Dr. Beaufait stated that asked the voters if they wished to continue public discussion with finances or if they're comfortable with the engineering and bonding information to make a vote and discuss options while the polls are open.

Someone stated that you wouldn't buy a car without knowing how you're going to fund it.

David Stewart pointed out that anyone that pays federal income tax will pay for this. He has a problem with federal money coming in to pay for it.

Jean Patten said that, regarding financing, our faith is in the Board of Selectmen and they can make that decision. There is no option but to move forward.

It was pointed out that sewer users have been hit with things in the past. People not on sewer shouldn't necessarily pay, but since everyone uses the bridge, why should sewer users pay for it.

Mr. Hirschberg mentioned that this is federal funding. If Enfield doesn't spend it someone else will. Whether it's spent here or in Texas the taxpayers of Enfield are going to pay for it.

If Option 2 is chosen it would be more expensive to the taxpayers overall and at a higher interest rate.

Mr. Schneider stated that the Selectmen will ultimately decide funding of the project, information from the voters will simply be advisory. All we can do is provide input to the Selectmen as to what we'd prefer.

J. Kluge made the motion to close the public hearing at 7:40 PM, D. Crate seconded; vote unanimous.

The moderator re-opened the special town meeting and asked the audience if they wished to dispense with the reading of the article again, to which they agreed. He explained that a Yes vote was in favor of Option 1, burying the sewer line, and that the polls would remain open for one hour. He declared the polls open at 7:45 pm.