

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

MINUTES of February 5, 2008

Board of Selectmen: Curtis Payne, Chairman; Rebecca S. Stewart

Excused: Donald J. Crate, Sr.

Administrative Staff: Steven Schneider, Town Manager; Alisa D. Bonnette, Recording Secretary

Others: Richard Martin, Kim Withrow, Marjorie Carr

BUSINESS MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Payne called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Selectmen postponed approval of the 1/22/08 regular and non-public session minutes until the next meeting.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

Wetlands Application ~ Town of Enfield, Lockehaven Road Drainage Improvements:

The Town's wetlands application for the Lockehaven Drainage Project has been submitted to the State of New Hampshire. There are alternatives for how to address the project and depending on what the State determines is their preference the project will cost \$100,000 or \$20,000 to complete, or if the State is not agreeable to either of the options, the Town will simply knock out the berm and restore Henry & Sally Cross's property.

IV. BOARD REPORTS

Heritage Commission:

Mrs. Stewart was unable to attend the last meeting. To the best of her knowledge the Commission agreed to move forward with a petitioned warrant article for a National Historic Register District.

Planning Board:

The Planning Board performed a site walk of the George Hill project, and approved it. They also approved Michael Davidson's application for a daycare facility. There were questions about parking, but the Planning Board is being flexible.

Budget Committee:

The Budget Committee held its Public Budget Hearing on Monday, February 4, 2008. Everyone in attendance at this Selectmen's meeting was also at the hearing so there is nothing to report to those present. The Hearing was recessed until Tuesday, February 12.

V. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**Vehicle Accident:**

Mr. Schneider reported an accident with one of the Town's plow trucks. The truck went into a ditch near the Transfer Station and hit some trees. Sable & Sons was called to pull it out. Mr. Schneider does not believe the truck was badly damaged. The driver was unhurt.

Ambulance:

There is good news to report on the price of the new ambulance. Kim Withrow spent quite a bit of time doing research and has a new quote for the vehicle at \$117,000. This quoted price will be honored if the Town Manager signs a non-binding Purchase & Sales Agreement with the vendor, Sugarloaf, that says if the ambulance is approved at Town Meeting the Town will purchase from this vendor. If the ambulance funding is not approved the Town is under no obligation to Sugarloaf.

There is an ambulance already built to Enfield's specifications. The only thing it does not have is "Enfield FAST Squad" painted on it.

If \$112,000 is approved at Town Meeting the Board of Selectmen can then schedule a public hearing to withdraw the remaining money needed from the Emergency Services and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. A public hearing could be held the first meeting in April.

The grade at the Depot St. ambulance building has been corrected by the Highway Department.

Kim Withrow reported that the ambulance would be in Town on Monday, February 11, 2008 at about 5:30 PM if the Board would like to see it.

Mr. Schneider noted that budgeting for the ambulance wasn't the smoothest process, but it will save the Town. Between the FAST Squad's expertise in finding the best ambulance and the Town's expertise at getting the best price, the Town will benefit.

Mrs. Stewart said that Sugarloaf showed good faith by coming back with a better price. She would support the purchase of the ambulance at \$117,000. Mr. Payne and Mr. Schneider agreed.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Payne invited public comments; there were none. Mr. Payne closed the meeting to public comments.

VII. OLD BUSINESS**2008 Budget:**

Mr. Schneider noted that the MS-7 doesn't correspond well to what we know we're spending. The operating budget for the General Fund is \$4,848,888. Revenues increased by \$400,000. The tax rate is estimated at a total of \$6.84. There are opportunities for the voters to say yes or no to a lot of expenditures. The majority of capital expenditures are being offset by Capital Reserve Funds previously established. Article 8 does not have to be amended to reflect use of the Emergency Services CRF expense as the Board of Selectmen is named agent to expend.

The Budget Committee will continue their public hearing on February 12 as there are still a few warrant articles that need review and approval by the Committee.

The Budget Committee identified a fairly objective way to address budgets for regional organizations. Rather than the organizations asking for a specific dollar amount and the Budget Committee debating that funding, the Budget Committee will determine the maximum increase to all organizations across the board. The organizations will still be required to submit justification for funding.

In the past the regional organizations have been broken out in a separate warrant article. This year they are included in the operating budget. Any amendments for funding regional organizations will have to come as an amendment to the operating budget.

Mrs. Stewart asked if the warrant narrative is binding. Mr. Schneider replied that it was not and would be discussed in greater detail later.

The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Committee has found it needs to look at costs. It's a new committee and not knowing how the CIP was going to work with the Budget Committee the aims and goals were unclear.

Mrs. Stewart would recommend that the CIP chairman make a presentation to the Budget Committee as other Committee heads do.

Town Meeting:

Two new petitioned warrant articles were received since the last Selectmen's meeting: 1) a resolution for reduced property taxes, and 2) creation of a National Historic Register District and application funding.

Mrs. Stewart moved to accept all petitioned warrant articles for inclusion on the 2008 Town Meeting Warrant; Mr. Payne seconded, vote unanimous.

Article 6: Library Building: This can be presented as one single article, rather than two separate articles. Mrs. Stewart said her reason for asking about the narrative is that the \$1,600,000 fundraising goal is not in the article. Mrs. Stewart was told that this information is included in the narrative to inform the voters of the intent of the Board of Library Trustees and Board of Selectmen without tying their hands in case the fundraising is able to come very close, but perhaps a bit short of this goal.

Article 7: Operating Budget: Adding the other articles together with this one brings the tax rate to \$6.84.

The order in which the articles are presented is up to the Board of Selectmen if there is a preference. Generally speaking, Mrs. Stewart and Mr. Payne are happy with the order of the articles.

Recommendations are included on monied warrant articles, but are a “best guess” by staff and subject to approval by the Board of Selectmen.

Mrs. Stewart moved to approve Articles 6 through 12 as written; Mr. Payne seconded, vote unanimous.

The Selectmen discussed Articles 13 and 14 relative to funding an application for a National Historic Register District. The Board wants it to be quite clear to the voters that approving petitioned Article 13 creates a National Register Historic District. The Board discussed the merits of having a separate article before Articles 13 and 14 specifically for the purpose of approving the creating of a new National Historic Register District, exclusive of the funding issue. There was a question whether such an article is required; this will be investigated. The narrative should also be quite clear that a new district is being created.

Discussion at the Budget Committee hearing was not supportive of Article 13 (to create a National Historic Register District and raise \$15,700 for the applicaton). Meredith Smith, Heritage Commission chairman, appeared to be OK with stretching it out. Perhaps the money raised in the first year could be used to get a matching grant. The Heritage Commission could then come back to the Town for a lesser amount to complete the project.

The Selectmen do not recommend Article 13 (to create a National Historic Register District and raise \$15,700 for the applicaton), recommend Article 14 and recommend Articles 6 through 12.

Articles 15 through 17 offer the Selectmen two options for wording of the article. Amounts can also be adjusted as the Selectmen deem appropriate.

Article 15: Alternative Energy Systems Exemption (Solar): Mr. Payne will defer to Mrs. Stewart and Mr. Crate. Mr. Crate will be contacted by phone for his input before the end of the meeting. Mrs. Stewart is in favor of the first option, which provides \$5,000 for each of three solar alternative energy systems for a maximum exemption of \$15,000.

Article 16: Alternative Energy Systems Exemption (Wind-Powered): Mrs. Stewart is in favor of the first option that exempts the full value of the wind-powered alternative energy system.

Article 17: Alternative Energy Systems Exemption (Woodheating): Mrs. Stewart is in favor of the first option that exempts the full value of the woodheating alternative energy system.

Mrs. Stewart noted that Articles 15 through 17 encourage people to be as self-sufficient as possible and are not only “green” but aid in National Security as they aren’t dependent on public systems.

Article 18: Billing for Ambulance Services: Kim Withrow stated her opposition to this article. The Board discussed whether or not to make a recommendation on this article. Recommendations are only required on monied articles.

Article 19: Multi-Year Agreement for Use of Whitney Hall Auditorium: The narrative should indicate that 400, not 500, people were drawn to downtown Enfield by performances held by Shaker Bridge Theatre. The Board discussed the reason for this article. The Selectmen typically wouldn't enter into a multi-year contract for this purpose, but they are doing it specifically for Bill Coons. The article and narrative will be reworded to specifically enter into an agreement with Shaker Bridge Theatre.

A rental fee of \$100/month is currently being collected. Mr. Schneider said the rental fee included in a multi-year agreement would have to be negotiated.

Mr. Coons has indicated that a multi-year agreement would be to his benefit.

Articles 18 and 19 will be presented in reverse order – the multi-year agreement will come before the ambulance billing.

Article 23: Reports of Boards & Committees, etc.: Mr. Schneider said this might be a good time to talk about the fiber project; not a formal presentation, but simply informational. Mr. Schneider hopes to have the deliverables by Town Meeting.

Mrs. Stewart moved to accept articles 18 through 23 with the order changed as discussed and wording changed in Article 18; Mr. Payne seconded, vote unanimous.

Grafton County Correctional Facility ~ Letter from Paul Mirski:

Mrs. Stewart received a letter from Paul Mirski informing her of Representative Suzanne Laliberte's characterization of the opinion of the Board of Selectmen. Mrs. Stewart spoke to the Commissioners Office and they looked up the minutes. Ms. Laliberte did, in fact, make the statement that the Board of Selectmen was "enthusiastically supportive" of the project. Mrs. Stewart went on to say that this is a misrepresentation of the Board. The Board of Selectmen has taken no position. Ms. Laliberte has no authority to speak on the behalf of the Selectboard and her characterization is to cease forthwith.

Mr. Payne will write a letter to Ms. Laliberte and email it to Mrs. Stewart for her review.

Mrs. Stewart tried to call Ms. Laliberte, but her phone has been busy. Mrs. Stewart is personally offended that Ms. Laliberte chose to speak for her. She also called the newspapers to inform them that they need to contact the Selectmen directly for their opinion.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Administrative Items:

The Board reviewed and approved a Veterans Tax Credit and Timber Tax Levy.

IX. OTHER ITEMS

Mr. Payne called Mr. Crate at this time and placed him on speaker. Mr. Crate was informed of the vehicle accident and reduction in cost of the ambulance.

Article 13: Petitioned Article ~ National Historic Register District: Discussion ensued regarding adding a new article to precede this one. The Board unanimously agreed to add a new Article 13 specifically for the creation of a National Historic Register District that will be placed before the petitioned article. All subsequent articles will be appropriately renumbered.

Article 15: Solar Energy Systems: The Board unanimously approved the first option of this article (as previously discussed).

Article 16: Wind-Powered Energy Systems: The Board unanimously approved the first option of this article that exempts the full value of the system.

Article 17: Woodheating Energy Systems: The Board unanimously approved the first option of this article that exempts the full value of the system.

It was explained to Mr. Crate that Articles 18 and 19 had been swapped. The Board makes no recommendation, either for or against, Article 18. It was also agreed that the article regarding a multi-year agreement with Shaker Bridge Theatre will be specific to this organization.

It was agreed that the Board of Selectmen would take a position on Article 19 – the Board of Selectmen does not recommend this article.

Mrs. Stewart informed Mr. Crate about the letter from Paul Mirski. Mr. Crate agreed that Ms. Laliberte does not speak for the Board of Selectmen.

CONFERENCE

I. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Stewart moved to adjourn at 8:45 PM; Mr. Crate seconded, vote unanimous.