

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

MINUTES of February 19, 2008

Board of Selectmen: Curtis Payne, Chairman; Rebecca S. Stewart; Donald J. Crate, Sr.

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

Others: Kurt Gotthardt; Dr. David Beaufait, Moderator

BUSINESS MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 22, 2008 Regular Session:

Two typographical errors will be corrected on page 3. Mrs. Stewart moved to accept the regular session minutes of January 22, 2008 as corrected; Mr. Crate seconded, vote unanimous.

January 22, 2008 Non-Public Session:

Mrs. Stewart moved to accept the non-public session minutes of January 22, 2008 as printed; Mr. Crate seconded, vote unanimous.

February 5, 2008:

Mrs. Stewart moved to accept the minutes of February 5, 2008 as printed; Mr. Crate seconded, vote unanimous.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

Planning Board Notice of Public Hearing, February 27, 2008:

This is a hearing for Bill Warren's subdivision.

Town Clerk Report ~ January 2008:

Revenues are slightly higher than last year. Mr. Schneider budgeted flat revenues, so even small amounts over last year's revenues are OK.

Tax Collector's Report ~ Potential Deedings as of April 21, 2008:

The list of potential deedings and the amount of past due taxes is similar to that seen in previous years at this time.

Tax Collector's Trial Balance ~ January 2008

IV. BOARD REPORTS

Heritage Commission:

The Heritage Commission meets next on February 28.

Budget Committee:

The Budget Committee Public Budget Hearing was continued to February 12. The Committee received positive news on the price for a new ambulance so the meeting lasted only about 20 minutes. Everything was approved.

V. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

WCNH.net:

There will be a WCNH.net meeting on March 25. The group is working on an inter-municipal agreement. Attorney Ciandella is trying to come up with an agreement that is open and above board. It looks like an agreement will be drafted that can be approved by the Board of Selectmen and will not need to go to Town Meeting. The agreement will include how the program will be governed and paid for so that taxpayers don't have to put up the funds.

Sand/Salt Supplies:

The Town has sand and the Town's sand provider is getting sand for us now. There were just shy of 125 tons delivered last week, some from Portsmouth and the rest from White River Jct. Another 100 will be delivered next week. If the Town can continue to get it out of White River it can be purchased at the State contract price of \$45/ton vs. \$72/ton. International Salt is \$89/ton. This season the Town is spending 50% more on salt and using it at a 50% higher rate due to the weather.

The Selectmen commented that the roads look great. Mr. Schneider agreed. He can't say enough about the Town's road crew. It's been a tough year to find salt. Sand is available.

Discussion continued on the difficulties of acquiring salt. Mr. Schneider has spoken to Ken Daniels about non-salt alternatives should the price of salt becomes too expensive.

Town Truck Accident:

Mrs. Stewart asked how the employee and vehicle are from the accident the previous week. Mr. Daniels reported that they are both fine, except for a small permanent ding in the foil of the plow.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kurt Gotthardt ~ Road Salt:

Mr. Gotthardt admitted that he does not drive a lot of roads around town, but asked if it is possible to look at how much salt the Town is putting down? Perhaps the Town can re-evaluate it's sue of salt and save some money.

Mr. Schneider explained that Dispatch might call the Town at 3:00 AM and say the roads are slippery. The Town is now on notice and must respond.

Mr. Gotthardt asked is the town needs to put down as much tonnage of salt or can we reduce that?

Mr. Daniels explained that the amount of salt applied doesn't speed the melting process. If we went back through purchase records you would see our tonnages don't deviate much. This year, because we had a contract for sand and some remaining supplies from the previous year we had a large quantity on hand. The Department still has to buy more. You would see a huge increase in salt usage, but it corresponds to increased snowfall.

Mr. Payne suggested Mr. Gotthardt meet with Mr. Daniels at Public Works to discuss this.

Mr. Gotthardt doesn't know how much is based on driving patterns or more people using all season tires. Drivers of SUVs sometimes think they can drive faster, but do they then want the roads clear?

Mrs. Stewart asked if there was a policy of "clear & dry". She was informed that is a State policy.

Other Issues:

The Board discussed the condition of Shaker Hill Road.

Mr. Gotthardt expressed curiosity about some of the warrant articles. Would the Board go through them? He was informed they would.

The Public Comments session was closed at 6:25 PM.

VII. OLD BUSINESS**2008 Town Meeting:**

Dr. Beaufait will run the meeting as usual. Ballot voting will be different this year since the Towns will count the School ballots. Dr. Beaufait expects the school will assist with programming, etc. He has had a few meetings with the School already. Major issues that need to be addressed are to be sure the Town has cards from the company that are appropriately programmed at School District expense. The cost of programming is about \$800/card. And the School District Clerk must count the District ballots before the election.

The Board reviewed the warrant to determine who would move and second each article to bring it up for discussion and who would be invited to speak to the article.

Article 13: Creation of a National Historic Register District. Mr. Gotthardt asked if there would be more information. What's the benefit to the Town? Mr. Schneider explained that by

establishing this District a private owner's property can be listed on the National Historic Register, thus allowing them to apply for a tax credit and spur renovation and the subsequent increase in property value. Value before rehabilitation and after rehabilitation shows an increase in value and taxes. It's a long-term program.

Mrs. Stewart noted that it's possible, depending on the properties taking advantage of the District designation that the \$15,700 being requested could be recouped fairly soon.

It was noted that by being listed on the National list of historic places that tourism could increase.

Articles 14 & 15 ask for funding of the application for National Historic Register designation. Article 14 requests full funding while Article 15 proposed by the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee funds it in stages.

Article 16: Solar Alternative Energy Systems Exemption: Mr. Gotthardt asked what was being exempted and was informed that it is explained in more detail in the warrant narrative.

Article 17: Wind-powered Alternative Energy Systems Exemption: Mr. Walker of George Hill has installed a windmill and is expected to attend Town Meeting.

Mr. Payne asked if the recommendations are read at Town Meeting. Dr. Beaufait replied that he reads the article, including the recommendations.

Dr. Beaufait asked if a paper ballot vote is anticipated? Mr. Schneider said he did not expect a paper ballot vote on any article except perhaps the Library. Dr. Beaufait added that a ballot vote is usually on the contentious articles. Mrs. Stewart thought that might include the Ambulance Billing article.

Article 21: Petitioned article ~ Wetlands Standards: Mr. Gotthardt asked if there is going to be something about Article 21 being non-binding since it didn't go through the Planning Board process. Mr. Gotthardt was informed that the narrative quotes the Town Attorney opinion to this effect.

Article 23: Petitioned article ~ Prohibition of elected or appointed officials holding office if they have unpaid property taxes: Mrs. Stewart felt the Town Attorney might want to be prepared to speak to this article. Town Attorney opinion is quoted in the narrative.

Presentations are planned for the beginning of the meeting for all volunteer Board and Committee members that retired from service in 2007.

It was noted that there are several interesting articles to discuss. Mr. Crate thinks Dr. Beaufait may need to limit discussion, unlike last year. Dr. Beaufait did propose this last year but there were a few individuals that were adamant that there be no limits and the body went along with that. Dr. Beaufait can voice concerns about the length of the meeting, but does not want to push it.

This Town Meeting brings quite a variety of issues to the meeting for discussion.

Grafton County Correctional Facility:

Funding was approved for a new jail.

Mr. Crate thought the Selectmen sent a letter to Representative Suzanne Laliberte that stated that she didn't speak for the Board. She was quoted in the paper again.

The vote of the delegates approving the funding for the new correctional facility was discussed.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS**Energy Committee:**

The expiration of terms for Energy Committee members was discussed. Mrs. Stewart suggested they Committee members suggest their preference as to terms.

Meredith Smith expressed interest in serving on this Committee.

Mrs. Stewart moved to appoint Meredith Smith to the Energy Committee; Mr. Payne seconded, vote unanimous.

UVLSRPC Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC):

Terry Terry has resigned from the UVLSRPC TAC. Ken Daniels already serves as a Town representative on the Board of Commissioners and is willing to serve on the TAC.

Mr. Crate moved to appoint Ken Daniels as Enfield's representative on the UVSLRPC Transportation Advisory Committee; Mrs. Stewart seconded, vote unanimous.

Administrative Items:

The Board signed the 2008 Town Meeting Warrant.

IX. OTHER ITEMS

Dr. Beaufait asked if the Sailing Club could submit a proposal to the Board. The Sailing Club will be placed on the next agenda.

Next Meeting ~ Monday, March 3, 2008, 6:00 PM, Whitney Hall Conference Room

CONFERENCE**I. NON-PUBLIC SESSION**

Mrs. Stewart moved to enter non-public session at 7:05 PM, RSA 91-A:3 II (a); Mr. Crate seconded. Roll call vote: Mrs. Stewart – aye, Mr. Crate – aye, Mr. Payne – aye, motion carried.

Mr. Crate moved to come out of non-public session at 7:10 AM; Mrs. Stewart seconded, vote unanimous.

II. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM.