

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

MINUTES of May 5, 2008

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

Administrative Staff: Steven Schneider, Town Manager; Alisa D. Bonnette, Recording Secretary; Ken Daniels, Director of Public Works; Richard Crate Jr., Chief of Police

Others: Fred Paradis, Paul Currier, Dan Kiley

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 regular session minutes of April 21, 2008 as printed; Mr. Crate seconded, vote unanimous

Mr. Crate moved to approve the non-public session minutes of April 21, 2008 as printed; Mr. Kluge seconded, vote unanimous.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

April 23, 2008 Tax Liens ~ Year of Tax Levy: 2007:

There is approximately \$20,000 more in tax liens for 2007 than the previous year, which is not a large amount considering the economy.

IV. BOARD REPORTS

Library Building:

Marjorie Carr and Steve Schneider met with the architect regarding the new library building. They were feeling out styles, heights of bookcases, seating, etc. From Mr. Schneider's perspective the new building has to be as multi-use as possible so it is adaptable for change over time. Another meeting will be held with the Library Committee on May 20, 2008.

A contract for surveying services has been signed with a gentleman in Orange, Cardigan Mountain Surveys. Attempts will be made to use local contractors for the project as much as possible. The expense for the surveying will come from the \$133,000 approved at Town Meeting.

Mr. Schneider has spoken with FairPoint a couple of times over the past couple of weeks. They have our request for use of the property behind the telephone switching station. We will send them a site plan. A lot will depend on the soil borings and the location of the library building.

Planning Board:

Mr. Kluge reported on a spirited discussion at the last Planning Board meeting. Bill Warren relayed plans, most of which will be for private residences. Potential wetlands and steep slopes were discussed. The Planning Board granted approval with some stipulations.

David Kulbacki was there regarding 78 Main Street. He wants to put a private school in at that location. There was a question about continued access to the river, which has not been answered.

George & April Farewell want to add a fourth house to a private drive. There are regulations they have to meet regarding the construction of the driveway.

Heritage Commission:

The Commission is moving forward with documenting the historic district. The woman doing the work will be in on May 7th. The Commission also discussed the feasibility and desirability of utilizing the money approved for the historic register district application for obtaining grants.

The Commission also discussed the Enfield Center Town Hall. The consensus that Mrs. Stewart took away from the meeting is that the Hall would be best used for small meetings and community theater. There is a lack of water, septic and parking that would need to be addressed. Mrs. Stewart noted the need to address the acquisition of Muzzey land; they may have had a change of heart. There was no discussion of eminent domain and Mrs. Stewart does not think it's a viable solution. In the meantime the building is being used for storage.

In the long run, the building should be maintained to prevent deterioration. David Stewart looked at the building and has reported that the windows need glazing. The foundation is good. The roof is tight.

Energy Committee:

The Energy Committee is in the process of reviewing fuel and electricity use for Town buildings and streetlights.

There are so many things to cover that the Committee is working on determining priorities.

A Yahoo group, EnfieldEnergy, has been created. It's not an official Town list and any input by Committee members is strictly personal opinion. It's aimed at opening communication with residents and finding out what they think. There may be occasional informational postings about what the Committee is doing, but no Committee business will take place on the list.

V. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**Human Services:**

The City of Lebanon and the Town of Enfield are exploring alternative staffing and programming options. Currently the two communities share an employee. Both the City Manager and Mr. Schneider feel this service is better run and offered as a regional service. The new program being discussed by the managers would allow Enfield residents to stop in at the Lebanon office for assistance.

A Human Services presence will be maintained in Enfield for Enfield residents, they will simply have the option of going to the Lebanon office. Having the option of going to the Lebanon office may be helpful to Enfield residents that are already in Lebanon working with State and regional resources.

There was also discussion of perhaps having a regional health officer. Together the municipalities can provide a better level of service at lower cost.

Recreation:

The Recreation Commission will be holding "Spring Thing" on May 10th from 12 pm until 2 pm at Huse Park. They'll have an egg hunt which was delayed at Easter due to snow, crafts table, shaker museum crafts, gardening activities, and summer camp registration.

The Lioness Club is also holding a Mothers' Day Tea.

Three interviews have been scheduled for a new Recreation Director.

Ambulance:

The Town took ownership of the new ambulance on April 24th. A side-by-side comparison of the two ambulances showed they are quite different.

Joint Loss Management Committee:

This Committee is meeting every other month and is working with the Local Government Center to offer risk management training, such as defensive driving, and health training at our meetings for the foreseeable future.

Locke Haven Drainage Project:

Mr. Schneider explained the history of the project to Mr. Kluge, who is new to the Board in 2008. The Town wanted to take the water off private property and slow the water down before it reaches Crystal Lake. Unfortunately, the State's response has not been good. Everyone from a field tech, to the Commissioner and Ray Burton have been talked to about the Town's proposed plan and the State still would not comment until an application was submitted. The Town set aside \$20,000 for the project. The State's solution was estimated at a cost of \$130,000 and required a check dam every 100 feet or so before the water gets to the Lake.

The Town will be able to solve half the problem. By knocking out the berm that was originally installed by the Town, the water would no longer drain onto private property. And perhaps the Town can restore the property. This will be a summer project when it's drier. The Town has money from 2007 that was encumbered for this project.

NH Legal Rights Foundation:

The Board was provided with a copy of the letter sent to the NH Legal Rights Foundation in response to Paul Mirksi's request for support at the previous Selectboard meeting.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS**Dan Kiley ~ 911 Addressing:**

Mr. Kiley stated that when 911 addressing was established people were supposed to post their street numbers. He doesn't know if it's an issue to emergency services, but about 35% still haven't done it.

Police Chief Crate stated that 2 or 3 years ago the Rangers went out to document the numbers and letters were sent out rather than charge people.

Mr. Kluge feels some kind of reminder to the community would make sense. Mrs. Stewart said that if individual departments run across a problem we could notify the homeowner.

Fred Paradis ~ Moorings:

Mr. Paradis asked about mooring off Shaker Bridge Landing. Mr. Schneider stated that the Board has been fairly consistent. The Town can't prohibit mooring, but the Board has consistently not wanted to allow people to go back and forth between their mooring and Shaker Bridge Landing.

Mr. Schneider has been approached by someone asking about storing her dinghy to go back and forth. Mr. Schneider explained that Shaker Bridge Landing is not going to be a recreation/picnic space, but simply a boat launch for non-motorized boats. There will be a "no swimming" sign installed. He also asked her to submit her request and concerns in writing.

Discussion ensued regarding alternative locations for mooring boats. Shaker Bridge Landing is shallow for quite a ways out and the Town does not want to allow access to motorized boats.

Mr. Kluge has trouble with sailing craft – private vs. the Enfield Sailing Club. He doesn't want to establish an elitist organization.

Chief Crate stated that by law they could moor there. The Town can regulate who has access from Shaker Bridge Landing. Quite a few Sailing Club members are non-residents. The Police Department can enforce open container laws on the lake. His concern is having boat parties.

Mr. Crate was approached about the Mascoma Lake Boat Launch and the possibility of grading it. Mr. Daniels acknowledged that it's in dire need of a skim coat and Hard Pak. Mr. Daniels also discussed the handicapped spaces that need to be paved, striped and signed to be enforceable. The Shaker Bridge project is supposed to include improvements to the boat launch.

Mrs. Stewart called for further public comments, being none; Mrs. Stewart closed the meeting to public comments.

VII. OLD BUSINESS**WCNH.net:**

The WCNH.net meeting was moved to Wednesday and Mr. Schneider was unable to attend due to a previous obligation. He will have more to report at the next Selectboard meeting.

Whitney Hall Windows:

Mr. Schneider spoke with Dave Guay about the windows. Mr. Guay provided a quote of about \$2,000 for Lexan, a polycarbonate product. There may be some money in the Whitney Hall Renovations Capital Reserve Fund to cover this expense. There is already Plexiglas covering the windows. The Lexan will not cloud as quickly as it has UV protection. Mr. Schneider offered to contact other glass people, but Mr. Crate would prefer to keep the business in Town. Mr. Crate did note that \$2,000 is a lot when there's already something covering the windows.

Mr. Schneider will provide the balance of the capital reserve fund and Whitney Hall maintenance budget at the next meeting.

Class VI Road Weight Limits:

The Conservation Commission met and discussed Mud Pond Road. Only one landowner would have an issue if the Town gated the road. The Commission pointed out that there are 2 designated prime wetlands being impacted by the degradation of Mud Pond Road. The Commission would like to restrict recreational vehicles and repair degradation that's impacting the wetland.

The Town can set weight limits, but cannot lock gates. Weight limits can be set that allow snowmobiles and limit big trucks.

Paul Currier reported that residents at the ends of Mud Pond Road and Canaan Road have had people knocking on their doors in the wee hours seeking help because of a vehicle that has gotten stuck.

The snowmobile club was committed to doing those things that the Conservation Commission wants to do, such as ditching. This could help preserve the road. Posting it is an easy thing to do. The Board was provided a map with the suggested location of the posting on each end. The section of road could be posted from April 15 – November 15 at 600 lbs. and then November 15 – April 15 at a higher weight limit, but they don't always pay attention to the signs.

Discussion ensued regarding the best way to identify individuals that disregard the postings. A gate could be put in, though not locked. The gate also cannot be made so narrow that it restricts access. The need to open the gate may have them pause long enough to read the weight limit postings.

Mr. Crate moved to set a new weight limit on Mud Pond and Canaan Roads set at 1000 lbs. From April 1 to December 1; Mr. Kluge seconded, vote unanimous.

Mr. Kluge stated that if there will be a weight limit set on the road, gates would be needed as well. Mrs. Stewart and Mr. Crate voiced no objections. Mr. Schneider will look at where the

gates could be located. Mr. Currier said the snowmobile club would buy one gate for each end, but only one gate. If the gate is damaged the repair or replacement would be the responsibility of the Town.

Mr. Schneider expressed his appreciation to the Conservation Commission for doing the research on this issue.

NH Route 4A Paving:

Ken Daniels and Steve Schneider attended a preconstruction meeting at the NHDOT District 2 office. The Selectmen were provided with a schedule for the work. Mr. Schneider and Mr. Daniels requested 2 message boards, one on each end, to alert drivers. There are two manhole covers that need to be lowered, then raised back up during the course of the project. The Town will contract this work out. Mr. Schneider recommended funding the work from Sewer reserves. Mr. Kluge agreed that this makes sense. Mr. Crate added that the Public Works Department has too many other projects to spend time on this one. Mrs. Stewart noted that the cost for contracting the work is minimal.

The NH Route 4A paving project should be completed the first or second week of June.

Of the \$220,000 cost of the project, \$8,000 is Town expense.

The Board discussed the public hearing held previously. The project as originally proposed by the State was too expensive so the scope of work was reduced.

Tax Deedings:

Letters were sent out to the three property owners whose properties were up for deeding: King, Penyak and Morgan. Mr. King is making payments and has only a small balance remaining. The Selectmen were in agreement not to take this property.

No response to notices has been received from the other two property owners. Deeds have been prepared. One is for a 5-acre parcel of vacant land on Ibey Road and the other for a condo off Anderson Hill Road. Certified notices sent by the Tax Collector have been signed for, so notice of deeding was received by the property owners. One of the property owners had the notice delivered by hand. The Town will likely hold onto the land for another three years before disposing of the property. The Town will not hold onto the condo.

Mr. Crate moved to take the Penyak and Morgan properties for non-payment of taxes; Mr. Kluge seconded, vote unanimous.

Stop Sign:

The four-way stop sign at the intersection of Shaker Hill, High and Main Streets is scheduled for installation on May 19th. There has been some discussion around Town about this issue. The Town hasn't had a four-way stop. Comments have been heard both for and against a four-way stop.

Mr. Crate expressed strong opposition to a four-way stop. Mrs. Stewart expressed support for a four-way stop due to hampered visibility. Mr. Kluge acknowledged arguments both for and against a four-way stop. Mr. Kluge is not a fan of four-way stops, but could go either way with

the decision. He is hesitant to lock the Town into a four-way stop and there is no guarantee that the State will remove the four-way stop if the Town finds it is not working and requests removal.

Police Chief Crate considers it a safety issue. Past Boards of Selectmen, as well as the local Highway Safety Committee, have discussed this issue.

Mr. Daniels pointed out that a four-way stop at this intersection would inhibit a right hand turn by large trucks from Shaker Hill Road that need to cross the yellow center line of Main Street to make the turn.

The Board considered, on a trial basis, trying High Street as a one-way street going up the hill. No decision would be made on this without first meeting with residents of High Street.

The issue of speed and how it affects the safety of the intersection was discussed.

Mr. Crate moved that a four-way stop not be installed at the Shaker Hill, High and Main Street intersection; Mr. Kluge seconded. Mr. Crate and Mr. Kluge in favor, Mrs. Stewart opposed, motion carried.

Mr. Schneider will contact the State to relay that the Board's feeling on the four-way stop. Mr. Schneider will share the public's discussion and, at Mr. Kluge's request, will add that the Board was somewhat split on the issue as well.

Library:

No report.

Cable TV:

Mr. Schneider met last week with Comcast about putting in a station at the Public Works building and installing fiber. They're reading to put in an Enfield station. They will block on other station, Hanover or Lebanon, from public access to Enfield residents. Mr. Schneider explained the Town's ability to develop its own public access station.

The Board discussed the purpose of the station. Mr. Kluge noted that this would be for recording meeting and community events.

Mrs. Stewart reiterated her consistent position that she has a problem having a dedicated Enfield channel. We're singing to the choir. If we went with CATV we'd have a wider audience. It is Mrs. Stewart's feeling that the purpose of the channel is to reach out and bring people into the community for economic development.

Mr. Schneider stated that CATV felt confident they could get Enfield broadcasting information out there. There is, however, value to having a dedicated space so the Town isn't subject to others' decisions about when we will air our broadcasts.

Curtis Payne and his group still need to come to the Board to discuss governance of the public access station. About \$25,000 per year in revenues from Comcast to this group is possible. Mr. Schneider does not want this to be a Town department. The Town would need to contract with this group. Mr. Payne and his group will be before the Board at their next meeting so the

Selectmen can put the question to this group as to what they'll provide for us vs. what CATV can provide.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Administrative Items:

Mrs. Stewart moved to accept the religious, educational and charitable exemptions as presented; Mr. Kluge seconded, vote unanimous.

The Board signed an Energy Committee appointment previously voted.

IX. OTHER ITEMS

No other items.

CONFERENCE

I. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Stewart moved to adjourn at 8:20 PM; Mr. Kluge seconded, vote unanimous.