

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

MINUTES of October 20, 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

Others: Richard A. Crate, Jr., Police Chief, Dr. David Beaufait, Moderator

BUSINESS MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Stewart called the meeting to order at 6:01pm.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Kluge move to accept the minutes of October 6, 2008 as printed; Mr. Crate seconded, vote unanimous.

The Board signed the corrected minutes of September 2, 2008 as approved October 6, 2008.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

Trustee of Trust Funds 3rd Quarter Report:

Mr. Schneider attended the last meeting of the Trustees of Trust Funds. They spoke a little about investments and the current situations with banks. The NH Public Deposit Investment Pool (NHPDIP), which holds a portion of Enfield's funds, invests worldwide. Some municipalities are pulling money from the NHPDIP and putting their funds into smaller local banks. The liquidity of small local banks is high.

John Carr, Trustee of Trust Funds, is as knowledgeable a person in finance as you can find. Even though Enfield funds are in play, they feel the Town's money is safe.

The yield is expected to come in around 2% by the end of the year and in 2009. Interest income has dropped considerably from previous years.

DES Emergency Authorization Verification ~ Map 18, Lot 49, beach & retaining wall repair

DES correspondence ~ Map 10, Lots 8 & 8-1, possible violation of Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act

IV. BOARD REPORTS

Planning Board:

Three public hearings were held at the last Planning Board, all of which passed unanimously.

Heritage Commission:

The Heritage Commission is scheduled to meet on Thursday, October 23, 2008.

Library Building Committee:

The Library building is fairly engineered now. Some systems still have work to be done, such as geothermal. The Library Building Committee won't meet for a while.

Phil Cronenwett came in to discuss fundraising plans. They fundraisers are still going after foundations and grants this year. A fundraising sign will be posted at the back of the site.

V. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

WCNH.net:

A meeting will be held in New London on November 6, 2008 for Boards of the eight towns involved in WCNH.net. The time will be announced. It will be a mid-evening meeting to update the Boards on the status of the project. An inter-municipal agreement (IMA) needs to be approved at Town Meeting. They have the financials, which will also be discussed.

Enfield Fuel Assistance Fund:

Mr. Schneider released a press release today regarding the Enfield Fuel Assistance Fund. An account has been set up and Diane Heed, Human Services Director, will receive donations. Bob Cusick will put out collection cans. Mr. Cusick may also write a letter to the editor.

A regional fuel assistance program is also still in place.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments. Mrs. Stewart closed the meeting to public comments at 6:18 PM.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Strategic Planning:

Tabled until conclusion of other business before the Board. Following completion of administrative items at 6:45 PM, the Selectmen began the Strategic Planning discussion.

Weltanschauug = World View

The Board reviewed what had taken place at the last meeting, including discussion of growth, traffic, Main Street, commercial development and population change.

Population change

- Growth of community, both good & bad
- Change in demographics split between native residents and new residents
- Differences in socio-economic background
- Different ideas for town growth and services
- Aging of population – no increase in school age children
- Affordable living. Will younger crowd get priced out?
- Income levels
- Fewer seasonal residences

How big do we think we'll get in 10, 20 & 30 years? The latest census shows Enfield's population leveling off.

There won't be a lot of expansion until the water & sewer systems are extended. A build out study estimates a population of 8,000. Building is now taking place in areas that years ago would not have been expected.

Main Street

- Season's Restaurant and Catering is permanently closed

Tourism

- Shaker Museum – proactive, paid taxes, targeted tourism promotions
- Tourism – not a major factor in Enfield, already missed the wave
- No facilities
- Whaleback – summer concerts
- Route 4 – east/west route
- Regional draws
- Montcalm – private golf course
- Rail Trail
- Day trip
- Hiking
- Low cost activities
- Local tourism

Economic Development

- Jobs
- Promotion – partnering with private landowners, marketing (see Commercial Development)
- Identity
- Increase non-residential tax base
- TIF & 79E development tools
- Services – water & sewer

- No chamber of commerce. How do other towns attract business?
- Retain existing business
- Connection between business and locals – act as facilitator

Election Issue Follow-Up:

The Board received, by email, the opinion of the Local Government Center legal services office regarding the posting of election signs on Town property. The opinion expressed is that the Moderator has control over access to the polling place. The limit as to where control begins and ends is unclear and is left open to interpretation. The Board of Selectmen has authority to pass a resolution or vote to control political signs on Town property.

Dr. Beaufait spoke to Jim Kennedy of the Attorney General's Office and they're being fairly hard line about their interpretation. The Attorney General's Office will send a letter to all moderators shortly. Mr. Kennedy was quite definitive that he thought the RSA specified that political signs are not allowed on public property.

Mrs. Stewart contends that is not how the RSA reads. It says the owner has to give permission and the Selectmen act as owners for the Town, so the decision is theirs.

Dr. Beaufait replied that Mr. Kennedy's position is that a local decision of the Board does not override State law. Mr. Kennedy did add that it could be challenged. Dr. Beaufait stated that by his oath of office he is bound to abide by State law. The opinion he received was from the highest official of the judicial system.

Mr. Kluge thinks the Selectmen have to challenge the Attorney General rather than challenge the Town Moderator. It did seem that hand held signs and signs on vehicles are not a problem, just those planted in the ground.

Dr. Beaufait discussed the entry and egress for the polling place, as well as the location of handicapped parking. The ordinance that limits how much time a car can be parked in the lot on Election Day will be enforced.

Mrs. Stewart expressed her views regarding the RSA in question and is adamant that the RSA gives the Board of Selectmen as agent for the Town to regulate the placement of political signs on Town property. She relayed her conversation with the County Attorney, who explained the reason for the adoption of the RSA, which related to the posting of political signs on utility poles.

Chief Crate added that the County Attorney disagrees with the interpretation of the Attorney General.

Mrs. Stewart stated that this is an overstepping and overreaching of the State into the Town's authority. If the Selectboard doesn't protect the Town's are of authority the State is more than willing to over run it. The number of signs is not the issue. It is not an issue of safety. The first line of the RSA says "property owner" and the Board of Selectmen acts as agent for the Town.

Mr. Crate suggested this issue be tabled until the Board gets an opinion.

Dr. Beaufait will share the Attorney General's opinion when he receives it.

The Police Department takes the direction of the Moderator at elections; therefore Chief Crate would like to get this issue cleared up before November 4th.

Mr. Kluge pointed out that the discussion isn't about free speech; it's about holding a sign or sticking it in the ground. Even though Mr. Kluge agrees with Mrs. Stewart he feels it is time to move on to other business.

Mr. Crate said the Board should wait to hear from the Attorney General and if the Board does not hear anything then the Board can make a decision.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Street Light Request – Bud Mil Road:

Mr. Schneider received a request from Ilene Reed for a streetlight on Bud Mil Road in front of her driveway. There is a streetlight next door.

Mrs. Stewart asked how many feet it is to the next streetlight.

Mr. Crate asked if there is a pole that would be a bit beyond on the opposite side.

Mr. Schneider replied that he could obtain more information for the Board.

Mrs. Stewart asked if there was a particular reason for the request. Is there a problem with security? She suggested that Mrs. Reed install a lamppost on the corner of her driveway.

Mr. Kluge said if money needs to be saved, it needs to be saved.

The Board agreed to check this request out further.

Property Sale:

Two pieces of property are being advertised for sale. Copies of the advertisement were distributed to the Selectmen. Sealed bids are due in the office on Monday, November 3, 2008 so they will be available for the next meeting of the Board. There was not enough time to do an auction.

Mrs. Stewart asked if the Town still had the title insurance issue. Mr. Schneider informed the Board that it would be a problem for anyone that wants to develop the property. In another 4 years or so the title will be clear. That is still an issue, so Mr. Schneider does not expect it to go for \$87,000 this time.

The other property for sale is located on Ibey Road. There are not issues with that one. The property is located at the end of Ibey Road at the Town line and can't be subdivided.

Mr. Kluge inquired about the condo taken by the Town. Mr. Schneider replied that he, the Police Chief and Building Inspector went to her door. She came up with \$12,000 of the amount

she owed. The Town has not received the last \$800, but still holds title on the property. If the last \$800 is not paid, Mr. Schneider will send out the Police Chief and Building Inspector again.

Public Hearing Date for Expenditure of Whitney Hall Renovation Capital Reserve Funds:

The work on Whitney Hall is almost completed. There is still some painting and window work to be done.

Mrs. Stewart pointed out that when the painters puttied the windows they didn't put the putty in the right place.

Mr. Kluge and Mr. Schneider have both received compliments on the color choice for the building. The detail of the building is more visible now.

Administrative Items:

The Board reviewed and approved the following documents: Warrant for General Presidential Election, MS-1 Statement of Valuation, Land Use Change Tax Warrants.

The Board received a copy of the 2007 audit both electronically and in written form. There was more revenue and fewer expenditures than expected.

The biggest issue the auditors' had was with the water and sewer funds. The Water and Sewer Departments saw a change in personnel, a change in billing vendors, a change in how the bills were calculated, and the numbers between the two billing systems didn't meet. There is a year, plus, now so those issues shouldn't be a problem again. The problem was not that the numbers were incorrect, but that the Town was not able to provide the auditors with the backup paperwork to support the results.

There are some other things the auditors recommend, including hiring or training someone to act as an internal auditor, and to tighten up some procedures and policies.

The Town used a new auditor for 2007 and they were able to take a fresh look at things.

Mr. Schneider feels the staff does a fine job. The auditors recognize that the Town doesn't necessarily have the means to do everything they recommend, such as hire a CPA to audit the Town's books 3 or 4 times a year.

IX. OTHER ITEMS

Next Meeting:

November 3, 2008, Whitney Hall Conference Room, 23 Main Street

Mr. Crate spoke to Jim Taylor regarding storage of items on the Bill property on Sargent Street that are advertised for sale on eBay. The items include a snowplow, and old car with a blown motor that is not registered, 2 trailers, and more. There are also items that appeared at the Shaker Bridge property. It appears that Peter Bill is skirting the line of what's allowed and not allowed in used equipment sales.

In the case of the Sargent Street property, Francis Bill, as property owner, is responsible even if the items belong to Peter Bill.

Mr. Crate reported that the water level of George Pond is getting high and asked if anyone could pull planks on the George Pond dam. Mr. Schneider will pass the word along.

The Selectmen moved on to discuss Strategic Planning at 6:45 PM..

CONFERENCE

I. NON-PUBLIC SESSION

Mrs. Stewart moved to enter non-public session at 7:47 PM, RSA 91-A:3 II (a) & (e); Mr. Kluge seconded. Roll call vote: Mrs. Stewart – aye, Mr. Kluge – aye, Mr. Crate – aye. Motion carried.

Mr. Kluge moved to come out of non-public session at 8:15 PM, Mr. Crate seconded, vote unanimous.

II. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Kluge moved to adjourn at 8:15 PM, Mr. Crate seconded, vote unanimous.