

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

MINUTES of February 6, 2007

Board of Selectmen: Nancy Scovner, Chairman; Curtis Payne; Dominic Albanese

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

Others: Mike Dudley, Rebecca Stewart, Dan Kiley; Celie Aufiero, Joe Cote, Connecticut Valley Spectator

BUSINESS MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Scovner called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Albanese moved to approve the minutes of January 22, 2007 as written; Mrs. Scovner seconded, vote unanimous.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

Planning Board Report ~ January 2007

IV. BOARD REPORTS

No reports.

V. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Schneider stated that part of tonight's Town Manager's report is to address the dredge and fill permit for the Public Works site. One of the conditions of the permit is to cover the fuel tanks out front. What kind of cover is required must be determined. If it's just a roof, then some materials are already on hand. Trusses from the old Huse Park pavilion building can be reused for this purpose. There is also the question of paving the entryway.

Ken Daniels addressed the issue the paving issue. The dredge & fill permit does require the Town to minimize impervious surfaces by using gravel surfaces. The original plans from the proposal need to be reviewed to determine what was proposed as paved at the time of the application. Mr. Daniels believes the area immediately around the building and the entryway were proposed as paved, with all other surfaces remaining as gravel, but this must be confirmed.

Celie Aufiero provided the Board with a copy of the dredge and fill application, but pointed out that the site-specific plan is more detailed. She did not have that plan available. She remembers a meeting with the Dept. of Environmental Services and the Town Manager at the time of the application and recalls that some compromises were made. Before paving the entryway, Ms. Aufiero would like to look at the conditions of the permit, see what has been completed and what has not. She pointed out that there's a lot of silt going into the wetland on the opposite side of Lockhaven Road. She also pointed out the need to prevent automotive fluids from washing into the wetland.

It was agreed that the Town does not want to go against the spirit of the permit. Mr. Schneider will meet with Ms. Aufiero and Mr. Daniels to review the permits in greater detail and prepare a plan for the Selectmen's review.

The Board discussed the wetland that was delineated at the time the McConnell well was installed. This wetland was a mitigation area for the road that was to be installed for access to the McConnell well. The road was not constructed and the well is only accessible when the ground is frozen. Mr. Daniels has been told that the work done at the McConnell well, creating a drumlin, has actually improved the wildlife habitat by providing a nesting area for birds.

Due to the fact that the road was not constructed, Mr. Daniels hopes to work with the Dept. of Environmental Services to have the upland areas removed from the Lockhaven wetland area. This will simplify the relocation of the stump dump to this site.

Ms. Aufiero pointed out that the wetlands in the Lockhaven area part of a large wildlife corridor and protection is needed. Mr. Daniels assured her that he does not want to impact the wetlands, but only to have the highland area removed from the mitigation area.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Rebecca Stewart:

Mrs. Stewart voiced her objections to derogatory statements Nancy Scovner made about the Town's Budget Committee at the beginning of the meeting, i.e. that the Budget Committee was duplicitous. She also asked that is be part of the minutes.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Town Meeting/Warrant:

Articles 1 through 10 are ballot articles and were not addressed at this meeting. (Article numbers are subject to change following actions of the Board of Selectmen.)

Article 11 – Whitney Hall Construction/Renovation: Mr. Schneider explained that the numbers in the article are now more specific. The use of Tax Increment Finance (TIF) funds was removed. After speaking with Jim Taylor it was determined that a committee would have been needed. And while TIF funds could have been used for the parking lot, a specific amount that would be used should be included.

The Article states the total gross funding amount that is currently \$4,365,281, followed by detailed funding sources.

Article 12 – Operating Budget: The Board of Selectmen discussed the funding of regional organizations. The Board agreed to increase Advance Transit to \$4,102, Headrest to \$5,000 and Acorn to \$1,000. The Budget Committee’s funding of these three organizations will be \$3,090 for Advance Transit, \$3,090 for Headrest and \$0 for Acorn.

Mrs. Scovner moved to approve Article 12 with the addition of the increases for the regional organizations; Mr. Payne seconded, vote unanimous.

The budget recommended by the Board of Selectmen will be noted within Article 12, but it’s the Budget Committee’s budget that is voted upon.

Mrs. Scovner moved to not recommend the Article 12, Mr. Albanese seconded; vote unanimous.

Article 13 – Lease of Town Office Space: Mr. Albanese explained the reason for this article is to provide the people with Plan B and because the Selectmen want to get the Town Office staff out of the Whitney Hall building. Mr. Schneider explained that the mold at Whitney Hall is not harmful at its current levels, but inclusion of the article allows discussion of alternative housing. There is value in having that discussion. The Town Office space in Whitney Hall is damp, smelly and, if we experience another wet summer, we may have water issues like we did in 2006. The current Town Office space is livable, habitable, but not ideal.

The merits of Article 13 were discussed. There was concern expressed that leasing space may not make the best financial sense. Mr. Albanese also does not want to lock the future Board of Selectmen or Library Trustees into anything. Mr. Payne responded that Article 13 simply allows the Selectmen to expend the money, but the Board does not have to do it. Mr. Schneider hopes that after discussion there will be some direction provided from Town Meeting.

In response to a comment by Mr. Albanese, Mr. Schneider responded that the figure in Article 13 is not based on temporary trailers, but on a less expensive alternative. There’s space in town that would cost less than trailers.

The Board agreed to delete the word “temporary” from the article. Mr. Albanese moved to place Article 13 on the warrant as amended, Mrs. Scovner seconded, vote unanimous.

Mr. Albanese moved to recommend Article 13, Mrs. Scovner seconded; vote unanimous.

Petitioned Warrant Articles – 78 Main Street: The Board received and accepted two petitioned warrant articles; one for the renovation of 78 Main Street for Town Offices and the second authorizing the negotiation of the purchase of 78 Main Street.

Mr. Albanese explained that Bob Cusick was the driving force behind these petitioned articles because he was not in favor of the idea of temporary office trailers. The Budget Committee has to vote to recommend or not recommend these articles. The cost of the two articles combined is \$790,000. The Board is not sure the numbers in the article are realistic cost figures, as they have not received a presentation of the proposals. If Article 11 passes these articles are moot.

Article 15 – Ambulance Billing: Mrs. Scovner had been under the impression that this article was advisory. She is not in favor of the article as written. Mrs. Scovner moved not to place Article 15 on the warrant, Mr. Payne seconded. Mrs. Scovner and Mr. Payne in favor, Mr. Albanese opposed, motion carried.

Articles 16 and 17: These articles relative to appointment of a capital improvement program committee and discontinuance of mailing of the Taxpayers List of Properties & Assessments, respectively, were not discussed.

Article 18 – Modification of the Optional Veterans’ Tax Credit: This article has been reworded in accordance with State statute. Mr. Albanese moved to place Article 18 on the warrant, Mrs. Scovner seconded, vote unanimous. Mr. Albanese moved to recommend Article 18, Mrs. Scovner seconded; vote unanimous.

Article 19 – Adoption of Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive: Discussion ensued regarding what this means to the Town. The Tax Relief Incentive Program, pursuant to RSA 79-E, is for a specific geographic area, the village area. Any proposed renovations must meet certain criteria for public benefit. It is not intended for homeowners doing home improvements, as this would not be considered a public benefit. A public hearing must also be held before abatement of taxes can be awarded. An explanation of this article and RSA 79-E will be included in the Warrant Narrative. The Board agreed to leave Article 19 on the warrant.

Article 20 – Payments to Existing Capital Reserve Funds: Mr. Albanese moved to recommend Article 20, Mrs. Scovner seconded, vote unanimous.

Article 21 – Establishment of a Sand/Salt Facility Capital Reserve Fund: Mrs. Scovner moved to recommend Article 21, Mr. Payne seconded, vote unanimous.

Article 22 – Transfer of Funds to Cemetery Maintenance Fund: Mr. Albanese moved to recommend Article 22, Mr. Payne seconded, vote unanimous.

Article 23 – Petitioned Article – West Central Behavioral Health: Article 23 is a petitioned warrant article to raise and appropriate \$5,280 for the support of West Central Behavioral Health; this amount is the same as the original requested amount that was not supported by the Budget Committee. Mrs. Scovner moved to recommend Article 23, Mr. Payne seconded; vote unanimous.

Article 24 – Petitioned Article – Climate Change: This article will appear on the warrant as presented.

Petitioned Articles – 78 Main Street:

The Board of Selectmen will decide at a later time whether to recommend or not recommend the petitioned articles relative to 78 Main Street renovation and purchase.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Water/Sewer Rates:

At the Selectmen’s last meeting Ken Daniels provided handouts to the Board relative to formulas for setting water and sewer rates. Previous calculations started at zero and rates were developed from there. Using this method the bills of the smallest users would have quadrupled and the biggest users would break even or get a kick back. Rather than start at zero Mr. Daniels proposes creating a benchmark so the users with the highest consumption pay the greater share. Mr. Daniels will analyze historic data to determine what the benchmark should be.

Mr. Albanese finds it commendable that, as long as he's been on the Board of Selectmen, Ken Daniels has been trying to change the way things have always been done to those that use the most pay the most, such as with the Pay As You Throw program.

Administrative Items:

The Board reviewed and approved property tax abatement applications.

IX. OTHER ITEMS

Petitioned Warrant Article – Wetlands:

Ms. Aufiero was reading the minutes of the last Selectmen's meeting and requested clarification on the petitioned warrant articles presented by George Seiler. Ms. Aufiero explained that the wetlands evaluation prepared by Ray Lodbell for the Town included site visits. She stated that you could not identify every inch of a wetland unless you have someone come and delineate it. Ken Daniels has aerial photos that might help, but you still have to look at the wetland. There are more wetlands than are represented in the report that George Seiler proposes the Town use. Projects still have to go to the State if they may be in a wetland.

CONFERENCE

I. NON-PUBLIC SESSION

Mrs. Scovner moved to enter non-public session at 6:30 PM, RSA 91-A:3 II (e), Mr. Albanese seconded. Roll call vote: Mrs. Scovner – aye, Mr. Albanese – aye, Mr. Payne – aye.

Mrs. Scovner moved to come out of non-public session at 6:32 PM, Mr. Albanese seconded; vote unanimous.

II. RECESS

At 6:34 PM, Mrs. Scovner moved to recess until after the Town Facility Committee meeting, Mr. Payne seconded, vote unanimous.

The meeting was reconvened at 7:54 PM.

III. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Albanese moved to adjourn at 7:55 PM, Mr. Payne seconded; vote unanimous.