

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

MINUTES of February 20, 2007

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

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

Others: Rebecca Stewart, Dank Kiley, Joe Cote, Connecticut Valley Spectator

BUSINESS MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Scovner called the meeting to order at 5:07 pm.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Albanese moved to accept the regular session minutes of February 6, 2007 as printed; Mrs. Scovner seconded, vote unanimous.

Rebecca Stewart believes there were some omissions from the minutes. Mrs. Scovner asked her to wait until public forum to speak.

Mr. Albanese moved to accept the non-public session minutes of February 6, 2007 as printed; Mr. Payne seconded, vote unanimous.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

Community Development Director Report ~ Laramie Farms Subdivision Update:

Mrs. Scovner reported that they're looking for 144 townhouse units, 6 buildings of 24 units each. Dan Kiley explained that they have to go back through the entire approval process from the beginning. The new project has been designed with an entrance on US Route 4 versus Maple Street. Mr. Daniels explained that there are issues with a commercial drive across the street, having things line up and the possible need for a turn lane.

IV. BOARD REPORTS

There were no Board reports.

V. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Schneider announced that the Police Department report would be delayed until the next meeting as the Chief of Police is on vacation.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Rebecca Stewart ~ Selectmen's Minutes of February 6, 2007:

Mrs. Stewart would like to bring to the Board's attention that there were comments made by the Board that were not included in the minutes, specifically during public comments. The word "arrogant" was left off. Mrs. Stewart believes that Mrs. Scovner's comment that the comments were for the record was also omitted, as were comments about the Budget Committee.

Mr. Albanese invited Mrs. Stewart to email her comments and they can be added as an addendum to the minutes as her comments.

Rebecca Stewart ~ Whitney Hall Expansion Plan:

Mrs. Stewart read the following statement to the Board:

TO: The Enfield Board of Selectmen & Facilities Committee

RE: February 16, 2007 Public Budget Hearing

SUBJECT: Warrant Article 11

I would like to express my disappointment & dissatisfaction with the lack of information presented in association with Warrant Article 11 for the Whitney Hall Expansion Plan at the Feb. 16th Public Budget Hearing.

The public has been told repeatedly by the Board of Selectmen and Facilities Committee that there will be "plenty of opportunities" and "more than enough time" to review this project prior to the vote at the Annual Town Meeting. The Public Budget Hearing was for the benefit of the PUBLIC, as well as the official vote by the Budget Committee to recommend (or not) this Article. It was incumbent upon those recommending this Article, to come to the hearing prepared to disclose the proposed floor plan & details of the estimated cost to the PUBLIC. Providing information to the Budget Committee during their previous meetings was not sufficient. Given that the previous information was changed, you had an even larger responsibility to bring us up to date. Waiting to disclose these details at the Bond Hearing on February 21st, and/or at the Annual Town Meeting on March 17th, is not in keeping with the spirit of "transparency" we keep hearing about.

Your failure to present current (albeit fluctuating) information to back up your request for \$2,400,000.00 of the public's TAX dollars, only heightened my concerns about this project.

Respectfully,
Rebecca Stewart
394 George Hill Rd.

Mrs. Stewart noted that the Board of Selectmen, at the February 6th meeting, referred to options for relocating the Town Offices. The Board stated that they were not ready to talk in public about it. Where have discussions taken place and when?

Mr. Albanese does not think there's anything to talk about.

David Stewart asked if the Board said they've not talked about it.

It was explained that the Board members had not discussed the issue at another place. The Town Manager has done the work.

Bob Cusick inquired about the cost sheet from the last meeting and if it was the same cost sheet distributed at the Public Budget Hearing of February 16th.

Discussion ensued as to which document was the most current. The Board offered to email the correct figures to Bob Cusick and to post the information on the Town's website. Mr. Schneider stated that the general cost figures would be available at the public hearing on the bond the following evening. Discussion followed regarding the detail into which the board will go regarding estimated costs.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Whitney Hall Project:

The Board reviewed a proposed PowerPoint presentation for the bond hearing to be held on February 21st. Some graphics will be added to the presentation that did not appear in the draft. The architects cost sheet is included.

Mr. Albanese asked that the high 5 or 6 levels of costs be included. Mr. Payne is OK with either approach. Mrs. Scovner was concerned about too much detail. A middle of the road approach will be put together for the presentation.

Mr. Albanese asked that the slide that shows current debt also include the dates these debts will be paid off.

Mr. Albanese asked Mr. Schneider to check with the Town's auditor at the NH Dept. of Revenue regarding the undesignated fund balance, the balance of which Mr. Albanese thought was high.

Discussion ensued regarding the source of funding information. Which financial institutions were contacted will not be publicized, as the information was not firm quotes, only estimates.

Mr. Albanese thought the presentation was well done: simple, straightforward and not confusing. He suggested that a slide might be added stating what's been done and how much has been spent.

Mr. Kiley pointed out that construction does not begin in the fall of 2007, but when the Town has raised the first \$1 million of the fundraising.

Bob Cusick asked that presentation include a breakdown the renovation costs for the old building vs. the construction of the new building.

Mrs. Stewart asked about the cost for the phone company portion. She was informed that the estimate was \$50,000.

Mrs. Stewart asked if there was a firm commitment on the land from Verizon. Mr. Schneider stated that he has spoken to Verizon. Upon inquiry she was informed that he spoke with Verizon in 2006. Verizon felt comfortable with not land not being theirs any more. They felt the phone building was sufficient until Enfield triples in size. Bob Cusick pointed out that was Verizon and it isn't Verizon any more. Mrs. Stewart stated that Verizon couldn't enter into any new contracts until the purchase of the company is done. Mr. Albanese stated that the Town has been led to believe they would part with the land, and there are other ways.

Mr. Schneider stated that the auditorium has been estimated as a separate mini-project. He believes the costs were as high as they were because the projects were all estimated as individual projects.

Mrs. Stewart asked the Board to speak to cost associated with moving books. She was informed that \$30,000 was budgeted for moving books. Francine Lozeau suggested a volunteer effort, but there are liability issues to consider. The books need to be moved twice, once to the new edition and once back to the old.

Town Meeting / Warrant:

The Board reviewed the 2007 warrant and how the Town Meeting warrant articles will be presented.

Article 15 regarding the lease of Town Office space will be moot if Article 11 (Whitney Hall Addition & Renovation) passes.

Meredith Smith will be asked to speak to Article 16 regarding the formation of a Historic District Commission.

Mr. Schneider emailed Dwight Marchetti to inform him that Article 18 (to discontinue mailing the Taxpayers List of Properties & Assessments) was on the warrant.

Sharon Carr will be asked to be ready to speak to Article 20 regarding the adoption of RSA 79-E, Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive.

Ron Michaud or Jennifer Petersson may wish to address Article 24 (support for West Central Behavioral Health). The Board discussed whether petitioned warrant articles can be amended on Town Meeting floor. It was also questioned how budgeting works since the Budget Committee has approved \$1,030 in the operating budget for West Central Behavioral Health, but does not recommend the warrant article for \$5,280. This will be investigated.

If the lead petitioner can be determined they will be offered the opportunity to speak to this article.

Mr. Beaufait asked if there were any individuals that have retired and if they will be acknowledged. This would be done at the beginning of the meeting.

Mr. Albanese noted that Article 15 was included on the warrant because of pressure for an alternative. This article was fashioned before the 78 Main Street petitioned articles were submitted. Mr. Albanese believes it remains on the warrant to allow discussion of alternatives if Articles 11, 13 & 14 do not pass. Dr. Beaufait replied that he does not think discussion of building is germane to the leasing of space. Mr. Schneider responded that there would be a lot of discussion on Articles 11, 13 & 14. Mr. Albanese feels Article 15 give the next Board of Selectmen and the Town Manager an option. Mr. Payne agreed that it provides an option. Mr. Payne stated that if Article 11 passes and we don't raise the money through fundraising efforts, Article 15 is not moot. Mr. Beaufait pointed out that if it takes more than a few months to fundraise the \$1 million, and if there were a lot of rain, Article 15 would provide an alternative for staff. Article 15 provides funds to move people anytime until 2009.

Mr. Albanese wished to clarify an issue for the Stewarts. David Stewart asked if the Selectmen spoke about another place for the Town Offices. Mr. Albanese spoke to the Town Manager. Mrs. Scovner also spoke to the Town Manager. Mr. Schneider explained that the Selectmen directed the staff to investigate alternative housing. Alisa Bonnette did some research to put trailers behind Whitney Hall. It was expensive. Alternatives in Town were investigated. One site that we pass by all the time is the Dana Robes property. Mr. Schneider and Ms. Bonnette took a tour of the meetinghouse, as well as the main building where the showroom was.

The meetinghouse has 3 floors, plenty of room handicapped accessibility on the main floor. We were able to get costs to rent that particular space and that is less than trailers. The building is already wired for computers.

Mrs. Scovner moved to recommend Article 11 (Whitney Hall Renovation & Construction), Mr. Payne seconded. No discussion, all in favor, motion carried.

Mrs. Scovner moved to recommend Article 13 (Renovation of 78 Main Street), Mr. Payne seconded, all opposed, motion failed. Article 13 is not recommended.

Mrs. Scovner moved to recommend Article 14 (Purchase of 78 Main Street), Mr. Payne seconded, all opposed, motion failed. Article 14 is not recommended.

Mrs. Scovner moved to approve the warrant as written, Mr. Payne seconded, vote unanimous.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

IX. OTHER ITEMS

Solid Waste Ordinance:

Mrs. Scovner moved to accept the Solid Waste Ordinance. There was no second. This issue will be brought before the Board at their next meeting.

Winter Road Maintenance:

Mr. Albanese received an email from Glyn Green inquiry about when and how the Town puts salt around the lakes. What is the Town's policy and what does that mean at 3:00 AM when operations are underway during a storm.

Mr. Schneider replied that the Town has a snow operations plan.

Mr. Daniels explained that the Highway Department does not spread salt 24/7. Salt is spread at the problem spots at the beginning of a storm, then no chemical treatment is used again until the snow starts to taper off. Gravel roads are not salted. Crystal Lake Road is salted for its entire length. Algonquin Road is sanded except for the section between the boat launch and the Green residence where it is paved. Additional salt is not used to get the job done more quickly. The crew is on call and works until the job is done.

Mr. Albanese asked Ken Daniels to call Glyn Green and relay this information to him. Mr. Albanese wants Mr. Green to understand what we do and why.

Greening the Town:

Mrs. Scovner mentioned that Becky Powell has some good ideas regarding greening the Town, including lectures, pot-luck dinners to discuss how, and recycling. Mrs. Scovner suggested a committee. Mr. Albanese would prefer not to appoint a committee. Mr. Payne promised Steve Goldsmith that he'd do something about this issue.

Other Items:

Mr. Albanese would like to be sure to address outstanding issues at the next meeting: water sewer rates, solid waste ordinance, Stump Dump.

The Board reviewed and approved a Current Use Penalty.

CONFERENCE

I. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Albanese moved to adjourn at 6:37 PM, Mr. Payne seconded, vote unanimous.