

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

**MINUTES of June 18, 2007**

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

**Administrative Staff:** Steven Schneider, Town Manager; Wendy Huntley, Recording Secretary; Ken Daniels, Director of Public Works

**Others:** Suzanne Laliberte, State Representative; Catherine Mulholland, State Representative; Dan Kiley, Kurt Gotthardt, Paul Mirski, Joe Mandel, Doug Smith, Meredith Smith, Allan Smith, Nancy Smith, Earl Brady and Barbara Brady

**BUSINESS MEETING**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Payne called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and welcomed State Representative Suzanne Laliberte and State Representative Catherine Mulholland to the meeting.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Crate moved to approve the regular session minutes of May 21, 2007 as printed; Mr. Payne seconded, vote unanimous.

Mrs. Stewart moved to approve the regular session minutes of June 4, 2007 as printed; Mr. Payne seconded, vote unanimous.

**III. COMMUNICATIONS**

**Planning Board Notice of Public Hearing ~ June 27, 2007**

**Town Clerk Report ~ May 2007:**

Revenues from the Town Clerk consist primarily of registrations. Year to date revenues are up by about \$500 from the previous year.

**Tax Collector Report ~ May 2007**

**Upton & Hatfield correspondence ~ Bacon v. Town of Enfield**

**Comcast Foundation ~ \$1,000 Comcast Leaders and Achievers Scholarship:**

Amber Hackeman was awarded the \$1,000 Comcast Leaders and Achievers Scholarship.

**UNH Roads Scholar Achievements:**

Dept of Public Works employees Christopher Hammond and Robert Donnelly, Jr. have achieved the status of Roads Scholar One. Dept of Public Works employee Edmund Tourville has achieved the status of Senior Roads Scholar.

**IV. BOARD REPORTS****Budget Committee:**

Mr. Payne attended the first Budget Committee meeting of the 2007-2008 season on June 14<sup>th</sup>. The main function of the meeting was concerning housekeeping items. Mr. Payne felt that the Budget Committee wants to work hand in glove with the Board of Selectmen prior to submitting budget figures.

Mr. Schneider suggested that in late August or early September there be a joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen with the Budget Committee to have a feel for where the 2008 budget should be, so both Boards are working with the same parameters.

Mr. Schneider added that Lori Bliss Hill resigned from the Budget Committee. Anyone filling her seat would be doing so till March 2008.

**V. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT****\$1,000,000 Grant:**

Mr. Schneider informed the Board that the grant application documents have been finalized for a grant to renovate/repair Whitney Hall.

**Business Plan:**

Mr. Schneider has met with a co-op attorney specializing in co-op communications and will be meeting with corporate council in September to present a business plan.

**Emergency Plan Management:**

Mr. Schneider described the Emergency Plan Management meeting he recently attended as an eye opener. The meeting went well. Cooperation was key.

**Stump Dump:**

The current stump dump will be closing on June 30, 2007. The Bicknell Brook Property is being looked at as a potential new site. Upper Valley Land Trust has been contacted about this and is okay with the intended use. An agreement is being put together for the Upper Valley Land Trust and will be given to the Conservation Commission to review. It is hoped that the new location will be open by September, the latest. The earliest the agreement would be reviewed by the Conservation Commission is July 5, 2007 and if all is favorable then the new location could open as early as August.

**Community Building:**

The stone facing of the ramp, painting and exterior lighting are complete. The Lions Club is paying all three of these items.

**Employee Compensation review:**

A template of the current health and insurance plans was distributed to the Board of Selectmen. The goal is to maintain the cost while increasing benefits or decreasing the cost while maintaining benefits. Review of employee compensation is a work in progress.

**Capital Improvement Plan Committee:**

The first meeting of the CIP committee will be June 27, 2007. Members include Rebecca Stewart, Ken Daniels, David Saladino, Kurt Gotthardt, and Lee Carrier.

**Whitney Hall Heating System:**

Mr. Schneider has received two quotes so far on replacing the heating system but would like the Board to wait on a decision till early July when all the quotes are in.

**Vision Software:**

All the information on a property card will be available to the public on line by the end of July.

**Lease of Space on Water Tower:**

Mr. Schneider explained that he had received a request from Verizon to lease space at the water Tower. This would need to go to the Planning board for approval. It would be a useful site for the Dept of Public Works, Police Dept, Fire Dept, and Fast Squad in the future. Mr. Schneider has spoken to the Attorney about how to have a Town Meeting Vote on a 20-year lease.

**Minor Fire Event at DPW:**

Mr. Schneider explained that there was a minor fire at the DPW facility in which one truck was slightly damaged. Quick action by Edmund Tourville and Robert Donnelly, Jr. resulted in there only being minor damage. Both will be recognized.

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS****Representative Laliberte ~ Grafton County Budget:**

The original budget presented had a 22% increase. This had now been reduced to a 17% increase. The increases are due mostly to personnel for the county jail. The request is for a nurse administrator on staff that would be knowledgeable on the conditions of prisoners, and for three correctional officers.

Representative Mulholland added that currently a nurse from the County Nursing Home comes over to the jail, calls a Doctor and sends the prisoner to the Emergency Room. Having a knowledgeable Nurse Administrator at the jail should show a degree of cost savings. Included in this budget also is a new roof for the Court House and looking at building a new jail. The State Retirement System is woefully under funded so the costs there are going up as well.

Mr. Mirski commented that he was told the County Budget was going up \$30,000 and now they are up \$50,000. The \$1,400,000,000 State Budget is going up as well. It is incumbent on the Board of Selectmen to tell the Representatives that this is not acceptable and that they should keep within the rate of inflation.

Mrs. Stewart commented that this community was up in arms over a \$2,000,000 project in Town and that the Representatives do need to go back and look at the Budget. Would like to see the

State take rational action on the Tax Rate. The School Budget is driving the majority of the Tax increase. People can no longer afford tax increases at this rate.

Mr. Kiley commented that the County portion is the smallest of the tax billing but the tax percentage increase is the largest. The money given to the County returns the least amount of services to the community.

**Kurt Gotthardt ~ Community Building Lighting:**

Mr. Gotthardt questioned the style of the outside lights and if the fixtures conform to the zoning ordinance for commercial buildings standards. The concern is illuminating more area than necessary.

**Kurt Gotthardt ~ Water Tower Leasing:**

Mr. Gotthardt would like to see the Board of Selectmen or Mr. Schneider sit down with the Police Dept, Fire Dept, DPW, and FAST squad to be sure that there is a need for space on this tower for the Town.

Mr. Schneider responded that he has made inquires to the Department Heads and all were in favor of having space.

Mr. Payne assured that the Board of Selectmen would vet it out.

Mr. Mirski questioned why not making it a general requirement for all new cell towers to have Town space? To go back and buy space later would cost the Town money.

Mr. Schneider commented that he would review the FCC 1996 ruling especially as it applies to cell towers.

Mr. Gotthardt believes that it would be unfair to require space when not necessary.

**Joe Mandell~Imagine...A Theatre Group:**

Mr. Mandell commented that he felt the Board pulled the plug on something free for the Town. His efforts helped to bring theatre, song and dance back to Whitney Hall and now all that has been stopped.

Mr. Payne responded that the Board had decided, after careful consideration, to give the first year to Mr. Coons but that Mr. Mandell is welcome to reapply after the one-year term.

**VII. PUBLIC HEARING~ ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS EXCEEDING \$5,000 & AUTHORIZATION OF EXPENDITURE FOR AN EDUCATIONAL RECREATION PROGRAM.**

Mr. Payne opened the Public Hearing at 7:05 pm.

Mr. Schneider explained that the funds were for the Summer Sparks Program. The Town will only act as the fiscal agent for the program. Summer Sparks is a five-week reading and science based educational program. The Town will only be a conduit for the money. The Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation, Inc has given a \$15,000 donation. We anticipate an additional

\$15,000 from other foundations. Eileen Kirk has been the driving force for both Enfield and Canaan in receiving funds for this program. These funds are not State money.

Mr. Mirski suggested a thank you note be sent to Ms. Kirk and Mr. Payne agreed.

Hearing no further requests to comment, Mr. Payne closed the Public Hearing at 7:09 pm

Mr. Payne moved to accept and expend funds for the Summer Sparks Program. Mr. Crate seconded, vote unanimous.

## VIII. OLD BUSINESS

### **Whitney Hall Repairs:**

See Town Manager's report

### **CATV:**

Mr. Schneider has received positive feedback on the June 4, 2007 televised meeting. The Town has two options going forward: To go with channels 8 & 10 as cable only or establish a new channel just for Enfield. There are issues with both to consider. Mr. Schneider plans to speak with a telecom attorney to see if there may be a benefit in the future to not sharing. Mr. Schneider expressed a need to meet with Comcast to get logistics on creating a Town Channel.

Mr. Payne is meeting with Comcast tentatively on June 27, 2007 and is looking to get a checklist of items.

Mr. Schneider expressed his intention of contacting other Lakeside communities to see what their experiences have been with having their own channel. Mr. Schneider will be creating an agreement for potential public access provider and possibly create an RFP. Depending on which option the Board chooses, this could be up and running as early as the next meeting.

### **Skateboard Ordinance:**

Mr. Schneider told the board that he had received two email complaints about skateboarders riding in the roads and he will be putting together some options for a solution.

### **Bruce Hettleman Abatement Request:**

Mr. Schneider explained that once the application is formally accepted the Selectmen must hold a public hearing within 60 days and must render a decision within 45 days of the hearing date.

### **Sale of Property:**

- **NH Route 4A Property**

The Town's attorney recommended against evicting the tenants, then holding onto the property for three years, but instead to sell them now and not deal with the legal environment of eviction. Mr. Schneider expressed that the Town could construct a sale of property with conditions. Mr. Schneider will have the Attorney create a bid document so that the property does not continue to be an issue.

Mr. Mirski questioned why the Town wouldn't want to clean the property and then sell with deed restrictions?

Mr. Payne responded that the Town would like to sell the property without having to evict the tenants.

- **Cogswell Way Property**

Mr. Schneider stated that this property could be sold as is. The trailer is habitable.

## **IX. NEW BUSINESS**

### **Administrative Items**

- **Property Tax Exemption~Chosen Vale Inc.**

Mr. Schneider reported that the Town's attorney agrees with the Town's Assessor and Assessing Administrator. However he has been informed that it is possible to do a % of the property based on use.

Mrs. Stewart noted that she had done a site visit last week from cellar to bell tower and was impressed. Would ask Chosen Vale to create a use for the buildings that would make it easier for the Board of Selectmen apply an abatement.

Mr. Schneider requested that Chosen Vale provide a memo with current conditions and intentions of spaces. The space used by the director or exhibits fit into the RSA.

Doug Smith explained that the Shaker buildings are the exhibits. The buildings are what people come to see. Mr. Smith requested that the Selectmen give Chosen Vale guidelines as to what they can do to remain tax-exempt.

Mr. Schneider plans on meeting with Mary Boswell to come up with a resolution to the problem of tax status for consideration at the July 2, 2007 Selectmen's meeting.

Mr. Payne added that if the Board of Selectmen makes no decision on July 2, 2007 then they might abate the interest till a decision is made.

Nancy Smith questioned the funding to the Shaker Museum. Mrs. Smith would like the Board of Selectmen to lead the way for showing support to the museum and feels that the museum is Enfield's heritage.

Mr. Mirski added that the Shaker Museum is very important. Currently those tax dollars are competing with the County. The museum is a lot more important than the jail and nursing home and in his opinion the money is better spent at home first.

Mr. Payne agreed with the sentiments of Mr. Mirski and reminded everyone that the Museum taxes were abated last year.

Mrs. Stewart commended Tom and Mary Boswell for their professional efforts to engage people to come and see. During Mrs. Stewart's tour of the facilities, the boy scouts and girl scouts were there planting pumpkin seeds in the children's garden and a tour bus stopped with 44 people to take the tour.

Meredith Smith thanked Mrs. Stewart for her interest and can do attitude and that she attends all the Heritage Commission Meetings.

**IX. OTHER ITEMS**

Mr. Schneider informed the board that he would be at the NH Municipal Manager's meeting Wednesday thru Friday this week.

Mr. Schneider informed the board that Bob Cusick has offered to donate a 10KW generator to the Town.

Mr. Crate questioned whether the Town ever received the generator grant for the school?

Mr. Schneider responded that he hadn't heard or seen the money.

Mrs. Steward questioned if the Town has received the Moose Plate grant?

Mr. Schneider responded, no.

**Next Meeting:**  
July 2, 2007

**CONFERENCE**

**I. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Payne moved to adjourn at 8:05 PM; Mr. Crate seconded, vote unanimous.