

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

MINUTES of January 9, 2006

Board of Selectmen: Dominic Albanese, Chairman; Nancy Scovner

Absent: Curtis Payne

Administrative Staff: Steven Schneider, Town Manager; Alisa D. Bonnette, Secretary

Others: Dan Kiley; Joe Cote, Connecticut Valley Spectator; Celie Aufiero; Leigh Davis, Conservation Commission Chair; Kurt Gotthardt; Henry Cross

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Albanese called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Scovner moved to approve the minutes of December 19, 2005 as written; Mr. Albanese seconded, vote unanimous.

Mrs. Scovner moved to approve the minutes of December 28, 2005 as written; Mr. Albanese seconded, vote unanimous.

Mr. Albanese moved to approve the minutes of January 6, 2006 as written; Mrs. Scovner seconded, vote unanimous.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

Community Development Director Report ~ December 2005:

According to Mr. Albanese, Town Meeting discussion of the Tax Increment Finance (TIF) District brought up the following questions:

- What are the infrastructure requirements of the district?
- What is the administrative impact on town services of development of the district?
- Is Zoning prepared?

Two meetings have been held, but there has been no closure to any of these three questions. Mrs. Scovner remarked that the key pieces are not funded.

Mr. Albanese expressed the need to report on the progress of the TIF District at Town Meeting. Jim Taylor should put together a narrative report for the Selectmen's review and possible inclusion in the Town Report.

David Deck ~ NH DES Letter:

The Board received a copy of a letter from David Deck to NH Dept. of Environmental Services, Field Inspector Ana Herrero regarding a notification of violation of RSA 485-A:17. Mr. Deck contends that he has not violated the law.

The Board of Selectmen plays no role in this issue. A copy of the letter was provided to Leigh Davis, Conservation Commission chairman.

UVLSRPC Meeting Minutes:

The Board received copies of minutes of Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission minutes of 10/25/05, 8/17/05 and 6/29/05. An Enfield representative attended none of these meetings. The Board discussed the UVLSRPC's stand that Jim Taylor, a Plainfield resident, but Enfield employee, is not eligible to serve on the UVLSRPC Board due a restriction in their by-laws.

Mr. Schneider was asked to attend an UVLSRPC meeting to see if there is value in the town being a part of the Planning Commission.

DRA Results of 2005 Equalization Survey:

The Board received a copy of the NH Dept. of Revenue Administration report on the Town's 2005 Equalization Ratio, the weighted mean sales-assessment ratio for the land, building and manufactured housing in Enfield for the tax year 2005 – 84.2%.

Town Clerk Report ~ December 2005

Tax Collector Report ~ December 2005

Minimum Impact Expedited Application: Richard Hall, driveway culvert.

IV. BOARD REPORTS

Planning Board:

Mrs. Scovner reported that the radio technologist for the tower will not be ready for the Wednesday Planning Board meeting, so Verizon won't be in before the Planning Board until their next meeting.

Budget Committee:

The Budget Committee will be provided with updated information at the end of the week, including an ROI (return on investment) for the proposed roller, updated budget worksheets, a cover memo from Mr. Schneider and a memo from Mr. Albanese.

Conservation Commission:

The Board discussed the warrant article regarding the placement of a conservation easement on the Bicknell Brook property as proposed by the Conservation Commission, including the need to include money in the budget for the Upper Valley Land Trust (UVLT) costs, the role the UVLT would play in the oversight and enforcement of the conservation easement, the history behind the proposed article and the need for further discussion on the topic. The Selectmen would like the Conservation Commission and an UVLT representative at the next meeting on January 23rd to further discuss this topic. Leigh Davis was asked to provide Mr. Schneider with a dollar figure for the UVLT costs for inclusion in the 2006 budget, anticipated to be between \$5,000 and \$9,000.

It was noted that the easement documents should provide a list uses that are permitted and are not permitted.

The Board discussed the ins and outs of surveying the property, whether it would be necessary to survey the entire parcel before drawing up the conservation easement, the need to better identify the 7 acres +/- on which development rights would be retained, and the cost of a survey.

V. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Schneider reviewed his report to the Board of Selectmen for December, 2005 and January, 2006, including the following topics: Whitney Hall, Shaker Museum, Enfield FAST Squad, Town Report, Custodial/Cleaning Services and Regional Telecommunications Network. In addition to the information provided in Mr. Schneider's report the Board discussed the following:

Whitney Hall:

Mr. Schneider was asked to review further the higher priced of two quotes received for a study of Whitney Hall and to set up a meeting with the Selectmen, Library Trustees, and Dan Kiley.

Enfield FAST Squad:

Mr. Schneider will work with Fred Cummings to prepare a justification for the \$21,000 ambulance wages request in the 2006 budget, a portion of said justification being the training schedule previously provided to the Selectmen.

The Board would also like a report from Mr. Cummings regarding his proposal to charge fees for ambulance services so the Selectmen can decide if it's financial feasible. The possibility of including an advisory warrant article at Town Meeting was discussed.

Mr. Albanese suggested a meeting just to talk about ambulance issues. The need for job descriptions for positions in the Ambulance Department was noted.

There are pros and cons for charging for ambulance services included offsetting the budgeted expense with some revenues, inadvertently discouraging people from calling the ambulance due to lack of funds to pay for it, the process for handling non-payment of charges, etc.

Lockehaven Road Drainage:

Mr. Schneider reported that the Town has been awarded funding from the State for purchase of the GPS unit, so planning can begin on the Lockehaven Road drainage issue brought before the Board by Henry Cross.

The Board took one-minute break at 6:08 PM

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Henry Cross:

Mr. Cross submitted his letter of resignation from the Cemetery Board of Trustees and his recommendation that the Cemetery Board of Trustees be dissolved. The Cemetery Trustees have met just once over the past year. Mr. Cross points out that anytime there's a burial the people have to go through Ken to arrange for the lot, the office staff prepares the deed and a receives payment and the Trustees must be tracked down to sign off on the deed. Mr. Cross feels this is simply an extra layer of bureaucracy. There are enough people doing this that there is no need for the trustees.

Mr. Schneider will write to the remaining two trustees to request their input.

Ms. Aufiero understands it was the Cemetery Trustees that did the headstone repairs and fence installation. It was confirmed that Fred Altwater, former Cemetery Trustee, played a large role in coordinating and overseeing this work. Mary Quintana, also a former Cemetery Trustee, was

instrumental in organizing the cemetery records. And Richard Henderson, current Trustee, has amassed quite a collection of history on the cemeteries. However, there were town employees before this that also did extensive research of veterans buried in the town's cemeteries and took photos of the same.

The following issues were discussed out of agenda order.

Cecilia Aufiero:

The Planning Board recently held a hearing to discuss the trimming and removal of trees on a scenic road. Ms. Aufiero contends that the Highway Department marked more trees on the day of the public hearing, too late for most people to have the opportunity to view the trees to cut. Ms. Aufiero stated the purpose of scenic roads is to maintain the rural character. Over the years, Ms. Aufiero has seen the character stripped away. Ms. Aufiero presented pictures for the Selectmen to view, pointing out trees that she believed were healthy, yet were marked for cutting, and others that appeared dead or dying, yet were not marked for cutting.

Ms. Aufiero also pointed out that the amount of salt being used on Lockehaven Road is killing trees. She feels the Highway Department salts the roads too aggressively.

Discussion ensued regarding the health of individual trees, as well as the number of trees marked to be cut (43). Ms. Aufiero suggested that some of the trees could be trimmed instead of cut down.

Mrs. Scovner explained what happened at the Planning Board's public hearing.

The number of trees marked and approved by the Planning Board for cutting will be looked into.

Ms. Aufiero asked for consideration of an evaluation process. Mr. Albanese agreed there should be some criteria for determining which trees should be cut.

The Board took a brief break from 6:45 PM until 6:50 PM.

Kurt Gotthardt:

Mr. Gotthardt gave the Board an update on perambulation of Town boundaries. He recently purchased a mapping program that allowed him to overlay the Town boundaries on a USGS map. Mr. Gotthardt plotted the boundaries in accordance with the Town's charter and compared this with the lines and corners as included on the USGS map. Some possible discrepancies were found between the two boundaries.

It was noted that when the boundaries were originally drawn GPS technology did not exist. The possibility for discrepancies in any New Hampshire town boundary is likely. The Selectmen chose to take no action on the information presented at this time.

Mr. Gotthardt will submit a complete report in the spring.

Dan Kiley:

Mr. Kiley reported a problem with icing on Shaker Hill Road. There are several places between the Shaker Hill Bed & Breakfast and the sheep farm where water comes across the road and freezes. He understands this is a result of the State removing culverts along the road and putting in a swale. The swale unfortunately, does not keep the water from crossing the road. People putting in paved driveways exacerbate the problem.

Mr. Albanese stated that if Ken Daniels thinks it's a problem, he should contact the NH Dept. of Transportation.

VII. RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no additional response to the public comments

VIII. OLD BUSINESS**Stump Dump:**

Mr. Schneider sent a letter to the NH Dept. of Fish & Game saying the town wants to talk about the State's decision not to renew the agreement for operation of the stump dump. It's been a couple of weeks since that letter was sent and no response has been received.

Enfield Center Post Office 200th Anniversary Celebration:

The 200th Anniversary Celebration will be held January 20th at 5:00 PM at the Enfield Community Building.

IX. NEW BUSINESS**EVA/Farmers' Market Request:**

An application was received for rental of the Enfield Community Building for use in case of rain when the Farmers' Market is held. This request will be forwarded to the Community Building Board of Directors.

Senior Citizens Council Request for Support:

The Grafton County Senior Citizens Council, Inc. is applying for funds under the Elderly and Handicapped Mobility Program of the Federal Transit act. The funds would be used to purchase a replacement vehicle. The Senior Citizens Council requested support of this acquisition from the Board of Selectmen. **Mrs. Scovner moved to authorize Dominic Albanese to sign the support statement; Mr. Albanese seconded, vote unanimous.**

Smoke Alarm Donation:

Fifty 50 smoke detectors were offered to the Town by an anonymous donor. The Selectmen wish to stress that the Town is not to install the detectors to avoid liability. It was questioned whether a public hearing was required. It was believed that a public hearing is not required, as the value of the donation does not exceed \$500. **Mrs. Scovner moved to accept the smoke alarms, pending a determination as to whether or not a public hearing is required; Mr. Albanese seconded, vote unanimous.**

X. OTHER ITEMS**E & R Paintball:**

Mr. Albanese asked if there is anything more the Town has to do to get the tires cleaned up by spring. There has been some difference of opinion on the status of the business and the status of the business determines how the problem of the tires needs to be addressed. Mr. Albanese is concerned about the collection of water in the tires in the spring and the potential for increasing mosquito populations and the chance of spreading disease, such as West Nile Virus.

Mr. Schneider will look at the site plan approval.

Water & Sewer Departments Surplus:

The Board discussed the Water Department surplus (\$189,481) and the Sewer Department surplus (\$197,835). The Board asked Mr. Schneider to talk to the NH Dept. of Revenue Administration and other towns to recommend a reasonable fund balance for each department.

Town Warrant:

The Board received a preliminary warrant for review and consideration.

CONFERENCE

I. BUDGET

There was no discussion of budget at this time.

II. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Albanese moved to adjourn at 7:43 PM; Mrs. Scovner seconded, vote unanimous.