

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

MINUTES of April 3, 2006

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

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

Others: Dan Kiley; Joe Cote, Connecticut Valley Spectator; Joe Mandell; Police Chief Richard Crate; Public Works Director Ken Daniels.

BUSINESS MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Scovner called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

Mrs. Scovner presented Dan Kiley with a Certificate of Appreciation for his work on the Town Offices/Library Needs Assessment Committee.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Albanese moved to approve the non-public session minutes of March 6, 2006 as printed; Mrs. Scovner seconded. Mr. Albanese and Mrs. Scovner in favor, Mr. Payne abstained, motion carried.

Mr. Albanese moved to approve the minutes of March 20, 2006 as printed; Mr. Payne seconded, vote unanimous.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

School Board Request for Joint Meeting:

The Mascoma Valley Regional District School Board requested a meeting with the Board of Selectmen on Monday, April 24th.

The Board discussed a conflict with a regularly scheduled meeting with the Library Trustees and optional meeting schedules. The Selectmen will propose to the Library Trustees, at their meeting of April 10th, that meetings regarding the Town Offices/Library project be scheduled as needed.

Community Development Report ~ March 2006:

No discussion.

The following items were discussed out of agenda order.

IV. BOARD REPORTS

There were no Board Reports.

V. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

The Town Manager reviewed his report for the month of April.

Enfield Shaker Museum:

The Museum Board has had the opportunity to review the draft agreement regarding payment of past due property taxes. Mr. Schneider believes they will be ready for discussions with the Board of Selectmen soon.

Enfield FAST Squad:

Mr. Schneider presented a revised pay schedule for ambulance personnel that would remain within the current budget, based on last year's hours worked, and would recognize the level of training and qualifications of members of the squad. Mr. Schneider proposed \$11.51 for EMT-Basic, \$12.09 for EMT-Intermediate and \$12.69 for Paramedics. The Board concurred.

Regional Telecommunications Network:

A number of communities had articles on their warrants to approve funding for this project, all of which passed to the best of Mr. Schneider's knowledge. The Town of Enfield does not have to pay anything now, but funding can come from the Technology Capital Reserve Fund when required. The State now allows bonding for telecommunications infrastructure. The goal of the Regional Telecommunications Network is to build regional infrastructure from approximately Hanover to New London allowing anyone in these communities to connect to the Internet. The Town of Enfield is not going to be the Internet provider but will provide the infrastructure. The Town would not install lines where they've already been done, but would extend lines to those areas not currently serviced.

Oak Grove Street Repairs:

The application is in for grant funding. The Town is moving forward with the selection of a contractor to complete the work. The State has finished clearing the trees on the property in preparation for the repairs.

Huse Park/Community Building:

The Board discussed the potential for disbanding the Community Building Board of Directors. More discussion will take place on April 17th when the Board meets with the Board of Directors and Lions Club representatives.

There have been issues with cleaning of the building. Ways to address those issues were discussed, including the potential for changing the rental fee structure to include cleaning costs. By including cleaning costs in the rental fee, renters would no longer be required to clean after their use. It was pointed out that with the current levels of use, cleaning would have to be on a daily or near daily basis.

Discussion ensued regarding the use of the building for a gambling fundraiser by the Lions Club. Mrs. Scovner wants to be sure the RSA's permit such a use. It has been mentioned that the Lions Club would be donating funds raised for site work at the Community Building, but this information could not be verified. Mr. Daniels stated that the Lions Club is non-profit. They are going to raise money at this fundraiser and *may* donate it to assist with the site work.

Mr. Daniels will have cleaning estimates for the April 17th meeting.

Strategic Plan:

The Board was asked to consider dates in April to hold a Strategic Plan meeting.

Economic Development:

Mr. Schneider and Jim Taylor, Community Development Director, met with the Grafton County Economic Development Council Director on March 30. The Council is more than willing to help the Town, including shopping around for someone to assist with marketing needs and to help with larger marketing that makes the Town attractive to other economic developers.

Harris Brook Reservoir:

The Board was provided with a copy of an existing 1980 ordinance and rules adopted by a previous Board of Selectmen in 2000. The ordinance takes precedence, so if the Board wants to incorporate the rules voted upon in 2000, the ordinance needs to be amended. The ordinance prohibits public access, while the rules allow access and very limited recreational uses.

Mr. Daniels explained that the picnic tables once at the site have been removed and the drive has been gated.

The Board feels the property would be difficult to monitor.

Mr. Albanese moved to reaffirm the June 30, 1980 Enfield Reservoir Ordinance; Mrs. Scovner seconded, vote unanimous.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Joe Mandell ~ Main Street Signs:

Mr. Mandell has noticed that at the intersection with High Street and Shaker Hill Road there's no sign for Main Street. He was informed that this is a State road and the State is responsible for signage. Mr. Daniels will contact the NH Dept. of Transportation office.

Joe Mandell ~ Whitney Hall:

Mr. Mandell reported on the recent use of Whitney Hall: Sweet Treats had over 200 people in attendance and the film series recently shown had almost 200 people attend. Mr. Mandell will again be organizing the showing of films at Whitney Hall this weekend. The Diary of Ann Frank is a project in the works.

Joe Mandell ~ Enfield Center Town Hall:

Last December the Board spoke to Joe Mandell about using Enfield Center Town Hall.

Mr. Albanese explained the reason was that over the last 10 to 12 years Evelyn Palmer has tried to find a purpose for the Enfield Center Town Hall, and the Selectmen did not know what they were going to do with Whitney Hall. If there was a purpose at Enfield Center Town Hall, funding for the building might increase. At this point the Selectmen don't know there will be anything but open space on the top floor of Whitney Hall.

Mr. Mandell explained that someone is considering approaching the Board about a theatre camp at Enfield Center Town Hall. The neighbor, Mr. Muzzey, spoke to Mr. Mandell about allowing parking on his property.

Discussion ensued regarding past issues with parking and unsuccessful attempts to alleviate the problem. Mr. Albanese does not feel there is enough invested in Enfield Center. Mrs. Scovner mentioned the possibility of moving the building to a better location. Mr. Mandell replied that if the Town is going to buy land a purpose is needed for the building.

Dan Kiley ~ 911 House Numbering:

Mr. Kiley asked how 911 house numbering is going. He suggested a reminder be included with the next tax or water bill. The Board suggested including a reminder in the next newsletter.

Police Chief Crate mentioned that the Rangers did a community wide review of house numbers a couple of years ago. Chief Crate does not see a large number of problems with lack of numbers, but does want to remind people of its importance.

Joe Mandell ~ Shaker Bridge:

Mr. Mandell asked if the Shaker Bridge would be closed for an extended period of time once construction starts. He was informed that nothing is expected to happen until at least 2009, but then it is expected to be closed for about two years.

VII. OLD BUSINESS**Whaleback Mountain Road & Main Street:**

Mr. Daniels reported that he has no crash data to support a stop sign at the end of Whaleback Mountain Road.

Mr. Schneider stated that a stop sign at the end of Whaleback Mountain Road would be hard on trucks.

Joe Mandell mentioned having a similar problem at the intersection of Main Street, High Street & Shaker Hill Road. He recommended making the suggestion for a 4-way stop sign to NH DOT.

Mr. Albanese would like to get the telephone pole situation on Main Street straightened out, removing the extra poles. He also asked if the Board has given up trying to get a crosswalk installed on Main Street.

Mr. Daniels explained termination points and points of origin, both of which are needed at crosswalks. He has been speaking to the NH Bureau of Traffic regarding a crosswalk at Estey Lane and the State will not install one.

Chief Crate noted that Ray Burton wants another tour of Enfield at which time the Town can approach him with the issues of crosswalks and utility poles.

Mr. Albanese knows that April Whittaker tried to get these things done. Mr. Albanese thought the big utility poles were temporary during construction. While the Town has been turned down in the past, maybe it's time to try again.

Mrs. Scovner called the public forum to a close.

Board & Committee Vacancies:

The Board will wait to make a decision on the Cemetery Trustee vacancy at a later meeting.

Mrs. Scovner moved to appoint Dan Kiley as Planning Board Alternate; Mr. Payne seconded, vote unanimous.

Mr. Albanese moved to remove Terry Terry as a Planning Board Alternate; Mr. Payne seconded, vote unanimous.

Mr. Albanese moved to reappoint Suzanne Laliberte as a regular Planning Board member for a three-year term; Mrs. Scovner seconded, vote unanimous.

Mrs. Scovner moved to reappoint Carol Felix as a regular Recreation Commission member for a three-year term; Mr. Albanese seconded, vote unanimous.

Mrs. Scovner moved to remove Gene Talsky as a Recreation Commission member; Mr. Albanese seconded, vote unanimous.

Mrs. Scovner moved to reappoint Alan Strickland and Fred Paradis to the Conservation Commission for three-year terms; Mr. Payne seconded, vote unanimous.

Mrs. Scovner moved to reappoint Richard A. Crate, Jr. as Emergency Management Director; Mr. Payne seconded, vote unanimous.

Mrs. Scovner moved to reappoint Meredith Smith to the Heritage Commission for a three-year term; Mr. Payne seconded, vote unanimous.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Elected Officials Salaries:

Merit increases for hired employees are based on successful performance evaluations. There is funding in the budget for the 2006 approved cost-of-living adjustment of 2% and a 2.5% merit increase based on the employee pay plan for elected officials. The Selectmen were asked if elected officials should automatically receive both COLA and merit as of April 1.

Mr. Albanese feels that Library Trustee should be a paid position as the Library Trustees are the equivalent of the Board of Selectmen for the Library. Mr. Payne agreed. There is no funding in the 2006 budget for this purpose.

Mr. Board agreed that elected officials should receive both COLA at 2% and the equivalent of one merit/step increase of 2.5%, effective April 1, 2006.

Administrative Items:

The Board reviewed and approved the following documents: excavation yield tax warrants, timber yield tax warrants, current use applications, intents to excavate, elderly exemption, veterans tax credit and MS-2 Report of Appropriations.

The Board asked about the tax status of one of the property owners for which they received an intent to excavate. A report will be provided.

Property Tax Exemptions:

The Board reviewed applications for property tax exemption.

Mr. Albanese moved to accept the tax exemption for 2006 for LaSalette of Enfield, Enfield Historical Society, St. Helena's Catholic Church and United Methodist Church; Mrs. Scovner seconded, vote unanimous.

IX. OTHER ITEMS

Request for Waiver of Community Building Rental Fee:

The Board considered a request for waiver of rental fees for a fundraising event to be held at the Community Building on Saturday. The Board denied waiver of the rental fee and agreed to charge a half-day rental fee for access to the building the prior day for setting up.

Proposed Rubbish Ordinance:

Phil Neily, Health Officer, has proposed adoption of a rubbish ordinance that would address public health issues. This proposal will be placed on the April 17th agenda.

CONFERENCE

I. KEN DANIELS ~ COMMUNITY BUILDING/HUSE PARK

Mr. Daniels presented illustrations of site plans, both a current proposal and the original proposal developed by Stephen Griffin. Mr. Daniels explained his attempts to include a skateboard park into the plan as requested by Dwight Marchetti. Due to underground wiring, underground drainage, the need for more parking than allowed in the original site plan proposal, Mr. Daniels created a new proposal to maximize the use of the park, including additional parking, a redesigned handicap ramp and parking, and green space between the parking area and the road, but no skateboard park. There are skateboarding opportunities in both Canaan and West Lebanon.

Discussion ensued regarding children's safety near the parking lot, the potential for upgrading the walking path between Whitney Hall and Huse Park to allow vehicle traffic and the affect this could have on children's safety.

The project as proposed by Mr. Daniels would span over a period of years. The current budget would not provide lighting for the parking lot, but would include handicap ramp improvements.

Mr. Albanese would like to walk the property before making a decision.

Discussion ensued regarding landscape plantings, lighting and signage.

II. RIGHT-TO-KNOW LAW

Mr. Schneider attended a seminar on the Right-To-Know Law to which some changes are being proposed, specifically with regard to email. The changes would limit the ability to communicate with email. Email discussions may have to be disclosed at a public meeting, as soon as the Selectmen reply to the Town Manager or Reply-to-All. If there's a phone conversation it's not considered a meeting, but if you have an email discussion it's a meeting.

Mr. Schneider reported that there's no retention schedule for this. As soon as the email discussion is disclosed the emails can be destroyed.

This can have a real impact on how all boards function.

III. NON-PUBLIC SESSION

Mrs. Scovner moved to enter non-public session at 6:55 PM, RSA 91-A:3 II (a); Mr. Albanese seconded. Roll call vote: Mrs. Scovner – aye, Mr. Albanese – aye, Mr. Payne – aye.

Mr. Payne moved to come out of non-public session at 7:15 PM; Mrs. Scovner seconded, vote unanimous.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.