

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

MINUTES of October 3, 2005

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

Administrative Staff: April Whittaker, Town Manager; Alisa D. Bonnette, Secretary

Others: Dan Kiley; Ken Daniels, Director of Public Works; Richard Crate, Jr., Chief of Police; Joe Cote, Connecticut Valley Spectator; Kristen Fountain, Valley News; Alan Clark; David Crate, Fire Chief & Fire Ward; Richard Martin, Fire Ward

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

ADMINISTRATIVE

Veterans Tax Credit:

The Board reviewed and approved a veterans tax credit as presented.

BUSINESS

Betty Ruggeri ~ 2006 Budget for Visiting Nurse Alliance:

The Board received correspondence from Betty Ruggeri (SP) regarding the lack of service provided by the Visiting Nurse Alliance. Mrs. Ruggeri asked the Board to reconsider funding in 2006 for this organization. The Board asked that the letter be forwarded to the Visiting Nurse Alliance and that a representative be asked to meet with the Board.

Paul Mirksi ~ Smith Pond Dam:

The Board received correspondence from Paul Mirksi regarding the safety of the Smith Pond dam. The Board stated that the dam had been inspected by the State and if something doesn't come out of the current discussions regarding restoration of the dam, the Board would talk to the State.

Tax Rate Setting:

The Board discussed the setting of the 2005 tax rate. Mr. Albanese suggested taking \$150,000 out of the undesignated surplus. Mrs. Scovner would prefer to take \$125,000. Mr. Albanese will call Bob Anderson of the NH Dept. of Revenue Administration, have Mr. Anderson speak to Lee Carrier on the phone to discuss revenues, then bring the information back to the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Albanese asked for a copy of the tax rate setting file that Mrs. Whittaker had compiled. Mr. Albanese asked that Wendy Huntley provide a copy of the September expense and revenue reports for the next meeting.

Winter Sidewalk Maintenance:

The Board discussed the issue of double windrows in driveways along Main Street, which are created when the sidewalks are plowed. Alternatives were discussed, such as using the snow blower or plowing straight, then angling once past the driveway to minimize the amount of snow deposited in people's driveways.

Ken Daniels informed the Board that using the snow blower for smaller storms was inefficient. He also noted that complaints are seldom heard until late in the winter, seldom early in the season.

Mr. Albanese asked that the individual that clears the sidewalks think about the homeowners and be more conscientious with keeping windrows down. Mr. Daniels was also asked to contact a few individuals along Main Street that had expressed their concerns.

Water/Sewer Rates Public Hearing:

The Board will schedule a public hearing sometime after mid-November. The Board would first like to meet with Ken Daniels and the new Town Manager to discuss the rates, perhaps on a Saturday morning.

Budget:

Mr. Albanese would like to meet with Ken Daniels and Richard Crate, Jr. to discuss a few questions he has about their budgets. He also wants to go over the Executive budget in order to get the changes done and ready for a second review over the weekend.

Non-Public Session:

Mr. Albanese moved to enter non-public session at 5:30 PM to discuss hiring, RSA 91-A:3 II (b); Mrs. Scovner seconded. Roll call vote: Mr. Albanese – aye, Mrs. Scovner – aye, motion carried.

The Board came out of non-public session at 5:37 PM.

The Board announced the selection of Steven Schneider as the new town manager. A press release was provided to those present and members of the press were invited to ask any questions they might have. In response to those questions, the Board informed the press that Mr. Schneider has drafted a contract with a salary of \$70,000. It is hoped that Mr. Schneider will start on November 1, 2005. There will be a two-week period when there will be no town manager; during that period the Board of Selectmen will meet weekly with department heads and

office staff. Mr. Schneider was chosen for the position because he seemed to be the right fit at the right time. He has strong administrative skills, has a good demeanor, a breath of fresh air. The Board thinks he will be a strong leader.

The Board wanted to thank the employee and citizen committees and kudos to Don Jutton who modified the process to meet the Selectmen's deadline. It was not an easy decision as there were many qualified candidates. The Board did have someone as a second choice, however it is not believed they will be needed. A background check is currently being conducted on Steven Schneider and the Selectmen don't anticipate any problems.

The Board would have liked to tell employees first, but there was not time to do so. A copy of the press release will be forwarded to employees and the citizens committee.

Steven Schneider has a wife and two children. They are currently looking for housing in Enfield. They currently reside in Batavia, NY, but have lived in Vermont and are looking forward to moving back to New England.

The Board recessed the meeting at 5:45 pm and reconvened at 5:57 pm

BUSINESS

2006 Fire Department Budget Proposal:

David Crate and Richard Martin came before the Board to present their proposed budget for 2006.

4220 - 111 Firefighters Services: There will be no change in 2006, but an increase should be considered for 2007.

-740 New Equipment: The department is getting radios through a grant. The grant will not cover external mics on the engines. Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of using Police radios that are being replaced.

-630 Vehicle Repairs: Engine 3 has just gone in for repairs. If the bill has not arrived by November 15, it should be followed up.

Mr. Albanese asked for information on which members of the department received training this year and who is going to get training in 2006. Who needs to be re-certified?

Discussed followed regarding work at the Enfield Center Town Hall. The status of the project and bills pending needs clarification.

Fire Chief Crate has requested laptops and a printer for the department to make paperwork more convenient. The status of the Technology Capital Reserve Fund will be looked into to see if there is enough money to buy one laptop in 2005. The Board agreed to purchase one laptop in November, deciding the funding source at that time. The second laptop will remain in the 2006 budget for now, and will be revisited in January.

Fire Chief Crate pointed out to the Board those items in the New Equipment line, which are required by ISO and are so designated in his budget request.

Capital Reserve Funds: Fire Chief Crate informed the Board of the need to replace the rescue truck as well as the need to replace one of the engines in the future. A rescue truck is estimated to cost between \$150,000 and \$180,000. An engine would cost at least \$300,000. In light of this information, the Board agreed to put \$80,000 into the Fire Vehicles & Equipment Capital Reserve Fund in 2006.

Union Street Station: Some tables and chairs are needed so the space is more suitable as a meeting room. Maintenance of the station was discussed. There was a recent roof leak that was repaired under warranty, but there was some resulting damage to sheetrock inside. The Selectmen agreed to add \$1,500 to the budget for sheetrock, paint and regular maintenance.

Fuel costs have risen 36% over last year. All fuel lines should be looked at with this in mind.

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

Alan Clark ~ Sewer Connection:

Mr. Clark owns a lot on NH Route 4A and is interested in connecting to the municipal sewer system. He has already spoken to Ken Daniels regarding the possibility. There are some complications, as the property is located along the force main, which makes the connection problematic both in installation, but afterward due to the pressure from the main.

Ken Daniels suggested an alternative of extending the gravity main that currently stops at the Simpson residence. He would like to extend the pipe from the termination manhole there to Evenchance Road. Mr. Clark's lot is just beyond Evenchance Road. It was discussed in the past that the residents of Evenchance should get together to ask for the extension. Mr. Daniels has gone to the State utilities division to get the extension at least across the road. He expects this extension to cost about \$15,000 and anticipates incurring the expense in 2006 not 2005. The least expensive way is to build it when the road is torn up.

Mr. Albanese asked if it would make sense for Mr. Clark to take the lead with residents of Evenchance or this. If the town gets the pipe across the road, can they get together on this? Mr. Albanese recommended adding this project to the list for Steve Schneider. It might make sense to have the residents of Evenchance help pay for it. He suggested Mr. Clark check back with Ken Daniels in a couple of months and talk to the new town manager then.

BUSINESS, CONTINUED:

Town Manager Compensation:

Mrs. Scovner moved to reiterate that Wendy Huntley is to cut April Whittaker a final check for \$7,545.15, that Mrs. Whittaker is welcome to go on COBRA on October 15, but that benefits stop on that date per her contract; Mr. Payne seconded, vote unanimous.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- * Permit by Notification ~ Heidi Hauri-Gill ~ Driveway & culvert installation
- * Dredge & fill Application ~ State of NH ~ NH Rte 4A slope stabilization
- * Building Inspector's Report, dated 10/3/05
- * Town Clerk's Report – September 2005

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.