

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

**MINUTES of November 7, 2005**

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

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

**Others:** Gayle Hulva; Betty Ruggeri; Joe Cote, Connecticut Valley Spectator; Phil Neily, Building Inspector/Health Officer; Dan Kiley; Diane Monmaney, Human Services Director; Julie Huntley, Assessing Administrator; Ken Daniels, Director of Public Works; Richard A. Crate, Jr., Chief of Police; Kristen Fountain, Valley News; Fran Perillo, Solid Waste & Recycling Committee; Tom Donovan, NH House of Representatives; Carol Olwert, VNA Director of Development and Communications; Lynn Holland-Kelley; and other members of the public.

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mrs. Scovner moved to approve the October 17, 2005 minutes as presented; Mr. Payne seconded, vote unanimous.

Mrs. Scovner moved to approve the regular session minutes of October 24, 2005 as presented; Mr. Payne seconded, vote unanimous.

Mrs. Scovner moved to approve the non-public session minutes of October 24, 2005 as presented; Mr. Payne, vote unanimous.

**ADMINISTRATIVE**

The Board reviewed and approved the following document: 2<sup>nd</sup> issue property tax warrant in the amount of \$4,685,688.24; petition and pole license for poles on George Hill Road; timber tax warrants and certifications; and annual equalization ratio survey.

Mr. Albanese noted that the Selectmen's meeting might be restructured in the future. He also wants to be sure notices of board meetings are posted in the Valley News.

**CITIZENS FORUM****Dan Kiley ~ NH Route 4A:**

Mr. Kiley asked if the Board had a status report on NH Route 4A. He was informed that the State is working on it, and while the town has heard it may be done at the end of this week, it might be as many as 2 weeks before the work is completed.

**BUSINESS****Betty Ruggeri / Visiting Nurse Association:**

Betty Ruggeri wrote to the Board of Selectmen on October 3<sup>rd</sup> requesting that the Town not contribute funding to the Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) for not providing promised services to our community.

Mrs. Ruggeri's husband is receiving services from VNA. Mrs. Ruggeri relayed her husband's situation and the services provided by the VNA. She has not been happy with the services provided. She is concerned about the quality of care, lack of staff training, scheduling and reliability of service.

Mrs. Ruggeri recounted instances where no one showed up to provide care and did not call to say they would not be able to make it, and lack of knowledge about how to use healthcare equipment, i.e. "Invacare is not a transfer device, moving a person in a sling over any distance is not recommended" yet the Invacare lift was going to be used to transport her husband from one room to another. In the case of Hospice, a service provided by VNA, she was simply provided with a magnet with a contact number that she was supposed to call if she had any problems and wanted them to walk her through what to do. Mrs. Ruggeri stated that these problems are on-going and not isolated to her, but happening throughout the Upper Valley.

Mr. Albanese explained to Mrs. Ruggeri that the Selectmen could not talk about her husband's specific case. He understands that Mrs. Ruggeri is noting problems with training and the nurses and aides not following the care plan. Mrs. Ruggeri replied that the nurses/aides were not allotted enough time.

Representative Tom Donovan, experienced in the health field, spoke of the need for commitment to long-term and in-home care. He believes the Board should be sure the money the Town gives for services provides quality services that are available to residents. Money is critically important to the success of these programs. He'd want to be sure the money being given to an agency is being well spent.

Lynn Holland-Kelley, a registered nurse and representative for a HCBC program, has been involved with the Ruggeri case since July. The biggest problem is the delivery of services. These problems are not unique to Betty and Ed Ruggeri. She has tried to look for other ways to be creative and to meet their needs. Mrs. Ruggeri has had to transfer to other home care providers to get the service they need. Ms. Kelly explained how a plan of care is prepared and noted that in Mrs. Ruggeri's case that plan of care has not been followed.

Ms. Kelly spoke about funding issues and that town funding is often used to provide services for the indigent population to offset the cost of providing these services. In some cases funding is

given to provide services but there is no one to provide those services. She suggested there might be a way for the town to develop a fund for those people that need it.

Discussion ensued regarding the shortage of staffing, funding and availability of services to those most in need. VNA program statistics were read aloud. While cutting funding may not be the best way to address the problems presented at this meeting, the Selectmen agreed to make inquiries into systemic issues, including quality of care, availability of service and staffing issues. The Board would also like statistics on patient satisfaction.

A copy of the funding request submitted by the VNA is available to Mrs. Ruggeri if she would like it.

#### **Solid Waste & Recycling Committee Report:**

Fran Perillo asked about the Solid Waste & Recycling Committee Report. She was informed the report had not been submitted to the Board because several member signatures were still required. Mrs. Perillo will be contacted with information on who has signed and who has not so she can follow up on it.

#### **Summary of Tax Rate Setting:**

The 2005 tax rate was set on Wednesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. \$65,000 of undesignated surplus was used to write down the town tax rate, in addition to the \$50,000 approved at the 2005 Town Meeting. The resulting tax rate is \$20.52 (\$6.59 Town, \$1.36 County, \$9.81 Local School, \$2.76 State School). At Town Meeting the tax rate was projected at \$6.99.

Mr. Kiley asked how TIF fits into it. He was informed that TIF (Tax Increment Financing) does not affect the rate, but the fund is projected at about \$15,000 in 2005. The Town will not proceed with any TIF projects in 2006, but will give Steve Schneider a year on the job before proceeding.

#### **Community Building:**

The Enfield-Mascoma Lions Club has offered to donate a new range for the Enfield Community Building. The range is valued at \$5,200. Mrs. Scovner moved to accept a gift from the Enfield-Mascoma Lions Club; Mr. Payne seconded, vote unanimous.

Ken Daniels explained that a light mounted on a nearby utility pole would provide temporary lighting of the Community Building parking lot. There is an entry light at the rear of the building and on the Huse Park pavilion that are on photocells. Mr. Daniels will look into the cost for modern lighting as well as lighting that is in keeping with the style used on Main Street. This new lighting would be installed as perimeter lighting. Phil Neily was given permission to proceed with arrangements with the Lions Club.

Mr. Albanese reported that he was at the Community Building in the outer room downstairs and he could tell people were smoking. Phil Neily replied that the smoking room is not supposed to affect the rest of the building; he will check into it.

#### **Set Public Hearing for Acceptance of Donation:**

Marcia Cornell submitted a request to hold a public hearing to accept a gift of goal posts for the Shaker Recreation fields. Mrs. Cornell is available for a hearing on December 5, 2005. It was

questioned whether the Selectmen are required to hold a public hearing to accept this gift, as well as the donated range from the Lions Club. This will be investigated.

**Ambulance Budget:**

The Ambulance Dept. is scheduled to present its budget to the Budget Committee this week. Mr. Albanese pointed out that the Selectmen are on board with the proposed ambulance budget except for salaries.

Mr. Schneider said the ambulance salaries are the same for all levels of certification. It's justifiable to set up three different pay grades. There is no paramedic on the department at this time. It would be in the town's best interest to have paramedics; the question is how much to spend. The rates discussed are comparable with neighboring communities. Fred Cummings is budgeting on the high side. We can take a look more at the hours they are going to staff.

Mr. Albanese is not comfortable going to the Budget Committee with the ambulance budget right now. Mr. Schneider will take a look at it.

**Any Other Business & Press Questions:**

The Board discussed Mr. Schneider's orientation. Mr. Payne will take Mr. Schneider to meet with Barton Mayer, the town's attorney. Mr. Albanese would like them to request a semi-annual update on cases pending. Mr. Schneider will also attend the Planning Board and Budget Committee meetings this week. He will later attend a Zoning Board and Conservation Commission meeting and meet with representatives of the Enfield Shaker Museum. Mr. Albanese would like Mr. Schneider to attend a Police Chiefs Association meeting with Richard Crate, Jr. and a Public Works Association meeting with Ken Daniels. There is also a local town managers group that Mr. Schneider will participate in. Mr. Schneider would also like to informally meet with each selectman each week.

Mr. Albanese asked if the Iskander subdivision proposal was scheduled for a Planning Board hearing this week and wasn't it the Selectmen's goal to hold a public hearing at the same time? Jim will be contacted to find out the status of this project.

Mr. Albanese said it's nice that the Chief of Police and Director of Public Works attend the Selectmen's meetings.

**Non-Public Session:**

Mr. Albanese moved to enter into non-public session at 6:15 PM under RSA 91-A:3 II (b) and (d) at 7:15 PM; Mr. Payne seconded. Roll call vote: Mr. Albanese – aye, Mrs. Scovner – aye, Mr. Payne – aye; motion carried.

Mrs. Scovner moved to come out of non-public session at 7:18 PM; Mr. Payne seconded, vote unanimous.

**Other Business:**

The Selectmen were updated on the status of the Technology Capital Reserve Fund. A public hearing will be held regarding the transfer of funds from this reserve account on November 21, 2005.

Mr. Albanese requested an update from Police Chief Crate regarding a proposed filing system for the department.

Kristen Fountain, upon request, was provided a copy of the VNA report.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

- \* Elections Budget Considerations for Cities and Towns
- \* Building Inspector Report ~ October 2005
- \* Town Clerk Report ~ October 2005
- \* Zoning Board Notice of Public Hearing ~ November 8, 2005
- \* Community Development Director Report ~ October 2005
- \* Meeting date set for discussion of UVHS proposed agreement ~ Nov. 21 @ 5:15 PM

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Albanese moved to adjourn at 7:25 PM; Mrs. Scovner seconded, vote unanimous.