

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

MINUTES of January 20, 2003

Board of Selectmen: Donald J. Crate, Sr., Chairman; Ilene P. Reed; Keith Oppenneer

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

Others: Kris Eddy, Valley News; Mary Murray, Connecticut Valley Spectator; Dominic Albanese; Ed Tedesco

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Crate called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Oppenneer moved to approve the minutes of December 2, 2002; Mrs. Reed seconded, vote unanimous.

Mr. Oppenneer moved to approve the minutes of December 16, 2002; Mrs. Reed seconded, vote unanimous.

Mr. Oppenneer moved to approve the non-public session minutes of December 16, 2002 at 6:37pm; Mr. Crate seconded, vote unanimous.

Mrs. Reed moved to approve the non-public session minutes of December 16, 2002 at 7:27pm; Mr. Crate seconded, vote unanimous.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Miscellaneous Administrative:

The Board signed the Policy previously approved on January 6, 2003.

The reviewed and approved property tax refunds as presented.

The Selectmen signed the appointment blank for Kelley Wescott's appointment to the Planning Board as an alternate.

The Board signed the previously approved Ambulance Agreement between the Town of Enfield and the City of Lebanon. This agreement will cost the town another \$4,000/year, but will be necessary with the loss of two members of the FAST Squad to retirement in March.

BUSINESS

Paul Mirski re: Proposed Warrant Article:

Mr. Mirski has a proposal for adoption of a new form of subdivision. He has been working on this project in the House for 5 years. This proposed subdivision would preserve about 80% open space on a property and would allow for true cluster development. His proposal would require meeting setbacks, but not the current buffer zones. Undoubtedly, the open space will be put into Current Use.

Mr. Oppeneer is in favor of cluster development; it's more economical.

Discussion followed regarding the advantages of such subdivisions, including reduced capital infrastructure costs and maintenance costs.

An article that amends the zoning ordinance must go before the Planning Board. Mrs. Whittaker checked the calendar and it appears that Mr. Mirski is too late to get an article on this year's warrant.

Ed Tedesco re: Sewer Rate Increase:

Mr. Tedesco wanted to address the Board regarding the sewer rate increase. He believes the town needs to make Lebanon understand that Enfield wants parity with Lebanon ratepayers. Anything less than that is not acceptable. This issue needs to be put on the fast track. The school budget will have an impact as well. One angry voice lets the Selectmen know there are 100 people that are angry. Mr. Tedesco stressed the need to keep the people apprised on a monthly basis of what's going on.

Mr. Oppeneer informed Mr. Tedesco that a meeting has been set up with the City of Lebanon on Wednesday, January 29. While the town had success with negotiating the charges for dispatch services, the town can't go anywhere else with the sewer. Whatever agreement is made it must be clear, understandable, verifiable and auditable.

Mr. Tedesco discussed the burden the high sewer rate will have on commercial development. He also stated that the town is getting nailed with 300,000 gallons and the sewer users are not using anywhere near that much. Can the local sewage haulers use the system?

Mr. Oppeneer explained the required balance of liquid volume, biological oxygen demand and solids in the sewer system. If Enfield's sewage is relatively light household waste it should be easier to treat than commercial operations such as those located in Lebanon.

Mrs. Whittaker explained that the high solids content of pumped septic systems might make it difficult to control odors in the system.

Mr. Tedesco responded that if these haulers bring the sewage directly to Lebanon it should count toward Enfield's flowage. He was informed that the 300,000 reserve figure is used to determine Enfield's share of capital improvement costs and that flowage charges are based on meter readings from Enfield's sewer pump stations.

Mrs. Whittaker explained that Lebanon has a 4.1 million capital project in the works. Enfield's capacity retainage reflects on the capital costs. Enfield has to look at its share. Enfield is only sending household waste – no commercial. Enfield is on the defense; we signed a contract. If Lebanon doesn't want to negotiate it goes to arbitration.

Discussion followed regarding sewer department administration, whether by the Board of Selectmen as Sewer Commissioners, an elected Board of Sewer Commissioners, or an advisory committee to the Board of Selectmen as Sewer Commissioners. There is an on-going difficulty in filling positions on both appointed and elected boards and committee.

CITIZENS FORUM

Dominic Albanese ~ Salt Shed:

Mr. Albanese asked what the Board's thinking is on the requested salt shed.

Mr. Oppeneer stated that Ken Daniels, Director of Public Works, is proposing a \$325,000 salt shed. With the proposed shed a dump truck could actually get in and dump a load of sand or salt. Lebanon and Hanover can't fit a whole year's worth of sand. They buy machined sand. Enfield gets screened sand, which is less expensive, so Enfield has a higher fixed cost, but a lower cost over the long run. Mrs. Whittaker added that Twin State Sand & Gravel is out of machined sand and Lebanon Crushed Stone is almost out.

Mr. Albanese asked if at \$325,000 the Selectmen were confident in the purchase of the salt shed. Mr. Oppeneer replied that the salt shed could be done in 2004 or 2005, but the cost will only increase.

Mrs. Whittaker explained that the problem the town is up against is the environmental issue. Salt storage needs to have an impervious seal to prevent salt from contaminating groundwater. She does not know what Ken Daniels is proposing for a seal.

Discussion of shed types was discussed. Mr. Albanese wants the Selectmen to be sure they are getting the Chevy of salt sheds, not a Cadillac.

OLD BUSINESS

Sewer Issues:

The Board received correspondence from Rick Barrow and Tim Jennings in response to the Selectmen's vote to increase the sewer rate to \$11.53/1,000 gallons.

Mrs. Whittaker met with Mr. Barrows and asked him to provide industry standards. Everything going in is not what's going down the drain; a certain percent is in the clothes and is evaporated

in the dryer. It might be a good idea to have Mr. Barrow come in to see the Selectmen, but his request must be put in writing.

Mr. Tedesco cautioned that every household has their own washer. People using the laundry can take the increase or travel to Lebanon and pay for gas.

Mrs. Whittaker wanted to question why Mr. Barrow would raise the costs. The Selectmen need to be cautioned to be careful, but can't ignore his concerns. Mrs. Whittaker's concern is not subsidizing a business.

Mr. Jennings offers his help, though Mrs. Whittaker is not sure the Selectmen need to set up a taskforce. When it comes to arbitration the town needs to leave it to experts. Mrs. Whittaker would like to see and update to the Master Plan, especially the utility portion. She would like to see Mr. Jennings on a sub-committee if the Planning Board puts that forward. If the town does need to let go of gallonage, we need to know what we need. A committee may be helpful to determine if an advisory committee or elected Sewer Commissioners is a better option.

Mr. Oppeneer feels that success of an advisory committee will depend largely on the expertise of the members ~ civil engineer, accountant, etc. Mr. Oppeneer also recommends that the Planning Board look at extension of the sewer.

Discussion followed regarding sewer extension and reasons why it was not extended further out during initial construction. Mr. Crate noted that the whole idea of the sewer system was to clean up Mascoma Lake; it was a quick fix.

Mr. Oppeneer moved to establish a one-year working committee to work with the Planning Board to determine where the sewer line should be extended, if at all, and to study the issue of how the sewer system is best administered, by independent, elected Sewer Commissioners, by the Board of Selectmen as Sewer Commissioners or as the Board of Selectmen/Sewer Commissioners advised by an appointed Board; Mrs. Reed seconded, vote unanimous.

Baltic Street One-Way Suggestion:

The recommendation from Police Chief Peter Giese is not to do this.

Mr. Crate spoke to a lot of people. There are two alternatives and people can make their choice. Mr. Crate suggested that it be left as it is.

Mrs. Whittaker stated that there have been no accidents. Change can be difficult.

Baltic Street will remain as is.

Goals 2003:

Mr. Oppeneer liked what Mrs. Whittaker prepared for goals and recommended the Selectmen come back to the next meeting with a list of priorities.

NEW BUSINESS**Mission to Mars Petition:**

Mr. Oppeneer feels this petition is a matter of individual preference. The Board of Selectmen have taken it under advisement.

Town Report:

The Board agreed to publish the Town Report in memory of Howard Walton and to dedicate it to Charlie Harrington and Barbara Dow. Mr. Crate suggested the Town Report be dedicated to Ann Tarney as well. It was believed this was done in the recent past and will be looked into.

The Board agreed with Mrs. Whittaker's suggestion to use an old postcard picture of Enfield as the cover photo.

Mr. Crate would like a picture of the new Public Works building in the report. Mrs. Whittaker replied that a picture will be included with the Public Works narrative.

Complaint & Observation Procedure Policy:

Mrs. Whittaker passed out a draft policy for the Board's consideration. Mr. Crate requested time to think about it. This issue was tabled until the next meeting.

Habitat for Humanity:

Mr. Oppeneer received a suggestion to give a different lot to Habitat for Humanity than the May Street property. Julie Huntley provided Mr. Oppeneer with a list of town-owned properties. A few were discussed; one on Smith Pond Road is too far from downtown, one is on Fuller Road, a Class VI road, one is in Eastman and subject to covenants.

Mr. Albanese is the one who made the suggestion to Mr. Oppeneer. Mr. Albanese has no problem with Habitat for Humanity, but the sale of the May Street property was included in the proposal as an offset of DPW costs.

Mr. Crate feels the Board should wait to see what the voters want to do at Town Meeting.

High Street Schoolhouse:

Mr. Oppeneer received an email from Meredith Smith regarding the old schoolhouse. She was asking about covenants to prevent demolition of the building. Mrs. Smith is talking about buying the building and refurbishing it.

Mr. Crate asked what the town is going to do with it? Mrs. Whittaker replied that it should be advertised for sale in the spring when the snow's gone. Mr. Crate agreed. He also said he would like some documentation that it was an old schoolhouse.

Non-Public Session:

Mr. Oppeneer moved to enter non-public session at 7:13pm under RSA 91-A:3 II (a), Setting Compensation; Mrs. Reed seconded. Mr. Oppeneer – aye, Mrs. Reed – aye, Mr. Crate – aye, vote unanimous.

Mr. Oppenneer moved to come out of non-public session at 7:38 pm; Mrs. Reed seconded, vote unanimous.

Mr. Oppenneer moved to concur with the Town Manager's recommendation for a pay raise; Mrs. Reed seconded, vote unanimous.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Letter of thanks to The 50 Plus Club for \$100 Donation. Mrs. Whittaker reported that a donation of \$100 was received from The 50 Plus Club toward the Community Building. Donations of less than \$500 do not require a public hearing.

Adelphia letter, dated January 13, 2002, re: Added Programming

Senator Judd Gregg correspondence re: NCLBA

Prior Family Trust correspondence re: selling of firewood. Mr. Oppenneer was confused by this correspondence. Mrs. Whittaker explained that many years ago the town obtained property from the Priors and they retained the right to get firewood from the lot.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Oppenneer moved to adjourn at 7:38pm; Mrs. Reed seconded, vote unanimous.