

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Enfield NH**

**PUBLIC WORKSESSION MINUTES
December 8, 2003**

The Chairman called a work session to order at 5:00 PM on Monday, October 8th, 2003 at Whitney Hall located off Main Street.

Present:

Ilene P Reed, Chairman
Keith Oppenneer, Selectman
Dominic C Albanese, Selectman
April Whittaker, Town Manager

Administrative:

The Board reviewed and signed a Yield Tax Warrant for cut of timber as submitted by Louis Boutin per his Report of Cut.

Budget Work Session

Lee Carrier attended as Budget Committee representative. The Board invited Captain Crate to provide further information with respect to the proposals to acquire a drug-sniffing dog and obtain a motorbike for the Enfield Police Department.

Captain Crate advised that the idea for the dog and bike was generated from within the ranks with a goal of furthering employee retention, and providing specialist skills to the officers.

Captain Crate addressed the bike acquisition noting that it would be used primarily for speed enforcement during the spring, summer and early autumn, thus producing savings on wear and tear on the cruisers and gas usage. He stated that the bike was completely fitted as a "cop" bike and basically may only require a small outlay for lettering as the maintenance would be covered under a lease proposal.

Discussion ensued regarding the DRA's (Department of Revenue Administration) and the statutes regarding the warrant article requirements for a lease acquisition, noting that with an "escape" or non appropriation clause the lease article would only require a majority vote to pass. Captain Crate will obtain a copy of the lease for town counsel perusal. It was further noted that the annual lease costs were to be covered by an annual donation from Barker Steel thus making the proposed acquisition tax neutral. In conclusion the bottom line was tentatively pointed out to include the cost of new boots for the driver, and possible lettering on the bike both of which appeared negligible.

Captain Crate addressed the issue of acquisition of a dog noting that he has been talking with the "Working Dog Foundation" who would be able to provide a completing trained German shepherd drug sniffing canine for approximately \$5000. However, he advised that the foundation was open to having the town choose their own breed of dog in which they would assist and provide training. General opinion appeared to indicate that a German shepherd tended to give the impression of an attack dog.

Additional costs such as compulsory overtime pay at 2.5 hours per week, vets bills, training, and food/accessories would drive the acquisition and operational costs to approximately \$15,000 for the first year ~ Mr. Crate will provide a spread sheet to verify the costs. Grant potential was discussed which may provide additional funding other than just the dog acquisition. Also Captain Crate advised that if the dog became a reality, he was preparing to negotiate with the interested officer a three-year contract. It was generally recognized that the dog would remain with the officer if he so chose to move to another Department after the contract period.

General discussion ensued regarding the warrant structure, given the Board's support for an additional officer via the COPS FAST mechanism. Questions were raised regarding the viability of placing all three requests before the voters. Mr. Albanese opined that his priority was pinned solely on the approval for the COPS FAST officer, and therefore questioned the sense in overwhelming the voters with police department requests given the individual warrant article requirements for the officer, dog, and bike. Mrs. Reed firmly supported the dog acquisition, and Mr. Oppeneer advised that he tended to support Mr. Albanese's conviction of not wanting to appear to "stack the deck" for PD acquisitions when the focus should be directed towards the need for the extra officer. Following discussion, the board directed Mr. Albanese to obtain a "straw vote" from the Budget Committee regarding the wisdom of all three

articles at one time before the voters. Discussion also ensued with Captain Crate regarding putting money into the Capital Reserve for the dog this year with a promise to re-visit the issue for 2005 should it be determined that it would be wiser to wait one more year to place the matter before the voters.

The board thanked Mr. Crate for his input and will await his final spreadsheet costs.

Mr. Marchetti appeared before the Board of Selectmen and requested a non-public session under the terms and conditions of RSA 91-A:3 II (c) for concern regarding the conduct of a town committee Chairman. Motion Albanese, second Oppenneer to enter into non-public session under the aforementioned RSA, vote 3 – 0.

Roll Call: Reed ~ yes, Oppenneer ~ yes, and Albanese ~ yes.

The board returned to regular session at 6:55 PM and requested the Town Manager to place the personnel issue on the next agenda under a Non Public Session.

Motion Oppenneer, second Albanese to adjourn at 6:58 PM for the purposes of attending a Public Hearing by the Department of Transportation for future improvements to Route 4a, and Shaker Bridge, vote 3 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,
April Whittaker