

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

**MINUTES of April 1, 2002**

**Board of Selectmen:** Donald J. Crate, Sr., Ilene P. Reed, and Keith Oppenneer

**Administrative Staff:** Stephen B. Griffin, Assistant Town Manager; Alisa D. Bonnette, Secretary

**Others:** Ken Daniels, Holly Sanders, Dwight Marchetti, Mike Dudley, Ken Wheeler, Wendy Euler, Mitchell Leonard

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

Mr. Oppenneer moved to elect Mr. Crate as chairman; Mrs. Reed seconded, vote unanimous.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Oppenneer moved to accept the minutes of 18 March 2002 as prepared; Mr. Crate seconded. Mr. Oppenneer and Mr. Crate in favor, Mrs. Reed abstained, motion carried.

Mr. Oppenneer moved to accept the minutes of 25 March 2002 as prepared; Mrs. Reed seconded, vote unanimous.

**BUSINESS**

**Town Manager Search:**

The Selectmen received a list of town manager salaries for town with populations between 2,000 and 10,000 as reported by NHMA's 2001 Wage, Salary and Benefits Survey.

Mr. Crate moved to enter non-public session at 5:30pm., Mr. Oppenneer seconded. Ms. Sanders asked the reason for the non-public session. Mr. Crate informed her the Board would be discussing personalities. RSA 91-A:3 II was cited, sections (b) and (c) were applicable. Roll call vote to enter non-public session: Mr. Oppenneer – Aye, Mr. Crate – Aye, Mrs. Reed – Aye.

Mr. Oppenneer moved to close the non-public session at 6:12pm.; Mrs. Reed seconded, vote unanimous.

Mr. Oppenneer moved to seal the minutes of the non-public session for a period of 30 days; Mrs. Reed seconded, vote unanimous.

Mr. Oppenneer moved to enter into a contract with New Hampshire Municipal Association to assist with the selection of a town manager; Mr. Crate seconded. Mr. Oppenneer and Mr. Crate in favor, Mrs. Reed opposed; motion carried.

Mr. Crate moved to hire an interim town manager; Mr. Oppenneer seconded. Mr. Crate and Mr. Oppenneer in favor, Mrs. Reed opposed; motion carried.

Mr. Crate moved to appoint Peter H. Giese as interim town manager; Mr. Oppenneer seconded. Mr. Crate and Mr. Oppenneer in favor, Mrs. Reed abstained; motion carried.

Mr. Oppenneer moved to exercise the clause in the Municipal Resources, Inc. contract and provide a 30 days notice to 1 May 2002; Mr. Crate seconded. Mr. Oppenneer and Mr. Crate in favor, Mrs. Reed opposed; motion carried.

Mr. Oppenneer wants it known that his decision to terminate the contract with MRI and hire an interim town manager does not reflect, in his mind, on the service provided by Stephen Griffin. He feels Mr. Griffin has done a fine job, but that 2 days/week is not enough.

**Fireworks Permit:**

By consensus, the Board approved a fireworks permit for George's Super Value.

**Community Development Block Grant:**

Mr. Oppenneer moved to approve a Code of Ethics for CDBG Administration; Mr. Crate seconded, vote unanimous.

Mr. Crate as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen and CEO, signed a Memo to Environmental Review Record designating himself, as required under RSA 507-B and Community Development Block Grant Regulations, as the Environmental Certifying Officer.

**Tax Bill Stuffers:**

The Selectmen approved the inclusion of several items with the tax bill mailing, including resident permit stickers, household hazardous waste collection notice, and the semi-annual town newsletter. In addition, Mrs. Reed moved to include a flyer on Eurasian Milfoil with the tax bill mailing; Mr. Crate seconded, vote unanimous.

**Other Business:**

The Board approved a request from Barbara Stinson for the use of Whitney Hall on Saturday mornings for a Tai Chi class. This class will be held weekly. By consensus of the Board, the \$50 fee will be waived. The town reserves the right to schedule the hall for other town business when required.

The Board reviewed and approved Yield Tax warrants as presented.

**TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT****Certified Forester:**

Mr. Griffin recommended the Town seek proposals for a certified forester to assist the town with compliance with Timber Tax rules that are being changed by the NH Dept. of Revenue Administration. Someone that is educated in the field is required. The Board concurred unanimously.

**Downtown Initiatives Grant:**

Mr. Griffin reported that EVA has applied for a Downtown Initiatives Grant to purchase and fix up the Newton property on Main Street. Mr. Griffin developed the financial portion of the application.

**CITIZENS FORUM****Community Building Elevator:**

Ken Wheeler of the Enfield-Mascoma Lions Club informed the Board that the Lions are now ready for the elevator to be ordered. Mr. Griffin explained that the Town is waiting for the final Town Meeting to be held before ordering, however Mr. Griffin will take care of this issue as soon as possible following Town Meeting.

Mr. Oppeneer asked who was working on the landscaping and parking for the Community Building. Mr. Daniels replied that the town will do the site work, but the cost is estimated at \$180,000. The site design was completed, but the drainage has to redone due to changes in the NH Dept. of Transportation designs. There are no conflicts with the Main Street design and the driveway has already been permitted.

**Town Manager:**

Michael Dudley stated that the idea of an interim town manager doesn't make sense and people like himself at town meeting expected a single transition.

Upon inquiry, Holly Sanders was informed that the search is expected to take 2 to 3 months. Ms. Sanders concurs with Mr. Dudley. It would be detrimental to the budget process and the town. The Board's decision also puts one person in charge of his own budget. Ms. Sanders has no problem with the concept of a full-time manager, but feels it is very wrong that it will be as abrupt as this; the town won't have a smooth flow of operation. It is also a bit of a concern that this went through as a pre-gone conclusion with out discussion by the people present at this meeting. Ms. Sanders was informed that this was the third meeting at which the town manager position was discussed.

Dwight Marchetti stated that all around the State an interim town manager is not an uncommon thing. He thinks Town Meeting gave the Selectmen a clear message.

Mr. Dudley does not think the Selectmen's choice [of Peter Giese] is a bad one, Chief Giese will do a fine job, but Mr. Dudley feels having an interim Town Manager and the discontinuity it creates is a bad idea.

Wendy Euler wondered if the Selectmen are going to play a larger role in the day-to-day operations of the town. She feels it is important for Mr. Crate and Mr. Oppenneer to see how things are going. The Police Department is run a lot differently than the town offices. It would help too, if the Selectmen would like to help with the transition. We'd like to avoid problems.

Mr. Oppenneer understands there is an education process between boss and staff. Yes there will be work, because an interim doesn't know everything. Yes, there will be time on the part of staff. The voters, in his mind, clearly wanted a manager 5 days per week. He is exercising the judgment of the town meeting, to comply with the expressed vote of the town.

Mrs. Reed asked, "Didn't you say you expected some manager to come in Monday and do the work?" No one can do that without assistance."

**Town Meeting Warrant Article 10 (Underground Utilities):**

Mr. Marchetti stated that when he was at Town Meeting there was a lengthy discussion of Article 10. There was a lot of argument before the motion was made to reconsider. Mr. Marchetti would like to see the Board of Selectmen get a legal opinion to see if the meeting coming up on Saturday, 6 April, is legal. He does not know if the proper procedure was followed.

Ms. Sanders believes the Moderator had rules to follow, both Roberts Rules of Order and Moderator's rulebook, and she thinks the attorney agreed that the Moderator could make that opinion.

Mr. Marchetti wanted it on the record that he brought this issue before the Selectmen.

The Board agreed to take no action.

**Purchase of Town Property:**

Mitchell Leonard has been interested in purchasing some town-owned property in Lower Shaker Village for some time. He would like to try and buy it without the property being advertised in the papers. He does not know if he has to bid on the property.

Mr. Griffin replied that the town has to do the sale in some way that leaves it open to everyone. The Town can sell by auction, sealed bid or any process that makes it available to the public at large. There are properties the Town will be merging before a sale. For any properties taken after a certain date, the Town can only keep the money that is owed in back taxes, interest, costs and fees; the rest goes back to the prior owner.

Mr. Leonard asked what kind of time from the Town is looking at. Mr. Griffin replied that it should take about a month. The Planning Board will be doing the mergers soon.

**COMMUNICATIONS/INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

Ray Burton 2002: Campaign Kickoff Reception, Tuesday, April 9

Ray Burton letter dated 4/3/02 re: Information; Relief and Assistance available from the Executive Council Office

Montshire Museum letter re: Marc Rosenbaum, consultant on environmental design, key speaker at public forum, Wednesday evening, April 10 and breakfast working session, Thurs., April 11.

Warden and Deputy Warden/Town Official Training at NH Fire Academy

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Oppenneer moved to adjourn at 6:50 pm.; Mr. Crate seconded. Mr. Crate and Mr. Oppenneer in favor, Mrs. Reed abstained, motion carried.