

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

Public Hearing on Bonds or Notes over \$100,000

Date: January 18, 2000

Time: 5:30 pm.

MINUTES

Board of Selectmen: Ilene P. Reed; Keith Oppenneer;
Absent due to business--Donald J. Crate, Sr., Chairman

Administrative Staff: Mitch Manseau, Assistant Town Manager;
Alisa D. Bonnette, Secretary

Others: Ken Wheeler, Barbara Brady, Earl Brady, and Bob Pollard

Mrs. Reed called the hearing to order at 7:00 pm.

Mr. Oppenneer explained that the Budget Committee, Board of Selectmen and Town Managers have looked at this. Some of the work we're doing wasn't planned so soon and some pipes from 1904 are due for replacement. The bond issue will not affect water rates or taxes. Some previous bond issues have been paid off. Mr. Oppenneer encouraged willingness to listen to the presentation.

Mr. Manseau read the proposed warrant article:

“Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of five hundred thousand dollars (500,000) (gross budget) for improvements to the water distribution system, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$500,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33), and to authorize the Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. Repayment of these bonds and notes will be entirely by the municipal water and sewer customers. No increase in water and sewer rates will be necessary as a result of this borrowing. (3/5-ballot vote required.) This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article #9 and has no impact on the tax rate. The Board of Selectmen recommends passage of this article. The Budget Committee recommends passage of this article.”

Mr. Manseau explained that last year the town approved a \$100,000 bond issue that would be joined with the \$500,000 for a single bond issue through the NH Municipal Bond Bank at an estimated interest rate between 1.3% and 2.6%. A water bond has just been paid off and no current water bonds are being paid for. Ratepayers would not be burdened by taking on this new debt.

Mr. Brady asked if the proposed projects would include expansion of the water system. He was informed that no, it does not. The original idea was to bond \$1,000,000, but the town is now looking at just \$600,000 over a shorter period. These projects are somewhat tied to the bridge replacement projects coming up.

Oak Grove Street will get a 12" pipe to replace the existing 4" pipe. Some 12" pipe has already been installed where the Route 4 bank stabilization project has taken place.

An effort will be made to work ahead of paving projects. In the instance of the Route 4 stabilization project, the town used the same contractor as the state to make the work seamless. One hundred feet of new pipe was installed from Route 4 down Oak Grove.

Timing of the bridge replacement projects is driven by the State. Bids will go out in the fall with construction next year. We'd like to be ready for it.

Old pipes, corrosion and mineral build-up are reducing the carry capacity of existing lines. There are also a lot of open loops in the water system. The town wants fewer dead-ends in the system. This will provide more options for re-routing in the event of breaks. Firefighting is another reason for doing that. Many pipes are nearing the end of their life expectancy. There are also some valve problems in the Pillsbury/Shedd/Union Street intersection that need to be addressed.

Mrs. Reed asked if the bond would affect the tax rate at all. She was informed that, no, it would strictly be a ratepayer expense.

Mr. Manseau pointed out the advantages of proper maintenance rather than fixing leaks as they occur.

Mr. Brady asked if the projects included replacing mains on May Street. Mr. Manseau believes the town will be doing Main Street instead of May.

Discussion followed regarding the bridge replacement projects. The town is working as closely with the state as it can to coordinate work so we don't have to rip up newly paved road. These projects will be a big part of what Ken Daniels, the new Public Works Director, will be doing.

Mr. Pollard asked if, when the state replaces the bridge by the Copeland Block, they are going to do the sidewalks. Mr. Pollard was informed that there is some money in for sidewalks. Mr. Manseau believes there is a 20% town/80% state split.

Sidewalk projects were discussed. Mr. Pollard wondered if the State is going to leave the corner of Route 4 by High Street as it is. He recommends a steel fence or the corner should be cut in to protect children from individuals that are driving too fast around the corner. Mrs. Reed responded that the town would do its best.

The audience was informed that the hearing for the Water/Sewer/Public Works building has been canceled. The Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen have removed it from the 2000 budget. The building had been planned for the upper limit of the Town Garage property on

Shedd Street, perpendicular to the road. There were some funding concerns so the project has been postponed.

The building would have consisted primarily of 4 or 5 bays for water and sewer equipment, one bay for grounds equipment, a work room/lab, restrooms with a shower and a break room for all Public Works employees. There would also be a space for the Highway Superintendent to do office work. The town would sell the May Street property with the revenue from the sale offsetting some of the cost of the new building. The existing highway garage is good for storage.

Because this project has been postponed a certain amount of work needs to be done to the May Street property so that building will last until a new one is constructed.

The expenses for the building construction were going to be distributed among the departments that would utilize the building. There would be no state or federal funding.

Mr. Pollard was concerned about the estimated cost of \$200,000. Where did that figure come from?

Mr. Manseau explained that a 3500 square foot steel building was proposed. The price per square foot is competitive. That was the best deal of the possibilities at the time.

Mr. Pollard stated that some steel buildings, about 200' x 120', go for \$56,000. Mr. Manseau noted that the town's price includes utilities, but if Mr. Pollard would like to drop off the advertisement we'd be happy to look at it. Our intent is not to spend a lot of money, but the town needs something that will last quite a while. The town does not plan to do anything this year, but we need to make immediate repairs to the May Street garage.

Mrs. Reed called the hearing to a close at 7:45 pm.