

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

MINUTES of July 5, 2000

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

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

Others: Steve Epstein and Diana Davidson of the Grafton Country Economic Development Council, Nancy Scovner, Nancy Smith, Bert Gilbert, Margaret Levesque.

CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Reed called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Oppenneer moved to approve the non-public session minutes of June 5 and June 19, 2000 and the regular session minutes of June 19, 2000 as prepared; Mrs. Reed seconded, vote unanimous.

BUSINESS

Grafton County Economic Development Council:

Steve Epstein and Diana Davidson of the Grafton Country Economic Development Council (GCEDC) introduced themselves to the Selectmen and offered a brochure that outlines the services they provide. The GCEDC is dedicated to improving the standard of living in Grafton County by facilitating employment opportunities throughout the region and assisting each community grow its economic base. Assistance, often provided at little or not cost, is available in many areas including planning, finance, workforce development, expansion, site selection, research & development and exporting. Ms. Davidson spends a large portion of her time visiting businesses to find out what the businesses need and offering assistance. Sometimes businesses don't have time to find the resources.

Mr. Oppenneer asked of the businesses visited, how many are expanding? Ms. Davidson replied that most of the businesses expect to do some form of expansion within the next 1-3 years. The current low unemployment rate has made it more difficult to find qualified workers.

Mrs. Reed asked if the Council could help with the Enfield Village Association, a group that is working toward the revitalization of downtown. Mr. Epstein replied that most revitalization is seen with existing local businesses, but the GCEDC can try to help.

CITIZENS FORUM

Nancy Scovner related that she heard a rumor last year that Municipal Resources Inc. (MRI) was going to be done away with. She was assured that wasn't the case. Again, she's hearing the same rumor. Mrs. Scovner then stated that there has been a flagrant violation of the Town's Conflict of Interest Policy by Mr. Oppenneer. Mrs. Scovner stated that Mr. Oppenneer used his position as selectman to talk to Bart Mayer, the town's attorney, to discuss a proposed contract for himself. Mrs. Scovner proceeded to read from the Conflict of Interest policy, in part "Pecuniary Interest: When the officer/employee has a direct personal and pecuniary interest in a matter before the Town board or agency. Such interest includes, but is not limited to, an ownership interest, a mortgage interest, a creditor or debtor interest, or relationship." She also read, "Procedure: ... The officer/employee shall not sit with the remainder of the board, shall not participate in the consideration or discussion, and shall not vote. The officer/employee may remain in the room where the board or agency is meeting, but only as a member of the audience." Copies of the policy were provided to the selectmen. She hopes that Mr. Oppenneer will pay the attorney's bill. Mr. Oppenneer replied that he would be happy to. Mrs. Scovner feels this makes it very clear that Mr. Oppenneer should either resign as Selectman or not participate in any discussion or decisions about MRI.

Nancy Smith reported that she has heard the same rumors that Mrs. Scovner just discussed. Mrs. Smith has worked with contractors. Operational jobs are good for contractors. A contractor that has great control over personnel can take their better employees and give them better positions. It could be that MRI chooses to place Steve elsewhere. You have to work with a contractor to work out problems that exist.

Bert Gilbert feels that MRI has done a great job in Enfield. He'd hate to see them go.

Mr. Oppenneer stated that once he broached the subject he dropped it and hasn't spoken to anyone. It was brought up at another meeting, which he did not play a part in. He will not take part in any discussion of this issue.

Mrs. Reed then reported that she had spoken with a few people as she and Mr. Crate discussed. Bill Warren told her he has no problem with the managers, just that he doesn't know them personally. Mrs. Reed also spoke with Bob & Nancy Foley, Judy Kmon, Marcia Cornell and several members of the Enfield Village Association. Mrs. Cornell feels that the Assistant Town Managers have been very cooperative and helpful with the Summer Recreation Program.

Mrs. Reed thanked Mrs. Scovner for bringing these issues to the Board's attention.

Mrs. Scovner feels we should be proud, according to NH Magazine Enfield is rated as one of the top 25 towns in which to raise a family.

Mrs. Reed is perfectly happy with the Town Manager form of government and MRI. They know municipal law. Mr. Crate and Mrs. Reed have spoken about this and he knows how she feels. She thinks this issue should be taken care of; it's an important one and important to the Town of Enfield. Mrs. Reed would like to vote to keep the Town Managers and she would vote in favor.

Mr. Crate replied that he is not going to vote now, but he thinks they need to sit down with the managers and go over some issues.

This issue was tabled.

Mr. Griffin stated that he'd be glad to get together with the Board anytime.

Mr. Crate said that everyone knows our highway superintendent is retiring next week. Mr. Crate feels that the Board of Selectmen should have input into hiring a new superintendent. Last meeting when he broached the subject he was read the RSA's that the Town Manager has the authority to hire and fire, but he thinks the Selectmen should.

Mrs. Levesque asked why the Selectmen and Town Managers were not working together? Mr. Crate replied that he was told the Town Managers hire and fire the people. The Selectmen have had no input in 3 years on who's hired and fired.

Mrs. Levesque asked if it has always this way? Mr. Crate stated no, when he was a selectmen before, they were always involved. People are going to come back to the Selectmen if there's a problem.

Mr. Griffin stated that he did note at the last meeting that the RSA on the Town Manager form of government, adopted by town meeting, says that the Town Manager is responsible for hiring and setting pay of employees. Mr. Griffin had also said that the Selectmen can play a part in hiring the process. A copy of the Highway Superintendent job description was provided to the Selectmen at that time for any suggestions.

Mr. Crate said he was not looking for power. He knows what the town's roads were like before Joe Lashua became Highway Superintendent. Mr. Crate said he comes from the old school and knows how things have been. You've got to be careful whom you get in there.

Mrs. Scovner and Mrs. Smith both feel that the Selectmen should be involved in the process.

This discussion was concluded with the intent for the Selectmen and Town Managers to meet at a later time. Some discussion needs to take place about how the Selectmen want to be involved.

BUSINESS CONTINUED

Petition for Road Name Change:

The Board received a petition to change the name of Tucker Lane to Old Blood Road, Blood Road Ext. or Old Blood Lane. It was recommended that the Selectmen deny the petition, as the names chosen do not meet the E-911 criteria for a new road name.

Mr. Oppenheer moved to deny this petition for road name change on the basis that the selected names don't meet the E-911 criteria; Mr. Crate seconded, vote unanimous.

Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission Request for Municipal Transportation Improvement Program (TIP):

No action is needed at this time. Joe Lashua should be consulted about the proposed projects.

Mr. Griffin reported that there is potential for the Town's use of the 5 acre site east of the Shaker Bridge Motel. Mr. Griffin is going to meet with the NH Department of Transportation to discuss the need for additional archeological exploration and to negotiate for approval with covenants to avoid any additional expense. The State is concerned about the potential loss of buried artifacts. Town doesn't want to dig on the site; but only to use the site as a picnic spot. The site is not good for boat use or swimming due to shallow bottom conditions at this location.

Mrs. Reed noted that pedestrian crossing signs have been put at the Route 4A beach crossing. Mr. Griffin thinks the town may want to use Ray Burton's help for crosswalks.

Mr. Crate thinks that the traffic island shown on NH DOT plans won't allow a tractor-trailer to turn. Mr. Griffin feels there should be a light there. The Selectmen may want to make a package and go to Ray Burton for assistance.

Police Special Detail Rate:

The Board considered an increase in the rate charged for police special details. Currently \$28.50/hour is charged to the company needing traffic control services from the Police Department. This amount does not fully cover the Town's costs. A rate of \$32.00 was proposed. Two dollars of that rate is an allowance for the car. Mr. Crate feels \$2.00/hour for the car is too low. He also feels, for safety reasons, the policy should be if an officer is there the cruiser is there. Mr. Griffin agreed. It was agreed the rate for the car should be increased to \$5.00/hour.

Mrs. Reed moved to approve a final rate of \$35.00/hour for Police Special Details; Mr. Crate seconded, vote unanimous.

Town Employee Salary & Benefits Review:

Mr. Griffin presented an analysis of employee salaries based on larger and smaller towns. Because Enfield is in between the rates should be higher than the small towns but lower than the large towns. Two departments, Building Inspection and Recreation, need to be addressed at budget time for wage increases.

Refunds, Abatements & Warrants:

The Board reviewed and approved the following documents: Property tax refunds, property tax refund, excavation tax warrants, waterworks abatements, yield tax warrant, first issue active pit area levy.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**NH Department of Transportation Drainage Issue:**

Mr. Griffin reported NH DOT plans to run a drainage pipe through Huse Park. The State was looking for a statement from the town that the easement will not significantly affect the park. Ken Daniels, Director of Public Works, identified the old willow tree as an issue to be considered. NH DOT informed Mr. Griffin that the plans show that the pipe would be 20 feet from the tree, within the drip line. Mr. Griffin has asked NH DOT to address the issue of the tree before the Selectmen are asked to sign a statement.

State Education Tax:

Mr. Oppenheer asked if the town has received any money from the state. Mr. Griffin replied that the town received \$12,000 for administrative costs. The Town did not realize any hardware or software costs directly related to the State Education Tax. The Town was reimbursed \$236 for training costs.

Beach/Pool:

Mrs. Reed asked what would happen to the beach when they replace the Shaker Bridge? Mr. Crate noted that the Town might lose the beach. Maybe we should have a municipal pool? Other alternatives discussed were leasing beachfront at Lower Shaker Village or at the head of the lake. Mr. Griffin will look into this.

Mrs. Reed asked if the Selectmen could put money into this project. Mr. Crate suggested a questionnaire at town meeting. A municipal pool could be addressed in the capital improvements program and at budget time. Funds could be placed in the Recreation Facilities Capital Reserve Fund at town meeting.

Street Number Change Request:

Joyce Winslow was assigned 13 Bay Drive. She has asked that she be allowed to change to another number. Jim Taylor will be asked to re-measure the distances. The Board approved a number change if there was an error in measurement.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/CORRESPONDENCE

Planning Board Hearing for the Enfield United Methodist Church: Wed., July 12 at 7:30 pm.
Enfield Village School Physical Education Department letter of thanks.
Enfield Village Association letter of thanks to All Waste Services, date 6/21/00.
Enfield Village School letter of thanks, dated 6/26/00.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Crate moved to adjourn at 7:15 pm.; Mrs. Reed seconded, vote unanimous.