

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

MINUTES of September 18, 2000

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

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

Others: Ken Daniels, Director of Public Works; Larry & Fay Grace; Fred Altvater; Peter Giese, Chief of Police

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Crate asked that the minutes of August 21, 2000 note that he was absent due to business. Mr. Oppenneer moved to approve the minutes of August 21, 2000 as amended; Mrs. Reed seconded, vote unanimous.

BUSINESS

Tucker Lane Renaming:

Fay Grace said the residents considered the suggested Governor Blood Lane but they were concerned there might be some increased traffic if people believe a governor lived on the road. (Governor Blood actually resided on the other end of the road when it was continuous from Potato Road to Lockehaven.) Because the residents were not in favor of Governor Blood Lane, the office staff would recommend approval of Windy Blood Lane.

Mr. Crate moved to change the name of Tucker Lane to Windy Blood Lane; Mr. Oppenneer seconded; vote unanimous.

Shaker Boulevard Bridge over Knox River:

Mr. Manseau reported that the bridge on Shaker Boulevard over the Knox River has been on the State's "red bridge list" for a few years. Replacement of the bridge has been in the town's capital improvements program for as many years and was due for replacement in 2001. Unfortunately, the bridge is deteriorating rapidly and the State bridge inspector is going to condemn it. It could take 6 months for this to happen.

The possibilities for addressing the problem include a quick fix now at a cost of approximately \$20,000. A temporary fix is eligible for 80% State funding/20% Town funding and would result in a cost of about \$4,000 to the town. A temporary fix would result in closing the bridge for 3-4 days.

Reconstruction, a permanent solution, is also eligible for an 80/20 split. Reconstruction of the bridge would cost the town \$35-40,000 and would require closing the bridge for 3-5 weeks and an 8 mile detour for some residents.

The Selectmen could entertain the idea of upgrading Fuller Road from Class VI to Class IV. The cost to upgrade Fuller Road would also be \$35-40,000. This would provide a short-term solution for residents and long term would decrease traffic on portions of Shaker Boulevard.

Mr. Daniels stated that bringing Fuller Road to Class IV status, the town would have to create a T-intersection with Shaker Boulevard and require a stop sign on Shaker Boulevard allowing through traffic from Fuller Road. For about \$7,500 Fuller Road could be clear-cut from stonewall to stonewall.

Mr. Crate asked why the town couldn't expedite it and repair the bridge this fall? Mr. Daniels explained that it will take a lot of coordination but can be expedited by proceeding with design engineering, permit application and bid documents concurrently.

Mr. Crate asked if anyone had spoken to Ray Burton. Mr. Crate knew about the bridge last week and spoke with Chief Giese. Chief Giese was going to contact Ray Burton, who was supposed to be expediting this.

Mr. Crate asked about the possibility of a temporary bridge for the winter. Mr. Daniels explained that a temporary bridge would have to go over the existing bridge since there is not room enough to do otherwise.

While Mr. Crate personally would like to see Fuller Road opened up, he does not believe this is the time to do it. The road would become a crossover and he would like to stay away from that.

Mr. Manseau talked to the town's attorney about the possibility of upgrading Fuller Road. This process would require 30 days notice to abutters, including all of the members of the Mascoma Heights Association.

Mr. Crate feels that if we're going to spend \$35,000 the money should be put into the bridge.

Mr. Oppeneer moved to approve expenditures not to exceed \$40,000 for the bridge on Shaker Boulevard over the Knox River; Mr. Crate seconded, vote unanimous.

The Board agreed that Fuller Road would not be opened up.

The Assistant Town Manager will report to the Board at the next meeting where the \$40,000 will come from.

Solid Waste Operations:

The town has seen an increase of nearly 50% in solid waste tonnage since the early 90's. Maybe 30-40% of the people that use the Transfer Station recycle. The compactor was being pulled twice a month and we were pulling 10 tons. We are now pulling 12 tons per week. Recycling must be encouraged. The State requires the City of Lebanon to add \$5 per ton surcharge on all solid waste if the town does meet a 40% recycling goal.

Preliminary Budget for 2001:

The Selectmen were presented with a preliminary Town Manager budget for 2001. The Board will review this by the next meeting, October 2.

CITIZENS FORUM**Fred Altvater/Timber Tax:**

Fred Altvater came before the Board to request an abatement of timber tax. Mr. Altvater received a tax bill for timber taken off his land. This timber included blow down from the tornado that went through Plainfield and Enfield as well as some other timber. A State forester caught the logger on Mr. Altvater's land and informed the logger that he needed to file an Intent to Cut form. Mr. Altvater believes he was the only one who received a tax bill. The logger was supposed to pay the taxes, but the landowner is responsible and receives the bill. Mr. Altvater stated that logging was also done on Proctor's, Rogers' and Poire's properties and he was the only one that received a bill. Mr. Altvater paid the bill because he would incur 18% interest if he did not.

Mr. Altvater went on to explain that he has received no money from the logger and it will cost him an additional \$2,000 to have the mess cleaned up that was left behind. Mr. Altvater does not think he should have been taxed.

Chief Giese stated that he had trouble with just one person getting a tax bill when the logger went down the street in Enfield Center. He went on to state that Mr. Altvater is one of our most reliable firefighters and has put in long hours.

The logger filed an Intent to Cut only for logging on Mr. Altvater's property.

Mr. Crate asked what portion of the timber tax goes to the State. Mr. Altvater said it is exempt from State tax but that the Assessing Assistant says it's taxable. Seventeen loads of timber came off of Mr. Altvater's property.

Mr. Crate moved to refund the timber tax that Mr. Altvater paid if the selectmen are authorized to do it; Mr. Oppenheer seconded, vote unanimous.

Peter Giese, Chief of Police/Police Operations:

Chief Giese came to discuss a memo that Assistant Town Manager, Mitch Manseau, sent to him that ordered Chief Giese to do a specific thing. In response to this memo, Chief Giese prepared and presented to the Board a report. Chief Giese addressed issues relating to a vehicle that had been damaged in an accident and was evidence in a felony and was towed and parked behind Whitney Hall, to the requested removal of the vehicle from that location by Mr. Manseau, the

need for an impound lot, the use of DEA funds, the frustration the Police Department feels in being forced to act as receptionist to the Planning/Zoning and Building offices, with a subsequent hazardous waste collection at this same location and a dumpster full of paint and other cans that was left behind Whitney Hall for two days.

Chief Giese asked the Board of Selectmen for the following: to insure that Chief Giese receives due and timely notice of all pending actions and that he have an opportunity to be heard; to rescind the memo from Mr. Manseau; to suggest the best course of action to preserve evidence should the same situation recur; and to give consideration to removing Mr. Manseau from any exposure/contact with the police department, its employees and the workplace.

Mr. Oppeneer asked how much an impound lot would cost and if there is room behind the police station.

Mr. Crate stated that the area behind the police station was supposed to be dug out with gravel put down, it was to be fenced with chain link fence with barbed wire and privacy slats to prevent viewing through. It should be big enough for 2 vehicles, a couple of snowmobiles and motorcycles.

Mr. Oppeneer asked Mr. Manseau to determine where \$50,000 can come from, \$40,000 for the Knox River bridge and \$10,000 for an impound lot.

There was a very brief discussion of who said what to whom. Mr. Manseau feels that some of Chief Giese's statements are inaccurate and would like the opportunity to respond.

Mr. Crate feels that before Chief Giese was asked to remove the vehicle that the Selectmen should have been informed.

Mr. Crate also expressed dissatisfaction with the way MRI has handled other issues. Mr. Crate feels the Selectmen should be more involved.

Mr. Oppeneer does not want to know every purchase order that goes through the office, but does feel that anything over "X" dollars be reviewed by the Selectmen, even if the Selectmen do not do the actual approval. The School Board requested that they receive a courtesy briefing of issues. Mr. Oppeneer does not want to change State law, but the people do look to the Selectmen for answers.

Mr. Crate expressed concern over the way the Pillsbury Street project has gone. The road was virtually impassable to residents.

Mr. Manseau replied that to our knowledge none of the residents were denied access. No one contacted the office.

Mr. Daniels also noted that the day after Advanced Excavating and Paving did work it rained for 3 days. The contractor hauled in a lot of extra gravel. Completion of the work is expected this week. It will be paved tomorrow. We ended up solving problems with drainage at the town shed and put in some extra pipe. The bid came in at \$289,000 and total costs after project changes came to \$295,000.

Mr. Oppenneer moved to table this issue until the next meeting; Mr. Crate seconded; vote unanimous.

BUSINESS, Continued

Committee Resignations and Appointments:

The Selectmen were informed of the resignation of Juleanne McLaughlin from the Budget Committee and received a letter of resignation from John Carr from the Trustees of Trust Funds. Both resignations were accepted with regret.

Mrs. Reed suggested contacting the Enfield Village Association for possible candidates for the vacant Trustee of Trust Funds position. Mr. Oppenneer also thought Peter Lapré might be interested in the position.

The Board was informed of the need to reappoint Inspectors of Election before October 31 and received a letter of interest from Judy Kmon. Mr. Oppenneer moved to appoint Judy Kmon as an Alternate Inspector of Election; Mrs. Reed seconded; vote unanimous.

Request for Rental of Whitney Hall:

The Board received a request for rental of Whitney Hall for dance classes. The request is for use every Friday for an undetermined length of time. There is concern over wear and tear on the wood floor. Mr. Oppenneer suggested that a 90-day trial period be approved but that the Board asks for a \$500 bond and a plan to protection of the floor. Mr. Crate and Mrs. Reed concurred.

Other Business:

The Board reviewed and approved Yield Tax warrants and property tax refunds.

Mr. Oppenneer moved to provide the appropriate exemption for Edna McKinney as requested; Mr. Crate seconded; vote unanimous.

The Board approved a letter requesting State approval for the use of Dufresne-Henry as the town's engineer on the Knox River bridge reconstruction project.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Farewell Property:

The Planning/Zoning Administrator has checked to see if there is any contravening orders to the order dated 1988 that prohibits habitation of the "cabin." Mr. Crate is familiar with the situation and remembers requiring individuals to move out of the structure. Mr. Manseau will write to the Farewell's to determine if anyone is currently residing in the building.

Authorized Signer for Reimbursement:

The Board concurred that Mitch Manseau shall replace Pat MacQueen as an authorized individual to sign State reimbursement requests.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/CORRESPONDENCE

NH DOT letter to Chief Giese re: crosswalk request

Scott Thompson's daughter, Jessica made the US World Team in her Karate class. She has been invited to travel with the team to Budapest, Hungary during the first week of December. The Board approved a letter of congratulations.

Granite State Clean Cities Coalition re: alternative fuel vehicles

Radar report for Flanders Street

Home Rule: August 24, 2000 letter from NH Farm Bureau Federation, Inc. and September 5, 2000 letter from NH Municipal Association

Advance Transit memo re: new schedule

25th Annual Municipal Law Lecture Series schedule.

Mascoma Watershed Conservation Council notice of Conservation Festival. This will be forwarded to the Conservation Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Oppenneer moved to adjourn at 7:45 pm.; Mrs. Reed seconded, vote unanimous.