

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

MINUTES of October 16, 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; Ken Daniels, Director of Public Works; Julie Huntley, Assessing Assistant

Others: Deborah Ballou, Nancy Garner, Evelyn Brewer, Hammond & Hazel Young, Roger & Marta Barnes, Austin & Joyce Flint, David Tatham, Jim Bohne, Ellen & Lloyd Hackeman, Jim Martel, Bill & Nancy Martin, Creigh Moffatt, Daniel Johnson, Norm Bernaiche

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Oppenneer moved to approve the minutes of 2 October 2000 as prepared; Mrs. Reed seconded, vote unanimous.

INFORMATION HEARING: KNOX RIVER BRIDGE

The purpose of this hearing is to provide everyone with the same information regarding the proposed bridge replacement.

Mr. Griffin explained that the Knox River Bridge over Shaker Boulevard is in terrible shape. The State recommended that the Town close the bridge. Replacement of the bridge is eligible for 80% State funding, with the remaining 20% to be paid by the Town.

The NH Department of Revenue Administration will allow the Town to use funds that were not budgeted as an emergency. The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee both must approve this expenditure.

During the bridge design soil borings were done, exposing complications. Mr. Daniels explained that poor soils were found that would require use of a pile driven foundation. This adds to the time for construction and the cost. Currently, Mr. Daniels would not recommend driving heavy trucks over the bridge. Unfortunately, due to state requirements the Town will not be able to replace the bridge this year. As an alternative, Mr. Daniels proposes use of a Bailey Bridge over the existing structure. A Bailey Bridge is a temporary truss bridge. A temporary bridge would

provide 16 feet from rail to rail with a grade change of about 2 feet, requiring the road level to come up. The bridge will be closed to traffic for 7-10 days to install the temporary bridge and then 5-7 weeks in the spring during construction of a permanent bridge.

Mr. Griffin asked if there was any way to bypass the existing bridge with a Bailey Bridge. Mr. Daniels explained that it might be possible on the southern side, but there are utility issues there. On the north side are some large trees that Mr. Daniels is sure the residents would not want to lose. To set a pre-cast concrete bridge the pre-cast concrete will have to be brought in from the Route 4A side and a crane will have to be brought down from the Livingstone Lodge Road side.

It was questioned whether the town had looked into large culverts instead of a bridge. Mr. Daniels replied that it's a question of water capacity and would probably require 3 pipes. A pre-cast structure would be an arched bridge. Photos were passed around to give everyone an idea of what it would look like.

In response to other questions, Mr. Daniels explained that a pre-cast concrete bridge would be the fastest way to put in the bridge. The planned width for the new bridge is 24 feet from side to side. A 20' headwall along the span of the bridge, about 2 feet high) is the only difference from what exists there now. If the residents have a preferred design, the town can consider it.

Any alternative plan, such as a covered bridge, must meet State load standards in order for the Town to receive State funding. It was mentioned that there is a covered bridge in Quechee that is actually steel underneath.

Originally, the cost to replace the bridge was expected to be about \$200,000, \$40,000 to be paid by the Town. The soil problem adds about \$100,000 to the total cost.

Discussion followed regarding school bus routes, the condition of the existing bridge, the problems that might during spring thaw if construction has already begun, the affect the new bridge may have on abutting properties, and the possibility of including a sidewalk on the bridge.

Jim Bohne asked that he be provided some warning for his business. Mr. Daniels replied that the Town would like to make this as painless as possible. Names and addresses of those present were collected and updates will be provided as information becomes available.

The Bailey Bridge should be in by Thanksgiving.

BUSINESS

Boston Post Cane:

The Selectmen unanimously agreed to have a replica of the Boston Post Cane produced for the Town of Enfield. This would allow residents of nursing homes to hold the replica, keeping the original in the care of the Town Historian. Recipients of the cane that continue to reside in Enfield will be allowed to keep the original cane in their possession.

2001 Proposed Budget:

Mr. Oppeneer suggested cuts that total approximately \$45,000. He will provide a listing of these proposed cuts to the Board at the November 6th meeting.

Knox River Bridge:

The Board briefly discussed the Knox River Bridge, the inclusion of a sidewalk and the suggestion that a covered bridge be installed. Mr. Daniels asked if a sidewalk would need to be maintained during the winter months. Mr. Crate said no, they would not.

Mr. Daniels recommended the Board commit to go with a temporary bridge and to inform Bob Barry of NH Dept. of Transportation. The Board concurred.

Shaker Boulevard:

Pat Gillam came before the Board and was briefed on outcome of the bridge hearing that she was unable to attend. She asked that a short stretch of blacktop on Shaker Blvd. that is very deteriorated be either resurfaced or returned to dirt until it can be repaved.

Whitney Hall Sidewalk:

The Board considered installation of a sidewalk from the rear of Whitney Hall, up the north side to the front of the building. The Board agreed to the proposed sidewalk.

The re-grading of the south side of Whitney Hall will be reconsidered at a later date. Drainage away from the building foundation must be taken into consideration. Mr. Crate expressed concern about snow removal to keep the snow from building up against the building.

The funding for this project comes from a 1999 warrant article and expires when the project is completed or within two years, whichever comes first.

Property Assessments:

Norm Bernaiche's services are contracted by the town to assist with assessing issues. Mr. Bernaiche has been working on the transfer of data from the old assessing computer system to the new Vision Appraisal computer system. Mr. Bernaiche & Julie Huntley recommended some adjustments to property values. In the process of reviewing values, benchmarks and standards were applied to properties sold in the town and these were then applied to the unsold properties. Because of the changes in assessments, Mr. Bernaiche recommended increasing the overlay this year that the town uses to fund property tax refunds and abatements.

Refunds, Abatements, Warrants, etc.:

Mr. Oppeneer moved to abate all of the timber taxes for harvesting of blow down from the tornado that came through Enfield in 1999; Mr. Crate seconded, vote unanimous.

Committee Appointments:

The Board considered candidates for the Trustee of Trust Funds. Doug Smith does not feel he has the time to devote. Mrs. Reed will ask Sandy Fitzpatrick if she might be interested in the position.

The Board unanimously appointed Judy Kmon to the position of regular Inspector of Election.

CITIZENS FORUM

No citizens were present.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Management Expectations:

This issue was tabled.

Public Works Staffing:

The Board discussed staffing within the Department of Public Works.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/CORRESPONDENCE

The town received Home Rule pamphlets, bumper stickers, pins and signs for distribution to anyone interested in supporting Home Rule.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Oppenneer moved to adjourn at 7:37 pm.; Mr. Crate seconded, vote unanimous.