

**Enfield Board of Selectmen  
Enfield Center Town House  
Enfield, New Hampshire**

**MINUTES of August 4, 2014**

**Board of Selectmen:** Fred Cummings, Chairman; Donald J. Crate, Sr.; John W. Kluge

**Administrative Staff:** Steven Schneider, Town Manager; Alisa D. Bonnette, Executive Assistant; Jim Taylor, Director of Public Works

**Others:** Rick & Leslie Barrow, Alan Strickland, Marcia Herrin, James Bonner, Charlie Clark, Dan Kiley and other members of the public.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Cummings called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Kluge moved to approve the minutes of July 7, 2014 as printed, Mr. Crate seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

**III. COMMUNICATIONS**

**Wetlands Bureau Permit Application – Mascoma Lake Boat Launch**

**Trustees of Trust Funds – 2014 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Report:**

The Town realized almost \$3,000 in interest since the last quarter with an interest rate of almost 1%.

**Grafton County FY 2015 Budget:**

The Board received copies of the summary pages of the 2015 budgeted revenues and expenses. The complete budget was available for viewing.

**Town of Hanover Notice – Construction of Personal Wireless Communications Tower:**

Mr. Kluge thought this had been turned down and wonders if it is coming up again.

**Town Clerk's Report – June 2014:**

We're about \$43,000 ahead of this same time last year with over \$20,000 realized in June 2014 alone.

**Tax Collector's Report – June 2014:**

We're at 76% collected for the 1<sup>st</sup> issue 2014 tax bill.

**IV. BOARD REPORTS****Enfield Village Association (EVA):**

Mr. Kluge reported that EVA is moving forward, working on grants. They've done well so far. The front end of the Greeley House is looking very good. The back end looks like it will take some time.

**Old Home Days:**

Mr. Kluge said Old Home Days went very well. A lot of organizations pitched in. Mr. Kluge particularly enjoyed the car show at the Shaker Museum. The Shaker Museum was offering free tours and will continue to offer free tours to Enfield residents.

**Planning Board:**

The Planning Board was not happy with the information provided relative to the proposed Evenchance subdivision. The proposal was sent back for more work.

**V. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT****Old Home Days:**

Mr. Schneider added his thanks to everyone for Old Home Days. He was not here during the festivities but has heard good reports and understands it was a lot of fun. Hats off to the Old Home Day Committee.

Mr. Kluge added that he was talked into doing the Enchanted Island and thought it was very good.

**MascomaMan Triathlon:**

Mr. Schneider has received lots of emails from both participants and residents. The participants thought it was a great event and loved Enfield. There were complaints from residents about loud music early on Saturday morning.

For the most part the Triathlon used State roads, the State Rail Trail and the State waters.

There are rumors circulating that the Town is trying to stop the MascomaMan Triathlon from happening and Mr. Schneider is wondering where that come from. The Selectmen have not heard anything relative to the Town not wanting the event to take place.

Mr. Cummings pointed out there was discussion of participants running on the wrong side of the road.

Mr. Schneider agreed that even when racing they should follow the rules of the road.

Mr. Kluge feels that starting the event where they did was good. That piece of road was well suited to the purpose.

Mr. Schneider said there has been discussion of the organization moving the triathlon outside of Old Home Days dates. That could be both good and bad. The triathlon brought people in from other places who could attend other events during Old Home Days.

Mr. Schneider asked for the Selectmen's thoughts. The Selectmen had no issues with the race.

**Public Works Trucks:**

The two F-450 trucks have been delivered and are being outfitted. They have plows and we are waiting for bodies. The trucks should be in use in the fall.

**Enfield Center Town House:**

The Enfield Center Town House is in the middle of being painted. It's about done on the west side.

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**VII. BUSINESS**

**Rick Barrow – Water/Sewer Rates:**

The Selectboard received copies of Mr. Barrow's letter from February, as well as other information from the Department of Energy and the Laundry Association that was provided by Mr. Barrow.

Rick & Leslie Barrow's business, Independent Property Management, is the legal owner of the Laundromat. Mrs. Barrow is employed full-time and brings in most of their household income as well as their health insurance. Mr. Barrow runs the Laundromat. Independent Property Management is not a big corporation.

Mr. Barrow explained that the new rates are a burden to his customers. The new rates have taken him out of the market, forcing him to raise his rates to 50 cents more than is charged in Lebanon for the same 35 gallon wash. Customers have left, revenues are down and consumption is down. The 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of this year was 238,000 gallons vs. last year at the same time using 262,000 gallons. The 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of this year is down even from the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter to 234,000 gallons. The previous year 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter was about 280,000 gallons.

People aren't going to pay more money for something they can get in Lebanon for less money. People are trying to do more laundry in smaller machines. They aren't happy when their clothes don't come as clean and it's resulting in more repairs to the machines.

Mr. Barrow's recollection of the 2007 rate structure proposal is a colorful and professional looking PowerPoint presentation with no content. The 7-tier system makes no sense. He remembers people in an uproar and it was still put through.

Mr. Schneider explained that the 7-tier structure was put in place to distribute costs in a fair fashion amongst everyone. The more you use the more you pay. It was designed to encourage conservation. It was a way to reverse what was thought to be an unfair fee for small users. At that point everyone was paying the same whether they were a commercial user or a single user. Larger users pay their fair share vs. having single users subsidize them.

Mr. Barrow asked, when you're charging the poorer people in town the higher rates, how is that fair? It's not the rich people using the Laundromat. They're hit both at the Laundromat and by the landlords who just pass on the costs.

Mr. Schneider responded that it is usage driven so renters are in control, dependent upon their leases and if they pay their own utilities.

In response to Mr. Barrow's inquiry, Mr. Taylor explained there are a lot of renters who are responsible for their own utilities. Some of the larger ones are on the higher tiers due to having only one meter. The majority are residential meters. The majority aren't apartment dwellers.

Mr. Kluge asked how Enfield's 7-tier system compares to Lebanon's billing system. He was informed by Mr. Taylor that Lebanon has a flat rate, but thousands of users.

Mr. Barrow said he's paying \$20.06 vs. \$9.61

Mr. Taylor explained that tiers 1, 2 and 3 would be equivalent to Lebanon's rate of \$9.61

Mr. Barrow pointed out that tier 3 is \$10.82. Mr. Barrow understands Enfield rates have to be higher than Lebanon's but the lowest tier is \$8.02 per thousand gallons and they aren't doing laundry at home. Mr. Barrow said he can't continue to do business in Enfield at these rates.

In response to a question from Mr. Kluge, Mr. Schneider explained that Lebanon bills Enfield based on the amount we use in a quarter.

Mr. Barrow pointed out that of the towns in NH with municipal water and sewer, Enfield has among the highest rates. Mr. Barrow feels the Town is headed in the wrong direction.

Mr. Schneider has spoken in the past with Jim Taylor and Rick Barrow. It is possible to review and revise our rate structure. We have some fixed costs. How do we make sure high users are sustainable, but not affect those in lower tiers?

Mr. Barrow said those in the lowest tier are getting bills of \$14. He doesn't know what the rate is, but everyone should be paying the same amount per thousand gallons. He's not buying that we're trying to help out those in tier 1.

Mr. Schneider explained that with the 7-tier system the more you use the more you pay. At implementation it was attempted to keep tiers 1 through 3 with about the same bill as before the new structure.

Mr. Barrow doesn't understand the problem with those using more water until we're over capacity. He understands the reason for the water/sewer extension on Route 4 was to increase the number of users. He's paying \$20 compared to \$8, that's a real hard hit. He's been looking for property in West Canaan and if the problem is not fixed by next year he'll be moving the Laundromat.

Mr. Kluge asked when the Town would normally review rates.

Mr. Taylor replied that he tries to do it annually to be proactive. Prior to his taking on the position of Director of Public Works it was done infrequently. If the Board wants him to look at the system and make recommendations he can do so. It's probably impossible to design and build a plant. We have 450 users and it cost money to get a plant.

Mr. Barrow believes the Laundromat helps with slow due to the quantity of soapy water.

Mr. Schneider appreciates the information Mr. Barrow has shared. He is part of our community and we don't want them to be excluded. Seven tiers may be too much and maybe it can be a little flatter, but direction is needed from the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Kluge can see a more balanced system but he doesn't see us going with a flat rate.

Mr. Barrow suggesting flipping it around and charging the smaller users more.

Mr. Schneider said this is the time of year to determine our revenues and expenses. We can come up with what we'll spend in 2015 and determine a rate structure that meets our needs.

Mr. Cummings stated that he doesn't want our rate structure to drive Mr. Barrow out of Town.

Mr. Barrow reiterated that revenues are going down and if he goes up again in his rates more and more people won't come in his door.

Mr. Schneider said he and Mr. Taylor will work on options for the Selectmen to consider.

**Dog Park – Marcia Herrin:**

The Selectmen received an email from Marcia Herrin. The email provides the Dog Park Supporters comments relative to the draft Dog Park agreement with the Town.

The Supporters legal name is Mascoma Valley Dog Park Supporters (MVDPS).

The MVDPS will learn on August 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> whether they've won the \$25,000 from PetSafe. PetSafe rules state that funds will not be disbursed until construction has begun. The agreement should state "Construction of the Dog Park will not commence until all required funds have been

secured and on deposit with the Town and/or documentation of an award of a PetSafe prize has been provided.”

Section 1. e) of the agreement addresses who will hold the account and pay bills and invoices. If the MVDPS are willing to handle the account the Town would be happy with that. Ms. Herrin said they are happy to do that. The Town of Hartford does the accounting for the Watson Dog Park, but they have a bigger staff.

At the Selectboard’s direction the MVDPS hired a certified soil scientist to survey the field. They had the surveyor, Chris Rollins, draw up a map indicating the dry areas. There’s a large area in the middle that’s dry and a couple of smaller areas. Across from the trees along NH Route 4A is the driest area. This map is a concept without the use of their landscape architect. Typically a dog park will have a large dog area and a small dog area. The MVDPS would also like a training area that could be used to hold events or train. Driveway access was assumed to be in the front right corner of the lot.

Mr. Kluge asked if this gives the group enough land for the Dog Park.

The Board was informed that the large dry area is about 1-1/2 acres. Hartford has about 1-1/2 acres for their large dog and small dog areas combined.

Ms. Herrin added that having three separate areas would allow rotation of use in case of wear to allow the site to recover. Ms. Herrin understands the other area is pretty wet. The park won’t have square corners which can be an advantage. Dogs can have issues if one feels trapped in a corner. It’s also not a flat area. They’ll try to use every available dry area.

Mr. Crate said the plan looks good to him.

The next steps include approval by the Planning Board and approved of the entrance by the State of NH.

Ms. Herrin reported that the Byrne Foundation wrote a check for \$10,000 and if we’ve won the PetSafe contest they’ll match that. Thanks to all who voted to make this happen. The award we’re up for is based on the number of votes per population. Ms. Herrin invited everyone to join them at Salt Hill Pub to await the results.

Mr. Schneider asked if the Town wants the equipment and facility to be the property of the Town or the property of MVDPS.

Mr. Kluge said the fencing configuration would not be suitable for other uses.

Ms. Herrin said that if this park had to close it would be nice if the MVDPS could retain the fence for re-use in other towns.

Mr. Cummings said he’s glad they want to support other communities, but doesn’t want the MVDPS to put their efforts into other communities.

The MVDPS know that Enfield as a Town is supportive of the Dog Park. They don't want to put all of this effort into a Dog Park in Enfield and not have it succeed.

Mr. Cummings said the Town and citizens have put a lot of faith in this and if it fails there will be a lot of disappointed people.

The last point to address in the draft agreement is the return of the property to its previous condition. They are fine with this requirement with the exception of the parking lot. It was agreed that the parking lot could remain as a parking lot.

The MVDPS have talked among themselves about the possibility of putting up a pavilion. It would be hard to put that back exactly the same.

Mr. Kluge responded that he does not want to obligate the Town.

The wording of the agreement should be made clear on this fact.

Mr. Crate believes the Dog Park is going to be successful based on support it has received.

Mr. Clark noted that New London may be one of their biggest supporters.

**Enfield Community Building Acoustics:**

Mr. Schneider provided the Board with the conclusion page of the acoustic testing report. The missing piece to acoustic mitigation is cost.

Scenario 1 – wood paneling – would require 750 sq. ft. to get to acceptable acoustic levels. At a cost of \$26 per square foot without installation the cost would be about \$20,000 plus installation costs. We budgeted \$10,000 and have spent \$2,000 on the study.

The other product is plaster at a cost of \$14 per square foot including installation. The cost of this option is about \$10,500; much closer to the \$10,000 budgeted amount.

Mr. Crate would like to have a joint meeting with the Lions Club to discuss the options. They may want to have input in the decision making process and may be interested in contributing toward the project. Mr. Crate doesn't want to have something that isn't in the character of the building.

Mr. Kluge noted that, when reading the fine print, both products are roughly equally effective.

Mr. Cummings said plaster is not intrusive.

Mr. Schneider said we may be able to get the wood color to blend in.

Mr. Clark asked if the current ceiling would support the plaster.

Mr. Cummings said plaster may make more sense; it would be less noticeable.

Mr. Crate asked what the lifespan is of each product.

Mr. Kluge would guess wood would have a longer lifespan. Mr. Crate agrees.

Mr. Schneider reported that the plaster has a 10 year warranty.

Mr. Cummings expressed concern about aesthetics with wood since you're not doing the whole ceiling.

Mr. Schneider said it would have to go around ceiling lights and the fans. The ceiling is probably a couple of thousand square feet.

Mr. Crate reported getting flack about the A/C.

Mr. Taylor asked if anyone was complaining about the temperature.

Mr. Crate said the unit isn't big enough to keep it cool.

Mr. Cummings said it was cooler inside than out, but it was still warm inside.

Mr. Clark thought it was quite comfortable.

Mr. Schneider will meet with the Lions Club about the acoustics and report back to the Selectmen.

#### **Administrative Items:**

The Board reviewed and signed the paperwork for the previously approved abatement of 2013 Property Taxes for Energetic Enterprises.

### **VIII. OTHER ITEMS**

#### **Public Works Issues:**

Mr. Crate reported brush limiting visibility at this intersection. He asked that the Town go clear it.

Mr. Taylor expressed reluctance to do this as it's the State's responsibility.

Also, when headed south on Route 4A and turning onto the Bog Road you can't see what's coming until you're already making the turn and there isn't room for two cars on the bridge.

Mr. Taylor said his department can take care of the Bog Road and he'll contact the State about the Shaker Hill Road/ NH Route 4A intersection.

Mr. Cummings asked about a tree that came down on the river at the Main Street Bridge.



Mr. Taylor said the State was going to look at it to see what they can do vs. us.

Mr. Crate cautioned that we don't want it to stay there all winter.

Mr. Taylor explained it's a State road, State Rail Trail and State river. We've mowed for them several times, done sweeping for them several times. Do we want to commit Town resources to State projects?

Mr. Crate said it could be removed easily. If they aren't going to do it, we should.

Mr. Taylor would at least like to put a bit of pressure on the State first.

Mr. Crate would give them a month to get it done.

Mr. Cummings noted that on the flat by the cemetery on Lockeaven Road the shrubs and bushes are almost in the road and there's no sight line off the road. This is hazardous with the number of deer in the area.

Mr. Taylor explained that the Town would be mowing in about 3 weeks.

**Grafton Pond Road Property:**

Mr. Cummings inquired about the Town-owned lots on Grafton Pond Road and NH Route 4A.

Mr. Schneider said he has a goal to gather surplus equipment for a Town-wide auction, plus include the sale of property.

Mr. Cummings said the Board had asked that a realtor be brought in to look at that property.

**Dan Edwards Culvert Maintenance Agreement:**

Mr. Cummings asked if an agreement had been prepared.

Mr. Schneider has it on his desk.

Mr. Cummings asked to have it at the next Board meeting.

Mr. Schneider said the agreement states the Town would put in a culvert and will annually clean it as long as material ends up in that culvert from the Town road.

Mr. Cummings asked if the Town would replace it.

Mr. Crate said he'd share the cost 50/50 with the landowner.

Mr. Schneider suggested the Town could provide the replacement culvert and the property owner could have it installed.

Mr. Schneider asked the Board if they wanted this agreement to go with the property or only with Mr. Edwards.

Mr. Cummings feels it should go with the property.

Mr. Schneider said that if it goes with the property is would be filed with the deed.

**Next Meeting:**

Tuesday, September 2, 2014, 6:00 PM, Whitney Hall Conference Room, 23 Main Street.

**CONFERENCE**

**I. NON-PUBLIC SESSION**

Mr. Kluge moved to enter non-public session at 7:08 PM, RSA 91-A:3 II (a), Mr. Crate seconded. Roll call vote: Mr. Kluge – aye, Mr. Crate – aye, Mr. Cummings – aye, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

Mr. Kluge moved to come out of non-public session at 7:16 PM, Mr. Crate seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

**II. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Kluge moved to adjourn at 7:17 PM, Mr. Crate seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion, meeting adjourned.

---

B. Fred Cummings, Chairman

---

Donald J. Crate, Sr.

---

John W. Kluge  
Enfield Board of Selectmen