

**Enfield Board of Selectmen
Whitney Hall Conference Room
Enfield, New Hampshire**

MINUTES of April 6, 2015

Board of Selectmen: Fred Cummings, Chairman; Donald J. Crate, Sr.; John W. Kluge (by Skype)

Administrative Staff: Steven Schneider, Town Manager; Wendy Huntley, Recorder

Others: James Bonner, videographer; Meredith Smith; Dan Kiley; Marcia Herrin; Lloyd Hackeman; Bob Cusick; Alan Strickland; Shirley Green; Wendy Piper, State Representative; Linda Jones; David Fracht; Carl Pellerin; Kristin Harrington; Alv Elvestad; Dr. Jerold Theis; Doug Smith

BUSINESS MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Cummings called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Organization of the Board:

Mr. Kluge moved to appoint Mr. Crate as chairman of the Board of Selectmen, Mr. Cummings seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

The Board discussed Selectboard representation on various Town boards and committees and will maintain the status quo for one more year:

Budget Committee: Fred Cummings
CIP Committee: Fred Cummings
Conservation Commission: Don Crate
Planning Board: John Kluge

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Crate moved to approve the regular and non-public session minutes of March 23, 2015, Mr. Cummings seconded, Mr. Kluge abstained.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

Keith Thomas – Thoughts on Assessment:

General Discussion over the communication received from Keith Thomas regarding his Thoughts on Assessment. Mr. Schneider commented that Mr. Thomas has met with Norm Bernaiche, the Town's Assessor and Julie Huntley, Assessing Administrator several times.

Mr. Cummings commented that Mr. Thomas can always file for an abatement.

Kristin Harrington – Bingo Board/Community Building:

Discussed in Business

NH DRA – 2014 Equalization Ratio 99.6%:

Mr. Schneider informed the Board that NH Dept. of Revenue Administration has confirmed the Town's equalization ratio to be 99.6%. The goal is to be as close to 100% as possible and believes that we've attained that goal.

IV. BOARD REPORTS

Enfield Village Association (EVA):

Mr. Schneider shared with the Board a memo from Scott Osgood reporting the items discussed at the EVA Board meeting held March 16, 2015.

V. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

None.

VI. BUSINESS

Marcia Herrin – Dog Park Update:

Ms. Herrin reported that the first phase is ready to start. The driveway permit has been approved, parking lot area figured out and fencing purchased. As soon as the area dries out, Steve Patten will begin the site work. Springfield Fence will be installing the fencing and Chris Rollins will be doing a survey on April 13th.

Ms. Herrin introduced David Fracht as the head of construction, and that he was attending the meeting to answer any questions the board might have.

Mr. Cummings commented that the board appreciates the periodical updates on the dog park.

Ms. Herrin hopes to have a ground breaking ceremony.

Mr. Schneider asked that the Town be informed of a ground breaking ceremony as he may be able to provide a ceremonial shovel to be used.

Ms. Herrin asked if approval would be needed to put up a temporary banner announcing the coming of the Dog Park.

Lot 46 – Rail Property:

Ms. Piper offered her assistance. Ms. Piper explained that she had attended the charrette and is aware of the different ideas that have been circulating. She has also spoken with Victoria Chase, the Assistant Administrator at NH DOT and has made herself available to her as well.

Mr. Schneider added that Scott Osgood, Town Planner has also spoken with Victoria Chase regarding lot 46 and lot 44. Lot 44 is the one closer to the Village. The Town and State agreed that the Town would acquire lot 44 for \$500.00. Some caveats were such as to not impact archeological areas and if rail comes through Town again, the Town would have to relinquish the property. Moving forward, the State would like to put a value to lot 44.

Lot 46 is the Old Motel lot. The Board still needs to resolve what to do with this lot as the bridge and rail trail are now considered to be historic. It was good to have Ms. Chase at the charrette as she could see the Town residents' support. There is a 10 year window of opportunity to attaining money for any improvements to be made to this property. The process began in 2010. It takes about 2 years to go through the State Funding process so we still have a bit of time to resolve issues.

Mr. Cumming would like to see what the State has for plans in upgrading/improving the underpass, how will the drainage issue, sight distances and shoring up of the bridge be addressed.

Mr. Schneider agreed that the specifics need to be provided by the State. Mr. Schneider requested that Wendy Piper continue to push DOT.

Ms. Piper answered that she believes that Ms. Chase is waiting for guidance from the Town.

Bob Cusick has read an opinion wherein the bridge has been determined to be historical. He believes that it would be very difficult to overcome that opinion. Mr. Cusick recommends to continue to acquire lot 44 (not the old motel lot) and put restrictions on it to limit any land development in the future. Since the State is allowing the town to use the other lot, lot 46, go ahead and put gazebos, picnic tables etc on it for public use.

Mr. Schneider believes that the existing zoning already does a good job at limiting development on the old motel property and the Town has the first opportunity to purchase the lots from the State.

Meredith Smith expressed her agreement with Mr. Cusick. She then shared an email she received from Phil Miles, Chief of Property Management at the NH DOT. In this email, Mr. Miles states that he has no issue with the public using the lots to picnic at during the Old Home Days Celebration. Also perhaps future arrangements may be made with the Town in utilizing these lots owned by the State.

Mr. Schneider said that the Town has had previous one year agreements with DOT for the Town to manage those lots. Mr. Schneider will contact Mr. Miles and requested that Ms. Smith forward the email she received from Mr. Miles. To purchase these properties it would need a Town Meeting vote.

Mr. Kluge expressed that the State would need to give the Town something specific before the Town could move forward on anything.

Mr. Cummings requested that Bob Cusick also be involved to assist with creating plans for the future of lots 44 and 46. Mr. Cusick responded that he is willing to do so.

Expendable Trust Funds:

Tabled.

Old Home Days Committee Membership:

Ms. Smith requested that the membership of the Committee be changed from 9 to 10 individuals as she has 10 people volunteering.

Mr. Kluge moved to amend Old Home Days Committee membership from 9 to 10 members, Mr. Crate seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

Mr. Kluge moved to appoint the 10 members for the Old Home Days Committee as submitted, Mr. Crate seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

Ms. Smith thanked the board and announced that this will be the first year that the Old Home Days will feature a parade starting at Whitney Hall and ending at lot 46. It will be led by an Enfield bag piper. The event takes place the last full weekend in July.

Community Building, Bingo Board:

Carl Pellerin explained that the new bingo board has a cover that was custom made. The color of the cover matches the wall color perfectly. The bingo board is hung on the wall to the kitchen. The wiring for the bingo board is in a Knox box so no wiring is visible when the bingo board is not in use.

Mr. Crate confirmed that the cover does match the wall color nicely.

Mr. Cummings noted that the Fire Department has gone to great lengths to make the bingo board as nice as possible. The bingo participants number anywhere from 70-113 per night.

Mr. Pellerin added that about 70% of those participating are Enfield residents and the ages of the participants is anywhere between 18 to 80 years old in his estimation.

Mr. Crate moved to allow the installation of the bingo board at the Community Building with the cover, Mr. Kluge seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

State Funding:

Mr. Schneider presented to the Board a document from NH Municipal Association that lists the FY 16/17 House Budget – Municipal Reductions. Most of the reductions are in FEMA and water/sewer state grants. The Town mostly relies on the Rooms and Meals and Highway Block grants.

Mr. Kluge asked what the impact of these reductions means to the Town of Enfield.

Mr. Schneider responded that because the Town did not budget for any significant change in the Highway Block Grant, the effect of these reductions should overall be minimal.

Ms. Piper explained that these reductions are from the House Budget. She believes that it will not be as dire when it gets thru the Senate. The Budget has been trimmed considerably but it's only gone thru the first step.

Mr. Kluge asked what the impact of the budget reductions will be on local education.

Ms. Piper stated that she doesn't yet understand the impacts fully. Stabilization grants have been cut, but those were being phased out anyways. It seems that Charter Schools are getting increased funding as Public Schools are getting decreased.

Mr. Kluge requested that as Ms. Piper hears more about the impact on the local education, she inform the board.

General discussion was had regarding state funding for highway safety and how it may impact the plowing of Town roads.

Mr. Schneider spoke briefly about the proposal for residents to have a state photo ID card to vote, and for those who do not, it would be a mandate for the Election Officials to use cameras and printers to make ID cards at the polls on Election Day. He believes this to be an unrealistic expectation.

Dustin Road – “The Common”:

Mr. Schneider explained that this is an approximate 3 acre parcel of land on Lockehaven Road. Chris Rollins has done research on it. There is a person in proximity of this parcel that would like to purchase it.

Mr. Kluge commented that this parcel abuts his land, that he believes that his parents had paid taxes on it for 20 or 25 years because it was once part of the big parcel they owned.

Mr. Schneider said that the property would need to be declared as “property owner unknown” then after three years, if no one claims and can prove/verify ownership, then the Town can dispose of it. Because the property is less than 3 acres and it is in the R3 zone, it cannot have a house on it, but a shed or garage would be a permissible use.

It was agreed to table discussion regarding this property until Mr. Kluge can be physically present at a meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING
Monday, April 6, 2015
6:48 PM
Whitney Hall Conference Room

Mr. Cummings read the notice for the Public Hearing: The Board of Selectmen will conduct a public hearing to discuss the expenditure of funds, in the amount of \$53,487.28, from the Capital Improvement Program Capital Reserve Fund for the Purchase of a fire truck.

Mr. Kluge moved to open the public hearing at 6:48 PM, Mr. Crate seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

Mr. Schneider explained that the money to come out of the CIP funds is for payment in full of the fire truck so as to take advantage of a 2% discount.

Mr. Cummings explained that there is a performance bond to insure that the Town receives the truck as ordered and in a timely manner.

Mr. Schneider added that the truck should be delivered within 275 days of the Company receiving our payment. The Selectmen are agents to expend out of the CIP Fund.

General discussion was had regarding the size of the truck in relation to the Enfield Center Fire Station.

Mr. Cummings has a drawing from an engineer to prove that the truck will fit into the Enfield Center Fire Station. The engine's emergency lights have been lowered to be flush with the top of the vehicle to ensure it fitting. The cost of the fire truck includes three Enfield Firefighters going to approve and inspect the vehicle before delivery.

No further comments were made.

Mr. Crate moved to close the public hearings at 6:54 PM, Mr. Kluge seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

Mr. Kluge moved to expend \$54,487.28 out of the CIP Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of purchasing a fire engine, Mr. Crate seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

Expense Report:

Mr. Cummings explained that this year, there is better oversight of the expense reports.

Mr. Schneider announced that Mark Eisener has been appointed to the vacant Budget Committee seat; Sam Eaton has been voted Chairman and Shirley Green as Vice Chair of the Budget Committee.

Safety Program Guidelines:

Mr. Kluge moved to approve the Safety Program Guidelines as submitted, Mr. Crate seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

VIII. OTHER ITEMS

Next Meeting:

Monday, April 20, 2015, 6:00 PM, Whitney Hall Conference Room, 23 Main St.

Conservation Commission Appointment:

Mr. Schneider shared with the Board a letter of Application for Appointment submitted by Dr. Jerold H. Theis to become a Conservation Commission Board member.

Mr. Kluge moved to appoint Dr. Theis as member of the Conservation Commission, Mr. Cummings seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

CONFERENCE

I. NON-PUBLIC SESSION

Mr. Kluge moved to enter non-public session at 6:56 PM, RSA 91-A:3 II (a), Mr. Crate seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Crate – aye, Mr. Cummings – aye, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

Mr. Crate moved to come out of non-public session at 7:23 PM, Mr. Cummings seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

II. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Crate moved to adjourn at 7:24 PM, Mr. Cummings 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