

**Enfield Board of Selectmen
Public Works Facility
Enfield, New Hampshire**

MINUTES of January 9, 2017

Board of Selectmen: John W. Kluge; B. Fred Cummings, Meredith C. Smith

Administrative Staff: Steven Schneider, Town Manager; Alisa Bonnette, Assistant Town Manager; Jim Taylor, Director of Public Works; Karol Hammer, Recording Secretary

Others: James Bonner (video); Nancy Smith, Dan Kiley, Sam Eaton, and others.

BUSINESS MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Cummings offered the following corrections to the draft Public Minutes of the December 19, 2016 meeting:

- In the list of “Others” attending the meeting, Lebanon Police Chief Richard Mello should be replaced with Lebanon Fire Chief Chris Christopoulos.
- In the discussion of the **Police Presentation** on page two (2), mention of Enfield Fire Chief David Crate should be replaced with Enfield EMS Chief Richard Martin, and
- In the same sentence on page two (2), mention of Lebanon Police Chief Richard Mello should be replaced with Lebanon Fire Chief Chris Christopoulos
- In the same discussion, the sentence beginning “Fire Chief Crate” should be corrected to read “Fire Chief Christopoulos.”

Mr. Cummings made and Mrs. Smith seconded the motion to accept the December 19 Public minutes as corrected and Non-Public minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

Tax Collector’s Report – December 2016:

Mr. Schneider referred the Board to the Tax Collector’s Report for December 2016, showing 95% collected on the second issue and 97% collected on the first.

Town Clerk’s Report – December 2016:

He then referred to the Town Clerk’s report through December, showing revenues of \$990,504.48, some \$50,000 over the previous year.

Mr. Kluge asked if vehicle registrations were a significant contributor to the increase. Mr. Schneider said that yes, they represented the vast majority of the increase. He added that the intake for 2016 matched what the Town had projected for 2017. He anticipated intake over a million dollars for next year, just in motor vehicle registrations.

Pittsburg NH Correspondence re: Local Control of Municipal Roads:

Mr. Schneider also referred the Board to a letter from Steve Ellis, Chair of the Town of Pittsburg's Board of Selectmen. The letter addressed the issue of local control of public roads. Mr. Schneider said the Pittsburg Board was requesting support of their position that municipalities ought to be the only ones who could say what should happen within local rights of way.

Mrs. Smith said that the issue boiled down to concerns about Northern Pass. Mr. Schneider added that Northern Pass wouldn't come through our part of the state.

Mr. Kluge asked if there was a need for this Board to get involved. Mr. Schneider said there wasn't at the moment, but that the Board could write a letter if it was something the members felt passionately about. The concerns wouldn't necessarily have to be limited to Northern Pass; it could apply to similar projects.

Mr. Cummings said he wasn't inclined to do anything.

Mr. Kluge said the implication was that financial burdens could go to the Town which, as a general principle, he thought seemed pretty poor. He added that he wasn't sure he knew enough, though, to address it at present. He asked the other Board members for their thoughts.

Mr. Cummings felt the same way.

Mrs. Smith said that she felt (NH Executive) Councilor Kenney should address the issue and use his influence in Concord.

Mr. Kluge asked how pressing was the issue? Mr. Schneider didn't think it was pressing and said that the Board could wait until its next meeting.

Mrs. Smith made and Mrs. Cummings seconded the motion to table the issue of municipal control over what happens within local rights of way until its next meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Dredge & Fill Application – NH DOT I-89:

Mr. Schneider referred to an Inter-department Communication between NH Wetlands Program Manager Matt Urban and Public Works Permitting Officer Gino Infascelli. Mr. Schneider said the document transmitted the Dredge & Fill Application (Grantham-Enfield, 40944) for the I-89 work.

Fairpoint Acquisition Notice:

Mr. Schneider presented a letter from FairPoint Communications notifying the Town of FairPoint's acquisition by Consolidated Communications. Mr. Schneider said the transaction would happen in mid-2017, but any real change from the Town's perspective would not occur until later.

IV. BOARD REPORTS

None.

V. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Schneider had received an e-mail from UVLSRPC that day, reminding him that they needed an Enfield appointee to the Transportation Advisory Committee. He said that Mr. Taylor, as Manager of the Department of Public Works, had taken the position in the past but had a lot on his plate. He suggested that Town Planner Scott Osgood would be a good alternative.

Mr. Cummings made and Mrs. Smith seconded the motion to appoint Mr. Osgood to the Transportation Advisory Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Paul Currier – Speed Limit on the Rail Trail and Deer in Crystal Lake:

Paul Currier said he had two (2) issues to raise with the Board. The first was the snowmobile chatter he had seen on the Listserv. He said the Club had addressed access and traffic issues, and was now hearing people complaining about snowmobile speeds on the rail bed.

People forget, he said, that every snowmobiler paid the State \$66. No club members received a dime. He wanted to go on record saying that there were regulations and there was nothing the Snowmobile Club could do about them. People should contact Fish and Game, or the Highway Department with such issues.

Mr. Kluge asked if there were speed limits. Mr. Currier said there was a limit of 45 miles per hour, except at crossings, where the limit was 10 miles per hour. He said there were seven (7) crossings on the trail between Enfield and Lebanon.

Mr. Currier's second issue was that, soon after the lake froze, three (3) deer went out onto the lake, broke through the ice and didn't survive. He said the eagles had been having a field day with what they could reach above the ice line.

Mrs. Smith asked if he was talking about Mascoma Lake. Mr. Currier said it was at Crystal Lake. He said he didn't know who would be responsible, but that they needed to get the deer out or they'd affect water quality.

Mrs. Smith said that Fish and Game had come to her home and collected a deer that had died in her driveway last year.

Mr. Currier said it was too late to just go get these deer; they were embedded in and below the ice. The ice would have to be cut to get them out.

He said that, as soon as the last deer died, there were two (2) eagles, and soon there wasn't much left above the ice – just the top of the skull. But, he said, the whole bodies were in the lake.

Mr. Kluge said someone should tell Fish and Game. Mr. Schneider said the Town would notify them.

VII. BUSINESS

Town Manager Search:

Mr. Cummings said the Search Committee would hold its first meeting the following Saturday (January 14) at 9 a.m., at the Public Works Facility. He said further discussion would need to happen in Non-Public session.

Mr. Schneider asked if the meetings would be open to the public. Mr. Cummings said they would.

Mrs. Smith asked if the meetings had been or needed to be posted.

Ms. Bonnette said they would be posted on the Town web site.

Cecilia Aufiero asked if the Board had received her e-mail, expressing interest in serving on the Search Committee. She said she hadn't received a response. Mr. Kluge said he had responded to her follow up message to let her know he had never received her original offer.

Mr. Cummings said the Committee members had been decided and would be: Sam Eaton, Shirley Green, Melissa Hutson, Dominic Albanese, Lee Carrier, and Bob Cusick, along with himself. The Selectboard had decided that only one of its members (Mr. Cummings) would serve on the Committee, he said, but that might be subject to change.

Mr. Kluge said that Ms. Aufiero could attend the meetings, since they would be open to the public.

Ms. Aufiero asked for a list of meetings.

Mr. Cummings said that the Committee had set only two (2) meetings so far, for the coming two Saturdays (January 14 and 21), both at 9:00 AM, at the Public Works Facility. Subsequent meeting schedule would be up to the Committee.

Water/Sewer Rates:

Mr. Schneider noted that the Board had established sewer rates at its previous meeting, and that water rates did not have to be decided until the April billing, so the Board had time to consider the issue. He said he wanted to be sure the Town was going down the right path before digging into the issue.

Mr. Cummings said his belief was still that the Town should have only a single rate for water.

Mr. Kluge said he'd like to see three (3) rates.

Mr. Cummings asked why. Mr. Kluge said that going to a single rate would impose more burden on small property owners whose rates would go up significantly with a change to one (1) rate, while commercial properties' rates would go down significantly.

Mr. Cummings said that when buying in bulk, there typically was a discount. He said Mr. Kluge was saying that small property owners should be subsidized.

Mr. Kluge said there also was the issue of water conservation. He asked if the Town wanted large users of water, recognizing the limitations...

Mr. Cummings said, so you don't want to attract businesses?

Mr. Kluge said that he didn't necessarily want to attract businesses that would use tons of water.

Mrs. Smith asked if there could be a commercial and a residential rate.

Mr. Cummings said that each gallon of water cost the same to process.

Mrs. Smith said the conservation element would be missing with a flat rate.

Mr. Cummings said people would have to decide if they were going to use more or not.

Dan Kiley held up a 16-ounce bottle of water, saying it had cost him \$1 to buy it, when Town water cost him only \$0.65 per day. He said the problem was with the quarterly billing. Town water cost didn't encourage conservation because the water was so cheap.

Mr. Cummings said the commercial users bought the most efficient equipment they could, but were being penalized by the current rate system. Mr. Kluge suggested that Mr. Cummings should make a motion.

Nancy Smith asked if everyone paid the same for the first thousand gallons. Mr. Taylor said they did.

Mr. Cummings said the single rate was the way to go. Mr. Kluge said that he should make a motion.

Mr. Cummings made and Mrs. Smith seconded the motion to change to a single rate system.

Mr. Eaton asked if the Board should see some numbers before making a decision.

Mr. Cummings said that would be inconsequential.

Mr. Kluge called the vote: Mr. Cummings and Mrs. Smith voted for the motion they had made and seconded (respectively) to change to a single-rate system for water charges, and Mr. Kluge voted against. The motion passed.

Mr. Schneider asked for confirmation that the vote meant there would be a single rate for water consumption. Mrs. Smith said yes, but that the Board had not yet agreed on a rate.

Mr. Schneider said that the Town then needed to consolidate the base rates and get that to the Board, along with consolidation of the sewer rates.

2017 Budget:

Mr. Schneider said the process was at the point of reviewing adjustments to get to the point the Budget Committee was comfortable with. He said they were right on schedule, had a good meeting the previous Thursday and another coming up.

Mr. Kluge asked when the Selectboard would see numbers.

Mr. Schneider thought that would happen in the next two to three (2-3) weeks.

Mr. Kluge asked if that meant the next Selectboard meeting, and Mr. Schneider said he didn't know, but probably not quite that soon.

Mr. Eaton said at least within the Board's next two (2) meetings.

Mr. Schneider said that Committee members needed to share where they thought cuts would need to happen, and then make changes based on historical data.

2017 CIP:

Mr. Cummings said there had been a meeting and was just about finalized. They were waiting on some numbers.

Mr. Schneider said this year's list was focused on rolling stock, like a cruiser, fire department support vehicle, a roller, an excavator, a trailer, and a water and sewer truck. Other items would include furnaces at Union and Shedd Street Fire Department buildings, Whitney Hall chimney work (lining, a new roof at the Union Street station, culvert work permitting and engineering on Crystal Lake Road.

He said the culvert work would involve those on which the Town could do the work (roughly half of the 40 culverts). The permitting and engineering was on par with what happened on Jones Hill Road, and the second half of the culvert work and the bank and paving work would complete the project the following year.

Mr. Kluge asked if the excavator was a replacement or new item. Mr. Taylor said it would be new. The Town had been renting.

Mr. Kluge asked at what interest rate. Mr. Schneider said higher, but that it still made sense to finance.

Mr. Cummings noted that this was a pretty light year, equipment-wise. Next year, the DPW could need some dump trucks, and the fire engine would need replacing, to the tune of \$450,000.

Mr. Schneider agreed, saying that with vehicles, low lease payments were possible because of the ability to depreciate them. As interest rates rise, the Town would have to look at other options. Some projects could be moved to other funds, like the TIF.

Mr. Cummings said yes, they were pulling in more than \$300,000 per year. Mr. Schneider confirmed this, saying it had been \$303,000 in 2015. Annual debt service, he said, was \$163,000.

Mr. Cummings said that the Town could approach the point of double payments on the sewer bond.

Mr. Schneider said the Whitney Hall painting also could come from the TIF.

Mrs. Smith asked if an approach had been decided on the painting. Mr. Schneider said the Town had opted for the clean-up and paint approach, rather than going with scraping down to wood and repainting. While going down to wood was more historically proper, the chosen approach was more cost effective and still would protect the building for much less money. He noted that it wasn't an easy building to paint.

Lakeview Sewer Extension:

Mr. Schneider said he had met with the Lakeview board and the project engineer that morning. All bid documents had been sent to the state for review and should be released for distribution to contractors in February. The project should be awarded in March.

Work could then begin at Lakeview and Shaker Landing. The work on Route 4a couldn't begin until spring, meaning the project wouldn't affect the public until then, sometime in May, he said.

He added that the approach — whether open cut trench or directional drilling — had yet to be decided.

Mrs. Smith said only directional drilling had been discussed with the Heritage Commission.

Mr. Schneider said it would be within the State Right of Way either way. Directional drilling was the preferred path, as open trench would be more expensive.

Mr. Kluge asked who would make the decision.

Mr. Schneider said it was up to the Town. Lakeview would have some say. Everyone agreed, he said, that directional drilling was preferred.

Mrs. Smith asked why, then, the other approach was even being considered.

Mr. Schneider said that keep both options in play opened the bidding on the project to more contractors. Not all had the equipment necessary to directional drilling. There also may be ledge, he cautioned, that would necessitate some blasting.

Mr. Cummings said he had been approached and asked why not make Shaker Hill Road be the Town's next sewer extension target.

Mr. Taylor said it was like Lakeview. If enough customers showed interest, saying they wanted it and would be willing to work with the Town, it could happen. He agreed that it should be done, and could be done using gravity.

Mr. Cummings said he also was asked why Lakeview was paying \$200 a month for their extra dumpster.

Mr. Taylor said that they were paying for weekly pickup. Mr. Cummings responded that the pickup has not been happening every week, just on the Town's regular schedule.

Mr. Cummings added that the Lakeview residents thought they were paying because of the extra dumpster. He said it would be good if someone could check.

Mr. Schneider said that he thought adding the additional dumpster had been built into the Town's cost.

Mr. Cummings said that at least one Lakeview Board member thought the payments were for the extra dumpster.

Town Report:

Mr. Schneider said the Board needed to begin thinking about certain things for the Town Report.

Mr. Cummings said those would be discussed in Non-Public Session.

Mr. Schneider added that there were suggestions for the Report cover, like Boys Camp Bridge or the new Boat Launch.

Administrative Items:

None.

Other Business:

Mr. Kluge asked Mr. Eaton if he'd like to discuss his issue. Mr. Eaton asked that it be discussed in Non-Public Session.

Mr. Cummings asked why. Mr. Eaton said it had to do with certain e-mails.

Next Meeting: Monday, January 9, 2016, 6:00 PM Public Works Facility Conference Room

Non-Public Session:

Mr. Cummings made and Mrs. Smith seconded the motion to enter into Non-Public session at 6:48 PM., RSA 91-A:3 II (b) and (c). Roll call vote: Mr. Cummings – aye, Mr. Kluge – aye, Mrs. Smith – aye. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Cummings moved to come out of Non-Public Session at 7:40 PM, Mrs. Smith seconded; vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM

John W. Kluge, Chairman

B. Fred Cummings

Meredith C. Smith
Enfield Board of Selectmen