

ENFIELD BUDGET COMMITTEE (EBC) MINUTES (approved 6Feb2013)

Thursday, January 31, 2013
DPW BUILDING 6:00PM

Members Present: Annabelle Bamforth, Fred Cummings, Sam Eaton (Vice Chair), Shirley Green, Gayle Hulva, Gail Malz, Paul Mirski, Doug Pettibone (Chair), Lori Saladino, Janet Shepard

Others Present: Steve Schneider (Town Manager)

The meeting opened at 6:05 PM.

Administrative:

A motion to approve the draft January 17, 2012 minutes was made and seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

New Business:

Review of Final Spending Plan: Steve Schneider updated the committee on the final touches to the budget. He will present it to the Board of Selectmen (BOS) next Tuesday. There was only one adjustment from the version presented at our January 17 meeting. Some debt service totaling about \$16,000 that was left over from an old water and sewer loan from the 1990s, had been inadvertently omitted. At the time the loan was taken out, the Town agreed to assume the loan payments instead of the water and sewer users. Three more years remain on that loan. With the \$16,000 added back, the appropriations for the General Fund now totals \$5,361,884, including all of the capital project expenditures. This is in line with a targeted \$6.14/\$1000 municipal tax rate (2% increase vs. 2012).

Review of Updated Warrant Articles:

Steve Schneider reviewed the latest version of the warrant articles that the Budget Committee will have to vote on at our next meeting after the Public Hearing. There are a total of 12 'monied' articles that will require a vote by the Committee to approve or not approve. Nine of these articles involve the budget and Capital Improvement Project (CIP) committee's capital plan for 2013. The appropriation for the operating budget article stands at \$4,523,470. This appropriation includes the funding of the general operating activities but does not include the CIP projects (listed below). The CIP articles need to be acted upon by the voters separately to fund the various projects, and they are: 1) \$265,504 for the repair/improvement of Jones Hill Road which will be funded mostly by a long-term loan, 2) \$150,000 for a salt and sand shed that will be funded by a combination of the salt/sand shed reserve fund, the undesignated fund and the CIP reserve fund (CIP-RF), 3) \$264,168 into the CIP-RF which is the carry-over from last year plus an additional nickel tax as per the CIP 15-year plan approved at Town Meeting last year, 4) \$15,000 for a new storage shed to be located at the transfer facility, 5) \$63,500 for deferred maintenance/repair projects for Whitney Hall, the Community Center and DPW Bldg,

6) \$8,000 to cover the lease of a new police cruiser, 7) \$2,615 from consolidating several small existing left-over reserve funds into the CIP-RF, 8) \$14,000 from the fire reserve fund to buy a replacement thermal imaging camera. The committee members voiced no concerns about approving the budget- and CIP-related articles. An additional article will appear on the warrant to approve the deposit of about \$3600 from ambulance billing revenue into a special reserve fund dedicated to the operation of the ambulance department. There were questions by some members as to the purpose and need for such a fund but a majority of the members did not voice concern. Another article to put \$2,800 from cemetery plot sales into the Cemetery Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund received no voiced concerns. And finally, a petitioned warrant article to appropriate \$72,000 for the construction of a scenic boardwalk along Route 4A received no voiced support because of a number of issues raised at our last meeting regarding deficiencies in the current plan. In addition, the \$72,000 only covers the cost of the boardwalk surface materials and not installation costs.

Old Business: None

Public Comment: None

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 PM. The next meeting is Wednesday, Feb 6 (snow date Feb 7) @ 6:30PM for a joint meeting with the BOS for the budget Public Hearing and voting on the warrant articles.