

ENFIELD BUDGET COMMITTEE (EBC) MINUTES (Approved)

Wednesday, October 2, 2013
DPW BUILDING 6:00PM

Members Present: Annabelle Bamforth, Fred Cummings(Ex Officio), Sam Eaton (Vice Chair), Shirley Green, Gayle Hulva, Doug Pettibone (Chair), Lori Saladino, Janet Shepard, Dave Stewart

Excused: Paul Mirski

Others Present: Steve Schneider (Town Manager)

The meeting opened at 6:02PM

Administrative:

Gayle Hulva made a motion to elect Doug Pettibone as Chair and was seconded by Shirley Green. He accepted and the motion was unanimously approved.

Gayle Hulva made a motion to elect Sam Eaton as Vice-Chair and was seconded by Shirley Green. He accepted and the motion was unanimously approved.

2013-14 Meeting Schedule:

The following EBC meetings were scheduled. Meetings will take place at the DPW building @ 6:00 PM except as noted. Tentative agendas and departmental reviews are noted.

2013

Wed. Nov 6: Review 2013 revenue; projected 2014 revenue; initial draft budget

Thur. Nov 14: 4100s (Administration, Cemeteries, etc. except Regional Associations), 4400s (HHS)

Thur. Nov 21: 4500s (Culture, Parks etc.), 4600s (EVA etc.), 4210 (Police)

Sat. Dec 7 (8:30 -12:30AM): 4200s (Fire, Ambulance, etc), 4300s (DPW)

Thur. Dec 12: Regional Associations Subcommittee, Misc.

Thur. Dec 19: CIP recommendations, Misc.

2014

Thur. Jan 9: Finalize budget

Thur. Jan 16: Finalize budget

Thur. Jan 23: Finalize budget

Thur. Jan 30: Finalize budget

Wed. Feb 5 Public Hearing (Wednesday @ 6:30; snow date Thursday Feb 6)

Department Liaisons: The following appointments were made:

Administration - Green

Ambulance - Hulva

Cemeteries - Stewart

DPW - Stewart

Fire - Mirski

Health & Human Services - Shepard

Library - Bamforth

Police - Eaton

Recreation – Saladino

These liaisons will contact and meet with the respective department heads prior to the departmental reviews (as noted in the meeting schedule) to discuss their proposed 2014 budgets and to understand their upcoming needs and concerns.

Regional Associations Subcommittee:

The subcommittee to prioritize and recommend funding for the non-profit Regional Associations was set up again this year. Sam Eaton was appointed Chair and the other two members are Annabelle Bamforth and Shirley Green. There may be 2 or 3 new nonprofits asking for funds this year, including one from the Mascoma Watershed Association.

Review of 2013

2013 Town Meeting

The town meeting last March went well. The recommended budget was overwhelmingly approved by the voters and the CIP committee's long-term capital plan recommendations were extended for year two. Accordingly, \$264,168 was added to the CIP reserve to fund the plan. The tax rate projected at Town Meeting for 2013 was \$6.14/\$1000 property valuation, which was a 2.0% increase over 2012 (\$6.02/\$1000). There has been an average annual increase in the rate of roughly 2% over each of the last five years. The official tax rate for 2013 will be set in early November by the state. There was about \$970,000 in the undesignated fund at the time of Town Meeting.

The following capital projects that the EBC supported for 2013 were approved by the voters and are either completed or in progress:

Jones Hill Road Improvement: Completed (\$265,504 appropriated)

Salt/Sand Shed: Contractor's bid approved, site work being done on DPW property and structure should be completed this year (\$150,000 appropriated).

Pole Shed at Transfer Station: Postponed until the impact of new curbside trash/recycling program is understood better. This appropriation (\$15,000) can be encumbered into next year if necessary.

Whitney Hall Roof/Porch Repair: Currently reviewing 2 bids. Project is targeted for completion this year (\$40,000 appropriated).

Community Building: HVAC Replacement -- an energy audit has been completed. The Board of Selectmen (BOS) is currently discussing the best solution to meet the energy needs of the building (\$15,000 appropriated). The main floor of the building is scheduled to be refurbished in early January, 2014 (\$7500 appropriated).

Depot Street Ambulance Building: Carpentry repairs, painting and electrical work have been completed (\$12,000 appropriated).

Union Street Fire Station Parking Lot: Repaving is underway (\$15,000 appropriated).

Police Cruiser: One new vehicle has been leased (\$30,000 appropriated for long-term lease, approx. \$8000/year).

P.I.G. Launcher For Sewer Line Cleaning: Project on hold for repairs to Lower Shaker Village line (\$15,000 appropriated).

DPW Waste Oil Burner: Replaced (\$8500 appropriated).

Miscellaneous

Shirley Green indicated that the Heritage Commission would like to keep leftover public contributions (approx. \$200) that supported the 2013 Old Home Days for its use next year, instead of the balance going into the General Fund. It was recommended that an expendable trust fund be created. The Heritage Commission also requested that money be budgeted for painting and maintenance of the Enfield Town Center Hall building. It was recommended that they solicit contractor bids for the job and make the request to the CIP committee which will be resuming meetings soon for the 2013-14 budget season.

Sam Eaton noted a newspaper article that appeared today in the Union Leader regarding a planned new 40% employee tax on Cadillac health plans for the amount of premium over \$28,000/year starting in 2018. Enfield employees have Cadillac plans which are currently projected to be subject to this tax. There was general discussion of how the Town will need to be creative in dealing with rising health care costs within the framework of the Affordable Care Act.

Doug Pettibone noted that judging from the positive response of the voters last March (and in recent years) to the budget recommendations of the EBC, CIP and BOS, that an initial (of up to a) 2% increase in the tax rate was a reasonable target for discussions this season. This target would include funding of the CIP reserve and long-term capital plan.

New Business

None

Public Comment

None

The meeting was adjourned at 7:06