

ENFIELD BUDGET COMMITTEE (EBC) MINUTES

Wednesday, October 3, 2012
DPW BUILDING 6:00PM

Members Present: Doug Pettibone (Chair), Sam Eaton (Vice Chair), Annabelle Bamforth, Shirley Green, Gayle Hulva, Lori Salidino, Gail Malz, Janet Shepard

Excused: Fred Cummings, Paul Mirski

Others Present: Steve Schneider (Town Manager)

The meeting opened at 6:07PM

Administrative:

A motion to approve the January 19, 2012, January 26, 2012 and February 8, 2012 minutes was made by Shirley Green and seconded by Gayle Hulva. There were no corrections and the minutes were unanimously approved .

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

Lori Salidino made a motion and was seconded by Janet Shepard to elect Sam Eaton as Vice-Chair. He accepted and the motion was unanimously approved.

2012-13 Meeting Schedule:

The following EBC meeting dates were scheduled. All will take place on Thursdays at the DPW building and @ 6:00 PM except as noted:

2012

Oct 25

Nov 8

Nov 15

Nov 29

Dec 8 (Saturday AM 8:30 -12:30)

Dec 13

Dec 20

2013

Jan 10

Jan 17

Jan 24

Jan 31

Feb 6 Public Hearing (Wednesday @ 6:30 snow date Feb 7)

Department Liaisons: The following appointments were made:

Administration - Green

Ambulance - Hulva

Cemeteries - Mirski

DPW and Fire - Pettibone

Health & Human Services - Shepard

Library - Bamforth

Planning/Zoning/Bldg Insp. - Malz

Police - Eaton

Recreation - Saladino

Regional Association Subcommittee:

It was agreed that we would have a subcommittee to evaluate funding for the regional associations again this year. Sam Eaton was appointed Chair and the other two members are Annabelle Bamforth and Shirley Green.

Review of 2012

Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

The town meeting last March went well. The CIP committee's fifteen-year plan was approved; therefore, \$210,000 is built into this year's budget creating a CIP reserve that will be used to fund the plan. The CIP will meet on Monday to review capital needs and begin adjusting the plan for 2013 and beyond. The Town has already purchased/leased vehicles agreed to in the plan for 2012:

Two International Dump Trucks with plows (10 year capital lease)

Two Taurus 6-cylinder AWD police cruisers (4 year capital lease)

Fire Transport

The Select board modified the plan for the fire transport vehicle when they

began researching the purchase. It made more sense financially to buy a new vehicle instead of a used one. To purchase this vehicle, money was taken from the Fire Department's reserve account as originally planned and the remainder made up from the current department budget.

The plan to improve Jones Hill Road has been modified. The original plan was for a complete reconstruction and was projected to cost \$800,000. The DPW reviewed Jones Hill with some local contractors and decided the project could be addressed for \$200,000 by replacing some culverts, completing some ditch work and paving. The \$30,000 allocated to engineer the project was not spent and will be used to help fund the new plan.

Ambulance

The warrant article for implementing a stand-alone full-time ambulance with two new full-time employees was not approved at Town Meeting. However, some changes have taken place in 2012. The Selectboard made the decision to start soft-billing for insurance reimbursement and that began in June. This will provide some data on the revenue moving forward. The FAST Squad has implemented paid On Call time during the evening hours which has improved participation of the squad members.

Tax Rate

The tax rate projected at Town Meeting for 2102 was \$6.05/\$1000 property valuation, which was a 1.7% increase over 2011. There has been an average of 2 to 2 ½% increase in the rate over the last five years. The official tax rate for 2012 will be set next month by the state. There is currently \$890,000 in the undesignated fund.

2012 Revenues

Car registrations so far this year are approximately \$42,000 higher than last year at this time: a seven percent increase.

The State gave an estimate for the highway block grant from the rooms and meals tax. We are receiving about \$120,000, which is about \$20,000 less than this year.

Miscellaneous

There may be a request for an additional Planning employee next year to

meet projected needs and perhaps additional seasonal employees.
Several projects of deferred maintenance were discussed including:
Heating/Cooling system at the community building
Refinishing the floor at the community building
Waste oil burner at the DPW
Repair of Whitney Hall porch roof

It was also mentioned the Town will be adding an additional part-time employee and part of that persons hours will be assigned to deal with the regulations of Obamacare.

New Business

None

Public Comment

None

The meeting was adjourned at 7:08