

ENFIELD BUDGET COMMITTEE (EBC) MINUTES (Approved 8Dec2012)

**Thursday, November 15, 2012
DPW BUILDING 6:00PM**

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

Excused: Paul Mirski

Others Present: Steve Schneider (Town Manager), Marjorie Carr, Jeanine King, John Trumbull, Shelley Geoghegan, David Stewart

The meeting opened at 6:03PM

Administrative:

A motion to approve the draft November 8, 2012 minutes was made and seconded. The minutes were approved with the correction of Shaker Cemetery's name.

Steve Schneider clarified two questions on the draft budget from last meeting. The expenditure of \$13,476 under 'Miscellaneous' Line 4130-690 of Executive Administration represents the Town's payments to date for the support of our local cable TV Channel 8. These funds come from Comcast's franchise fee paid to the Town. The \$275 payment under 'Donations' line 4442-691 of Human Services Direct were for the purchase of gas and grocery cards for those in need. This cost was offset by \$275 in private donations.

New Business:

Departmental Spending Plans Reviews

4210 Police (2012 Budgeted, \$620,516; 2013 Request, \$647,869, up 4.4%).
Police Chief Crate was unavailable to discuss this budget at this meeting. The Police budget discussion will take place at our December 8 meeting.

4550 Library (2012 Budgeted, \$156,092; 2013 Request, \$164,348, up 5.2%).
Marjorie Carr presented the draft budget. The bulk of the increase over last year is due to a requested increase (~\$8500) in personnel salaries including 2% merit raises. This initial estimate of salary costs will likely to be reduced

with firmer numbers later in the year. The amount requested for Books and other reference materials was increased by \$500 to \$27,500 over 2012 due to increased costs for online references, research websites and subscriptions.

4589 Historical Records (2012 Budgeted, \$1,010; 2013 Request, \$1,010 up 0%). Marjorie Carr presented the draft budget which is level funded from last year. These funds are largely used for salary for the clerk and binding/preservation of historical records

4520 Parks and Recreation (2012 Budgeted, \$45,700; 2013 Request, \$56,588, up 24%). Jeanine King presented the draft budget. The bulk of the increase over last year is due to a requested increase (~\$10,800) in personnel salaries including 2% merit raises. This initial estimate of salary costs will likely to be reduced with firmer numbers later in the year. The various recreational activities such as the summer program, Easter egg hunt, senior stretching class, farmer's market, Halloween etc were all reported to be well attended and successful. The senior stretching class was new this year and will continue next year. This activity is essentially self-supporting with fees paid by the participants. A possible regional recreation department that would combine resources of Enfield and Canaan is continuing to be discussed but at this point it is uncertain what benefits such a change would bring to Enfield. A themed weekly summer program (kayaking, cooking etc) for 11-14 year olds is being considered for next summer. Currently, the summer program does not cater to this age group.

4587 Energy Committee (2012 Budgeted, \$1500; 2013 Request, \$1500, up 0%). The request is for ongoing efforts to identify ways to reduce energy costs for the Town such as installation of LED lights.

4583 Patriotic Purposes (2012 Budgeted, \$1500; 2013 Request, \$1000, down 33%). These requested funds are largely used to maintain Veteran's Park and support parades.

4588 Heritage Commission (2012 Budgeted, \$3,000; 2013 Request, \$3,000, up 0%). 2012 projects included designing and contracting for a new sign designating Enfield as a 'Village District'. It is not yet decided where this sign will be placed. 2013 projects include restoration of historical stage drops kept at Enfield Center.

4611 Conservation Commission (2012 Budgeted, \$1450; 2013 Request, \$1465, up 1%). The funds are used for maintaining the various conserved areas, rivers and lakes within Enfield. In 2012, a one-time surveying project

of Bicknell Trail was undertaken (\$3400). It was noted that this survey was not budgeted for in 2012.

4651 Enfield Village Association (2012 Budgeted, \$9,000; 2013 Request, \$9,000, up 0%). John Trumball discussed the 2012 activities and 2013 plans for EVA. He introduced Shellee Geoghegan as the new administrator who is replacing Dolores Struckhoff. Shellee gave a brief summary of her background. She is a small business owner, and in this 10-15 hour/week position she will serve as a primary liaison between residents and EVA. Some of her duties will include fundraising, small business support, building volunteer efforts and general administrative duties. John discussed EVA's purchase of the historical Greeley House. The building is structurally sound but EVA plans to do basic refurbishing of the structure and then sell it as a single family home with covenants. EVA is continuing with its many quality of life activities and business development efforts. EVA plans to submit grant applications but cautions that the real opportunity for grant support in the current economy is limited. EVA will continue with its various fundraising activities such as Shaker 7 Race and the Annual Appeal which will go out soon. John thanked the Town for past support and made it clear how important the funds that EVA receives from the Town are critical for their functions in 2013.

4195 Cemeteries (2012 Budgeted, \$2500; 2013 Request, \$6750, up 250%). David Stewart came to discuss the request by the cemetery trustees for Town funds (\$3750) to remove a dead tree that threatens to fall on some headstones at Shaker Cemetery. The tree is actually owned by an abutting property owner who refuses to remove the tree himself but allows that the Town is free to do it if it wishes. The Committee noted again that there are at least two reserve funds set up for this type of expenditure that can be tapped by the trustees to pay for the tree removal. A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the cemetery trustees that they use reserve funds for the tree removal. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business: None

Public Comment: None

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm. The next meeting is on Saturday, December 8, 2012 (8:30AM at the DPW building). The following department's draft spending plans will be reviewed: 4200s: Public Safety – Police, Fire, Ambulance etc., 4300s, DPW