

ENFIELD BUDGET COMMITTEE (EBC) MINUTES (approved 20Dec2012)

**Thursday, December 13, 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), Richard Crate (Police Chief).

The meeting opened at 6:02 PM.

Administrative:

A motion to approve the draft December 8, 2012 minutes was made and seconded. The minutes were approved.

New Business: Departmental Spending Plans Reviews

Public Safety.

4210 Police (2012 Budgeted, \$620,516; 2013 Request, \$647,869, up 4.4%). Chief Richard Crate presented the 2012 summary to date and the spending request for 2013.

The Chief reported that 2012 so far has been a good, but active, year for the department. It was noted that several line items in the 2012 budget have been overspent significantly (~16%) as of December 7. Pay for the two parttime officers (4210-112) and for overtime pay (4210-140) is about \$9000 over budget. It was explained that this spending was relatively recent, particularly for the month of November, and was largely due to an unusual number of investigations into local burglaries that have taken place in Enfield. The Chief indicated that other area towns have seen an uptick in this type of crime. Contracted Services (4210-115) is overspent 12% by about \$6500 largely due to the revamping of the computer systems and technology. A new contractor has been hired by the Town to coordinate and standardize all computer technology across the Town facilities. There is an upfront cost to

this changeover, but it is expected that there will be cost savings in the end. There will be no spending on radio replacements this year because the department secured federal funds through the State to replace 4 radio communicators. A new officer was hired from the Grantham Police department and his remaining contract was bought out by Enfield (~\$12000) which had not been budgeted for. In the end, this was a less expensive way to go than hiring a novice officer who had not gone through 6 months of police academy training. During that time the Town would have had to pay the salary without benefitting from active service.

The requested 2013 budget reflects no unusual spending plans over 2012. Salaries include a proposed (up to a) 2% merit increase.

4212 Police Reimbursable Projects (2012 Budgeted \$3000; 2013 Request, \$3000, level funding). So far for 2012, the Town has paid officers about \$13,400 (~\$10,000 over budgeted) for extra assignments requested from outside of town -- notably this year for Route 4A construction safety oversight. The Town will be reimbursed for this total amount by the entities requesting the police presence.

4210 Dispatch Services (2012 Budgeted \$65,000; 2013 Request \$65,000, level funding). These monies are paid to the Town of Hanover who provides the emergency dispatch service to Enfield. Enfield is very pleased with this relationship and the level of service provided. There is no contract with Hanover for the service and the cost can be adjusted annually. The cost, however, has been level for the past several years.

4240 Building Inspection (2012 Budgeted \$55,834; 2013 Request \$64,302, up 2.8%). The increase is almost entirely with the salary line item. There were no other significant changes over 2012.

4290 Emergency Management (2012 Emergency Management \$500; 2013 Request \$500, level funding). The main incident for this year was Hurricane Sandy. There were no injuries from the storm and no damage to the Town. However, there was a nominal cost to the safety departments for their preparatory efforts that will be partially reimbursed with government funds.

Regional Associations (RAs)

4197 Regional Associations (2012 Budgeted \$47,483; 2013 Requested \$48,539, up 2.2%). The RA budget subcommittee reviewed the requests of all of the agencies that submitted applications. EBC committee members, Sam Eaton (RA subcommittee Chair), Shirley Green and Annabelle Bamforth

reviewed the funding requests with Dianne Heed (Head, Enfield Human Services). The subcommittee is recommending that all of the agencies that the Town supported in 2012 be funded in 2013. The individual dollar requests will be adjusted proportionately to meet the Town policy to target total support for all agencies to equal up to 1% of the general fund budget (about \$48,000). Three agencies were not recommended for support because of application deficiencies or relative low impact on Enfield residents. The local agencies that are being recommended for support have a solid track record of providing meaningful benefits to Enfield residents in need.

Old Business: Steve Schneider provided some follow up to unanswered questions from the Dec 8 EBC meeting on the Fire department budget. The \$7000 difference to pay for a new (vs. used) transport vehicle came from the line item 'New Equipment' (4220-740). An additional \$1500 from this line item was used for outfitting the used Ford Expedition vehicle from the police department with emergency strobe lights. Two questions on the Fire budget remain unanswered: 1) what equipment or function was not met by spending the extra \$7000 for the new transport and 2) what is the reason for the 2012 overspending under 'Repairs and Service'?

Public Comment: None

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM. Future meetings include the Board of Selectmen to discuss the 2013 CIP plan (Monday, Dec.17 6:00PM @ DPW) and a regular EBC meeting (Thursday, Dec. 20, 6:00PM @ DPW).