

**ENFIELD BUDGET COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes, January 19, 2011**  
**Whitney Hall – 5:30 PM**

**Members present:** Sam Eaton, Judy Finsterbusch, Shirley Green, Gayle Hulva, Paul Mirski, Doug Pettibone (Chair), Lori Saladino, David Stewart (Vice-Chair)

**Administration:** Steve Schneider (Town Manager)

**Others:** Doug Smith

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 PM.

**ADMINISTRATIVE:**

Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes: The minutes of the January 13, 2011 meeting were approved as amended.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1) 2011 Budget Plan:** Steve Schneider presented his recommendations for final adjustments to the draft spending plan. After reviewing the final actuals for 2010 non-property tax revenue, the projected revenue for 2011 was raised slightly (\$12,000) to \$1.92 million. A projected 1% increase in the Town property tax base to \$546,400,000 adds about \$38,000 to overall Town revenue. This 1% increase is within the historical average annual increase in tax base and is supported by the development of new properties within the Town. The current final budget for the General Fund(01) is \$4,554,000. These levels of revenue and spending produces a tax rate of \$5.95/1000 assessed valuation, the same rate as for 2010. The spending plan allows for the purchase by DPW for a replacement tractor/sidewalk plow (\$38,000) and a new asphalt reclaimer (\$28,000). The members present were all in agreement with this proposed budget. The Public Hearing for the 2011 budget is scheduled for Wednesday, February 2 (snow date February 3) 6PM at the DPW building. There are currently no warrant articles submitted to the Town that the Committee has to act on at the February 2 meeting, but there may be warrant articles submitted related to the sewer project and a citizen group proposal that the Town acquire a lakefront property (see below).

**2) Acquisition of Land for a Lakefront Park:** Doug Smith presented a

proposal put together by a group of Enfield residents recommending that the Town purchase a lakefront property adjacent to the Shaker Bridge that has recently come on the market. The property is located at 217 Main Street and is owned by Mr. Peter Bill. It is currently assessed at \$440,000 and has 400 feet of lakefront. Mr. Smith made arguments that this property would be ideal as a lakefront park and noted that it is a rare opportunity in terms of lakefront real estate. The proposal recommends that the Town purchase the property and provide it for development for recreational and educational activities (e.g., swimming, sailing, kayaking, skating, nature studies etc) by Enfield residents. The committee represented by Mr. Smith would be responsible for raising the roughly \$400,000 initially needed to develop the property to support year-round activities. A citizen committee would also oversee and fund the development and management of this property. Any future costs to the Town to support routine activities of the proposed park is not known at this time, but the goal is that it would be self-funding. The Budget Committee members were generally very enthusiastic about the concept and the positive impact it would have as a new Town asset. One member did express an opinion that it should not be a function of the Town to own such properties. Several members were cautious about how to fund the purchase of the property with a potential (one-time) increase in the tax rate when we are trying to keep the tax rate down. About \$50,000 may be available from the Land Acquisition reserve fund and there was a suggestion that some money could be used from the undesignated fund to reduce the impact on the tax rate. However, there were no ideas made about how to fund the purchase without any impact on the tax rate. The Committee was also interested in a more detailed plan on the funding and timeline of the development of the property. This proposal will be presented at the next Selectboard meeting and this proposal may be the subject of a warrant article for Town Meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**OTHER BUSINESS:** None

**ADJOURN:** The meeting adjourned at 6:53 PM.