

DRAFT UNAPPROVED

Note: Please find the following **DRAFT** minutes of the Budget Committee. These **DRAFT** minutes are subject to being amended, extended and approved by the Budget Committee during it's next meeting.

ENFIELD BUDGET COMMITTEE March 30, 2010 Meeting Minutes DPW Building – 6:00 PM

Budget Committee Members: Sam Eaton, Judy Finsterbush, Gayle Hulva, David Stewart, Doug Pettibone, Gail Malz, Paul Mirski

Excused: Fred Cummings, Shirley Green, Lori Saladino

Administration: Steve Schneider (Town Manager)

Pettibone called the meeting to order at 6:10PM

Stewart moved to approve minutes from January 14 and February 3, 2010. Finsterbush seconded. The motion carried.

Schneider noted that the new tax rate for 2010 increased with the approval by voters at Town Meeting of warrant articles to spend \$190,000 on replacement DPW equipment and \$48,000 on Regional Associations. The new tax rate is \$5.95 per \$1000 property valuation, an increase of 8% over 2009.

New Business: Formation of Budget Subcommittee on Regional Associations

At Town Meeting, the voters overwhelmingly supported numerous warrant articles whereby Regional Associations (RAs) will be funded by the Town to support their social welfare efforts. The Budget Committee has taken these results as a mandate from the taxpayers to continue supporting these RAs for the foreseeable future.

Discussion at Town Meeting included the general concern of the Budget Committee that the funds appropriated and spent for RAs need greater oversight by the Town and accountability by the RAs.

The Committee discussed finding a more rational way to approach funding the RA's by both the Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen. One

idea was to apply or set aside a percentage of the town budget (1% was suggested) to which the RA's could appeal for funding. In addition, a less arbitrary method that the Town can use to award funding to specific RAs should be developed, as well as a method to audit the use of funds so that the Town could be more comfortable and accountable for how the monies are actually spent.

Accordingly, Mirski moved to form such a subcommittee and was seconded by Stewart. The motion was unanimously carried. Pettibone moved that Mirski chair this subcommittee which was seconded by Finsterbusch. The motion was unanimously carried.

Discussion followed that the tentative makeup of the subcommittee be comprised, in addition to Mirski, 3 additional budget committee members and 3 interested town residents. Stewart and Eaton volunteered to serve. Mirski will recruit the additional persons needed to fill out the subcommittee.

The subcommittee will complete its work by early September and report back to the full committee during September. With Budget Committee approval, the findings and recommendations will then be presented to the Board of Selectmen for their consideration to approve in time for use in planning the 2011 budget.

Public Comment: None

Any other Business: None

Meeting adjourned at 7:03 PM.