

February 5, 2007
Budget Committee Minutes

Chairman Carrier convened a Public Hearing of the Budget Committee in the Ilene P. Reed training room, located at 74 Lockhaven Road, Enfield, NH, at 6:02 pm.

PRESENT: Lee Carrier - Chairman, Gayle Hulva - Vice Chair, Eric Crate, Shirley Green, Richard Martin, Judy Finsterbusch, Bob Cusick, Lori Bliss Hill, Dominic Albanese – Selectman, David L. Stewart,

ABSENT:

GUESTS: Suzanne Laliberte, Dan Kiley, Bob Pollard, Howard Schaffer, Carroll (Whitey) Schmanska, Michael Dudley, Richard Crate, Jr. –Police Chief, Nancy Scovner-Selectman, Bart Thurber-Library Trustee, Marjorie Carr-Librarian, Kurt Gotthardt, Carol Cusick, Rebecca Stewart, Francine Lozeau – Library Trustee, Phillip Cronnettewett, Ken Daniels –DPW Director, Kim Withrow, Paul Withrow, Cecilia Aufiero, and Jennifer Petersson

· Public Hearing opening comments

Lee Carrier with overhead presentation

Slide 1: Summary

Slide 2: 2006 Compared to 2007 Appropriations

Slide 3: County, Town & School Tax rates 2004-2007

Slide 4: Percentage Tax Rate County, Town & School 2000 Actual Compared to 2007 Estimate

Slide 5: School, Town & County Tax Increase 2005 to 2007 Estimate

Slide 6: 2007 Major increases totaling \$402,100

Slide 7: Non-recurring expenses from 2006 \$358,380

Slide 8: Salaries & Fringes as a percentage of operating budget (60% of total budget) Lee Carrier commented that this is not over paying or underpaying the employees.

Slide 9: Article 12~Capital Reserves (01)

Slide 10: Budget Committee's Commitment " To wisely spend taxpayer's money."

Dan Kiley questioned whether there is any system to come up with what capital reserves should be?

Lee Carrier responded that capital reserves are well meaning. Sometimes we start a reserve for something and then it just sits for a long time. Sometimes you're better off getting a bond then letting your cash just sit there.

Dan Kiley commented, (in regards to vehicles) so when you need to replace something, the money is there. Getting the feeling that cutting it in half doesn't make much sense when costs are still going up.

Dominic Albanese stated that Dan Kiley raised a good point. When we started these things a few years ago things weren't as expensive. For example, we could then save for three years to purchase a fire truck but now the cost is too much to do that.

Steve Schneider added that the goal was to establish these capital reserves to be more project oriented. We're just being more projects specific with the money. The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) needs to be updated and more realistic. We will be working on that in 2007.

Jennifer Petersson asked a general question as to the process of the budget construction.

Lee Carrier answered that the Town Manager with the Department Heads start the process with their requests. Then the requests are submitted to the Board of Selectmen (BOS) for review. The BOS then submits the revised requests to the Budget Committee.

Kurt Gotthardt questioned why the increase in 01-4220-740 (New Equipment) Fire Department?

Steve Schneider responded that this line includes the purchase two replacements of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) costing \$4,100 each, and the purchase of a commercial grade washing machine (extractor).

Kurt Gotthardt commented that it seems like the cost of the internet lines is high.
##-####-396(Internet)

Lee Carrier responded that a contract was made with a phone co. for multiple years and then with the addition of the T1 lines, the cost really went up. We have two years left on the contract.

Steve Schneider added that the T1 lines are expensive. The Police Department has one.

Richard Crate, Jr. added that the Police Department saved quite a bit of money with the T1 line. It seems like the cost is high because the cost of the Internet has gone down while we are locked into the contract.

Kurt Gotthardt commented that the paint doesn't seem to last on the roadways, especially Lockhaven Road. 01-4312-614 (Signs and Markings)

Ken Daniels responded that it is due to the changes in the paint per the Environmental Protection Agency and traffic wear.

Kurt Gotthardt questioned whether anyone has gone out to see if all the streetlights are needed?

Dominic Albanese responded that the street lighting is not the purview of the Budget Committee and if you don't want the lights you should go to the Planning Board.

Dan Kiley questioned the Conservation Commission budget and how they get to keep the money that is left over at year-end and wondered how they could pledge \$5,000 for the land that was up for sale behind the Lakeview property?

Cecilia Aufiero spoke briefly to explain the conservation funds.

Shirley Green added that no money could be spent without holding a public hearing.

Dominic Albanese added that the Conservation Commission Budget is a good faith estimate as to what they can spend. If you really want to do away with this, do a warrant article to do away with the Commission.

Dan Kiley responded that would not do like to that.

Michael Dudley commented that it was like having two land acquisitions funds.

Cecilia Aufiero requested explanation as to why there was no funding for the Shaker Museum and yet the funding for the Enfield Village Association (EVA) is at \$13,000 and moved to the department of Economic Development.

Lee Carrier responded that as far as the Shaker Museum, they did not submit prior to the deadline.

Dominic Albanese responded that in the original budget requests, there was money for the painting of the flag pole (down by the Laundromat) and the Frequently Asked Questions brochure, including the mailing. EVA is taking those on so that money was taken out of the budget as a means to justify the request for the \$13,500.

Bob Cusick added that the Town didn't really have an Economic Development Program before EVA. EVA sort of represents the spirit if an Economic Development.

Lori Bliss Hill added that ultimately Steve put EVA into the Economic Development Department, with approval of the Department of Revenue Administration.

Dominic Albanese commented that the BOS had voted (Curtis Payne-Selectman was absent from voting) to refund over \$5,000 on the Shaker Museum tax bill.

Nancy Scovner questioned the Budget Committee regarding ACORN and the Budget Committee's feeling that it is political. They are not. They are a regional office not national.

Judy Finsterbusch responded that regardless if it is only state office, it is affiliated with the National Organization

David Stewart added that he concurs with Judy. It is a public policy group.

Cecilia Aufiero questioned why the Budget Committee doesn't consider CAP as political?

Dominic Albanese responded that we fund CAP because they help residents with fuel assistance.

Rebecca Stewart stated that she has investigated ACORN and that she has a problem with funding them. They get \$350,000 and only put \$30,000 back into the community. The biggest number that grabs her by the heart is 01-4903-### (Buildings) the 4.4 million.

Dominic Albanese responded that the Budget Committee is not going to speak to that this evening.

Kurt Gotthardt asked why the Tax Increment Finance (TIF) District doesn't have any appropriation.

Steve Schneider responded that it is because we're not spending any money this year on it.

Dominic Albanese added that the money continues to go into the TIF district account until we either set up a TIF district committee or have a town vote to expend money.

General discussion of the use and process of using the TIF district funds.

Kurt Gotthardt questioned the tax mapping.

Lee Carrier explained that this has been an ongoing project for digitizing the town.

Cecilia Aufiero questioned the DPW improvements. Before any projects begin, she would like to see the roof over the gas tanks. It was one of the wetland permit conditions.

Ken Daniels responded that he would have to go back and look.

Cecilia Aufiero also believes that the Department of Environmental Services didn't want the driveway to be paved.

Dominic Albanese stated that this is an agenda type item that should be address by the BOS and requested that Cecilia present a written list to the BOS. If there are things we need to do to meet the permit, the BOS doesn't know it and needs to check into it.

Cecelia Aufiero requested that the dredge and fill permit to protect the prime wetlands be reviewed and the site specific conditions as well.

Dominic Albanese invited Cecilia to come to the BOS meeting tomorrow night.

Kurt Gotthardt asked if is it possible to get a copy of the budget prior to the public hearing?

Dominic Albanese responded that you have between now and Town Meeting to look things over. We are understaffed and get the best job done we can.

· Administrative

Motion to approve minutes of January 18, 2007, by Lori Bliss Hill and a second from Judy Finsterbusch. All in favor.

Cecilia Aufiero commented that the Budget Committee did a good job this year.

Break 7:10- 7:21pm

Article 12

Steve Schneider explained that the State requires the Town to Gross Budget. We have to include the entire cost of the project in the article.

General discussion of the history on the development of the plan.

Steve Schneider explained that this option basically finishes the first floor for the Town Offices and the finishing the outside. The second story would be unfinished. The remainder of the project is \$1.9 million for finishing the second story and renovating the existing building. Page 2 of handout lists cost of phases to finish construction as if they were stand-alone projects. We are only committing \$2.4 million to the project.

Bob Cusick asked, when the vote takes place, do residents vote for the \$4.4 million?

Steve Schneider answered, no. It's confusing.

General discussion of Article 12

Bob Cusick questioned Article 13; this is the cost of the temporary offices during construction? Why?

Dominic Albanese explained that Article 13 is only if Article 12 fails.

David Stewart asked how long will the \$40,000 last?

Steve Schneider responded, twelve months.

Bob Cusick questioned if it includes the costs of moving all the communications lines, etc?

Lee Carrier commented that the fund raising committee would need to raise \$1,940,000 not \$1,900,000.

Steve Schneider commented that we are asking the Town to consider private and public funds for construction.

General discussion of the usage of undesignated funds.

Steve Schneider commented that some TIF District funds might be used for the Whitney Hall Project for the groundwork for the parking lot and such.

Dominic Albanese responded that the BOS has made no vote on using TIF District funds.

Lori Bliss Hill stated that she would like to see a separate warrant article to use TIF District funds for the Whitney Hall Project.

Dominic Albanese stated that the BOS has never activated the TIF district. We have not established a TIF District board, etc.

Jennifer Petterson questioned if there is there any reason why you couldn't use the TIF district money?

Dominic Albanese responded that it's mechanics.

Steve Schneider added that he isn't sure if you need to have the TIF District board established prior to Town meeting vote. There is time between now and when funds are used to established it.

Dominic Albanese commented that we would need more time to talk to the Town's attorney to check the mechanics of this.

David Stewart commented that he does not feel comfortable.

Round table comments on Article 12

Eric Crate; This is a discussion that has been brought up numerous times and it pretty much comes down to the same thing, too many dollars. This article is new to me. It is a lot of money and no one seems to have a good idea for what is right or wrong. It's being rushed into. Need to wait till everyone understands and agrees before we move ahead.

David Stewart; this is a moving target as far as the cost. This is a lot of money and a lot of money to hope comes in. There has got to be a different way to go about this. The projects need to be split up.

Lori Bliss Hill; we have put a lot of time into this discussion. I'm not comfortable with the numbers put in front of us tonight. It's premature to make a decision on this.

Judy Finsterbusch; Nothing to add. Lori sums it up well. The lack of detail about the raising of funds and I get the feeling there are still too many variables.

Richard Martin; I've talked to a ton of people in town and there is a lack of information out there. There are a lot of things looming out there. Sewer/water rates for an example.

Shirley Green; I feel there is still too many unknown.

Bob Cusick; the shame of this is that the Town employees need new offices. This has become very divisive. Moving employees out into trailers is a bad idea. It's not good for the spirit of

getting this done. When you connect a new building with an old it is ripe for problems. We need a really good library. There has to be a cheaper way to get this thing done. With the numbers moving like this, is Trumbull & Nelson (T&N) willing to sign right now?

Steve Schneider answered that T&N feels that they could sign as currently stated.

Bob Cusick responded that he still think there has got to be a cheaper way to do this job.

Gayle Hulva; I would like to see the project go. I am very uncomfortable with the numbers and it is too short of a time to get the numbers pulled together for Town meeting.

Dominic Albanese; I think the concept is the right one. Renovating the Library and Town Offices and keeping them together is the right thing. I have a lot of confidence with the fundraisers and T&N. Having said that, I agree that the numbers have been moving around.

Lee Carrier; I agree with everyone on the committee.

Bob Pollard commented \$3.7 million was the original amount. What is the \$400,000 in capital reserves?

Dominic Albanese explained that it was an architect estimate and we were waiting for the builder's numbers. The numbers keep moving around because we keep asking the builders to come back with new numbers every time we change things because of the comments of the Budget Committee, Building Committee and etc.

Bob Pollard stated that he believes that the numbers are being moved around too much.

Nancy Scovner commented that the Budget Committee said that it would be comfortable with a two million bond.

Rebecca Stewart stated that she knew, as being married to a committee member, that no one ever voted that.

Bob Pollard commented that if you rent stuff, you never get it back in the end. Why do you always go to T&N?

Dominic Albanese responded that we went thru four different construction outfits. You may not like T&N.

Bob Pollard asked what does the BOS have against Main St? (Regarding 78 Main)

Dominic Albanese responded that it does not meet the principles brought up at last year's town meeting.

Bob Pollard there are a lot of retired people in this town and with the new school coming in, what is it going to cost the people?

Suzanne Laliberte responded, forget about the school. That may not happen. I'll be fighting about that.

Bob Pollard questioned whether the Historical Society squawking about adding a new building to the old building?

Dominic Albanese responded, no.

Bob Pollard stated that he is for the Library expansion. I just look out for the people in this town.

Suzanne Laliberty stated that as a resident and as a senior citizen, she is proud to be in this Town. She has a strong affection for Whitney Hall. She thinks that Whitney Hall, with a good furnace, and by getting rid of the mold and leaks, is a spectacular building and can be a show place. The construction would add value to the town and make it more attractive to the Town. She does not want more bills but sometimes you have to say I can't afford not to do it. She worries about the health of the employees. We need to think about the future. Hopefully some of the kids in the school now, will stay in Enfield and she hopes they will be proud of the Town building. The changes in the numbers are because they are trying to get it to work. I think it ought to be backed for it.

Whitey Schmanska asked why are police officers going to Canaan? Why are people leaving? Build new facilities for Town Offices. We need Ambulance. We need fire department. Lets build something new. Cannan has got more than we have.

Francine Lozeau stated that the numbers have moved around but that was at the request of the Town's people at the first meeting. I remember the number was around three million. We kept going back to the architect for new numbers. I can't imagine that we could ever do this project for less than 2.4 million. I have confidence in the fundraisers.

Bob Pollard commented that why he gets so upset is that a person can move into this town, buy land, put in artesian well, septic system, and a 10 room house and it all can add up to only \$600,000. Why does the Town project come in at three million?

Rebecca Stewart stated that she is extremely supportive in providing good modern office space for our town employees. I have been an office worker and know what it means to work in substandard office space. It's important to enjoy where you work. I am also extremely supportive in the library. We have saved historical books in the dumpster at the transfer station from the library. We need to have a performing arts space for our families and children. This 4.4 will go up. I personally believe and why I decided to run for BOS, and although everyone has done a lot of work, they have not looked at other options which others have come up with. Look at the needs of our FD, Fast squad, needs of our school children, I don't think 4.4 can be afforded. At the last BOS meeting Nancy Scovner was concerned about the sewer rates going up and people being able to afford them and then she gave her approval for 4.4 million dollar project. I recommend that the Town Offices move to 78 Main St. The performing space (in

Whitney Hall) is inadequate and a fire hazard. You start putting lighting in there for proper theater and the building will burn down. I recommend that an expansion be made for the theater. That will bring people in. A library doesn't bring in the people. It doesn't increase the tax base like a performing art space would. No one that specializes in performing arts space has been approached as a consultant.

Dominic Albanese stated that the extra work for the library would be funded by grant money.

David Stewart commented, I agree about the performing arts center, that it would bring in people. Look at Lebanon; people go to Salt Hill, Three Tomatoes ...

Rebecca Stewart added that geographically, Enfield could be a hub of the Upper Valley if we give it a little thought. Our roads lead to downtown Enfield from Canaan, Hanover, Etna, and Springfield. We could set the measure of what a modern small Town could be and draw business from there.

Kurt Gotthardt commented that there have been two engineering reports and neither has stated that employees need to get out of there immediately. Why move?

Dominic Albanese answered that it's damned if you do, damned if you don't. We were asked to come up with a plan B. The trailers are plan B.

David Stewart asked, why are we just going to get them out of there if we don't do the project?

Dominic Albanese answered that because it saves \$50,000 and T&N said they could do it. The employees could continue to occupy their current space during construction.

Lori Bliss Hill made a motion to close the public hearing. Second from Richard Martin. AIF

Break 8:32-8:40pm

Dominic Albanese commented that the budget report handed out contains the latest changes.

Steve Schneider added that the paving is in, the stretcher is in and a handful of the regional associations had changes.

General Government

Executive (4130): Dominic Albanese moved to approve \$174,883.00 seconded by Gayle Hulva. All in favor.

Election & Registration (4140): Gayle Hulva moved to approve \$54,796.00 seconded by Bob Cusick. All in favor.

Financial Administration (4150): Bob Cusick moved to approve \$176,179.00 seconded by Shirley Green. All in favor.

Legal (4153): Shirley Green moved to approve \$22,000.00 seconded by Richard Martin. All in favor.

Personnel Administration (4155): Richard Martin moved to approve \$688,278.00 seconded by Judy Finsterbusch. All in favor.

Planning & Zoning

Planning (4191): Judy Finsterbusch moved to approve \$86,044.00 seconded by Lori Bliss Hill. All in favor.

Zoning (4192): Lori Bliss Hill moved to approve \$2,125.00 seconded by David Stewart. All in favor.

General Government Buildings (4194): David Stewart moved to approve \$204,350.00 seconded by Eric Crate. All in favor.

Cemeteries (4195): Eric Crate moved to approve \$4,695.00 seconded by Lee Carrier. All in favor.

Insurance (4196): Dominic Albanese moved to approve \$51,000.00 seconded by Gayle Hulva. All in favor.

Other General Government (4199): Gayle Hulva moved to approve \$19,000.00 seconded by Bob Cusick. All in favor.

Public Safety

Police Department (4210): Bob Cusick moved to approve \$591,609.00 seconded by Shirley Green. All in favor.

Police Reimbursable Projects (4212): Shirley Green moved to approve \$6,000.00 seconded by Richard Martin. All in favor.

Ambulance (4215): Richard Martin moved to approve \$72,250.00 seconded by Judy Finsterbusch. All in favor.

Fire Department (4220): Judy Finsterbusch moved to approve \$107,720.00 seconded by Lori Bliss Hill. All in favor.

Building Inspection (4240): Lori Bliss Hill moved to approve \$57,710.00 seconded by David Stewart. All in favor.

Emergency Management (4290): David Stewart moved to approve \$5,408.00 seconded by Eric Crate. All in favor.

Dispatch Services (4299): Eric Crate moved to approve \$54,338.00 seconded by Lee Carrier. All in favor.

Highways & Grounds

Highway Administration (4311): Dominic Albanese moved to approve \$461,723.00 seconded by Gayle Hulva. All in favor.

Highways and Streets (4312): Gayle Hulva moved to approve \$473,240.00 seconded by Bob Cusick. All in favor.

Street Lighting (4316): Bob Cusick moved to approve \$23,400.00 seconded by Shirley Green. All in favor.

Sanitation

Sanitation Administration (4321): Shirley Green moved to approve \$87,743.00 seconded by Richard Martin. All in favor.

Solid Waste Collection (4323): Richard Martin moved to approve \$139,400.00 seconded by Judy Finsterbusch. All in favor.

Solid Waste Disposal (4324): Judy Finsterbusch moved to approve \$187,500.00 seconded by Lori Bliss Hill. All in favor.

Health & Human Services

Health Department (4411): Lori Bliss Hill moved to approve \$300.00 seconded by David Stewart. All in favor.

Animal Control (4414): David Stewart moved to approve \$1,000.00 seconded by Eric Crate. All in favor.

Welfare Administration (4441): Eric Crate moved to approve \$31,332.00 seconded by Lee Carrier. All in favor.

Welfare Direct Assistance (4442): Dominic Albanese moved to approve \$21,450.00 seconded by Gayle Hulva. All in favor.

Culture, Recreation & Conservation

Parks & Recreation (4520): Gayle Hulva moved to approve \$38,125.00 seconded by Bob Cusick. All in favor.

Lee Carrier commented that he had spoken to Marjorie Carr-Librarian and Bob Anderson from the Department of Revenue Administration and was told that the special project line (01-4550-722) is a neutral expenditure.

Library (4550): Bob Cusick moved to approve \$163,062.00 seconded by Shirley Green. All in favor.

Patriotic Purposes (4583): Shirley Green moved to approve \$1,000.00 seconded by Richard Martin. All in favor.

Heritage Commission (4588): Richard Martin moved to approve \$500.00 seconded by Judy Finsterbusch. All in favor.

Historical Records (4589): Judy Finsterbusch moved to approve \$909.00 seconded by Lori Bliss Hill. All in favor.

Conservation Commission (4611): Lori Bliss Hill moved to approve \$1,275.00 seconded by David Stewart. All in favor.

Economic Development (4651): David Stewart moved to approve \$14,100.00 seconded by Eric Crate. All in favor.

Debt Service

Principal – Long Term Bonds and Notes (4711): Eric Crate moved to approve \$112,963.00 seconded by Dominic Albanese. All in favor.

Interest – Long Term Bonds and Notes (4721): Dominic Albanese moved to approve \$25,005.00 seconded by Gayle Hulva. All in favor.

Capital Outlay & Capital Reserve & Trust Funds

Land and Improvements (4901): Gayle Hulva moved to approve \$45,000.00 seconded by Bob Cusick. All in favor.

Machinery, Vehicles and Equipment (4903): Bob Cusick moved to approve \$30,000.00 seconded by Shirley Green. All in favor.

Transfers to Capital Reserve Funds (4915): Shirley Green moved to approve \$110,000.00 seconded by Richard Martin. All in favor.

Transfers to Trust and Agency Funds (4916): Richard Martin moved to approve \$2,100.00 seconded by Judy Finsterbusch. All in favor.

Water Department

Water Administration (4331) Judy Finsterbusch moved to approve \$110,284.00 seconded by Lori Bliss Hill. All in favor.

Water Operations (4332) Lori Bliss Hill moved to approve \$39,250.00 seconded by David Stewart. All in favor.

Debt Service

Principal (4711) David Stewart moved to approve \$15,154.00 seconded by Eric Crate. All in favor.

Interest (4721) Eric Crate moved to approve \$6,765.00 seconded by Lee Carrier. All in favor.

Other Debt Service Charges (4790) Dominic Albanese moved to approve \$2,274.00 seconded by Gayle Hulva. All in favor.

Capital Reserves and Trust Funds

Transfers to capital reserves (4915) Gayle Hulva moved to approve \$10,000.00 seconded by Bob Cusick. All in favor.

Sewer Department (03 Fund) Bob Cusick moved to approve \$285,882.00 seconded by Shirley Green. All in favor.

Regional Associations

01-4197-001 Advanced Transit: Bob Cusick moved to change the amount from \$4,120.00 to \$3,090.00. Seconded Lori Bliss Hill. All in favor.

01-4197-003 Headrest: Judy Finsterbusch moved to change the amount from \$5,000.00 to \$3,090.00. Seconded by Lori Bliss Hill. All in favor.

Lori Bliss Hill moved to approve \$41,670.00 for the total of all the Regional Associations. Seconded by David Stewart. All in favor.

Action Items

Adjournment

Motion to recess came forward at 9:15pm from Lee Carrier with a second from Lori Bliss Hill. Motion carried.