

Enfield Budget Committee Meeting

November 1, 2007

Present:

Lee Carrier, Chair
Curtis Payne, Selectman
Steve Schneider, Town Manager
Gail Malz
Dave Stewart
Roberta Morse
Lori Saladino
Gayle Hulva
Judy Finsterbusch

Excused:

Richard Martin
Shirley Green

Lee Carrier called the meeting to order at 6:05P by introducing the newest member of the committee, Lori Saladino. Lee advised that he has hired a minute-taker, Beth Rivard, who will begin next week, November 8th, 2007.

Gail Malz motioned to approve minutes of June 14th meeting, Roberta seconded, all in favor. Dave Stewart motioned to approve minutes of October 18th meeting, Gayle seconded after requesting that her absence be changed from "absent" to "excused". All in favor.

Lee distributed Comparison of Appropriations by year (2003/2006 to 2007), 2007 Tax Rate, Unreserved/Undesignated Fund Balance, with explanations thereof.

Curtis raised the issue of considering the option of using some of the undesignated funds (when percentage is 11% or 12%) to lower the Town tax rate, thus easing the burden on the taxpayer when school and county taxes continue to rise. Discussion ensued with comments indicating this could be a very slippery slope.

Lee distributed Budget committee assignments with request that each committee member contact the assigned Department Manager to arrange a meeting prior to scheduled full committee hearing.

The issue of Regional Associations was raised, with Lee commenting that the monies allocated last year amounted to roughly .8% of the budget but that a great deal of time was expended in this area. Lee suggested that he meet with Curtis, Steve and Judy to attempt to streamline and finalize a process for funding Regional Associations.

Dave Stewart asked about the monies to be allocated for the Library ...where will they come from. There seems to be some confusion as to whether the \$150,000 is to be part of the \$400,000 or an addition to it. Further clarification is needed from the Library committee.

Judy Finsterbusch motioned to adjourn at 7:00P, Lee second, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith M. Finsterbusch
Acting Secretary