

Budget Committee

Public Meeting

December 12, 2006

Chairman Carrier convened a business meeting of the Budget Committee in the Conference Room at Whitney Hall, located at 23 Main Street, Enfield, NH, at 6:00pm.

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

EXCUSED: Judy Finsterbusch

GUESTS:

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF: Steven Schneider, Town Manager, Wendy Huntley - Recorder

- **Administrative**

The minutes from November 30th tabled till next meeting.

Lee Carrier briefly explained and then general discussion was had, regarding the process of the minutes. Lee Carrier requested that draft minutes be emailed to the committee upon completion. Typos may be emailed to Wendy for correction. Any other changes should be held until the next meeting for discussion.

01-4651-### Economic Development

Lee Carrier questioned if the Town needs to put money in the budget for this especially since none was spent in 2006?

Steve Schneider responded that the funds were for producing a small booklet.

Dominic Albanese stated that it would be good for developers to have a booklet with facts, questions and answers on sewer and water etc.

Four in favor. Three opposed. Motion carried.

Lori Bliss Hill added that she thinks doing a booklet like this is necessary.

Lee Carrier agreed it would be good to have a guideline in writing for the public to follow.

Dominic Albanese added that the Town has never had a formal Economical Plan. Might be a good idea to start one.

Steve Schneider responded that creating a formal Economical Plan is part of the Town's long term strategic plan.

Bob Cusick questioned if the booklet is going to be a how to?

Steve Schneider answered that this will be a how to and maybe a brief description of our commercial land/code etc.

Bob Cusick added that maybe it could list why to come to Enfield...

Lee Carrier added the booklet could show where to go for grants etc.

Steve Schneider responded that this brochure would show the "Enfield Brand".

Shirley Green commented that she thinks it would be good to show the different zones in Town.

Lee Carrier made a motion to accept the budget for Economic Development as requested (\$1,600). Second by Bob Cusick. All in favor. Motion carried.

01-4901-### Land and Improvements

01-4901-717 Lockhaven Road

Steve Schneider explained that the Town put in a berm up at the top of Lockhaven Road to stop the water flow that was impacting the old Sinclair property. The berm then pushed the water onto the Cross property. The Town caused the problem on the Cross property because it put the berm in.

Dominic Albanese added that Mr. Cross was not living in town then. Because of the water issue, the assessment on the property has dropped the land down to \$12,000.

Steve Schneider explained that the plan is to get rid of the berm, and redirect the water to Crystal Lake directly thru rip-rap for filtering. The Town had a soil scientist come in and say that it is not a wetlands just wet because the water was diverted on to the property. The Town is still awaiting the final approval from NH Department of Environmental Services.

Steve Schneider stated that Ken talk about that more on Saturday. This is basically to correct what the Town created.

Lee Carrier asked if this is a firm quote? Will the highway department be doing any of the work?

Steve Schneider responded, yes this is a quote, but the Highway Department may be doing bits and pieces of the work.

General discussion of the Cross property and what water damages there may be.

Bob Cusick asked, if the Town caused the damage shouldn't the Town fix it?

Dominic Albanese explained that the Town has a problem with using public funds for private property per the RSAs.

01-4901-718 Stump Dump

Steve Schneider explained that a new line has been created. \$19,000 The Town has had some issues over the past year with the Stump Dump. This represents the closure of the Stump Dump. \$12,000 of the cost is for grinding the large stumps. The Town has to restore the land to what the land was prior to being a stump dump. \$2,500 of the cost is for contingency and \$4,500 is for groundwork.

Dominic Albanese explained that the grindings would be used to in the regarding of the area.

Dominic Albanese questioned where the funds are in the budget to create the stump dump at the DPW facility?

Steve Schneider responded that he was not sure, but that Ken could answer that on Saturday.

Bob Cusick asked why doesn't the Town charge for dumping stumps at the stump dump?

Steve Schneider responded that the stump dump is basically for yard waste from the public.

Lori Bliss Hill asked if the state owns this property?

Steve Schneider responded, yes.

Lori Bliss Hill asked if plan B was that the stump dump goes to the DPW?

Steve Schneider answered, yes but the Town has hurdles to go thru before that happens.

Dominic Albanese added that the Town is not going to recreate what is at the Bog Road at the DPW.

Bob Cusick asked if there is a written agreement with the State?

Steve Schneider answered, yes.

Dominic Albanese added that the problem was that the Town needed to come up with a closure plan.

Steve Schneider commented that the Town did have a closure plan, but it wasn't dusted off.

Lee Carrier asked when does the Town have to be out of there?

Steve Schneider responded, July 2007. At some point, the DPW facility is going to have everything. The Stump dump, the transfer station and the salt shed.

Lee Carrier recommended that the Committee shouldn't vote on this till after it speaks with Ken on Saturday.

Lori Bliss Hill asked for confirmation that the bottom line should be \$44,000 for Land and Improvements bringing the total Capital Outlay to \$64,000.

Steve Schneider answered, correct.

01-4197 Regional Associations

Lee Carrier stated that because he wasn't at the November 30th meeting, he'd like to discuss the Regional Associations and vote on them.

Bob Cusick responded that he was really floored when he saw how much the community used these associations. Over all he felt that in general that the requests were reasonable. These associations were gap filler for where the state doesn't fund.

Lori Bliss Hill commented that the Budget Committee has been harsh on the Regional Associations in previous years. Lori Bliss Hill agreed with Bob Cusick that Regional Associations do provide a service the community. Where does the sub-committee stand on this?

Eric Crate commented that he only went to the first meeting and missed the next two. Eric Crate felt that it is a heck of an increase this year over last year and that there needs to be controls on how these associations are funded.

Dominic Albanese added that in some ways the Budget Committee has created this problem because it has leveled funded for a couple of years so now it seems that there is a big increase in requests.

David Stewart stated that the sub-committee came up with the following recommendations: Keep the funding within current levels and only increase at the rate of COLA unless there was some emergency. The Budget Committee should look at each agency and see if the Town is getting its money worth out of the organization. Look at each organization and see if there is some real value for the community.

David Stewart added that he thinks a couple of Associations could be cut: Advanced transit and Bonnie Clac. If Advanced transit does 1,500 rides a year divide that by 50 weeks, divide that by 5 days and that is how many riders you have a day.

Steve Schneider responded that would be 23 riders a day.

David Stewart answered, people are not paying for this.

Lori Bliss Hill commented that it's a huge controversial topic on this committee. We need a baseline for deciding the amounts given.

Lee Carrier offered that the Town has received requests from three new associations totaling nine thousand dollars. There are four associations asking for much higher amounts than what the Town gave them last year. Maybe we should say the base number is "X" and whatever we give town employees for a raise, is what we give as an increase to the organizations. We need to decide if we allow funding of these new organizations or do we just fund the old ones. We all have our own ideas as to what is beneficial to the community.

Dominic Albanese made a motion that the Regional Associations that were funded in 2006, we give a 4.5% increase as we paid employees and vote on them individually. Then we decide do we let the new ones in and at the amounts requested or not?

David Stewart reminded the members that they are making decisions for the public to make charitable contributions. We all know that the public wants streets plowed, rubbish removed etc.

Lee Carrier stated that the funding in 2006 was \$46,500. Times that by 4.5 % and you get \$48,600 without the 3 new ones. Then we can discuss the 3 new ones.

David Stewart responded that he would like to limit the amount of money.

Dominic Albanese made motion that the organizations that were in last year, get 4.5% increase.

Lori Bliss Hill asked if all of the Regional Associations had asked for an increase?

Lee Carrier answered, no.

Lori Bliss Hill responded that she doesn't want to volunteer the Town to give out more money when it was not requested.

Lee Carrier answered that if the Budget Committee does grant a 4.5% increase across the board, it comes to an increase of \$2,600.

Eric Crate asked would this increase of 4.5% be yearly?

Lee Carrier responded, no. The Budget Committee would look at it each year. A base line needs to be established. Increasing the 2006 requests by the 4.5% brings the line to \$48,600 without the 3 new ones.

Dominic Albanese cautioned that the Budget Committee is pushing this down at the expense of the people who need it the most.

Shirley Green second Dominic's original motion.

Dominic Albanese then withdrew his motion and Shirley Green second the motion to withdraw.

Break 7:17-7:22

01-4197-001 Advanced Transit

Dominic Albanese made a motion to approve last year's budgeted amount plus 4.5% (\$4,180.) Second by Bob Cusick. Eight in favor, one against. Motion carried.

01-4197-002 Listen

Dominic Albanese made a motion to approve last year's budgeted amount (\$2900.) Second by Bob Cusick. All in favor. Motion carried.

01-4197-003 Headrest

Dominic Albanese made a motion to approve last year's budgeted amount plus 4.5% (\$3,135.)
Second by Gayle Hulva. All in favor. Motion carried.

01-4197-005 VNA/VNH

Dominic Albanese made a motion to approve last year's budgeted amount plus 4.5% (\$17608.25).
Second by Gayle Hulva. All in favor. Motion carried.

01-4197-006 Senior Citizens Council

Dominic Albanese made a motion to approve last year's budgeted amount (\$6,450.)
Second by Bob Cusick. All in favor. Motion carried.

01-4197-008 WISE

Dominic Albanese made a motion to approve last year's budgeted amount (\$2,300.)
Second by Bob Cusick. All in favor. Motion carried.

01-4197-011 West Central Services

Dominic Albanese made a motion to approve the requested amount (\$5,280)
Second by Lee Carrier. All in favor. Motion carried.

01-4197-013 Enfield Village Association (EVA)

Lee Carrier & Dominic Albanese recused themselves from voting.

General discussion to the value of EVA to the community

Bob Cusick made a motion to approve the requested amount (\$13,500) Second by Gayle Hulva.

Lori Bliss Hill asked, why the extra 3,500 dollars?

Lee Carrier commented that the Town has been funding EVA at \$10,000 for the past 5 or 6 years. EVA cannot fund themselves by private donations alone. DA all the money donated to EVA money is pooled to pay for all the different events, salaries, taxes etc.

Eric Crate questioned when is enough is enough? When do the taxpayers stop putting money into certain pieces of property before the owners will take it over themselves?

David Stewart added that it's time for private enterprise to take over.

Shirley Green commented that people weren't doing things to improve the Downtown area before EVA. People are paying more taxes because the values have gone up.

Three in favor. Four opposed. Motion failed.

Richard Martin made a motion to approve last year's budgeted amount plus 4.5% (\$10,450).
Second by David Stewart. Four in favor. Three opposed. Motion carried.

Steve Schneider interjected that he believes the motion did not pass because the majority of the board did not approve.

Eric Crate asked if voting on EVA could be set aside?

Lee Carrier answered, yes.

01-4197-010 ACORN

Dominic Albanese made a motion to approve the requested amount (\$1,000). Second by Lee Carrier.

David Stewart commented that he understood that ACORN is into public policy and other political things. Lobbying. That they are a national organization.

Dominic Albanese added that there is a lot of overlap in services with other associations. Dominic didn't realize that ACORN is a national organization. He has always understood them to be local. But David may be correct.

Eric Crate recommended that the Budget Committee not fund till we get our bases done for funding the regional associations.

David Stewart added that ACORN is also funding a needle exchange program and there are strong feelings against that.

All opposed . Motion failed due to ACORN's application being incomplete and not enough known about the organization. Also no presentation was made. (Representative fell ill at meeting prior to making the presentation.)

01-4197-014 Mascoma Valley Health Initiative

Dominic Albanese made a motion to approve the requested amount (\$3,643). Second by Lee Carrier.

Dominic Albanese added that Police Chief Richard Crate came to him and said this group has a lot of value to the community.

Lee Carrier commented that he had received an email from Police Chief Richard Crate saying that the Police Department highly values this organization.

Four in favor. Four opposed. Motion failed.

Dominic Albanese made a motion to approve \$2,500. Second by Shirley Green. Five in favor. Four opposed. Motion failed.

Eric Crate made a motion for no funding. Second by Gayle Hulva. Five in favor. Four opposed. Motion failed.

David Stewart made a motion to approve \$1,000. Second by Richard Martin. Six in favor. Three opposed. Motion carried.

David Stewart recommended that for next year an outline should be developed for information requested from the Regional Associations.

01-4197-015 Tri County Cap

Dominic Albanese made a motion to approve the requested amount. (\$2,280) Second by Eric Crate. All in favor. Motion carried.

01-4197-016 Bonnie CLAC

Dominic Albanese made a motion to approve \$1,500. Second by Shirley Green. General discussion of Bonnie CLAC.

David Stewart commented that he has a problem that Town would be subsidizing education when the Town already pays for the schools. If we need this education, maybe it should be taught in school.

Bob Cusick added that the representative from Bonnie CLAC did say that they tried to get into the school and the school said no.

Dominic Albanese commented that he believes the Committee would be punishing people who need it.

Five in favor. Four opposed. Motion failed.

Eric Crate made a motion to approve no funding. Second by Richard Martin. Six in favor. Three against. Motion carried.

01-4197-013 Enfield Village Association (EVA)

Richard Martin made a motion to approve last year's budgeted amount plus 4.5% (\$10,450). Second by David Stewart.

David Stewart requested that the motion be amended to reduce Advance Transit by \$450 and transfer that to EVA.

Eric Crate replied, no. Original motion voted on.

Five in favor. Four opposed. Motion failed.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn came forward at 8:25 PM from Lee Carrier with a second from Bob Cusick. Motion carried.