

Town of Enfield
BUDGET COMMITTEE
Public Meeting Minutes ~ February 9, 2004

Mr. Michael Dudley Chairman summoned a Public Hearing followed with a business meeting of the Enfield Budget Committee beginning at 6 p.m., on February 9, 2004, in the conference room of the Department of Public Works facility, on Lockhaven Road, in Enfield, NH.

Present:

Lee Carrier
 Lynn Baker
 Shirley Green
 Lori Bliss
 Gayle Hulva
 Mike Dudley-Chairman
 April Whittaker-Town Manager
 Wendy Huntley-Bookkeeper
 Paula Rowe-Recorder

Absent with Apologies:

Richard Martin

Selectmen:

Ilene Reed
 Keith Oppenneer
 Dominic Albanese

Guests:

Kurt Gotthardt, Celie Aufiero, Dwight Marchetti, Fred Paradis, Dan Kiley, Richard A. Crate Jr., Doug Smith, Albert Langley, Sharon Carr, Dolores Struckhoff, John Kluge, Francine and Tony Lozeau, Chris Christopoulos, Patrick Ruppe of the Valley News, Gene Talsky, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Elgin, Phil Cronenwett, Marj Hayes, Nancy Scovner.

- **Public Hearing**

Chairman Dudley announced the opening of the Public Hearing by placing a motion on the floor at 6:10 p.m. With a second from Lori Bliss, this motion carried.

Thanking the Budget Committee for all of their hard and diligent work putting the proposed budget on the floor in its final mode this evening, Town Manager, April Whittaker introduced herself and asked the Budget Committee to introduce themselves as well. Mrs. Whittaker followed with an overview outlining the priorities illustrated in the summary of the handout that was provided this evening, entitled "Proposed 2004 Town Budget," remarking on the current Pay Plan that is eight years old. Mrs. Whittaker said that the town employees needed to be taken care of, and exampled the police officers salaries, placing an additional focus on the need for a 7th police officer. This would be funded by the COPS FAST Grant Proposal, adding that she felt that the liability of an experienced officer does not outweigh the value of keeping our experienced officers.

- **General Government Operations ~ Review and Questions**

Public Safety Operations – Mr. Marchetti asked if the Fire Dept. received grant monies in the vicinity of \$160,000. Mrs. Whittaker informed him the figure is \$110,000, explaining what the grant outlines. Mrs. Whittaker commended Firefighter and Assistant Emergency Management Director ~ Mr. John Pellerin for his hard work in obtaining this grant.

Public Works Operations – Solid Waste collection. Mrs. Whittaker said that there is only one person doing solid waste pick up in the Upper Valley, and informed our contract is up this Fall. Mrs. Whittaker hopes for a committee to make recommendations and alternatives for solid waste. Sharon Carr asked if the Transfer Station was going to be open more often. Mrs. Whittaker said yes, and there will be a Public Hearing on February 17th, about this. Mrs. Whittaker said the problem is getting help to work both Saturday and Sunday, and every weekend. This has prompted a change in the operating hours of the transfer station. The Public Hearing on the 17th will inform of this in hope of trying this new schedule for a few months. Selectman Albanese pointed out that this issue and schedule change will have no effect on the 2004 Proposed Budget.

Mr. John Kluge asked who was under the Regional Associations, and Mrs. Whittaker gave him the list.

Mr. Marchetti asked if thought had been given to receiving labor assistance from those that the town is aiding through the Welfare office, suggesting in the areas of the transfer station, as well as other areas of town. Mrs. Whittaker said there are some concerns in doing this, exemplifying those who could work at the transfer site have to wear Steel Toe shoes, and sign a release. Dolores Struckhoff asked how many people who are receiving assistance have worked in this capacity. Mrs. Whittaker thought about 4. Mr. Smith asked how many welfare recipients/clients does the town have at this time. Mrs. Whittaker thought that might be a confidential matter, but, could probably pull some data from the computer on this.

Library – 7.9 percent increase in the library due to an additional full time person. Mrs. Whittaker explained that Mrs. Carr has been with the library for many years and has done

most of the work for the library, and for health reasons, the library has had to hire an additional person to back up Mrs. Carr. The new Librarian is Mrs. Cindy Knox.

Carl Patten Bridge will be paid in 2005. At this time, Mr. Kiley said he will be making some recommendations on behalf of another committee – Town Offices/Library Needs Assessment Committee.

Pavillion – A new building for Huse Park will house a porch area for the children during the summer recreation program, as well as some space for the Garden Club ladies.

Cemetery Headstone Repair - This is a one time payment to have all headstones done by a company from Vermont. This will not be an impact on the tax rate.

Replacement of Aging Vehicles – annual request for a police cruiser, DPW vehicle lift. Photocopier for the town offices.

Master Plan Update – This is year two of a five year plan.

Mr. Kiley asked if the Headstone Repair should come out of the cemetery trust; questioning if we are charging enough for cemetery lots to cover this. There isn't enough money in the cemetery trust funds to pay for these repairs. Mrs. Whittaker acknowledged and said this should probably be looked at.

Mr. Fred Paradis asked if there was a Perpetual Care Fund. Mrs. Whittaker said that they do now.

Mr. Kiley asked if only one lot was sold in the past year, should the new Country Cemetery be opened this year. Wendy Huntley spoke up and said several calls have come into the town offices waiting for the new cemetery to open. Mrs. Whittaker reminded all that the cemetery trustees are an elected board, and they set the cost of the lots, which currently is \$_____.

Capital Reserves – Sidewalk proposal comes from the Ironman Development, of which they offered to pay 50% of the sidewalks on Maple Street, however, a grant will defray the towns portion. Of note: this grant may take another 3 or 4 years to obtain.

Mr. Larry Elgin asked Mrs. Whittaker who pays for the water and sewer, and she informed those who receive the services of water and sewer only.

Fire Department – Celie Aufiero asked how many air packs are being purchased. Selectman Albanese said enough to supply the whole department and Mrs. Whittaker reminded that this is part of the aforementioned grant.

Mr. Marchetti said that Mr. Pellerin has done a superb job on obtaining these grants and funds. Mr. Marchetti asked if there has been any thought given to paying someone part time to help overseeing and obtain funds on a continuing basis. Mrs. Whittaker said that

Mr. Pellerin is receiving monies for the work he is doing on these grants. Ms. Struckhoff asked Mr. Marchetti if he meant for just this grant, or for all grant funds in the town, and Mr. Marchetti answered for all grants.

Tax Rate Calculation – This worksheet illustrated how the tax rate has been calculated at \$9.99 versus last year's figure of \$9.68.

Regional Associations – Mrs. Whittaker said that she asked all regional associations who were requesting funds from the Town to come before the Budget Committee for an interview, as well as, show their audit, and answer questions as raised. Most associations did, a few did not.

Mrs. Whittaker concluded and explaining the voluminous work done by the Budget Committee since last Fall and has viewed a half a million in budget cuts since the beginning of the process.

Mr. Marchetti addressed a question to the Budget Committee and felt that they have done tremendous work this year. He suggests that when they start their workshops next year, and when they go to a department for review, that they not suggest warrant articles for items such as, a police cruiser, a dump truck. Feeling they are not for the warrant and would like to see this done away with. Mr. Marchetti asked if the Pay Plan was going to be available to the public before the town meeting, and Mrs. Whittaker said that it will be in your town report, as well as she has an open door policy.

Mr. Kiley asked if the School Budget was going to be available shortly for the public to view. Selectman Oppenheer said that the budget for the school has come in at \$14.9 million, there are warrant articles, and if they are passed, the school budget could come in at \$15.7 million. Mrs. Whittaker said that the Town of Enfield's share of education will realize a decrease from the state; with hopes that the town evaluation increases to help defray this.

Chief Giese explained that he is taking pictures this evening for submission to the town report. Chief Giese felt that the budget committee was very fair in the budget process this year, as well as working with the Selectmen and Town Manager, and asked everyone to give an applause for the hard work of the budget committee.

Mrs. Whittaker asked if there was any other questions, and told the public that she enjoys the town and people, and the employees.

Chairman Dudley thanked the committee and Mrs. Whittaker for all of her help as she made life easier for the budget committee, and thanked Wendy and Paula for their help to the committee. Mrs. Whittaker thanked Lynn Baker for her number of years of service to this committee. Mrs. Baker will not be running for re-election to the committee.

Chairman Dudley asked if there were any other questions, being none, he closed the public hearing at 7:45 p.m.

Chairman Dudley continued the meeting at 8:00 p.m. for the business section of the budget committee. Photographs were taken for the town report.

- **Approval of Minutes**

Motion to put the Minutes of the January 8, 2004 meeting on the table from Chairman Dudley, second from Lee Carrier, motion carried.

Page 2, Overview from the Town Manager, question on the second sentence. Changing it to, 'She noted that the budget committee's assistance and cooperation helped in forming a budget.....'

Approval of the Minutes as amended was seconded from both Gayle Hulva and Lori Bliss. Motion carried.

- **2004 Budget Worksheet Review & Recommendations**

Chairman Dudley began the Review and Recommendations of the Budget Committee by addressing each department and stopping only at those that committee members have questions and concerns on. Each department was voted on by a roll call vote from each budget committee member as follows:

Executive: Albanese, yes, Baker yes, Bliss, yes, Carrier, yes, Dudley, yes, Greene, yes, Hulva, yes, Martin absent.

Public Safety Services: Albanese, yes, Baker yes, Bliss yes, Carrier yes, Dudley yes, Greene yes, Hulva yes, and Martin absent.

Public Works Operations: Albanese yes, Baker yes, Bliss yes, Carrier yes, Dudley yes, Greene yes, Hulva yes, and Martin absent.

Health and Human Services: Albanese yes, Baker yes, Bliss yes, Carrier yes, Dudley yes, Greene yes, Hulva yes, and Martin Absent.

Parks, Recreation, Culture, Library: Albanese yes, Baker yes, Bliss yes, Carrier yes, Dudley yes, Green yes, Hulva yes, and Martin absent.

Conservation and Debt Service: Albanese yes, Baker yes, Bliss yes, Carrier yes, Dudley yes, Green yes, Hulva yes, and Martin absent.

Capital Outlay: Albanese yes, Baker yes, Bliss yes, Carrier yes, Dudley yes, Green yes, Hulva yes, and Martin absent.

Capital Reserves: Albanese yes, Baker yes, Bliss yes, Carrier yes, Dudley yes, Green yes, Hulva yes, and Martin absent.

Water Special Revenue and Sewer Special Revenue: Albanese yes, Baker yes, Bliss yes, Carrier yes, Dudley yes, Green yes, Hulva yes, and Martin absent.

Grant Funds: Albanese yes, Baker yes, Bliss yes, Carrier yes, Dudley yes, Green yes, Hulva yes, and Martin absent.

Non Lapsing Fund (Master Plan): Albanese yes, Baker yes, Bliss yes, Carrier yes, Dudley yes, Green yes, Hulva yes, and Martin absent.

Revenues: Albanese yes, Baker yes, Bliss yes, Carrier yes, Dudley yes, Green yes, Hulva yes, and Martin absent.

- **Review ~ Recommendations of the Warrant:**

April Whittaker handed out a draft of the warrant for all to Budget Committee members to review and make their recommendation or non-recommendation. Selectman Albanese advised that the selectman have approved(recommended) all warrant articles.

Article 7 as written (COPS Fast 3 year grant initiative). Motion to recommend, second by Selectman Albanese motion carried.

Article 8 as written (Operating budget of \$3,903,105). Motion to recommend came forward from Lynn Baker, second from Selectmen Albanese, motion carried.

Article 9 as written (Regional Associations, \$48,300). Motion to recommend from Chairman Dudley, second from Lynn Baker, motion carried.

Article 10 as written (Pavilion Building at Huse Park \$27,000). Motion to recommend from Chairman Dudley, second from Lori Bliss, motion carried.

Article 11 as written (Cemetery Headstone restoration and repair, \$28,000). Motion to recommend came from Chairman Dudley, second from Mr. Carrier, motion carried.

Article 12, as written (Police Cruiser for \$25,000). Motion to recommend came from Chairman Dudley, second from Lori Bliss, motion carried.

Article 13, as written (Highway Department Lift for \$27,000). Motion to recommend came from Selectman Albanese, second from Lori Bliss, motion carried.

Article 14 as written (Capital Reserves Funds, \$130,000). Motion to recommend came from Chairman Dudley, second from Lynn Baker, motion carried.

Article 15 as written (Sidewalk Construction-Capital Reserves, \$5,000). Motion to recommend came from Chairman Dudley, second from Mrs. Green, motion carried.

Article 16 as written (cemetery maintenance, \$300). Motion to recommend came from Chairman Dudley, second from Gayle Hulva, motion carried.

Article 17 as written (Master Plan for \$12,000). Motion to recommend came from Chairman Dudley, second from Mrs. Green and motion carried.

Being no other business, questions or concerns, Chairman Dudley made a motion to adjourn at 8:50 p.m., second from Mrs. Green. Motion carried.