

Town of Enfield  
Budget Committee  
Public Hearing and Business Meeting Minutes – February 5, 2003  
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Vice Chairman Michael Dudley convened a Public Hearing and general business meeting of the Enfield Budget Committee on February 5th, 2003 at 7 p.m., on the Second Floor of Whitney Town Hall on Main Street, Enfield.

**PRESENT**

Mike Dudley-Vice Chairman, Richard Crate, Lori Bliss, Lynn Baker, Celie Aufiero, April Whittaker-Town Manager, Donnie Roberts, Gayle Hulva, Keith Oppeneer, and Paula Rowe-Recorder. Absent: Holly Sanders Chairwoman, and Larry Gardner.

**Guests**

Robb Rudd, Kenny Daniels, Jim Martel, Marj Carr, Earl and Barbara Brady, Fred Paradise, Ilene Reed, Ken Brazas, Ken Hill, Mrs. Mehegan and her son, Steve Powell, Donnie Crate-Selectman, Tim Jennings, Patsy Crate, Chief Giese, Peggy Crate, Meredith Smith and Doug Smith.

**Public Hearing**

Vice Chairman, Mike Dudley called the Public Hearing to order at 7 p.m. Town Manager April Whittaker spoke and gave the overview of this Public Hearing providing handouts to all in attendance. TM Whittaker provided vital information to the public on the accounts of the town, highlighting those areas that will affect the tax base, such as: the digitizing of tax maps, the legal funds, general government buildings, including the addition to the Fire station in Enfield Center, Electrical repairs at the Union Street Fire Station, informing they are seeking grant assistance for some Fire Department needs, cemeteries (extra burials), insurance, and the outside agency donations. TM Whittaker continued and pointed out those departments that have been flat-lined and informing that the FAST Squad will need day coverage from a neighboring town, in light of the anticipated retirement of two members.

Mrs. Whittaker announced that Public Works needs to obtain the standards of the Municipal Traffic Sign Devices to escape liability issues. Curbside collection has risen, along with solid waste disposal. Welfare Administration has an increase in 6.6%. The Recreation Department shows an increase, as they will need seasonal hiring of a beach director and program supply acquisitions. Library and Historical Records shows an increase, will be off-set by revenue receipts of use of trust funds. The addition of a historical marker will be obtained. Conservation is flat lined; additionally of note is the decrease in debt service.

TM Whittaker reviewed the land and improvements section of the budget identifying a drainage problem with the new community building, as well as, water needs to be hooked up. Additionally construction of a park to honor the veterans of the town is under way.

The DPW Facility is proposing a 110-foot by 160-foot Sand Barn and the completion of the Site work. Meeting the environmental compliance with these items is in order. The cost of these items with is defrayed by one-time withdrawal/use of funds from the undesignated fund balance thus producing no impact to 2003 tax rate. Mrs. Whittaker pointed out that the Crate family has been very generous to the Town of Enfield and provided many services. The town is very fortunate for this, however, the issue of environmental compliance needs to be addressed by obtaining an enclosed building with an impervious surface.

TM Whittaker continued speaking of Architectural Planning for the town. The town offices and library facilities have long been maxed out. The Master Plan needs to be continued and updated, as the last update was in 1995. Capital Reserves shows only those monies that were previously established reserves. Special Revenue Funds consisting of the Water and sewer department.

Mr. Paradise asked if the money spent now for the new DPW facilities would be the end. Vice Chairman Dudley turned the question to Director Daniels, who said it should complete the proposed facility. Mr. Paradise showed Director Daniels a facility that was built in Wentworth, offering options. Director Daniels was aware. Mr. Brazas asked how many cubic yards of sand and salt, and Director Daniels confirmed the amounts for the new facility. Mr. Brazas said other facilities haul their sand and mix, and felt that this was a big expense to the town, saying he has viewed the salt shed over in Warren. Mr. Brazas asked why the town couldn't mix their own, TM Whittaker said the building is not bit enough to do this and a storm water permit would be needed. Mr. Brazas said that this building in Warren was built to EPA standards. Director Daniels said that if bulk buying is obtained it will not be under cover. Mr. Brazas suggested bringing it into the building to mix as you go along. Mr. Brazas asked about the Shedd Street property being regulated via an EPA clean-up. Director Daniels said that the Shedd Street property has already been remediated.

Mrs. Peggy Crate asked why the pavement wasn't included in the construction of the new facility. Mr. Roberts recalled that the bonding did not include it. Mrs. Crate said she felt that it should have been part of the project to make it complete. Mr. Jennings asked if there was a compliance deadline. Mrs. Whittaker said that the town is not in the spotlight for not being in compliance at this time, therefore to deadline, however, the town may come into the compliance and should be proactive. However, the existing permit is good until 2006. This permit is for site specific and wetlands. Mr. Jennings asked about storm water management. Mr. Jennings asked Selectman Crate if this sand shed is needed. Selectman Crate said a sand shed is needed; the cover over the materials is needed. Mr. Jennings complimented the new Public Works facility and felt the money was well spent, however, people need to realize that there is a lot to it.

Mrs. Peggy Crate asked about the little shed down on Route 4A, which belongs to the State. Mr. Paradise and Mr. Brazas pointed out the size of this shed (small). Mr. Paradise brought forward that the town needs facilities, and the sewer issues need to be addressed first. Mrs. Whittaker assured Mr. Paradise that they are addressing these issues of the sewer department and are meeting with Lebanon on this.

Mr. Douglas Smith asked about the overall tax rate. Mrs. Whittaker said that the tax rate for the town would decrease by 6 cents, with this proposed budget. Mrs. Patsy Crate reiterated if this includes the warrant articles. Mrs. Hulva asked if it includes the petitioned warrant articles. Mrs. Whittaker said no. If the petitioned warrant articles pass it will add 13 cents to your tax rate. Selectman Oppenneer emphasized the town has in the past paid extra dollars that added to the tax rate in the amount of interest it paid for debt.

Mr. Martel asked about the revenues of the sewer department not meeting the operation costs of the sewer department, and that the town absorbed these figures.

Mr. Jennings asked the budget committee if they have looked into the sewer department operation thoroughly. Vice Chairman Dudley said that the budget committee has looked at it, and he knows that Tm Whittaker has as well. Mr. Jennings asked a second time to the Vice Chairman Dudley if the budget committee has looked at it thoroughly. Again, Vice Chairman Dudley said yes that the committee has looked at it. TM Whittaker said that there is no extra money in the sewer department. Selectman Oppenneer said that the new current sewer rate is \$11.53.

Mr. Jennings encouraged the budget committee to sit and present at the Town Meeting as they are here tonight, and felt that it would be a positive impact to the town.

Vice Chairman Dudley asked if there were any other questions before this public hearing is closed. Selectman Oppenneer spoke amusingly of a county in New York that is in arrears.

Motion to close the Public Hearing at 8:15 p.m. by Celie Aufiero, second by Mr. Roberts, and all were in favor.

### **Regular Business Meeting**

The Budget Committee reconvened with a regular business meeting at 8:26 p.m. Vice Chairman Dudley opened the discussion by addressing the questions of the budget committee members.

Mr. Crate said that he felt the monies being asked by outside agencies should be addressed by those who are requesting the money. Director Rudd is the only person who came before the committee. Recognized by the committee members, Mr. Crate continued and said that the increase in the Shaker Museum was too much.

At this time, Mr. Crate said he felt that the budget committee was run by and items decided on by Chairwoman Sanders, Selectman Oppenneer, and TM Whittaker. Mr. Crate said that he would not "rubber stamp" and approve the budget of someone else. Mr. Crate pointed out a personnel issue and that he felt the DPW was a waste of time. TM Whittaker said that Chairwoman Sanders didn't review and make the cuts, that she had reviewed the budget in detail and proposed the appropriate areas and cuts. Ms. Aufiero said that TM Whittaker has done her job, which is reviewing and detailing the budget and presented back to the committee.

Motion to cut line 4197-009 Museum at Lower Shaker Village from \$10,000 back to the 2002 budgeted figure of \$4500, by Mr. Crate, and second by Gayle Hulva. Discussion ensued. TM Whittaker said that the museum came before this committee and is working very hard; they are faced with a lot of maintenance, and reminded the committee members that first impression is everything. Selectman Oppenneer said that this facility is a draw to Enfield, and keep in mind, that Enfield does not have many reasons for tourist to come too. Mr. Roberts said that the Shaker Museum is an important and vital part of the Town of Enfield, and the deterioration of this complex has been across a number of years, though it may serve best to hold the 2002 budgeted figure of \$4500.00; let the towns people decide, should the town want to put it on as warrant article, or put it on the floor at Town Meeting, they can amend the budget to do so. Ms. Bliss said that the Shaker Museum people need this to assist in bringing people into Enfield, though quizzed seeing a justification from the Shaker Museum on what it will bring back to the businesses of the town, exampling her own business. Vice Chairman Dudley called for a vote, Gayle Hulva, CelieAufiero, Donnie Roberts, and Mike Dudley Richard Crate, Lori Bliss were in favor of amending this \$10,000 back to \$4500, Selectman Oppenneer and Lynn Baker opposed. Motion carried to amend this line item.

4220-740 New Equipment under the Fire Department. Ms. Hulva said that she would like to see the Jaws of Life Power Unit removed. TM Whittaker said that she and Chief Giese are looking at a possible grant for this item.

Ms. Hulva made a motion to cut \$6,000 from line 4220-740, this was second by Donnie Roberts. Vice Chairman Dudley called for a vote, of which, Ms. Baker and Ms. Hulva, Ms. Aufiero, Mr. Roberts, Ms. Bliss, Mr. Dudley were in favor of this motion. Two abstentions were Mr. Oppenneer and Mr. Crate. Motion carried.

4130 – No discussion.

4140 – No discussion.

4150 – No discussion.

4152 - No discussion.

4153 – No discussion.

4155 – 230 Employer paid retirement. Upon, Ms. Aufiero asking about the increase, Selectman Oppenneer said that the State has doubled. TM Whittaker informed that the NHMA is addressing this on behalf of municipalities.

4191 – No discussion.

4192 – No discussion.

4194 – Government Buildings. 4194-111 shows an increase of a grounds crew person. This led to discussion to questioning of a seasonal employee.

Motion to decrease line item 4194-111 from \$46,690 to \$40,000 came forward from Ms. Aufiero, and second by Mr. Crate. Ms. Aufiero, Ms. Bliss, Mr. Crate, Ms. Baker, Mr. Dudley, were in favor of this motion, Mr. Roberts, Ms. Hulva, and Selectman Oppenneer were opposed.

4195 – No discussion.  
4196 – No discussion.  
4197 – No discussion.  
4199 – No discussion.

4210 – Discussion on line 740-New Equipment, regarding two stop sticks, and the need of identical weapons. Last year the Stop Sticks were cut out of the budget, and they were purchased. Also, a digital camera appears again, and was an item approved for last year.

Motion to reduce line item 4210-740 by \$1,650 by Ms. Aufiero and second by Ms. Hulva. Vice Chairman Dudley called for a vote. Ms. Aufiero, Ms. Baker, Ms. Hulva were all in favor of this motion. Bliss and Crate abstained, while Mr. Dudley, Mr. Roberts, and Selectman Oppenneer voted against reducing this line. This is a tie, and this budget line item will remain the same.

4211 – No discussion.  
4212- No discussion.  
4215- No discussion.  
4220- No discussion.  
4290 – No discussion.

4312 – Question regarding the tire changer under line 740 brought a motion forward to reduce line item 4312-740 by \$5500 from Ms. Aufiero. There was no second.

4316 – No discussion.  
4323 – No discussion.  
4550 – No discussion.  
4583 – No discussion.

4901 – Line item 710 Community Building property. TM Whittaker said that she has looked at the long range of this building, and foresees the need of a possible Director for this facility in a full time capacity. Ms. Aufiero brought to the attention the error of the parking lot that is listed on the accounting sheets has already been taken out.

4902 - No discussion.  
4903 – Line 723 of the Salt Barn. The committee was agreeable that a cover needs to be built, though discussion ensued on the general cost of this barn. TM Whittaker read the handout that illustrated pros and cons on this facility to the committee, giving options. Mr. Crate asked about the guarantees of this building. TM Whittaker said that it is guaranteed for 15 years. Mr. Roberts said that what they save in manufactured sand would pay for repairs after 15 years.

At 10:00 p.m., a motion to recess this meeting until next Monday, February 10, 2003 in the Selectmen's Conference Room at 6 p.m. came forward by Celie Aufiero, second by Lynn Baker and all were in favor of this.