

**Enfield Budget Committee (EBC) MINUTES (Approved)- Thursday, September 24, 2015 DPW Building  
6:30PM**

**Members present:** David Stewart, Mike Diehn, Sam Eaton (Chair) Shirley (Vice Chair), Mark Eisener, Holly West, Annabelle Bamforth, Janet Shepard

**Others present:** Steve Schneider (Town Manager)

**Absent:** Fred Cummings (Ex-officio), James Buffington

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

**Administrative:**

The committee went over the August meeting draft minutes. Annabelle will be taking notes and writing the minutes from now on. Mike Diehn was previously undertaking this task. Sam and Steve noted that while Mike's note-taking was appreciated, they did not want him to become overburdened as a new member by having to take the notes on top of learning about the budget process.

It was also agreed that regular budget committee meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m. instead of 6:00.

Sam made a motion to approve the minutes of August 6th, 2015 and was seconded by David. The minutes contained a few minor spelling corrections; the corrected minutes were approved with Mark abstaining.

**New Business:**

Steve handed out budget books to show the committee. Most of the budget will be ready soon. A software error created budget printouts without actual numbers in them. A few departments are tardy in submitting their numbers.

While moving through the lines of the budget books and passing by the lines for the fire department, Steve updated the committee on the town's fire truck that was approved for purchase last year. It has not been produced yet, but once production starts the vehicle should be ready in around 90 days. A team from Enfield's fire department will be visiting the location of production, which is in Florida, to ensure that the building of the truck adheres to the department's specifications.

Steve explained to the committee that we are striving to show more precise totals, as well as showing side-by-side differences between the cost of items and services when financed or paid outright. We are on track to increase transparency, through more available detailed data, with the budget this year.

Sam said that the breakdowns of our budget will go deeper than in previous years. For example, we will be finding out more about the cost of police stops: how long a police traffic stop takes, how much time is spent by police working on those stops, how much it costs taxpayers when cases go to court. Another example is the cost of snowstorms: how much salt and/or sand is used in storms, how much time is spent out on the roads, how many trucks are brought out during snowstorms. Breakdowns such as these

across all of the departments will be used to bring a deeper understanding of true town operating costs. Moving ahead, we will better understand how changes to the budget impact the level of service that the town provides.

Steve mentioned that Enfield has a long standing reputation of high quality snow removal and it's been regularly supported by taxpayers who regularly compare our plowing quality to other towns. The DPW has a great deal of equipment in its fleet.

Steve pledged to offer as much data as possible available in order to ensure a thorough budget process. There used to not be as much digging into these costs, and we will be receiving more information from the individual departments.

Shirley pointed out that some data, including motor vehicle registrations, is a great indicator of our economic climate as we make decisions on the budget.

Steve said that in October a one-check service will be implemented for registrations, meaning that residents paying for registrations will write one check instead of making out one to the town and one to the state.

Sam opined that Enfield should be the first New Hampshire town to accept Bitcoin at town hall.

Steve noted that our community is doing well with paying property taxes- we are at well over 90% and getting close to 96%. He said there may be a possibility of adding more convenience by allowing residents to use a credit card for paying property taxes.

At the next meeting, the committee will receive a printout showing 2014, 2015, and 2016 numbers in the budget. Most departments will have submitted their numbers by the next scheduled meeting.

**Public comment:** none.

**Other discussion:** Mike asked to include in the minutes that Annabelle will be taking the minutes beginning tonight, and that the budget committee meetings will now begin at 6:30 instead of 6pm.

The library will be making a presentation at the next scheduled CIP meeting.

Sam motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 p.m.