

**Enfield Budget Committee (EBC) MINUTES (Approved)- Thursday, October 8, 2015 DPW Building  
6:30PM**

**Members present:** Shirley Green, Sam Eaton, Annabelle Bamforth, James Buffington, Mark Eisener, Holly West, Mike Diehn, David Stewart, Fred Cummings (ex-officio)

**Others present:** Steve Schneider, town manager

**Absent:** Janet Shepard

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m.

**Administrative:** The committee went over the draft minutes for the September 24 meeting. No corrections were made. The minutes were approved unanimously with the exception of James, who abstained due to being absent from the Sept. 24 meeting.

**New Business:**

The committee began discussion of liaison meetings for various departments. Each committee member will act as a liaison when they meet with a department head or designated representative to discuss their budget. The liaison and representative will discuss the previous year's budget and operations as well as major or minor changes reflected in their proposed budgets.

Each department head or representative will also make a presentation to the entire budget committee. The schedule for those presentations was created and is as follows:

Oct. 15th – Executive, Planning & Zoning

Oct. 22nd – Recreation, Library

Oct. 29th – Police

Nov. 7th – DPW, FastSquad (ambulance), Fire

Nov. 12th – Cemetery, CIP

Nov. 19th – EVA, Regionals, Human Services

Steve mentioned the previous methods used to process regional association (Red Cross, Headrest, WISE, LISTEN, etc.) requests. Every association would make a presentation to the entire budget committee, making for a lengthy approval process. A few years ago, former budget committee member Paul Mirski, as well as Sam Eaton, created a smaller subcommittee to get all of those agencies' requests taken care of in one short meeting with human services director Diane Heed.

The deadline for which regional associations can request funding from the town is approaching.

Fred came to the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Sam noted the possibility of having some departments return for a second presentation to the budget committee. Walking through the budget lines, Steve said the only missing piece right now is the library.

Steve mentioned that budget lines were consolidated years ago but more details can be added.

Steve then pointed to page 40 in the budget, which shows a more broken-down explanation of town debt. New debt will be reflected and hopefully interest rates as well. That page will definitely show the cost, length of loan, etc. for debt such as trucks.

Fred noted that interest payments of leased items are high for the first few years.

Steve said that many items including CIP items and cruisers, etc. are leased, but that may change if interest rates go up. Some items- like the new fire truck- have no interest, plus there is a discount for paying outright.

Discussion turned to the TIF district. Steve said that TIF is not in the general budget, but is in the town report. Water and sewer budgets and TIF expenditures do not go to town meeting. All items that incur debt go before the town therefore to the budget committee.

Dave asked how TIF projects are decided upon. Steve answered that once a project makes it on the TIF's list, the committee may spend those dollars following a public hearing provided it's not incurring more debt.

Steve directed the committee to page 9, line 110: planning board personnel. The requested number is higher than projected; it had been downsized during the recession. Added zoning responsibilities renew the call for a full-time position. Sam asked if there is an offset. Not necessarily, answered Steve. The large costs in that number are mostly in health and benefits.

Holly noted that the town master plan is almost 20 years old and does have many updates. Steve said that the planning board can be hesitant.

Library representatives plan on attending the next selectman's meeting and will present to CIP as well regarding building a new library. Holly said that an estimated \$926K has been raised or committed. They still need about \$2.4 million to build the library.

**Public comment:** none.

**Other discussion:** Mike asked who the best department head would be to speak to for fire, and asked who formally submits their budget. Fred said it was the chief.

Regional Subcommittee: In the last few years, the regional subcommittee members have been Sam, Annabelle and Shirley. Sam, as budget committee chairman, will no longer serve as the subcommittee chairman. Shirley said she would serve on the subcommittee again. Annabelle agreed as well. Shirley will now be the chair of the subcommittee.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.