

**Enfield Budget Committee (EBC) MINUTES (Approved)- Thursday, October 22, 2015 DPW Building  
6:30PM**

**Members present:** Sam Eaton (chairman), James Buffington, Annabelle Bamforth, Shirley Green (vice chair), Mark Eisener, Mike Diehn, Janet Shepard, David Stewart

**Others present:** Katharine Lary Jopek, Melissa Hutson, Francine Lozeau, Philip Cronenwett

**Excused:** Holly West, Fred Cummings (ex-officio)

Sam called the meeting to order at 6:33.

Sam made a motion to approve the October 15 draft minutes, and James seconded. Minutes were approved with no corrections; Janet abstained from voting due to her Oct. 15 absence.

**Administrative:**

**Recreation Department Presentation:** (2015 budget, \$68,050. Proposed for 2016, \$97,390)

Katharine Lary Jopek presented the budget for the recreation department. She handed out copies of the winter edition of the "Play Mascoma Valley!" publication, which is the regional recreation program's collection of public recreation activities available in Enfield and Canaan.

Katharine said this is the third year operating the regional recreation program, also known as Mascoma Valley Parks & Recreation (MVPR). This program is focused mostly on Enfield and Canaan; other towns in the district may participate but tend to lack the municipal capacity to do so.

Mike asked how MVPR operates. Katharine said it's centered on regional recreation coordinators and volunteers. Enfield is the fiscal agent. Mike asked how MVPR arose. Katharine responded that in 2012, Upper Valley HEAL reached out and asked about paying a coordinator to facilitate programs in Enfield and Canaan that HEAL was having a hard time organizing. MVPR was launched in 2013.

Much of the regional recreation costs for programs are offset. MVPR leans mostly on grants and volunteers to minimize tax impact; funding for a part-time regional recreation coordinator was made possible with grants in the MVPR launch. Starting in 2015, \$5,000 was added into the personnel line. Canaan designated a similar amount for their recreation coordinator.

Sam asked about town funding for that personnel line. He said it was his understanding that when the program had first launched in 2013, it was agreed that the program would be entirely grant funded, including salary. Steve said that last year \$5,000 was discussed before adding to the personnel line. Sam acknowledged that happened, but he maintained that he believed early discussions of this program included assuring that grants would fund the entire program, as it had for the first two years of operation. Steve said he didn't anticipate much more than \$5,000 from Enfield and Canaan being designated for the coordinator position in the future. Sam said that the budget committee also did not anticipate having to spend \$5,000 to support that position, either.

Upper Valley HEAL provided \$18,000 in funding in 2013, and that number dropped to \$15,000 in 2014. That number is the same for 2015. Katharine noted that there is a time limit on grant funding.

Katharine said there is a need for a van for the department, mainly to use for summer camp, but also could be used for other programs throughout the year. This year it cost \$140 per week to rent a van for the 5-week camp program. Counselors sometimes have to spend time dropping off rental, then picking it back up on Monday, and more hours used for that.

Dave asked about borrowing a school bus. Katy said that due to use of the busses by others, that is not a possibility right now.

The van purchase would be a CIP item.

Sam asked if the recreation programs go out to bid. They currently do not.

Library Presentation: (2015 budget, \$154,955. Proposed for 2016, \$167,724.)

Melissa Hutson presented the library budget. The personnel line is at maximum but will be adjusted lower as the budget process moves along. Melissa noted that the book line of the budget is not just books- it is used for things like DVDs, magazines, an Ancestry subscription, and audio books as well. Ancestry sends Melissa statistics every year showing how many users utilize that service.

Steve said the town is receiving more hours for less pay with new staff. Mike asked if the library department was governed outside of the town like fire department. Steve said it's very similar.

James asked if and when there is a new library, would personnel lines, other expense lines rise as well? Cronenwett answered that is not what's anticipated.

David noted the telephone cost rising. Steve said it was under budgeted in 2014. The former internet deal was with Comcast, and now goes through Wivalley.

Library programming has its own line this year. Story time/craft time, summer reading program and other programs used to be in the misc. line. Melissa hopes to have more programs for adults. Mike noted that it appears that the library is nearly level funded for the next budget.

David expressed concern over accounting of town valuables in the library vault, and asked if we have an accounting of those artifacts. Steve referred David to the town historian.

### **New Business:**

There was an update on election booth lighting costs. The numbers came from Kimberly Quirk of the energy committee. Mark asked about 20% added on for election lighting. The committee also discussed new chair costs for town meeting.

Steve handed out the second draft of CIP items, which consists of mostly public works. Boys Camp Road is a priority; the bridge needs replacement. Trustee of trust funds report will be presented to the select board this week.

There was a meeting with the state and the trustees of the trust funds regarding a \$300K municipal investment into the "GL Beyond Income Fund" in 2014 that was later frozen because the creator of this fund is being investigated by the Department of Justice for making alleged fictitious loans.

The state asked a great deal of questions about the situation. The trustees are not likely to be making such decisions with large amounts of money in the future. There is a potential trial date for the GL Beyond Income Fund creator for April 2016. There is insurance for that money, but that process hasn't begun. The fund provided about \$17K in dividends, but the town will not be using it and is keeping it aside.

**Public comment:** none.

**Other discussion:** none.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 pm.