

**Enfield Budget Committee (EBC) MINUTES (Approved)- Saturday, November 7, 2015 DPW Building
9:00AM**

Members present: Sam Eaton (chairman), Janet Shepard, James Buffington, Annabelle Bamforth, Mark Eisener, Shirley Green (vice chair), David Stewart, Fred Cummings (ex-officio)

Excused: Mike Diehn, Holly West

Others present: Richard Martin, Jim Taylor

Sam called the meeting to order at 9:05.

Administrative:

James made a motion to approve the October 29 draft minutes, Shirley seconded. Janet found 2 typos. The minutes were approved unanimously with the changes; Janet abstained due to previous absence.

New Business:

Ambulance (FAST) Presentation: EMS Chief Richard Martin presented the ambulance budget. He explained there is now a written policy to require individuals on the FAST squad to sign up to be on call. The town pays for member training, and Richard said that the employees need to use that training to serve the town. Richard noted that personnel members that do not sign up to be on call or participate in calls will not get paid.

The cost of mutual aid from Lebanon has risen \$12,000. Sam asked if the price per call provided by mutual aid is going up. Richard said yes.

David asked if personnel are carrying Narcan. Richard confirmed and noted that it's being used quite a bit. Although the problem in town is not as bad as other areas, Richard said that heroin use is certainly present in this community.

Sam asked how much the cost of mutual aid might grow before it's time to discuss ending the agreement with Lebanon. Richard responded that Lebanon might end up pricing themselves out of serving our town. Fred noted that Lebanon sets the price and there's no negotiation. The contract will end at the end of 2016.

There was discussion about the possibility of implementing a full time ambulance in Enfield. Hiring a fulltime paramedic will be costly. Fred and Richard discussed having one paramedic and one advanced EMT. Fred said that he's an advocate for hiring someone who is cross trained for both fire and ambulance.

Sam asked if we know how much money Lebanon collects from treating our residents. He also asked how many people we collect money from using "soft billing." Steve estimated about 60% of Enfield residents pay their ambulance bill. There was some general agreement among the committee that

Enfield is getting close to a point where Lebanon's mutual aid will cost about the same as hiring our own full-time personnel.

James asked what soft billing means. Soft billing means sending an ambulance bill to a resident that Enfield's ambulance has served, but not pursuing payment through collection agencies.

James asked if Lebanon hard bills everyone. Steve said yes. Lebanon bills every person served by their mutual aid and will send the bill to collection if it's not paid.

David asked if Lebanon's new decision to provide mutual aid to Grantham will affect Enfield's level of service. Fred said it's a possibility.

In explaining the increase in the supply line, Richard said the Ebola crisis required some additional state-required purchases. Some of these purchases spilled over into this year because there were some orders not billed until later.

Janet asked about the vehicle line. Richard explained that the computer in one ambulance died. There were no new ones available, but a used one was found. That computer also died. Richard said he thinks the problem came from Ford; there was a wire pulled out of the plug on first computer. There was quite a bit of time spent on diagnostics. Richard noted that these were unexpected expenses not offset by Ford and that the vehicle line is generally relatively low.

Repairs and service will be raised another thousand to put new snow tires will be put on an ambulance. Richard said the town has a new defibrillator. This was partially paid for with a grant, and the ambulance also paid for a segment out of its donations. CIP paid for about \$7-8,000 of it. The total cost of a defibrillator is about \$30,000.

Fred said that Lebanon mutual aid is a huge part of the budget and the town cannot currently do anything to lower that line.

David asked if it's possible to begin the early stages of discussing hiring additional personnel so that this won't be a surprise in a future budget. Steve said yes.

Fire Presentation: Fred discussed the fire budget. He said about \$6,000 worth of hoses had failed during testing. Hoses are typically purchased every year. Fred said the hose supply on the shelf has been depleted and more need to be ordered. Some of that money may come out of this year's budget but possibly out of next year's budget too. David asked for a ballpark estimate of hose cost. Fred estimated \$7-12,000 worth of hose must be purchased.

Fred said 3 sets of gear were replaced and the cost was about \$2,000 a set. Fred explained that \$9,000 in clothing line can purchase about 4.5-5 sets of gear, depending on price. The gear is regularly tested. Fred said a bad fire can deplete several sets of gear. James asked what condition would deem our gear bad. Fred responded that burn holes and exposure to chemicals are two common causes of gear being destroyed.

Fred said that it's hard to predict from year to year what needs to be replaced and placing a best guess can be difficult as the budget is planned quite conservatively. If there's a huge fire, the town must pay for the costs of the fire no matter how high it is, which is a different than other departments. Fred described many items and equipment that have been purchased through donations, including a utility vehicle, a Jaws of Life tool and a boat, at no cost to the town which helps keep the budget low.

In 2017 the other fire truck will be replaced. There has been discussion about how to replace it.

Salaries are going up incrementally, as agreed upon previously, to make up for not requesting raises for several years. Fred said that overall there is not big increase in the fire budget.

DPW Presentation: DPW Director Jim Taylor presented the DPW budget. For government buildings, there's an increase in electric rates and contracted services. Heating oil is level based on recent prices. The water/sewer increase reflects an increase in rates. Heating gas is level. Community building maintenance is level funded. The DPW facility increase was for an office furnace that needs to be replaced.

The line for Whitney hall dropped because a lot of repairs have been made recently. There was discussion of the Enfield Center Town Hall. The Heritage Commission has discussed seeking grants to fix some big issues there. Dave asked how much it will cost to fix the floor there. The stream next to the building overruns into the floor. The building is closed down right now and allows for storage only.

David asked about fixing the water issue. Steve said that is what grant money would be used for. It would take a substantial grant to fix it. David said there are other problems in addition to the flooding such as no available parking and no sewer or water, because the town had sold a part of the land next to the building many years ago.

Jim said both fire station doors need to be replaced. The Depot Street Ambulance has a few items that are needed.

The Veteran's Park budget is level. Jim said the chemical toilet cost, which provides toilets at Huse Park, Shaker Field and at Shakoma Beach, tends to go up a little every year.

Highway and Grounds Administration: Jim said there's no change in the personnel line. He found a glitch in Excel that made an increase in personnel which has been corrected. Overtime is level. The telephone line is the same, with a reduced Internet cost from the Wivalley hookup.

Highways & Streets: Jim said the cost is about 6 dollars per ton more for salt this year. The cost of aggregate was bumped down to the 2014 level.

Pavement and maintenance: The recent paving of Mountain View Drive and Patricia Court was discussed. Jim said those roads had not been touched since the subdivision was created in the 1980s, and he said maintenance has been deferred since the early 2000s. It cost about \$75,000 to fix it.

Sam asked if the paving could have been pushed back, or if it would have cost more to do it later. Jim said it could have waited but that can cause additional issues. Mountain View is 1475 feet long by 20 feet wide. Patricia Ct. is 850 feet long by 20 feet wide, which equaled about a half mile total for those two roads. James asked about other roads in need. Jim responded that Lapan Circle and George Hill are examples.

Sam asked if the DPW can incrementally budget for these projects- basically a CIP plan made especially for roads- rather than have one or two roads causing large jumps in the budget. Jim said it has been incrementally increased.

Fred estimated it could cost about \$2.5-3 million to fix our town roads. Jim added that the number goes up gradually every year, and noted there are about 32 miles of paved road in Enfield. Fred asked about making some roads gravel. Jim said maintenance of gravel requires more grading over the long haul and often costs more. Whaleback Mountain Road had some paved road converted back to dirt road.

Jim said about a third of our roads are in significantly rough shape.

Shaker Hill, another highly travelled road, is a state road that NH took from the town and will not maintain in the winter. Enfield is expected to maintain in the winter and the state is supposed to maintain the summer, but the state doesn't perform any real maintenance on it.

The winter sand budget was boosted because of price increases. Dave asked if that goes to bid. Jim said yes.

The gasoline line has increased, and diesel is level funded. Jim said that the town's grader needs new tires. Jim pointed out that that the DPW facility has helped our vehicles last longer by allowing them to be kept indoors.

Sam asked about maintenance of Fuller Road, a small road off of Shaker Hill Rd. Jim said that road is maintained until it turns into a class 6 road that leads into Shaker Blvd. Sam says he sees town trucks up there frequently. Jim said a maintaining that road a few times a year is common, and Sam said it's more often than that.

The Boys Camp bridge cost is estimated at about \$150,000. The state's estimate for that bridge is much higher- about \$850,000. Jim said in order to get state and federal funding, we are held to their specifications which cost much more.

Street lighting has risen \$1,000 from last year because electric rates higher.

Sanitation: Jim said there are no changes in the personnel and overtime is level funded. The cost for public information is increased to pay for mailers explaining what can be recycled. Jim noted good numbers for recycling in beginning of the program, but trash numbers are now creeping up. James asked about revenue for recycling. Jim said there is revenue collected from some recyclables. Solid waste collection has increased in the contract line.

Sam noted that although revenue comes in the program, the trash and recycling collection has cost the town more money since switching from trash pickup once a week to collecting everything every other week. Jim said the cost per household is low, about \$20 per home each month.

David said that we're still spending much more this year than last year. Sam noted there was supposed to be one truck to pick up everything, but there are still two trucks used which costs the town more. James asked if people still complain about the every other week pickup. Jim said that many complaints are about dumpsters being full in areas like Lakeview and Prospect Pines.

Jim said he hears fussing about the overall cost of solid waste disposal. There are several options available as the town waits for the contract to expire.

Public comment: none

Other Business: none

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 12 at 6:30 p.m.