

**Enfield Budget Committee (EBC) MINUTES (Approved)- Thursday, November 19, 2015 DPW Building
6:30PM**

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

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

Others present: Gordon Clough, cemetery trustee; Diane Heed, director of Health and Human Services; members of EVA: Harrison Trumbull, Stripe Demarest, Debra Ford, Doug Smith

Sam called the meeting to order at 6:35.

Administrative: A motion was made to approve the November 7 minutes, with a correction suggested regarding the spelling of James's name in the minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously with that correction.

New Business:

Cemetery: Gordon Clough presented the cemetery budget. \$2,700 has been added to the miscellaneous line. Gordon noted that this addition will fund projects including clearing a walkway and developing a scattering park at the Countryside cemetery on Kluge Road. There are also trees in danger of falling on a home near the Paddleford cemetery on Oak Grove Road, as well as a chain link fence at a cemetery in Enfield Center that needs to be repaired. Gordon said that the miscellaneous line should stay at this level so that Will Shoemaker, the groundskeeper and sexton, can provide adequate upkeep of the town's many cemeteries.

Human Services Administration: Diane Heed presented the Human Services budget. She explained there was a need to purchase a new computer. She increased the food line by \$1000. Fuel is also raised as she was unsure which type, oil or propane, would be needed. The electric line is raised, as Diane is unsure how much Liberty Utilities will raise the rates in the winter.

There was discussion of how much assistance is provided in town, as well as discussion related to needs. Diane said while she knows how to keep costs as low as possible, it's impossible to predetermine exactly which needs will be coming her way. Diane discussed the number of food pantry visits; there were about 680 visits to the pantry in Enfield over this year. It's estimated that about 70% of those visits are from Enfield, and Mike pointed out that the number of visits is not the same as number of families or individuals. David said that a spreadsheet with some more details would be helpful to estimate need.

Regional Subcommittee: Shirley discussed the regional subcommittee meeting that was held with herself, Diane, Mike and Annabelle. There were a couple of new applications this year and at least one organization that did not re-apply this year. Advance Transit's request, with a slight increase, was approved. The level request from the Grafton County Senior Center was approved.

Headrest requested \$10,000 for this year. Headrest's funding was decreased last year because Enfield was providing a disproportionate amount- \$7,000- that was much higher compared to other towns of similar size. At that time, it was recommended to bring that number down to \$1,500 by the subcommittee, which is around the same amount as similar-sized towns. The budget committee ultimately agreed on recommending \$2,500. The subcommittee recommended \$1,500 again for this year.

Listen asked for a small increase this year. Last year there was concern about Listen's newly adopted policies that placed more stringent guidelines on people requesting assistance, which the subcommittee had worried might lead to more people returning to town for money or other assistance.

Diane noted that years ago, Listen would help individuals and families with rent as needed. Listen went on to apply a \$500 cap to that assistance some time ago. Now that cap is further reduced to \$400 and is a one-time assistance for rent, electric, gas, or other bills. Sam asked if there has been an increase in people returning to the town for help. Diane said there has been a small increase. Shirley said that based upon looking over Listen's list, there has been a great amount of assistance in many forms provided to Enfield residents alone.

Mascoma Valley Health Initiative asked for a small increase of less than 1%. Diane had felt that was okay, as did the subcommittee.

As for Tri-County Community Action, the money paid by the town for this organization was to keep the office in Lebanon open. Diane said that the closing of this office has resulted in additional work on her end. The subcommittee recommended removal of this line.

VNA requested the same amount as last year. WISE requested the same amount as last year as well.

CASA requested \$500 in funds from Enfield for the first time this year. It was asked how many people in Enfield were serviced, and CASA responded by not providing an answer, stating that the organization did not want to breach confidentiality of its clients. Diane followed up and has not yet received a direct answer.

West Central Behavioral Health requested \$6,000. A couple of years have passed since this organization requested town money. Shirley noted that WCBH has a \$6,400 contract with the school district. Mike said that regardless of whether there is a school contract, about 100 residents have still been helped by WCBH. Sam questioned why WCBH was asking for funds after two years of making no applications. Shirley used her previous notes to show that about \$5,200 was given in 2013. James said \$6,000 was not a huge increase.

EVA: Harrison Trumbull presented the Enfield Village Association budget and introduced the rest of the board. Board member Doug Smith explained the origin of EVA to the budget committee. In 1999, Doug said that some townspeople took notice of the appearance of downtown- historic buildings were deteriorating and had been turned over to substandard housing. Doug said that a group decided to

come together to fight the “downtown decay.” After analyzing the downtown area, they created a nonprofit to undertake specific projects.

Enfield chartered EVA, and a town attorney wrote the bylaws. EVA became a 501(c)(3) organization to generate resources for the town. Despite making progress, Doug said the job is not finished. Doug stated that there are still vacant storefronts, substandard housing where it doesn’t belong, and deteriorating buildings. Doug noted that town support is essential, and EVA could not exist without town support.

EVA is requesting \$10,000, the same amount requested last year. Harrison passed out financial statements to the committee. Stripe Demarest talked about the upcoming “Small Business Saturday” event in which town businesses participate. It’s a national program begun by American Express to encourage local shopping. While the program encourages local shopping, it also identifies small businesses that residents may not otherwise know about.

Harrison said that not a lot of money is spent on programs; the primary expense is on salary for a program director to organize these programs. EVA went without a director for 2.5 months, which caused some difficulty in EVA’s planning. Harrison said he thought there is a movement afoot where residents prefer shopping locally. Stripe said that to help support local business, a conference room in the new Greeley house is now available for businesses to use.

The new Greeley house is now the “information department”, Harrison said. There are plans to improve the parking situation there. Plans are moving forward to renovate the rest of the house and to finish the addition of a 2-bedroom apartment.

David noted that parking downtown in Enfield is difficult overall, and asked what might be done to remedy this situation. Harrison said that EVA is not actively addressing it, but agreed that it is something that will be needed. Stripe said she previously was not aware of available parking downtown and indicated that this is simply not well-known. Steve mentioned the state has not approved or denied the ability to park on the street downtown. Harrison said there’s not a huge motivation to deal with the parking issue.

Public comment: none

Other Business: Sam gave an update on CIP and said they will be ready to give a presentation soon. There was discussion of bids for a possible new boat launch. Steve said there have been 3 bids: \$145,000, \$160,000, and \$225,000. Steve also said that a quote from bank to finance is 3.5% for 15 years.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15.