

**Enfield Budget Committee (EBC) MINUTES (Approved)- Thursday, December 17, 2015 DPW Building
6:30PM**

Members present: Sam Eaton (chairman), Shirley Green (vice chair), Janet Shepard, Mike Diehn, Annabelle Bamforth, Mark Eisener, Steve Schneider (town manager) David Stewart, Holly West, Fred Cummings (ex-officio)

Excused: James Buffington

Others present: Lee Carrier, Capital Improvement Committee

Administrative: Sam called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. Mark made a motion to approve the December 10 minutes. Janet seconded.

Discussion of minutes:

The committee discussed Mike's suggestion regarding making a change to of the word "proposed" in the minutes. The minutes were approved with this change. Holly and Fred abstained.

New Business: Lee Carrier presented the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), providing an overview of 2015 as well as remarks on previous years. The town is in year 5 of the plan.

Lee reviewed CIP over the year 2015, beginning by comparing tax rates from 2014-2015. In 2014, the school rate was \$12.75; the municipal rate was \$6.25; the state rate was \$2.47; the county rate was \$1.69. In 2015, the school tax went up to \$14.29; the town went up to \$6.60; the state remained level at \$2.47; and the county rate went up to \$1.72.

According to Lee's presentation, the 6-year average yearly change for the municipal tax rate is 1.8%. Lee discussed the CIP's major appropriations between the years 2012-2015: six DPW trucks; the building of the salt shed; the repaving of Jones Hill Road; a new fire truck; and five police cruisers. These purchases totaled \$1,680,000.

Lee went on to discuss the major CIP disbursements of 2015: the new fire truck, which cost \$406,868; Lee discussed the \$300,000 of the town's capital reserve being held by SEC due to the GL capital partners fund fraud that affected a large portion of Enfield's trust funds; lease and loan payments totaling \$123,106; and the purchase of a trash compactor and striping machine totaling \$45,000 (\$10,000 and \$35,000 respectively). The total disbursements for 2015 amount to \$874,974.

Fred noted that another fire truck would need to be purchased in the future.

Lee discussed the capital items for 2016: fire station doors, \$10,000; HVAC for the community building, \$12,000; a 30-yard dumpster, \$6,500; a DPW Furnace: \$5,000; and a portion of purchasing a Zoll Defibrillator, \$11,000. The total cost of these items is \$44,500.

Sam pointed out there was \$108,000 worth of original requests; clearly that number has been brought down significantly.

Additional CIP items for 2016 include a 15-year loan to replace the Boy's Camp Road bridge. The total cost of replacement is \$150,000; the 2016 payment including interest would be \$12,432.

Upgrading the boat launch will cost \$150,000 total with \$12,432 due in 2016. This also would be paid for with a 15-year loan.

A F-450 plow/wing/spreader has been proposed for \$95,000. \$15,024 would be due in 2016. This would be a 7-year lease. Two police cruisers will cost \$64,000. \$16,968 would be due in 2016. The cruisers would be financed with a 5-year lease. The replacement of 2 truck bodies would cost \$40,000. \$7,272 would be due in 2016. The truck bodies would be financed with a 6-year lease. The total of these financed items is \$499,000, with \$64,128 of that due in 2016.

Lee explained the benefits of purchasing truck bodies. Two front truck bodies solve the most common problems at its source, rather than having to replace the entire truck. Paying cash for all these large items would be \$499,000. Sam noted the amount was originally \$609,000.

Lee discussed the condition of the Boys Camp bridge. The state has "red listed" the bridge. A new bridge will meet necessary specs and be 16 feet wide. The current bridge is 11.5 feet wide. The new bridge will allow the town plow to cross this bridge without having to raise the plow blade.

Lee noted that the current permitting and bids to upgrade the boat launch are about \$30,000 below the original. Lee said the upgraded launch would be an environmental improvement because trucks would be able to avoid entering the water when launching a boat.

The funding of CIP began with \$267,000 in 2013; \$291,783 was placed in 2014; and \$317,368 was placed in 2015.

The CIP impact 2016 is estimated to be about \$7.50 on a 150,000 house; \$12.50 on a \$250,000 house, and \$20 on a 400,000 house.

Fred expressed a concern about the DPW trucks. He said he wanted to be sure that an F-450 is the right purchase. Lee responded that Jim decided on the F-450 because there are issues with the other choice which is the F-550.

Fred said there was an issue with being unable to properly put wings on the 450 and 550s, and said the wings destroyed the trucks. He said he'd be hesitant doing this again. Shirley noted that some of the wings are very wide and sometimes hits the trees in her neighborhood.

Sam suggested that it would be good to see what other towns are buying, since Ford has made changes to its trucks.

Mark said it would be a good idea to contact Ford and see what changes have been made.

Steve pointed out that this year's CIP plan has more projects compared to last year. Steve added that as long as interest rates stay where they are, it makes sense to continue making purchases in this way. The

CIP is a good way to keep the tax rate from spiking. Sam added that the town is getting to the point where CIP is running smoothly and it might be possible to pay cash for some things. Steve agreed.

Fred pointed out that the town had once not made a habit of adding to the capital reserves.

Steve said that CIP has solved many issues related to long-term purchasing.

David asked if making a long-term plan to fix the town's worst roads has been discussed. Both Lee and Sam responded that this has been discussed.

Steve said due to the recently passed Transportation Act, the state is reportedly putting more funds into "unnumbered state roads" which potentially includes roads like Shaker Hill and part of Main Street.

Public comment: none.

Other Business:

Sam asked the committee to consider questions for any department heads about the individual department budgets as the committee moves ahead finalizing a recommended budget.

Fred told the committee that the new fire truck does not fit at the Union Street fire station. After making some alterations at the fire station, the truck is closer to fitting but it still does not. The fire department needs new doors there anyway, so the new doors should remedy the remaining few inches keeping the truck from fitting inside.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.