

**Enfield Budget Committee (EBC) MINUTES (Approved)- Thursday, January 28, 2016 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, Fred Cummings, James Buffington, Holly West

Excused:

Others present:

Administrative:

Sam called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

Discussion of minutes: Janet made a motion to approve, and Mike seconded.

Shirley made a suggestion to clarify a statement she'd made during discussion of the tax rate. The minutes were approved with that change.

New Business:

Steve told the committee about the transfer from CIP. That amount includes all of the existing debt being paid out of CIP. It also includes the first year of payments on the vehicles from the warrant article, as the boat launch/bridge warrant article, and items such as the Zoll defibrillator. Steve also handed out a memo to the committee containing final adjustments to the operating budget.

Steve said that the town is anticipating a .25% increase in valuation, and he calculated an estimated \$3,534,000 to be raised from property taxes.

The committee went over the memo, which contained adjustments based mainly upon recommendations made last week by budget committee members. Steve pointed out the \$11,000 cut for reduced staffing at the police department. On the fulltime line for the police department, there is a \$9,000 reduction. Steve noted that he added \$6,000 to the street lighting line to represent a more realistic number.

James asked if any of these departments had concerns regarding these cuts. Steve responded the department heads including Chief Crate approved of them. There was some back and forth discussion with Jim regarding the DPW and highway funding, but those discussions resulted in agreement.

Steve remarked that there has been a considerable amount of discussion among the budget committee members this season, more than in years past.

Steve said this season's budget is more comprehensive and sustainable than before. He pointed out the improvements seen throughout the non-property tax revenue numbers.

The next budget committee meeting on February 3 includes Sam's presentation, and this meeting will be treated like a public hearing. This will be when recommendations are made on the warrant articles.

The budget committee and selectmen will vote to recommend or to not recommend the warrant articles. The budget committee and selectmen will then vote to recommend or not recommend the town budget article.

Mike asked if there is an estimated first year payment for the library funding. The current rough, and not final, estimate is a tax impact of 31 cents per thousand.

Shirley clarified that the town might not approve the full \$2.5 million. She noted the warrant article said "up to 2.5 million." Fred pointed out that there has already been some tax impact on the town due to previous approval of funding in 2008 of \$400,000.

The February 3 meeting will show the estimated tax impact for all of the proposed articles.

The committee moved on to discuss the possibility of using TIF money to fix roads in the district that are due to appear in the town operating budget in the future. Steve said that the sewer on Route 4 was a big reason why the TIF district was created, but had also included other projects in its plan. Steve explained that amending the TIF list or the district itself is a town meeting decision. He said that if TIF continues to have excess revenue, it may pay the sewer debt down to dissolve it faster. Neither the selectboard nor town manager can make any direction. Holly noted that she is a TIF Committee member and that there has been some interest among other members regarding paying the sewer debt faster.

David said that the TIF fund generates around \$250,000 a year and he said he was concerned about it being used for various projects while the TIF district's initial purpose was to pay for the Route 4 sewer, and now it's being used for more than that, perhaps more than necessary.

Next week there will be 6 articles to consider. Next Tuesday, February 2, is the deadline for petition warrant articles.

Public comment: none.

Other Business: none.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

