

## **Enfield Budget Committee MINUTES (Draft)**

### **Thursday November 17, 2016 DPW Building 6:00PM**

**Members present:** Sam Eaton (chair), Nancy Smith, Annabelle Bamforth, Shirley Green (vice chair), James Buffington, Mike Diehn, Holly West, Fred Cummings

**Excused:** Mark Eisener, Janet Shepard

**Absent:**

**Others Present:** Steve Schneider (town manager), Lloyd Hackeman, John Pellerin

**Administrative:** Sam called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

Approval of minutes:

James made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 10 meeting. Shirley seconded.

Janet had emailed grammatical corrections to be made. Nancy said that at the previous meeting, there appeared to be more support among the budget committee members regarding keeping EVA level funded than what was illustrated in the minutes, and she suggested more detailed wording.

The previous sentence, which read:

*“There was some discussion of level funding rather than lowering to \$5,000 because this new method of managing EVA may be difficult, especially in its first year.”*

was changed to:

*“Committee members expressed support for keeping EVA level funded rather than lowering that line to \$5,000 because this new method of managing EVA may be difficult, especially in the first year.”*

Annabelle read the updated sentence aloud to the committee. The minutes approved with the updated sentence and grammatical corrections, with Holly abstaining.

**New Business:**

Budget Presentations:

John Pellerin, assistant fire chief, and Lloyd Hackeman, fire ward, presented the fire department budget request for 2017. They offered some bullet points for the larger line items. Lloyd and John explained anticipated expenses in the training line, noting that Firefighter One training costs a minimum of \$800 per person and the department has 4 people seeking basic level certification. There are also 3 additional people interested in completing the training. John and Lloyd said that training is extensive as it requires about 200 hours of classes and training.

Fred added that there were some large expenses in 2016. He noted that the department's entire budget reflects the "worst case scenario" each year to prepare for emergencies, and unspent money is returned to the general fund. Fred estimated the actual expenditures will come close to what was budgeted.

Fred said that fundraising and bingo proceeds have helped reduce the fire department budget, and the overall town tax burden, by using the proceeds to purchase items including a boat, UTV, a jaws of life tool, and other important pieces of equipment.

The fire budget request includes \$11,000 for a new thermal imaging camera used to scan through heavy smoke to rescue people caught in fires. One was purchased in 2004 and another was bought a few years ago. John said he would like to replace the older camera so there can be two cameras at each station. Fred said he hoped that the firefighter's associations would help pay for some of that cost.

John discussed training a bit further. He said that live fire training can sometimes be difficult because it often requires traveling to Concord. In the new equipment line, the department included a prop to simulate a fire so that some training could be coordinated here in town. The prop is used by the firefighters to study specific warning signs.

Fred said that repairs and services is up because of biannual hose testing; testing is due next year. If hoses are needed, those would come out of new equipment line.

Annabelle asked if the fire prop would reduce trips to Concord for training. John responded that if the prop was purchased, the firefighters would still need to travel to Concord but not as often. He noted that the prop would make some of the training more efficient and easier to organize.

Nancy asked about the frequency of calls for wildfires this year. Fred said there's been a few calls of that nature but not a very large number. John said that the fires have generally not grown too large because many of the firefighters live in town, which helps get the fires under control quickly. John added that there is a mutual agreement between several area towns to help one another put out fires.

Regional associations:

Shirley, Janet and Annabelle are the members of the 2106-17 regional associations (RA) subcommittee. This subcommittee holds a separate meeting with Diane Heed, the human services director. Diane receives applications each year from various organizations requesting funding from Enfield. These organizations are mainly groups that provide or facilitate various social services and emergency assistance. At the subcommittee meeting, the members review and discuss each application request, which usually includes additional paperwork such as a mission statement of the organization, statistics about residents served, and financial reports. Diane provides insight including her experience with these organizations and how often she refers residents to them. The subcommittee then provides their recommendations to the budget committee based on the data provided.

Annabelle told the committee that the subcommittee recommended:

- to fund the organizations that requested funds last year, but also include Tri-County CAP this year. They requested, but did not receive, funds last year.
- to level-fund the organizations with the same amount given to them in the previous year

It was noted that Headrest or Listen, two organizations that have regularly applied for and received funding from Enfield in the past, did not submit their applications this year and therefore would not receive funding from the town.

Mike disagreed with Headrest or Listen not receiving town funding this year as these organizations provide much-needed services to people in Enfield.

Mike requested additional information about the origin of the subcommittee and its bylaws. Steve said that the subcommittee was established several years ago to improve efficiency in reviewing requests. Steve described the bylaws as parameters set by the budget committee and said that those details should be somewhere in past minutes. Mike located the minutes that detailed the RA subcommittee formation, and requested that a link be included in these minutes: [http://www.enfield.nh.us/Pages/EnfieldNH\\_BudgetMin/FOV1-000426B9/09302010.pdf](http://www.enfield.nh.us/Pages/EnfieldNH_BudgetMin/FOV1-000426B9/09302010.pdf)

Fred said that he is a huge supporter of Advanced Transit. AT requested \$5,000 last year and requested \$5,100 this year. Fred said he'd like the town to give them what they asked for. Fred made a motion to add the \$100 back to the request, and Mike seconded. The budget committee approved the full request.

Fred asked what would happen if Headrest or Listen came in to ask for funding between now and finalization of the budget. Sam cautioned that funding any organization that has missed the application deadline could result in a flood of other organizations doing the same, and that the budget committee should remain consistent with the rules set forth.

Last year, Tri-County Cap made a request but was not funded by Enfield because it closed its office in Lebanon, which resulted in Diane not being able to refer residents there. This year,

Tri-County is open in Lebanon for a limited time window and Diane will be able to send Enfield residents there during the few times they will be open. For this reason, the subcommittee recommended providing some funding. It was clarified that this organization does not provide fuel directly to people, but connects individuals to other assistance resources.

Fred asked if a decision had been made with EVA funding. While no vote has been made yet, Nancy said that at the last meeting several members had been supportive of level funding at \$10,000 rather than approving EVA's lower request of \$5,000.

**Public Comment:** none

**Other business:**

Fred told the committee that he was in attendance at the selectmen's meeting in May when the board granted EVA full property tax exemption for the Greeley House, and that he had expected to see some kind of offset in its request for town funding. Fred said he was pleased to see that EVA had done this in requesting \$5,000 instead of \$10,000.

There was some further discussion about EVA. Over the years it has been referred to as both a business development organization and as a downtown revitalization group. The group's efforts are wide-ranging; while they provide some business development-related services like holding meetups for local businesses and maintaining a local business directory, some initiatives are not categorically business development-related, such as Hometown Holidays and the seasonal decorations around town. Committee members agreed that residents will likely continue to support EVA whether they are a business/economic development group, a beautification/revitalization group, or a combination. It was noted by Steve that whether the organization moves back into the regionals portion of the budget or remains part of the town budget, EVA's main mission should be clearly defined.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

*Budget Committee minutes taken and submitted by Annabelle Bamforth.*