

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

### **Thursday December 15, 2016 DPW Building 6:00PM**

**Members present:** Sam Eaton (chair), Shirley Green (vice chair), Annabelle Bamforth, Holly West, Janet Shepard, Mark Eisener, Nancy Smith, Mike Diehn

**Excused:** James Buffington

**Absent:** Fred Cummings

**Others Present:** Steve Schneider (town manager)

**Administrative:** Sam called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

**New Business:**

#### Budget Review:

Steve handed out an updated budget request sheet for the executive personnel and an updated total budget request. Included in this year's budget is the number for overlay for tax abatements. Steve explained that overlay is for when people dispute their property value and request a tax abatement.

Sam asked if payment options for capital items were available. Steve said he hadn't yet received numbers for those, and at this time the budget shows the "worst-case" scenario for the costs of capital items.

Steve said the town received 3.5% in financing for capital items. He added that he had requested numbers for financing the paving of the Huse Park parking lot and replacing the roof at the Union Street fire station. If financing is feasible for those projects, Steve said the full amounts of the projects would carry over just as the leases for cruisers do.

Steve said that other capital items including a furnace, the painting and chimney work at Whitney Hall, and work on Crystal Lake Road will be paid with cash from the capital reserves. It was noted by Steve that capital reserve account withdrawals offset the capital items that are present in the budget.

The committee moved on to discuss the 2017 budget and estimates for revenue in 2017. The total budget request for 2017 is \$5,943,325. The general operating budget request is \$5,232,577.

Sam and Steve estimated that the total that needs to be raised by both non-property tax revenue (NPTR) and property taxes is \$5.638M. The amount to be raised in 2016 was \$5.510M, which equates to an increase in 2017 of \$128K, or 2.27%.

Steve said that about \$1.9M in NPTR would be necessary to keep the budget as is or adjustments will need to be made.

Steve said that rough calculations last week estimated the town coming close to hitting the targeted NPTR numbers for 2016. He said he is watching on the closings of auctioned properties that were recently sold.

The committee went on to begin setting preliminary estimates for several major lines of 2017's NPTR with Steve's recommendations in mind during this process. Many lines remained the same or close to 2016 estimates, with a small increase for motor vehicle registrations based on previous actual revenues and a slight reduction on the line for police revenue.

Approval of minutes:

Janet made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 8 meeting. Shirley seconded.

One suggestion was made by Holly for the minutes to reflect that she requested the NPTR sheet and tax rate review sheet to be made available as digital copies via email. Annabelle noted the change and added it to the December 8 minutes.

**Public Comment:** none

**Other business:**

Steve said that at the next selectmen's meeting there will be presentations from recruitment companies Primex and MRI regarding the search for a new town manager. Steve explained that the role of Primex is to help with the selection process and does not bring in candidates. MRI is more of a headhunter and locates prospective candidates.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 5th at 6:00 p.m.

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

