

TOWN OF ENFIELD

2008 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Moderator David Beaufait called the meeting to order at 9:05 am on Saturday, March 15, 2008 at the Enfield Elementary School. He led the audience in the pledge of allegiance, and then thanked all the elected officials and volunteers. C. Clark asked for a special thanks to the Highway Department. Selectman Payne presented certificates of appreciation to outgoing board members. Selectman Stewart presented outgoing Selectman Payne with an appreciation gift. The Moderator introduced the head table: Selectmen Payne, Crate and Stewart, Town Manager Steven Schneider, Town Attorney James Raymond, Chairman of the Budget Committee Lee Carrier, Budget Committee members, Alisa Bonnette, Executive Assistant, Town Clerk Carolee Higbee and Deputy Town Clerk Sandy Romano. He explained the rules of order and asked that non-residents be allowed to speak and the audience assented. He explained that he was involved with the Library Committee so if anyone felt that he had a conflict of interest with Article 6 he would appoint another moderator for that article. There were no objections.

Articles 1-5 were voted on by ballot on March 11, 2008.

For One Year: **One Zoning Board of Adjustment Member**

Cecilia Aufiero 497

For Two Years: **One Moderator**

David Beaufait 652

For Three Years: **One Selectman**

John W. Kluge 482

B. Fred Cummings 190

One Town Clerk

Carolee T. Higbee 682

One Treasurer

Donna I. Schmanska 654

One Trustee of Trust Funds

Cynthia Hollis 613

One Cemetery Trustee

One Fire Ward

David J. Crate Sr. 463

B. Fred Cummings 227

One Library Trustee
Bart Thurber 606

One Zoning Board of Adjustment Member
Craig Daniels 585

Three Budget Committee Members
Lori Saladino 469
Judith M. Finsterbush 445
Gayle Hulva 519

For Six Years: **One Supervisor of the Checklist**
Nancy A. White 604

Article 2. Are you in favor of the adoption of **Amendment #1**, as proposed by the Enfield Planning Board, for the Town of Enfield Zoning Ordinance as follows?

To amend the language used to describe the Enfield Zoning District Boundaries

Article 2 passed. Yes 412, No 238.

Article 3: Are you in favor of the adoption of **Amendment #2**, as proposed by the Enfield Planning Board, for the Town of Enfield Zoning Ordinance as follows?

To eliminate the backlot provision in the R1, R3 & R5 Zoning Districts to comply with State Law, by deleting Article IV, Sections 401.1R, 401.2R & 401.3R which all read:

- R. Back lots are permitted if a minimum right-of-way for a driveway of 50 feet is provided to the lot and the width of the lot is a minimum of 100 feet wide at the front of the dwelling structure. The area of a right-of-way shall not be included in the determination of a lot area.

Article 3 passed. Yes 386, No 289.

Article 4: Are you in favor of the adoption of **Amendment #3**, as proposed by the Enfield Planning Board, for the Town of Enfield Zoning Ordinance as follows?

To include lighting definitions in the Town of Enfield Land Use Definitions.

Article 4 passed. Yes 359, No 326.

Article 5: (By Petition) Are you in favor of the adoption of **Amendment #4**, as proposed by petition, for the Town of Enfield Zoning Ordinance as follows?

To see if the Town of Enfield, N.H. will adopt the provisions of N.H. RSA Section 674:21:VI of Title LCIV, Planning and Zoning, Chapter 674 Local Land Use Powers as they relate to applying the “Village Plan Alternative” as an integral part of the Town of Enfield, New Hampshire’s Zoning Ordinance.

Article 5 failed. Yes 366, No 367.

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of four hundred thousand dollars (**\$400,000**) from the 12/31/2007 unreserved fund balance, as follows:

Two hundred sixty-seven thousand dollars (**\$267,000**) to be appropriated into a new capital reserve fund, named the Library Building Capital Reserve Fund, established under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of planning, construction and furnishing of a new Library, and one hundred thirty-three thousand dollars (**\$133,000**) to be appropriated for the purpose of preparing complete architectural and engineering plans for a new Library Building and site work. Pursuant to RSA 32:7 VI the appropriation of \$133,000 shall not lapse until the project is completed or by December 31, 2013, whichever is sooner. (This article has no impact on the proposed 2008 Tax Rate.)

Special Warrant Article

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article.

The Budget Committee recommends this article.

R. Stewart made the motion to accept the article as printed, D. Crate seconded the motion. The Selectmen asked Bart Thurber, Library Trustee, and Lee Carrier, Budget Committee chairman, to speak to the article. B. Thurber explained that he was one of a large committee that had spent the past year working on this proposal, and thanked everyone for their time. He explained the costs involved, and stressed that construction could not begin until all the monies were raised. A survey had been conducted of other libraries in NH towns the size of Enfield, which found that our library is very efficient but only about half the size. The library needs more space. We need to commit now for the future. L. Carrier praised the Library Committee for addressing the Budget Committee's concerns, and stated the Budget Committee did support the article. There has been \$1.5m cut from last year's proposal; this plan would allow the town offices to move into the present library space, and the auditorium would be preserved. The Town would only pay 20% of total cost, and there would be no tax increase because we would use monies from the undesignated funds. C. Aufiero mentioned that a lot of the costs of the town have doubled in recent years and questioned whether this was the time to do this with the state of the economy. It may not affect taxes now but will in the years to come. S. Beaufait pointed out that we spent a lot of time last year discussing the space needs of the library and town offices, and commended the Library Trustees and the Budget Committee for all their time and research. She urged approval for the future of the Town. J. Gagne asked what the anticipated operating costs were compared to

the present ones. **B. Thurber** replied that the closest comparable was the community building, which costs \$15k. **J. Patten** made the motion to move the question, **B. Cusick** seconded and it carried with a voice vote. **D. Stewart** presented a written request for a paper ballot vote. **S. Carr** said that she had never seen a building project put off that ended up costing less. **D. Smith** pointed out that the plan showed parking behind the Verizon/telephone building and asked if that land had been purchased. **B. Thurber** replied that the Town Manager had talked to Verizon last year about it but nothing was definite. A paper ballot vote was taken: Yes 117, No 45. Article 6 passed as printed.

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee's and Selectmen's recommended sum of four million, nine hundred twenty-five thousand, six hundred ninety-eight dollars, (**\$4,925,698**), for general municipal operations. This article does not include special or individual articles addressed. (Estimated tax impact \$6.53 per \$1,000 valuation.)

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article.
The Budget Committee recommends this article.

D. Crate made the motion to accept the article as printed, **C. Payne** seconded the motion. The Selectmen asked **L. Carrier** to speak to the article. He said that this had been a difficult year for the Budget Committee as they had to cut \$250k from the budget, and that the one presented was up 2.9%, or 19 cents/\$1000 valuation. He detailed increases and pointed out that we are reducing the undesignated fund balance to 5.9%, which is something to watch in years to come so it doesn't go too low. There was no discussion. A voice vote was unanimous. Article 7 passed as printed.

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred twelve thousand dollars (**\$112,000**) for the acquisition of a new ambulance. Said sum to be defrayed by use of one hundred twelve thousand dollars (\$112,000) from the Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund established for this purpose. (This article has no impact on the proposed 2008 Tax Rate.)

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article.
The Budget Committee recommends this article.

C. Payne made the motion to accept the article as printed, **R. Stewart** seconded the motion. The Selectmen asked **S. Schneider** and **L. Carrier** to speak to the article. **S. Schneider** pointed out that this article has no impact on the tax rate, and that it provided the Fast Squad with the ambulance they wanted. **L. Carrier** stated that the Budget Committee strongly asks that you support this article. They believe it is a good price and a good asset for the community. **L. Cantlin** asked who would be running the ambulance. She has had to pay twice for the Lebanon ambulance to transport her husband. **K. Withrow**, Fast Squad member, explained that Lebanon ambulance covers Enfield Monday to Friday, 6:00 am to 6:00 pm because all of the

volunteer members work out of town during these hours. She said that the current ambulance is not up to State protocol. Some of the equipment cannot be secured, there is no onboard battery for the defibrillator. L. O'Keeffe urged support for the article, stating that when he had a small stroke several weeks ago he received excellent treatment and service from the Fast Squad. A. Nicodemus, Fast Squad member, explained that the squad had lost its two most active daytime responders, Charles Harrington and Barbara Dow, to retirement. They have been recruiting new members and hope to have more daytime coverage soon. J. Gagne asked how old the current ambulance is, and if the squad had looked into retrofitting it to meet requirements. K. Withrow replied that it is a 1998 model, and that retrofitting would involve more than bodywork; the vibration is affecting some monitors, and some gear has to be stored in outside compartments, which means the ambulance has to pull over to retrieve it, causing delay. T. Jennings stated that since the money had been put aside he saw no reason not to purchase the new one, and maybe increase the monies put aside each year. Since he and his wife had passed age 50 they'd like to have a good ambulance in town. A voice vote received one dissenting vote. Article 8 passed as printed.

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred twelve thousand dollars (**\$212,000**) for the acquisition of public works equipment and to authorize the withdrawal of one hundred twenty thousand, nine hundred sixty-nine dollars (\$120,969) from the Public Works Vehicle & Equipment Capital Reserve, and authorize the use/transfer of seventy thousand dollars (\$70,000) of the December 31, 2007 fund balance for this purpose. The balance of twenty-one thousand, thirty-one dollars (\$21,031) is to come from general taxation. (Estimated tax impact 4.816 cents per \$1,000 valuation.)

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article.
The Budget Committee recommends this article.

R. Stewart made the motion to accept the article as printed, D. Crate seconded the motion. The Selectmen asked S. Schneider and L. Carrier to speak to the article. S. Schneider explained that the mechanic/utility truck would be used half for general Town maintenance and half for the Water and Sewer Department. The chipper would be able to chip branches up to 15" in diameter and would, in part, take the place of the "stump/brush dump" as far as brush was concerned. L. Carrier stated that the Budget Committee did have to cut the Department of Public Works requests but realized the need of these items and approved of their purchase. B. Cusick pointed out that the Town should have a schedule of depreciation so we would know when to expect the future purchase of such items. R. Godfrey questioned the cost and size of the dump truck. K. Daniels explained that it was a fully outfitted truck with plow and wing mount and that larger trucks cannot negotiate some of the Town streets. J. Patten stated that since we just passed the budget why were we arguing about this and moved the question. H. Adams seconded and the audience agreed. A voice vote was unanimous. Article 9 passed as printed.

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-nine thousand, nine hundred twenty-six dollars (**\$29,926**) for the acquisition of technology equipment and services. Said sum to be defrayed by use of twenty-nine thousand, nine hundred twenty-six dollars (\$29,926) from the Technology Capital Reserve. (This article has no impact on the proposed 2008 Tax Rate.)

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article.
The Budget Committee recommends this article.

D. Crate made the motion to accept the article as printed, C. Payne seconded the motion. The Selectmen asked S. Schneider to speak to the article. He explained that this put all the technology needs together instead of spreading them out between all the departments. The monies would be used to purchase computer components. A voice vote was unanimous. Article 10 passed as printed.

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ninety-three thousand dollars (**\$93,000**) to be placed in previously established Capital Reserve Funds, as follows:

Capital Reserve Account	Appropriation	Estimated Tax Impact Per \$1,000 Valuation
Whitney Hall Renovation ⁽²⁾	40,000	9.160 cents
Library Technology ⁽³⁾	5,000	1.145 cents
Fire Vehicle/Equipment ⁽¹⁾	48,000	10.992 cents
Total	\$93,000	21.297 cents

Authorization to expend: ⁽¹⁾ Town Meeting, ⁽²⁾ Board of Selectmen, ⁽³⁾ Library Board of Trustees.

Special Warrant Article
The Board of Selectmen recommends this article.
The Budget Committee recommends this article.

C. Payne made the motion to pass the article as printed, R. Stewart seconded the motion. The Selectmen asked S. Schneider to speak to the article. He explained that in the past year the foundation had been tightened up on Whitney Hall, basement windows had been replaced, and a new boiler installed. There will be \$40k required to paint the building. D. Kiley questioned if \$40k was to be spent on painting then the \$40k in the article wasn't really a capital reserve amount. S. Schneider explained that it was originally in the general budget but then realized that if the painting bids came in over \$40K we would need to access the capital reserve account. A voice vote was unanimous. Article 11 passed as printed.

Article 12: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of two thousand one hundred dollars (\$2,100) from the 12/31/2007 unreserved fund balance, for deposit into the Cemetery Maintenance Fund, an expendable general trust fund previously established under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a for the purpose of maintaining cemeteries? This money represents 2007 revenue from the sale of cemetery lots in 2007 and is available to offset the appropriation. (This article has no impact on the proposed 2008 Tax Rate.)

Special Warrant Article

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article.

The Budget Committee recommends this article.

R. Stewart made the motion to accept the article as printed, D. Crate seconded the motion. Mr. Payne explained that this article requests continuing support of previously established cemetery maintenance fund, used for the care and maintenance of all municipal cemeteries. A voice vote was unanimous. Article 12 passed as printed.

Article 13: Shall the Town vote to establish a National Historic Register District in Enfield Village as described in the NH Division of Historical Resources document, also referred to as the NH Department of Transportation Historic Survey, prepared in 1998 by the Division of Historical Resources? Said National Historic Register District is referred to in this document as the Enfield Village Historic District.

D. Crate made the motion to accept the article as printed, C. Payne seconded the motion. The Selectmen asked P. Mirski to speak to the article. He explained that a survey would be done to identify cultural resources in the community, and identify qualifying buildings. Property owners in the district would be eligible for tax credits for carrying out renovations and restoration of their property. Mr. Lozeau has done so to the Hewitt House and Ms. King to the Copeland Block. Renovations increase tax revenue. T. Lozeau explained that he renovated the Hewitt House from a single-family residence to a 10-unit rental property. He received \$100k in tax credits. M. Smith spoke in favor of the article in that it supported the Town. S. Stancek said that if there was no cost to the town he supported the article. A voice vote was taken. Article 13 passed as printed.

Article 14: (By Petition) To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,700 for the purpose of establishing an Enfield National Historic Register District. The purpose for creating a National Historic Register District for Enfield Village is to provide economic incentives for the renovation of downtown Enfield's important historic structures. Establishing a National Historic Register District will impose NO obligation whatsoever upon any new or existing property or upon current or future property owners. Creating such a district will help qualify structures deemed to be of historic or cultural value for state and federal grants in aid and for federal investment tax credits for funds spent on historic renovations. The creation of a National Historic Register District will invite investment in Enfield Village. Capital invested in downtown

properties will improve Enfield's tax base and help to stabilize property taxes town-wide. (Estimated tax impact is 3.595 cents per \$1,000 valuation.)

Special Warrant Article

The Board of Selectmen does not recommend this article.

The Budget Committee does not recommend this article.

C. Payne made the motion to accept the article as printed, R. Stewart seconded the motion. The Selectmen asked P. Mirski to speak to the article. He stated that he appreciated that the Selectmen and Budget Committee did not want to spend the money but that he felt it was a positive step to encourage growth and sometimes you had to spend money to make money. M. Smith stated that the town would quickly recoup the money as we would get the money back with one building being restored. It would allow the Enfield Village Association to apply for grants that they are currently not eligible for. Increasing the tax base reduces the tax burden. S. Carr said that this is a relatively small expenditure and that it would never be cheaper to do it. J. Patten said that she had faith in the Selectmen and the Budget Committee so why didn't they approve of the article? L. Carrier said that the Budget Committee thinks the idea is a good one but had to cut in a lot of places and this was one thing that was cut. It should be budgeted for over several years. C. Payne said that the Selectmen supported the idea but in trying to keep the budget as small as possible decided not to fund it all this year, and urged support of the next article, which spreads it out over several years. B. Parker asked why, since Article 13 had just passed, did we have this article? The Moderator answered that Articles 14 and 15 are concerned with the funding of Article 13. D. Stewart stated that he agreed that we need to continue renovating the Town, and that contrary to a recent letter in the newspaper, Main Street is not a mile long public urinal. A voice vote was unclear. A hand vote was Yes 81, No 41. Article 14 passed as printed.

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of National Historic Register District Designation, including application and other expenses related thereto, to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand seven hundred dollars (**\$5,700**) to be placed in said fund, and name the Board of Selectmen as agent to expend. (Estimated tax impact is 1.305 cents per \$1,000 valuation.)

The proposed National Historic Register District is defined by the NH Division of Historical Resources document prepared in 1998 by the Division of Historical, and referred to in this document as the Enfield Village Historic District.

Special Warrant Article

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article.

The Budget Committee recommends this article.

R. Stewart made the motion to accept the article as printed, D. Crate seconded the motion. R. Stewart then made the motion to pass over Article 15 and take no action

since Article 14 had just passed, D. Crate seconded the motion. A voice vote agreed. Article 15 was passed over.

Article 16: Shall the Town adopt the provisions of RSA 72:62, Exemption for Solar Energy Systems, for qualifying solar energy systems as defined in RSA 72:61, as follows?

- For solar hot water, \$5,000
- For solar heat, \$5,000
- For solar electricity, \$5,000

A person may qualify for one, two or all three exemptions for a maximum exemption of \$15,000.

D. Crate made the motion to accept the article as printed, C. Payne seconded the motion. The Selectmen asked S. Schneider to speak to the article. He explained that the next three articles dealt with property exemptions for use of alternative energies, specifically solar, wind, and wood generated energy. The exemptions provide for the value of the equipment, not the installation of it. The town has received requests for the exemptions and other towns have adopted them. J. Kluge made a motion to amend the article to read:

Shall the Town adopt the provisions of 72:62, Exemption for Solar-Powered Energy Systems, exempting from property taxes the full value of qualifying solar-powered energy systems as defined in RSA 72:61?

A voice vote was unclear. A hand vote was Yes 92, No 26. The amendment passed. J. Gagne said he was in favor of the article but thought it should be restricted to residential use. Discussion ensued between C. Warren, J. Patten, J. Rocke, and M. Smith about federal tax credits for alternative energy. C. Payne stated that there was no savings to the town but it was good to support the environment. R. Stewart said that she personally supported this; she has friends in Vermont whose taxes went up when they installed solar panels. S. Stancek asked how this compared to the elderly exemptions. K. Gotthardt asked what proof would be required that such a system was working and why solar was limited to \$15k but wind and wood were exempted full value. J. Huntley explained that elderly exemptions have to be recertified every five years and she'd have to check on these exemptions. She also stated that she'd like to see the article worded as assessed value instead of full value as that would enable equitable assessing. D. Carr asked if these systems increased the property value for resale and does it increase demands on municipal services, which the Selectmen replied no. T. Jennings spoke in favor of the article. J. Doran explained that his house was off the commercial electric grid and that he used solar power. He had trouble obtaining a mortgage for an "off the grid" house, because the banks consider it a liability. He does have a back-up propane generator, required by the bank. J. Gagne made a motion to amend the article to read:

Shall the Town adopt the provisions of 72:62, Exemption for Solar-Powered Energy Systems, exempting from property taxes the full value of qualifying solar-powered energy systems used for private, non-commercial “behind the meter” applications as defined in RSA 72:61?

A. Farewell seconded the motion. This amendment failed by a voice vote.

B. Thurber made a motion to amend the article to read:

Shall the Town adopt the provisions of 72:62, Exemption for Solar-Powered Energy Systems, exempting from property taxes the assessed value of qualifying solar-powered energy systems as defined in RSA 72:61?

D. Kiley seconded the motion. A voice vote passed this amendment. A voice vote was taken on the article as amended twice. Article 16 passed as amended twice.

Discussion ensued here about the wording of the next two articles and the Board of Selectmen decided to present them with the wording changed from full value to assessed value, and presented them on the over head projector as changed.

Article 17: Shall the Town adopt the provisions of 72:66, Exemption for Wind-Powered Energy Systems, exempting from property taxes the **assessed** value of qualifying wind-powered energy systems as defined in RSA 72:65?

C. Payne made the motion to accept the article as projected, R. Stewart seconded the motion. S. Stancek asked if hydropower would be appropriate for exemption and J. Raymond explained that these exemptions are allowed by the legislature and towns cannot grant additional ones. A voice vote passed the article as projected.

Article 18: Shall the Town adopt the provisions of 72:70, Exemption for Wood heating Energy System, exempting from property taxes the **assessed** value of qualifying wood heating energy systems as defined in RSA 72:69?

R. Stewart made the motion to accept the article as projected, D. Crate seconded the motion. D. Stewart asked what a qualifying wood heat system was, and J. Raymond replied that this was the language as required by the RSA but was essentially a ducted central system. A voice vote passed the article as projected.

Article 19: Shall the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a multi-year agreement with Shaker Bridge Theatre for the use of the Whitney Hall Auditorium?

D. Crate made the motion to accept the article as printed, C. Payne seconded the motion. The Selectmen asked S. Schneider to speak to the article. He explained that leasing the auditorium to the Shaker Bridge Theatre would still enable the Town to use the space and support the performing arts. Voting would still be held there.

C. Aufiero objected, citing that the community would lose the space for groups such as the Shoestring Players. The Selectmen invited Bill Coons, Director of Shaker Bridge Theatre, to speak. He stated that although the group was a semi-professional organization they still planned to draw from the community. Future plans include concerts, community dinners and free acting classes to high school students. They have currently forged relationships with Ron McPhall of Seasons Restaurant and Mickey Dowd of Mickey's Cafe to offer dinner/theatre packages. He realized that the Town needed to use the space for voting and had purchased chairs and arranged the layout with that in mind. S. Beaufait and S. Carr spoke in favor of the article. J. Newberry asked if other people could still rent the space, and S. Schneider said no, it would be used by Mr. Coons group and by the Town for voting and the library book sale. J. Patten moved the question, K. Withrow seconded. A voice vote agreed. R. Stewart spoke in favor of the article and mentioned utilizing the Enfield Center Town Hall stage. L. Gardiner asked if the space was safe to use, and S. Schneider said that the Building Inspector/Health Officer had inspected it and that structural studies have found it safe. B. Thurber stressed that the library book sale needed to be held there and R. Stewart assured that it would continue to be there. A voice vote passed the article. Article 19 was passed as printed.

Article 20: Shall the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into an agreement for third party billing for ambulance services?

The Board of Selectmen does not recommend this article.

C. Payne made the motion to accept the article as printed, R. Stewart seconded the motion. B. Cusick presented a paper ballot request. He stated that he knew this was a contentious subject but it was a very expensive service. It had cost us \$65k in 2007 to pay Lebanon for coverage, and we could have billed \$72k, excluding 25% for the uninsured and the cost of billing. There is a one-page form that the Fast Squad members would have to fill out for each patient, and it would be a great source of revenue for the Town. D. Stewart asked about insurance deductibles, and Mr. Cusick stated that generally the deductible was included with the ambulance/hospital/doctor fees. K. Withrow stated that the Fast Squad did not support the article. If we go to billing we would no longer be considered a non-profit organization and would have a lot more paperwork to contend with. They would lose 95% of the free supplies and the tech support from the local hospitals. A full time person for billing would cost \$30-\$50k plus benefits. The Fast Squad members donate their time at no cost to the town. P. Mirski asked where the money would go, to a dedicated fund or the general fund? L. Carrier answered that it would go to the general fund and S. Schneider said that a special line item would have to be set up. D. Carr objected to calling it a free service if we don't have daytime coverage. L. Davis asked us to vote it down as third party billing always makes mistakes, and not enough people know of this to be decided here. J. Kluge asked that the Town remain true to tradition and to the people who started the service. A. Nicodemus stated that the Fast Squad has researched billing and that

losing the medical supplies and support would negate any profit. B. Cusick said that he understood that the idea was unpopular but if people had insurance why shouldn't we use what we're paying for. D. Stewart spoke in favor of the article. K. Withrow pointed out that the Fast Squad puts on free first aid and CPR classes. Mr. Cusick never approached Fast Squad members to discuss this. Mr. Cusick said that both he and Mr. Schneider had attempted to contact Fast Squad members. J. Patten moved the question, P. Withrow seconded. The audience agreed by voice vote. A paper ballot vote was taken. Yes 27, No 100. Article 20 failed to pass.

Article 21: (By Petition) Shall the Town adopt, as it's official wetlands standard, the 1992 manual "Wetlands Evaluation Enfield", a 101-page document that identifies, delineates, evaluates, ranks in order of performance, and maps the important wetlands located in the town of Enfield? It identifies twenty wetlands comprising 1744 acres, varying in size from 2 acres to 380 acres, including five prime wetlands. This manual was made for Enfield, is already paid for (\$6,000), and is located in Town Hall.

R. Stewart made the motion to accept the article as printed, D. Crate seconded the motion. The Selectmen asked G. Seiler to speak to the article. He apologized to the petition signers that this had not been on the official ballot but that he had received the wrong submission date from the Town Clerk's office. He didn't want to pass an article that was not legally binding so he asked to withdraw the article.

S. Hagerman seconded the motion. A voice vote agreed to take no action on the article.

Article 22: (By Petition) To see if the Town will vote to approve the following resolution to be forwarded to our State Representatives, our State Senator and our Governor:

Resolved: We the citizens of Enfield, NH believe in a New Hampshire that is Just and fair. The property tax has become unjust and unfair. State leaders who take a pledge for no new taxes perpetuate higher and higher property taxes. We call on our State Representatives, our State Senator and our Governor to reject the "Pledge", have an open discussion covering all options, and adopt a revenue system that lowers property taxes.

D. Crate made the motion to accept the article as printed, C. Payne seconded the motion. The selectmen asked D. Kiley to speak to the article. He stated that this article was on the warrant of 89 NH towns this year. He doesn't believe that representatives should be in office if they are unwilling to deal with the tax problems. P. Mirski had passed out charts showing NH's tax burden as compared to other New England states and said that the state must stop dictating to the towns how to raise taxes for the schools. L. Saladino said that she had seen that when you try to reduce property taxes other taxes go up. R. Stewart said that this could drive the state to an income tax. B. Parker urged caution when making changes. L. Gardiner stated that we need a more comprehensive tax structure and would like a favorable vote to give the state something to think about. B. Cusick said that the

reason the state is doing so well, with low unemployment, is that there are a lot of high tech jobs moving here because of the low taxes. This is a Town Meeting for Town affairs, not State affairs. P. Mirski made the motion to amend the article to read:

(By Petition) To see if the Town will vote to approve the following resolution to be forwarded to our State Representatives, our State Senator and our Governor:

Resolved: We the citizens of Enfield, NH believe in a New Hampshire that is just and fair. The property tax has become unjust and unfair. The principal cause of rising local property taxes has to do with the shifting of responsibility to provide and to pay for state programs, standards and regulations from the State of New Hampshire to smaller jurisdictions of government. In order to lower our property tax burden, we call upon all our elected state and local leaders, now and in the future, to prevent county, school district and municipal property taxpayers from having to directly or indirectly fund the obligations of the State.

S. Beaufait seconded the motion. J. Patten moved the question, K. Withrow seconded. The audience approved with a voice vote. L. Gardiner stated that this amendment has been around a long time and to vote it down. A voice vote on the amendment failed. A voice vote on the article as printed was unclear; a hand vote failed the article. Article 22 failed to pass.

Article 23: (By Petition) To see if the Town will vote to adopt a By Law to prohibit any person from holding an elected or appointed position for the Town of Enfield, unless their Property Taxes are paid in full.

The Selectmen declined to move to accept the article. L. Gardiner made the motion to accept the article as printed, A. Farewell seconded the motion. L. Gardiner stated that it was his understanding that at the time of the petition 2/3 of the selectmen had not paid their property taxes and he didn't think that was acceptable. Some discussion ensued about the petition originator, who was not present. J. Patten asked why should we put time and energy into something that is not legally binding. J. Raymond stated that it was not binding but allowed a sense of the meeting's wishes. S. Carr stated that she had been late paying her taxes before and that property taxes are not assessed on an ability to pay. B. Cusick noted that late taxpayers accrue 12% interest and that tax liens are noted on your credit reports. He advised against scaring people off from running for elected office because they might be late paying. P. Mirski made the motion to postpone the article, B. Cusick seconded. A voice vote approved the motion. Article 23 was postponed.

Article 24: To hear the reports of agents, auditors, committees, or any other officers heretofore chosen and pass any vote relating thereto.

R. Stewart made the motion to accept the article as printed, D. Crate seconded the

motion. T. Jennings stated that he'd like to see higher attendance at Town Meetings and encouraged people to get more to attend.

B. Thurber made the motion to adjourn, B. Cusick seconded the motion. A voice vote approved the motion. The Moderator declared the meeting adjourned at 2:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolee T. Higbee
Town Clerk/Tax Collector

* On March 20, 2008, at the request of Paul Mirski, a ballot recount was held at Whitney Hall for Article 5. Present were Moderator David Beaufait, Assistant Moderator John Carr, Selectmen Crate and Kluge, Paul Mirski and Deputy Town Clerk Sandy Romano. The recount was 365 No, 305 Yes. It was discovered at this time that the voting machine tape had been incorrectly read election night, when the vote was announced as 367 No, 366 Yes, which was actually 306 Yes. This was blamed on human error. The recount did not change the outcome; Article 5 failed.