

**Town of Enfield New Hampshire
2015 TOWN MEETING**

**Enfield Village School
March 14, 2015
9:00 AM**

Moderator Dr. David Beaufait commenced the annual meeting at 9:04 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moderator Beaufait asked for all cell phone ringers be turned off, and continued with the introduction of those sitting up front consisting of Officers and staff present as follows: Selectmen Fred Cummings, John Kluge and Don Crate, Moderator Dr. David Beaufait, Town of Enfield Attorney, Jim Raymond, Town Manager Steve Schneider, Assistant Town Manager Alisa Bonnette, Recorder Paula Rowe, Deputy Town Clerk Sandy Romano, Budget Committee members Dan Kiley, Doug Pettibone-Chair, David Stewart, Shirley Green, Janet Shepard, Annabelle Bamforth. Also presented were Director of Public Works Jim Taylor, Chief of Police Richard A Crate Jr, Energy Committee member Kim Quirk, Supervisors of the Checklist Jim Gerding, Nancy White, and Robert Foley, Inspector of Elections Francine Lozeau, Conservation Commission Chair Alan Strickland, Mascoma Valley Dog Park Supporters Chair Marcia Herrin, and Library Trustee Phil Cronenwett.

Moderator Dr. Beaufait brought to the attention of those in attendance Pages 266 and 268 of the 2015 Annual Town Report, congratulating those marriages and births listed in 2014, and continuing with recognizing those deceased in 2014.

Moderator Dr. Beaufait reviewed the protocols, policies and procedures for today's meeting.

He called for a voice vote to adopt the protocols, policies and procedures. There was a motion and a second, followed by a unanimous vote in favor of adoption.

Moderator Dr. Beaufait identified those in attendance who are not residents or registered voters --- Jim Taylor, Public Works Director and two young people on the bleachers.

Linda Jones came to the podium, on behalf of the Heritage Commission, and presented Paul and Lynn Waehler with a plaque for their contribution to historic preservation in the Town of Enfield.

A Motion to continue with the town meeting, starting with the articles as printed in the annual report came forward from Becky Powell, with a second from Jean Patten. Vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

Selectman John Kluge recognized those retiring from the various boards and committees calling out the following names:

- ✓ Dan Kiley to whom the 2014 Town Report was dedicated.
- ✓ Paul Mirski 2009-2014 Budget Committee and 2011-2014 Heritage Commission
- ✓ Phil King 2011-2014 Conservation Commission
- ✓ David Carr 2003-2014 Recreation Department.
- ✓ Craig Daniels 2002-2014 on the Zoning Board of Adjustment
- ✓ Richard Lammert 2007-2014 Energy Committee
- ✓ Lori Saladino 2007-2014 Budget Committee
- ✓ David Crate 1983-2007, 2011-2014 Fire Ward
- ✓ Craig Daniels 2002-2014 Zoning Board of Adjustment

At this time, 9:24 a.m., Moderator Dr. Beaufait read the names of the newly elected officers who won the vote on Tuesday, March 10, 2015 as follows:

Article 1.

For Two Years:

One Budget Committee Member – Janet M. Shepard (360)

For Three Years:

One Selectman – B. Fred Cummings (360)

One Trustee of Trust Funds – John Carr, pending acceptance (34 write-in votes)

One Cemetery Trustee – Gordon K. Clough, Jr. (278)

One Fire Ward – Timothy Taylor (357)

One Library Trustee – Shirley Green (391)

Two Zoning Board of Adjustment Members – Cecilia Aufiero (263) & Mike Diehn (272)

Three Budget Committee Members – Holly West (323), James Buffington (243)
& Mike Diehn (243)

Moderator Dr. Beaufait read each of the Article's as follows:

Article 2: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee recommended sum of five million, seven hundred ninety three thousand, six hundred eleven dollars (\$5,793,611) for general municipal operations. The Selectmen recommend \$5,840,970. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. (Majority vote required) (Estimated tax impact \$5.64/\$1,000 valuation).

The Board of Selectmen does not recommend this article by a vote of 3-0.

The Budget Committee recommends this article by a vote of 8-1.

Selectman Fred Cummings moved to adopt Article 2 as printed, Selectman Don Crate seconded this.

Doug Pettibone, Chairman of the Budget Committee, did a presentation of the Enfield 2015 Budget as proposed by the Budget Committee, beginning with a quick overview of the 2014 budget.

Points made during the presentation included:

- Projected Tax Rate of \$6.39 per \$1000 valuation, a 2.0% increase vs. 2014
- Near level operating spending across departments
 - all core town activities and services maintained
 - unchanged staffing level (maximal 2% merit raises)
- Some reduced routine maintenance of roads, buildings
- No infrastructure projects
- New/replacement equipment (\$450K from reserves)
 - New line striper, recycling compactor
 - Replace one fire truck
- Continue contributions to CIP capital reserve (CIP-RF)
 - \$318K into CIP-RF (retired DPW loan; carryover 2011 equipment, and the 4th annual 5-cent tax increase to support CIP 15-year plan)
- The Budget Committee recommends a budget with a tax rate of \$6.39 per \$1000 property valuation, including the CIP Plan.

John Kluge, spoke on behalf of the Selectmen, informing that the Selectboard reviewed the Budget Committee's budget proposal. Selectman Kluge explained that the Public Works budget took a big hit with a decrease in their budget lines Road Maintenance funding will take a big hit. The money should be put back in and will reflect an estimated \$18.00 to the taxes of the average home.

Moderator Dr. Beaufait encouraged the public in attendance to come to the microphone with any questions or suggestions.

- Katherine Stewart proposed an amendment to Article 2. To adopt the Selectmen's recommended budget to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Selectmen's recommended budget of \$5,840,970 for general municipal operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. The motion was seconded by Bob Cusick.
- Budget Committee member David Stewart came forward and explained that the Budget Committee cut this area with guidance from the Town Manager. This \$47,000 was taken out after careful consideration by the Budget Committee.
- Budget Committee Chairman Doug Pettibone informed the audience that at their last budget meeting in January, with the Town Manager in attendance, all had agreed on the budget. Mr. Pettibone feels that the Town Manager does a very good job with the budget and suggested that he find the \$47k in another area of the budget.

- Jean Patten came to the microphone and said she is in favor of the Budget Committee's budget and felt that this \$47k could go for many things, not just the roads.
- Bob Cusick asked where this \$47k appears in the budget, and where it would go. Town Manager Steve Schneider said that the money would go to gravel roads and pavement.
- Katherine Stewart asked the people to look at page 57 and note the budget line for the roads.
- Kurt Gotthardt asked for the Public Works Director to speak on this amendment and what will this do and not do for his department.
- Public Works Director, Jim Taylor said the cuts would take about 30% of the gravel money and it would take about half of the pavement money. In 2008 the DPW budget was cut significantly and we have seen the effects of this major cut to this date. Shaker Hill is an example of neglected road maintenance, as now it needs to be rebuilt from scratch at a much higher cost. Mr. Taylor said that when we make a cut like this we go backwards, eventually the money will be needed.
- Debra Ford expressed her feeling that the money should not be cut from the roads and invites others to look at roads in our other school district towns to see where they have had cuts.
- Rebecca Stewart felt that the budget committee has given an explanation showing this money cut does not have to come out of the roads – it can come out of other places in the public works budget lines.

Dr. Beaufait asked for a vote on the amendment.

Article 2 as amended: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Selectmen's recommended sum of five million, eight hundred forty-thousand, nine hundred seventy dollars (\$5,840,970). This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately.

Article 2 carried, by hand count, with 71 yes votes and 15 no votes.

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of four hundred six thousand, eight hundred sixty-eight dollars (\$406,868) for the purchase of a fire truck; said appropriation to be offset by the withdrawal of \$276,903 from the fire vehicles and equipment capital reserve fund and withdrawal of \$129,967 from the Capital Improvement Program capital reserve fund. (Majority vote required). (This article has no impact on the 2015 tax rate).

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article by a vote of 3-0.

The Budget Committee recommends this article by a vote of 9-0.

Move to Adopt Article 3 as printed came forward from Selectman Crate with a second from John Kluge.

Mr. Lee Carrier came to the podium to provide the CIP Presentation for Articles 3 through 5, reviewing the balance sheet and upcoming projects.

- Mr. Carrier pointed out those projects on hold or cancelled for 2015 are the boat launch upgrade, truck with plow, mowing tractor, police cruiser, 6-wheeler with wings and plow totaling \$459,000.
- Cost reductions will be realized through the trash compactor at the Transfer Station.
- The Fire engine purchase is needed as it is 25 years old. Five quotes for a new fire engine were received and the Fire Wards favor the lowest bid. Mr. Carrier favors a purchase of cash so that no interest is paid.
- Mr. Carrier noted that \$6,700,000 in capital reserves are needed in the next 15 years. DPW has realized \$1,137,800 in expenditures from 2012-2015. Reserve withdrawals in 2015 will be \$583,002.
- Selectman Fred Cummings informed the meeting of the committee process and feelings of the Enfield Center Fire Station receiving the new truck. The new truck will have a bigger pump. This brought questions from the public.
 - Rick Bean felt they need a truck, however, the truck planned for purchase is too much money.
 - Sam Eaton felt that a new truck is needed.
 - A member of the audience thanked the committees for their hard work so that these processes go more quickly.
 - Kurt Gotthardt asked, if this new truck passes what is going to happen to the truck being replaced? Selectman Cummings said that the old truck will go to the Union Street station to replace another vehicle.
 - Lloyd Hackman, member of the Enfield Center Fire Dept for 20 years, expressed concern about the new truck fitting in the fire station. Selectman Cummings said that the truck was designed to fit in the Enfield Center Station.
 - Rick Bean asked what side of the station the new fire truck is going on. Selectman Cummings said where the one is now. Mr. Bean pointed out that they built an addition for the one there now.

- L. Shipman asked if this new truck would be able to make it up Methodist Hill. Selectman Cummings said yes.

Moderator Beaufait asked for a voice vote on Article 3. Article 3 passed by voice vote.

Article 4: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of forty-five thousand dollars (\$45,000) for the purchase of a compactor and line striper and authorize the withdrawal of \$45,000 from the Municipal Facilities, Maintenance and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose. (Majority vote required) (This article has no impact on the 2015 tax rate).

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article by a vote of 3-0.

The Budget Committee recommends this article by a vote of 9-0.

Move to Adopt Article 4 as printed came forward from Selectman John Kluge with a second from Fred Cummings.

Moderator Beaufait asked for a voice vote on Article 4. Article 4 passed by voice vote.

Moderator Dr. Beaufait recognized the Enfield Mascoma Lioness for providing a table of refreshments and added that they have a Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner this evening at the Community Building.

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise the appropriate the sum of three hundred seventeen thousand, nine hundred eighty-three dollars (\$317,983) to be placed in the Capital Improvement Plan Capital Reserve Fund (Special Warrant Article)

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article by a vote of 3-0.

The Budget Committee recommends this article by a vote of 9-0.

Moderator Dr. Beaufait asked for a vote on Article 5. Article 5 passed by voice vote.

Article 6: Shall the town raise and appropriate the sum of \$850 from the 12/31/2014 unreserved fund balance, for deposit into the Cemetery Maintenance Expendable Trust 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 2014 revenue from the sale of cemetery lots in 2014 and is available to offset the appropriation. (Special Warrant Article) (This article has no impact on the 2015 tax rate).

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article by a vote of 3-0.

The Budget Committee recommends this article by a vote of 9-0.

Move to adopt article 6 as printed came forward from Don Crate with a second from John Kluge.

Moderator Dr. Beaufait asked for a vote on Article 6. Article 6 passed by voice vote.

At 10:35 a.m., Moderator Dr Beaufait, brought forward the last article.

Article 7. To hear the reports of agents, auditors, committees, or any other officers heretofore chosen and pass any vote relating thereto.

Move to Adopt Article 7 as printed came forward from John Kluge with a second from Fred Cummings.

- Kimberly Quirk made a presentation regarding the recent Charrette. She addressed the specific area on Main Street where the underpass is and the possibility of a new beach for the town residents.
- Selectman Fred Cummings publicly thanked the Budget Committee, at this time.
- Mr. Cronenwett, Library Trustee, read a line from the Town Report that he wrote in support of a new library. He asked the public for their continued support so that a new library could be realized in 2017.
- Marcia Herrin spoke on the establishment of a dog park in Enfield that has been realized. They will be breaking ground this spring. The dog park supporters have raised \$60,000 and no money came from the town taxes. She thanked the public for their support and donations. All approvals from the State and Town have been obtained previous to them breaking ground.
- Sam Eaton spoke in support of the Dog Park, asking about the age restrictions for the dog park as all members of his family would like to use it with their dog. Ms. Herrin said that they have looked at this and have a few restrictions on young people in the park due to liability issues. No children under age 12, as this is not a playground and those between the ages of 12 and 15 should be with an adult. The dog park committee remains open to suggestions on this and other topics.
- Steve Stancek requested a possible amendment to the roads article. Moderator Dr. Beaufait said that issue has concluded by vote and he cannot do this at this time. Mr. Stancek continued with advisement on repairs to Shaker Hill Road, which he lives on. Moderator Dr. Beaufait acknowledged Mr. Stancek's concerns, however they are not germane to this article.
- Wendy Piper, NH State Representative, spoke on road legislation. She will look at the monies that may be available, however the legislation for this was not passed last year.

Motion to adjourn the town meeting came from Jean Patten at 11:15 a.m., with a second from Bob Cusick, and carried.

Recorder, Paula Rowe Stone

