

**Enfield Board of Selectmen
Whitney Hall
Enfield, New Hampshire**

MINUTES of May 19, 2008

Board of Selectmen: Rebecca S. Stewart, Chairman; Donald J. Crate, Sr.; John W. Kluge

Administrative Staff: Steven Schneider, Town Manager; Alisa D. Bonnette, Recording Secretary

Others: Kurt Gotthardt, Don Wyman, Dan Kiley

BUSINESS MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Stewart called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Kluge moved to approve the minutes of May 5, 2008 as printed; Mrs. Stewart seconded, vote unanimous.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

Grafton County Commissioner ~ selection of vendor for Registry.

Tax Collector's Tax Lien Procedure Report ~ 2004 – 2008

Grafton County Commissioners Proposed Budget ~ FY 2009

NHDOT correspondence ~ Four-way stop sign

In accordance with the wishes of the Selectboard, the State of NH will not install the four-way stop.

David & Lori Saladino correspondence ~ Four-way stop sign:

The Saladinos expressed their concerns about the intersection.

Relative to High Street, Mr. Crate had requested that a letter be forwarded to the phone company to request removal of the stairs leading to the phone equipment; that's half the visibility problem. Mrs. Stewart agreed that would resolve some of the issues.

Village District of Eastman, Final Pump Test Report, large Ground Water Withdrawal Project-Source #5:

Mr. Schneider explained that this is one of the final steps for Eastman to establish another much needed water source. It's the Bog Road Brook site in Springfield.

Tax Collector's Unpaid Balances Report as of 5/13/08:

The largest portion of the unpaid balances is 2007. Some of the older taxes owed are due to bankruptcies, but these are a small portion of the outstanding amounts.

Mr. Crate expressed concern about paying vendors for services to the Town, specifically Conkey Enterprises, if they have not paid their taxes. In the past, a previous Town Manager had an informal agreement with an Enfield vendor that payment for services would not be made until the taxes were paid. Mr. Schneider does not believe that the issuance of an excavation permit can be tied to whether taxes have been paid on the property. The question is whether the Town should do business or enter into agreements with vendors that owe the Town money. Is it positive or productive for the Town?

Mr. Crate asked for information on how much Conkey Enterprises was paid last year.

How much was paid through the last contract and the history of tax payments to see if there is a seasonal pattern will be looked into.

Mr. Crate inquired about others on the list. Mr. Schneider's guess is that the list is very similar to what the Selectmen would have seen in the past.

Tax Collector's Trail Balance Report ~ 1/1/08 – 4/30/08

Town Clerk's Report ~ April 2008

Revenues are about \$8,000 over last year to date. The majority of these revenues are from motor vehicle registrations.

IV. BOARD REPORTS

Planning Board:

Dan Kiley reported on an approved subdivision at the corner of Oak Hill Road and Lockhaven Road. There are some that are concerned that this will open up more space and send more water down Lockhaven, impacting Henry Cross's property.

The Planning Board also discussed a tower on Follensbee Road. They couldn't tell the Planning Board exactly where they were going to locate the tower. The Planning Board needs to have the location specified and the tower must be placed where indicated on the plans.

The Planning Board also heard a conceptual on Fitzgerald Drive. It is expected that the developer will want the Town to take over the road after the project is completed.

Upcoming Meetings:

The Heritage Commission will be meeting Thursday, May 22, 2008.

Mrs. Stewart asked if a meeting had been scheduled. She was told that Ken Daniels would be asked about this.

The Tax Increment Finance Committee will meet this week.

The Library Trustees and Recreation Commission both meet tomorrow.

Library:

Marjorie Carr and Steve Schneider met with the architect on May 6th. They reviewed plans and discussed details of placement of furnishings. The footprint of this building is not much different in size than the footprint of Whitney Hall; this puts into perspective how far away things are from each other.

Tomorrow, May 20 is the first Library Committee review of progress so far. The surveyor was out last week. Bits were received on the geo-technical items. After soil borings are done we'll have a better idea where the building will be located. The location of the building will determine the Town's needs for Fairpoint land.

The Board briefly discussed the building design and security. Mrs. Stewart is concerned about the hole between the two levels and how this might affect energy use. She also expressed concern about how the snow comes off the roof. She was informed that the peak is designed so this will not be a problem for pedestrians.

Mr. Crate asked if they have raised any money. Mr. Schneider replied that more would be known after tomorrow's meeting.

V. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**Mud Pond Road:**

Mr. Schneider walked the road with Paul Currier and Rick Bean. The gates are up, but not closed until the posting are up. They looked at sections the snowmobile club wants to fix. They've identified spots they can outlet the water before it crosses the road. On the Canaan side it's really just wet and they'll reditch.

Kurt Gotthardt would like the road made into a trail. It's deteriorated a lot. He also noted that there is an ordinance that provides other boards to comment on road improvements. Mr. Gotthardt was informed that the Conservation Commission has reviewed it.

On the Lockehaven end there's a stone culvert. He doesn't now if it can be saved or if it should be removed. Water is currently undermining it.

Recreation Director:

Two candidates have been interviewed for the Recreation Director position. An appointment should be made soon. One of the jobs of the Director will be to create a business plan for how the Recreation Program can grow to accommodate more people of a wide range of ages, from children to adults.

Conference Attendance

Mr. Schneider will be attending the NH Municipal Managers Association conference in Portsmouth, June 18 – 20.

Deeded Properties:

Two properties were taken by tax deed at the last Selectboard meeting. The prior owner of the condo met with Mr. Schneider and explained that she would pay it off. He informed this individual that the Town would turn the property over very quickly and will have it sold by the end of the year. She assured Mr. Schneider she would have it paid in full.

Mr. Crate asked how long is she going to have to pay it off and was informed by Mr. Schneider that she was supposed to be in today, but did not show.

Mr. Crate asked if the Town was covered for liability on this property. He was informed the Town is covered.

Upon inquiry by Mr. Crate, Don Wyman informed the Board that a condo would likely be worth \$150,000 - \$200,000. Mr. Schneider pointed out that in the first three years the Town only gets back the taxes, costs and fees and anything realized over that is turned over to the former owner. Don Wyman added that you also can't get title insurance for the first three years on tax deeded property.

On the Boys' Camp Road property that was up for auction in 2007, the third bidder is no longer interested. The first two bidders are still interested. A document was sent to the former owner for him to sign that states that he understands he has no claim on the property. If he is not willing to sign the document the Town will start over with that piece.

State Retirement:

Mr. Schneider informed the Board of a couple of bills before the legislature, a House version and a Senate version. Each version would have a different financial impact on the Town - \$6,000 vs. \$60,000. The House version professionalizes it and lengthens the time Police and Fire have to serve. Mr. Schneider relayed his experiences with retirement in Batavia, NY and his concerns about how Batavia handled it.

Animal Control Officer:

The Board of Selectmen discussed the position of Animal Control Officer. Wendy Huntley is now acting in this capacity and will respond to most calls. She only responds to domestic animal calls, no wildlife.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS**Dan Kiley ~ Retirement:**

Mr. Kiley pointed out that 4 members of the Retirement Board were approved a trip to Ireland. Mr. Kluge noted that they've been doing a lot of traveling. Mrs. Stewart registered her objection. Discussion ensued regarding the politics surrounding the Retirement Board and the House and Senate bills.

Dan Kiley ~ Mud Pond Road:

Mr. Kiley walked Mud Pond Road. The road is completely degraded in a number of places. He asked who the owner of the property is where the gate is located. He was informed that the landowner was spoken to about the stuff in the road.

Property ownership was discussed. Survey pins are on both sides of the road. Does this indicate that the Town actually owns the road?

The gate looks good. It blends in.

Kurt Gotthardt ~ Four-way Stop:

Mr. Gotthardt asked the reasoning for not wanting a four-way stop at the intersection of High, Shaker Hill and Main.

He was informed that the Board was split. Two Selectboard members felt it was not necessarily the best thing to do. Mr. Kluge is not a big fan of four-way stops. There has also been no historic precedent.

Mr. Gotthardt disagreed and relayed his problems with the intersection and visibility. He thinks a four-way stop would slow traffic and encourage pedestrian traffic. When the State redid the intersection they somehow reduced visibility from High Street toward Whitney Hall.

Mr. Kluge stated there was a lot forthright discussion and that's the decision the Board came to. He expects it will rest there a while.

Mrs. Stewart closed the meeting to public comments at 7:20 PM

VII. OLD BUSINESS

WCNH.net:

Mr. Schneider met with other municipal representatives last week. They decided they should take a visit to an operating system to get a feel for how they went through the process. The community is in Virginia on the North Carolina border. A few members of WCNH.net may go down there to view the operation. Some of them had gone up to view the Burlington VT model, but that's a different model. If some of them decided to go down to Virginia it will be in July.

Whitney Hall Windows & Painting:

The Selectmen were provided with reports on funds remaining in the Whitney Hall maintenance budget and the Whitney Hall Renovations Capital Reserve Fund (CRF). There is a balance in the CRF of about \$4,200. There is only 30% left in the Whitney Hall maintenance budget and Mr. Schneider does not recommend using these funds for windows. Mrs. Stewart would prefer to use the CRF funds.

Mr. Crate asked what is wrong with the Plexiglas now? Mrs. Stewart explained that it's so fogged you can't see the stained glass windows. Mr. Crate feels that fuel costs as they are, the Town shouldn't spend money on this. If the windows are protected he would wait another year.

Mrs. Stewart stated that this is a memorial building and requires us to maintain it in a respectful manner.

Following a brief discussion the majority of the Board was in favor of spending the estimated \$2,000 on the new window covering. Mrs. Stewart did suggest that the project wait until after the building is painted so no paint gets on the new windows.

Forty thousand has been budgeted for the Whitney Hall CRF to paint the building. Does the Board want to maintain the current color scheme that dates from 1976 or restore to historic colors. In any case, the pain color chosen has to weather well and not look dirty.

Colors were discussed. The choice of color will impact the new library building, as the buildings should coordinate.

Kurt Gotthardt suggested speaking to the Historical Society and asking them to decide what the historic color was, so it will play into the historic register. Mrs. Stewart feels the best way to determine the original color is to do some scrapings. She added that the major difference in the older paint colors is that the trim is lighter than the body so it's highlighted.

Mr. Kluge asked if there is any cost efficiency with one color over another. David Stewart responded there would be a small percentage. Mr. Schneider added that as part of the budget process the Town obtained 3 quotes. The funding in 2008 moved from the operational budget to capital reserve because there might be changes in the scope of work.

The south and west sides of the building need painting before next winter.

Cable TV:

Curtis Payne and Steve Goldsmith are not prepared to make a presentation at this meeting, so will be in at a later date.

Mr. Schneider spoke to Canaan. When Enfield's channel comes up Canaan will lose the channel Enfield is replacing. Currently Canaan doesn't have anything in their contract that provides them with a cable access channel.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Administrative Items:

The Board reviewed and approved the following documents: First Issue Property Tax Warrant; Veterans' Tax Credit Applications, Timber Tax.

Mr. Crate moved to approve the Humane Society and Enfield Outing Club charitable exemptions; Mr. Kluge seconded, vote unanimous.

IX. OTHER ITEMS

2007 Special Town Meeting:

Mr. Crate asked if the Town has had any correspondence from Verizon about the cell tower. Mr. Schneider replied that the lease was received from them and forwarded to the Town's attorney. Our attorney's concerns have been forwarded to them. We have heard nothing since then.

Mr. Crate asked if Verizon has reimbursed the Town for the Special Town Meeting costs. It is believed so, but will be verified.

Mrs. Stewart asked Mr. Schneider to inquire into the status.

Tax Bills:

Tax bills will be out at the end of the week.

Memorial Day:

Traditionally, the State has swept the road before Memorial Day. Due to budget constraints the State will not be sweeping streets, cleaning storm drains or mowing grass. The Town can ask a neighboring community to borrow their street sweeper.

The Town is also going to get some red mulch for the Veterans Park.

Mrs. Stewart had unofficial communication with Dave Wilson regarding the band at the parade. The band will stand down vs. standing at attention for the welfare of band members. She added that last year the Selectboard road in the parade. She assumes that this year they will be walking.

There will be the commemoration display at the Enfield Community Building again this year.

Voting:

The Board confirmed that the next voting session will be held at Whitney Hall Auditorium.

Enfield Property Values:

Mr. Schneider reported that the Enfield property values were estimated to increase by \$4 million, but in fact increased by \$7 million. How this affects the tax rates will be determined in November.

Next Meeting:

Monday, June 2, 2008, 6:00 PM, Whitney Hall Conference Room.

CONFERENCE

I. Don Wyman ~ Current Use:

The Board of Selectmen received a memo from Julie Huntley regarding the transfer of property that was in Current Use and the affect this had on the property owner. The owner (Dauphinais) was under the impression they had more land in Current Use than they did. Had they been aware of the amount of land in Current Use they could have corrected the problem and avoided the Current Use penalty. The problem has since been corrected, but the Current Use penalty has already been billed and must be paid, unless waived by the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Wyman respectfully requested that the Board of Selectmen waive the Current Use penalty on the Dauphinais property.

Mr. Crate moved to waive the \$3,130 Current Use penalty; Mr. Kluge seconded, vote unanimous.

II. Kurt Gotthardt ~ Request for support for Mascoma River to be named a State designated river:

The Board received a copy of the majority of RSA Chapter 483 pertaining to the NH River Management and Protection Program.

The Mascoma Water Conservation Council is working with the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission (UVLSRPC) on a grant funding application to do a study. As a designated river there are different classifications depending on where on the river you are. Where the Mascoma River starts in Dorchester it might be designated as a “natural river” and if so designated restrictions would allow no new dams, no landfills, etc. Near the Canaan border it may be classified a “rural” or “rural community” river. If so classified, the existing dam, if breached, could be rebuilt within 6 years and no new dams would be permitted.

Designation of the river means that if Canaan wanted to do a large water withdrawal from the river Enfield would have a greater say on what this would do to Enfield.

Mr. Schneider asked how this would work with Shoreland Protection Act and the Town’s plan to request an urban exemption.

Mr. Gotthardt said the Town can designate it or not, or designate only portions of the river. The Lebanon City Council has already voted to designate their portion as a designated river. Designation would give the Town more say in matters. He is asking the Board for a recommendation for designation and only for the portion in Enfield.

Mrs. Stewart expressed her desire to have more time to review the issue.

Mr. Kluge noted that there is a committee that would be formed. In response to an inquiry by Mr. Kluge, Mr. Gotthardt explained that the UVLSRPC would then prepare a management plan.

Mr. Schneider, for the purposes of clarification, stated that Mr. Gotthardt was asking for the Selectmen’s support of the UVLSRPC grant application to do a study of the proposed project.

Mrs. Stewart rankles over anything that takes control away from the Town. It sounds like the UVLSRPC is making those decisions.

Mr. Gotthardt replied that UVLSRPC has people to write the grant. Then a local committee with Town representatives creates a management plan and determines the designation of the river.

Mrs. Stewart asked if the final decision is the committee’s. Mr. Gotthardt replied that the committee recommends to the State legislature.

Don Wyman stated that if it’s already under the Shoreland Protection Act it’s already protected. Mr. Gotthardt explained that the Shoreland Protection Act only does to the 4th order and only to

250' from the shoreline. Designation goes to the 1st order, up to the headwaters and up to a ¼ mile from the shoreline.

Mr. Schneider suggested that the Planning Board review it.

Mrs. Stewart would like time to review the information so respectfully requests that Mr. Gotthardt give them some time and to pass it before the Planning Board.

III. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Stewart moved to adjourn at 8:24 PM; Mr. Kluge seconded, vote unanimous.