

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

**MINUTES of November 2, 2015**

**Board of Selectmen:** Donald J. Crate, Sr., Chairman; Fred Cummings, John W. Kluge

**Administrative Staff:** Steven Schneider, Town Manager; Alisa D. Bonnette, Assistant Town Manager; Jim Taylor, Director of Public Works; Karol Hammer, Recording Secretary.

**Others:** Jim Bonner

**BUSINESS MEETING**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Crate called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Kluge made, and Mr. Crate seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the October 19, 2015 Regular and Non-Public meetings as presented. The motion carried with Mr. Crate and Mr. Kluge voting in favor; Mr. Cummings abstained.

**III. COMMUNICATIONS**

**NH DRA Correspondence re: MS-535 Financial Statement:**

Mr. Schneider presented the report of the NH Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) examination of the Town financial status, showing a \$45,551 deficit for the current year. This means we will need another article at Town Meeting.

This is a trend we've had over the past several years; we are having a difficult time matching expenditures with revenue. Our budget process does not allow much, if any room for mistakes, so when they do happen, it hurts.

\$45,000 translates to about \$.08 on tax rates.

**NHDES Land Resources Management File #2015-02545, 29 Wescott Road (Tax Map 29, Lot 20):**

Mr. Schneider presented a new letter from the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES). This one approves the restoration plan for dealing with the fill brought onto the Gill's

land by Audley. Audley has to take the fill out – it is in the wet area of the property. The Gills and Audley have until December 1 of this year to execute the plan and be in compliance.

#### **IV. BOARD REPORTS**

##### **Planning Board Meeting:**

Mr. Kluge summarized the October 28 Planning Board meeting as follows:

The meeting included the final hearing on Robert Labine's proposed renovation of the former insulation building. The plan was approved.

Kurt Gotthardt proposed to the Planning Board a warrant article to define and educate the Zoning Board about the 50-foot buffers. The Planning Board voted against including such an article at Town Meeting.

Mr. Gotthardt and Charlie DePuy represented the Energy Committee in proposing a warrant article for the placement of a solar plant for the Town of Enfield. The Planning Board decided to okay a Public Meeting, but declined to support a Town Meeting article just yet.

##### **Budget Committee:**

Mr. Schneider said the Budget Committee is about a month ahead of schedule. The Administrative, Recreation, Library and Police Department budgets were presented and reviewed at the October 29 meeting. Remaining budgets include the Department of Public Works, Fire Department, and Ambulance.

#### **V. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Schneider presented the Application and Membership Agreement between the Town and HealthTrust, Inc., and requested Board approval to adopt the accompanying resolution (on page 5 of the Agreement).

Mr. Cummings moved and Mr. Kluge seconded the motion to adopt the resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

##### **New Fire Truck:**

Mr. Cummings noted that, on November 19, three representatives of the Enfield Fire Department will travel to Florida to inspect the new truck. The following week, the truck will be driven to the dealer in Vermont for final outfitting. It could be in service as early as late November.

##### **Jaws of Life:**

Mr. Cummings also reported that the Fire Department recently purchased a new Jaws of Life through anonymous donations and the department's fundraising efforts. Those efforts yielded enough money to also upgrade the existing Jaws of Life to current technology.

The Selectboard will need to have a Public Meeting to accept the equipment.

Mr. Cummings stated his feeling that it is important that the Fire Department keep doing things like this to keep the load off the taxpayers. They do a lot of fundraising, like the weekly Bingo nights to give a break to the Town.

## **VII. BUSINESS**

### **Transfers to Water CRF (\$50,000 budgeted) & Sewer CRF (\$25,000 budgeted):**

Mr. Schneider asked the Selectboard to act in its capacity as Water and Sewer Commissioners to transfer the budgeted funds to the individual accounts for Water and for Sewer.

Mr. Schneider noted that the amount to be transferred for water is higher because the infrastructure is older and needs more repairs. The Chair agreed, citing the issues at South Main Street. Mr. Taylor said there also is a section of lead pipe on a service line just off the Town lines that will need to be replaced.

Mr. Kluge moved and Mr. Cummings seconded the motion to move the funds. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Water/Sewer Rates**

Mr. Schneider reported that we are approaching the end of the year, when we have to adjust the water and sewer rates. Lebanon has indicated that it will be increasing its rates. Once theirs have been announced, Enfield will be able to make its adjustments.

He mentioned that, since we went down to two tiers of sewer rates, revenue has been better. It is possible, he said, that a similar reduction (from seven to two tiers) will be suggested for water.

### **Library Draft Warrant Article:**

Mr. Schneider presented the Draft Warrant Article for the Library project. As discussed at the previous meeting, the draft asks if the Town will raise and appropriate funds. Mr. Schneider reported that Mr. Cronenwett confirmed the \$2.5million amount, but cautioned that the figure still might change before Town Meeting.

Mr. Cummings asked whether support had been given at the previous meeting, and the Chair and Mr. Kluge nodded. Mr. Kluge stated that he felt the taxpayers should have a voice.

Mr. Schneider said the Library Article would be first on the Town Meeting Warrant.

### **Lakeview Septic Systems/Proposed Sewer Extension:**

No progress update. A Public Hearing is scheduled for January 19. Ms. Bonnette asked if the Library Public Hearing should be held at the same time.

It was agreed that the Lakeview and Library Public Hearings could be held on the same date.

**PILOT:**

The Visions Housing project on Sunrise needed approval on or before November 1. Mr. Schneider estimated that November 2 would suffice, since this was the next scheduled Selectboard meeting. The approximate value is \$700,000. At current rates, that means \$4,600.

Mr. Schneider noted that, even with approval of this request, they have the opportunity to request abatement. They are a non-profit.

Mr. Cummings made and the Chair seconded the motion to approve the request. The motion carried with the Chair and Mr. Cummings voting aye. Mr. Kluge recused himself.

**2015 Tax Rate:**

Mr. Schneider reported that the Town rate is 6.6% (up from 6.25%). We have hovered between 5.5% and 7% since 2000, so we're consistent. He offered other rates by comparison, as follows:

County: increased 0.03 to 1.72

School: increased 1.54 to 14.29

Total Town Rate: 25.08 (up 1.95 from 23.16 last year)

So the total increase this year for a \$200,000 home will be about \$400.

The Town is responsible for 25% of the increase; the School District is responsible for 60%.

Bills are being printed and will go out during the first week of December.

Mr. Cummings expressed frustration that the Budget Committee haggles for hours over pennies on the tax rate. He said the Town's care in minimizing doesn't have much of an effect; people don't see that it's the school, not the Town buying all kinds of equipment.

Mr. Schneider said that a lot of time has been spent during Budget Committee meetings, talking about how the rates affect the most vulnerable residents. However, he said, we can't budget based on the School District. We can't say "we won't have x or y" because of the School.

The taxpayer gets more for his money from the Town. It's a tough discussion, because every time the Town considers a cut, we have to consider what it will mean for our level of service.

Mr. Kluge agreed, saying that we can't let the School drive the Town budget, but these decisions are awfully hard.

Mr. Schneider continued to say that the Town is very careful; we don't ask for the Cadillac. We ask for the Chevy.

**2016 Budget:**

The discussion continued in the same vein. Mr. Schneider said that every year is a tough year going through the budget process. Certainly the deficit news doesn't help.

There is no one good reason for the deficit, other than our revenues were less than our expenditures. We can't point to a single cause. Our tight budgeting means that mistakes, even small ones, have a bigger effect.

Mr. Schneider stated, "I take full responsibility." We weren't spending improperly or unwisely. Discrepancies happen.

**2016 CIP:**

Mr. Schneider reported that the boat launch project has gone out to bid. The pre-bid meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, November 4, and proposals are due in mid-November.

Mr. Cummings asked for clarification on whether this was just for the ramp, or for the parking also. Mr. Schneider said it was for both.

Mr. Cummings said, with the situation we're in, he doesn't really care about the parking. The ramp is the serious need.

Mr. Schneider said the financing company is ready to go, once a bid has been selected.

Also on the CIP priorities is the Boy's Camp Bridge. The Springfield company is willing to do the project for \$150,000 – far less than other estimates.

The CIP list essentially consists of trucks, a couple of bodies, the bridge and the boat launch.

The Lovejoy Brook culvert is dependent on funding, so it is on the list only as a placeholder.

**Administrative Items:**

**Recreation Commission Appointment:**

The Selectboard was asked to appoint David Isom to the Recreation Commission.

Mr. Kluge made and Mr. Cummings seconded the motion to make the appointment as requested. The motion carried unanimously.

**VIII. OTHER ITEMS**

**Beach:**

The Chair asked if the "Do Not Enter" sign currently at the beach could be moved before winter. Its current position (mounted on a tipped-over wheel) would make snowmobile travel from one side of the lake to the other hazardous. He noted that many snowmobile riders prefer not to go under the bridge.

Mr. Schneider noted that the sign is there because people have driven there.

**Manholes on 4A:**

The Chair inquired about the manholes on Route 4A. Mr. Taylor said those are the ones that have been designated to be reseated. Dana K is lined up to do the work, but the Department of

Public Works (DPW) is still negotiating with the State. The State declined the DPW’s request to put barrels on the manholes overnight while they cure. The DPW now is investigating using steel plates instead; the plates would distribute the weight of cars driving over them in a way that could still allow a good cure.

**Next Meeting:**

Monday, November 16, 6:00 PM, Whitney Hall Conference Room

**CONFERENCE**

**I. NON-PUBLIC SESSION**

Mr. Cummings made and Mr. Kluge seconded the motion to go into Non-Public Session at 6:40 PM., RSA 91-A:3 II (a). Roll call vote: Mr. Cummings – aye, Mr. Kluge – aye, Mr. Crate – aye.

Mr. Cummings moved to come out of non-public session at 7:10 PM, Mr. Kluge seconded, vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

**II. ADJOURNMENT**

The chair adjourned the meeting at 7:10 PM

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Donald J. Crate, Sr., Chairman

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John W. Kluge

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B. Fred Cummings  
Enfield Board of Selectmen