

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

MINUTES of September 17, 2007

Board of Selectmen: Curtis Payne, Chairman; Rebecca S. Stewart; Donald J. Crate, Sr.

Administrative Staff: Steven Schneider, Town Manager; Alisa D. Bonnette, Recording Secretary; Ken Daniels, Director of Public Works; Richard Crate, Jr., Chief of Police

BUSINESS MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Payne called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Crate moved to approve the minutes of September 4, 2007 as printed; Mrs. Stewart seconded, vote unanimous.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

NH DOT correspondence ~ Temporary Use of State Owned Land:

This will be for the last sailing regatta out of this location. The Selectmen can expect to see some cars parked there on September 22nd.

Patricia Coutermarsh correspondence ~ Property Assessment:

Mrs. Coutermarsh objected to an increase in the assessed value of her property. Julie Huntley, Assessing Administrator, has offered to make corrections to any errors. Mrs. Coutermarsh will be informed that if she is still dissatisfied she has the right to apply for an abatement.

Current Use Denial ~ Stella Bond Estate:

The executor of the Estate requested the property be placed in Current Use. The Town has just received a letter with a request from a co-executor that the property be removed from Current Use. The Town's records do not include the name of a co-executor and proof that this other person is an executor was requested before a change would be made. The Town has not acted improperly, but acted on the information available at the time.

Town Clerk Report ~ August 2007:

Last month revenues were ahead of projections by about \$4,000. At the end of August revenues were behind projections by about the same amount. The last three months are typically very active so at year-end revenues are expected to be close to the budgeted \$785,000.

Executive Summary: Municipal Vital Records Preservation Grant:

Carolee Higbee, Town Clerk/Tax Collector, obtained an \$8,000 Vital Records Grant from the Department of State Archives and Records Management. An inspection of the Town's vital records has been completed and recommendations made. Some are low cost items, such as keeping the vault door shut and lights off, obtaining a dehumidifier and replacing binders. Some more costly recommendations include sprinkling the vault, replacing the wood shelving with metal and purchasing an Ansul Cleanguard FE05 fire extinguisher.

Some non-vital records will be moved out of the vault.

Some things might be out of the Town's reach. And they hinted that sooner or later they want bulletproof glass installed between the Town Clerk and the public.

The Board was provided with a copy of the inspection report and the State retention schedule for municipal records.

Grafton County Proposed New Correctional/Sheriff's Facility ~ Project Update September 2007 and Grafton County Sheriff's Department ~ Reduction of Operating Budget:

Mr. Schneider was approached about a Grafton County Municipal Association meeting. He attended this meeting that turned into an anti-jail meeting. As Town Manager, this is not something he can be involved in. They did bring up good points. The project is moving quickly. At the municipal level we're pushed to create capital reserve funds and plan for the long term to avoid big peaks and spikes in the tax rate. This is the biggest peak you'll get. The existing jail is in rough shape. In this year's budget, \$1,000,000 was approved for design, construction documents and architectural services. Next year will be the first bond payment. The majority of the people at the meeting were pretty hot about the lack of municipal input. The project will include additional operating costs in the future. Costs to construct will be in the tens of millions of dollars.

At the same time the Sheriff's Department is looking to change transport services. Police Chief Crate explained how the transport services provided by the Sheriff's Department have changed over the years. Now, if someone needs to be held overnight, the local communities are responsible for the transport.

Mr. Schneider explained that this is a one/two punch. At the same time they are asking for more money they are reducing services. The County is looking for a bond vote in January. The municipalities are looking for the County to put some money away.

Mr. Payne pointed out that a new County jail is needed. Mr. Schneider responded that no one is saying we don't need the jail. Local officials hear it from the taxpayers when taxes go up even though municipalities aren't responsible for the County budget. County meetings are held during the day and as such are not very accessible.

Discussion ensued about over-crowding. Work release and electronic monitoring are used in some cases due to overcrowding.

The County is working to take in Federal prisoners for revenue. The new facility will have a 30-year build-out so the extra space in the meantime can be utilized until that build-out has been reached. It's a revenue source for the County.

Currently, prisoners can't be adequately segregated. Chief Crate does not want to have someone sent up for a DUI and have that person housed with murders.

Mr. Schneider will send notices of future meetings to the Board of Selectmen.

IV. BOARD REPORTS

Capital Improvement Program Committee:

The CIP Committee meeting was rescheduled for September 18th. The Library will do a presentation at 6:00 PM at the Public Works Facility.

Enfield Village Association:

A meeting of EVA is scheduled for Wednesday, September 19th at 5:00 PM

Conservation Commission:

The Conservation Commission held a couple of meetings, one at Ibey and Lockhaven Roads, and another at the Public Works Facility the next evening.

The Commission met for a site visit on Lockhaven Road. No one asked the Conservation Commission for comment and they have no jurisdiction on scenic roads to the meeting was quickly closed.

At the Thursday meeting of the Commission they worked on the management plan for Bicknell Brook so, in the future, uses of the property will be outlined.

Planning Board:

The Planning Board unanimously approved the Town taking out some trees.

Other Boards and Committees:

Mr. Schneider reported that CIP and Recreation Meetings would be held this week. The Library Building Committee met last week and a non-public session of the Board of Selectmen will be requested to discuss this later in the meeting. It's a busy week.

A Grafton County Economic Development Committee dinner will be held on Wednesday. As a member of the Board of Directors Mr. Schneider will be in attendance.

On Thursday there is a School Board meeting to discuss the Library project.

V. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**Employee Appreciation Picnic:**

Tuesday, September 18, 2007 is the employee picnic beginning at 12:30 PM. Seasons Catering will cater the picnic. This Employee Appreciation Picnic is being catered to thank the employees for all of their hard work following the August 16th storm.

Bicknell Brook Property:

There is \$7,000 in the 2007 budget to survey 7 acres of the Bicknell Brook property for subdivision and sale. The previous Selectboard wanted to go ahead with the survey and sale of up to 3 building lots. Is that still the goal of this group? Mr. Schneider explained the proposed plan for two smaller lots with frontage on NH Route 4A and one larger parcel with access from Grafton Pond Road. The cost of the survey will be recouped with the sale of the property. While the revenue from the sale of the lots may not be a large amount of money it would return the property to the tax roles for ongoing property tax revenues.

Concern was expressed about the slope along NH Route 4A. Mr. Crate suggested subdividing a 2-acre and a 5-acre parcel. Mrs. Stewart and Mr. Payne agreed that might make it more saleable.

Once the property is surveyed it can be sold either by sealed bid or auction.

Mr. Crate recommended going forward with the subdivision. Mrs. Stewart and Mr. Payne agreed.

Town Tour with Executive Councilors Ray Burton and Mike Cryans:

Executive Councilors Ray Burton and Mike Cryans met for a tour of Enfield. Using a Mascoma Lake Association boat they viewed the underside of the Shaker Bridge. The bridge is not in good shape, but from Ray Burton's perspective it may not be on his top 10 list of the worst bridges. Ray Burton is in charge of the committee putting together the 10-year transportation plan.

The Shaker Bridge is currently posted at 15 tons. Discussion ensued regarding the weight of loaded sand trucks and school buses. Police Chief Crate will do some investigation into the weight of school buses and will contact the school if he has any safety concerns.

The safety of fishing off the bridge was also a concern.

There has been some long-time residents that have suggested doing away with the bridge altogether.

In addition to discussion of the Shaker Bridge, there was discussion of a lot of wood that came down on the rail trail. They may get County jail crews down to remove a lot of that wood.

They also saw Shaker Hill Granite. The property is deceiving. Due to the lay of the land it's hard to see the full scope of the new facility. They will be an outstanding addition to the Town. They are expected to hire 3 or 4 more people. They spoke about getting sewer extended to that area. Shaker Hill Granite is also in the TIF District. Rob Malz, owner of Shaker Hill Granite, is a member of the TIF Committee.

They were also lucky to have the opportunity to lunch with Sharon Carr and former police chief Peter Giese.

They will try to get crosswalks in the village and at the beach and boat launch.

Police Chief Crate also hopes to hear about a 4-way stop at the corner of Main, High and Shaker Hill. A crosswalk and curb cuts from the municipal parking on Main Street and the Copeland Block are important for handicapped individuals.

Mr. Payne asked if anything had been heard regarding the supermarket. Mr. Crate heard that the project is still in the works.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Payne invited public comments; there were none forthcoming so the period for public comments was closed.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Lockehaven Drainage Project:

The Board received a letter from Governor Lynch documenting that the Town sent him a letter regarding this project.

Fiber Project ~ WCNH.net:

The Town has worked with 7 other communities on creating an 8-community fiber project. WCNH.net has been working with PacketFront to develop a program and plan. PacketFront's policy is to teach us to fish. They did find it could be hard for municipalities to do all the work. They are now able to do all those things they were asking the municipalities to do. Details of what PacketFront could do were provided to the Board.

WCNH.net has begun to flesh out finances. PacketFront is in a position to say they'll finance a certain portion, municipalities must finance a certain portion and other sources would provide the remainder of the financing.

PacketFront would have some hardware on the side, but would not run the fiber cable. Mr. Schneider explained how PacketFront took over Utopia in Utah, which gave them the opportunity to work out a lot of the same issues being faced by WCNH.net. PacketFront is now able to bring financiers and service providers together. They are also able to bring Internet Protocol Television with a Houston company that has 100's of channels, including 40 HD channels. This provides competition to Comcast.

PacketFront has set up an aggressive time frame to get this project done. They are asking \$30,000 from the 8 communities to set this up. Financing is identified, though not secured.

The Town can use its own attorney to reduce Enfield's costs even further.

Mr. Schneider explained that every home that wants fiber would be able to get it. Everyone that wants high speed Internet can have it. There may be a need to use a wireless bridge in some locations. The goal is to provide fiber to 95% of the Town with the remainder services by wireless if they want it. The cost is expected to be \$1,800 to \$3,000 to get the fiber from the road to the homes; the homeowner would pay this. To get the fiber up the road may be a group effort of homeowners or someone that wants to invest in the line. The initial cost of connecting a home to the fiber network would be offset by increased property values. Municipal offices would be wired at Town expense and would include Fire, Police, Ambulance and Public Works.

Whether running the fiber throughout Town is the homeowner's financial responsibility will depend on who would be willing to invest. PacketFront's goal is to make this a community investment. Homeowners can do the labor to lay the lines.

After installation the cost to the homeowner would pay for the services they elect to use. PacketFront anticipates a cost of \$100 a month for TV, Internet and phone. It's the TV companies that will negotiate for what channels are available. There may be the possibility of an a la carte selection.

Shaker Hill Road is a State road. Mr. Crate asked if that was a problem. Mr. Schneider replied that is why the municipalities need to be supportive of the project.

There was fiber run in the Rail Trail. Mr. Schneider does not know what it's being used for. There are places where fiber is run but not active that may be able to utilize it at a later date.

Residents don't have to connect to the community fiber network. If they do choose to connect they can use only some of the services; they don't need to get them all.

TDS is a big provider in New London. They want to get on this network, as it would expand their business opportunities. The network does not get any money until providers get customers and use bandwidth.

PacketFront will establish a governance model. The communities would not have to do their own maintenance. The co-op would have its own employees.

If PacketFront comes back with investors with \$30,000,000 they could start next May getting lines out so this time next year people could be getting service.

WCNH.net also spoke about how to bring in other municipalities and the cost of connecting municipal offices.

Some big CEO's in the area see the potential benefit and may be investors and connect to the fiber network. This could allow employees of these big corporations to allow employees to work from home, saving fuel and alleviating traffic.

Whitney Hall Repairs:

Three quotes were received for window replacements. One quote was from a Lebanon company, two from local contractors. Phil Neily, Building Inspector, has reviewed the proposals and has no concerns with any of them.

The conference room needs a sill replacement. Mr. Schneider would like a window installed in the conference room and put the air conditioner in the wall; the A/C can be tackled separately.

Mr. Payne suggested accepted the middle bid submitted by Lloyd Hackeman, Mrs. Stewart and Mr. Crate agreed.

After the window replacements there should still be funds remaining in the Whitney Hall Renovations Capital Reserve Fund. Mrs. Stewart suggested the Town might want to re-putty existing windows or add storms in the auditorium.

Foundation work was completed last year, a new furnace has just been installed, and work has been completed upstairs including painting, lighting, window & stage curtains.

During the furnace installation it was found that the Library was missing a second thermostat for the past 30 years. Ken Hill found this out when they were trying to find the heating zones. The zone at the rear of the Library now has a thermostat. Ken Hill and his crew did a great job.

Stump Dump:

No updates at this time.

Sale of Property:

Auctioneer information was provided for the Board to consider. One auctioneer would charge \$1,500 for the auction and \$600 for advertising, which comes to \$2,100 out of the total proceeds. The other auctioneer charges 7-1/2% to the bidders of the properties.

The Selectmen can consider whether to go with an auction process or sealed bid.

The Board approved the use of James R. St. Jean Auctioneers to auction available surplus property.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Administrative Items:

The Board reviewed and approved the following documents: Property Tax Refund, NH Assoc. of Assessing Officials Ballot for Election of Officers and Land Use Change Tax.

IX. OTHER ITEMS

Shaker Bridge Theatre:

The first show of the Shaker Bridge Theatre opens September 28th and will run Friday, Saturday and Sundays through October 14th. Sunday is a matinee performance. A dinner theatre package will be available. Information will be posted on the Town's website.

Huse Park:

Police Chief Crate spoke with the Town's prosecutor about asking people to leave Huse Park. He was advised the Police Department just needs a letter authorizing the Police to ask people to

leave the park. If they are damaging anything they can be charged. The Selectmen approved the request.

CONFERENCE

I. NON-PUBLIC SESSION

Mr. Payne moved to enter non-public session at 7:40 PM; Mrs. Stewart seconded, vote unanimous.

The Board came out of non-public session at 8:10 PM

II. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM