

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

**MINUTES of December 10, 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

**Others:** Kim Withrow; Heidi Carley; Paul Gove; Police Chief Richard Crate; Officer Luke Frye; Sergeant Scott Thompson; Officer Jeff Hunold; Officer Will French; Meredith Smith, Heritage Commission Chairman; Paul Mirski; Jennifer McDonald

**BUSINESS MEETING**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mrs. Stewart moved to accept the minutes of November 19, 2007 as written; Mr. Crate seconded, vote unanimous.

**III. COMMUNICATIONS**

**NH DES correspondence ~ Complaint File #2007-02706 Bog Road and George Hill:**  
The Board is unsure of the location of the property referred to in the correspondence.

**NH DES correspondence ~ Complete Forestry Notification**

**City of Lebanon Notice of Regional Impact ~ Mascoma Shore Limited Partnership:**  
This item is purely informational as the meeting is being held tonight.

**Village District of Eastman ~ Supplemental Information re: Large Ground Water Withdrawal Project-Source #5**

**Jennifer McDonald correspondence ~ Potential Health and Safety Code Violations:**

Ms. McDonald has met with Phil Neily, Building Inspector/Health Officer/Fire Inspector, at the residence. Mr. Neily also met with the property owner and provided a list of things that need to be corrected. Ms. McDonald asked for a copy of Mr. Neily's report.

Mr. Payne thanked Ms. McDonald from coming before the Board and sharing her concerns.

**US EPA correspondence ~ Energy Challenge**

This is the challenge the Town joined. This helps to benchmark energy use of Town buildings.

**MVRSD Notice of Deliberative Session ~ February 2, 2008 at Indian River School**

There will also be meetings for each school district community to discuss the proposed high school. The Board members each received an email from Tate Picard with pictures of the proposed building and more specific information. The cost is projected at \$39.5 million. The State will pay 55 % of that cost. The remaining \$17.7 million will be divided among the 5 SAU towns. Enfield will bear the largest portion of that amount. Mr. Picard's email included an estimated tax impact of \$1.52/\$1,000 valuation in Enfield for a 20 year note, so it will cost taxpayers \$1.52/\$1,000 for 20 years.

**Permit by Notification ~ Sandra Schulson Revoc. Trust, 80 Lake Street, Repair retaining wall damaged by August 16<sup>th</sup> storm****Permit by Notification ~ Lovely Roderick, 89 Route 4A, Replace existing retaining wall with new reinforced segmented wall****IV. BOARD REPORTS****Capital Improvement Program Committee:**

The FAST Squad made a presentation to the CIP Committee on a proposed new ambulance. The presentation was well done and it was the consensus of the Committee to support the proposal.

The Fire Department came before the Committee to propose a new rescue vehicle in 2008. The Committee asked for additional information and that will be forthcoming.

The next meeting of the CIP Committee is scheduled for December 11.

**Heritage Commission:**

The Commission is scheduled to meet next on Thursday, December 13.

**Budget Committee:**

The Budget Committee reviewed the requests of regional organizations. Regional organizations were a source of contention last year. By consensus those organizations that received contributions in the past will receive a 4% increase across the board. New organizations will be decided on a case-by-case basis. Eleven of the 13 regional organizations received a 4% increase.

Acorn received \$1,000 in 2007 and requested \$3,300 in 2008. Rather than grant just a 4% increase the Budget Committee approved \$2,000.

The Shaker Museum submitted a request for 2008 funding. The Budget Committee is not quite ready to honor that request.

Each of the organizations came before the Committee, had an appointment to speak and made a presentation. In the future the Budget Committee will likely provide an across the Board increase without providing the opportunity to make individual presentations. Increases will probably be based on the overall budget increase, consumer price index, or the like. Organizations will still be required to submit information about the services they have provided over the previous year, a written request for funding and justification for that request.

The Library came before the Committee and discussion took place on how warrant articles are worded. The articles will be worded to present the least amount of risk to the Town and taxpayers place the greatest burden on fundraising.

The Budget Committee is counting on the Selectmen to make a decision on the Heritage Commission funding request. Meredith Smith brought maps of the proposed historic district. Mr. Payne stated that the biggest issue is that we don't know what it is yet, but he is more comfortable with it.

**Zoning Board of Adjustment:**

Mr. Payne announced that he would be submitting his resignation from the ZBA to Tim Taylor tomorrow morning.

**V. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

There is no separate Town Manager's report.

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Dan Kiley ~ Proposed High School:**

The other number the school hasn't provided is the annual cost of the new building. They aren't getting rid of the old building so there are going to be added annual costs. There will be 80 people working in the new building. Every year the taxpayers will have to pay for the added staff and square footage. If they don't have this information available for the January informational meeting they had better have it by the February deliberative session.

Mrs. Stewart received Paul Mirski's response to their information. Her questions and concerns are much the same as Mr. Mirski's. The tax increase on the Town is devastating, especially when you add the cost of a new library, capital items needed for safety and operating costs.

Mr. Payne closed the meeting to public comments.

**VII. OLD BUSINESS**

**Main Street Parking:**

The Board received a packet of information from Mr. Barrow beginning with correspondence from August 29, 1999.

The arrows on signs on Main Street used to point out. The signs were reversed so the arrows point toward each other and now prohibit parking in front of the Laundromat. Rick Barrow and other merchants on Main Street are unhappy about this.

Mr. Crate believes the original plans indicated parking in that area. This will be investigated.

Mr. Schneider informed the Board that writing parking tickets in this location would not be a priority of the Police Department. He added that there is money included in the 2008 budget for completing parking at the end of Blacksmith Alley.

Perhaps the State could be convinced to rethink the change.

**CATV:**

The Selectmen received email from Attorney Ciandella. He agrees that Comcast is trying to pass on costs that the Town doesn't owe. The next step is for Mr. Schneider and Mr. Payne to meet with Lisa Birmingham of Comcast to discuss this.

**Grafton Country Correctional Facility:**

Mr. Schneider reported a push for a delegation bond vote in February.

Paul Mirski reported that at the meeting in Lincoln there was talk about a January vote. Few attended the Lincoln meeting due to weather.

Mr. Payne asked if it was Mr. Mirski's sense that the bond vote is going to pass. Mr. Mirski believes the delegation will vote for it. He feels the Selectmen should write a letter to encourage the marketing of cells for revenue since they expect to have 135 beds occupied per day when they open and the building is being constructed to accommodate 206 beds. Since they can also handle 206 inmates with the current staff they should rent the space.

Mr. Payne does not believe they want to tie their hands by using the renting of bed space as a marketing tool. He believes the information he's already received has made mention of the rental of surplus beds; if not he will talk to the Board about it.

Mr. Schneider is not as confident as Mr. Mirski that the bond vote will pass. He thinks it has a 50/50 chance.

**2008 Budget ~ Heritage Commission:**

Meredith Smith provided a packet of financial information to the Selectmen. The Board also received a map of the proposed historic district.

Mr. Schneider explained that they have a request for funding that has been included in the budget in the amount of about \$15,700.

Paul Mirski explained that the map is entitled Enfield Historic District. People may liken it to Canaan's historic district, which is restrictive on property owners. This is really a Historic *Resources* District. Personally he feels the boundary should be extended. Buildings in the District would qualify for significant federal tax benefits if restored. What this means to developers is that all the legwork would be done to qualify for a tax credit. This makes the

property more valuable for conversion. Increased values benefit all taxpayers with no cost to the community. It's a great incentive for anyone that wants to renovate. Mr. Mirski relayed examples of buildings that were renovated that added value to the community, including the Hewitt House and the Copeland Block. Creating a Historic District is a great way to reduce taxes, spruce up the community and make money.

There is no obligation of any kind on property owners. Any property owner can opt out. There are no secondary obligations. Owners can demolish a building if they want to. There is no down side.

The Heritage Commission asks that the Board of Selectmen recommend passage of the article to create the proposed Historic District.

Mrs. Smith reported that people have expressed interest in 78 Main Street and have asked if it has any historic designation. In just a few years the 78 Main Street building has increased in value dramatically. All of the Selectmen have a copy of a DOT survey of historic buildings in the district, in which the various buildings are described.

Paul Mirski would like the boundary extended beyond its current boundaries. Why not include Linda Jones' house, or Barbara Dessert's house? These buildings are located in the CB district.

It was noted that extending the boundaries of the proposed district would increase the cost of the research required. A good portion of the research has already been done for the currently proposed district. It is possible to expand the district at a later date to additional buildings in the Village area or Enfield Center.

Mrs. Stewart pointed out that, as far as opting out is concerned, the creation of a Historic District places no requirement on property owners so there is no reason to opt out. There is no benefit in doing so.

Mrs. Smith clarified that Canaan has a local Historic District, which is restrictive. The proposal for Enfield is a National Historic Register District, the least restrictive type.

Mrs. Stewart added that creating a Historic District creates a destination point.

Dan Kiley feels the majority of the Historic District Commission should be residents of the district, as is required for the Tax Increment Finance District. Mrs. Smith and the Board of Selectmen all agreed that this would be a good idea if a regulatory authority or management of the District were required, but as there are no restrictions or regulations involved it is currently unnecessary.

Mr. Crate feels the creation of a Historic District is a good idea as long as it doesn't infringe on anyone's rights as a homeowner.

### **2008 Budget – Revenues:**

The Board received a spreadsheet of revenue projections for 2008. Revenues drive how the budget is going to end up. There is approximately \$2 million in revenues requiring that the remainder be raised through taxes. The spreadsheet allows the Selectmen to project a tax rate

based on the expected increase in value of the grand list to determine the budget that can be supported. Revenues should determine the budget.

This year the Town portion of property taxes went up 1 cent and last year they went up 5 cents; a reasonable increase. This allows the Town to grow. Raising the tax rate by 1 cent/\$1,000 valuation is the equivalent of about \$4,200 in revenue.

**Energy Committee:**

There is no specific number of members required on this advisory Committee. There is no budget for the Committee. Any expenses, such as photocopies, would be absorbed by the Executive Department. The Committee has two tasks: 1) to identify ways to make the Town organization more energy efficient and 2) to identify ways for residents to do so as well.

The Selectmen received a list of interested candidates: Charles DePuy, Richard Lammert, Carol Lammert, Bill Martin and Doug Smith.

Mrs. Stewart moved to appoint Charles DePuy, Richard Lammert, Carol Lammert, Bill Martin and Doug Smith to the Energy Committee; Mr. Crate seconded, vote unanimous.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

**Swearing in of New Officer:**

The Police Department will finally be fully staffed. The latest full time officer to join the force is Officer Will French. Rebecca performed the swearing in ceremony. Officer French was congratulated and welcomed to the Town.

**Recreation Director:**

The Board received a draft job description for a Recreation Director. The main changes are in the Examples of Duties. The goal of the Director is to identify recreation opportunities in the Town. The Town does not need to provide all the programs, but can identify them.

Mr. Schneider met with the Recreation Commission. He thinks they are ready to expand their involvement. The Recreation Department can take some of the organic recreational opportunities in Town and act as a clearinghouse, not just for children's programs, but for adults as well.

Mrs. Stewart suggested on change to the job description where it refers to "events for children" to include adult programming.

Mr. Schneider has budgeted for a 25 hour/week year round position. This adds about \$25,000 to the budget. The position would not be eligible for benefits.

Mr. Crate thinks this is a good idea. He hopes the Town can find someone to work those hours without benefits.

**FAST Squad:**

Members of the FAST Squad came before the Board to discuss the impacts of billing for ambulance services. They were dismayed to find out only after the fact that there had been discussion of billing and that the Selectmen agreed to place it on the warrant for Town Meeting.

It was explained that Bob Cusick has been pursuing this for a couple of years and the Selectmen agreed to place it on the annual Town Meeting warrant to avoid having a petition submitted to have it included at the December 17 Special Town Meeting. The Selectmen felt it was important to have the question before the annual Town Meeting due to the low turnout expected at the Special Town Meeting. If the Selectmen had not agreed to place an article on the warrant Bob Cusick would have submitted a petitioned article. Bob Cusick encourages billing to take advantage of available revenue.

Kim Withrow explained that Fred Cummings investigated “soft” billing in the past, where if you don’t have insurance you don’t have to pay.

Ms. Withrow explained some of the drawbacks of billing. Currently, as a non-billing service, the Enfield FAST Squad is able to restock some consumable supplies at the hospital for free. They are also able to software upgrades at no cost. If they billed they would have to budget for a software maintenance contract. If they billed they would lose out on free services and also lose grants that they would otherwise be eligible for. They would also have to buy outside supplies. Canaan bills for services and are minimally stocked in two vehicles. Enfield, on the other hand, does not bill and has one ambulance that is probably better stocked than the two Canaan vehicles combined. There is a minimum stock required by the State. Enfield exceeds that minimum slightly.

There are also three members of the FAST Squad that have volunteered countless hours that are dead set against billing. They’ve said that if they can’t provide a free service they will seriously consider leaving the Squad. A large part of the Squad and a great deal of experience would be lost.

The FAST Squad does not see how billing will help them at this time and do not recommend it. They are now able to provide 7 free CPR classes for free (using donations). All supplies for these classes are provided by the hospital. If the Town billed for ambulance services the FAST Squad would have to start paying for supplies and charging for the classes.

Ms. Withrow stated that the Squad would also need someone to track calls, order supplies, keep track of sharps, etc. All things they don’t need to do now.

Ms. Withrow relayed a situation where an individual did not want treatment if it meant he was going to be charged. He accepted treatment when he was assured that he would not be billed for the service. A lot of people in Town also are self-employed and have insurance with a high deductible that they would have to pay.

The FAST Squad feels very strongly against billing.

The Selectmen informed the FAST Squad members present that agreeing to have the article on the warrant does not mean they are in support of billing. The Selectmen do feel strongly that if the question is going to go before the Town that it be discussed by the greatest number of voters possible. Mrs. Stewart believes that in all fairness, because it affects the entire community, it should be brought to the whole Town to discuss.

Mr. Crate does not support billing for ambulance services but it can be left to the Town to decide. When the first ambulance was donated it was with the stipulation that there be no charge for services. He does not think the question to bill for services will pass.

Mrs. Stewart apologized to the FAST Squad if they felt they were being by-passed in the process. That was not her intention. Any citizen can request an article on the warrant. She apologized for making them feel that way. They are a valuable part of the community.

A meeting with Bob Cusick and the Budget Committee to discuss the ramifications of billing was recommended to the FAST Squad. Mr. Schneider stated that if after such a meeting Bob Cusick doesn't want to pursue it the Selectmen don't need to have it on the warrant.

Mr. Crate stated that they can specify on the warrant that the Selectmen do not support the article.

This year Lebanon responded to approximately 150 calls and the Enfield FAST Squad responded to 226 calls. Dan Kiley, having experience in the field, believes the Town will have a problem finding someone to bill for just 220 calls.

**Taxation ~ Alternative Energy Exemption:**

Mr. Schneider stated that a wind turbine was put up on George Hill. That individual is asking for taxation to be exempt. The State allows the Town to abate taxes on alternative energy systems, including wind, solar and certain wood-burning systems. It is not clear if the Town has to put an article on the Town Meeting warrant to do this. The Board expressed unanimous support for an alternative energy exemption.

**Petitioned Warrant Article for 2008 Town Meeting:**

The Board received a petitioned warrant article that will be placed on the 2008 Town Meeting Warrant that reads, "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 purpose of the article is to prohibit a public official from holding a position, where they could have a vote on the spending of taxpayers' funds, without having paid their property taxes.

Mrs. Stewart stated that she hopes that everyone that signed the petition understand that sometimes people have difficult unforeseen circumstances that lead to a financial inability to pay.

Dan Kiley does not think the article is legal, but agreed to sign it to get it on the table.

**Memorial Bench:**

The Board received a request from Erin Wheeler and Jamie Wheeler, for permission to place a memorial bench on Town property. The preferred location would be opposite the Copeland Block in the grassy area by the river. Their uncle, Mark Ibey, died in a fire in the mill building that once stood on that site. Their mother was going to take care of this, but passed away suddenly last May.

Mrs. Stewart asked if it would be the Town's responsibility to maintain it. Mr. Payne believes so. Erin Wheeler lives in Enfield, so her brother Jamie would be the local contact. Their mother's estate would pay for the bench.

The Board did not voice any objections provided the bench is far enough back from the fence that it will not be used to climb the fence.

**Administrative Items:**

The Board reviewed and approved the following documents: Certificate of Posting Special Town Meeting Warrant, Property Tax Abatements, Veterans Tax Credit, 2007 Equalization Municipal Assessment Data Sheet Certification.

The Board discussed an abatement of property taxes for Mr. Boutin that lost his home to fire. There was an article in the Union Leader recently that discussed this issue. The Selectmen stated that they could grant a hardship abatement. An abatement of \$263.75 was presented for consideration and was based on a pro-ration of taxes based on the portion of the tax year remaining with no dwelling on the property.

Mr. Crate moved to abate \$63.75 to Mr. Boutin for hardship; Mrs. Stewart seconded, vote unanimous.

**IX. OTHER ITEMS**

There were no other items.

**CONFERENCE**

**I. NON-PUBLIC SESSION, RSA 91-A:3 II (a)**

This non-public session will be held at a later date.

**II. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Payne moved to adjourn at 8:07 PM; Mrs. Stewart seconded, vote unanimous.