
**2022 TOWN MEETING
April 30, 2022**

Moderator Lindsay Smith commenced the annual meeting at 9:30 am, pursuant to RSA 652:16-e.

Moderator Smith made the introductions of the head table: Erik Russell - Budget Committee Chair, John Kluge – Selectperson, Katherine D.P. Stewart – Selectperson, Ed Morris – Town Manager, Jim Raymond – Town Attorney, Alisa Bonnette – Assistant Town Manager, Emily Curtis – Recording Secretary, Wendy Huntley – Deputy Clerk, Tax Collector.

Moderator Smith reviewed the Moderator’s Rules as outlined in the 2022 Annual Report on page 47. She requested if members of the public approved of the Moderator’s Rules.

Mr. Kluge recognized individuals who have served the community by volunteering on boards, commissions, and committees, and who left service in 2021. He expressed the Selectboard’s gratitude to the individuals who gave so generously of their time and sharing their knowledge and experience to help each other and help the town. He stated that a list of names of volunteers leaving service in 2021 can be found on page 22 of the 2022 Annual Report.

Moderator Smith stated that Sandy Romano’s retirement in December of 2021 is not included in the list as she was a town employee and not a volunteer and acknowledged Sandy’s service to the town. She added that individuals who left the Town’s service in 2022 will be recognized at next year’s Town Meeting.

Moderator Smith presented the results of voting for Article 1.

Article 1. To choose by ballot all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year.

For One Year: One Budget Committee Member – Dan Kiley (336)

For Three Years: One Selectman – Erik Russell (359)
One Town Clerk – Wendy Huntley (404)
One Trustee of Trust Funds – Terri L. Crate (372)
One Cemetery Trustee – Brian Degnan (369)
One Library Trustee – Dolores C. Struckhoff (216)
Two Zoning Board of Adjustment Members – Mike Diehn, Madeleine Johnson
Three Budget Committee Members – Shirley A. Green, Tracy Young, Jane Plumley

For Six Years: One Supervisor of the Checklist – Shirley J. Ryea (214)

Moderator Smith presented the results of voting for Article 2.

Article 2: Zoning Amendment #1 relative to Appendix A – Land Use Definitions and amendment to sections 401.1 R1 District, 401.2 R2 District, and 401.3 R5 District.

PASSED: 339-Yes -- 90-No

2022 Town Meeting Minutes – Town of Enfield, New Hampshire

Moderator Smith presented the results of voting for Article 3.

Article 3: Zoning Amendment #2 relative to section 401.5 Commercial/Industrial (C/I) District

PASSED: 298-Yes -- 128-No

Moderator Smith read Article 4.

Article 4: Zoning Amendment #3 relative to deleting section 405.2 Village Plan Alternative.

PASSED: 222-Yes -- 200-No

Moderator Smith moved on to read Article 5.

Article 5: Zoning Amendment #4 relative to section 408, Signs

PASSED: 349-Yes -- 81-No

Moderator Smith read Article 6.

Article 6: Zoning Amendment #5 relative to Tax Map 34, Lot 60 & 61 District

PASSED: 307-Yes -- 105-No

Moderator Smith moved on to present Articles 7 through 18.

Moderator Smith stated that there are several non-resident members of the public who are staff members that will be allowed to speak to the articles.

Moderator Smith invited Town Manager, Ed Morris, to speak to the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

Mr. Morris stated that the CIP fund is doing well with a balance of \$500,768 and the plan is to continue the \$.05 contributions, which will add another \$26,200 for 2023, and maintain the balance at a healthy level. He stated that there are outstanding expenditures from 2021 in addition to the proposed 2022 projects and the total estimated year end expenditures for 2022 total \$328,862. He added that there are articles which were on the CIP list but are being proposed to come out of the Undesignated Fund instead. He reviewed the current debt, CIP debt, and the estimated future CIP debt payments.

Moderator Smith moved on to read Article 7.

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$5,802,150** for the expansion and renovation of Whitney Hall, Town Offices and Library, to authorize the issuance of not more than \$5,558,086 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the municipal officials to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon, and to authorize the withdrawal of \$244,064 from the Library Building Capital Reserve Fund to be used to reduce the amount of borrowing.

Special Warrant Article

3/5 Majority Paper Ballot Vote Required

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

The Budget Committee recommends this article by a vote of 6-3.

2022 Town Meeting Minutes – Town of Enfield, New Hampshire

Ms. Stewart made a motion to accept Article 7 for discussion.

Mr. Kluge seconded.

Moderator Smith invited Mr. Morris to present information regarding the municipal facilities relative to Articles 7 & 8.

Mr. Morris stated that the Municipal Facilities Advisory Committee (MFAC) did extensive research, which was followed by the COVID pandemic which put the project on hold. He stated that there have been over 50 public meetings to discuss the project, with additional video tours and open houses to make the facilities available for residents to see themselves. He stated that we are contending with higher construction costs, but that problem doesn't go away by waiting. He stated that the current loan interest rates are at the lowest they will be and added that if the current 30 year note at 3% interest rate increases to a 30 year note at 4% interest, it will add \$1.2million to the cost.

Mr. Morris stated that the history of Whitney Hall is important. It was originally built in 1901 and was funded by donations from the town for the purpose of housing the library and the selectmen's office. George Whitney made a sizable donation to make the top floor, and it remains to be a symbol of our town. In 1993 there was a renovation to add the elevator and increase ADA accessibility. He noted that there has been a lot of attention to the proposed addition to the building, but the core of the proposed project is renovating the entire building. He stated that the exterior of the building is in such disrepair that lights have fallen out of the rotted siding. He stated a goal in the project is to make the building net zero ready, as the rehabilitation of the building is the primary focus to make it more efficient and lower the overall operating costs. He noted that Whitney Hall uses over 300 gallons of oil every three days, and it has run out of oil when the delivery didn't come before the fourth day.

Mr. Morris stated that there are grants and funding coming out from the federal government, and we must have voter approval for the project before we can apply. He noted that, with the approval received by voters at last year's town meeting, Jim Taylor was able to find and secure grants that allowed us to reduce the costs for the water and sewer projects by 50%, saving the town over \$1.9million. He thanked Jim Taylor and the staff at DPW for getting those grants in place.

Francine Lozeau stated that she has been a resident of Enfield for 50 years and she is a Library Trustee. She is a retired teacher and believes in the value of lifelong learning. Libraries are especially critical for children to develop early literacy skills and develop strong foundations. She has been a trustee for 18 years and she has worked with various building committees and town managers and our Library needs more space to better serve our community. She added that the current state of Whitney Hall is a reflection of Enfield and impacts how others perceive the town. She stated that it is a historical landmark and in its current state, Whitney Hall does not represent our town values and what we aspire to. She urged voters to support the article.

Shirley Green, Trustee of Enfield Public Library, stated that she reviewed comments from the discussion to renovate Whitney Hall in 2006 and found a quote of her saying "It will cost more the longer we put it off." She stated that, here we are 16 years later and it's still the same message. She stated that there are many opportunities to find more donations if the article is supported by voters. She added that the proposed plan addresses the needs of the town offices and adds to the preservation of historic structures in the town and urged voters to support the article.

Moderator Smith reminded members of the public all comments must be directed to the moderator and comments will be made all at once. She stated that if the Selectboard wishes to answer a question they may but are not required to do so.

2022 Town Meeting Minutes – Town of Enfield, New Hampshire

Dave Beaufait stated that the problems with Whitney Hall are not minor problems, and they need to be dealt with, but expressed concern for the cost of the proposed project. He stated that he has concerns for adding the costs when we are already initiating a three-phase water and sewer project which costs millions of dollars as well.

Jean Patten stated that the project has been on the table for an extremely long time, and she acknowledges that there are many deficiencies that need to be addressed, but she inquired as to what the plan is for the office staff and operations while the renovation and construction is going on.

Kate Stewart stated that the stages were studied by the architect, and they created a layout of how it could be done which is outlined in the documents presented by BreadLoaf and are available on the town website.

Maynard Southard served on the Municipal Facilities Advisory Committee and their role was to find solutions based on the needs of the town, not the cost. It is always difficult to identify what you need for the future. He stated this is not the first time the town has looked at the needs of the facilities. He noted that residents could look to structures which support the needs and the future of Enfield, such as the bridge over the Mascoma River dedicated to Carl Patten, which have had a significant impact on the town's future and shaping Enfield as a stronger and better place.

Tim Lenihan stated that last year there was a grant that was applied for, and the town was turned down because the proposed project was not a new construction and therefore not eligible. He stated that he believes our town employees deserve a better environment to work in and we need to fix what we have and not build something new. He added that the town is going to face a new solid waste contract soon and that's going to cost money and needs to be kept in consideration.

Kurt Gotthardt stated that the town needs to spend the money and fix Whitney Hall as it is rotten from the inside out. There are areas where water comes through the roof and through the walls. It only makes sense to fix the space. It is always put off until later, and it never would be a good year and it never gets less expensive and now is the time.

Wendy Piper stated that recommendations by the BOS and the Budget Committee are listed on page 33 of the 2022 Annual Report. She stated that the votes cast are concerning the process to bring information forward to the voters and not necessarily direct support of the proposal.

Mr. Kluge stated that may be true and expressed that his vote was a vote in favor of the project.

Ms. Stewart stated items can be voted for procedural purposes or to support the project on behalf of the town. She stated that her vote was in support of the project as well.

Rebecca Stewart stated that in 2006 she was the chair of the selectboard when the project came before the town for voting to repair Whitney Hall. She stated she has been a member of the community for fifty years, and she has swept dead pigeons up from the floors and has been there when water has come into the library. She stated that the proposal in 2006 addressed many of the repairs needed and the cost was significantly less than what is presented in today's warrant article.

Peter Magoon stated that he uses the library and encouraged residents to think about our legacy and building Enfield to be stronger and consider what our future generations will be able to use. He stated his support for Article 7 urged others to do the same.

2022 Town Meeting Minutes – Town of Enfield, New Hampshire

Keith Nicholson stated that he didn't know why we don't have a maintenance program and expressed that he believes it is not the time to take on the project. He stated that the grant money that is being said is available is from taxpayer money as well and there is no such thing as free money.

David Stewart stated that we already have a plan for the library to build their own building and that should be followed through so the town can use all of Whitney Hall. He stated that the building was let go and not maintained and he added that he believes it is becoming unaffordable to live here.

Steve Stancek stated that Whitney Hall needs attention, and we are in a place where interest rates are not going to go down and construction costs are not going to go down. He stated that if we don't do something it will continue to escalate, as we saw happen with the high school. He stated that if we don't apply for the grants available then the money will just go somewhere else. He stated we need a new and improved Whitney Hall and asked voters to support the article.

Mr. Stancek moved the question.

Dwight Marchetti stated that he has been a resident for 77 years and he has served on the budget committee for ten years. He stated the building is in sad shape and as a lifelong resident it is sad to see it get to this point. He stated his support for the project and added that only doing one or another part of the proposed project to try to save money will not fix the building.

No further discussion was had.

Moderator Smith announced the opening of voting for Article 7 at 10:43 am and suspended Article 7 for one hour. It was announced that the green ballots marked Article 7 were to be used and placed in the ballot box marked with a sample copy of the ballot.

Moderator Smith announced the results of the Article 7 paper ballot vote at 12:07 pm:
196 in favor. 85 opposed. Article 7 passed.

Moderator Smith moved on to read Article 8.

Article 8: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$7,259,066** (gross budget) for the construction of a public safety facility, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$7,259,066 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the municipal officials to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon.

Special Warrant Article

3/5 Majority Paper Ballot Vote Required

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

The Budget Committee recommends this article by a vote of 5-4.

Mr. Kluge made a motion to accept Article 8 for discussion.

Ms. Stewart seconded.

Mr. Morris stated that the article addresses many safety issues which have been identified in the public safety buildings. He noted that there are walk through videos and open houses were held to give the public the opportunity to see the deficiencies and the unsafe conditions in our emergency services departments, which include a higher cancer risk due to exposure to diesel exhaust. He stated that there is a layer of black soot on surfaces throughout the ambulance and fire buildings which is a concern for both the volunteers as well as the community members they serve.

2022 Town Meeting Minutes – Town of Enfield, New Hampshire

Mr. Morris stated that there have been many conversations surrounding the location of the public safety facility. He stated that the school land is not a reliable option and would require extensive site work, however, another proposal has come forward to purchase land in front of Shaker Hill Granite. He stated that the land in front of Shaker Hill Granite will cost less and require less site work than the previously discussed school property, and it has better accessibility from the Route 4 corridor. He noted that there are many grants and other funding available, but the town must have voter approval for the project prior to applying. He stated that a 30-year bond with a rate of 3% would cost \$62 per year per \$100,000 valuation.

Dave Beaufait stated that the facilities committee provided pertinent recommendations and needs for improvements and the town needs to vote carefully regarding adding the cost of two bonds totaling \$12.9 million.

Jean Patten stated that she is concerned, and she doesn't agree with the need for a public safety complex. She inquired how much land the town is looking to purchase from Shaker Hill Granite.

Mr. Morris stated that the Shed Street land is about 2.5 acres.

Ms. Patten stated that she had resources that indicated the property was valued at around \$200,000 and inquired as to why the estimated costs to purchase the land are for \$500,000.

Mr. Morris stated that the cost presented is relevant to the market value and not the assessed rate.

Ms. Patten inquired how much land the town owns on Shed Street.

Mr. Morris stated that the Shed Street is approximately 3 acres and was determined by MFAC to not be appropriate site for the needs of a public safety facility.

Kurt Gotthardt stated that we are wasting taxpayer money to continue to try to make the Union Street fire house building or the Depot Street ambulance building to serve our emergency service departments. The ambulance and fire buildings were never built to be for emergency services and have been adapted for use and prove to be too small and inadequate for our needs.

Tim Lenihan agrees that the ambulance building needs to be replaced but noted that crime is declining, and he doesn't see why the police need a facility. He stated the Town of Bristol just approved a new building with more staff for \$4.9 million. He stated he does not support something that costs this much money but might support something that addresses the ambulance facility.

Mr. Morris stated that he spoke with the construction company that built the Farmington and Bristol facilities as Bristol is using the exact plans of the Farmington facility. He stated that in his conversation with the construction company that they were concerned that the budget may be too low for what has been proposed. He stated that some cost differences could also be attributed to the fact that there are items that are not included in Bristol's current building plan that have been identified as something that they will add later.

Chief Holland stated that it is important for people to know that he has found over \$2million in grants that there are available to apply for if the article passes. He stated that he remembered the issues when the school was trying to pass the building expansion and by the time that proposal passed, all of the grants were no longer available. He stated he wanted to assure the public that he and Mr. Morris were looking for all opportunities to assist with grants and funding, but that acquiring funding would require the support of the voters.

2022 Town Meeting Minutes – Town of Enfield, New Hampshire

Gary Hutchins stated that the proposed public safety facility, as well as any future buildings in the town, should be net zero. He stated that the ambulance and fire station are a disaster, but he does not support the current design proposal for the public safety facility. He stated the last thing Enfield needs to do is build a new building at the most basic level. He noted that building a net zero building should be the goal from the beginning, not to build something to be net zero ready.

Doug Smith stated that he spent 40 years as a member of the fire department, and he also served as a 911 dispatcher in Hartford. He stated that, as a voice of experience, things were built with architectural interests that did not serve the purpose of the buildings. He added that he is retired and now lives on social security and cannot afford the taxes to keep going up.

Susan Brown inquired as to what the town will do about the food pantry. She stated that the food pantry has been essential, and she wants to be sure there is a place for it in the plan.

Sandra Hathaway stated that she has concerns for extenuating traffic issues around Route 4 as well as for the ability for emergency services to reach people that live on the other side of the lake. She added that maintenance is a major ongoing issue, and we need to make sure we hold accountable maintenance to make sure these buildings last longer.

Sue Young stated she took advantage of the open houses, and she was appalled at the conditions of our public safety facilities. She stated she is going to vote to support the proposed project. She noted that there is a proposal to sell Shedd Street, and there is potential for the fire station property to be sold once a facility is built. She inquired if the funds from property sales could be dedicated to go toward the cost of the new buildings.

Mr. Morris state that options are being reviewed regarding the potential sale of the Shed Street building. He noted that there have been recent zoning changes that may help with tax revenue and the money from the sale will help offset taxes even if it is not directly applied to the building costs. He stated that the immediate concern is that interest rates are rising and a rate increase from 3% to 4% could add another \$1.5million to the cost of the proposed public safety facility. He added that the town is looking at solutions to host the food pantry to help citizens in need.

Holly West stated that there has been an increase in community policing which is having a positive impact on the lives of residents of all ages. She stated that officers are out in the community and engaging with residents which is a notable example of how our department serves our town and is helping lower the crime rate in a positive way. She stated that we should also take into consideration the potential cost of a lawsuit the town could face based on negligence associated with the facilities or the equipment. She stated that a lawsuit of that level could cost well over \$1million, whereas we have the control to invest that now to have safer work environments for our emergency services.

Charles Clark inquired how long it would be before the costs go up because our facilities cannot meet the demand of the town.

Chief Martin of the Enfield FAST Squad, a Captain in the Fire Department, stated that we are lucky we have a terrific community that supports its emergency service departments. He acknowledged it is a lot of money, but we have put money into the current buildings over the years and they are still not meeting necessary standards. He stated the departments have made it work for a long time, but improvements are necessary to provide the best service to the residents.

Kimberly Withrow stated that she has been in emergency services since she was in high school. She acknowledged that she does not like to see taxes go up, but after working in all the facilities she has direct experience and insight. She stated that she is in favor of the public facility and expressed that it is

2022 Town Meeting Minutes – Town of Enfield, New Hampshire

concerning when the ambulance rolls out knowing that there could be contaminated items that are needed to treat people with. She stated that the items cannot be fully sterile because there is not a sterile facility. She added that anyone looking to give back and serve their community should look into joining the fire department or the ambulance department as volunteers are needed.

Rebecca Stewart stated that she is concerned about the lack of centralization of services. She stated that Enfield is a big geographic town and if we would like to spend this money, we should institute a plan for dispersed police and fire facilities to reduce response times.

Harrison Trumbull stated that the town expects a lot of its emergency services and the least that can be done is to make sure our emergency personnel are taken care of. He added that data has shown that the average response time for the police is 3 minutes. He added that a location on Route 4 makes more sense as it is accessible.

Kate Stewart stated that maintenance has been an issue that she has identified as well and in the proposed budget there is a maintenance position, which will help us organize and prioritize building maintenance needs. She noted that MFAC worked with emergency services to review calls for service, and it was noted during the presentation that most of the call volume is centralized on Route 4. She added that the Enfield Center Fire Station will remain open and functional and no part of the proposal changes that. She added that we are lucky to have good regional relationships that allow us to utilize space or access trainings in other towns to ensure our personnel receive their necessary training. She stated that there is a need for meeting rooms and appropriate training spaces as we are not currently able to provide training because we cannot meet the minimum standards necessary to do so, for reasons including having no separation of the diesel fumes from emergency vehicles from the training areas.

Rob Malz stated he went on a tour of the facilities, and he was appalled at the state of the ambulance and fire facilities and stated his support for the article.

Dave Stewart stated he agrees that the fire and ambulance buildings are problems, but he believes we should wait for a better plan.

Taylor Chase stated his thanks to those that volunteer their services in our community. He stated that trainings could be done in the Community Building as there is ample space there and that is what it was built for. He inquired if there was consideration given to locate a public safety facility where the DPW was built on Lockhaven Road.

Ms. Stewart stated that all current town owned properties were assessed in the process of finding a location for the public safety facility. She stated that for the DPW they used the topographic maps and found that the lot would require significant fill and sitework and was not a viable option. She stated that many locations were assessed throughout town, and not just ones currently owned by the town.

Erik Russell stated that the DPW land was discussed and that between the site work as well as the conflict of having four departments utilizing one entrance to the property would be difficult.

Tracy Young stated that the design for the emergency services building is conceptual and is not necessarily the design that will be built. He stated that civil engineers and energy efficiency will be built into the final plan. He stated that there will be plenty of time to redesign the building to be as efficient and architecturally desirable as possible.

Jeff Waldron stated that he is a survivor of being a first responder from 9-11 and is currently fighting cancer due to that. He stated that he agrees that there is consideration for cost, but there is a need to provide the appropriate environment for first responders and ensuring their safety.

2022 Town Meeting Minutes – Town of Enfield, New Hampshire

Linda Meltzer expressed that MFAC did a fabulous job, and she supports their assessment.

Dr. Beaufait made a motion to table Article 8 until the results of Article 7 are announced. Angus Durocher seconded.

Moderator Smith requested a voice vote regarding the motion on the table.

Moderator Smith announced the motion as failed by voice vote.

Kate Stewart called the question.

Moderator Smith opened the vote by paper ballot at 11:49 am and suspended Article 8 for one hour. It was announced that the white ballots marked Article 8 were to be used and placed in the ballot box marked with a sample copy of the ballot.

Moderator Smith announced the results of the Article 8 at 1:47pm:
162 in favor. 108 opposed. Article 8 Passed.

Moderator Smith announced the end of secret ballot voting, pending any petition for secret ballot votes at 12:50pm. She stated that votes going forward would be made by raising a voting card or verbal confirmation.

Moderator Smith read Article 9.

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$130,000** to replace the Oak Hill Road Bridge. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the Oak Hill Road Bridge replacement is completed or by December 31, 2025, whichever is sooner. This appropriation will come from the unassigned fund balance. The remainder of the cost of this project, total estimated at \$280,000, will come from the July 11, 2020, Town Meeting (Article 9) authorization to borrow \$150,000 for this project.

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.

Ms. Stewart made a motion to accept Article 9 for discussion.

Mr. Kluge seconded.

Jim Taylor stated that Article 9 is an extension of an article which was approved at the 2021 Town Meeting. He stated that between the time we go the estimates for the bridge in 2020 and the summer before the budget could be approved the estimate was higher than the amount that could be appropriated. He added that the DPW will complete as much of the work as they are able to reduce the total amount necessary to complete the project.

Moderator Smith requested public comment. With no comment she moved on to the vote.

Moderator Smith called for a voice vote on Article 9.

Moderator Smith announced Article 9 as passed by majority in favor at 12:11pm.

Moderator Smith moved on to read Article 10.

2022 Town Meeting Minutes – Town of Enfield, New Hampshire

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$120,000** to purchase a Public Works roadside mowing unit. This appropriation will come from the undesignated fund balance.

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.

Mr. Kluge made a motion to accept Article 10 for discussion.

Ms. Stewart seconded.

Jim Taylor stated the reason for this purchase is that we have been leasing mowers and tractors for use for the last 25 years, but the company has gone out of business. He stated that mowers are scarce to lease, and it will be beneficial to own the mower.

Moderator Smith requested any further comments or questions related to Article 10. With no further comments or questions, Moderator Smith moved on to the vote.

Moderator Smith called for a voice vote on Article 10.

Moderator Smith announced Article 10 as passed by majority in favor at 12:13pm.

Moderator Smith moved on to read Article 11.

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee recommended sum of **\$7,567,247** for general municipal operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately.

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.

Ms. Stewart made a motion to accept Article 11 for discussion.

Mr. Kluge seconded.

Moderator Smith invited Erik Russell, Chair of the Budget Committee, to speak to Article 11.

Erik Russell stated that the proposed budget included adjustments to bring jobs up to the market rates. He stated that there were three staffing changes including a new position within the DPW, and the Assistant Town Clerk along with Recreation Director were moved to full time positions. He noted that there was significant discussion on how the changes met the town needs. He stated the overall summary of the budget is up 4.37%, which is below the overall year's inflation rate. He stated that the committee was conservative and considerate of the increases. He noted that last year the town had a larger surplus than was expected and 60% of the surplus is related to unfilled positions. He stated that the good news is that the undesignated fund balance has reached its target goal, which will provide the flexibility to meet future needs.

Jean Patten submitted a written petition to request a paper ballot vote Article 11.

Moderator Smith reviewed the documentation and approved Article 11 as a paper ballot vote.

Tim Lenihan stated that he did not support the Budget Committee making personnel decisions, including making new positions. He stated that each person added is an increase in costs for salary and benefits, and every year we are adding retirement benefits.

2022 Town Meeting Minutes – Town of Enfield, New Hampshire

Mr. Kluge responded that it is the BOS in connection with the Town Manager who made and/or changed the positions.

Rachel Bibeault requested to clarify if the new DPW position was only one person to manage all of the facilities.

Mr. Morris responded that the new position is for one person who will work with the rest of the department to manage and maintain the facilities.

Robert West stated that he was a member of MFAC, and they determined that Enfield needs not only the buildings to support Enfield infrastructure, but also personnel to assist in maintaining them. He stated that MFAC was aware that, in order to support the building proposals, a position would need to be added in an effort to focus on the maintenance needs of town properties.

Ms. Stewart moved the question.

Moderator Smith requested any further questions or comments. With no further comments Moderator Smith opened the vote by paper ballot for Article 11 at 12:29 pm. The moderator announced the goldenrod ballot to be used for this vote and that votes were to be placed in the ballot box marked with a sample copy of the ballot.

Moderator Smith announced the results of Article 11 at 12:40pm:
140 in favor. 54 opposed. Article 11 passed.

Ms. Stewart made a motion to restrict reconsideration on Article 7, 9, and 10. Mr. Kluge seconded.
Moderator Smith asked for verbal confirmation regarding Article 11.
Moderation Smith announced the motion passed.

Moderator Smith moved on to read Article 12.

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$500,768** to be placed in the Capital Improvement Program 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 8-1.

Mr. Kluge made a motion to approve Article 12 for discussion.
Ms. Stewart seconded.

Ed McLaughlin stated that he is a member of the CIP Committee and stated his recommendation to continue to support the functions of the CIP by placing funds in the Capital Reserve Fund.

Moderator Smith asked if there were any further questions or comments regarding Article 12. With no further comments Moderator Smith moved on to voting for Article 12 at 12:42 am.

Moderator Smith requested a voice vote on Article 12.
Moderator Smith announced Article 12 passed by majority vote at 12:44pm.

Moderator Smith moved on to read Article 13.

2022 Town Meeting Minutes – Town of Enfield, New Hampshire

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$30,000** to be placed in the Employee and Retiree Benefits Expendable Trust Fund. This appropriation will come from unassigned general fund balance.

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.

Ms. Stewart made a motion to accept Article 13 for discussion.

Mr. Kluge seconded.

Moderator Smith invited Ed Morris to speak to Article 13.

Mr. Morris stated that the 2021 year-end balance of Retiree Benefits Expendable Trust Fund is approximately \$49,000 and anticipated expenses for 2022 are around \$12,000. He stated that the circumstances for retirement cannot always be foreseen and by setting the funds aside in advance we can avoid having an unanticipated negative impact on the budget.

With no comments or questions, Moderator Smith moved forward to voting at 12:44pm.

Moderator Smith requested a voice vote for Article 13.

Moderator Smith announced Article 13 as passed by majority vote at 12:44pm.

Moderator Smith moved on to read Article 14.

Article 14: If Article 7 does not pass, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$150,000** for emergency repairs to Whitney Hall, such as replacement of rotting siding, windows, and roof repairs. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the Whitney Hall repairs are completed or by December 31, 2025, whichever is sooner.

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.

Mr. Kluge made a motion to withdraw Article 14. Ms. Stewart seconded.

Moderator Smith requested a voice vote regarding the motion to withdraw Article 14.

Moderator Smith announced the motion carries and Article 14 as withdrawn at 12:46pm.

Moderator Smith moved on to read Article 15.

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the Enfield Community Power Plan, which authorizes the Select Board to develop and implement Enfield Community Power as described therein (pursuant to RSA 53-E:7).

Ms. Stewart made a motion to accept Article 15 for discussion.

Mr. Kluge seconded.

Moderator Smith invited Kim Quirk or Jo-Ellen Courtney of the Enfield Energy Committee to speak to the article.

2022 Town Meeting Minutes – Town of Enfield, New Hampshire

Kim Quirk presented on behalf of the Energy Committee. She stated that adopting the Enfield Community Power Plan will give the town the option of where they get their energy. She stated that the default energy source is chosen by the utility companies and the proposed plan makes it so that the town of Enfield can choose for ourselves. She stated that the cost of the energy sources will be the same or less expensive than would otherwise be provided and opens the opportunity to offering energy tiers. She stated that supporting the energy plan can also create opportunities to institute programs for Enfield residents to assist with energy efficiency and weatherization. She noted that the plan does not take away any individual rights of residents, and it does not affect any taxes or revenues within the town. She stated that supporting this article gives the selectboard the ability to review and decide whether to enter into energy agreements.

Susan Brown inquired how it affects her solar, which she pays a service charge for.

Ms. Quirk stated that we want to encourage solar energy and this plan will ensure support for those currently participating.

Moderator Smith announced requested comments or questions regarding Article 15. With no further discussion she moved on to voting.

Moderator Smith requested a voice vote for Article 15.

Moderator Smith announced Article 15 as passed by majority vote at 12:53pm.

Moderator Smith moved on to read Article 16.

Article 16: *(By Petition)* Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 40:13 (known as SB 2) to allow official ballot voting on all issues before the Town of Enfield on the second Tuesday of March?

3/5 Majority Paper Ballot Vote Required

Mr. Kluge made a motion to accept Article 16 for discussion.

Ms. Stewart seconded.

Moderator Smith invited Debra Ford to speak to Article 16.

Debra Ford stated that she helped the petitioner with the warrant article. She stated it came about from a discussion held on Listserv regarding concern for people who cannot be present to vote on the big money articles. She noted that information is available to the public through public meetings, meeting minutes, and the annual town reports. She stated that there is a wealth of information available for voters to educate themselves and the town has done an exceptional job of using social media to reach residents. She noted that everyone should have the opportunity to vote. She stated that the members of the Selectboard and Budget Committee are elected by residents, and we should put more trust in the people who represent our town. She stated that, in this day in age, we need to make sure that all residents to have the opportunity to vote on all of the articles that affect her taxes.

Mr. Kluge, speaking for himself and not for the BOS, stated he would like to remind the voters of Enfield that about 20 years ago the town went to SB2 and it lasted for five years before we went back. He stated that it was thought people were not attending deliberative session and people were not aware of all of the details of what they were voting for. He stated that today, we have grappled with challenging issues and those that voted did so with full knowledge. He stated he was strongly opposed to the article.

Tim Lenihan stated he is in favor of keeping things the way they are.

2022 Town Meeting Minutes – Town of Enfield, New Hampshire

Tim Jennings stated he is a strong supporter of traditional town meeting. He stated that Town Meeting is a tradition that we don't want to lose without serious thought. He stated that residents deserve to be given a vote that is as informed as possible, and the best way to do that is to attend Town Meeting.

Jo-Ellen Courtney inquired if absentee ballots are available within the SB2 provisions.

Moderator Smith answered that absentee ballots are available for ballot voting, but not for the business session.

Ms. Courtney stated her opposition to the article and added that participation and remaining with the Town Meeting structure is imperative.

Dave Beaufait stated that he is opposed to the article. He stated that there is concern for a decrease in voters, and having fewer voters has the possibility to diminish or reverse the intent of articles put forward by petitioners or by leadership.

Becky Powell inquired if we have a default budget could someone come to the deliberative session to amend an article. She stated that in March when we had ballot voting we had 14% of our registered voters came out to vote, and it makes it hard to believe that if all day ballot voting is available that it would increase participation.

Mr. Morris answered that, in SB2, an amended article from the deliberative session of the would be brought forward for voting. He added that there is a default budget should the proposed budget fail to pass.

Rebecca Stewart stated her agreement with previous speakers that the town should remain with the current Town Meeting structure as it is the last vestige of what this country is founded on.

Wendy Piper stated her agreement with other speakers about the traditional roots of Town Meeting and expressed the concern for the possibility that important decisions could be in the hands of a smaller group of people if the town changed to SB2.

Kurt Gotthardt the Enfield population is small enough to have a functional and traditional Town Meeting format and he expressed his opposition to the article.

Susan Brown stated that SB2 is the worst idea that has ever come out of the New Hampshire legislature. She noted that Thomas Jefferson said that 'Town Meeting is the wisest invention ever devised by the wit of man for the perfect exercise of self-government' and stated her support to remain with the current Town Meeting structure.

Holly West stated that SB2 still involves a deliberative session for discussion about the articles, much like Town Meeting. She stated that everyone is welcome to be involved in the public meetings that are posted and there are ongoing meetings where information relevant to the articles is presented and discussed. She stated that people should attend the public meetings and see how hard the boards and committees of our town advocate for residents of all backgrounds.

Holly West called the question.

Peter Magoon stated his agreement with Ms. West and added that some people aren't able to come to Town Meeting due to work, issues with childcare, or other necessary commitments, and we don't have the right to dictate how people get their information.

2022 Town Meeting Minutes – Town of Enfield, New Hampshire

David Stewart state he supported staying with Town Meeting. He stated that, regardless of the format being used, we can't change the minds of people that choose not to show up for making town decisions.

Madeline Johnston stated she has seen her own thoughts, opinions, and her confidence in her voting decisions change when attending Town Meeting. She stated that we have been doing Town Meetings for 250 years, but that doesn't mean that we can't make improvements such as providing childcare, food, and transportation. She stated we have talked a great deal about maintenance and the cost of maintaining things and one might say that Town Meeting is the maintenance of our town government.

Erik Russell stated that he reviewed the Town Meeting votes cast on Tuesday and the votes cast on Saturday back to 2022, and this is only the third time we have had 200 voters attend on a Saturday in the last 20 years. He added that today there is a record number of voters, but typically 70-75% of the people who are voting on Tuesday do not come on Saturday. He stated that it is with a heavy heart that he supports SB2, and while Town Meeting is important, ensuring people are voting is also extremely important for the town.

Kate Stewart stated that Town Meeting is a full day commitment and inquired if it is acceptable to put up barriers that make it difficult to participate in the voting process. She stated she is using her computer to send text messages to communicate with other working parents to keep them informed on what articles are being discussed and give them the opportunity to come and vote when they are able. She stated her agreement with Mr. Russell in supporting SB2.

David Beaufait stated that from 30 years ago his daughter was sitting on his lap at Town Meeting and stated that, regardless of whether it passes or fails, the turnout is critical to our functioning as our own self-governance as a small town.

Mike Diehn stated that he was opposed to SB2, but after having listened to several people his perspective has changed, and he stated his support for the article to make voting more accessible.

Moderator Smith announced the ballot open for Article 16 at 1:39pm and suspended Article 16 for one hour. The moderator announced the bright green ballot to be used for this vote and that votes were to be placed in the tall ballot box marked with a sample copy of the ballot.

Ms. Stewart made a motion to restrict reconsideration on Articles 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15. Mr. Kluge seconded. Moderator Smith requested a voice vote.
Moderator Smith announced the vote as passed in favor of the motion.

Moderator Smith announced that voting for Article 16 ended at 2:39pm.

Moderator Smith announced the results for Article 16 at 2:40 pm:
96 in favor. 81 opposed. Article 16 failed to reach the 3/5 majority vote required. Article 16 failed.

Article 17: *(By Petition)* Are you in favor of increasing the board to selectmen to 5 members?

Majority Paper Ballot Vote Required

Ms. Stewart made a motion to accept Article 17 for discussion.
Mr. Kluge seconded.

Moderator Smith invited the lead petitioner, Tracy Young, to speak to Article 17.

2022 Town Meeting Minutes – Town of Enfield, New Hampshire

Mr. Young stated that members of the Enfield Selectboard work hard and diligently to manage town affairs and respond to the needs of the citizens of Enfield. He noted that Selectboard members currently serve on multiple subcommittees and respond to resident inquiries and adding additional members to the board will allow more members to share the time commitments and will bring more diverse perspectives to the discussion of our community. He stated that having a larger selectboard will allow more citizens to be involved and would be beneficial town wide. He stated that other towns of comparable size have a five-member selectboard and requested residents to support the article.

Moderator Smith stated, for clarification, should Article 17 pass, the increase to five members would take effect at the 2023 Town Meeting, at which time two members will be elected, one for a three-year term, one for a one-year term.

Susan Brown stated that if there are only three members, they can't talk to each other outside of a meeting due to current provisions and stated her support to have a five-member selectboard.

Jo-Ellen Courtney stated that committees should have the responsibility to report to the Selectboard instead of having members of the BOS represented at individual meetings. She expressed concern for finding two additional people to serve on the BOS who can put in the time energy and effort required for the position when we have other committees in town that have vacancies. She stated that we need more participation in town government and activities, but she was unsure if increasing the number of Selectboard members is the way to go.

Mr. Kluge stated that not all committees require a Selectboard member to attend by RSA. He noted that some committees request to have a BOS member and others prefer to have one present and the town is working on refining that process. He stated that a number of sources have indicated to him that a five-person selectboard is more susceptible to have cliques and develop more controversial relationships, and a benefit of a three-person selectboard is that you have to work together to be effective.

Ms. Stewart stated that she would like to be able to work with her colleagues and the ability to speak with one another outside of BOS meetings can be of benefit. She stated that even when drafting something having the availability to collaborate would be beneficial and having more members on the selectboard would give more of an opportunity for a broader representation of individual voters. She likes the idea of having five members and noted that there are some committees that are missing members but having a full committee is not always required by law.

Rebecca Stewart stated that as a former selectman who had committee assignments, she made sure she had time for her commitments. She stated that she doesn't see the need to add more selectmen in a town that has not grown in its size or population.

Terry Chase stated that for all the areas for which he has been involved in the town, he never saw a selectboard member at those meetings. He added he was concerned that people who stated he was leaning more toward being satisfied with three people.

Kurt Gotthardt stated he is in favor of the warrant article. Under the current situation with the three-member board, if one is unable to attend you run the risk of having a split decision or members present may delay the discussion until the third member is present for discussion. He stated that with a five-member selectboard, you can avoid those situations and it relieves some of the pressure from other members.

Celie Aufiero stated our selectboard is doing a good job and she believes we should stay with the current system. She added that when she was a Conservation Commission representative the BOS member assigned to the commission never showed up.

2022 Town Meeting Minutes – Town of Enfield, New Hampshire

Steve Stancek stated that Enfield decided to invest in the Town Manager form of government and part of the reason was the size of the selectboard so that they had the professional help to assist them with day-to-day decisions. He stated that the system has worked well and continues to do so, and he doesn't see a reason to change how that works.

Marta Ceroni inquired if serving on the selectboard is a paid position, and if there was a given amount perhaps increasing that would entice people to participate.

Kate Stewart answered that each member of the selectboard gets an annual stipend of \$3,000.

David Stewart stated he supports the current selectboard.

David Beaufait called the question.

Moderator Smith opened voting for Article 17 at 2:07pm

Moderator Smith announced the results for Article 17 at 2:14pm:
79 in favor. 49 opposed. Article 17 passed.

Article 18: To hear the reports of agents, auditors, committees, or any other officers heretofore chose and pass any vote relating thereto.

Mr. Kluge made a motion to accept Article 18 for discussion. Ms. Stewart seconded.

Moderator Smith invited any other presentations or announcements to come before the public.

David Fracht presented information regarding the progress of the Master Planning Taskforce in developing the Master Plan for the Town of Enfield. He noted that at the 2021 Town Meeting the town voted the Master Planning Committee a small sum of money from the undesignated funds to work on the Master Plan. He stated a second draft of the Master Plan should be released to the public for review in the coming months. He noted that a town wide mailing will be held, and Enfield LEAPS will deploy their signs to ensure residents are aware that the draft is available for review. He stated that in late July or early August, they will hold a meeting to get feedback on the draft and after the draft is finalized the Planning Board will have the opportunity to adopt the Master Plan. He stated that once the current work in progress is finalized, it is the intention of the Master Planning Taskforce that more topics will move forward to be added to the Master Plan.

Mr. Fracht stated his gratitude for the work and dedication put forward by members of the Master Planning Taskforce and his cochair, Lindsay Smith.

Ms. Stewart made a motion to restrict reconsideration of Article 16 and 17. Mr. Kluge seconded.
Moderator Smith requested a voice vote regarding the motion on the table.
Moderator Smith announced the vote as unanimous in favor of the motion.

With a conclusion to all Articles presented and voting finalized, Moderator Smith requested a motion to adjourn.

Emily Curtis made a motion to adjourn at 2:41pm. Wendy Huntley seconded. Vote unanimous in favor of the motion.

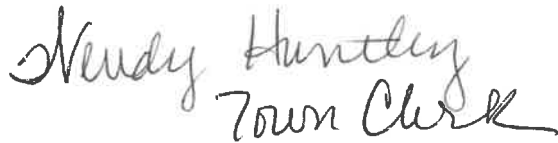
2022 Town Meeting Minutes – Town of Enfield, New Hampshire

Town Meeting was adjourned at 2:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Emily Curtis".

Emily Curtis, recording secretary

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Wendy Huntley".
Town Clerk