

**TOWN OF ENFIELD
ENFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES JUNE 7, 2021**

TIME: 6:00 PM
LOCATION: via Zoom Teleconference

PRESENT

Board of Selectmen: Meredith Smith, Katherine D.P. Stewart, John W. Kluge

Administrative Staff: Alisa Bonnette, Assistant Town Manager; Jack Wozmak, Interim Town Manager

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Smith called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Virtual Meeting Preamble

Due to the COVID-19/Coronavirus crisis and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note that this is a virtual meeting only, as authorized by the Governor's Emergency Order.

We are utilizing the Zoom platform for this electronic meeting. All members of the Board/Committee have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through the Zoom platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting through dialing the phone number and using the password provided or by clicking on the website address provided in the meeting posting on the Town's website and posted on the door of Town Hall

If anybody has a problem, please call 603-442-5401

Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by Roll Call vote.

ROLL CALL OF ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

PUBLIC HEARING

6:00 PM To discuss and take action on the Enfield Ordinance relative to face coverings

Ms. Smith opened the Public Hearing to discuss and take action on the Enfield Ordinance relative to face coverings at 6:02pm.

Mr. Wozmak invited members of the BOS to share their views regarding the mask ordinance.

Mr. Kluge stated that there are two categories that we are dealing with: one category of fully vaccinated individuals, and a group who are not fully vaccinated or who have not been vaccinated for any number of reasons. He stated he believes the use of masks outside should be done away with completely, but there may be situations indoors where masks would be appropriate.

Ms. Stewart stated that she received 55 responses from her request for feedback from the community. She stated that feedback was split in half, but slightly leaning in favor of keeping masks slightly longer. She stated that finding a middle ground would be a good solution.

Chief Holland, the Town Emergency Operations Manager, stated that Hanover's ordinance is anticipated

to change in the next couple of weeks after graduation. He stated that as of last week, the Governor renewed the State of Emergency for 14 days, which is not the full 21 days that he is allowed for extension. He stated that it is anticipated that, if it is not renewed as of this Friday, that the state of emergency will be lifted for New Hampshire, which is tied to the current ordinance. He stated there are no active cases in Enfield and the calls regarding ordinance compliance has gone down.

Mr. Kluge stated he would be comfortable having people not wear masks and request that anyone who has not been vaccinated to wear masks if they feel appropriate.

Mr. Wozmak stated that there will never be a perfect time and questioned the expectations and level of compliance given that there has been a reduction. He stated it is never likely to be risk free and needs to be acknowledged as such.

Ms. Stewart stated that the ordinance can be clearer and more digestible for the public. She stated that having public health information is important and sending a message that supports businesses.

Dr. Beaufait stated that he understands that there has been an increase in the number of young people with symptomatic COVID.

Ms. Piper stated that she believed the mask mandate should be lifted and expressed her support for businesses in that having the ordinance supported the businesses. She supported that Enfield public safety and public health information being shared and noted that people that were not vaccinated can still wear masks if they choose.

Holly Weinstein stated that there is a big difference and there is a reality that some people will never get the vaccine. She stated that there may be room for taking the outside mask mandate away, as well as having business owners make their own choices. She stated that public school and homeschool moms that she is in contact with support dropping the mask mandates as well.

Susan Brown stated that she wanted people who were not vaccinated to be masked, and until we get to 70% of residents vaccinated and have herd immunity everyone should remain masked, except for outdoors.

Jess Maldonado stated she agreed that some people will never get vaccinated and added that New Hampshire is one of the highest in the nation for percentage vaccinated. She stated that Maine has dropped their mask mandates.

Lindsay Smith stated that there are many people who choose not to wear a mask and become aggressive when asked to wear a mask. She stated the meeting spaces in Enfield are small and hard to spread out and supported the use of Zoom for public legislation or a hybrid if possible. She stated there has been a lot more public participation and the meeting spaces in town are too small with not enough air flow.

Chief Holland added that he had spoken to some business owners and the police Department would continue to support businesses if they chose to continue their mask requests beyond when the Town Ordinance is lifted. He noted that it is the businesses choice. He stated that businesses have expressed about 50% have wanted the mask ordinance to go away but seemed to be more to do with compliance and rude customers. He added that some businesses are feeling they are seeing an impact to their revenues due to the continued ordinance, but not all.

Sam Eaton stated that the mask mandate should be lifted. He noted that the state and county have each lifted their mandates, and there are zero active cases in most surrounding towns, and people should be

allowed to weigh their risk factors and attend businesses that support their respective choices.

Mr. Kluge made a motion to close the public hearing at 6:50pm. Ms. Stewart seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Vote unanimous in favor of the motion (3-0).

Mr. Wozmak requested any thoughts regarding how to move forward.

Ms. Stewart recommended rescinding the ordinance as of June 18th, with advisement for health recommendations as well as a notation to reaffirm the ability for businesses to make their own decisions.

Mr. Kluge made a motion to rescind the Enfield Mask Ordinance as of June 18th, with the recommendation that non-vaccinated people remain masked indoors and reaffirm support for businesses and public buildings to set their own requirements. Ms. Stewart seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Vote unanimous in favor of the motion (3-0).

Discussion following Public Hearing - Town Operations: Municipal Offices (all depts), Public Meetings, Enfield Community Building Use

Mr. Wozmak inquired if all offices will be open to the public as they were before as of the 18th.

Members of the BOS discussed meeting and building use with respect to the lifting of the mask ordinance. They also discussed utilizing Zoom with everyone muted, or another call-in method to allow for community access.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- May 17, 2021

Mr. Kluge made a motion to approve minutes as presented. Ms. Stewart seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Vote unanimous in favor of the motion (3-0).

BOARD REPORTS

Board members gave respective updates on the Committees they participate in on behalf of the Board.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Wozmak stated:

- The number of building permits is up.
- The phone system has been a problem from time to time and they are looking into a replacement system which is very important as it directly affects the ability of the public to get through to the police station. He stated it has been difficult to find a technical solution, but they are actively working on finding solutions and getting quotes.
- Fire Chief interviews were performed in the past couple of weeks. He stated that three interviews were conducted and, subject to the nonpublic session later today, an announcement is forthcoming. He stated it was wonderful having the regional chiefs present for the interview.
- The land under the Depot building is owned by the state and the Town will ultimately need to enter into an agreement with the state. He noted that the Town is working on getting an appraiser to evaluate what the Town may think the land is worth as they enter a conversation with the state.

With no further questions or comments, Ms. Smith moved on to the next agenda item.

BUSINESS

Light Truck Body Bid Results

Mr. Taylor stated that he received four bids including three for aluminum bodies and one for a steel body and proposed his recommendation for purchase to the BOS.

Ms. Stewart made a motion to go with what Mr. Taylor has described. Mr. Kluge seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Vote unanimous in favor of the motion (3-0).

Oak Hill Road Bridge Funding

Mr. Taylor stated that bids were opened a couple weeks ago and only one bid has been received, which came in \$50,000 over the budgeted estimate. He stated that the issue is a result of COVID delays, and an 18-month lapse from the original approved work estimate. He stated that the Capital Reserve could be used to fund the difference, however, his recommendation was to wait one more year in hopes that the scarcity of materials and availability of contractors will return to a more normal level. He stated he hated to go back to Town Meeting with the same project, but he believes it was the most appropriate approach.

Ms. Stewart stated that the funds could be encumbered.

Mr. Taylor stated that starting completely fresh will be the best approach as the loan had not been taken out yet anyways.

With no further discussion, Ms. Smith moved on to the next agenda item.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

- Timber Yield Tax Warrant (Schindler)

Members of the BOS discussed the Timber Yield Tax and agreed to stop by the Town Office and sign the document.

OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN / PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Smith requested any public comments that are not on the agenda.

Mr. Cusick stated that commodity pricing was likely to go down and complimented Mr. Taylor on his recommendation and his approach.

Dr. Beaufait stated that the BOS should explore hybrid options for in person and virtual attendance at meetings. He stated that it has been great to more people at the meetings and would like to support that capacity.

Non-Public Session RSA 91-A (b) Update on Town Manager Search and Fire Chief Process Selection

With no further comments, Mr. Wozmak recommended entering nonpublic session to discuss updates regarding the Town Manager search and the Fire Chief selection process.

At 7:24pm, Mr. Kluge made a motion to go into non-public Session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3II(b), the hiring of any person as a public employee. The motion was seconded by Ms. Stewart and the motion was approved unanimously after a roll-call vote.

Upon a motion by Mr. Kluge, seconded by Ms. Stewart, it was voted by roll call vote to seal the minutes until June 22nd.

At 7:51pm, Mr. Kluge made a motion to return to public session, the motion was seconded by Ms. Stewart and following a unanimous roll call vote, the Selectmen re-entered public sessions and reported the vote taken in non-public session.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – NO ACTION REQUIRED

- Report of Tax Deeded Properties and Plans for Redemptions
- Tax Collector's Report – May 2021
- Town Clerk's Report – May 2021
- NH Dept. of Revenue: 2019 Cyclical Revaluation
- NH Dept. of Environmental Services (DES) Approved Shoreland Impact Permits:
 - 38 Glen Rd, Map 21, Lot 23: Impact 3,803 sq.ft. to renovate and existing non-conforming cottage & construct a deck, walkway & parking area
 - 36 Glen Rd, Map 21, Lot 24: Impact 5,880 sq.ft. to replace an existing non-conforming cottage and deck, driveway, and walkway
 - Glen Rd, Map 21, Lot 25: Impact 4,121 sq.ft. for driveway and rain garden
- NH DES Request for More Information –Wetlands Permit Application, Rice Road, Map 2, Lot 50
- NH DES Smith Pond Dam Inspection Notice to Upper Valley Land Trust

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned following a roll call vote at 8:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Meredith C. Smith, Chair

John W. Kluge

Katherine D. P. Stewart
Enfield Board of Selectmen