

Enfield Budget Committee MINUTES (Draft)

Thursday, February 2, 2017 DPW Building 6:30PM

Members present: Sam Eaton (chair), Shirley Green (vice chair), Annabelle Bamforth, James Buffington, Janet Shepard, Nancy Smith, Holly West

Excused: Fred Cummings, Mark Eisener, Mike Diehn

Absent:

Others Present:

Administrative: Sam called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

New Business:

Approval of minutes:

Shirley made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 26th meeting. Nancy seconded. No changes were introduced, and the minutes were approved with Janet abstaining.

The committee reviewed the budget slides to be presented at the public hearing and town meeting. Holly provided a draft of the slides; Holly's draft contained notes detailing suggested changes, and the committee went over those changes on each slide.

Nancy suggested adding wording to the slides about the budget committee's process during the budget season. She added that it should be made clear that the budget committee's mission is to recommend a budget and does not set the tax rate. Sam suggested adding that wording to slide 2.

There was information added regarding the budget committee's process which includes meeting throughout the summer in addition to fall and winter, reviewing each version of budget packets and revenue sheets, and meeting with the town's departments.

Holly suggested the removal of statements on slide 6 that can't be verified. Sam noted that the housing market data was verifiable by reviewing MLS statistics online. Sam agreed that statements about stagnant wages and household finances could be removed.

Janet suggested placing another bullet about moving some town projects to TIF on slide 7. Holly noted that it appeared that some people feel like TIF funds are inaccessible, so it would be good to show that some of those funds are being used for projects in the district.

For slide 8, Nancy suggested adding that the tax rate is established by the state with input from the town manager and selectmen. Sam said the number shown on this slide needs to be updated; \$3.85M is the correct number. Sam noted that the person in charge of adjustments and abatements has been out and he's waiting on those updated numbers. Holly recommended adding "x.xx% over 2016 actual rate" to this slide.

For slide 9, Sam asked if the committee had any suggestions to add to this page. Holly noted that people might be interested in the fire prop training device that the fire department plans to purchase in its budget request. The training device increases Enfield's firefighters' ability to locally train without having to travel to Concord as often. James suggested adding the expansion of recreation programs, making sure to clarify that the programs help offset some of the department's expenses.

Public Comment: none

Other business:

Sam told the committee that he had been asked by the Town Manager Search Committee for input from the budget committee in regards to characteristics that they would like to see in a new town manager. The committee members offered multiple suggestions to be passed onto the search committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m. The next meeting is the scheduled public hearing, Feb 8th, at 6:30 p.m.

Budget Committee minutes taken and submitted by Annabelle Bamforth.