



**Enfield Budget Committee
Public Works Facility, 74 Lockehaven Rd, Enfield, New Hampshire
Meeting Minutes January 2, 2018 6:30 PM (Draft)**

Members present: Dominic Albanese, Eric Crate, Mike Diehn, Sam Eaton (Chair), Shirley Green (Vice Chair), Nancy Smith, Holly West

Excused: Mark Eisener, Fred Cummings

Absent: James Buffington

Others Present: Ryan Aylesworth, Town Manager; Annabelle Bamforth (minutes)

I. Administrative

Sam called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.

Approval of Minutes

Holly made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 19th meeting; Dominic seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Shirley said that in reference to the Regional Organizations discussion, it should be noted that the subcommittee meeting had included Ryan, and that Diane's input was valuable in helping the subcommittee make decisions.

Holly noted that on the end of page 4, "cloud-based support" should read "cloud-based service."

The minutes approved unanimously with the changes.

II. New Business: Review of Budget Requests

Sam asked Ryan if he had budget updates. Ryan said the committee will receive a comprehensive update on January 16th for every department. He added that they're currently looking at roughly 1.5% increase and hoping for an increase closer to 1%.

Ryan said that he has had additional discussion with town officials about solid waste. He noted that there are multiple arguments to be made, as well as mixed feelings about some aspects including pay-as-you-throw. He said that he will continue to discuss solid waste in the future.

Ryan gave a brief year end review of the budget and revenues of 2017; he said there may be a few expenses that could be charged against 2017, but it appeared that about \$300K, or around 7%, of the budget was unspent. He added that actual revenue outpaced projections by about 15% as well, and these developments could lead to a surplus. He noted that the dust has not settled completely and these are early estimations.

Ryan said that encumbrances were done at the last Board of Selectmen meeting; he noted that while on paper it looks like an expense, these are taken from capital reserves.

Sam asked if revenue estimates might be adjusted in accordance with the performance this year. Ryan suggested that they should be realistic and also conservative, and erring on the side of caution.

Ryan provided an update about overlay; he said that apparently Enfield is the only town to include this in their operating budget, and other towns just take it from the fund balance. He said that this number was on target for the most part. Ryan explained that back in April, the Humane Society had failed to mail in their paperwork to designate their organization as a nonprofit, and then went on to request a tax exemption; he said that the Board of Selectmen chose to abate their taxes rather than grant an exemption, and warned them to file the proper paperwork on time next year.

Sam said that this budget looked good so far, and it appeared that the budget committee would have an easier time making adjustment recommendations in contrast to past years.

Holly suggested a checklist, to be drafted by the budget committee, that would address critical items that have affected the budget committee in the past, such as overlay and proposed TIF spending among other items.

Dominic asked Annabelle to include the date of the next budget committee meetings at the bottom of the minutes. Annabelle said she would do this moving forward.

Ryan discussed the upcoming Strategic Governance workshop; he said that the Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen members are encouraged to attend.

Holly said that the TIF Committee, the Trustees of the Trust Funds, Board of Selectmen, and Budget Committee should meet regularly to make sure they're all on the same page.

Sam said this may be possible in the late spring.

Ryan discussed meeting with Mascoma Savings Bank regarding the interest rate for the Route 4 sewer extension bond, and have avoided an increase in the interest rate, which was set to increase from 2.95% to 4.38.%. Ryan said that Mascoma Savings Bank has agreed to 2.95% for 5 more years. Holly asked if Mascoma Savings Bank indicated the debt ratio of TIF were it to dissolve; Ryan said that that discussion has not gone that far.

Nancy said that there's a large number of people in town that believes there is a "money pot" known as TIF not being used. She said that people should understand that dissolving TIF may affect the town's credit rating, and residents should know of the details and potential setbacks of dissolving TIF.

Holly said she is a former TIF member; when she was a member, the committee had made a request to the town for 2 years in a row to make double payments on the sewer extension debt. She said that the third year that they requested, they were informed that the committee was "doing it wrong" and needed to have it included in the budget.

Eric said that it was his understanding that TIF money isn't supposed to be spent on other items, yet in actuality it appeared that it has. Sam said that would be a question to present to the Board of Selectmen.

Sam inquired if and how it could be ensured that new TIF money is not spent on other purposes.

Shirley said that meeting regularly is important to discuss items like this.

Eric asked if there is someone who knows TIF well that can join in on a Board of Selectmen/Budget Committee meeting. Ryan said there are not that many TIF experts out there, but there may be someone in the state who is close to an authority.

Sam noted that getting strong enough financially to not rely on TIF has been important. Some committee members noted TIF's account is healthy on paper; the town's cash flow issue has been a problem.

Ryan talked about Amherst's experience with strategic governance; this city has seen great improvement utilizing this. Mike Killion is a founder of this application and has many years of experience in municipal government.

Ryan said that budget packets will be ready in advance of the next meeting.

Next meeting: Tuesday, January 16th, 2018 6:30 PM, DPW Building.

Sam adjourned the meeting at 7:21 PM.