

TOWN OF ENFIELD, N.H.
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
AUGUST 10, 2009

Moderator David Beaufait opened the meeting at 6:30 pm in the Enfield Community Building. Present were the Board of Selectmen Donald Crate and John Kluge, Town Manager Steven Schneider, Town Engineer Charles Hirshburg, Town Clerk/Tax Collector Carolee Higbee, and various members of the public.

The Moderator explained that there may be no amendments made to the wording of the article, only to the dollar amount. There would be a public hearing on the article, with a question and answer period, then the official vote on the article. He read the article:

Article 1. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **five hundred eighty-three thousand, six hundred forty dollars (\$583,640)** for the purpose of preparing plans and specifications, land acquisitions, and/or easement and for the construction of **a replacement sewer line located at the Shaker Bridge** that will qualify the Town for federal and state funds, such sum to be raised by the issuance of serial bonds and notes not to exceed **\$583,640** under and in compliance with the provision of the Municipal Finance Act (NH RSA 33:1 et seq., as amended) and to authorize the Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes to determine the rate of interest thereon, and to take such actions as may be necessary to effect the issuance, negotiation, sale and delivery of such bonds or notes as shall be in the best interest of the Town of Enfield, additionally to participate in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) program administered through the State Revolving Fund (SRF) RSA 486.14 established for this purpose, and to allow the Selectmen to expend such monies as become available from the federal and state governments and pass any vote relating thereto. Any income derived from temporary investment of the bond proceeds shall be returned to the General Fund.

J. Kluge made the motion to accept Article 1 as printed, D. Crate seconded.

J. Kluge made the motion to open the public hearing, D. Crate seconded.

J. Kluge asked S. Schneider to speak to the article, and Mr. Schneider did a power point presentation explaining that since the Shaker Bridge is to be replaced beginning in 2010 the existing sewer line attached to the bridge needs to be relocated, either temporarily and then reattached to the new bridge, or permanently by burying it under Mascoma Lake. Burying the line offers a permanent solution with funding assistance available, and reattaching it to the bridge requires more complex engineering, no funding assistance, and some hesitation on approval from the Department of Environmental Services. There are several options for financing the project, including federal stimulus money and bonds. Engineer Hirshburg explained the project, including the testing of the lake bed (30 feet of silt before ledge) and how the ledge would be drilled with a directional bore to carry an 8" force main with 1" thick walls, surrounded with a stabilizing medium.

After many questions and discussion, J. Kluge made the motion to close the public hearing, D. Crate seconded. The moderator re-opened the special town meeting and asked the audience if they wished to dispense with the reading of the article again, to which they agreed. He explained that a Yes vote was in favor of Option 1, burying the sewer line, and that the polls would remain open for one hour. He declared the polls open at 6:45 pm.

Much discussion ensued. R. Lacroix, R. Barrow, S. Beaufait, and S. Stancek all spoke in favor of having the debt responsible by all the town's tax payers, not just the sewer users. Enfield has one of the state's highest sewer rates and is cost prohibitive to new commercial businesses, which we need to lower the tax rate. K. Gotthardt questioned the amount of any capital reserves available, which S. Schneider gave as approximately \$78,000 specifically for infrastructure replacement. There was some discussion as to the environmental benefit to the town as a whole by ensuring a safe sewer system and a clean lake and thus a clean drinking water source to the City of Lebanon. S. Schneider explained the different 5, 10, 15, and 20-year funding options, with varying percentages to all tax payers and to sewer users. D. Kiley suggested using \$50,000 from capital reserves, 75% to the sewer users and 25% to all the taxpayers. S. Schneider asked the audience if overall they wished to see a lower impact to the sewer users, to which they agreed.

J. Kluge thanked the audience for he and Selectmen Crate for their input on funding.

The moderator announced the polls closed at 8:45 pm. The paper ballot vote was declared 75 Yes, 3 No. Article 1 passed as printed

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolee T. Higbee
Town Clerk/Tax Collector