

TOWN OF ENFIELD

2004 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Moderator David Beaufait opened the meeting at 9:00 am on Saturday, March 13, 2004 at the Enfield Village Elementary School. He called for a moment of silence to honor the victims of the Madrid, Spain terrorist attack and the death of a Laconia fireman in a diving accident. He led the audience in the pledge of allegiance, then introduced the head table: Selectmen Ilene P. Reed, Keith Oppeneer, and Dominic Albanese, Town Manager April Whittaker, Town Counsel James Raymond, Chairman of the Budget Committee Michael Dudley, and the Budget Committee members.

Selectman Ilene P. Reed presented Donald E. & Leafie Cantlin Jr. with Citizen of the Year Awards and spoke of their many accomplishments. Gifts and flowers were presented to them with a standing ovation from the audience.

The Selectmen and Town Manager presented presents of appreciation for outgoing officials: Lynn Langley, Trustee of Trust Funds, Lynn Baker, Budget Committee Member, and Nancy Scovner, Zoning Board of Adjustment Member.

Selectman Keith Oppeneer spoke in tribute to Ilene P. Reed, and of her retirement from the positions of Selectman and Town Clerk. He asked the audience to join him in singing "Happy Birthday" to her, and a large birthday cake was presented to her.

Selectman Reed swore Carolee T. Higbee in to the office of Town Clerk.

Articles 1-6 were voted on by ballot on March 9, 2004.

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

For Six Years:	One Supervisor of the Checklist	James C. Gerding Sr.	480
For Three Years:	One Selectman	Mark Loupis	232
		Nancy Scovner	344
	One Tax Collector	Carolee T. Higbee	563
	Three Budget Committee Members	Chris Christopolous	378
		Eric V. Crate	415
		Shirley Green	398
	One Cemetery Trustee	Richard Henderson	534
	One Fire Ward	Wayne Claflin	169
		David J. Crate Sr.	216
		Richard Martin	197
One Library Trustee	Francine Lozeau	565	
One Trustee of Trust Funds	Ellen Hackeman	526	
Two Zoning Board of Adjustment Members	Cecilia Aufiero	313	

		Edward Scovner	385
For Two Years:	One Moderator	David Beaufait	339
		Lawrence Gardner	219
	One Budget Committee Member		
		David Stewart	199
For One Year:	One Budget Committee Member		
		Michael Dudley	257

Article 2. Are you in favor of the adoption of **Amendment #1** as proposed by the Enfield Planning Board for the Town of Enfield Zoning Ordinance as follows?

To see if the Town will amend the Zoning Ordinance and correct the Cluster Subdivision Formula to include the removal of road area prior to calculating density add the words “**and road right-of way area**” to the definition of Net Developable Area in the appendix.

386 YES, 177 NO. Article 2 passed.

Article 3: Are you in favor of the adoption of the following **Amendment #2**, as proposed by the Enfield Planning Board, for the Town of Enfield Zoning Ordinance?

To see if the Town will amend the Zoning Ordinance and allow aircraft landing strips in certain areas of Enfield and not in others add “**Aircraft Landing Strips**” to the list of Special Exceptions in the R5, C/I and C Districts.

314 YES, 264 No. Article 3 passed.

Article 4: Are you in favor of the adoption of the following **Amendment #3**, as proposed by the Enfield Planning Board, for the Town of Enfield Zoning Ordinance?

To see if the Town will amend the Zoning Ordinance and reduce the size of structures exempt from Building Permits and properly account for these structures under State Tax Law change SECTION R105 Permits Sub- Section R150.2 Work exempt from permit.

Building:

Section reads now as: 1. One-story detached accessory structures, provided the floor area does not exceed 200 square feet (18.58 m sq.)

Proposed section to read: 1. One-story detached accessory structures, provided the floor area does not exceed **32 square feet** (2.88 m sq.)

231 YES, 326 NO. Article 4 failed.

Article 5: Are you in favor of the adoption of the following **Amendment #4**, as proposed by the Enfield Planning Board, for the Town of Enfield Zoning Ordinance?

To see if the Town will amend the Zoning Ordinance and allow Accessory Apartments in certain Districts, add the following to the Appendix Definitions:

ACCESSORY APARTMENT: A single apartment of no more than 800 square feet, containing no more than one bedroom and one bathroom, must be connected to the main dwelling by enclosed weather-tight space with continuous roof and continuous foundation. The apartment and main dwelling are exempt from district acreage density requirements and must remain under one ownership.

And add “Accessory Apartment” to the list of Special Exceptions in the R1 and R3 Districts.

376 YES, 191 No. Article 5 passed.

Article 6: Are you in favor of the adoption of the following **Amendment #5**, brought forward by petition, for the Town of Enfield Zoning Ordinance?

To see if the Town will amend the Enfield Zoning Ordinance and adopt all of the provisions of New Hampshire RSA 674:21, VI which provide for implementation of the innovative land use control procedure referred to under 674:21, I (n) as “The Village Plan Alternative”

The Planning Board does not support this article.

211 YES, 360 No. Article 6 failed.

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to support the hiring of one (1) fulltime Police Officer under the federal COPS FAST 3-year grant initiative, and to raise and appropriate the sum of forty-one thousand, nine hundred forty-three dollars (**\$41,943**) for wages and benefits. This appropriation will be defrayed in the first year with a 75% grant reimbursement (**\$31,457.25**) against the sum to be raised therefore making \$10,485.75 to be raised by taxation. Per the terms of the grant, year 2 would reflect a 50% reimbursement against wages and benefits, and year 3 would reflect a 25% reimbursement against wages, and benefits. (Estimated tax impact: 4 cents per \$1,000 valuation)

(Majority Vote Required)

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article.

The Budget Committee recommends this article.

I.Reed made the motion to accept the article as printed; K.Oppeneer seconded. Police Chief Peter Giese spoke in favor of the article, citing the means and methodology of justifying the hiring of a seventh officer.

D.Marchetti asked what the down side of the grant was, and Chief Giese cited increased administrative costs and having to bring the article back to the voters each year for four years, also citing the real concern over continued funding by the federal government for the grant program. D.Marchetti stated that the time had come to increase the size of the Police Dept. and to avoid uncertainty made the motion to amend Article 7 to read: **To see if the Town will vote to (I) approve the hiring of a fulltime Police Officer to bring the total departmental officers to seven (7), including the Chief, (II) to raise and appropriate the sum of forty-one thousand, nine hundred forty-three dollars (\$41,943) for wages and benefits, and (III) Instruct the Chief to seek grant funding if available and applicable from the COPS FAST federal grant program with the provision that hiring should not be contingent upon receipt of said grant money.**

P.Mirski seconded the motion, stating that it was a good idea that the Town not be dependent on the federal government for monies. At T.Jenning's request, K. Oppenneer and M. Dudley spoke in favor of the article for the BOS and Budget Committee. S.Stancek asked what the minimum time frame for training new personnel, and is there anything tied to the grant that would conflict with the town's policies. Chief Giese explained that the testing and training period before a police officer was on the road was about 18 months, and that conflict would arise having to wait for the monies each year. The Moderator received a written request from the Budget Committee for a paper ballot on Article 7, and he opened the polls for a paper ballot on the article as amended, 110 Yes, 5 No. The Moderator then called for a paper ballot vote on Article 7 as amended, 117 Yes, 20 No. **Article 7 passed as amended.**

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee's and Board of Selectmen's recommended sum of three million, nine hundred and three thousand, one hundred and five dollars (**\$3,903,105**), which represents the operating budget. Said sum to be defrayed by use of **\$15,850** from the Technology Capital Reserve Fund and **\$8,200** from the Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. This article does not include appropriations voted in other warrant articles. (Estimated tax impact: \$9.14 per \$1,000 valuation)

(Majority Vote Required)

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article.

The Budget Committee recommends this article.

K.Oppenneer made the motion to accept Article 8 as printed; D.Albanese seconded. A. Whittaker spoke in favor of the article, drawing attention to the handout document speaking to the various budget sections, explaining increased insurance costs, solid waste costs, an increased pay scale, and making the Planning/Zoning Administrator a full time position. **K. Oppenneer made the motion to amend Article 8 to \$3,891,105**, D.Kiley seconded. K.Oppenneer advised that the article was amended down to reflect less overtime monies in the police department operating budget now that the new officer was approved. M.Dudley supported A. Whittaker's comments. S.McKinley asked if it was prudent to remove \$12k when Chief Giese had pointed out the long training period for an officer, thereby impacting overtime. A.Whittaker explained that it wouldn't actually take 18 months to train a new police officer; the training took 12 weeks, and that Chief Giese was agreeable to this amendment. The Moderator called for a voice vote on the amendment to Article 8; the Ayes in majority. **The amendment passed.**

S.Hagerman offered thanks to the Town Manager and the BOS for a professional and efficient job for the Town.

J.Courtney asked why the Health and Human Services line was decreased; A.Whittaker explained that this was based on the prior year's case workload and the history of welfare administration and health services. The health issues are under the Building/Health Inspector relating to septic and water testing and epidemic health alerts.

The Moderator called for a voice vote on Article 8 as amended; the Ayes in majority. **Article 8 passed as amended.**

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums for Regional Association requests:

<u>Regional Association</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
Advance Transit	\$ 3,000
Community Action Program (LISTEN)	2,900
Headrest	3,000
Visiting Nurse Association	16,850
Senior Citizens Council	4,750
WISE	2,300
Museum at Lower Shaker Village	4,500
West Central Services	1,000
Enfield Village Association	10,000
Total	\$ 48,300

(Estimated tax impact 20 cents per \$1,000 valuation)

(Majority Vote Required)

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article.

The Budget Committee recommends this article.

D.Albanese made the motion to accept Article 9 as printed; K.Oppenpeer seconded. K.Oppenpeer spoke in favor of the article; he explained that the Budget Committee had held assessment meetings with representatives from each of the associations at the Committee’s request and had compiled an audit application process. One association had not responded so was not included. M. Dudley spoke in favor of the article; he explained that the associations’ requests were given much closer scrutiny than in years past and that adjustments had been made in some requests. E.Palmer referred to the Advanced Transit report and introduced herself as the Enfield representative for Advanced Transit. She encouraged use of the bus service, and anticipated increased need for it as the town grows. P.Mirski stated that the previous year he had asked that the BOS enter into some sort of contractual agreement with these associations to formalize agreement for services rendered and that he would still like to see this occur. S.Stancek stated that he was pleased to see the bottom line down from the previous year. M. Dudley and L.Carrier both spoke in favor of the article. D.Marchetti thanked the Budget Committee for all their work on this article. He cited that the town had given Enfield Village Association \$10k each year for the past three years and felt that it was time to reduce this and he made the motion to amend Article 9 to reduce the Enfield Village Association line to \$5000. W.Walker seconded. S.Carr spoke in favor of EVA, explaining that they were working closely with the Main Street Program for a revitalization of the Enfield Village District and that for a little investment the people received a lot of value, spent entirely within town. D.Smith, P.Mirski, B.Powell, S.Hagerman, D.Carr, T.Taylor, C.LeMaster, and L.Davis all spoke in favor of EVA. D.Plummer made a motion to move the question, S.Conrad seconded. The Moderator called for a voice vote on moving the question; the Ayes in majority. D.Stewart suggested that the Budget Committee obtain a mission statement from each of the associations. L.Carrier spoke in favor of the article. The Moderator called for a voice vote on the amendment to the article; the Nays in majority. The amendment failed. S.McKinley asked if the BOS had the authority to dispose of the monies in the article; the Moderator answered Yes. K.Oppenpeer explained that the BOS would spend the monies as noted in the article. J.Patten made a motion to move the question, audience seconded. The Moderator called for a voice vote on moving the question; the Ayes in majority. The

Moderator called for a voice vote on Article 9; the Ayes in majority. **Article 9 passed as printed.**

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate (i) the sum of twenty-seven thousand dollars (**\$27,000**) for a new Pavilion Building at Huse Park as part of the Community Building site renovations, and (ii) to authorize the use/transfer of \$27,000 of the December 31, 2003 fund balance for this purpose. (This article has no impact on the tax rate.)

(Majority Vote Required)

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article.

The Budget Committee recommends this article.

I.Reed made the motion to accept Article 10 as printed; K.Oppenbeer seconded. A.Kovacs made the motion to move the question; D.Kiley seconded. The Moderator called for a voice vote on moving the question; the Ayes in majority. The Moderator called for a voice vote on the article; the Ayes in majority. **Article 10 passed as printed.**

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate (i) the sum of twenty-eight thousand dollars (**\$28,000**) for cemetery headstone restoration and repair, and (ii) to authorize the use/transfer of \$28,000 of the December 31, 2003 fund balance for this purpose. (This article has no impact on the Tax Rate.)

(Majority Vote Required)

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article.

The Budget Committee recommends this article.

K.Oppenbeer made the motion to accept Article 11 as printed; D.Albanese seconded. K.Oppenbeer spoke in favor of the article. F.Altvater, Cemetery Trustee, explained that prior to 1995 the cemeteries had been neglected since 1940 and were a disgrace. The monies in the article should finish the project of restoration, and the new Countryside Cemetery should be open for the sale of lots later this year. T.Jennings spoke in favor of the article, and noted that the phrase “no impact on the tax rate” was misleading because the monies had been voted on in previous years when they did have an impact on the tax rate, and if not expended could be used to reduce the tax rate. D.Kiley spoke in favor of the article and urged the new cemetery be set up with perpetual care funding so these type of expenditures do not arise in the future. J.Patten made the motion to move the question; C.Pellerin seconded. D.Marchetti led the audience in a round of applause for F.Altvater and R.Henderson for their work as cemetery trustees. The Moderator called for a voice vote on moving the question; the Ayes in majority. The Moderator called for a voice vote on the article; the Ayes in majority. **Article 11 passed as printed.**

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (**\$25,000**) for the acquisition of a new police cruiser. Said sum to be defrayed by use of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) from the Police Equipment Capital Reserve Fund established for this purpose and balance to be raised through taxation. (Estimated tax impact 6 cents per \$1,000 valuation)

(Majority Vote Required)

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article.

The Budget Committee recommends this article.

D.Albanese made the motion to accept the article as printed; I.Reed seconded. K.Oppenner spoke in favor of the article. D.Marchetti made the motion to move the question; N. Scovner seconded. The Moderator called for a voice vote on moving the question; the Ayes in majority. T.Jennings asked how much a cruiser actually cost, and pointed out that monies were being put in police capital reserves in a later article. A.Whittaker answered \$26k. The Moderator called for a voice vote on the article; the Ayes in majority. **Article 12 passed as printed.**

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate (i) the sum of twenty-seven thousand dollars (**\$27,000**) for a 4-Post Jack Lift at the Public Works Building, and (ii) to authorize the use/transfer of twenty-seven thousand dollars (\$27,000) of the December 31, 2003 fund balance for this purpose. (This article has no impact on the Tax Rate.)

(Majority Vote Required)

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article.

The Budget Committee recommends this article.

I.Reed made the motion to accept Article 13 as printed; D.Albanese seconded. A.Whittaker and M.Dudley spoke in favor of this article, explaining that the insurance company highly recommended this for safety aspects. D.Plummer said that he supported T.Jennings' earlier observation that the phrase "no impact on the tax rate" was misleading and requested that the BOS include a statement on next year's warrant that these monies had had a previous impact on the tax rate. T.Jennings asked how much money was in the Public Works capital reserves and A.Whittaker pointed out the listing of capital reserve accounts in the town report and noted that the capital reserves had been under-funded the past couple of years. The Moderator called for a voice vote on the article; the Ayes in majority. **Article 13 passed as printed.**

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred and thirty thousand dollars (**\$130,000**) to be placed in previously established Capital Reserve Funds, as follows:

Capital Reserve Account	Appropriation	Estimated Tax Impact Per \$1,000 Valuation
Municipal Building ⁽¹⁾	5,000	2 cents
Technology Services ⁽²⁾	30,000	12.1 cents
Ambulance ⁽²⁾	10,000	4.1 cents
Fire Vehicle/Equipment ⁽¹⁾	10,000	4.1 cents
Whitney Hall Renovation ⁽²⁾	5,000	2 cents
Police Equipment ⁽²⁾	5,000	2 cents
Public Works Vehicle/Equipment ⁽²⁾	50,000	20.1 cents
Revaluation	15,000	6 cents
Total	\$130,000	52.4 cents

(Majority Vote Required)

Special Warrant Article

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article.

The Budget Committee recommends this article.

Authorization to expend: ⁽¹⁾ Town Meeting, ⁽²⁾ Board of Selectmen, ⁽³⁾ Water & Sewer Commissioners (Board of Selectmen), ⁽⁴⁾ Cemetery Board of Trustees, ⁽⁵⁾ Library Board of Trustees.

K.Oppenheimer made the motion to accept Article 14 as printed; D.Albanese seconded.

A.Whittaker explained that the police capital reserve line was not for a cruiser but for the small pickup truck that the police used for animal control. S.McKinley questioned the authority to spend notation; A.Whittaker explained that this was included when each capital reserve had been established. S.McKinley and S.Stancek asked why the post jack in Article 13 had not been paid for by capital reserves, and A. Whittaker explained that it had not been included as a capital reserve expense; that it was a one-time expense. The Moderator called for a voice vote on the article; the Ayes in majority. **Article 14 passed as printed.**

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote (i) to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of Sidewalk Construction, (ii) to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand dollars (**\$5,000**) to be placed in this fund, and (iii) name the Board of Selectmen as Agent to Expend. (Estimated tax impact is 2 cents per \$1,000 valuation.)

(Majority Vote Required)

Special Warrant Article

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article.

The Budget Committee recommends this article.

D.Albanese made the motion to accept Article 15 as printed; I.Reed seconded. A.Whittaker explained that this was a new capital reserve account arising from the approval of the Ironman subdivision approval the previous year. The Moderator called for a voice vote on the article; the Ayes in majority. **Article 15 passed as printed.**

Article 16: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of three hundred dollars (**\$300**), from the undesignated fund balance, for deposit into the Cemetery Maintenance Fund, an expendable general trust fund previously established under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a for the purpose of maintaining cemeteries? This money represents 2003 revenue from the sale of cemetery lots in 2003 and is available to offset the appropriation. (This article has no impact to the Tax Rate.)

(Majority Vote Required)

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article.

The Budget Committee recommends this article.

Special Warrant Article

I.Reed made the motion to accept Article 16 as printed; K.Oppenner seconded. There was no discussion. The Moderator called for a voice vote on the article; the Ayes in majority. **Article 16 passed as printed.**

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate (i) the sum of twelve thousand dollars (**\$12,000**) to administer the previously approved Town Master Plan process, (This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7 VI and will not lapse until the Master Plan is completed or by December 31, 2006 whichever is sooner) and (ii) to authorize the use/transfer of Twelve Thousand Dollars (\$12,000) of the December 31, 2003 fund balance for this purposed. (This article has no impact to the Tax Rate.)

(Majority Vote Required)

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article.

The Budget Committee recommends this article.

Special Warrant Article

K.Oppenner made the motion to accept Article 17 as printed; D.Albanese seconded. There was no discussion. The Moderator called for a voice vote on the article; the Ayes in majority. **Article 17 passed as printed.**

Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to change the elected position of Tax Collector to an appointed position. If approved, this position will be appointed by the Board of Selectmen to begin at the next annual meeting in March 2005, under RSA 669:17 and 669:17-B.

(Majority Vote Required.)

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article.

D.Albanese made the motion to accept Article 18 as printed; I.Reed seconded. A.Whittaker spoke in favor of this article, reading from the town report narrative. P.Mirski and N. Scovner spoke in opposition of the article; D.Marchetti and T.Jennings in favor. The Moderator called for a voice vote on the article, which was unclear. He called for a hand vote on the article: For 53, Against 43. **Article 18 passed as printed.**

Article 19: Shall the Town modify an Exemption for the disabled under the provisions of RSA 72-37-b as follows: the exemption from assessed value for qualified taxpayers shall be \$50,000. To qualify, the person must be eligible under Title II or Title XVI of the Federal Social Security Act, must occupy the property as his principle place of abode, must own the property individually or jointly, or if owned by a spouse, they must have been married for at least 5 years, had in the calendar year preceding April 1 a net

income from all sources, of not more than \$18,400 if single, and \$26,400 if married, own net assets not in excess of \$70,000.

(Majority Vote Required)

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article.

I.Reed made the motion to accept Article 19 as printed; K.Oppenneer seconded. S.McKinley asked if this modified what was in place; A.Whittaker explained that yes, the legislature had raised the amounts and the town had to be in compliance. The Moderator called for a voice vote on the article; the Ayes in majority. **Article 19 passed as printed.**

Article 20: To see if the Town wishes to amend the existing agreement under Section 218 of the Social Security Act by excluding the services performed by election workers for a calendar year in which the remuneration paid for such service is less than \$1,200. The \$1,200 limit on the excludable amount of remuneration paid in a calendar year for the services specified in this modification will be subject to adjustment for calendar years after 2004 to reflect changes in wages in the economy without any further modification of the agreement, with respect to such services performed during such calendar years, in accordance with Section 218(c)(8)(B) of the Social Security Act.

K.Oppenneer made the motion to accept Article 20 as printed; D.Albanese seconded. There was no discussion. The Moderator called for a voice vote on the article; the Ayes in majority. **Article 20 passed as printed.**

Article 21: To hear the reports of agents, auditors, committees, or any other officers heretofore chosen and pass any vote relating thereto.

D.Albanese made the motion to accept Article 21 as printed; I.Reed seconded. There was no discussion. The Moderator called for a voice vote on the article; the Ayes in majority. **Article 21 passed as printed.**

C.James Martel told the audience that the Enfield Mascoma Lion's Club new Community Building was nearing completion and that it should be open in June.

K.Oppenneer thanked the Lion's Club, the Veteran's Park Committee and Shaker Museum for improving and supporting the town.

The Moderator declared the meeting closed at 12:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolee T. Higbee