

2010 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Moderator David Beaufait called the meeting to order at 9:00am on Saturday, March 13, 2010 at the Enfield Village School. He led the audience in the pledge of allegiance. The Selectmen presented certificates of appreciation to outgoing board members. Meredith Smith, Chairman of the Heritage Commission, presented a certificate of appreciation to Tony Lozeau for his efforts restoring the Hewitt House and having it listed on the historic buildings national register. The Moderator introduced the head table: Selectmen Donald J.Crate, Sr., John Kluge and Fred Cummings, Town Manager Steven Schneider, Town Attorney James Raymond, Chairman of the Budget Committee Doug Pettibone, Budget Committee members, Alisa Bonnette, Executive Assistant, Town Clerk Carolee Higbee and Deputy Town Clerk Sandy Romano.

Articles 1 and 2 were voted on by Official Ballot on Tuesday, March 9, 2010.

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

For Two Years: One Moderator

David Beaufait 467

One Supervisor of the Checklist

Robert Foley 472

For Three Years: One Selectman

Donald J. Crate, Sr. 451

One Trustee of Trust Funds

Ellen H. Hackeman 463

One Cemetery Trustee

Richard M. Henderson 462

One Fire Ward

William Tibbits II 214

Richard A. Crate 269

One Library Trustee

Francine R. Lozeau 486

Two Zoning Board of Adjustment Members

Robert J. Cavalieri 303

David Dow 422

Three Budget Committee Members

Samuel Eaton 346

Shirley A. Green 404

Gail Malz 375

For Six Years: One Supervisor of the Checklist

James C. Gerding Sr. 433

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 of Enfield, N.H. will adopt the provisions of N.H. RSA Section 674:21:VI of Title LCIV, Planning and Zoning, Chapter 674 Local Land Use Powers as they relate to applying the "Village Plan Alternative" as an integral part of the Town of Enfield, New Hampshire's Zoning Ordinance.

The Enfield Planning Board recommends passage of this article by a vote of 4-3.

Yes 276, No 151. Article 2 passed as printed.

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee's and Selectmen's recommended sum of four million, eight hundred seventy-six thousand, three hundred sixty-seven dollars, (\$4,876,367), for general municipal operations. This article does not include special or individual articles addressed. (Estimated tax impact \$5.51 per \$1,000 valuation.)

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article by a vote of 3-0.
The Budget Committee recommends this article by a vote of 8-0.

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

D. Pettibone explained that the Budget Committee had worked to keep spending level and that the current economy was of high concern to all. The Town employees are paying higher medical insurance premiums and receiving no salary increases. Highway and infrastructure maintenance costs continue to rise. The Department of Public Works building will be paid off in 2011. The committee felt that the new equipment purchases in Article 4 and the regional association appropriations in articles 8-15 should be directly presented to the people to keep that spending separate from the overall budget.

R. Godfrey asked several questions about the Town employee medical insurance, stressing that the employees should pay more. His wife is a

Lebanon school district employee and pays 22%. He also suggested not replacing our Director of Public Works (recently resigned), which B. Clause supported.

S. Schneider explained that the employees pay 5% towards their medical insurance and that the town is addressing the costs in 2010. There was a 16.4 % premium increase and the prescription drug plan costs increased. It may go out to bid. It is important to keep an attractive benefits package to keep qualified employees. D. Pettibone reiterated that the employees have made sacrifices. T. Jennings objected to personnel discussion. R. Godfrey made the motion to reduce the budget by \$135,000 to \$4,741,367 .

P. Currier seconded the motion. A voice vote was called on the amendment, which failed. A voice vote was taken on the article as printed: Article 3 passed as printed.

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred ninety thousand dollars (\$190,000) to purchase the following Public Works vehicles/equipment:

Vehicle/Equipment Appropriation Estimated Tax

Impact Per

\$1,000 Valuation Estimated Tax

Impact on

\$200,000 Home

Backhoe \$140,000 25.455 cents \$51

F550 1-Ton Dump Truck \$50,000 9.091 cents \$18

Total \$190,000 34.546 cents \$69

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article by a vote of 3-0.

The Budget Committee recommends this article by a vote of 6-2.

J. Kluge made the motion to accept the article as printed, F. Cummings seconded the motion.

S. Schneider explained that the new backhoe would replace the current 1999 one, which replaced a 1988 one so the town does replace them every eleven years. It is a piece of equipment that is used daily and does a lot of work. The new dump truck replaces a 2001 one that is at the end of its useful life.

R. Godfrey and R. Cusick both stressed that the Selectmen need to get bids for new equipment to not pay too much, and not to buy over-sized equipment. S. Schneider and J. Kluge both explained that we do get bids and that the Selectmen sign off on the purchases. S. Stancek and T. Jennings both pointed out that we need to plan on new equipment purchases every year so everything doesn't break down at once.

D. Stewart, Budget Committee member, pointed out that many things are not

being replaced that are in the Capital Improvement Plan because of the tight economy and P. Mirski, Budget Committee member, said that he had thought we should wait another year to make these purchases.

A voice vote was taken : Article 4 passed as printed.

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to modify the Tax Incremental Finance (TIF) District Plan Section V. District Plan, Project List by adding Huse Park/ Community Building site plan improvements.

F. Cummings made the motion to accept the article as printed, D. Crate seconded the motion.

D.Saladino, TIF Committee chairman, explained that this project seeks to finish the site plan changes for the Community Building and Huse Park, to improve parking, site layout and lighting. The monies are set aside so there is no impact on the tax rate. R. Gray, K. Hill and M. Smith all voiced concerns that the site should maintain the baseball field and room for the Lion's Club family fair and Christmas tree sale, and be available for the Town's 250th anniversary activities in 2011. S. Schneider, K. Gotthardt, B. Hettleman, S. Beaufait and R. Stewart all spoke in favor of the article. S.Schneider assured the audience that public hearings would be held on the final changes and encouraged people to attend the TIF Committee meetings. A voice vote was taken: Article 5 passed as printed.

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Tax Incremental Finance (TIF) District Plan, Section V. District Plan, Project List by adding the extension of the sewer main along Main Street.

D. Crate made the motion to accept the article as printed, J. Kluge seconded the motion. L. Carrier, Enfield Village Association, explained that this article would add the project of installing 275' feet of sewer line to Main Street to serve several properties, including two existing buildings. It would improve the town's infrastructure and represent an economic development investment in the Town. N. Palmer asked what the project's proposed time frame and traffic impact, and L. Carrier replied probably 6 or 7 days, perhaps closing the road for up to 2 days. A voice vote was taken: Article 6 passed as printed.

Article 7: (By Petition) Shall the Town of Enfield submit a request to the New Hampshire Department of Transportation to install STOP signs at the Main Street approaches to the Main Street/High Street/Shaker Hill Road intersection in downtown Enfield, creating a four way stop? This intersection has known safety issues arising from poor sight distances and deficient alignment.

The Board of Selectmen does not recommend this article by a vote of 2-1.

J. Kluge made the motion to accept the article as printed, F. Cummings seconded the motion.

The Moderator invited L. Saladino, lead petitioner, to speak to the article. She explained that this was a very dangerous intersection with a lot of pedestrian traffic crossing the streets there. A four-way stop there would slow down traffic and make it safer for everyone. The cross traffic on to Shaker Hill Road is double the traffic going down Main Street. Sight distance is very poor there. D. Saladino, B. Thurber, R. Cusick, R. Stewart, H. Shaffer, J. O'Keeffe, S. Stancek and K. Gotthardt all spoke in favor of the article. S. Schneider explained that the State DOT wanted the people's opinion of having a four-way stop there. A voice vote was taken which was unclear. A hand vote was taken: 84 Yes, 29 No. Article 7 passed as printed.

Articles 8-15 are all petitioned articles from regional non-profit associations requesting appropriation funding for 2010. The Budget Committee decided to present the spending to the people. The Moderator explained that we could table each article for voting until after all the articles were discussed and opened the floor for general discussion of all the articles. (Requests for a paper ballot vote on each article were submitted by five registered voters so each article was tabled until after discussion on all the articles was completed, then the paper ballot voting commenced and the ballots were counted.)

The Budget Committee members explained that they decided to present this to the people because the town is facing fiscal constraints and some might consider that their tax dollars were being spent on private donations. The Committee applauds the efforts of all these organizations but since they are regional and not Town specific the Town has no oversight of their operations.

J. Kluge explained that the Board of Selectmen respects the Budget

Committee's philosophy but believes that we need to fund these organizations. We receive a lot of services from them and none asked for more this year than last year.

J. Petersson piled up 8 reams of paper, asking the audience to visualize the paper as her property taxes. She then held up 18 sheets of paper and said that represented her share of the funding to the regional associations, a very, very small amount compared to the entire budget.

S. Beaufait, J. Martel and B. Thurber all spoke in favor of continuing to fund the organizations.

K. Gotthardt presented a list of questions for the organizations: What has been done or is planned to reduce the operating costs? Have any employees received or will receive a raise or benefit? According to the NH Attorney General's office, without a written contract the organization is under no obligation to provide services to Enfield residents so would the organization be willing to sign a contract or letter of agreement with the Town, stating that they will continue to provide the type of services described in its mission statement to any Enfield resident that requires it.

S. Plumley, a recent stroke victim, spoke highly of the Visiting Nurse Alliance. C. Warren, whose wife is a VNA therapist, also praised them. D. Finnegan spoke highly of the Senior Citizen Council. J. Petersson praised West Central Behavioral Health and Headrest and S. Hagerman praised Headrest. S. Stancek pointed out that all these organizations are audited by the State.

Article 8: (By Petition) Shall the Town of Enfield raise and appropriate the sum of three thousand, four hundred seven-two dollars (\$3,472) in support the Tri-County Cap Community Contact Office? This is \$16.00 per household Tri-County CAP uses to assist with Fuel & Electric Assistance and Homeless Outreach. (Estimated tax impact is less than .631 cents per \$1,000 valuation.)

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article by a vote of 3-0.

The Budget Committee does not recommend this article by a vote of 8-0.

F. Cummings made the motion to accept the article as printed, D. Crate seconded.

D. Stewart made the motion to amend the article to include: "and provide assurances of services of at least that amount to the residents of the Town".

S. Stancek seconded the motion. A voice vote was held on the amended article and voted down.

G. Malz made the motion to table the article until discussion on Articles 8-15

was concluded, S. Green seconded. The audience assented.
A paper ballot vote was taken: 85 Yes, 18 No. Article 8 passed as printed.

Article 9: (By Petition) Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of thirteen thousand nine hundred dollars (\$13,900) to help support the home health, maternal and child health, and hospice care provided in patients' homes and in community settings by the Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice of VT and NH? In 2009, the VNA & Hospice of VT and NH made 2,256 homecare visits to 220 residents and provided approximately \$141,561 of uncompensated care to Enfield residents. (Estimated tax impact 2.527 cents per \$1,000 valuation.)

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article by a vote of 3-0.
The Budget Committee does not recommend this article by a vote of 8-0.

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

H. Shaffer made the motion to table the article until discussion on Articles 8-15 was concluded, B. Thurber seconded the motion. The audience assented.

A paper ballot vote was taken. 88 Yes, 15 No. Article 9 passed as printed.

Article 10: (By Petition) Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of seven thousand two hundred fifty-eight dollars (\$7,258) for the Grafton County Senior Citizens Council for services for Enfield residents in 2010? These services include congregate meals, home delivered meals, transportation, adult in-home care, outreach support, ServiceLink support and more. In 2009, Grafton County Senior Citizens Council, Inc. provided services for 166 Enfield residents, and ServiceLink provided services for 88 residents, and the cost of providing these services was \$126,979.84. (Estimated tax impact 1.320 cents per \$1,000 valuation.)

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article by a vote of 3-0.
The Budget Committee does not recommend this article by a vote of 8-0.

J. Kluge made the motion to accept the article as printed, F. Cummings seconded the motion.

R. Cusick made the motion to table the article until discussion on Article 8-15 was concluded,

H. Shaffer seconded the motion. The audience assented.

A paper ballot vote was taken. 85 Yes, 16 No. Article 10 passed as printed.

Article 11: (By Petition) To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand two hundred fifty dollars (\$5,250) for Advance Transit for the 2010 calendar year. Advance Transit provides Enfield residents free rides to hospitals, shopping centers, schools, and regional agencies in the Upper valley. The service reduces traffic congestion, improves access to jobs and employment opportunities, and enhances mobility and transportation options for residents with disabilities. Support for the Advance Transit program will help to sustain this free service for the benefit of the community. (Estimated tax impact is .955 cents per \$1,000 valuation.)

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article by a vote of 3-0.

The Budget Committee does not recommend this article by a vote of 8-0.

F. Cummings made the motion to accept the article as printed, D. Crate seconded the motion.

H. Shaffer made the motion to table the article until discussion on Articles 8-15 was concluded,

J. Martel seconded the motion. The audience assented.

A paper ballot vote was taken. 83 Yes, 19 No. Article 11 passed as printed.

Article 12: (By Petition) Shall the Town of Enfield raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand four hundred ninety one dollars (\$5,491) for the support of professional mental health services provided by West Central Behavioral Health? This appropriation will be used to pay West Central Behavioral Health for services provided to uninsured and underinsured Enfield residents who use West Central Behavioral Health's psychological, psychiatric, case management and emergency mental health services. Last year one hundred and thirty nine (139) Enfield residents were patients of West Central Behavioral Health. Of the 139 served 69 were Enfield's children. Enfield's appropriation will only be used to support services to Enfield residents. (Estimated tax impact is .998 cents per \$1,000 valuation.)

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article by a vote of 3-0.

The Budget Committee does not recommend this article by a vote of 8-0.

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

The Moderator asked the audience to permit the article's lead petitioner, a non-resident, to speak and the audience assented.

R. Michaud, Director of West Central Behavioral Health, replied to K. Gotthardt's questions by stating that the organization had reduced employee benefits and was giving no employee step raises. They do submit an annual

report to the Town. He stated that the Town of Hanover requests a petition request for three years in a row, then if it passes each year it is included in the budget.

J. O’Keeffe made the motion to table the article until after discussion on Article 8-15 was concluded, B. Thurber seconded the motion. The audience assented.

A paper ballot vote was taken: 82 Yes, 18 No. Article 12 passed as printed.

Article 13: (By Petition) Shall the town raise and appropriate the sum of seven thousand dollars (\$7,000.00) for Headrest, Inc. for services for Enfield residents in 2010. These services include 24-hour Hotline, substance abuse counseling, residential detox, transitional living, NA meetings, and more. Headrest has always provided these services to the citizens of Enfield regardless of the ability to pay. (Estimated tax impact is 1.273 cents per \$1,000 valuation.)

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article by a vote of 3-0.

The Budget Committee does not recommend this article by a vote of 8-0.

J. Kluge made the motion to accept the article as printed, F. Cummings seconded the motion.

R. Cusick made the motion to table the article until discussion on Articles 8-15 was concluded,

J. Martel seconded the motion. The audience assented.

A paper ballot vote was taken: 81 Yes, 20 No. Article 13 passed as printed.

Article 14: (By Petition) Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of two thousand three hundred dollars (\$2,300) to help support the crisis intervention and support services and community outreach and violence prevention program at WISE (Women’s Information Service) located in Lebanon, NH and serving the Town of Enfield as well as twelve additional towns in the Upper Valley of Vermont and New Hampshire. (Estimated tax impact is .418 cents per \$1,000 valuation.)

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article by a vote of 3-0.

The Budget Committee does not recommend this article by a vote of 8-0.

F. Cummings made the motion to accept the article as printed, D. Crate seconded the motion.

R. Cusick made the motion to table the article until discussion on Articles 8-15 was concluded,

J. Martel seconded the motion. The audience assented.

A paper ballot vote was taken: 81 Yes, 20 No. Article 14 passed as printed.

Article 15: (By Petition) Shall the Town of Enfield raise and appropriate the sum of three thousand four hundred sixty three dollars (\$3,463) for the support of public health program services provided by Mascoma Valley Health Initiative in 2010? This appropriation represents an allocation of 75 cents per capita. This appropriation will be used to pay Mascoma Valley Health Initiative for services provided to adult, youth and child residents of Enfield who use Mascoma Valley health Initiative's public health immunization, youth alcohol and drug prevention, after school program, outreach and referral services. In 2009, Mascoma Valley Health Initiative conducted a seasonal flu clinic in Enfield and immunized more than 500 individuals. This appropriation will be used to support MVHI's work to protect and promote the health of Enfield residents. (Estimated tax impact is .630 cents per \$1,000 valuation.)

The Board of Selectmen recommends this article by a vote of 3-0.

The Budget Committee does not recommend this article by a vote of 8-0.

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

R. Cusick made the motion to table the article until after discussion on article 8-15 was concluded,

J. Martel seconded the motion. The audience assented.

A paper ballot vote was taken: 83 Yes, 16 No. Article 15 passed as printed.

B. Thurber made the motion to restrict reconsideration of the regional association articles after they had been voted on, P. Cronenwett seconded the motion. A voice vote passed the motion.

P. Cronenwett made the motion to remove articles 8-15 from the table for vote consideration,

J. O'Keeffe seconded the motion. The audience assented.

A paper ballot vote was taken on Articles 8-15.

Article 16: To hear the reports of agents, auditors, committees, or any other

officers heretofore chosen and pass any vote relating thereto.

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

B. Thurber made a motion to recommend that the Board of Selectmen fund LISTEN organization in the amount of \$2900 for fiscal year 2010. P. Mirski objected to the motion as the audience had already voted not to allow reconsideration of the regional organization articles. K. Gotthardt objected to the motion, asking why it wasn't brought up during the discussion of the budget. B. Thurber stated that it was just a general recommendation and withdrew it.

A voice vote was taken. Article 16 passed as printed.

The audience waited until the paper ballots were counted and the vote announced.

A. Langley made the motion to close the town meeting, E. Brady seconded the motion.

The audience agreed. The Moderator declared the meeting closed at 1:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolee T. Higbee
Town Clerk/Tax Collector