

TOWN OF ENFIELD

2013 TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Moderator Dr. David Beaufait called the meeting to order at 9:00 am on Saturday, March 16, 2013 at the Enfield Elementary School. He led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

He explained the rules of order. J. Patten made a motion to allow non-residents to speak, W. Warren seconded the motion. A voice vote carried the motion. L. O'Keefe made the motion to allow the Moderator not to re-read each article in entirety after discussion, J. Patten seconded. A voice vote carried the motion. R. Powell made the motion to allow discussion of the articles, K. Stewart seconded. A voice vote carried the motion. The Moderator asked the audience for their permission to allow Mr. Carrier, chairman of the Capital Improvement Program Committee, to offer a presentation at the beginning of Article 6 which would apply to Articles 6-13, to which the audience agreed. (A copy of the Power Point presentation Mr. Carrier used is attached to this record).

Selectman John Kluge presented certificates of appreciation to outgoing board and committee members. The Moderator introduced the head table: Selectmen Cummings, Crate and Kluge, Town Manager Steven Schneider, Town Attorney James Raymond, Chairman of the Budget Committee Doug Pettibone, Budget Committee members Gayle Hulva, Shirley Green, Samuel Eaton, Lori Saladino, Annabelle Bamforth and Janet Shepard, Alisa Bonnette, Executive Assistant and Town Clerk Carolee Higbee.

The Moderator presented the results of Articles 1 through 3, which were voted on by ballot on Tuesday, March 12th:

2013 TOWN WARRANT

To the inhabitants of the Town of Enfield, in the County of Grafton, qualified to vote in Town affairs:

Take notice and be warned that the Annual Town Meeting of the Town of Enfield, New Hampshire, will be held on two days as follows:

On Tuesday, March 12, 2013, in the Whitney Hall Auditorium, 23 Main Street, Enfield, NH, there will be voting only by Official Ballot for the election of Town Officers and Amendment to the Enfield Zoning Ordinance. Note: By law, the meeting must open before the voting starts. Therefore, the meeting and polls will open at 8:00 a.m. for the consideration of all ballot articles. At 12:00 NOON the meeting will recess, but the polls will remain open.

Polls will be open at 8:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m. There will be no opportunity to vote by ballot on Articles 1 through 3 at the second session of the Town Meeting. After the polls close at 7:00 p.m., the ballots will be counted.

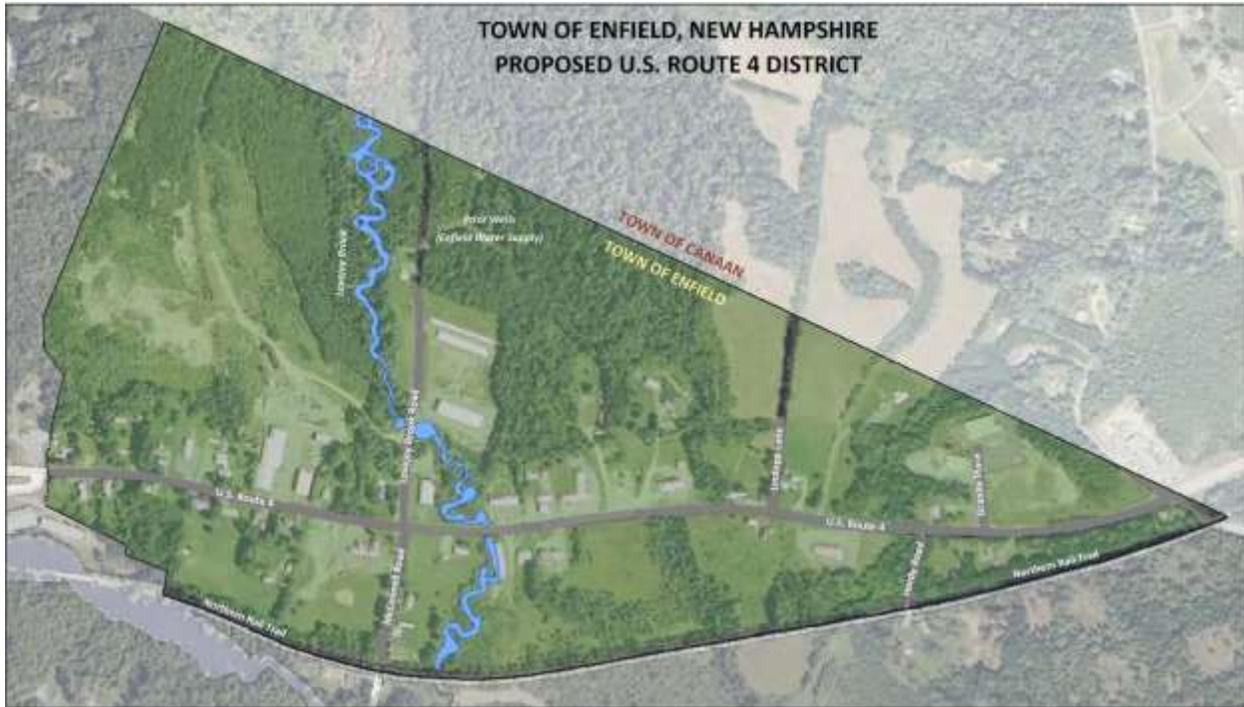
The meeting will reconvene **Saturday, March 16, 2013**; Articles 1 through 3 will be presented and articles 4 through 19 will be presented, discussed and acted upon beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Enfield Elementary Village School, 271 US Route 4, Enfield, NH.

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

For One Year:	One Library Trustee	
	Philip N. Cronenwett	997
For Three Years:	One Selectman	
	Donald J. Crate Sr.	950
	One Trustee of Trust Funds	
	Ellen H. Hackeman	1018
	One Cemetery Trustee	
	Richard M. Henderson	1016
	One Fire Ward	
	Richard A. Crate Sr.	593
	Christopher J. Bagalio	495
	One Library Trustee	
	Francine R. Lozeau	1069
	Two Zoning Board of Adjustment Members	
	Edward Scover (by write-in vote)	11
	Kenneth May (by write-in vote)	9
	Three Budget Committee Members	
	Sam Eaton	758
	Shirley A. Green	836
	David L. Stewart	745

Article 2. Are you in favor of the adoption of **Amendment No. 1** as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Enfield Zoning Ordinance as follows?

To establish a new Route 4 District and change a portion of the Community Business (CB) District generally bounded by the Enfield/Canaan Town Line on the north and east, the centerline of the Northern Rail Trail on the south, and lots 14-69, 36-1, 36-24, 36-25, and 36-26 on the west to the new Route 4 District as shown on the map below.



The proposed Route 4 District would:

- Reduce minimum lot sizes and increase allowed residential density;
- Allow Research and Development and Light Industry uses;
- Establish a maximum building footprint and impervious surface lot coverage limit;
- Revise minimum setback requirements and establish a maximum setback for properties adjacent to Route 4;
- Establish building form and façade standards;
- Establish minimum landscaping requirements;
- Require adjoining developments to be connected to each other for both vehicular and pedestrian access.

The full text of this amendment is available at the Enfield Town Offices, on file with the Enfield Town Clerk, and online at the Town of Enfield website www.enfield.nh.us.

Approved by the Enfield Planning Board by a vote of 7-0.

Yes 825, No 214. Article 2 passed as printed.

Article 3. Are you in favor of the adoption of **Amendment No. 2** as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Enfield Zoning Ordinance as follows?

To amend Section 409 (Parking and Loading Requirements) to reduce the minimum parking requirements for future non-residential development.

The proposed Section 409 would:

- Reduce the minimum parking requirement for retail uses to 1 space per 500 SF of Floor Area;

- Reduce the minimum parking requirement for general business (e.g. office, research and development, etc.) uses to 1 space per 800 SF of Floor Area.
- Establish a minimum parking requirement of 1 space per 500 SF of Floor Area for industrial uses.

The full text of this amendment is available at the Enfield Town Offices, on file with the Enfield Town Clerk, and online at the Town of Enfield website www.enfield.nh.us.

Approved by the Enfield Planning Board by a vote of 7-0.

Yes 809, No 218. Article 3 passed as printed.

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred sixty-five thousand, five hundred four and 00/100 dollars (**\$265,504**) to repave and repair Jones Hill Road and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$265,504 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provision of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the municipal officials to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon.

Special Warrant Article

2/3 Paper Ballot Vote Required

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

The Budget Committee recommends this article by a vote of 10-0.

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

S. Schneider spoke to the article, explaining the scope of work and stating that the work should begin as soon as possible with July as the target date for paving. T. Jennings asked why we are borrowing this money if we have it available, as evidenced by Article 7 for close to the same amount. S. Schneider explained that the debt service we experience with this article allows us to leverage our dollars. J. Patten said that she understood that the Highway Department and Board of Selectmen don't need town meeting approval for every little thing, so what happens if this doesn't pass? Can they proceed with the project anyways? J. Taylor, Director of Public Works, replied that we would probably limp along and use a ton of salt. The road is in very bad shape and needs more than just a top-coat paving fix. R. Cusick, Capital Improvement Committee member, said that the CIP Committee had put a lot of time in the CIP plan to build a reserve fund to hopefully eliminate future borrowing. This shows a use of combining existing funds with borrowing, trying to avoid spikes in the tax rate. The road is just going to get worse and worse and we have to maintain the town's infrastructure.

The Moderator stated that a 2/3 paper ballot vote was required and declared the polls open for one hour. L. O'Keeffe made the motion to table Article 4 until after the vote was counted, J. Patten seconded the motion and a voice vote carried the motion. Later D. Kiley made the motion to bring the article off the table, L. O'Keeffe seconded the motion and a voice vote carried the motion. The Moderator declared the vote as Yes 117, No 19. Article 4 passed as printed.

At this time C. Depuy, Energy Committee member, presented the first annual Energy Efficiency Award to Andrew MacDonald, lead solid waste facility operator at the municipal transfer station. C. Depuy projected a chart showing the tonnage of recycled materials diverted from the landfill to save energy, amounting to 9.25 BTU's diverted. Mr. MacDonald is an unsung hero in a critical job.

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee's and Selectmen's recommended sum of five million, six hundred fifty-six thousand, eight hundred fifty-seven

and 00/100 dollars, (**\$5,656,857**), for general municipal operations. This article does not include special or individual articles addressed.

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

The Budget Committee recommends this article by a vote of 10-0.

J. Kluge made the motion to accept the article as printed, F. Cummings seconded the motion. D. Pettibone, Chairman of the Budget Committee, spoke to the article. He explained that the objective is to create a responsible budget while minimizing the impact on the tax rate. It is very dependent on the CIP, which should smooth the tax rate year to year. T. Jennings thanked Mr. Pettibone for his presentation, and urged the audience to pass the article. The Moderator called for a hand vote on the article; it passed unanimously. Article 5 passed as printed.

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred fifty thousand and 00/100 dollars (**\$150,000**) for a salt/sand shed at the Public Works Facility, 74 Lockhaven Road, and to authorize the withdrawal of \$99,400 from the 12/31/2012 unreserved fund balance; \$16,268 from the Salt/Sand Facility Capital Reserve Fund and \$34,332 from Capital Improvement Program Capital Reserve Funds, both funds for which the Board of Selectmen are agents to expend. (This appropriation has no impact on the 2013 tax rate.)

Special Warrant Article

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

The Budget Committee recommends this article by a vote of 10-0.

F. Cummings made the motion to accept the article as printed, D. Crate seconded the motion. L. Carrier, Chairman of the Capital Improvement Plan Committee, spoke to the article and the Moderator reminded the audience that the discussion of the Capital Improvement Plan now would also apply to later monied articles. Mr. Carrier explained that the CIP committee looked at long-term, fifteen-year needs, which include fire trucks and highway equipment. The Capital Reserve Funds were too low to fund ongoing needs. The CIP is critical to keep the tax rate even, and if set up right eliminates future borrowing and paying interest. We need to add funds to the CIP every year. In 2012 the CIP focused on staying on budget, and actually spent less than budgeted. We are looking at major repairs to both Whitney Hall and the Community Building. He credited the Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen for keeping the budget even and the tax rate level. D. Saladino asked if this article failed will we have outstanding debt, and L. Carrier replied that it could be a problem because we have lease obligations. The CIP needs to be funded. The Moderator called for a voice vote, which was unanimously for the article. Article 6 passed as printed.

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred sixty-four thousand, one hundred sixty-eight and 00/100 dollars (**\$264,168**) to be placed in the Capital Improvement Plan Capital Reserve Fund.

Special Warrant Article

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

The Budget Committee recommends this article by a vote of 10-0.

D. Crate made the motion to accept the article as printed, J. Kluge seconded the motion. There was no discussion of the article. The Moderator called for a voice vote, which was unanimously for the article.

Article 7 passed as printed.

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen thousand and 00/100 dollars (**\$15,000**) to purchase a storage shed for the transfer station. Said appropriation to be offset by the withdrawal of \$15,000 from the Capital Improvement Program Capital Reserve Fund for which the Board of Selectmen are agents to expend. (This appropriation has no impact on the 2013 tax rate.)

Special Warrant Article

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

The Budget Committee recommends this article by a vote of 10-0.

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

C. Aufiero said that original plans for the Department of Public Works building site had put the transfer station there. If it should be moved there in the future what we happen to this shed? There is sand being stored up against a prime wetland and she is concerned that we are looking at money issues and overlooking environmental concerns. The Moderator told Ms. Aufiero that that was not germane to this article but rather to long-term planning. S. Schneider explained that the shed will be moveable, not permanent, and may be moved to the DPW site if it needs to be in the future.

The Moderator called for a voice vote, which was unanimously for the article.

Article 8 passed as printed.

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to change the purpose of the existing Municipal Building Capital Reserve Fund to allow for the purchase, alteration, addition, renovation or major repair to any Town-owned municipal facilities, to rename said fund the “Municipal Facilities, Maintenance and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund” and to name the Board of Selectmen as agent to expend. **(2/3 Majority vote required. Vote count required)**

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

T. Jennings stated that the article named the Board of Selectmen as “agents to expend” and that we need to be very explicit about what we want them to do. He made the motion to strike the words “Maintenance and Equipment” from the article, stating it allowed too broad a scope of power.

L. Hackeman seconded the motion. L. Carrier stated that he was concerned that if we changed the wording of the article do we have to find the \$40k to repair Whitney Hall from the budget or can we still use the old Capital Reserve Fund? J. Raymond, Town Attorney, stated that generally you may not use capital reserve funds for operational expenses. The Department of Revenue Administration has approved the wording of this article so he would prefer to leave it as it is, not changing the statement of purpose. T. Jennings and L. Hackeman withdrew their motion and second to motion.

The Moderator called for a hand vote. Yes 133, No 2. Article 9 passed as printed.

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of sixty-three thousand five hundred and 00/100 dollars (**\$63,500**) for the repair of Whitney Hall roof, casings and moldings at an estimated cost of \$40,000, the replacement of the Community Building HVAC System at an estimated cost of \$15,000 and the purchase of a waste oil burner for the Public Works Facility at an estimated cost of \$8,500. Said expenditure to be offset by the withdrawal of funds from the Municipal Facilities,

Maintenance and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund for which the Board of Selectmen are agents to expend. (This appropriation has no impact on the 2013 tax rate.)

Special Warrant Article

**The Board of Selectmen recommends this article by a vote of 3-0.
The Budget Committee recommends this article by a vote of 10-0.**

**D. Crate made the motion to accept the article as printed, J. Kluge seconded the motion.
R. Stewart said that she was in favor of the article but would like the Board of Selectmen to also remember the Enfield Center Town House in the future as it deserves repair. S. Schneider replied that there is \$2,500 in both the 2012 and 2013 budget for reglazing the window at the Enfield Center Town House.
R. Powell asked how the waste oil burner will be used and J. Taylor explained that it would be replacing a 10-year old one used to heat the DPW building, and that it uses waste oil collected at the transfer station.
The Moderator called for a voice vote on the article, which was unanimously for the article.
Article 10 passed as printed.**

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a long-term lease/purchase agreement in the amount of thirty thousand and 00/100 dollars (**\$30,000**) payable over a term of four (4) years for the purpose of leasing one cruiser for the Police Department and to raise and appropriate the sum of eight thousand dollars (**\$8,000**) for the first year's payment for that purpose. Said appropriation to be offset by the withdrawal of \$8,000 from the Capital Improvement Program Capital Reserve Fund for which the Board of Selectmen are agents to expend.

Special Warrant Article

2/3 Paper Ballot Vote Required

**The Board of Selectmen recommends this article by a vote of 3-0.
The Budget Committee recommends this article by a vote of 10-0.**

**J. Kluge made the motion to accept the article as printed, F. Cummings seconded the motion.
J. Raymond explained that the paper ballot was necessary because the length of time of the lease makes it a liability. The Moderator declared the polls open for one hour. K. Stewart made the motion to table the article until the ballots were counted, K. Withrow seconded the motion and a voice vote carried the motion. Later D. Kiley made the motion to bring the article forward, seconded by R. Cusick and a voice vote carried the motion.
The Moderator declared the vote as Yes 129, No 11. Article 11 passed as printed.**

**At this point in the proceedings R. Martin made a motion to move Article 18 forward before proceeding with Article 12, J. Patten seconded the motion and a voice vote passed the motion.
For clarity of these minutes Article 18 remains in numerical order.**

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the following Capital Reserve Funds, with said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, to be transferred to the municipality's general fund. (Majority vote required)

Date Established	Capital Reserve Fund	Balance
1975	Whitney Hall Renovations	\$ 1,593.17
1996	Public Works Vehicle & Equipment	8.63
1999	Technology Services	458.50
2006	Emergency Services & Equipment	554.70

F. Cummings made the motion to accept the article as printed, D. Crate seconded the motion. There was no discussion of the article. A voice vote was taken which unanimously passed the article.

Article 12 passed as printed.

Article 13: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of two thousand six hundred fifteen and 00/100 dollars (**\$2,615**) from the 12/31/2012 unreserved fund balance, for deposit into the Capital Improvement Program Capital Reserve Fund? This money represents the funds from discontinued capital reserve funds if so voted in Article 12.

Special Warrant Article

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

The Budget Committee recommends this article by a vote of 10-0.

D. Crate made the motion to accept the article as printed, J. Kluge seconded the motion. There was no discussion of the article. A voice vote was taken which unanimously passed the article.

Article 13 passed as printed.

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fourteen thousand and 00/100 dollars (**\$14,000**) for a thermal imaging camera. Said appropriation to be offset by the withdrawal of \$14,000 dollars from the Fire Vehicle and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. (This appropriation has no impact on the 2013 tax rate.)

Special Warrant Article

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

The Budget Committee recommends this article by a vote of 9-1.

J. Kluge made the motion to accept the article as printed, F. Cummings seconded the motion. S. Eaton said that he understood that both the Fire Department and Police Department will use this camera and wondered how the police will use it, and if a warrant will be required for them to use it? Richard A. Crate Jr, Police Chief, replied that in the past the department has used one to locate both a homeless person and a juvenile runaway, scanning buildings for their body heat to see if they were hiding in the building. That falls under welfare concerns. It could also be used to detect a marijuana growing operation, but would require a warrant for that.

A voice vote was taken which unanimously passed the article.

Article 14 passed as printed.

Article 15: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of two thousand, eight hundred and 00/100 dollars (**\$2,800**) from the 12/31/2012 unreserved fund balance, for deposit into the Cemetery Maintenance Expendable Trust 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 2012 revenue from the sale of cemetery lots in 2012 and is available to offset the appropriation.

Special Warrant Article

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

The Budget Committee recommends this article by a vote of 10-0.

F. Cummings made the motion to accept the article as printed, D. Crate seconded the motion. D. Stewart, as Cemetery Trustee, explained that these funds were used for cemetery maintenance and recently had removed some leaning trees from the border of the little Shaker cemetery. A voice vote taken, which unanimously passed the article. Article 15 passed as printed.

Article 16: (By Petition) To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seventy-two thousand dollars (\$72,000) for the construction of a 6-foot wide scenic boardwalk of about ½ mile in length. Construction to be by a third party and/or Town forces. Said boardwalk to be located on the south side of NH Route 4A, at the top of the bank overlooking Mascoma Lake, on property owned by the State of New Hampshire, identified on Enfield Tax Map as Map 10 Lot 4, between the Town-owned Upper Beach Parking Lot and LaSalette. Construction is contingent upon successfully obtaining the necessary permits from the State of New Hampshire.

The Board of Selectmen does not recommend this article by a vote of 3-0. The Budget Committee does not recommend this article by a vote of 10-0.

Robert Cavalieri, the petition originator, made the motion to accept the article as printed, J. Huntley seconded the motion. Mr. Cavalieri asked Ms. Huntley to read a prepared statement from him regarding the article, which is attached as part of these minutes. In short, this article arose from the State removing trees for road repair. The State has no plans for a sidewalk along this stretch. There are serious drainage problems in this area, which a boardwalk would allow. R. Cusick stated that he had nothing against the article but that it had never been brought before the CIP Committee and believes that it should go through normal processes. S. Eaton pointed out that the \$72k was only a fraction of the actual cost as labor was not included. J. Patten stated that she had walked this stretch with Mr. Cavalieri and saw two red flags against the project: one, that it is on State-owned land, and two, it is on a sewer easement. She agrees with Mr. Cusick. W. Shippen asked if there were any plans for sidewalks on Route 4, to which Mr. Schneider replied no, primarily due to cost. M. Haagen stated that we need to be concerned with quality of life issues and this would improve it. R. Pollard stated that we don't have a decent sidewalk leading to the post office so we sure as heck don't need this one. C. Sanborn stated that he had a lot of experience building trails and trail bridges and hadn't heard who is going to build and maintain this boardwalk and remained a skeptic of the article. The Moderator announced that he had a petition for a paper ballot vote on this article so declared the polls open for one hour. S. Hagerman made the motion to table the article until after the vote results, J. Patten seconded and the audience assented. Later W. Madore made the motion to move the article off the table, J. Patten seconded the motion and the audience assented. The Moderator declared the results of the paper ballot vote: Yes 20, No 113. Article 16 failed.

Article 17: (By Petition) The taxpayers of Enfield request the Enfield Energy Committee, to complete a town wide streetlight analysis for the purpose and intent of identifying any and all streetlights that **do not** meet the following criteria:

- Illuminates a sidewalk or crosswalk
- Illuminates the core village areas
- Illuminates major intersections
- Illuminates sections of roads that are documented to be hazardous or unsafe

Furthermore; those streetlights that fail to meet the above criteria shall no longer be paid for with taxpayer money, and removed if required to meet this condition.

Furthermore; any streetlight that is slated for removal, may be retained if paid for privately.

Kurt Gotthardt, the petition originator, made the motion to accept the article as printed, C. Depuy seconded the motion.

K. Gotthardt spoke to the article and a copy of his presentation is attached to these minutes.

J. Raymond stated that from a legal standpoint this article was interesting. At issue is what is the power of the town meeting to direct the Board of Selectmen to do this. You may not impinge on the statutory authority of the Town Manager but the Energy Committee may recommend action. It is legal to ask the Energy Committee to carry out an analysis but the Town Manager is not compelled to act on their findings. L. Saladino asked if you want to privately pay for a streetlight, or conversely, to have one removed, who do I contact and who pays for the removal? K. Gotthardt answered that you would contact the electric company and that you would pay for the removal, at a cost of about \$50.00. D. Saladino stated that he thought that the Police Chief should be included in deciding which lights to remove from a public safety standpoint, and that we should take out the reference to payment since legally we can't direct that. J. Raymond asked that the last sentence also be removed for legal purposes, which Mr. Saladino did, then he made a motion to amend the article to:

(By Petition) The taxpayers of Enfield request the Enfield Energy Committee, to complete a town wide streetlight analysis for the purpose and intent of identifying any and all streetlights that **do not** meet the following criteria:

- Illuminates a sidewalk or crosswalk
- Illuminates the core village areas
- Illuminates major intersections
- Illuminates sections of roads that are documented to be hazardous or unsafe

Furthermore; those streetlights that fail to meet the above criteria **SHALL BE IDENTIFIED BY THE ENFIELD ENERGY COMMITTEE AND SHALL BE REVIEWED BY THE CHIEF OF POLICE, AND IF APPROVED BY THE CHIEF OF POLICE, WILL BE RECOMMENDED TO THE TOWN MANAGER AND BOARD OF SELECTMEN TO BE REMOVED**, and removed.

D. Langley seconded the motion. The Moderator called for a voice vote on the amendment, which unanimously passed.

K. Gotthardt stated that there is no State law that a street light has to be there so there is no liability to the Town if it's removed. The lights are owned by the electric company. J. Patten thanked the Energy Committee for all their work but she feels as though this article is taking away authority from the Town Manager and should be tabled until further study is done. R. Stewart said that she appreciates the intent but feels as though we're putting the cart before the horse. We have no information from the Energy Committee for recommendations. We need to complete an analysis then bring it to the people so we can act on actual facts. C. Clark asked if the Energy Committee could ask the electric company to replace bulbs with more energy efficient ones. K. Quirk, chair of the Energy Committee, stated that they looked at 232 street lights in Town and brought the results to the Board of Selectmen. They can ask the electric company to change bulbs but it's up to the electric company. J. Patten made the motion to move the question, R. Cusick seconded. W. Smith said that he had been working with the Energy Committee and saw this as a chance for the Town to drastically cut energy costs.

The Moderator called for a voice vote on Article 17 as amended. The vote was unclear so he called for a hand vote. Yes 82, No 27. Article 17 passed as amended.

Article 18: (*By Petition*) Shall the Town legislative body vote to adopt a Conflict of Interest Ordinance, in accordance to RSA 31:39-a, as it relates to the Fire Ward system. If adopted, it shall be considered a Conflict of Interest to serve as both a Fire Ward for the Town and a Chief Officer of the Fire Department. Ordinance to read:

It shall be considered a Conflict of Interest for any person duly elected Fire Ward in the Town of Enfield to serve as a Chief officer in the Enfield Fire Department. Therefore, holding both positions is not allowed.

If adopted, current Chief Officers and Fire Wards will be exempt from the new ordinance for a period of one (1) year from adoption.

F. Cummings, the petition originator, made the motion to accept the article as printed, J. Patten seconded the motion. Mr. Cummings spoke to the article, describing that the Fire Wards were basically the Board of Selectmen of the Fire Department, and elected a Fire Chief comparable to the Town Manager. Presently the Fire Wards are the Fire Chief, an Assistant Fire Chief and a Fire Department Captain. There are no checks and balances in place and this article would allow there to be some. T. Taylor, Fire Ward and an Assistant Fire Chief, stated that the Fire Wards are very active in the department and have a lot of experience between them. They are responsible to both the Fire Department and the people of Enfield. They are responsible for budget issues important to the Town, outlining specifications for new trucks, etc. It's nice for the Chief to be both Chief and Fire Ward so he knows the whole picture. This has worked since 1933 and there's a town in southern New Hampshire with about the same population that uses the same system and says that it works well. J. Patten thanked all the volunteers in the Fire Department and stated that this was not about people but about positions and accountability. What worked in 1933 does not necessarily work now. S. Eaton said that there are no minutes of the Fire Ward meetings and they need more accountability. R. Martin stated that he had been a Fire Ward but declined to run again as it's an old system and just isn't working. This is taking a baby step to provide transparency. He's sure that in 1933 they had the best interests of the Town at heart, and they do now. L. Saladino thanked the Fire Department volunteers and stated that she was in favor of anything that improves checks and balances. W. Smith said that this seems all or nothing. Maybe we could start with two-thirds of the Fire Wards. R. Stewart thanked the volunteers and said that she believed that they had our best interest at heart but they need oversight and can't possibly oversee themselves. We need to use best business practices. T. Taylor stated that the Fire Chief would give anyone the shirt off his back and he feels as though this article is going after him personally. T. Tantillo stated that we elect both our Selectmen and our Fire Wards and the Fire Wards have served the Town exceptionally. He's in favor of leaving things the way they are. R. Pollard stated that he is another Assistant Chief and knows that the system is broken. There is no communication between the Fire Wards and the rest of the Fire Department members. We learn about things after they've been done. There is a lot of collusion. There are no minutes from the Fire Ward meetings. We don't do fire drills at the school. We should get rid of the Fire Wards entirely. L. Saladino stated that this wasn't about the people but about best practices. D. Saladino asked if after the one-year grace period would new Fire Wards or a new Fire Chief step in? T. Taylor stated that we could lose the Fire Chief as both Fire Chief and Fire Ward. R. Martin said that no one's called any one a thief and that everyone on the Fire Department would stand behind the Fire Chief and 99% would support him. J. Patten stated that this was not about people but about positions and how the system functions. She moved the question, seconded by S. Kiley. D. Langley made the motion to limit discussion, seconded by L. O'Keeffe. The Moderator stated that we had a written request for a paper ballot vote and declared the polls open for one hour. D. Kiley made the motion to table the article until the paper

ballot results were in, R. Cusick seconded the motion. Later D. Kiley made the motion to bring the article back to the table, S. Hagarman seconded the motion.

The Moderator declared the results: Yes 125, No 22.

Article 18 passed as printed.

Article 19: To hear the reports of agents, auditors, committees, or any other officers heretofore chosen and pass any vote relating thereto.

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

The Moderator thanked the Lioness club for providing refreshments during the meeting and reminded everyone of the Lioness Corned Beef & Cabbage dinner that evening.

The Moderator declared the meeting adjourned at 12:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolee T. Higbee

Town Clerk/Tax Collector