

**ENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2017**

The Regular Meeting of the Enfield Town Council was called to order by Chairman Kaupin in the Council Chambers of the Enfield Town Hall, 820 Enfield Street, Enfield, Connecticut on Monday, April 3, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

PRAYER – The Prayer was given by Councilor Lee.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL-CALL – Present were Councilors Arnone, Bosco, Cekala, Davis, Deni, Edgar, Kaupin, Lee, Ludwick and Szewczak. Councilor Falk was absent. Also present were Town Manager, Brian Chodkowski; Town Clerk, Suzanne Olechnicki; Town Attorney, Christopher Bromson; Director of Finance, John Wilcox and Director of Public Works, Jonathan Bilmes

FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT

Chairman Kaupin made the fire evacuation announcement.

MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

MOTION #4087 by Councilor Arnone, seconded by Councilor Ludwick to accept the minutes of the March 20, 2017 Regular Meeting.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #4087** adopted 8-0-2, with Councilors Edgar and Szewczak abstaining

SPECIAL GUESTS

Enfield Eagles

Chairman Kaupin read a proclamation recognizing and honoring the Enfield Eagles Girls' Basketball for an outstanding 2016/2017 season.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS

Walter Kruzel, 21 Charnley Road

Stated he was at the recent Buzz Robotics competition at Hartford Public Schools, and they finished fifth out of 42 competitors, and they're waiting to see if they qualify for regionals in New Hampshire. He presented pictures of the robot.

COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS

Councilor Ludwick stated over the weekend four teams represented Enfield at the New England CYO Championships in Bridgeport. He noted students from St. Bernard's and St. Martha's Schools competed in the tournament. He stated they did very well, and he congratulated the players, coaches and parents.

He then commended Chief Sferrazza and the entire Enfield Police Department for getting nationally accredited again.

MOTION #4088 by Councilor Lee, seconded by Councilor Ludwick to suspend the rules to address under Miscellaneous Items 14 A1-A2, B2, F & G.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #4088** adopted 10-0-0.

Chairman Kaupin stated the Scantic River Spring Splash took place on Saturday, March 25th. He noted it was a great event with a good turnout.

He noted there will be a fundraiser to benefit the ERFC scholarship fund on April 21st at the Old Country Banquet and Deli facility at 4 Alden Avenue. Tickets are \$25 per person.

Councilor Edgar stated at the leadership meeting they proposed some changes in the different committees. He suggested that be explained to the entire Council.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT & COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Chodkowski stated included in the Council's packet is the Project and Activities Report, and he can answer any questions or concerns the Council may have regarding that report.

As concerns Councilor Edgar's comment, he will talk with Leadership again to find out what some of the questions and concerns are and provide whatever format is most appropriate. He noted it was his intent to bring forward formal legislation to make some of these changes at the next meeting.

Chairman Kaupin stated a resident questioned whether veterans can be honored at certain municipal buildings with a designated "Veterans Only" parking space. He noted some communities are doing this, and such signs are typically painted red, white and blue. He stated his understanding this was to be unveiled Memorial Day weekend. He questioned whether this is still on track and planned for Memorial Day. Mr. Chodkowski stated he has that item added to the agenda for tomorrow's staff meeting, therefore, this is an item he plans on bringing up again to meet that commitment.

FY2017-18 Budget Presentation

Mr. Chodkowski thanked staff for all their hard work and diligence in helping put this budget together.

He stated the initial intent was to work from a 2.5% operating increase for both the Town and Board of Education, and they were able to do so on the Town side until the Finance Director brought to the table other factors beyond their control, and the overall expense began to rise. He noted the Board of Education ended up at just over 3%, with an overall increase of just over 3.75%. He pointed out they did their best to try and control costs, but there are some things they have no control over.

Referring to major funds, Mr. Chodkowski stated most of the funds in the town grew very minimally if they grew at all. He noted there are several funds such as Social Services, Emergency Management and Recreation that actually decreased their operating expenses from last year to this year. He stated they did see double-digit percentage growth in the insurance area. He noted the 18% increase in the dog fund equates to about \$8,200.

He stated the Water Pollution Control Authority has done its best to minimize its growth. He noted Public Works is busy designing major plant upgrades.

He presented a list of the top five cost drivers within the budget. He noted one is the lease for the energy performance, which will eventually right itself once they are through the process and the facilities are up and running on the more energy efficient performance measures, which this lease is designed to implement. He referred to Solid Waste Disposal and noted there's a shrinking market for solid waste disposal and as a result the Town is feeling the pinch. As concerns insurance and debt service, there were rate increases as a result of the new high school and a few other items in the Town's inventory. He noted the debt service is starting to come due for all of the projects the Town bonded.

As concerns capital improvements, Mr. Chodkowski stated previously Enfield paid cash for its capital assets through the years. He noted he and the Director of Finance are proposing a third party finance-based structure, and they're doing this so they have better control of cash flow. He pointed out there are increasing demands for the replacement or improvement of assets, therefore, in an effort to try and meet demands, they're recommending several of the investments the Town makes are actually financed.

Mr. Chodkowski stated they project revenues will be up by about 3% in the property tax category, and they project some decreases in other areas of revenue. He noted they will recommend a one mill increase to the property tax rate. He presented a slide showing the historic trend, and noted in 2006 one mill generated \$1.9 million dollars; in 2011 one mill generated \$3 million dollars and one mill today generates \$2.5 million dollars. He stated this indicates to him that somewhere along the way there was some type of market anomaly. He noted this also indicates to him that when looking at 2011, 2016 and 2018,

they don't have an operational expense control issue, but rather it indicates a revenue loss issue. He pointed out those are two separate problems that have to be solved.

Mr. Chodkowski stated this information will be available on the Town's website.

Councilor Ludwick stated his impression this budget does not address the potential shift of the teachers' pension to the Town. Mr. Chodkowski responded they did not address the teacher pension issue. He noted this budget is based on the information that was available at the time they put this budget together. Councilor Ludwick questioned whether other towns are taking a similar tack, and Mr. Chodkowski responded yes.

Chairman Kaupin stated they also received from the Governor a reduction in aid and questioned whether this was taken into consideration, and Mr. Chodkowski stated they were working only from the most updated statistical figures they received from Hartford on what they believe their revenues to be.

Chairman Kaupin stated overall the Governor was proposing Enfield would lose \$2.5 million dollars in state aid. He stated his understanding that reduction was programmed in with this budget, and Mr. Chodkowski responded that's correct if that was already included in the numbers provided.

Councilor Szewczak stated last year they had a different budget, which provided a look ahead for two years. She questioned whether that's included in this budget, and Mr. Chodkowski stated they simplified it into the bar graph to demonstrate that based on trends that gap where they will have to rely on Fund Balance is going to grow. He noted they can extrapolate that and provide data sets that went into making that graph so that the numbers are available.

Councilor Lee stated his understanding a town can't set a mill rate and then back it down, and Attorney Bromson responded that's correct.

Councilor Arnone referred to the anomalies with the mill rate and stated his understanding that relates to property values and how unstable they've been in New England from 2006 to the present time. Mr. Chodkowski stated the Finance Department's calculation was inclusive of all property that was subject to that mill rate, excluding motor vehicles.

Councilor Ludwick questioned whether there's a projection as to what the debt service percentage will be in the next four to five years. Mr. Chodkowski stated the Finance Director is aware of those obligations and how they roll into the Town's budget in the future.

Councilor Bosco questioned the status of the bonds being repaid. Mr. Chodkowski stated the Finance Director has that information, which can be provided at the discussion sessions.

Councilor Lee stated there was a delay in the street sweeping program. Mr. Bilmes explained the street sweeping was delayed due to the late winter weather. He noted the plan is to start this program next week.

Councilor Ludwick questioned whether there will be a future request for funding due to the last snowstorms. Mr. Bilmes stated they are okay on the contractor and salt piece, however, they had to run some internal overtime. He noted at this time he's not envisioning a request for funding unless there are more storms.

Councilor Bosco questioned whether neighborhoods will be notified when street sweeping is going to occur so cars can be off the streets, and Mr. Bilmes stated they try to do this.

TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT & COMMUNICATIONS

Attorney Bromson stated they scheduled a freedom of information seminar for some commissions, and attendance was very good. He noted they are planning a public forum regarding freedom of information for citizens on May 10th at 6:30 p.m. in the great room at the Enfield Senior Center. He noted this event will be recorded and placed on the Town's website.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

Enfield High School Renovation Building Committee

Councilor Szewczak stated at this time they're trying to get their final overall building certificate of occupancy.

Councilor Lee stated there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony and open house for the new Enfield High School on Saturday, May 13, 2017.

JFK Pre-Referendum Committee

Chairman of the JFK Pre-Referendum Committee, Christopher Rutledge, was present for this item.

Mr. Rutledge stated over the last month the architectural consultant has been meeting with various offices, program coordinators and Central Office staff to get a better idea as to the needs and wants for programming space. He noted they started developing the conceptual plans for the school, and at their next meeting Wednesday evening, they will see the first visual conceptual plans for the school. He stated from that point, they're heading towards a deadline around the end of April to have the conceptual plans approved so they can begin the state reimbursement process.

Clean Energy Committee

Chairman Melissa Everett was present from the Clean Energy Committee.

Ms. Everett stated the Clean Energy Committee was chartered some years ago to take advantage of state programs to help scale up energy efficiency, clean energy and help businesses and residents save money.

She stated 12% of Enfield has had energy assessments, and their goal is 20%. She noted they've created a presentation called, "Clean Energy-What's New, Cool and What's Possible for Enfield".

Ms. Everett stated the Town of Stafford's entire municipal operation is powered by solar and geothermal energy. She noted the Clean Energy Committee will tour their facility on April 22nd.

She stated they are also working to create an implementation roadmap with goals such as scaling up renewable energy; increasing solar installations and help contractors and businesses become sophisticated in energy efficiency and renewable technology.

She updated the Council on one aspect of the energy saving performance contract which most affects residents and that is the streetlight upgrade. She noted they will be replacing about 3,600 town-owned streetlights with high efficiency LED's. She pointed out this is one of the top three projects within the performance contract to really achieve deep cuts in energy use and expenses. She noted there will be some demo lights installed and monitored in April with the full roll out in May.

Ms. Everett stated the American Medical Association has expressed concerns that high frequency LED lights can inhibit melatonin if lights come in through people's windows. She noted she was told what Enfield plans on using isn't quite what the American Medical Association recommends. She noted this needs to be researched further to be sure the lighting they choose is what the Town wants.

Councilor Arnone thanked Ms. Everett for all her hard work on this Committee.

OLD BUSINESS

APPOINTMENTS (TOWN COUNCIL)

MOTION #4089 by Councilor Edgar, seconded by Councilor Arnone to remove Item 18 from the table.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #4089** adopted 10-0-0.

NOMINATION #4090 by Councilor Edgar to appoint Virginia Higley (D) to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency for a term which expires 6/30/17.

MOTION #4091 by Councilor Arnone, seconded by Councilor Deni to close nominations.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #4091** adopted 10-0-0.

Chairman Kaupin questioned if there was a legal opinion whether someone can serve on both the Planning & Zoning and Inland Wetland Commissions, and the Town Attorney stated there is not a written legal opinion, but it was a review of the statute, and there is not a prohibition to it. Attorney Bromson responded that's correct.

Chairman Kaupin stated the Town Attorney told him years ago Inland Wetlands was separated from Planning & Zoning. Attorney Bromson stated this was done in 1987, and the reason had to do with workload.

Councilor Edgar stated before he put this name forward, he called the Town Attorney to be sure he was on solid ground. He noted Attorney Bromson informed him there was no prohibition. He stated his understanding the reason Planning & Zoning and Inland/Wetlands separated had to do with workload. He stated his belief this will bring clarity rather than conflict.

Councilor Szewczak stated she will be voting "no" and it's not "no" to the person, but rather the potential conflict. She stated her belief when Inland/Wetlands hears an applicant, and then that applicant goes before Planning & Zoning, this creates a risk because at that point, that person has already voted on this application, and it can be construed that they have a pre-conceived and pre-disposition to how this application should be heard – whether it's positive or negative.

Councilor Lee agreed with Councilor Szewczak and stated they should not be looking to a commissioner who has already heard a hearing to provide the expert discussion on whether something is right or wrong. He noted in land use, it comes down to the law and Town code, and he feels they run into problems when they look to one commissioner or another to lead everyone else in a discussion. He stated his belief there's a little too much potential for conflict in land use boards, and the Town has worked hard to set the expectations about how they want these boards to operate. He stated his understanding the applicant is amply qualified to serve on either board, but he prefers the Town not get in the habit of seating an individual to two land use boards.

Councilor Edgar stated his understanding Inland/Wetlands is not a land use board. Attorney Bromson stated Inland/Wetlands deals with land use and they are part of the process as is the Conservation Commission, Planning & Zoning Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals. He pointed out this is a policy issue, and there isn't a legal prohibition about it. He stated obviously when a person wears two hats on different

commissions, a person must remain focused and disciplined to make sure they judge the application before one commission by that commission's standards and that they don't transfer to the next one and be cognizant of that.

Councilor Edgar stated Inland/Wetlands is not a land use board. He noted the applicant is fully qualified.

Councilor Szewczak questioned why they separated the Inland/Wetlands membership from the Conservation membership. Attorney Bromson stated he did not look at that. Councilor Szewczak stated her belief that one of the problems is that if you go before the same people, there is that perception, and when sitting in the audience, perception means a lot.

Chairman Kaupin stated he will support the nomination, but he thinks Virginia Higley has to walk a very careful line, and she may be putting herself in a situation where she doesn't want to be. He urged Ms. Higley to recuse herself from something if ever she feels she's in conflict. He stated the Town has a hard time filling boards and commissions with qualified people, and there's no doubt that Ms. Higley is qualified for this position. He stated his hope she's not setting herself up for a difficult path.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared Virginia Higley appointed to the Inland Wetland and Watercourse Agency by an 8-2-0 vote, with Councilors Lee and Szewczak voting against.

All other appointments remained on the table.

Items C, D, E and F remained tabled.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no New Business items on this agenda.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

All items have been moved to Miscellaneous, except Item B1 and B3 and Item E., which will appear on the next regular meeting agenda.

MISCELLANEOUS

MOTION #4092 by Councilor Edgar, seconded by Councilor Deni to accept the Consent Agenda.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #4092** adopted 9-0-0. Councilor Bosco absent at the vote.

NOMINATION #4093 by Councilor Edgar to appoint Ignatius Maniscalco (D) to the Patriot Award Committee for a term which expires 7/31/2017.

MOTION #4094 by Councilor Ludwick, seconded by Councilor Arnone to close nominations.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #4094** adopted 10-0-0.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared Ignatius Maniscalco appointed to the Patriot Award Committee by a 10-0-0 vote.

RESOLUTION #4095 by Councilor Lee, seconded by Councilor Arnone.

WHEREAS, the Town of Enfield (“Town”) may from time-to-time enter into tax assessment agreements (“Agreements”) for economic development purposes: and

WHEREAS, these Agreements may have a financial impact on the Fire Districts (“Districts”); and

WHEREAS, the Town and the Districts wish to formally document the policy and procedure for communicating to the Districts when an Agreement is being considered by the Town;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL, that Town Manager, Bryan R.H. Chodkowski is authorized to execute the attached Memorandum of Understanding in the name and on behalf of the Town of Enfield with Enfield Fire District No. 1, Thompsonville Fire District No. 2, Hazardville Fire District No. 3, Shaker Pines Fire District No. 5 and North Thompsonville Fire District No. 10 (Districts) and to affix the Corporate Seal, subject to review and approval by the Town Attorney.

Councilor Lee acknowledged the work that went into this, and he thanked Mr. Chodkowski and Attorney Bromson for taking this on.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #4095** adopted 10-0-0.

RESOLUTION #4096 by Councilor Cekala, seconded by Councilor Deni.

BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to Section 2, “Term”, of the Lease by and between the Town of Enfield and the Educational Resources for Children, Inc., the Enfield Town Council does hereby approve the renewal of the lease for one additional term.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #4096** adopted 10-0-0.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

There were no comments from the public.

COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS

There were no comments from the Council.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #4097 by Councilor Cekala, seconded by Councilor Davis to adjourn.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #4097** adopted 10-0-0, and the meeting stood adjourned at 8:25 p.m.