

**ENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2020**

A Virtual Public Hearing of the Enfield Town Council was called to order by Chairman Ludwick on Wednesday, April 29, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m.

Chairman Ludwick stated this meeting is available live on YouTube, and the meeting will also be aired on ETV, Channel 16 tomorrow evening.

ROLL-CALL – Present were Councilors Bosco, Cekala, Hemmeler, Kiner, Ludwick, Mangini, Muller, Riley, Sferrazza, Szewczak and Unghire. Also present were Town Manager, Christopher Bromson; Assistant Town Manager, Kasia Purciello; Town Clerk, Suzanne Olechnicki; Town Attorney, James Tallberg; Chief Technology Officer, Paul Russell; Superintendent of Schools, Christopher Drezek; Chairman of the Enfield Board of Education, Walter Kruzel.

Chairman Ludwick stated this Public Hearing has been scheduled to allow interested citizens an opportunity to express their opinion regarding the proposed annual operating and capital budget for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. Due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, and pursuant to Governor Lamont's Executive Orders, public comment on the proposed budget was by written testimony only. He noted Electors and taxpayers submitted comments to PHBudgetComments@enfield.org, an email address dedicated to receiving public comment on the budget. All public comments received were posted on the following website: <http://www.enfield-ct.gov/718/Town-Council>. He stated the Town received two public comments concerning the proposed budget, which were shared with each member of the Town Council to consider as part of the budget deliberations.

Chairman Ludwick invited Superintendent of Schools, Christopher Drezek and Town Manager, Christopher Bromson to provide a brief presentation of the budget.

BUDGET – BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr. Drezek acknowledged this public hearing appears a lot different than what people are used to. He reminded everyone that the Board of Education proposed budget book and presentation is on the Enfield Public Schools website at www.enfieldschools.org as well as on a link on the Town of Enfield's website.

He noted a lot has changed since the Board sent its budget request to the Town Manager in February. He stated once discussions about COVID-19 began, he and the Town Manager made a conscious choice that for any major decision that they would make, they would do so in consultation with each other. He noted they both realized that each of their decisions has a dramatic impact on both organizations, and in a time like this, they need to stand shoulder-to-shoulder to do what's in the best interest of the entire Enfield community. He stated it was not a coincidence that when on March 12th, the Town Manager declared a state of emergency for the Town of Enfield, he also closed schools indefinitely. He stated during this unprecedented time,

everyone should be aware of the strong partnership between the Town and school system to do everything they can to get them through this.

Mr. Drezek stated when it came to the budget, the Board of Education originally requested a 2.6% increase for next year. He noted very early in this pandemic, he and the Town Manager realized that there would be a significant financial impact from this, not only in Enfield, but throughout the entire country. He stated they also realized that asking for an increase in the budget was not the responsible thing to do during these trying times.

He stated district leadership worked tirelessly to identify areas to reduce its request, so that the Board of Education would not burden the Town with making very difficult decisions. He noted after consulting with Board leadership, he informed the Town Manager that the Board could absorb a flat-funded budget for next year without impacting its two biggest priorities – programs for students or laying off staff. He directed anyone interested in more specifics to last night's Board of Education meeting at which time he shared more details, and that meeting is now on Enfield's YouTube channel.

Mr. Drezek stated this is not something they can do every year, but everyone hopes this is the last pandemic ever to be experienced. He noted they will have to bend a bit, but it will not break them. He stated he is confident if they continue working together, they will get through this stronger than they were before.

BUDGET – TOWN OF ENFIELD

Mr. Bromson thanked Mr. Drezek for his collaboration and leadership on this matter. He noted he had an opportunity to present his budget, and that is available on the Town's website. He stated the entire budget has been online.

He stated the proposed Town Manager's budget totals \$138,911,188, and the mill rate would remain flat at 34.23 with a zero dollar increase in the proposed budget. He noted anyone wishing to see the Board of Education budget presentation or Town Council budget presentation may go onto those respective websites to view them.

Chairman Ludwick stated the Council will begin deliberations next week, and it will be their goal to pass the budget at a Council meeting in May.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #5420 Councilman Mangini, seconded by Councilor Muller to adjourn.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #5420** adopted 11-0-0, and the meeting stood adjourned at 5:15 p.m.