

ENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2022

A Special Meeting of the Enfield Town Council was called to order by Chairman Cressotti on Tuesday, January 18, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm.

**ROLL-CALL**- Present were Councilors Cekala, Cressotti, Finger, Hopkins, Ludwick, Mangini, Pyznar and Unghire. Councilor Despard arrived at 6:15 pm. Councilors Bosco and Santanella were absent. Also present were Town Manager, Ellen Zoppo-Sassu; Town Attorney, James Tallberg; and Town Clerk, Sheila Bailey.

**MOTION #6076** by Councilor Finger seconded by Councilor Mangini to go into Executive Session to discuss Real Estate Negotiations.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #6076** adopted, 8-0-0.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Executive Session of the Enfield Town Council was called to order by Chairman Cressotti at 6:01pm.

**ROLL-CALL**- Present were Councilors Cekala, Cressotti, Finger, Hopkins, Ludwick, Mangini, Pyznar and Unghire. Councilor Despard arrived at 6:15 pm. Councilors Bosco and Santanella were absent. Also present were Town Manager, Ellen Zoppo-Sassu; Town Attorney, James Tallberg; and Town Clerk, Sheila Bailey.

Chairman Cressotti reconvened the Special Meeting at 6:30pm and stated during Executive Session the Council discussed Real Estate Negotiations with no action or votes being taken.

**REGISTRAR OF VOTERS - REDISTRICTING**

Present for this item were Lewis Fiore, Democratic Registrar of Voters and Thomas Kienzler, Republican Registrar of Voters.

Mr. Fiore read the following into the record: Since redistricting is making the news, we wanted to provide you with an update and an outline of the needed implementation steps. I should also mention that I have personally been involved with this task twice (in 1982, 2002), so I have been through this gauntlet before.

Every 10 years, per the US Constitution, State Constitution and our Town Charter, the various voting districts need to be re-balanced (redistricted) per population based on the census data.

As of this past fall, the State Assembly received the official census data and has completed its work on redistricting all the State Senate and State Assembly Districts. There was no change to Enfield as it pertains to the 7<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District. There was a minor change as it pertains to

Enfield for the 58<sup>th</sup> and 59<sup>th</sup> State Assembly Districts. Five or six streets that were partially in the 59<sup>th</sup> District have now been completely moved to the 58<sup>th</sup> District. The State has provided us with those changes that by State Statute, Tom Kienzler and I, as Registrars of Voters, have to make in the State Voter Registration system by mid-March 2022. This is so that they take effect for the upcoming Party Convention Delegate selection process and for the elections in August and November of 2022.

As it pertains to the five federal congressional districts in the state: various plans have been submitted to the Connecticut State Supreme Court, who have assigned a special Master to recommend a redistricting plan that will then be accepted by the State Supreme Court. The final completion date for that action is around February 18<sup>th</sup>. At that time, we will know if Enfield remains in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District. If we are moved out of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District, the Registrars will have to implement that change and every registered voter in Enfield (approx. 26,000) will have to be notified.

As it pertains to the Town: assuming you want the ROVs to take the lead on this task as in the past, then our goal is to begin the work of creating a redistricting plan of the four Town Council Districts in late January 2022 to be submitted to you by mid-May. By federal statute, to the best of our ability, we need to balance out the districts by overall population (not by registered voters). This is a difficult task as the census data is provided to us in ‘census blocks’ not by streets and some of those blocks are split between different Council Districts.

All municipal redistricting changes must be approved by the Town Council, I believe, via a public hearing and a resolution. In addition, during the upcoming November 2022 election, the Enfield residents must vote and hopefully approve the Municipal Redistricting Plan as a referendum question which is a requirement under our Town Charter. If passed, these changes will then be in effect for the November 2023 Municipal Election and for all future elections after that, until 2033.

Now the bad news. First, we will need a Town Council Member Liaison assigned to us so that the Council and the Town Manager will be kept in the loop on the proposed changes (thus no surprises come May). Second, we will need a town staff member with knowledge of loading data into the town’s GIS system and for assisting us with producing the reports and maps. Thirdly, we will not budget for the postage and printing of the Municipal change notifications at this time (proposed 2022/2023 budget) as we have no idea how much it will cost. It depends on the amount of changes. Thus, a late budget increase request prior to your May budget approval meeting might be submitted from us.

If the referendum required by our Charter in November does not pass, it has to be re-done again and that has never happened. I put a word out, if there is any way to word the referendum question in a way that makes it crystal clear that it is by state law and there are no dollars involved. It needs to be simple for the voting public to understand. It has to happen; the Charter says it has to be approved at referendum. We don’t want to have to go back to a second referendum. We are one of the few towns that actually have to have voters pass this type of administrative change by a referendum question. In most towns it is done by an ordinance or the Council, First Selectman or Mayor.

Councilor Ludwick commented that he likes that we are one of the few towns that has to vote on redistricting by referendum. Redistricting is so political now, so he is glad it must be a referendum.

When it comes to the budget what are we looking at?

Mr. Fiore stated that we have enough money to cover the federal and state changes.

Councilor Ludwick asked whether we could know the five streets discussed?

Mr. Fiore said it is Avon Street, Avon Street Extension, Edwards Street, Beverly Street, the top half of Old Farms and north side of Middle Road.

Mr. Kienzler said the goal is to move as few people as possible to accomplish the balance.

Councilor Mangini wanted to know when the Registrars will be ready to disseminate the information regarding the changes to the public, the Council, and the town?

Mr. Fiore stated that the goal is to be able to present the recommendation to the Council at the first meeting in June or last meeting in May, depending on when the budget implementation meeting is going to be.

Mr. Kienzler said the Council Liaison will keep the remaining Council members informed and updated.

Councilor Hopkins asked if there was an easy way for residents to determine which district they fall in, perhaps by street names?

Mr. Kienzler responded that residents can go online and enter their address and it will give them the voting district.

### **JOHN F. KENNEDY MIDDLE SCHOOL UPDATE**

As you are aware, the town temporarily moved the JFK polling location over to the Senior Center approximately 2 years ago because of the construction at that site. We have been notified by the Chairman of the JFK Building Committee that we should be able to move back to JFK in August of 2022 (this summer). Thus, we are notifying you that this is our intention at this time. We will be meeting with the Board of Education and their staff and then with Building & Grounds to discuss this task sometime in February.

Mr. Fiore stated that they are just waiting for a Town Council Liaison to be assigned to them.

Councilor Cekala asked that when the Registrars meet with the BOE about JFK, could they talk to them about going back to the front of Enfield Street?

Chairman Cressotti also added that the back of Enfield Street parking lot and walkway is treacherous. He also appointed Councilor Ludwick and Councilor Mangini as the two Council Liaisons.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION #6077** by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Hopkins to adjourn.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #6077** adopted 9-0-0, and the meeting stood adjourned at 6:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila M. Bailey  
Town Clerk  
Clerk of the Council

Tina Demers  
Secretary to the Council