

**ENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, April 4, 2022**

A Regular Meeting of the Enfield Town Council was called to order by Chairman Cressotti on Monday, April 4, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 7:10pm.

Chairman Cressotti shared some kind words about Councilor Bosco and offered his condolences to his family and friends on his passing. He dedicated many years of service to the Town of Enfield.

Former Deputy Mayor Donna Szewczak came up and shared some more kind words and memories of Joe Bosco. He was a man dedicated to his family and his community. He knew about Enfield's past, and he always knew who, what, when, where and why. We always knew why we were doing something and when asked how we can make it better is when Joey would get to work. He was a wealth of knowledge.

PRAYER- The prayer was given by Councilor Cekala.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE- The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL-CALL- Present were Councilors Cekala, Cressotti, Despard, Finger, Ludwick, Pynar and Santanella. Councilor Mangini attended remotely. Councilor Hopkins and Unghire were absent. Also present were Town Manager, Ellen Zoppo-Sassu; Assistant Town Manager, Steven Bielenda; Town Attorney, James Tallberg; Town Clerk, Sheila Bailey

FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT- Chairman Cressotti made the fire evacuation announcement.

MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

MOTION #6177 by Councilor Finger seconded by Councilor Mangini to accept the minutes of the March 21, 2022, Special Meeting.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6177** adopted 8-0-0.

MOTION #6178 by Councilor Santanella, seconded by Councilor Mangini to accept the minutes of the March 21, 2022, Regular Meeting.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6178** adopted 8-0-0.

SPECIAL GUESTS – None.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Amanda Marquez, Hoover Lane

Ms. Marquez stated that Enfield has joined other towns such as Hartford, New Haven, Waterbury, Windham, Manchester, Thompson, Norwich, New London, Bridgeport and New Britain in being a school district with the lowest accountability index scores in the state. We are on the CT State Department of Education Alliance District List. We sit as the 21st worst performing school district in the state. We are in the 33 worst districts in Connecticut out of 200 districts statewide. This is based on proficiency in Math, Science and English. The scores were collected before COVID from 2017-2019. Enfield is eligible for Alliance District funding. The funds must be used to support new initiatives. What is Enfield's plan to bring our DPI scores up and get us out of this low rank status? Before we allocate any additional dollars to the schools, there needs to be a definitive plan. Families with young children looking to move always look to the school system first.

Ryan Moore, 10 Ryefield Drive

Mr. Moore stated that not getting any answers from the BOE is getting very frustrating. He said the Superintendent and Board members are dismissive. Who holds the Superintendent and Board accountable? He asked the Council to please stand up for this town and do something.

Chairman Cressotti declared Public Communications closed.

COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor Mangini stated that beyond the numbers and statistics there are real people that go above and beyond. Our Superintendent, School Board and teachers need to be recognized for the great job they do with our children. She said our educational system is premier. She is a realtor and people come to Enfield for our schools.

Councilor Santanella attended the 56th Annual Arts Festival at Enfield High School. He was impressed with the work that the Woman's Club did to organize that event and the cooperation from the Enfield Cultural Arts Commission. There is a lot of talent here in Enfield and the portfolio class was impressive.

Councilor Santanella mentioned that there are some things coming up this week in District 2. The 4th of July Town Celebration Committee is going to be having its 16th Annual dinner dance at the Old Country Banquet and there are still tickets available.

Councilor Santanella stated that there are some public hearings going on at both of our Fire Districts. In District 1 there are nominations for members of the Fire Commission. The meeting will be April 7th at 7:30pm at the firehouse at 200 Phoenix Ave. You need to be nominated and have someone second it to be put on the ballot. The Thompsonville Fire District is also having a public hearing on April 13th to discuss with the public, the purchase of a much-needed new apparatus. They will also be going over their 2022-2023 budgets.

Councilor Santanella wanted to give a shout out to Enfield Loaves and Fishes. Last month they served over 5000 meals to the Enfield community. The organization is made up of volunteers, many who have been there for years under the direction of Maya Matthews, a lifelong Enfield resident. There have been some unfortunate comments made about Loaves and Fishes. Someone called the organization “un-American.” This is very upsetting because there is nothing more American and more reflective of what people in our community do than giving hungry people food. People who have the time to defame this organization should roll up their sleeves and go serve some meals. It would be better use of their time. He thanked Maya and her staff and volunteers for all the work that they do.

Councilor Santanella stated that over the past several months he has had the opportunity to connect with many people in the community. The people of Enfield are good, hardworking and decent people. He has seen compassion all around our community. We all come from different walks of life, yet we all call Enfield our home. All people want to be heard and respected. Each year communities around the world come together to celebrate Pride. This celebration has evolved into a celebration of the human spirit and human rights and individuality. Pride is an opportunity for people to come together and celebrate their differences. Councilor Santanella is looking for support from the Council to start flying a Pride flag at the town green from June 1 – June 30 this year and every year in support of the LGBT community as a symbol of our unity.

Councilor Pynzar also attended the 56th Annual Art Show. She said she has also gone in the past. She will continue to support our schools. She indicated that regarding the Education Alliance, it is something we should not be proud of. We don’t need to blame teachers or parents. We need to come together as a community and do what is best for our kids. She thanked the parents for coming and urged them to keep coming so we don’t forget what needs to be done.

Councilor Ludwick wanted to honor his long-time friend Joe Bosco. He wished his family some solace. He also wanted to recognize the hospice nurses and that they are very special people.

Chairman Cressotti shared that last week at JFK and Enfield High, the North Central Chamber of Commerce honored students with the Acts of Kindness Awards. At JFK, Hannah Ruby and Ethan Cemek were recognized. At Enfield High, Avery Breglia, Chris Sale, Morgan Blais and Sophie Trosset were recognized. Congratulations to all. Each student that is chosen has a donation sent to a charity of their choice in their name.

Chairman Cressotti stated that he is a firm believer and supporter of the Enfield Schools and all the people who are involved. He said that he hears what people are saying and we need to work together to make this community a good place.

Chairman Cressotti stated that in evaluating the subcommittee structures, it would be his preference to eliminate the Developmental Services Subcommittee. In speaking with the directors, there is just too much duplication. The Economic and Community Development Department already has a commission in place. He is formally making that recommendation tonight to the Town Manager.

Chairman Cressotti mentioned that the Foundation for Public Giving established funds for 29 surrounding towns in the region and Enfield is one of them. The purpose of the community funds is to support residents in taking ownership around the needs of the town and to encourage inclusive civic engagement. The Enfield Community Fund is seeking Advisory Committee nominees. If you want to apply you can go the public library or the Senior Center or selectioncf@gmail.com to submit an application. The deadline is April 30th.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Extension of Board of Assessment Appeals

Town Manager, Ellen Zoppo-Sassu stated that our Board of Assessment Appeals began hearings today downstairs in the Enfield Room. They will continue through the week and as needed. Due to the volume and time constraints, they are asking the town to file on their behalf an extension so that they can continue to deliberate on those appeals that are made through the month of May.

ARPA Funding

Ellen Zoppo-Sassu stated that we did front-load funding on Item G. This is for design on the Town Farm Road Multi Use Path which has been in the works for almost 2 years. This will be funded by a state LOCIP grant but we are responsible for the soft costs for design, \$80,000. We are asking the Town Council to consider this tonight to allow that project to flow and get started without waiting for the budget process.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu stated that we have additional funds coming through from a resiliency fund that is going to target school construction issues, repairs, air filtration and boiler repairs, several of which are on our agenda to accomplish for various schools. We are constantly trying to stretch our dollars. We need to figure out which ones can be from ARPA, which ones from fund balance and which ones can come from ESSER and COVID. We need community output, it is one of the provisions of the ARPA federal guidelines. There is a community survey on the town website under the ARPA tab. There will also be hard copies at the library and Senior Center.

Councilor Pyznar stated that they submitted to the Town Manager their caucus's ideas. One of the things we feel strongly about is that the residents should be part of the ARPA funds. She is encouraging everyone to go to the website and fill out the survey.

Councilor Ludwick asked how many assessment appeals we have.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu said it was 92 but there were some people that cancelled today.

Councilor Ludwick asked if the software that was used can be audited. It needs to be checked as there are a lot of appeals that will only get worse with car taxes. Do we know what other towns do when it comes to recording these meetings?

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu stated that you have the meetings and you come back several weeks later to do the deliberations and make decisions about those assessments. There is a recording component

whether it is via Zoom, recording or note-taking. All of these meetings are public and in accordance with FOIA. There are two exemptions. If an appeal is based on personal property, those reports are exempt from disclosure. Any personal financial data such as corporation or financials that they that they wanted to share, those are exempt.

Councilor Ludwick asked if this goes to Superior Court, do we have to produce a tape?

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu responded yes, it is for the protection of the appeal board and the residents.

Councilor Finger mentioned that last fall he asked about getting the solar crosswalk signs moved on Taylor Road. It is now spring, and the ground is getting soft. There are a few good suggestions for them. One would be by the library at JFK. He would like to see us get more of those through ARPA funds. Kids safety is number one in this town.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu stated that we can discuss all of these pieces and requests once we have gotten community feedback. This ARPA piece is not running concurrent with the budget process. We are suggesting some long overdue facility improvements. The uses of ARPA funds are going to be very strategic.

TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Town Attorney James Tallberg stated that we were asked what steps were needed to set up a stand-alone Water Pollution Control Authority. From a legal perspective it is simple, it is following the statute. According to General Statute §7-246 there are two methods which a municipality can have a WPCA. You may have the legislative body serve as the WPCA, which is what Enfield has done. You can also create a new board or commission to be designated as the WPCA. In order to do this, we would need to pass an ordinance which would require a public hearing. In the ordinance you would specify the number of members. He suggests 5. You would designate whether there is compensation or not. You would designate whether they were elected or appointed. You would designate the method of appointment and removal and terms of office. Enfield Town Code 86-51 states that Enfield Town Council is the WPCA so it would need to be amended.

Councilor Ludwick asked if the stand-alone committee would have taxing authority.

Mr. Tallberg stated that it would have all the authority that a WPCA would have.

Councilor Ludwick stated that we were in a \$4 million dollar deficit back in 2017-2018 in the sewer and both councils managed it through, and the town has paid this back and is whole again. Now we want to give taxing authority to another board. He stated that if we are giving up taxing authority to another entity, he is against it.

Mr. Tallberg stated that the argument would be that you would have a smaller group with expertise in wastewater management and clean water.

Councilor Despard stated that water pollution control and sewers are the most important public service. He does not want to see us get so far behind again that we must raise our fees. He thinks it is important to look at this in a subcommittee.

Councilor Santanella asked if we can get examples of what other towns are doing. Can we have a board of experts but retain taxing authority?

Mr. Tallberg said he would get more details in writing.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES – None.

OLD BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Consent Agenda – Action. None
- B. Appointments Town Council Appointed. None
- C. Appointments Town Manager Appointed/Council Approved. None
- D. P&Z Commission Appointed/Council Approved. None

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTION #6179 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Finger to adopt the Consent Agenda items.

1. RESOLVED, that Ellen Zappo-Sassu, Town Manager, is empowered to execute and deliver, in the name of and on behalf of the Town of Enfield, an application for a Targeted Grant for FY 2023 and a contract with the Connecticut State Library and NewVision Systems Corporation for a Historic Documents Preservation Grant subject to review and approval of the Town Attorney.
2. RESOLVED, that the Enfield Town Council, pursuant to Connecticut General Statute Section 12-124, does hereby abate the delinquent interest due to the Town of Enfield on motor vehicle taxes in the name of Brett Lafountain, of Enfield, Connecticut for the October 1, 2009, October 1, 2010, and October 1, 2011 Grand Lists.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **RESOLUTION #6179** adopted 8-0-0. A full text of these resolutions will be appended to these minutes.

NOMINATION #6180 by Councilor Pyznar to appoint Anne Whitney Collins (R) to the Connecticut Water Company Advisory Council Enfield Representatives for a term to expire 1/1/2024.

MOTION #6181 by Councilor Ludwick, seconded by Councilor Despard to close nominations.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6181** adopted 8-0-0.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the chair declared Anne Whitney Collins appointed to the Connecticut Water Company Advisory Council Enfield Representatives 8-0-0.

NOMINATION #6182 by Councilor Cekala to appoint John Cox (I) to the Hazardville Water Company Advisory Council Enfield Representative for a term to expire 1/1/2024.

MOTION #6183 by Councilor Finger, seconded by Councilor Despard to close nominations.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6183** adopted 8-0-0.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the chair declared John Cox appointed to the Hazardville Water Company Advisory Council Enfield Representatives 8-0-0.

RESOLUTION #6184 by Councilor Cekala, seconded by Councilor Santanella.

WHEREAS, the Town has submitted to the Connecticut Urban Forest Council, Inc. a grant application under the Urban Forestry Climate Change Grant Program for a project entitled Reducing the Effects of our Changing Climate: Increasing Urban Canopy in Thompsonville to increase the urban canopy along High Street and Central Avenue; and

WHEREAS, the Town and the Connecticut Urban Forest Council, Inc. will enter into the Memorandum of Understanding whereby the Connecticut Urban Forest Council, Inc. hereby agrees to provide financial assistance to the Town for the project in the form of an Urban Forestry Climate Change Grant in an amount not to exceed \$18,972.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Enfield Town Council authorizes the Town Manager to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with the Connecticut Urban Forest Council, Inc.

Councilor Finger commented on the placement of the trees in the area and asked if they would be near the sidewalks. Tree roots push up the sidewalks and the sidewalks there are new.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the chair declared **RESOLUTION #6184** adopted 8-0-0.

RESOLUTION #6185 by Councilor Cekala, seconded by Councilor Finger.

RESOLVED, that in accordance with Chapter VI, Section 8(f) of the Town Charter, the following transfer is hereby made.

FROM: Urban Forestry Climate Change Grant

Miscellaneous State Revenue	23396124-413699	\$18,972
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TO: Urban Forestry Climate Change Grant

Other Professional Services	23396124-533900	\$18,972
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CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify that the above-stated funds are available as of March 25, 2022.

/s/ John Wilcox, Director of Finance

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the chair declared **RESOLUTION #6185** adopted 8-0-0.

RESOLUTION #6186 by Councilor Cekala, seconded by Councilor Santanella.

RESOLVED, that in accordance with Chapter VI, Section 8(f) of the Town Charter, the following transfer is hereby made.

FROM: COVID – 19 Fund

Revenue-Grants-COVID-Federal	24540000-460004	\$80,000
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TO: COVID – 19 Fund

Town Farm Road Bike Path-Other Prof. Services	24500360-533900	\$80,000
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CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify that the above-stated funds are available as of March 30, 2022.

/s/ John Wilcox, Director of Finance

Councilor Ludwick asked for clarification on this.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu stated that this was originally awarded in September 2020. We received the first review for the project on July 30, 2021. Then we received comments back late November. We then sent new cost estimates to the state November 2021. We then received approval for the estimate in mid-December. The commitment to fund letter came in February 2022. This next phase is actual design costs.

Councilor Ludwick asked if this would still start in fall 2022.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu said yes, that is why we want to use ARPA dollars to fast track this project.

Councilor Despard commented that he is a huge fan of this project, there is a huge recreation potential here in Enfield. With distracted driving it is becoming less safe to bike and walk on roadways.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the chair declared **RESOLUTION #6186** adopted 8-0-0.

RESOLUTION #6187 by Councilor Finger, seconded by Councilor Cekala.

WHEREAS, the Town of Enfield wishes to appoint an alternate to the Capital Region Council of Governments (CRCOG); and

WHEREAS, the CRCOG by-laws state that an alternate may be designated by the Town's appointing authority when the Chief Elected Official is unable to attend the CRCOG Policy Board meeting; and

WHEREAS, Ellen Zoppo-Sassu is qualified to represent the Town's interests at CRCOG meetings.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Enfield appoints Ellen Zoppo-Sassu as an alternate to the CRCOG Policy Board.

Councilor Ludwick said in his opinion it should be an elected official.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the chair declared **RESOLUTION #6187** adopted 6-2-0.

RESOLUTION #6188 by Councilor Cekala, seconded by Councilor Despard.

RESOLVED, that in accordance with Chapter VII, Section II of the Town Charter, the Enfield Town Council does hereby temporarily waive the educational requirement in the accountant job description.

Councilor Pyznar asked for clarification on the employee's union status.

Steven Bielenda, Assistant Town Manager stated that she will be going from a clerical union to a professional and technical union. The president of the union has no problem with this waiver. There will be a time limit on this waiver because it is contingent on her getting her master's degree this August. We went out to the marketplace 3 times, and we can't fill this position. This is absorbed in the current budget.

Councilor Ludwick commented that the cover letter says she needs a bachelor's degree, and you are saying she is going for a master's degree.

Mr. Bielenda stated that the bachelor's degree is not in accounting.

Councilor Ludwick wanted to know if there is a change in line item and stated in the resolution.

Mr. Bielenda stated that the line item is already funded. The person is transferring to the other position.

Councilor Pynzar going forward would like the numbers and information to be included in the resolution to see.

Councilor Finger wanted to know what happens if she fails to get this degree. There is nothing here saying she can go back to her old job.

Mr. Bielenda stated that it is a risk she assumes by leaving this position. We will proceed to fill her old job as we do with any vacant position.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the chair declared **RESOLUTION #6188** adopted 8-0-0.

RESOLUTION #6189 by Councilor Finger, seconded by Councilor Despard.

WHEREAS, Collins Powder Hill Farm, LLC wishes to lease for the 2022 growing season, approximately 11+/- acres of Town-owned land located on the northeast corner of 77 Town Farm Road, commonly known as the Town of Enfield Transfer Station property, shown in the Enfield Land Records Book of Maps, Volume 226, Pages 3321 through 3324; and

WHEREAS, Collins Powder Hill Farm, LLC has previously leased this property for the 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 growing seasons.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Manager, Ellen Zoppo-Sassu, is empowered to enter into the attached Lease Agreement in the name and on behalf of the Town of Enfield, the Collins Powder Hill Farm, LLC.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the chair declared **RESOLUTION #6189** adopted 8-0-0.

RESOLUTION #6190 by Councilor Cekala, seconded by Councilor Despard.

WHEREAS, the Town of Enfield has received a request from the owners of 92 Main Street, Salas Brothers, LLC, to acquire a portion of two abutting Town owned properties,

WHEREAS, the Town Council must refer this proposed transaction to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a report in conformance with the requirements of Connecticut General Statute §8-24.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the proposed transfer of properties described above be referred to the Planning and Zoning Commission in conformance with the requirements of Connecticut General Statute §8-24.

Councilor Ludwick wanted to clarify that there is no lawsuit or settlement. He also questioned whether there should be discussion about selling or leasing before it goes to P&Z.

Mr. Tallberg stated that there is no litigation or settlement. There is even a question to the title of whether the town owns it.

Councilor Ludwick asked why it is being referred to P&Z before that question is answered.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu stated that a referral is needed whether it is a lease or a sale.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the chair declared **RESOLUTION #6190** adopted 8-0-0.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS – None

COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS

Chairman Cressotti mentioned that April 23rd is Enfield Clean Sweep put on by the Enfield Beautification Committee.

MOTION #6191 by Councilor Finger, seconded by Councilor Despard to move item B-1 to Miscellaneous.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6191** adopted 8-0-0.

NOMINATION #6192 by Councilor Pyznar, seconded by Councilor Santanella to reappoint Ignatius Maniscalco (D), to the Patriot Award Committee for a term which expires 7/31/2023.

MOTION #6193 by Councilor Finger, seconded by Councilor Despard to close nominations.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6192** adopted 8-0-0.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the chair declared Ignatius Maniscalco reappointed to the Patriot Award Committee 8-0-0.

MOTION #6194 by Councilor Finger, seconded by Councilor Pyznar to adjourn.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6193** adopted and the meeting stood adjourned at 8:34pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenzy Lee
Deputy Town Clerk
Acting Clerk of the Council

Tina Demers
Secretary to the Council

Consent Item #1 Appended to the
Minutes of the April 4, 2022
Town Council meeting. See page 6

ENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**Resolution Authorizing the Town Manager to Submit an Application and to Enter
into an Agreement with the Connecticut State Library and NewVision Systems
Corporation for a Historic Documents Preservation Grant**

RESOLVED, that Ellen Zoppo-Sassu, Town Manager, is empowered to execute and deliver, in the name of and on behalf of the Town of Enfield, an application for a Targeted Grant for FY 2023 and a contract with the Connecticut State Library and NewVision Systems Corporation for a Historic Documents Preservation Grant subject to review and approval of the Town Attorney.

Prepared by: Sheila M. Bailey, Town Clerk

Date Prepared: March 22, 2022

Consent Item #2 Appended to the
Minutes of the April 4, 2022
Town Council meeting. See page 6

ENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION TO ABATE INTEREST ON MOTOR VEHICLE TAX

RESOLVED, that the Enfield Town Council, pursuant to Connecticut General Statute Section 12-124, does hereby abate the delinquent interest due to the Town of Enfield on motor vehicle taxes in the name of Brett Lafountain, of Enfield, Connecticut for the October 1, 2009, October 1, 2010, and October 1, 2011 Grand Lists.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the remaining balance remains unpaid after sixty (60) days from the adoption of this resolution, this abatement shall be rescinded.

Date Submitted: March 30, 2022

Submitted by: Town Manager's Office