

**ENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 5, 2021**

A Special Meeting of the Enfield Town Council was called to order by Chairman Ludwick on Monday, April 5, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL-CALL – Present were Councilors Bosco, Cekala, Cressotti, Hemmeler, Ludwick, Mangini, Muller, Riley, Sferrazza, Szewczak and Unghire. Also present were Town Manager, Christopher Bromson; Assistant Town Manager, Kasia Purciello; Town Clerk, Sheila Bailey; Town Attorney, James Tallberg; Director of Development Services, Laurie Whitten; Chief Information Officer, Paul Russell.

MOTION #5732 by Councilor Mangini seconded by Councilor Muller to go into Executive Session to discuss Real Estate Negotiations and Pending Litigation.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #5732** adopted 11-0-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Executive Session of the Enfield Town Council was called to order by Chairman Ludwick at 5:31 p.m.

ROLL-CALL - Present were Councilors Bosco, Cekala, Cressotti, Hemmeler, Ludwick, Mangini, Muller, Riley, Sferrazza, Szewczak and Unghire. Also present were Town Manager, Christopher Bromson; Assistant Town Manager, Kasia Purciello; Town Clerk, Sheila Bailey; Town Attorney, James Tallberg; Chief Information Officer, Paul Russell; Director of Public Works, Donald Nunes; Director of Finance, John Wilcox; Director of Economic & Community Development, Nelson Tereso.

Chairman Ludwick reconvened the Special Meeting at 5:55 p.m. and stated during Executive Session the Council discussed Real Estate Negotiations and Pending Litigation with no action or votes being taken.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION-TRAIN PRESENTATION

Present from the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation were John Bernick, Assistant Rail Administrator; Julianne Chatman, Project Engineer and Bruce Olmstead, Chief Engineer

Mr. Bromson stated he and Senator Kissel, and Representatives Arnone and Hall visited DOT, and they broached the subject of changing the proposed station to a platform, which would be sufficient to address Enfield's needs by having a stop for the community. He noted DOT redesigned things with input from Enfield.

Mr. Olmstead stated the design being presented is a concept, and when the engineers work on this, they will have to make changes having to do with codes and how the railroad operates. He noted this evening they will present an idea of the general overall concept of how the station will work and perform as a single-sided platform. He noted the platform will be on the east side of the track, and it is proposed putting in a 200-foot long platform, which will be raised so that boarding passengers will be literally walking out at the same elevation as the platform. He pointed out the platform will have a canopy to keep people out of the weather. He noted this type of platform will have heating capacity to allow snow to melt. He went on to note there is a building, which allows people to congregate, be out of the weather and get tickets from an automated vending machine. He used illustrations to point out areas which accommodate bus traffic and parking. He noted there will be metered parking, but it would be a small charge of about \$2.00 per day. He pointed out there are three different locations for parking, and they are all very close to the station. He noted the combination of the three parking areas amounts to around 100 spaces. He stated there is another utility building, which holds utilities such as power, water or anything needed to run the station. He noted there will be a blue-light box, and if there are any problems, a button can be pressed, which immediately goes to either Amtrack police or the local police department. He continued explaining different amenities in the station area and provided illustrations throughout his presentation.

Mr. Olmstead referred to the railroad bridge over Main Street and noted this bridge has a very low clearance and they would replace that bridge superstructure when they build the platform to allow for a little more clearance. He noted the budget is limited, and they are not looking to widen the road.

He stated they are currently looking to start construction in October of 2022, and it is estimated it will take about a year to build.

Mr. Bernick stated they did speak last week with some representatives from Bigelow Commons, and they were very interested in right-of-way impacts. He noted as the design team brings forward the station design, that is when they start stakeholder outreach, identify impacts, and look at how to mitigate and minimize those impacts.

As concerns funding, Mr. Bernick stated there are a great many opportunities that may present themselves, i.e., federal funding and additional state bonding. He noted they certainly have the design funded, and they are feeling optimistic they can move smoothly into construction, but that is not a done deal. He encouraged the Town to continue being active in requests for funding.

Councilor Cekala questioned who will be responsible for the maintenance of the station, and Mr. Bernick stated this is a joint venture, and part of that joint venture includes station operations and maintenance. He noted as they add stations to the line, they will be added to that contract.

Councilor Cekala questioned whether that contract will cost the town money. Mr. Bernick responded no, they do not charge the town.

Councilor Cekala questioned whether bathrooms can be included, and Mr. Bernick stated they did not add bathrooms at any other stations. He noted the stations are designed to be boarding

platforms and not transfer stations. He stated from a DOT-wide perspective, that is consistent across the territory. He pointed out there are restrooms available on the train, and those are fully accessible restrooms.

Councilor Muller questioned whether the building would have a generator. Mr. Bernick stated when the power goes off, the emergency lights will stay on, and the blue light will stay on, but the rest of the station will go dark. He noted there will be a small generator to keep the lights on.

Councilor Muller stated he noticed solar on the roof design, and Mr. Bernick responded that is correct.

Councilor Sferrazza stated if a criminal act occurred on the platform, he questions whether that is the jurisdiction of Amtrack or the local police. Mr. Bernick stated the local police always have jurisdiction. He noted the platform will have security cameras, however, they are not monitored and are more for evidence gathering. He went on to note they have been hearing from local police questioning whether they can get a feed. He stated they can look into that option. He stated the blue lights can be programmed to ring wherever the town wishes. He added Amtrack monitors these 24X7, and they could bring in whatever local jurisdiction that needs to be there.

Councilor Sferrazza questioned who gets the revenue from the parking meters. Mr. Bernick stated since the State is picking up the cost of maintaining the station, the State will take the revenue from the parking meters.

Councilor Sferrazza questioned if a person wanted to take the train to New York City, they would take the south bound train into New Haven to Grand Central and transfer right into New York. Mr. Bernick responded that is correct.

Mr. Bromson stated they anticipate having a very robust police presence at the train station. He noted the town has enhanced and increased their command center for video and part of the budget will be expanding that. He stated they fully intend on asking and working with the State and Amtrack to have those cameras live feed to Enfield. He noted the Lamagna Center will be decommissioned and will probably be taken down around the time this station is completed. He stated they have a police substation at the Lamagna Center, and they are looking in that area to include a police substation to provide safety for commuters.

Councilor Cressotti stated he is glad the use of the utility building was fully explained because he found it misleading because when he first looked at it, he thought there were to be restrooms and people would be able to have access in and out. Mr. Bromson stated his belief it was not misleading because they said it was a utility building. He noted if anyone looked at the presentation or heard the narrative, there was never any promise of restrooms, and he is glad that was addressed more fully.

Councilor Cressotti requested clarification concerning the bridge clearance, and Mr. Bernick explained DOT has an "Oversize/Overweight Unit", and they are responsible for any vehicle that exceeds 13 feet, six inches. He noted any vehicle, besides a normal tractor trailer that delivers to everybody in a normal setting, would be able to pass under this bridge, and that is their attempt.

Councilor Hemmeler questioned if there will be train service going north, or is it just going south. Mr. Bernick responded the service goes both ways.

Councilor Riley questioned if the State would plow the parking lot and sand and salt sidewalks. Mr. Bernick stated they would maintain those portions considered station property.

Chairman Ludwick questioned how buses will navigate this area, and Mr. Olmstead stated the task of the designer is to accommodate a bus drop off.

Chairman Ludwick stated every time Enfield works with DOT on any project, they have been professional and great partners.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #5732B by Councilor Szewczak, seconded by Councilor Mangini to adjourn.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #5732B** adopted 11-0-0, and the meeting stood adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila M. Bailey
Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council

Jeannette Lamontagne
Secretary to the Council