

**ENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, May 2, 2022**

A Regular Meeting of the Enfield Town Council was called to order by Chairman Cressotti on Monday, May 2, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm.

**PRAYER**- The prayer was given by Chairman Cressotti.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**- The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**ROLL-CALL**- Present were Councilors Cekala, Cressotti, Finger, Hopkins, Mangini, Pyznar, Santanella and Unghire. Councilors Despard and Ludwick attended remotely. Also present were Town Manager, Ellen Zoppo-Sassu; Assistant Town Manager, Steven Bielenda; Town Attorney, James Tallberg; Director of Social Services, Cindy Guerreri; Town Clerk, Sheila Bailey

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

**MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS**

**MOTION #6225** by Councilor Mangini seconded by Councilor Hopkins to accept the minutes of the April 18, 2022, Special Meeting.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6225** adopted 9-0-1.

**MOTION #6226** by Councilor Mangini seconded by Councilor Pyznar to accept the minutes of the April 18, 2022, Regular Meeting.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6226** adopted 10-0-0.

**MOTION #6227** by Councilor Mangini seconded by Councilor Hopkins to accept the minutes of the April 20, 2022, Special Meeting.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6227** adopted 10-0-0.

**SPECIAL GUESTS** – Youth Council, Gambling Prevention PSA

Andrea Mashiak of Enfield Social Services along with along with four students from Enfield Youth Council, Jamie, J.C., Angelina and Dylan came forward to speak and present a PSA to the Council.

The Enfield Youth Council is connected to the Enfield Together Coalition. It is a youth-led group that works on refining leadership skills while preventing drug and alcohol use in Enfield. They promote their messaging through social media and through the Enfield Youth Service Show on 107.7 WACC at Asnuntuck Community College and various projects across the community. They presented their Public Service Announcement they created for the CT Youth Gambling Prevention Awareness Media Project Showcase. This is geared to educate youth on the importance of prevention and warning signs of problem gambling. For the PSA they did an audio only recording about gambling components in video gaming. At the showcase on March 23, they won Best Message to the Community. The Enfield Youth Council is recruiting new members for the next school year. They ended by playing the recording of their PSA.

Chairman Cressotti congratulated them on their great work.

Councilor Unghire said that peers can be the greatest influence on other peers, and she told them that they did a great job.

### **PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS**

Peter Jonaitis, 3 Farmstead Circle

Mr. Jonaitis said it was brought to his attention that there may be voting on flying a flag in June. He stated that there was a Supreme Court decision today with the City of Boston and the 284 flags flying at the Town Hall/Government Building. Everyone that wanted to fly a flag had the right to fly a flag. This whole time only one group has been denied the right to fly a flag, a Christian group that wanted a cross on the flag. It is not the government's job according to the constitution to determine what flags fly. If they do, they are denying first amendment rights. He urged people before they vote to think about the can of worms they may be opening. If you allow one group to do it, you must allow everyone.

Matt Schmitt, 1304 Bigelow Commons

Mr. Schmitt stated that last week the Planning & Zoning Commission reduced, by a factor of ten, the buffer zone around parks and churches in the Thompsonville area of town regarding cannabis establishments. It is based on a misinformed understanding of CT Senate Bill 1201 and the disproportionately impacted areas. He said P&Z received this misinformation from Councilor Santanella during the March 10 P&Z meeting in which he acted as a representative of this Council. He misinterpreted how the prioritized lottery works when it comes to licensure. The impacted areas referenced are actually used by the state to give residents of those areas' priority in a lottery when it comes to obtaining a license to establish a cannabis enterprise, not to the area itself. Trust is essential to the proper operation of government. Thompsonville is being treated lesser than the rest of town and not being given equal protection. He asked the Council to work to repair this mistake.

Kelly Hemmeler, 10 Hartford Avenue

Ms. Hemmeler wanted to bring to the Council's attention that she believes that the P&Z public hearing XZA number 3040 on April 28, 2022 was never properly closed or properly voted on. She stated that she has already emailed the sequence of events. The public should have the opportunity

to comment one more time after the commissioner's comments and we were denied that. The public hearing was not closed so the vote should be void. The whole meeting should be redone.

Ray Peabody, 370 Washington Road

Mr. Peabody thanked the council for the time they put in to lead our town. He came to talk about taxes. He stated that our current tax mill rate is 34.23 and that we just had a re-evaluation in what some people consider a false market. He said interest rates are going up and typically when that happens traditionally prices go down. He mentioned the fact that the older/senior residents in town are not going to be able to afford the proposed mill rate. Many people in town will not be able to handle the increase while on a fixed income. He went through the budget and there were some questions on some of the things in it. He offered guidance to the council by saying when he was in politics his first two priorities were public safety and public education. Coming in third was everything else including quality of life budget expenditures. Those things can be paused. They are important but not as important as keeping the lights on.

Mr. Peabody stated that at the last meeting there was talk about the Enfield Schools going into an Alliance District. Looking at the last few years' graduation rates, two out of three exceeded state expectations. Our SAT scores are just a few points off average. He said the biggest impact on our test scores is the free and reduced lunch program. We have 48.6% on that program in 2019 and 2020, which means half our students are at poverty level. This is a concern and what causes the scores to drop. He suggested contacting the State Board of Education and start breaking the scores down by four different cohorts, mainstream students, ESL students, free and reduced lunch program, and special education. Right now, everyone is lumped into one.

Joe Golis, 31 Stardust Drive

Mr. Golis thanked Kelly Hemmeler for being on the Board for Enfield Loaves and Fishes. He too has volunteered for 11 years. He is disappointed that people come up and say that religion and politics don't mix. It is a lot of faith groups that volunteer. He wished Ms. Andrews a successful operation.

Mr. Golis complimented the Enfield Youth Group on their gambling presentation. He does not think legalized sports betting belongs in our state. He suggested the Enfield Youth Group look at drugs again. Marijuana is not recreational; it does not belong in anyone's environment.

Mr. Golis complimented Councilor Ludwick, Councilor Finger and a third councilor who's name he could not remember for saying we should evaluate the purchasing consultant.

Peter Jonaitis, 3 Farmstead Circle

Mr. Jonaitis stated that the Ukrainian flag was also brought up at the last meeting. He advised on being careful with that one as well. There are Russians here, so what if they want to fly the Russian flag? He advised us to avoid national politics and international affairs. We don't need any more problems here to divide us. If a private citizen wants to fly a flag on their own property, let them. It is not the job of the council to decide what flags we fly.

Ray Peabody, 370 Washington Rd.

Mr. Peabody asked if the council could work with the Town Manager to get the mill rate lower. He reiterated that seniors just can't afford it. He thanked the council for their good work.

Joe Golis, 31 Stardust Dr

Mr. Golis came back up to acknowledge Murray and Priscilla Bryson who ran the soup kitchen for 34 years. He mentioned that the Archdiocese of Hartford donated \$10,000 and they have for years.

Mr. Golis urged the council to investigate the purchasing consultant first because the red flag for him is that she is somehow associated with West Haven. The financial people were involved in alleged corruption. He thinks that there are a lot of smart people in this area, and we do not need a consultant.

Chairman Cressotti declared Public Communications closed.

### **COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS**

Councilor Mangini wanted to applaud Cindy Guerreri from Social Services. She spoke with a couple of fifth graders, and they were very pleased with the dance. She thanked the Town Manager for being a chaperone. She suggested going forward that we can enlist volunteers, Council people, BOE people, people who serve on committees, to volunteer some time to help chaperone.

Councilor Mangini congratulated Loaves and Fishes. Maya and her staff are doing a great job. She also thanked Priscilla and Murray Brayson for all the years they put into building it. Anyone could be in need of a meal at any time. We are very fortunate in our town to have this organization.

Councilor Mangini mentioned that on May 22, which is a Sunday from 1-3pm, there is going to be a day of reflection on the Town Green. The purpose is to show solidarity with the people of Ukraine. Everyone is invited to attend.

Councilor Unghire invited everyone to come Wednesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> for the National Day of Prayer at the gazebo on the green at noon for a community prayer.

Councilor Finger said he is all for proclaiming June pride month, but he is not aware of what happened with the Supreme Court ruling.

Town Attorney James Tallberg stated that he would address this when the resolution comes on the agenda.

Councilor Finger also brought up that he was not aware of what went on during the P&Z meeting, but he wanted to know if this is something council should be aware of. He wanted to make sure it was not council's responsibility to oversee that.

Councilor Pyznar shared that she had the pleasure of doing a ride-along with Officer Connor Wiley. She said it was a very eye-opening evening. She said how brave the men and women are who get out of their police cars and walk up to strange cars in traffic stops not knowing what they

are going to encounter. She thanked all the men and women across the country who wear the uniform and badge every day and who are brave enough to keep us safe. She went back to the station and had a tour and talked to a detective. She thanked Enfield Police Department for the opportunity to do this.

Councilor Pyznar also gave a shout out to Loaves and Fishes for a phenomenal job at the open house. She said it doesn't look like a soup kitchen anymore. It is beautiful.

Councilor Ludwick wanted to know if the Town Attorney could weigh in on the closing of the P&Z public hearing. He also wanted to know if there is any movement on opening the Enfield Courthouse.

Chair Cressotti stated that he attended the CRCOG meeting, Capital Region Council of Government last week. Part of that meeting was updates and plans for the CT rail projects were discussed. A report was given by Adam Fox from the CT Department of Transportation. Plans for Enfield are moving forward.

Chairman Cressotti stated that this past week he attended a meeting along with Town Manager Ellen Zoppo-Sassu and Social Services Director Cindy Guerreri, who are part of the newly formed Mental Health Awareness Committee. They had their opening meeting last week at Asnuntuck Community College and are meeting again this week coming up. The group analyzed data from the 2021 Enfield survey on youth substance abuse and related behaviors. They are identifying priority substances and priority mental health issues and how COVID-19 impacted our youth.

Chairman Cressotti gave a shout out to Officer Austin and Officer Roach for their work for the grade 5 dance. It was great to see activity at the Youth Center.

Chairman Cressotti made an announcement from the Hartford Foundation. If anyone is interested in joining the Enfield Greater Together Community Fund Advisory Committee, applications are at the Enfield Public Library or at Social Services. The committee is looking for Enfield residents to facilitate grant processes for the Hartford Foundation.

Chairman Cressotti announced that the Opera House Players have their play "Next to Normal" the next three weekends, Friday and Saturday at 8:00pm and Sunday at 2:00pm.

Chairman Cressotti stated that on Wednesday the Town Council, along with the Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager and all the Department Directors, have been diligently working on this year's budget. They are doing their best to produce a balanced budget for everyone.

## **TOWN MANAGER REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Town Manager, Ellen Zoppo-Sassu reiterated that budget deliberations begin Wednesday. She said that she and Assistant Town Manger Bielenda had a staff meeting following the council meeting. She stated that there are already ideas about deferment, efficiencies, and potential cost savings that we will be bringing forward. Each mill is worth 3.5 million dollars. If we reduce to a point where there is no impact, that number is ten million dollars. Government service has

changed. Federal and State support is much different than ten even twenty years ago. Being able to use ARPA funds is a stop gap measure designed to do long-term strategy projects. It is to benefit the taxpayers long-term. There is specific language that does not allow it to be used for tax reduction, pension obligations and deferred debt. They are working on an ARPA page so residents can track projects and see how dollars are being allocated.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu stated that May is National Law Enforcement month. We have moved from militia to de-escalation working with our population. Enfield has done well supporting public safety initiatives. Our officers were at the 5<sup>th</sup> grade dance, and they led the community clean sweep. The drug take-back day yielded 133 pounds of unused medications. Getting unused pain relief medicines out of medicine cabinets is a benefit to the community. Last week we had the DMV in town with traffic concerns with trucks. They were recently on Shaker and Moody Road, and they had 11 failed inspections, 3 trucks placed out of service, 2 drivers placed out of service, one commercial vehicle towed. 9 infractions were issued for over \$1400 and 2 written warnings. The violations included, unregistered trailers, seatbelt violations, cell phone violations, failure to stop for traffic control signals, operation without commercial operator's license, defective wheels, overweight violations, and others. DMV enforcement along with and in conjunction with local police makes people pause and cut through traffic is eliminated.

Assistant Town Manager, Steven Bielenda addressed the fears people may be having over the purchasing consultant that has been hired. She comes to us with over 25 years of purchasing manager credentials. She graduated Magna Cum Laude with a 3.7 GPA. She retired from Meriden. She is in West Haven to help because of the quagmire West Haven found themselves in. She has been working with town attorneys from various municipalities throughout the state of CT to come up with the boilerplate ARPA language that is so specific to using ARPA funding to make sure we have the model RFP language as we go forward with bidding. She is going to prevent us from becoming the next West Haven.

### **TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Attorney Tallberg responded to Councilor Ludwick saying that it is his understanding that if there is a defect in the closing of the P&Z public hearing, it's a curable defect. It will be addressed, possibly with a re-notice of a public hearing. Steps have been taken to ensure something like that doesn't happen again. He stated that he personally does not have any information on the courthouse closing.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu stated that at the moment there is nothing on paper stating that Enfield's Courthouse is going to close. The problem is still the pandemic and staffing issue and how they are going to bring additional staffing back to open an additional courthouse. She said that she will keep following up on it.

Mr. Tallberg explained the Supreme Court ruling in Boston. The Supreme Court issued a decision entitled Harold Shurtleff vs. Boston. When the pride flag came up, Enfield did the legal research to determine whether it would be permissible and whether it would expose the town to an unending display of flags. He does not think that that is the case. He thinks the rationale for having a resolution from this council is entirely consistent with the Supreme Court ruling. This issue

concerns the intersection of two First Amendment concepts, public forum and government speech. When the government creates a forum for free speech, the First Amendment prevents the government from discriminating between speech. If it is the will of this council to engage in government speech and promote a certain cause, it is well within your province to do that. He stated that as the Town Attorney, if the Council wishes to approve the resolution about the pride flag, it would entirely be consistent with this decision and not offend the First Amendment.

## **REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

Councilor Hopkins reported on the DPW subcommittee. He, along with Councilor Finger, Ms. Zoppo-Sassu, Mr. Bielenda, Mr. Nunes and Mr. Boulette met to discuss some issues.

Issue One: They considered amending the Town Facilities Use Policy. It seemed like not a lot of folks were renting town rooms for a variety of things. The suggestion was to remove the usage fee if it is within business hours. The language change would be to remove the language that calls for rental amounts and give the Public Works Director the discretion to accept the applications. He could charge a fee if someone wanted to use a Town Hall room on a Saturday when a custodian would be needed. There is also a change to remove the rental option for the field house at Shaker fields. It would encourage people to use the facility because they are taxpayer buildings. The Public Works Director would still have the discretion to accept or deny applications. The last change would be cleaning up some of the language which lists all the fee exempt athletic organizations. He believes the change would require a resolution. He has one submitted by the Town Manager with him. He understands that folks may want to read it before voting on it. He suggested that we consider it under Any Other Business Proper to Come Before Said Meeting.

Issue Two: Relating to tipper barrels, there is a subset of properties in town that are mixed residential and commercial, and they don't have room to put dumpsters. Many of them are in Thompsonville. Our current solid waste policy doesn't allow them enough tipper barrels. The change we are suggesting is allowing them to buy tags to get enough tippers for the number of units they have. The language change we are looking for in the policy is to allow up to four annual tags for tippers for commercial at no charge and then property owners may purchase one additional tag per unit at a fee to be determined by the Director of Public Works. He has received a resolution on this from the Town Manager. There is a typo that needs to be fixed so he does not recommend bringing this forward to vote tonight.

Issue Three: They discussed a buy back for tipper barrels. He does not think this would require a resolution tonight. He would later move for a policy change directing the Town Manager to implement the policy change to barrels purchased in the last two years with an end date of July 2020 to be purchased back at a pro rata rate. His suggestion was to consider the first resolution tonight and consider the policy change. The second one needs the typo changed first before it is considered.

Councilor Finger suggested doing this next meeting because Councilors Ludwick and Despard are virtual right now and won't be able to read it before the agenda item.

Councilor Ludwick agreed with Councilor Finger in saying that we can't have resolutions on the night of a meeting and vote on it. It should be part of the public packet the Friday before.

Councilor Ludwick also asked who owns the bathrooms at Shaker fields.  
Councilor Finger responded that the town owns everything.

Councilor Mangini said she will not vote on anything that is not in front of her and able to be read and be reviewed. She is also apprehensive about giving all this discretion to the Director of Public Works. She had concern for those who purchased tipper barrels prior to July 2020.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu stated that we will do whatever the council wishes on this, but we did make an executive decision to include it in the packets because of the timely issue with the 40 to 50 properties affected by this. The best way to do this is the discretion of public works. No two properties are the same. We can do this on May 16, but it will only push out a solution for those 40 to 50 property owners. The policies were sent out Friday with her report.

Councilor Hopkins asked if these would need resolutions. Would the tipper buy-back need to have a resolution?

Mr. Tallberg was unsure.

Councilor Hopkins said that answers his question and thinks reasonably we should wait because he does not feel comfortable moving forward without guidance.

Chairman Cressotti said we should have discussion on this and take a motion to table this until next meeting May 16 we can vote on this.

Councilor Ludwick stated that there is no resolution on the agenda to table. He also stated that the cost of recycling has already gone up since we last discussed this so there are a lot of moving parts that need to be discussed in public.

Chairman Cressotti stated that we will move forward with this at the next meeting.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – None.

**CONSENT AGENDA** – None.

**TOWN COUNCIL APPOINTED**

**MOTION #6228** to approve the appointment of Marilyn Sorenson (U) to the Enfield Beautification Committee for a term that expires 12/31/24 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Pyznar.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6228** adopted 10-0-0.

**MOTION #6229** to approve the appointment of Michael Arnone (U) to the Prison Town Liaison Committee for a term that expires 12/31/24 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Cekala.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6229** adopted 10-0-0.

**TOWN MANAGER APPOINTED/COUNCIL APPROVED** – None.

**P&Z COMMISSION APPOINTED/COUNCIL APPROVED** – None.

**RESOLUTION #6230** by Councilor Cekala, seconded by Councilor Santanella.

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Enfield, Connecticut welcomes and encourages diversity and inclusion within our community; and

WHEREAS, celebrating Pride Month raises awareness and provides support and advocacy for the LGBT community, and is an opportunity to become educated, engage in dialogue, strengthen alliances, and build a better Enfield; and

WHEREAS, Pride Month is dedicated to uplifting of LGBT voices, a celebration of the human spirit, and of human rights, and is an opportunity for everyone to embrace and celebrate our differences as the things that make us special; and

WHEREAS, each color on the 6 color flag has its own meaning: red is symbolic of life, orange is symbolic of healing, yellow represents sunshine, green represents nature, blue represents harmony and purple represents spirit; and

WHEREAS, displaying the rainbow flag throughout the month of June further symbolizes the Town of Enfield's commitment and celebration of diversity and support for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender community, and is a symbol of our unity and an affirmation of the belief that we are better together.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Council hereby proclaims June as Pride Month to celebrate the great diversity of Enfield residents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town Council urges all residents and businesses to celebrate and build a culture of inclusiveness and acceptance – during the month of June and every month.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Enfield will begin the implementation of flying or displaying the rainbow flag at the Town Hall, starting on June 1 and ending on June 30 of this year hereafter, to inspire equity, create alliances, celebrate diversity.

Councilor Pyznar stated that as a resident she is not against flying the flag for the month of June. She said she is not voting tonight as a resident. She is voting as Councilor-at-Large and representing the entire community. As a community every resident has a say as to what flag or

banner flies at Town Hall. She did some research and found that in the past Enfield has denied two flags. In 2012 the National Donate to Life flag was denied and in 2016 the Mexican flag was denied. Currently, Enfield does not have a flag policy in place that clearly defines what groups or organizations may fly their flag. Enfield needs a policy that can be referenced to ensure all are treated fairly. Until that time, she feels that Enfield is in jeopardy of a lawsuit based on the First Amendment. She appreciated what Attorney Tallberg said. She said that Boston is now scrambling to put in a flag policy. As a councilor she took an oath to work for all residents and represent them fairly. For this reason only, she will vote no on this.

Councilor Unghire wanted to confirm the Supreme Court's ruling as ruling that you can fly the flag, but you can't deny others.

Mr. Tallberg stated that it is much more complicated than that.

Councilor Unghire asked herself when she thinks of the Town Hall, what purpose does it serve, what place does it hold in our community. Local government satisfies civic responsibilities such as education, public safety, fire, medical, parks, recreation, housing, and public works. She has no objection to people celebrating Pride Month. She supports all the flags people fly on their homes. Our country provides us the freedom to express our interest, however, we don't fly for example a Yankees or Red Sox flag from the Town Hall. Recently the BOE removed the word Christmas from the school calendar, citing that it didn't include some people's beliefs. Statistics show that 98% of Enfield residents celebrate Christmas in one way or another. She has had many residents speak to her objecting to flying the pride flag. They tell her that it is not government's role to endorse a particular lifestyle. On citydata.com the LGBTQ population in town is less than 1%. How does this receive a priority over other groups? Other groups are going to want their flags and banners flown. We can open ourselves up to discrimination claims and putting our community at financial risk. There are only 12 months in a year. For her there is only one flag that truly symbolizes human spirit, unity, inclusion and diversity and freedom, and that flag has 50 stars and 13 stripes. She is not supporting the resolution, but it is not a personal attack on the LGBTQ community.

Councilor Mangini stated that she has a different view on this. She said the first paragraph talks about diversity and inclusion. We are elected officials to support diversity and inclusion. People are not a %, people are people, for that reason she will support the proclamation. She said if other groups come forward, we will look at the requests on their own merit.

Councilor Finger stated that he is still unsure about what Attorney Tallberg said.

Mr. Tallberg asked, "Does this pass constitutional muster and are you within your right to approve this?" He is quite confident that you are.

Councilor Finger asked, "If approved where will these flags be hung?" He stated that he does not agree with any flag other than the American flag, state flag and POW MIA flags on the front lawn. He supports it but wants to know where it will be hung.

Councilor Cekala stated that this has been answered before and they will be hung or suspended from the Town Hall. Nothing will be going on the flagpole with the American Flag and that was made clear.

Councilor Ludwick wants to know if another group is denied, is that unconstitutional?

Mr. Tallberg said that this resolution was council generated. It did not come from an application. In Boston they had 284 flags flying in a row every time someone came forward. They approved all of them except one based on content. This is government speech with this resolution.

Councilor Ludwick asked for the record if this is a constitutional resolution.

Mr. Tallberg responded with yes, several times.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the chair declared **RESOLUTION #6230** adopted 8-2-0.

**MOTION #6231** by Councilor Santanella, seconded by Councilor Unghire to wave the reading of the following resolution.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6231** adopted 10-0-0.

**RESOLUTION #6232** by Councilor Finger, seconded by Councilor Pyznar to approve Amendment No 04 to the contract between the Town of Enfield and Woodard & Curran, Inc.

Mr. Tallberg stated that they are currently on an extension to complete this project by December 31, 2022. That is already a 1-year extension. The last piece of the puzzle to complete the project is the installation of an earthen berm that has a sheet pile in it. Part of this is located on property owned by Amtrak. The town needed to enter into a license agreement with Amtrak for the use of the property. We have been in a year-long process with the installation of the berm because it is so close to the railroad right of way. Contractual issues have arisen requiring us to amend the agreement with Woodard and Curran who is doing the project. This resolution will allow the Town Manager to assign the amendment to the contract. It will allow the installation of berm and allow the water pollution facility upgrade. We can then benefit from the clean water loan and start paying back in 2023. He recommends approval of the resolution.

Councilor Ludwick asked what we are holding Woodard and Curran harmless for?

Mr. Tallberg stated that this was discussed in executive session. Woodard and Curran is taking on some additional liability and the town is agreeing to indemnify them should there be additional liability exposure arising from this.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the chair declared **RESOLUTION #6232** adopted 9-1-0. The full text of the resolution is appended to these minutes.

**RESOLUTION #6233** by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Pyznar.

WHEREAS, The Office of Early Childhood has released the Request for Proposal for July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 for the School Readiness Grant and the Quality Enhancement grant which requires signatures by the Town Manager and Superintendent of Schools; and  
WHEREAS, Enfield is eligible to receive funding in the amount of \$249,872 for School Readiness slots; \$3,881 for Quality Enhancement funding; and \$12,494 for administrative funds.

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager, Ellen Zoppo-Sassu, is authorized to sign and submit the grant application and enter into contract as awarded, subject to review and approval by the Town Attorney, in the name and on behalf of the Town of Enfield with the State Department and to affix the Corporate Seal.

Councilor Hopkins asked if Ms. Guerreri could provide any helpful information about this.

Director of Social Services, Cindy Guerreri stated that the School Readiness grant is a state funded initiative administered by the Office of Early Childhood. It provides affordable, high-quality care and education services for pre-school aged children as they prepare for kindergarten. At least 60% of the children enrolled must be at 75% of the state median income. School Readiness providers must meet specific quality components and be accredited nationally. Components include family engagement and integration of children with disabilities into the program. Other parts are collaboration with other community groups and services, family engagement partnership, health, pre-literacy teacher training, nutrition, family literacy, admission policies that promote diversity, transition to kindergarten programming, professional development, a sliding scale fee and an annual evaluation. KITE serves as Enfield's School Readiness Committee. They will be voting on this application at their meeting on Wednesday. The one applicant continues to be our Early Childhood Development Center at Stowe. The BOE approved the Superintendent to sign at their last meeting.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the chair declared **RESOLUTION #6233** adopted 10-0-0.

**RESOLUTION #6234** by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Cekala.

WHEREAS, the Town of Enfield commenced a foreclosure proceeding against 11 Thompson Court for several years of unpaid real estate taxes; and

WHEREAS, the owners of the property have offered to settle the foreclosure proceeding by conveying the property to the Town by a Deed in Lieu of Foreclosure.

RESOLVED, that the Enfield Town Council does hereby approve the proposed settlement in *Town of Enfield v. William Anduaga, et al.*, Docket Number HHD-CV-19-6114494-S, and hereby agrees to accept a deed in lieu of foreclosure from William Anduaga and Julia Anduaga for 11 Thompson Court.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the chair declared **RESOLUTION #6234** adopted

10-0-0.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS PROPER TO COME BEFORE SAID MEETING** – None.

**PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS**

Bob Tkacz, 815 Woodgate Circle

Mr. Tkacz was very happy that the council approved the pride flag. This is a milestone.

Mr. Tkacz mentioned that the budget presentation was very informing.

Mr. Tkacz stated that there are needs in the community that need to be addressed in the school system. The schools are doing a great job but there is more that must be done.

The chair declared public communications over.

**COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS** – None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION #6235** by Councilor Finger, seconded by Councilor Unghire to adjourn.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6235** adopted and the meeting stood adjourned at 8:57pm.

Chairman Cressotti wished all the mothers a Happy Mother's Day.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila M. Bailey  
Town Clerk  
Clerk of the Council

Tina Demers  
Secretary to the Council



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## TOWN OF ENFIELD

April 20, 2022

Honorable Members  
Enfield Town Council  
Enfield, Connecticut

**Subject: Resolution to Approve Amendment No. 04 to the Contract between the Town of Enfield and Woodard & Curran, Inc. with regard to Berm at the Water Pollution Control Facility**

Councilors:

**Highlights:**

- The Town's Water Pollution Control Facility has been renovated and upgraded.
- Woodard & Curran, Inc. has been under contract to provide Construction Administration Services for the project.
- The project design includes the construction of a berm along Beemans Brook.
- A portion of the berm will be located on property owned by the National Railroad Passenger Corporation.
- National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) has approved a license agreement authorizing the construction of the berm on its property.
- As part of its plan approval process, Amtrak requires Woodard & Curran to execute a Certificate related to the project and the berm, which certificate includes provisions for insurance coverage and indemnification and hold harmless requirements.
- The requirements of the Certificate exceed from the requirements of the Contract.
- As consideration for Woodward & Curran's signing the Certificate, the Town will agree to indemnify, defend, and hold Woodward & Curran harmless from claims that exceed Woodward & Curran's obligations under the Contract.

**Budget Impact:**

To be determined.

**Recommendation:**

It is recommended that the Town Council approve the attached resolution.

Office of the Town Attorney

**Attachments:**

1. Resolution
2. Certificate

**ENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL**

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**Resolution to Approve Amendment No. 04 to the Contract between the Town of  
Enfield and Woodard & Curran, Inc. with regard to Berm at the Water Pollution  
Control Facility**

**WHEREAS,** the Town's Water Pollution Control Facility has been renovated and upgraded (project); and

**WHEREAS,** Woodard & Curran, Inc. has been under contract to provide Construction Administration Services (Contract) for the project; and

**WHEREAS,** the project design includes the construction of a berm along Beemans Brook; and

**WHEREAS,** a portion of the berm will be located on property owned by the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak); and

**WHEREAS,** Amtrak has approved a license agreement authorizing the construction of the berm on its property; and

**WHEREAS,** as part of its plan approval process, Amtrak requires Woodard & Curran to execute a Certificate related to the project and the berm, which certificate includes provisions for insurance coverage and indemnification and hold harmless requirements; and

**WHEREAS,** the requirements of the Certificate exceed from the requirements of the Contract; and

**WHEREAS,** as consideration for Woodard & Curran's signing the Certificate, the Town will agree to indemnify, defend, and hold Woodard & Curran harmless from claims that exceed Woodard & Curran's obligations under the Contract.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Town Manager, Ellen Zoppo-Sassu, or her designee, is authorized to sign, on behalf of the Town of Enfield, the attached Amendment No. 04 to the Contract

Date Completed: April 20, 2022  
Completed by: Office of the Town Attorney