

**ENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A VIRTUAL SPECIAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2020**

A Virtual Special Meeting of the Enfield Town Council was called to order by Chairman Ludwick on Wednesday, May 20, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

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; Director of Finance, John Wilcox; Chief Technology Officer, Paul Russell; Chief of Police, Alaric Fox; Executive Secretary to the Town Manager, Debra McCarthy

MOTION #5436 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Riley to go into Executive Session to discuss 800 Enfield Street.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #5436** adopted 11-0-0, and the meeting stood recessed at 5:02 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Executive Session of the Enfield Town Council was called to order by Chairman Ludwick at 5:03 p.m.

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 Attorney, James Tallberg; Town Clerk Suzanne Olechnicki; Chief Technology Officer, Paul Russell; Director of Finance, John Wilcox.

Chairman Ludwick adjourned the Executive Session and reconvened the Special Meeting at 5:23 p.m. and stated that during Executive Session the item, 800 Enfield Street, was discussed with no action or votes being taken.

RESOLUTION #5437 by Councilor Muller, seconded by Councilor Mangini.

RESOLVED, that Page 8, General Fund Revenue Summary and Page 12, Summary of Expenditure by Function of the Town Budget, as submitted by the Town Manager and the estimates for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021 including estimates of receipts and expenditures and recommendations of said Town of Enfield for:

Water Pollution Control (pgs. 74, 76-81);
Social Services Fund (pgs. 84-87, 89-108);
Department of Library Fund (pgs. 110, 112-121);
Insurance Fund (pgs. 124, 125-129);
Information Technology Fund (pgs. 132, 134-140);
Dog Fund (pgs. 142, 143);
Emergency Medical Services (pgs. 146, 148-151); and

Capital Improvement funds (pgs. 154-166)

be accepted and approved along with the amendments specified on the attached schedule by the Town Council of the Town of Enfield.

Councilor Sferrazza expressed his appreciation to Town staff for putting this budget together under trying times. He noted everyone is entitled to their own opinion, but he doesn't believe anyone is entitled to their own particular set of facts. He noted at this time, the State of Connecticut is looking at a three-billion-dollar deficit after July 1st. He stated because of this virus, Connecticut's sales tax revenue is down 14%; income tax collection is down 10% effective July 1st; the Special Transportation Fund is projected to be out of money in a year; the State is still dealing with a hundred billion dollar pension fund that they cannot fund, and since the middle of March, 515,000 Connecticut residents are unemployed because of this virus. He stated he does not believe the economy comes back the day the State opens for Phase II, but rather it opens when people feel comfortable. He pointed out 36 million people are unemployed throughout the country, and Connecticut is number two behind New York at 12.6% as concerns the state and local tax burden. He stated in light of this, he has always been concerned that the State is going to be looking for money. He noted he doesn't want the State to cut the Town as they have in the past without a pandemic. He doesn't feel the Town should expect its residents, especially those out of work, to be able to pay taxes on time, therefore, the Town should anticipate a decrease in tax revenue. He stated as much as he believes in infrastructure and putting money back into the Town, he doesn't feel this is the year to do it. He pointed out the final chapter of this virus isn't over yet because it's not known when life will go back to normal, so in light of all these facts, he cannot put an extra burden on Enfield residents with an increase in taxes this year, so he supports this resolution as presented.

Councilor Riley thanked all department heads for the immense amount of work it takes to put together a budget. She noted she's definitely looking forward to getting back to some sort of normal soon, so they can get back on the road that they were on and getting all the important projects done, but now they have to take a slight pause and take care of what's important, which is Enfield citizens and their financial health.

Councilor Mangini thanked Town staff for all the hard work that was put into preparing the budget and answering all the Council's questions. She stated with COVID-19, it's really not known where they're going with it because they're talking about another surge in the fall. She stated she would like to offer an amendment on EMS. She noted she understands the EMS Chief did provide a letter indicating that at this time she is not asking for any additions to her staff, however, no one can predict the future, therefore, she'd like to offer an amendment adding one EMS person for \$69,000, which represents half of what was initially in the Town Manager's budget.

AMENDMENT #1 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Kiner to add one EMS staff member for \$69,000.

Councilor Cekala voiced her support of the amendment. She noted she does not want to put an extra burden on the taxpayers, but when it comes to public health and safety, she doesn't believe

the \$69,000 spread between about 45,000 residents is a reason to vote this down. She feels that EMT's and EMS Service are more important now than ever.

Councilor Kiner stated he supports the amendment. He noted he lives in Abbewood, and it's an older community comprised of people averaging in their late 60's, 70's and 80's, and over the past couple weeks, he has noticed a number of ambulances arriving at Abbewood from East Windsor and Somers, and he hasn't seen any from Enfield. He voiced concern about this pandemic returning in the fall or winter, and Enfield doesn't have the resources to help residents. He feels the public safety is well worth \$69,000.

Councilor Bosco stated he does not support the amendment. He noted Enfield's fire departments are comprised of EMT's, and they should be working together. He pointed out fire departments go out for every single call. He stated most police officers are EMT's. He pointed out Enfield provided Somers with an ambulance, and there's no reason why Enfield can't provide an ambulance to a fire department. He noted they have to use existing services, so it doesn't cost the taxpayers any more money.

Councilor Hemmeler stated because the EMS Chief says she doesn't need an EMT, she would not support this amendment.

Councilor Unghire stated the EMS Chief did not say she needed extra help at this time and that they're getting by. She noted if circumstances change in the future, she's sure the Council will hear about it.

Councilor Muller stated he does not support the amendment because that's raising the taxes.

Councilor Szewczak agreed with Councilor Bosco. She noted they have a lot of EMT's throughout the town. She noted when people see a Somers, East Windsor or Windsor ambulance, it could be because both of Enfield's ambulances are at another site. She stated there may come a time when Enfield may need to add another ambulance at which time, they could look for support from other first responders to man that ambulance.

Chairman Ludwick stated at the leadership meeting yesterday, this was not brought up at all by the minority leader. He noted amendments were discussed beforehand, and they were voted down two weeks ago. He referred to last year's meeting where Councilor Kiner spoke about the process, yet this year they're making an amendment on the floor without letting other Council members know. He stated he will be voting "no" on the amendment.

Councilor Sferrazza stated he will not be supporting the amendment. He noted he has had the opportunity and privilege to work in public safety as the Police Chief in Enfield for 12 years, and he worked under the direction of the Public Safety Director at that time and who is now the Town Manager, Christopher Bromson. He stated if Mr. Bromson or the EMS Chief felt it was vital for public safety, Mr. Bromson would not hesitate to include this in the budget and explain it. He stated he takes the Town Manager and EMS Chief at their word. He went on to note that the majority of Enfield police officers are certified at an EMT level, and they are the first responders.

He noted as the year progresses, and if money frees up, and if the EMS Chief feels it's necessary, they can do whatever it takes for public safety, but at this point he doesn't see it.

Councilor Riley stated she's confused because she wasn't sent an email about any amendments. She noted they had the discussion at the last meeting, and everyone put their ideas on the board, and she thought the process was that they went through them, voted, and it didn't go through, therefore, she does not know why it's coming up again now. She added a letter from the EMS Chief came in saying they would be fine without it. She noted she will vote no on the amendment.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **AMENDMENT #1** defeated by a 3-8-0, with Councilors Bosco, Hemmeler, Ludwick, Muller, Riley, Sferrazza, Szewczak, and Unghire voting against the amendment.

Councilor Cekala stated offering amendments from the floor happens all the time with budgets, and she respects that people don't like it. She feels the difference between this year and last year is that the amendment that was offered last year was talked about and then an amendment landed on the dais as though they were going to all agree that it was there. She noted they do have budget deliberations, and they don't always agree. She stated things were originally included, but they were taken out to get a flat zero. She noted she will make an amendment to add in the Grants Manager. She stated this was requested, and she feels this position will pay for itself because there are so many grants available under all departments that they could be applying for, but the staff doesn't have the capability or time to do so. She noted in the time they're in right now, especially in Social Services, which is where this Grants Manager position was originally requested for, peoples' mental, emotional and physical health is of utmost importance. She pointed out people have lost their jobs, people are on unemployment, and they're unsure they'll be able to go back to their jobs. She stated people are fraught with uncertainty, and there are so many grants that Enfield could probably apply for, but they're not. She agreed this was discussed during budget deliberations, however, she still disagrees with it being shot down.

AMENDMENT #2 by Councilor Cekala, seconded by Councilor Kiner to add a Grants Manager position for \$101,693.

Councilor Kiner stated his belief the whole point of representative democracy is to allow the minority to speak their case to let that information go out to the public and let the public decide who's right and who's wrong. He noted he takes exception to the fact that people say that they shouldn't have the right to propose amendments from the floor. He stated he supports this amendment.

Councilor Bosco stated the town cannot afford a tax increase. He noted the Town has increases just like a household does, i.e., payroll, health insurance, fuel, etc. He stated they are at a zero budget, if not a negative zero. He noted he will not support any spending above what was already negotiated at the last meeting.

Councilor Hemmeler stated just as in deliberations, she will not support the amendment.

Councilor Unghire stated she will not support the amendment.

Councilor Muller stated he will not support the amendment, and he still wants a zero-tax increase.

Councilor Szewczak referred to a Grants Manager and stated her belief they need to look at a consultant, rather than taking on more employees and more expenses. She feels a consultant might be a much more palatable suggestion in this economy.

Chairman Ludwick referred to last year when this was done. He noted an amendment was made on a Saturday before the meeting, and the speech that evening was much different than what's being heard this evening. He stated people can offer an amendment, and he isn't saying people shouldn't, but the difference in speech from a year ago is interesting. He noted he will be against the amendment.

Councilor Riley stated it was not said that people couldn't put forth things, but she didn't think it was part of the normal process. She went on to state a Grant Manager is a great idea. She noted the Board of Education's grant writers make their salary from the grants that they write. She suggested perhaps they could get some college students who might wish to volunteer and get experience in grant writing for the Town. She feels \$101,000 is a lot of money for a grant writer.

Councilor Mangini stated she will definitely support the amendment. She noted a grant writer will definitely pay for his/her salary in the long run. She noted \$101,000 is not a lot of money at all for a grant writer. She stated her belief after some research, she has seen salaries up to \$120,000. She noted years ago, they did do amendments off the floor, and there are some issues that are very passionate and very important to bring forward to the floor on the night of voting on the budget. She encouraged any other Council member, who has a reasonable amendment, to do so. She noted it's important to bring things forward to let the public know that they are thinking and working hard toward making the Town budget solid and workable.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **AMENDMENT #2** defeated by a 3-8-0, with Councilors Bosco, Hemmeler, Ludwick, Muller, Riley, Sferrazza, Szewczak and Unghire voting against the amendment.

AMENDMENT #3 by Councilor Kiner, seconded by Councilor Cekala to amend the budget to include \$320,000 from Unallocated Expenses for improvements to the scale house at the transfer station.

Councilor Kiner stated it has been said that all these amendments would cost the taxpayers more money, and he doesn't believe that's necessarily true. He noted he has been asking for a bottom-line assessment of where the unallocated expenses are. He stated unallocated expense is money that has been appropriated for certain projects, and if that money isn't spent within a three-year period, the money reverts back to the General Fund. He noted in last year's June meeting, the Council was told there's \$760,000 in that account. He stated his belief there's now an appreciable amount of money in that account that they could draw from. He noted the consensus of the Town Council, the Town Manager and Joint Facilities Committee is that the conditions of the scale house at the transfer station needs to be rectified. He stated he's unsure whether the public is aware of the conditions these employees work under. He noted these employees are working in a facility where there's no running water, except for a five-gallon jug of water to drink from and wash with.

He stated there are no toilet facilities, except for a porta-potty, the trailer is old, the roof is old and rusting, the trailer is on bricks and shakes in the wind. He stated there are also rats being seen around the trailer. He feels DPW employees are stoic and to his knowledge, never complained. He feels if they can spend money to repair roads, he feels they can spare money to provide safety and dignity on the job. He stated his belief it's time to stop talking about this problem and act now.

Councilor Bosco stated any money left over could be used for something else at the end of the year, therefore, it doesn't really need to be brought up here. He noted the inside of the trailer is clean and organized. He agreed something needs to be done, but they don't need double scales or a lot of other things. He noted there are cost effective things they can do with the money they have, and they can do a little at a time. He acknowledged this should be addressed, but right now they need to keep the budget at zero. He pointed out the amendments already amounted to a half-million dollars. He noted he will be doing the fiscally responsible thing and voting no on the amendment. He suggested discussing this after the budget is taken care of. He stated his belief they can address a new building at the transfer station for a lot less.

Councilor Hemmeler stated she will be voting against the amendment. She noted there's already \$30,000 in the budget to get the design process going.

Councilor Unghire stated she won't support this amendment today. She noted money has already been set aside to get things rolling. She agreed improvements need to be made, and things are long overdue. She stated she wants to keep a zero-tax increase.

Councilor Muller stated he doesn't support the amendment because he also wants to keep a zero-tax increase.

Councilor Szewczak stated she's aware of monies to take it to contract documents. She noted she supported this at budget time and deliberations, and she will support it again. She stated even if this doesn't pass, she will still find money once they have contract documents to get this done. She feels they need to move forward with this.

Councilor Sferrazza stated he will not support this amendment, however, he does agree with Councilor Kiner and his concern for staff. He added his belief everyone agrees that things need to be corrected. He noted when this epidemic subsides and the economy recovers, this will be a top priority for him.

Councilor Riley stated there is money to get things going, but she believes there should be a slight pause.

Councilor Mangini stated she will support the amendment. She noted the Town put \$100,000 towards two roads as an urgent matter, and they have Town employees who are working in deplorable conditions.

Councilor Cekala stated she supports the amendment.

Councilor Kiner stated the purpose of this amendment is to make repairs and give a decent working condition for the employees. He stated his belief money is available under Unallocated Expenses, therefore, there wouldn't be a tax increase.

Councilor Sferrazza stated he's not sure whether there are any extra funds, and if there were none, would the alternative be to raise taxes by \$320,000.

Councilor Kiner stated with a budget of almost \$139 million dollars, he feels it boggles the mind that money can't be found if necessary. He noted they found money to repair Somers Road, which needed to be done. He stated if something needs to be done to protect citizens or employees, he feels the money will be found.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **AMENDMENT #3** defeated by a 4-7-0, with Councilors Bosco, Hemmeler, Ludwick, Muller, Riley, Sferrazza, and Unghire voting against the amendment.

Discussion followed on the main motion.

Councilor Szewczak stated the mill rate is level, and everyone's taxes will be the same, but operating expenses have gone up, which is why they are looking at a lot of CIP things that they're not moving forward with. She noted this year and next year will be difficult years.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #5437** adopted 8-3-0, with Councilors Cekala, Kiner, Mangini voting against the resolution.

RESOLUTION #5438 by Councilor Muller, seconded by Councilor Szewczak.

RESOLVED, that the Town Council of the Town of Enfield hereby finds and determines that each capital project for the 2020-21 fiscal year indicated as a Series or as a specific capital expenditure in the Capital Improvement Annual Budget shall constitute a single appropriation of funds for said Series or expenditure.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #5438** adopted 9-2-0, with Councilors Kiner and Mangini voting against the resolution.

RESOLUTION #5439 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Muller.

RESOLVED, that the Town Council of the Town of Enfield does hereby appropriate LOCIP Grant Funds in the amount of \$323,365 for the following purpose in accordance with the 2020-2021 Annual Operating and Capital Budget:

Town Road Paving	\$323,365
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Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #5439** adopted 11-0-0.

RESOLUTION #5440 by Councilor Muller, seconded by Councilor Mangini.

RESOLVED, that the Town Schools' Budget adopted by the Town Council in the amount of \$71,691,866 included the anticipated revenue of \$28,768,258 from the Education Block (Cost Sharing) Grant and Special Education Grant.

Councilor Szewczak verified that if additional monies are sent from the State and federal government that they will go directly to the Board of Education for any expenses they had relating to the COVID, and this doesn't effect any additional funding that they get, and should it come, it flows right to them.

Mr. Wilcox stated this relates to the ECS grant from the State. He noted the Board also receives federal nutrition money and other State and federal grants that go directly to them which they use for their operations. He added if it turns out the State increases the amount of ECS funding, they will do an additional appropriate to the Board of Education.

Chairman Ludwick stated that is what was done last year.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #5440** adopted 11-0-0.

RESOLUTION #5441 by Councilor Muller, seconded by Councilor Mangini.

RESOLVED, that a tax rate of 34.23 mills be set on the Real Estate and Business Personal Property Grand List of October 1, 2019 for the Town of Enfield and shall be payable in two semi-annual installments – July 1, 2020 and January 1, 2021; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a tax rate of 34.23 mills be set on the Motor Vehicle Grand List of October 1, 2019 and shall be paid in full on July 1, 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, however, that real estate and personal property taxes amounting to \$100.00 or less shall be paid in full on July 1, 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any motor vehicle, real estate or taxes in the amount of \$5.00 or less, shall be waived, pursuant to Connecticut State Statute 12-144c

Councilor Sferrazza stated his belief this is the best thing to do for Enfield residents at this time, therefore, he will support the resolution.

Councilor Mangini stated she would have preferred consideration of these amendments now to offset some of the costs next year because it's her understanding next year will also be challenging. She feels they should be proactive and address some of these projects now.

Councilor Cekala stated she will not be in support of this resolution. She noted the offered amendments would have added such a deminimus amount of a tax increase spread throughout all of the taxpayers that she feels it would have been money very well spent. She stated people should

understand that the same eight people who voted against a tax deferment for all of the Town residents four weeks ago are now saying they care about the residents and not taxing them too much or passing on any tax burden to them and are worried about them not being able to pay their taxes on time. She stated they didn't care four weeks ago, but they're saying they care now.

Councilor Kiner congratulated the Town Manager and department heads for putting together a budget without a tax increase, but he believes they could have done better. He noted amendments were offered to make this budget a better budget and stay within the parameters of a no tax increase. He noted they were all rejected by the majority party. He stated there's one item in particular that really bothers him. He noted there was a line item in last year's budget and budgets prior to this whereby the Town paid \$1.25 million dollars to the water company for fire protection. He noted that item was removed from this year's budget and passed on to the fire district. He stated that \$1.25 million dollars that was removed from this budget allows the majority party to claim that there's no tax increase. He noted that \$1.25 million dollars will now be passed on to the fire departments, and people will be paying that tax one way or another. He stated since the Town refuses to pay the water company for this protection, as they have in the past, and since the fire districts believe that this will burden them and they don't want to pay, they have a proverbial Mexican standoff. He noted he will vote no on this resolution.

Councilor Bosco referred to the \$1.25 million dollars for the water and noted people should realize that the Town had more than that and other costs that increased. He noted if they paid the water and kept adding to it, there would be a substantial tax increase, so that argument doesn't hold water. As concerns the tax deferment, the Council was told that if taxes were deferred, the Town would run out of money, and they would have serious problems since they'd be depleting their Fund Balance. He stated the Town needs the tax money to come in on time, otherwise they would run out of money. He noted this was a fiscally responsible thing to do.

Councilor Hemmeler agreed with Councilor Bosco. She feels this is the responsible thing to do.

Chairman Szewczak stated her belief they will be budgeting the whole year.

Chairman Ludwick agreed and stated three years ago when the State cut Enfield by between seven and eight million dollars, the Council at that time didn't just shift that deficit onto the local taxpayers, but rather they worked at cutting expenses and looking at different ways to balance the budget. He noted the fire districts had the same opportunity to do that as well. He noted they keep hearing how they're independent tax districts, and it's up to them as to how they pass on that cost. He referred to the tax deferment and noted if the Town is not collecting taxes, they can't pay their employees who provide the services that people need, i.e., police protection, EMS, and all the other things that the Town does. He stated he takes offense because he cares very much about the taxpayers.

Councilor Sferrazza stated if anyone is trying to say he didn't care about people four weeks ago, he clarified that his first inclination was to go with the three-month tax deferral, but the Finance Director explained a three-month deferral put the Town at risk of not having the cash by August to pay Town employees, therefore, the Finance Director and Town Manager recommended going with Option #2.

Councilor Riley stated the Council has taken this situation very seriously. She noted the pandemic is very real and is affecting everyone in town. She stated she ran for Town Council because she cares about the town and the people that live here. She stated saying the Council doesn't care is a very unfair and untrue statement.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #5441** adopted 8-3-0, with Councilors Cekala, Kiner and Mangini voting against.

RESOLUTION #5442 by Councilor Muller, seconded by Councilor Szewczak.

RESOLVED, that Christopher W. Bromson, Town Manager, is empowered to execute and deliver in the name and on behalf of the Town of Enfield, a contract, subject to review and approval by the Town Attorney, with Big Fish Entertainment, LLC.

Chief Fox stated this resolution represents a very worthwhile opportunity for Enfield to showcase the extraordinary talents of two employees and their canine partners at no cost to the Town.

Councilor Sferrazza stated any opportunity they have that highlights the Police Canine Program is worthwhile, and he supports the resolution.

Councilor Mangini expressed her appreciation for the hard work of the Enfield Police Department.

Councilor Unghire stated this is a real compliment to the Enfield Police Department and Canine Unit.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #5442** adopted 11-0-0.

RESOLUTION #5443 by Councilor Muller, seconded by Councilor Mangini.

WHEREAS, the Enfield Town Council wishes to acquire the property at 800 Enfield Street, and

WHEREAS, the Council must refer the proposed acquisition to the Planning & Zoning Commission for a report in conformance with requirements of Connecticut General Statute Section 8-24;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the proposed acquisition of the property hereby referred to the Planning & Zoning Commission in conformance with requirements of Connecticut General Statute Section 8-24.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #5443** adopted 11-0-0.

RESOLUTION #5444 by Councilor Muller, seconded by Councilor Mangini.

WHEREAS, the Enfield Town Council wishes to lease and potentially purchase the property at 800 Enfield Street;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Manager is authorized, on behalf of the Town, to sign the letter of intent discussed in Executive Session subject to review and approval of the Town Attorney.

Mr. Bromson stated this is one property removed from the Town Hall to the north. He noted they have been discussing this in the context of acquiring it for the purposes of implementing the Higgins Park plan. He stated several months ago, the Town executed an option with the owner of the St. Adalbert's School as part of that park plan to secure that premise to restore interior basketball courts and perhaps a theater. He noted they talked about the Higgins Park having a walking trail, dog park, a shell theater and other amenities. He stated part of that plan was that 800 Enfield Street could be a gateway into the property, so they could access Higgins Park and also include a pool along with a water park and other amenities. He noted this is not only to lease, but with the option to purchase. He feels this is a very favorable plan for the town. He stated part of the plan is to avoid cost and repairs to the Lamagna Center, which are upcoming. He noted another part of the plan is to relocate Youth Services partially to 800 Enfield Street and perhaps to another area, and the Lamagna Center building and Strand building could be marketed, sold and developed as part of the economic plan.

He stated the 800 Enfield Street property has a drive-through and Town Hall is trying to do business remotely with people trying to pay taxes, get dog licenses, permits, etc. He noted it would be nice to have a drive-through where the public can be accommodated remotely and safely. He noted they could relocate a small satellite staff at 800 Enfield Street to afford this convenience to citizens. He stated they hope to start doing this beginning in early June, so they're available for the tax season and dog licensing. He noted they are reopening Town Hall by appointment only. He stated this would also allow the Town to secure 800 Enfield Street as part of a long-range plan. He noted more information will become available in the coming weeks. He stated his belief the Town has been reactive to the COVID-19 situation, and they must respond to the Governor's orders. He noted this is also a way for the Town to have some control, as a town, and to do something proactive and positive for residents.

Councilor Sferrazza stated if the State of Connecticut decides to cut funding in the next couple years, it's his understanding that would provide the opportunity to bail out of this project going forward. Mr. Bromson responded that's correct and noted the actual details in the letter of intent contains two escape clauses – if Enfield weren't to receive the level funding from the State, they'd be able to renege, and 90 days from the end of the lease period they'd have the ability to not exercise the option and buy the property.

Councilor Sferrazza stated he supports the idea of a drive-in teller to serve residents and provide a safe way to do business for residents and employees. He commended Mr. Bromson for going forward with this.

Councilor Riley thanked the Town Manager and Town Attorney for their hard work on this. She feels this is a great idea, and she's glad there is an exit clause if things go south. She believes this is an awesome way to think outside the box in order to serve residents when there is all this social distancing.

Councilor Mangini thanked the Town Manager and Town staff for putting this together. She feels this is a phenomenal opportunity. She noted she and Councilor Szewczak had the privilege of visiting this facility prior to COVID-19. She stated Town staff went above and beyond trying to make this happen, and they've been successful.

Mr. Bromson expressed appreciation for the dedication and perseverance of Kasia Purciello, the Assistant Town Manager, in this endeavor.

Councilor Cekala thanked Town staff and stated she's satisfied with the presentation and the discussion they had in Executive Session. She stated her belief it's a great, innovative idea and kudos to the Town staff for coming up with this.

Councilor Kiner stated this topic was fully discussed and explained, and he supports it.

Councilor Bosco thanked Mr. Bromson and his staff for their forward-thinking. He stated his belief in the end this will all work out beautifully.

Councilor Hemmeler stated Town staff did a great job in negotiations, and she feels it's great they're thinking in different ways, and it will make a lot of people feel safe.

Councilor Unghire stated she will support this, and she believes it's a great idea. She commended staff for taking a positive approach, and instead of seeing the drive thru as a hindrance, they turned it around and used it. She wished everyone the best with this project.

Councilor Muller thanked Town staff for this great opportunity for the citizens. He noted citizens can pay taxes, get dog licenses, etc. He stated he looks forward to the whole Higgins Park concept as well.

Councilor Szewczak thanked Town staff for a great idea. She stated her hope they'll be able to use the night deposit as well.

Chairman Ludwick acknowledged a lot of people prefer paying bills and fees in person. He noted by doing this in a safe way, it allows people to have the opportunity to pay in person, while at the same time following the Governor's executive orders and keeping people and staff safe.

Mr. Bromson stated they will do this as a phased-in approach. He noted inside the building there are five stations from which they can provide service, while at the same time adhere to social distancing.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #5444** adopted 11-0-0.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Mr. Bromson made the following statement:

“I thank the Town Council for adopting my 2020/21 budget this evening, which results in a level mill rate of 34.23 and no tax increase. We knew it was important not to additionally burden taxpayers during this very trying time when so many families are facing economic uncertainty. I am thankful that the budget process is now concluded, and we can fully concentrate on the recovery efforts related to COVID-19.

I would like to take this opportunity to talk about where we've been, where we are now, and where we are going. Although all departments in Town have been transacting business remotely and electronically, today, May 20th, we have begun the physical reopening of the Town. All Town Hall departments will now be available for residents to visit in person by appointment. Access our Town website for the department for which you wish to visit, and they will be more than happy to accommodate with scheduling an appointment. I understand that this has been a deeply frustrating and a very anxious time for all of you as it has been for us. With the steps we are taking today to reopen, we hope we are beginning to emerge from the effects of the pandemic and start the return to normalcy. It's important to understand that we, as a Town, are subject to the laws of the State of Connecticut and most recently bound to follow the Governor's executive orders, which have the force of law. During this process of reopening, we are following the executive orders of the Governor and are also seeking to provide a safe environment for employees and the public. We thank you for your continued patience, cooperation and your understanding during this transition.

On March 5th, as information about the Coronavirus was coming to light, I convened an internal working group, which consisted of Town administration, elected officials, public health officials and other stakeholders in our community. On March 10th, Governor Lamont declared a state of emergency in Connecticut. Two days later on March 12th, in consultation with our elected officials and public officials, I had to declare a state of emergency for the Town of Enfield. I thought it was important to make such a declaration before taking the extraordinary steps of closing down town government and limiting Town services. Thereafter, Chris Drezek, the Superintendent of Schools, closed our public schools, and we closed public libraries, the senior center and the recreation department. One day later, on March 13th, President Trump declared a national state of emergency. We then proceeded to close the Enfield Child Development Center, Youth Center, Family Resource Center, and the Adult Day Center. On March 16th, to insure resident and employee safety, Town Hall and the Department of Public Works had to close their doors to the public. The Department of Social Services did as much work as possible remotely, while allowing appointment only for certain programs. On March 19th, Enfield had its first declared case of COVID-19. During the first week of April, we commenced to close all our playscapes and ceased collecting fares for the Magic Carpet bus services. All actions we took were for our residents' and employees' safety.

To address the COVID-19 pandemic, and as previously mentioned on the previous slide, I created an internal working group on March 5th, which consisted of those participants listed above. Shortly thereafter, the North Central District Health Department convened its regional working group, which consists of eight surrounding towns. Since early March, both the North Central working

group and the Enfield working group have been meeting every Thursday morning. Both groups endeavor to share information and come up with goals and strategies that are to benefit our residents in providing services during these very uncertain times. These working groups will continue for the foreseeable future. We continue learning from our surrounding communities and are implementing the best policies and practices which are suitable here in Enfield.

Reopening Town services – As of today, May 20th, we were able to begin slowly and safely reopening Town services. We anticipate reopening all Town services in coming weeks in consultation with public health officials while adhering to the Governor’s executive orders. Here you will see a timeline of some reopening activity that has occurred or will occur in the upcoming two weeks. Our Department of Recreation has been preparing for summer camp for many weeks. They have filed the appropriate paperwork with the State for permission to allow 50 children into our Tons of Fun summer camp. On May 5th, they received this approval, but we are awaiting further information and guidance from the Governor’s office to make a determination whether or not it will be possible to actually offer the camp this summer. We will keep you apprised.

On May 5th, the Department of Public Works also did a soft opening of the Transfer Station. The Transfer Station will accept free of charge yard waste, metal, e-waste, cardboard and textiles. Residents may also dispose of bulky waste—mattresses and freon-based products. To insure everyone’s safety, DPW was only accepting credit and debit cards and checks at this time. All transfer station employees are practicing appropriate social distancing. This reopening has been a success and very much appreciated by our residents.

May 14th – thanks to the work of our Development Services staff and our Town Attorney and his office, our Planning & Zoning Commission approved guidelines for reopening outdoor dining areas for restaurants consistent with the Governor’s executive order. Restaurants are able to apply for a temporary certificate for outdoor dining. If you are in need of assistance with this process, please contact our Development Services Office for immediate help.

The Enfield Child Development Center (ECDC) has received approval as of May 15th to allow them to care for up to 74 children. Thanks to the great relationship we have with the Superintendent of Schools, Chris Drezek, we’ve also received his approval to use additional Enfield public classrooms at Stowe this summer, which after licensing, will allow us to care for up to 194 children during the summer months when parents will be struggling with childcare needs. We are anticipating that ECDC will commence to open with the first 30 childcare slots on June 1st, but again, stay tuned for specific news of reopening as things are in a constant state of flux.

That brings us to today, May 20th, when we will begin reopening Town Hall by appointment only. More information on the opening and access to other departments will be forthcoming in the days and weeks ahead. Beginning next week, the public libraries will begin taking requests for materials and providing curbside pick-up.

I would like to take the opportunity to introduce the directors of the various departments of the Town of Enfield. I won’t go through each one by name, but you can see their picture and their designation on the slide. These are the individuals who oversee all the divisions and staff of Enfield Town government. They have stepped up and delivered during these most trying and

difficult times. I truly appreciate their dedication to our Town and its residents. Before COVID-19, we held director meetings twice a month immediately following Council meetings the first and third Mondays of each month. In addition, we held one-on-one meetings with each director on a rotating, weekly basis, but since the onset of the pandemic, we've been meeting as a group three days per week on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and more frequently as necessary. We speak and consult with each other on a daily basis as issues arise. Again, I would like to thank all of the directors for the commitment and professionalism and leading by example during these last few months. I would also like to thank all of our employees in each and every department from Police, EMS, the Department of Public Works, those at the Water Pollution Control Center, our custodians and those in B&G, all of those who have been coming into Town Hall, and all the other departments who have been working remotely to provide the excellent and unparalleled Town services that we provide here in Enfield.

This next chart is sobering, but it's important to note on the left we have listed the confirmed cases in Enfield as of May 19th – 396. Tragically, sadly, 24 deaths have occurred in the Town of Enfield and our thoughts and prayers go out to those families who have lost loved ones. On the right, we have the confirmed cases in Connecticut as of May 18th – a total of 38,115 cases and 3,449 deaths. We have been posting these on our website based upon the information from North Central Health District every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and I truly and prayerfully look forward to the day when we no longer have to do that.

Enfield is open for business and has been open for business. As I said previously, we were enjoying a very strong economic growth in the town, and I'm sure and confident based on these statistics to follow that we are going to enjoy that same resurgence of economic activity in the near term. As you can see from this chart, our Building Department has issued permits from March 12th through May 12th. In the Building Department we have issued 179 building permits with construction value of over \$66 million dollars; 74 electrical permits with a value of over \$28 million dollars in construction value; 37 plumbing permits with a value of over a million dollars and 85 mechanical permits totaling over \$770,000. I would like to give a special thank you to the building inspectors, who have been going out, doing their job under these stressful circumstances to assure our residents and businesses that they are able to expand and continue to do business and make a living for themselves and their families.

Information Technology – our activity has been amazing from March 12th through May 19th. Because of the foresight of IT in getting us operational systems and technology, our staff and employees have been able to have over 10,555 one-on-one team calls, 8,296 group team calls, 7,423 meetings with over 15,000 participants and 279,410 messages back and forth between employees and town residents in order to assist and deliver services to the town. It is simply stunning and amazing, and I thank our IT Department.

Our Town Clerk is an exceptional individual and so is her staff. They've been coming in to continue to transact business in the Town Hall during this epidemic, and from March 12th through May 12th, there have been over 3,955 land record recordings. We have received over 142 vital records. We have issues over 117 certified copies of vital records. We have issued 97 burial and cremation permits, 20 marriage licenses and 11 dog licenses have been issued. We will be very

busy during the month of June. We have more registered dogs licensed in Enfield than any other town in the State of Connecticut.

Although our buildings were closed entirely or partially, we were always open for business. This chart reflects just what I recounted for you. If you look to the left, it shows a flat line. That's because essentially, we transacted business in person and by telephone. As you start to see the peaks and valleys to the right, you can see the numbers below – 232,000 channel messages; 85,000 reply messages; 52,000 post messages – all of this activity shows what was occurring through IT and technology, electronically and remotely to assist residents and to continue to deliver services. The high peaks show the work being done during the week and the valley shows the weekend. This also reflects the Board of Education and all of what they're doing – their administrators and teachers – to continue to teach our youth and our children in the town during this time. One valley shows when they had their spring break.

As you can see, our staff and the staff of the Board of Education has continued to work for the past two and a half months.

Our EMS has received approximately 996 calls since the onset of the pandemic, March 12, 2020. They were exposed to very serious instances of the virus being in the back of the ambulances and in people's homes with people who were very ill. As a result of that, over 60% of our EMT's became infected with the virus over the last several weeks. I am thankful that most all of them have returned to work and are doing well. And, we thank them from the bottom of our hearts for their great commitment during this time of great personal risk and exposure.

Happily, it is National EMS Week, so we take this opportunity to congratulate and thank all of our EMS workers in the EMS Department of Enfield and also to all the police officers and fire fighters in town who are also EMS workers, who assist us in delivering emergency medical services to the residents of Enfield. It is the finest and most recognized EMS service in the State of Connecticut, and I'm immensely proud of it.

During this time of blight and distraction, we never left or took our foot off the accelerator. We've been working very diligently to eradicate blight in the Town of Enfield. We've had a very aggressive program over the last year, and it has culminated in the following two groups of slides and a short video. Over the past year, our Development Services and our blight officers worked very, very hard to come to the point where we would be able to actually demolish three buildings at 28 South River Street. That has been accomplished thanks to the fact that the Governor deemed construction to be an essential service, and we took advantage of that exemption. On 32 Church Street, there were also three buildings that had been an eyesore and a blight to that community in the neighborhood. We also were able to take advantage of the essential services construction exemption. Those buildings were torn down much to the satisfaction and happiness of everybody in that neighborhood.

At least on those two properties, I can say, "mission accomplished". Not only are we taking down the old, but we're bringing in the new, and that's our plan today for a better tomorrow program. We've had a very successful community garden on Main Street with over 30 plots. Even before the pandemic, we wanted to expand this program. We decided that expanding right now would be

a good fit as it would give residents something to look forward to during the summer. Thanks to the support and funding of the Town Council and quick action of the Planning & Zoning Commission, we have now added almost 60 plots at two new locations – the Central Library and 2 Chapel Street. You can go online today and sign up for a \$25 plot. We provide the organic plants, boxes, and all you need to plant today for a better tomorrow.

On this slide you can see what Chapel Street looks like currently. This next slide shows the community garden vision that's been approved. You can see that there will be 36 planter boxes, four-foot fence, eight-foot gate, and a tool shed, plus a water supply.

This shows the current location at the public library and the vision of ten new planter boxes, a tool shed, water supply, four-foot fence and the gate directly adjacent to the library location. I would just like to note that we'd like to expand this program all over town. If you have an idea or desire in your neighborhood near an apartment or condo, we would be more than anxious to hear from you and add it to our list for next year. We're also looking at Lafayette Park as a prime location in downtown Thompsonville. We would like to expand this and eventually have hundreds of plots in town for our residents to farm. That brings us to a very exciting regional farmers market update. The Governor has deemed that the farmers markets are an essential service, and we're glad he did so. So, we have completely revamped, retooled, expanded and enhanced the Enfield Regional Farm Market here in town. We're hopeful and fully expect to have a grand opening on Sunday, July 26th from 10:00 to 1:00. This is a change from the past Wednesday afternoons. We believe it will be much more convenient and attractive to our residents. Again, we anticipate that the kick-off will be in late July, and we will be enjoying fresh produce and other products on our Town Green all the way through the end of September. Please come and join us.

In conclusion, I would like to thank you for your continued patience and understanding as we move forward. Following my remarks, we will showcase a new PSA from our talented staff on the reopening of Town government. Some departments will be opening today, and other departments will follow. We will adhere to the Governor's orders and consult with public health officials in making any decisions that will impact the health and safety of our staff and our residents. There have been many questions and interest in our summer camps, Town pool, recreation and sports programs. We are planning to open all these services, but we must do it in a safe and legal manner. I want to thank the people of Enfield for their hard work, diligence, and sacrifice. You made the difference. Your actions over the past two months are why we're in the position to open successfully today. Without you, we wouldn't be here where we are, and we again sincerely thank you for your efforts and your involvement in this process. Our staff and I remain available to assist you. Please continue to check our website for updates, sign-up for alerts through "notify me" for the latest information. Be safe. Be well. I thank you for your attention tonight, and I look forward to a time in the near future when we will all be able to gather again together here in the Town Council chambers at Town Hall. Good Evening."

Administrative Secretary, Maya Matthews, comments follow:

"During the COVID-19 pandemic, our Town leadership has worked daily with various stakeholders and the North Central District Health Department to insure they're taking the proper precautions to keep our residents safe while providing essential services. Reopening our Town

will be done with the same level of care. Please listen to our talented employees discuss their plans for reopening key services – the Library, Stowe Early Learning Center, and the Town Hall. Enfield is open for business.”

Director of Libraries, Jason Neely, comments follow:

“The last two months have been challenging for our community. Since March, we’ve been focusing on building up our digital offerings and moving programs online. With the Governor allowing us to open things up a little bit, we will begin expanding services. Items will be available for curbside pick-up. On the Tuesday after Memorial Day, they will begin to take new requests for items. You can also email us library questions at enfield.org or place a hold in their catalog. Everything will be checked out before, and there will be tables set up near the book drop where materials will be in a brown bag with your name on it. We will also be offering evening and weekend hours. We do ask that you don’t come early, so we can maximize social distancing. We received a lot of questions about returning materials. No fines are accumulating. You can bring them back to the book drops when you have the opportunity. Don’t worry about getting them back right away. If you are returning any oversized items, like a musical instrument, just give us a call beforehand, and we will set up a time for you to drop it off. When your items are returned, we will quarantine them for seven days. While social distancing is being encouraged, we will continue to offer virtual programming through Facebook and Zoom. We’ll be adjusting our services in coordination with the North Central District Health Department to ensure the safety of our residents and staff. We miss seeing all of you in person, and we will do everything we can to provide you the best services in these changing times.”

Program Manager for the Enfield Child Development Center, Karen Edelson, comments follow:

“When ECDC closed for childcare due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our staff remained on site cleaning and organizing their rooms and conducting professional development. Nine weeks later we have come so far. Our staff has taught remotely in ways that they didn’t think was possible, materials have been dropped off at children’s homes, including child-size masks, ECDC staff has distributed packages of materials at the center, and staff called parents to check in during these difficult times. The response from our families has been overwhelming with words of appreciation. Now, as the State begins to open, we are working closely with the North Central District Health Department and are planning to reopen our center in various stages throughout the month of June. We will be implementing the safety protocols issued by the Office of Early Childhood, which involves staff wearing masks, temperature taking upon entering the center, and social distancing. Class sizes cannot exceed ten children. Since we will not be able to accommodate all children in the beginning phase, remote learning will also continue. Enrollment will increase as approvals from the State are granted. We know that things will be a little different when we open, but as one three-year old recently said during a classroom Zoom meeting, “I miss my teacher, I miss my friends, I miss my classroom, I want to come back to school.” We all feel the same way and are looking forward to being open.

Town Clerk, Suzanne Olechnicki, comments follow:

“I have been the Town Clerk here for over 30 years. Since the onset of COVID-19, we at the Town have been transacting business as usual with only a very few changes. We have held all the Town meetings remotely and have relied heavily upon emails, phone communication and our drop box. Many of our staff have continued to come into the office by responsibly social distancing to serve the residents of Enfield. When it comes to reopening to the public beginning May 20th, all of us at Town Hall will continue to comply with the Governor’s executive orders, including limiting occupancy, adhering to the five-person meeting limit, adding in several physical partitions, such as plexi-glass, wearing masks, enhanced cleaning protocols and available hand sanitizers and wipes at entrances. To ensure the safety of our residents and our employees, we will be operating in an appointment only model. Please call the department you wish to schedule your visit with in advance. Upon arrival for your appointment, you will find all entrances at Town Hall will be controlled. You will be met at the door and escorted to your respective department. As we begin to reopen, we encourage you to continue to do business by email or use of our drop box at the Town Hall whenever possible. We will do our best to offer our services quickly and to your satisfaction. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Assistant Town Manager, Kasia Purciello, comments follow:

“The COVID-19 pandemic has changed how we do business. In order to provide exceptional service to our residents, while also adhering to new social distancing guidelines, Enfield had to think outside of the box. As a result, I would like to welcome you to the Enfield Express. Beginning this summer, we will offer our residents safe, contactless, drive-thru services in a convenient location right next to our Town Hall. Instead of coming in person to the Town Hall, you will be able to stay in your car and come through our drive-thru to get your dog license, pay your taxes and more. We’ll miss seeing all our residents in person, but we hope this addition to our service offering will provide a convenient way for you to stay connected with Town services.”

SPECIAL GUESTS

Present were Senator John Kissel and State Representative Carol Hall. State Representative Tom Arnone was present, but had to leave for an important business matter.

Rep. Hall commended everyone on a flat budget. She acknowledged it takes a lot of tough decisions to come up with a flat budget. She noted she also appreciates this from a citizen’s perspective, and she knows all the Town residents will be truly appreciative that their taxes will be held flat by this Council.

She commended the Town for the whole way they’ve handled this pandemic. She acknowledged throughout this period everyone continued to work hard.

Rep. Hall addressed questions that were previously submitted:

“Will the logistics of school opening in the fall be placed upon each individual school district?”

Rep. Hall stated the Governor and leadership are meeting on this with all stakeholders involved, i.e., Superintendent organizations, teacher organizations, and leadership from the Education Committee, but currently they don't have an answer to this question. She pointed out things are changing on a daily basis, and this is a moving target. She noted once they have something concrete, they will let that be known right away.

“Will all of the truancy policies be waived for parents that don't feel comfortable sending their children back to school?”

Rep. Hall stated currently they're looking at all these issues, and that still has not been decided.

“If voting should not go back to normal, have you considered ideas of drive-thru polling whereby ballots get mailed to the voters, and then a drive-thru is there to collect the polls?”

Rep. Hall stated currently, these conversations are being had. She noted the Lamont administration and the Secretary of State are addressing these issues, and they have looked at the drive-thru option of polling, but no final decisions have been made. She stated she just received an email this evening that they are going to be allowing people to apply for absentee ballots for the primary in August.

She stated there was a question about whether there would be additional money coming back to schools for laptops and I-Pads. She noted the Governor, together with a private coalition, had put a program together for the alliance districts to get I-Pads and computers. She stated at this time, she does not believe there's a plan to expand that to every district, but if there are needs in the district and that need is made known, they can relay that to the Governor's office. She noted if they know of children in the district in need of that, they certainly could approach the private group that's doing the funding along with the State for alliance districts. She stated she's sure they could secure something if that was a need.

“Do you anticipate the executive order will extend to the teachers' pension being placed on the municipalities or the mandating of tolls?”

Rep. Hall stated it's their understanding the Governor does not have the executive power to do that by himself. She noted he cannot mandate tolls or shift the teachers' retirement to the municipalities through executive order, but rather that would have to go through the General Assembly.

“When will you demand going back in session?”

Rep. Hall stated the only reason they are not going back in session is similar to how the Town is functioning at this time. She noted they can't function as a General Assembly during the COVID problem. She stated they're currently talking about a special session and trying to work out dates, and she anticipates a special session in June or July.

“Why isn’t the state enforcing the hiring freeze on employees?”

Rep. Hall stated before COVID, they were on a hiring freeze, and they were only replacing people who actually left. She noted the Governor had to do hiring for the Department of Labor.

Senator Kissel then spoke.

Senator Kissel commended the Town Council for their work and dedication. He agreed with Rep. Hall that a no tax increase budget is the right message to send to Enfield taxpayers. He acknowledged the difficult decisions that had to be made. He complimented Mr. Bromson on his presentation this evening, and he commended the different departments heads for their work.

He stated he spoke with the Commissioner of Early Childhood Education, and she said there’s been a real drop-off on people requesting resources for Birth to Age 3, but those resources are available and that should be made known to people.

Senator Kissel agreed with Rep. Hall regarding education and everything being in motion right now. He stated his personal belief that people should prepare to have virtual education at least for the fall. He noted he is hearing that not until 2021, will people feel comfortable sending their children to school. He noted the earliest estimated time for a vaccine is ten months, or more likely a year, and that’s a consideration going forward.

He noted the Mayor reached out regarding masks, but there’s still a need for first responders.

As concerns technology and laptops, Senator Kissel stated they may use the paradigm that’s being used in the community colleges. He noted if the laptops come from a foundation, they are given to the students because they tend to vary what kind of brand they are, but if it’s coming from the school itself, it’s a lend, the students are responsible for them, and they have to give them back from wherever they got it. He stated his belief this is the format that the State would use for public schools if they go in that direction.

Senator Kissel stated the Governor’s powers end September 9th. He noted his leader and Senator Summers, who’s the ranking member on Public Health, will not be voting to extend his powers. He noted many in his caucus, including himself, feels that he’s expended his reach in the areas that are not directly related to the COVID-19 problem. He stated the Governor doesn’t really consult with Democrats or Republicans in the Legislature, i.e., changing the rules for hair salons, barbers and nail salons two days before they were supposed to get up and running. He noted that really pulls the rug out from a lot of sole proprietors and small business people that invested and had hopes, and they really need those paychecks.

He stated one of the questions had to do with proposals going forward to limit the Governor’s power. He noted he doesn’t mean this as a campaign platform, but one of his first bill proposals, should he be re-elected, is to change the law so that they have a balance, so that the Governor must consult with legislative leaders. He stated he’s thinking of a way to make sure that the Governor can’t just consult and then ignore, but maybe that has to be so tight that everybody has to vote to

do these executive orders or to change these laws, and he believes the timeframe needs to be revisited every 30 days.

As concerns the State budget, Senator Kissel stated his belief the Governor is just going to tap into the rainy-day fund or the reserve account for this fiscal year that runs out the end of June. He stated his understanding the following fiscal year the Office of Policy and Management Secretary is looking to whittle away about \$400 million dollars from current spending and another \$100 million they hope to glean from savings somewhere. He noted he would not place any hope on it being some kind of union give-back. He stated the Governor has talked about trying to use a friendly approach, but he has never seen that work. He stated he would fight tooth and nail to make sure that this burden doesn't get put on towns he represents. He pointed out there are several things the State can do to economize, just as towns do when they put their budgets together.

Senator Kissel stated the next two weeks are super critical. He noted if they don't see any big spikes in illnesses, they will see Phase II moving forward.

He invited the Town Council members and Town Manager to use his office as a resource. He stated he's very proud to be a citizen of Enfield, and he thanked the Town Council and Town staff for all their hard work. He expressed appreciation for the great public service announcements that were shared this evening.

Chairman Ludwick stated due to the length of the meeting and a prior commitment Representative Arnone had to leave earlier, however, he will be responding to emails.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #5445 by Councilor Muller, seconded by Councilor Mangini to adjourn.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #5445** adopted 11-0-0, and the meeting stood adjourned at 7:41 p.m.