



**MINUTES
TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING**

April 29, 2026

6:00 PM - Town Hall - Scitico Room

<https://youtube.com/live/67a88SvHuYo>

1. Roll Call

Present: Linda Allegro, Gina Cekala, Robert Cressotti, Carol Hall (remotely), Cynthia Mangini, Maya Matthews, Marie Pyznar, John Santanella (remotely), Aaron Thomas, Lori Unghire, Zach Zannoni

Absent: None

Also present were Town Manager, Matthew Coppler; Assistant Town Manager, Steve Bielenda; Director of Public Works, Donald Nunes; Director of Finance, John Wilcox; Fleet Manager, Rick Davenport; and Town Clerk, Sheila Bailey.

2. Budget Deliberations

Town Manager Coppler explained that the Charter requires the budget be adopted within twenty days of the budget Public Hearing, which will be May 12th. The Town Council will schedule a Special Meeting to adopt the budget on May 11, 2026.

Mayor Cekala announced that the Annex track and field will be addressed at the next regular Town Council meeting.

Councilor Santanella announced that it appears the town will receive an additional \$1,019,672 in ECS funding from the state, which will decrease the amount the town will need to fund the BOE's proposed budget. The town will also receive \$300K in additional one-time funding for reimbursement for ambulance services at the prison. In addition, the town should receive a \$565,467 one-time reimbursement from the state for tax relief. Councilor Hall stated that she heard that the one-time tax relief to reduce the mill rate would be \$1,192,946. Mr. Santanella stated that the legislature will be done on Wednesday, May 6th and the town should know definitively by then. Ms. Hall stated that the language needed clarification as she believed the ECS funds wouldn't be until the following year.

Mr. Santanella spoke about what was being done across the state in other municipalities to address residents with out-of-state motor vehicle registrations. The Town of Vernon was able to generate an additional \$350K in motor vehicle taxes by identifying vehicles that should be registered in their town. The General Government Subcommittee met with the same company and are recommending the town move forward to work with them.

Councilor Matthews announced that approximately 35% of Enfield residents are renters and approximately sixteen thousand units are owned by people who do not live in Enfield. Ms. Matthews has proposed instituting a fee when rents are increased. If the rent increase is modest, such as 3%, there would be no fee. However, if the increase was significant, such as 8%, it would flag the Fair Housing Commission and the landlord would need to explain why the increase was necessary. The proposed fees for increases would be up to 3% = no fee; 3–6% = \$150 per unit; 6–8% = \$350 per unit; and at 8% the Fair Housing Commission would be alerted. This would impact only out-of-town landlords and the Town Attorney is currently reviewing the proposal.

Assistant Town Manager Steve Bielenda announced that he and the Town Manager attended a CCM Conference and were introduced to a company called Bus Patrol. Bus Patrol uses AI camera technology to capture drivers who illegally drive past stopped school buses. He arranged a meeting with the company attended by the Superintendent, Smyth Bus Company, the Police Chief and Town Manager. The school bus owner and the dispatcher stated that for every ninety vehicles they catch, there are an additional ninety that they do not. The representative from Bus Patrol stated that he would anticipate approximately five hundred per month in a town the size of Enfield. Bus Patrol would install the cameras on the buses at no charge to the town. They will collect the online fines with revenue sharing with the town. Mr. Bielenda intends to invite them as special guests to present to the Council.

The Town Council continued deliberating on the FY2026/2027 budget.

3. **Adjournment**

MOTION by: Lori Unghire, seconded: Linda Allegro to adjourn.

Upon a **SHOW OF HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared the **MOTION** adopted unanimously, and the meeting stood adjourned at 8:03pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila M. Bailey, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council