



**MINUTES
TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING**

August 3, 2026

5:30 PM - Council Chambers

<https://youtube.com/live/hv6gQgCUHhM?>

1. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Linda Allegro, Lori Unghire

Also present were Town Manager, Matthew Coppler; Assistant Town Manager, Steve Bielenda; and Town Clerk, Sheila Bailey.

2. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution Scheduling a Public Hearing for the Issuance of Bonds and Notes related to the Appropriation of 511,000,000 for the New Construction of Four Elementary Schools and the Renovation of Eli Whitney Elementary School into the Eagle Academy Therapeutic Day School.

RESOLUTION #7667 by: Robert Cressotti, seconded: Maya Matthews.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Enfield Town Council does hereby schedule a Public Hearing to be held on August 24, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in the Enfield Town Hall Council Chambers, 820 Enfield Street, Enfield, Connecticut in order to allow public comment on the proposed "Appropriation Of \$511,000,000 for the New Construction of Hazardville Memorial Elementary School, Prudence Crandall Elementary School, Parkman Elementary School and Barnard Elementary School and for the Conversion of Eli Whitney Elementary School into the Eagle Academy Therapeutic Day School, and to Authorize the Issuance of Bonds or Notes of the Town in an Amount Not to Exceed \$89,000,000, with the Balance Funded by Grants and Other Available Funds."

Councilor Hall asked Town Manager Coppler to explain what the \$89M figure includes and what it does not include. Mr. Coppler explained that this figure represents the anticipated dollar amount residents will be responsible for paying out of the \$511M project. This figure includes various incentives the town could be eligible for, as well as space waivers and the base waiver of 70%. The state legislature approved two schools, so the town is locked into those reimbursement rates, excluding housing and special education rates. Those

incentives were not included in the calculations for the \$89M, so if the town receives those incentives, the \$89M should be reduced.

The space waivers for the remaining three buildings were not approved as yet. Those determinations will be made after the state is confident that the project has been approved by the voters. The \$89M figure may represent the worst-case scenario.

Upon a **ROLL CALL** vote, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #7667** adopted. Yes: Gina Cekala, Robert Cressotti, Carol Hall, Maya Matthews, Marie Pyznar, John Santanella, Aaron Thomas, Zach Zannoni No: None Abstain: None. Council Mangini was not available for the vote.

B. Presentation by Registrar of Voters on Special Primary

Republican Registrar of Voters Tom Kienzler and the Democratic Registrar of Voters Beth Jerez updated the councilors and members of the public on the upcoming Special Primary on September 1, 2026.

The August 11, 2026 Democratic Primary consists of two candidates running for Governor, Ned Lamont and Josh Elliott. Early voting began on August 3, 2026, and will continue until August 9th, 2026. The hours are 10:00am through 6:00pm daily, except for two extended days on Tuesday and Thursday, which will be from 8:00am through 8:00pm.

A Special Primary for the 58th Assembly District will take place on September 1, 2026. Early voting will begin on August 24, 2026, through August 30, 2026. The hours of early voting remain the same, except the judge's order stated the extended hours will take place on Tuesday and Friday, instead of Thursday. They are confirming those hours with the Secretary of State's office, and once confirmed, they will be posted on the Registrar of Voter's web page.

Absentee ballots for the September 1, 2026 Special Primary will become available on August 14, 2026.

Councilor Hall clarified with the registrars that schools will be open on September 1, 2026. Ms. Jerez responded that they are currently working with the superintendent on that issue. Ms. Hall inquired whether the cost of the special primary could be covered by the current budget. Mr. Kienzler responded that they had budgeted for a potential stand-alone referendum, but the costs are different because there is no early voting for a referendum. They do not have a total cost to share with the Council at that point.

C. Discussion of Use of the \$300,000 in FY 2027 Additional Prison PILOT

Mayor Cekala clarified that this was for discussion purposes only. Mr. Coppler explained that these funds were given to Enfield to help cover the additional costs of providing EMS services to the correctional facilities. The Town has until August 13, 2026 to outline for the state how the town intends to spend the funds. Mr. Coppler asked for guidance from the Council as to what projects they would prioritize. These funds are general fund money and not restricted to EMS. Half the funds will be distributed upfront, and the other half will be used to reimburse expenses.

Ms. Cekala stated that she would consider a one-time capital project such as roof repairs or repairs at the Annex. They discussed making temporary repairs to school roofs to get them through to construction.

Deputy Mayor Santanella stated that if the Council cut the EMS budget during deliberations, he would like to see some of the funds used to restore those funds. Mr. Coppler stated that they didn't fund the medication infusion pumps EMS requested at approximately \$15K. Councilor Cressotti supported using the funds for EMS vault lock boxes and infusion pumps. He also asked if there were enough defibrillators deployed. Mr. Coppler responded that there were no requests received for additional defibrillators. Mr. Cressotti also suggested replacing the floor at EMS and Mr. Coppler stated that due to the cost of that project, he moved it to their operating budget, and the funds are already budgeted for.

Councilor Matthews supported giving some of the funds to EMS and asked if the EMS Chief's vehicle was cut from the budget. Mr. Coppler replied that he cut the request during the Town Manager's budget process. Ms. Matthews suggested that some of the funds could also be used to cover the unexpected election costs.

Councilor Hall stated that she would support giving the funds to Fermi to help ensure it is able to stay open through the winter. She would also support using the funds for the parking lot at the Hazardville Institute.

Councilor Zannoni stated that he would support funding some of the projects needed at EMS. Mr. Zannoni asked if there were any funds left in the roof referendum fund and Mr. Coppler responded that those funds were designated for roof replacement, not minor repairs. Mr. Zannoni asked if they had received a quote for the roofs study. Mr. Coppler stated that the study is moving forward and would cost approximately \$15K. Mr. Zannoni stated that he would support using the funds for critical infrastructure in danger of failure. He would not support using the funds for the parking lot.

Mr. Cressotti further stated that he would support using the funds to repair the wrestling

room and gym areas at the Annex that were damaged due to flooding.

Mr. Santanella stated that Councilor Mangini's microphone is not working, and she would like to suggest that some of the funds be used to purchase a new bus for the Police Explorers. The current bus is in disrepair.

Councilor Pyznar stated that \$300K is a band aid for a lot of the projects they are discussing. She does not support using the funds to repair a building that may be torn down or sold. She supported the funds being used for EMS or a long-term project and not for temporary band aides.

Mr. Zannoni stated that there are repairs that need to be made to some of our infrastructure to get us to the finish line when a longer-term plan can be made.

Mayor Cekala stated that there appeared to be a consensus for some of the funds to go to EMS projects. There also appeared to be a consensus regarding using the funds for critical building repairs. Mr. Coppler stated that there is a request coming soon to appropriate funds to repair some of the leaking pipes at the Annex. He does not have the number yet. There is also an issue with the electrical panels in the schools that may need to be replaced. These funds could be used for some of these critical repairs. Mayor Cekala stated that she would be comfortable with \$15K going to EMS and \$285K for critical infrastructure repairs. The Council agreed with this plan of action.

3. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by: John Santanella, seconded: Aaron Thomas to adjourn.

Upon a **SHOW OF HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared the **MOTION** adopted unanimously, and the meeting stood adjourned at 6:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila M. Bailey, Town Clerk

Clerk of the Council