MINUTES
TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
August 24, 2026
7:00 PM - Council Chambers
https://youtube.com/live/jDGzG-3Qi34

1. ROLL CALL

Chair Cekala called the meeting to order at 7:37pm.

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

Absent: None

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

2. NEW BUSINESS

A. **Consent Agenda**

Councilor Unghire asked that Items #1, 2, and 5 be removed from the Consent Agenda.

MOTION #7668 by: John Santanella, seconded: Maya Matthews to accept Consent Agenda Item #3 & 4. Upon a **SHOW OF HANDS** vote, the Chair declared **MOTION #7668** adopted. Yes: Linda Allegro, Gina Cekala, Robert Cressotti, Carol Hall, Maya Matthews, Marie Pyznar, John Santanella, Aaron Thomas, Lori Unghire, Zach Zannoni No: None Abstain: None. Councilor Mangini had stepped out of the room. ***The full texts of the resolutions are as follows:***

3. **Resolution Setting a Public Hearing for the Adoption of "School Bus Stop Arm Program and Enforcement" Ordinance**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Enfield Town Council does hereby schedule a Public Hearing to be held on September 9th, 2026, at 6:50 p.m. in the Enfield Town Hall Council Chambers, 820 Enfield Street, Enfield, Connecticut in order to allow public comment on the proposed “School Bus Stop Arm Program and Enforcement.”

4. **Resolution Authorizing the Town Manager or Designee to Submit the Continuation Funding for the FY 27 Family Resource Center Grant for the Total Amount of $122,650**

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Manager or Designee, is authorized to electronically sign and submit the grant applications and agreements, subject to review and approval by the Town Attorney, in the name and on behalf of the Town of Enfield with the State Department of Education and to affix the Corporate Seal.

B. **Resolution to Appropriate $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**

Town Manager Matthew Coppler explained that he would ask the Council to vote to table Items B & C. There was an error when the public hearing agenda was posted. When residents click on the agenda and minutes link from the town's website, it takes them to a copy of the stand-alone agenda for tonight's public hearing. Once they click on the agenda packet, it brings them to an identical-looking agenda with all the backup materials attached to it. Unfortunately, the stand-alone agenda did not properly state the public hearing's subject matter, although it was properly stated on the agenda packet. Out of an abundance of caution, the bond attorney advised the town to hold an additional public hearing at a future date.

On August 25, 2026, the Town Council will hold a special meeting to vote to set a public hearing regarding the Schools Modernization Appropriation for September 2, 2026, at 6:00pm. By State Statute, the town must act by September 4, 2026, in order for it to appear on the November 3, 2026, ballot.

<u>MOTION</u> by: John Santanella, seconded: Cynthia Mangini to table Items B & C. Upon a **<u>SHOW OF HANDS</u>** vote, the Chair declared the **<u>MOTION</u>** adopted unanimously and Items B & C were tabled.

C. **Resolution to Submit to Referendum the Appropriation and Bonding Resolution for the Expansion and Renovation 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**

Tabled.

D. **Resolution to Authorize Reduction of Property Maintenance Fines at 122 Windsor Street and Withdraw Foreclosure**

RESOLUTION #7669 by: Cynthia Mangini, seconded: Robert Cressotti.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Enfield Town Council does hereby authorize the reduction of property maintenance fines associated with the property maintenance lien recorded September 24, 2021 at Volume 2814, Page 629 for the property at 122 Windsor Street to $1,000.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the reduced fines must be paid at closing, which must take place on or before October 1, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, if the reduced fines are paid at closing, the property maintenance lien will be released and the foreclosure action authorized on February 6, 2025 will not be pursued.

Upon a **ROLL CALL** vote, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #7669** adopted unanimously.

E. **Resolution to Submit to the Electors the Proposed Revisions to the Enfield Town Charter for Approval at a Referendum**

RESOLUTION #7670 by: Cynthia Mangini, seconded: Robert Cressotti.

BE IT RESOLVED, in accordance with Connecticut General Statute §7-191 that revisions to the Enfield Town Charter (Charter), as proposed by the Charter Revision Commission and approved by the Enfield Town Council at their special meeting of June 23, 2026, be submitted to the electors for approval at a referendum in conjunction with the regular State Election on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the proposed revisions to the Charter are approved by referendum vote at said election, the effective date of the revised Charter shall be December 4, 2026, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in accordance with Connecticut General Statute §7-191(f), that the Council hereby submits the following wording for the ballot in the form of one question:

"Shall the Enfield Town Charter be revised as proposed by the Charter Revision Commission and as approved by the Enfield Town Council by Resolution #7549 at its special meeting of June 23, 2026?"

Upon a **ROLL CALL** vote, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #7670** adopted. Yes: Linda Allegro, Gina Cekala, Robert Cressotti, Cynthia Mangini, Maya Matthews, John Santanella, Aaron Thomas, Zach Zannoni No: Carol Hall, Marie Pyznar, Lori Unghire Abstain: None.

F. **Resolution Authorizing the Preparation and Printing of Explanatory Text of the Proposed Charter Revision for the Electors**

RESOLUTION #7671 by: Cynthia Mangini, seconded: Robert Cressotti.

BE IT RESOLVED, in order to allow the electors of the Town of Enfield to be better informed about the proposed revisions of the Enfield Town Charter that will be voted on at the November 3, 2026 State Election, and pursuant to Connecticut General Statute §9-369b(a), the Enfield Town Council does hereby authorize the preparation and printing of concise explanatory text to be prepared by the Town Clerk, subject to the approval of the Town Attorney, for public distribution.

Upon a **ROLL CALL** vote, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #7671** adopted. Yes: Linda Allegro, Gina Cekala, Robert Cressotti, Cynthia Mangini, Maya Matthews, John Santanella, Aaron Thomas, Zach Zannoni No: Carol Hall, Marie Pyznar, Lori Unghire Abstain: None.

G. **Resolution Authorizing the Town of Enfield Acting Through its Town Council to Enter into Agreement with Gary Evans as Acting Town Manager**

RESOLUTION #7672 by: Cynthia Mangini, seconded: Linda Allegro.

RESOLVED, that Gina Cekala, Mayor of the Town of Enfield, acting on behalf of the Enfield Town Council, is authorized to enter into and amend contractual instruments in the name and on behalf of the Town of Enfield with Gary Evans as Acting Town Manager, pursuant to the Enfield Town Charter, Chapter IV, §2, subject to the review and approval of the Enfield Town Attorney.

Councilor Hall asked how much the compensation would be. Assistant Town Manager Steve Bielenda responded that it is $142.00 per hour, which is less than the current town manager is compensated when taking into account the entire compensation package. Ms. Hall asked if this was for a forty-hour work week and Mr. Bielenda responded that it would be up to forty hours as needed. Mr. Bielenda further explained that Mr. Evans would not necessarily be in the building at all hours but would be available and would attend meetings.

Upon a **ROLL CALL** vote, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #7672** adopted unanimously.

1. **Resolution to Approve a Revised "Self-Insurance Funding Policy" as Amended by the Town of Enfield and Board of Education**

Moved to Item H from Consent Item #1.

<u>RESOLUTION #7673</u> by: Cynthia Mangini, seconded: John Santanella.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Enfield Town Council does hereby adopt the revised "Self-Insurance Funding Policy" between the Town of Enfield and Board of Education as attached.

Councilor Hall stated that the language in Section 3 — <u>Use of Funds</u> was changed by the Superintendent after their Joint Insurance Subcommittee meeting, adding that the Board will contribute as long as it doesn't lead to a negative budget balance for them. Ms. Hall would like to ensure that the 2% reserve fund balance is included in that negative budget determination.

AMENDMENT #1 by: Carol Hall, seconded: Lori Unghire to amend Sect 3 <u>Use of Funds</u> to include the words "*to include the Board of Education's 2% Reserve Account*."

Deputy Mayor Santanella explained that the town has a reserve fund they use to pay insurance claims that have been tapped into for various reasons over the years. It puts our health insurance premiums in jeopardy when we don't maintain a sufficient balance. The Council has been trying to increase that balance to prevent it from impacting our excess insurance policy premiums when we do not have enough funds in the account to pay claims. The Joint Insurance Subcommittee created a policy where they would take money that was allocated to employees for benefits that were unused at the end of the year and roll them over into the reserve fund until such a time that the recommended 20% reserve is reached. Involving the 2% Reserve Account is not what they discussed.

Mr. Santanella asked Councilors to vote no on this amendment and asked the Town Manager for clarification. Mr. Coppler responded that the Board of Education is the largest part of the insurance fund and recommended that before the Council makes changes to this policy, they vote to table it and send it back to the Subcommittee to discuss the changes first.

Councilor Pyznar stated that the BOE utilizes the largest portion of our insurance fund and she supported the amendment.

Councilor Zannoni stated that if the language changed without the Committee having a chance to review it, he would have no problem tabling it and sending it back to the Committee for review. He felt the language "would result in a negative overall budget balance" was a little ambiguous and could be clarified. Additionally, he felt their insurance contribution should hold the same weight as any other obligation and shouldn't receive less priority.

Councilor Mangini did not support the amendment and felt the policy the Committee developed was beneficial and if it was going to be changed, it should go back to the Committee for review.

Ms. Hall stated that she would be willing to withdraw her amendment if the item was tabled and went back to the Joint Insurance Subcommittee. Major Cekala stated that Ms. Hall needs to decide whether she is going to withdraw her amendment. Ms. Hall responded that she would withdraw her amendment and would make another amendment to table the item and send it back to the Subcommittee.

MOTION by: Carol Hall, seconded: Lori Unghire to table Resolution #7673 and send it back to the Joint Insurance Subcommittee.
Upon a **SHOW OF HANDS** vote, the Chair declared the **MOTION** to table failed. Yes: Carol Hall, Cynthia Mangini, Marie Pyznar, Lori Unghire, Zach Zannoni No: Linda Allegro, Gina Cekala, Robert Cressotti, Maya Matthews, John Santanella, Aaron Thomas Abstain: None.

Upon a **ROLL CALL** vote, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #7673** adopted. Yes: Linda Allegro, Gina Cekala, Robert Cressotti, Cynthia Mangini, Maya Matthews, John Santanella, Aaron Thomas, Zach Zannoni No: Carol Hall, Marie Pyznar, Lori Unghire Abstain: None.

A copy of the Self-Insurance Funding Policy is appended to these minutes.

2. **Resolution Referring the Proposed Acquisition of 60 Long Hollow Road to the Planning and Zoning Commission**

Moved to Item I from Consent Item #2.

RESOLUTION #7674 by: Cynthia Mangini, seconded: John Santanella.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the proposed Purchase of 60 Long Hollow Road is referred to the Planning and Zoning Commission in conformance with the requirements of Connecticut General Statute §8-24.

Councilor Hall stated that this parcel of land is a continuous piece of property that would connect to Scantic Park to expand the park. The Town is looking to acquire this property through the use of conservation funds. The balance in the Conservation Fund is approximately $659K. This property has been on the Conservation Commission's radar for a long time, and the town Manager is working with the State DEEP to acquire additional funds.

Upon a **ROLL CALL** vote, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #7674** adopted unanimously.

5. **Resolution Authorizing the Town Manager, Acting Town Manager, or Designee to Sign the Documents Related to the Disbursement of Funds from the Antonio Gannuscio Trust to the Town of Enfield**

Moved to Item J from Consent Item #5.

RESOLUTION #7675 by: Cynthia Mangini, seconded: Carol Hall.

BE IT RESOLVED, The Town Manager, Acting Town Manager, or designee, is authorized to sign on behalf of the Town of Enfield the Receipt, Release, Refunding and Indemnification Agreement and any other documents as may be required to receive the distribution of the trust funds.

Councilor Hall wanted to recognize the Gannuscio family for the generous donation they made to the town to be used for the benefit of the underprivileged people of Enfield. Councilor Pyznar stated that she knew the family growing up and wanted to publicly thank Antonio Gannuscio. Councilor Allegro stated that Antonio Gannuscio was living the American dream. He became a successful businessman and opened the First National Bank of Thompsonville. Because of that, many residents in Thompsonville achieved their dream of owning a home and starting businesses of their own. Mr. Gannuscio passed away over forty years ago but his generous spirit lives on.

Upon a **ROLL CALL** vote, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #7675** adopted unanimously.

3. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by: Aaron Thomas, seconded: Cynthia Mangini to adjourn.
Upon a **SHOW OF HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared the **MOTION** adopted unanimously, and the meeting stood adjourned at 8:29pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila M. Bailey, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council

ARTICLE ______. – SCHOOL BUS STOP ARM PROGRAM AND ENFORCEMENT

Section xx - 1. - ESTABLISHED.

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statute §14–279a, the Town of Enfield hereby authorizes the use of a municipal school bus violation enforcement system, which shall include one or more camera sensors and computers that produce: (1) digital and recorded video images of motor vehicles being operated in violation of this ordinance, (2) a visual image that is viewable remotely and a recorded image of the number plate of a motor vehicle violating this ordinance, and (3) a recorded image that indicates the date, time and location of the violation.

Section xx - 2. VIOLATION.

The owner of a motor vehicle commits a violation of this ordinance if the person operating such motor vehicle violates the provisions of Connecticut General Statute §14–279(a), unless an affidavit is filed pursuant to Connecticut General Statute §14-279c(j).

Section xx - 3. PROCEDURE.

The procedures set forth in Connecticut General Statute §14-279c and the citation hearing procedures set forth in Connecticut General Statute §7-152c are hereby adopted.

Section xx - 4. FINE.

A violation of this ordinance shall result in a fine in the amount of two hundred fifty ($250.00) dollars.

Section xx - 5. COLLECTION.

The Town of Enfield or its designated agent shall have the authority to collect such fines, with proceeds credited to the Town of Enfield.

Section xx - 6. USE OF FUNDS.

Funds received by the Town of Enfield from such fines shall be used for the purposes of improving public safety in the Town of Enfield, compensating any private vendor that installs, operates or maintains a municipal school bus violation enforcement system, or both.

Section xx - 6. HEARING OFFICER(S).

The Town Manager shall appoint one or more citation hearing officers to hear any appeals.

TOWN COUNCIL & BOARD OF EDUCATION
JOINT HEALTH INSURANCE COMMITTEE

SELF-INSURANCE FUNDING POLICY

1. **Insurance Fund:**
   Enfield shall maintain a health benefits insurance fund. Medical benefits, prescription drug benefits, dental benefits, stop-loss protection, and the administrative expenses to administer the benefits will make up the benefits package that is the insurance fund. As long as the insurance fund is utilized to purchase health benefits on self-insured basis the insurance fund will be in place to purchase benefits and hold reserves for future costs.
2. **Insurance fund purpose:**
   The insurance fund shall be used to purchase health benefits, stop-loss insurance, and pay the associated administrative costs of the health benefits plan. The insurance fund will also hold the appropriate incurred but not reported claims reserves (IBNR), cover the risk corridor associated with aggregate stop-loss protection, and claims fluctuation. Enfield will use all reasonable measures to maintain the health insurance reserve fund at 20%.
3. **Use of Funds:**
   Funds accumulated in the insurance fund will be utilized for the purpose of providing health benefits for Enfield employees, dependents, and retirees, in accordance with collective bargaining agreements. Funds will not be utilized for any purpose other than providing health benefits to employees, their dependents, and retirees. Furthermore, both the Town Council and Board of Education agree that the balance of the budgeted health insurance appropriation will be deposited in the health insurance fund at the end of the fiscal year, so long as the deposit does not result in a negative overall budget balance.
4. **Health benefits budget:**
   During the budget creation and adoption process for the next fiscal year, the health benefits budgeted increase will be set no more than 1% less than the analysis and projections provided by the Town's health benefits plan administrator and health benefits consultant.
5. **Fund Termination:**
   The fund may be dissolved upon termination of the health benefits program or upon change in funding arrangement, provided the reserve account has been utilized to provide coverage for appropriate runout claims liability in such a transition. In the event the fund is dissolved; the terms of the dissolution will be mutually negotiated and agreed upon between the Town and Board of Education.
6. **Fund Administration:**
   The insurance fund will be administered by the Town's Finance Department under direction from the Town Manager and Superintendent of Schools. The Town's Joint Insurance Sub-Committee will have purview and provide acceptance of proposed budget and fund actions. Any changes or modifications to this health insurance fund policy will be made through recommendation, by majority vote, from the Joint Insurance Sub-Committee. Committee members will make a recommendation to their respective governing bodies in accordance with the vote.

Adopted: **PENDING**