

**ENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 21, 2021**

A Special Meeting of the Enfield Town Council was called to order by Chairman Ludwick on Monday, June 21, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL-CALL – Present were Councilors Bosco, Cekala, Cressotti, Hemmeler, Ludwick, Mangini, Muller, Riley, Sferrazza, and Unghire. Councilor Szewczak joined the meeting at 6:07 p.m. Also present were Town Manager, Christopher Bromson; Assistant Town Manager, Kasia Purciello; Town Clerk, Sheila Bailey; Town Attorney, James Tallberg; Roads Engineer, JP Rodriguez; Assistant Town Engineer, John Cabibbo; Director of Public Works, Donald Nunes; Chief of Police, Alaric Fox; Chief of EMS, Erin Riggott

MOTION #5829 by Councilor Mangini seconded by Councilor Muller to go into Executive Session to discuss Personnel Matters and Pending Litigation.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #5829** adopted 10-0-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Executive Session of the Enfield Town Council was called to order by Chairman Ludwick at 5:31 p.m.

ROLL-CALL - Present were Councilors Bosco, Cekala, Cressotti, Hemmeler, Ludwick, Mangini, Muller, Riley, Sferrazza, and Unghire. Also present were Town Manager, Christopher Bromson; Assistant Town Manager, Kasia Purciello; Town Clerk, Sheila Bailey; Town Attorney, James Tallberg. Also invited were Chief of Police, Alaric Fox; Chief of EMS, Erin Riggott; Director of Human Resources, Steve Bielenda; Director of Social Services, Cynthia Guerreri

Chairman Ludwick reconvened the Special Meeting at 6:07 p.m. and stated during Executive Session the Council discussed Personnel Matters and Pending Litigation with no action or votes being taken.

REFERENDUM PRESENTATION

Mr. Bromson stated this presentation will be made available on the Town's website.

ROADS 2021

Mr. Rodriguez stated during the last 20 years, the Town of Enfield has done a tremendous job in reconstructing its roads, which amounts to a total of 136 miles of road reconstruction or rehabilitation at a cost of \$133 million dollars.

He then showed illustrations highlighting those roads that have been addressed. He noted roads are good for a 20-year span, after which time they start developing cracks, and those cracks must be addressed so there is no water penetration, which can damage the road base. He stated they also have an ongoing maintenance program for roads.

Mr. Cabibbo explained the methodology used to develop road programs. He noted they start with a road condition survey, and they have a pavement consultant they have been working with since 1999. He stated the last time they looked at all the roads was in 2018. He noted the Town can input the amount of funds they are looking to spend over a certain period of time, and the consultant recommends a program based on the road conditions. He stated during a five-year period, they maintain a complaint list from different sources.

He stated they rate roads through a Pavement Condition Index (PCI) with 100 being a brand-new road and 0 is a crumbled or gravel road. He noted they looked at roads falling between 0 and 60.

Mr. Cabibbo stated they are continuing with the preventive maintenance program, which includes crack sealing roads where necessary. He noted they always look at the most cost-effective design alternatives, so they can stretch dollars as far as possible.

He stated they also take into account the Complete Streets Policy, which is a policy that the Council passed several years ago. He explained this means looking at every mode of transportation, i.e., pedestrians and cyclists, therefore, if there are sidewalks in poor condition, they are replaced. As concerns bicycle access, they provide bike lanes to provide more safety for cyclists, as was done on Post Office Road, Town Farm Road, and Fletcher Road.

Mr. Cabibbo stated the Town must maintain a State drainage permit, which is called MS4. He noted the State wants the towns to look at adding sheet flow as opposed to putting everything into catch basins and having concentrated outlets. He noted the State is also looking at reducing the amount of pavement by narrowing road widths where possible.

He stated the Town coordinates projects with any underground utilities such as sewers, water, and gas to minimize the chance of tearing up newly paved roads for utility work.

Mr. Cabibbo stated they are always looking for alternate funding sources, such as federal and state funding, to help pay for these projects, as has been done in the past.

Mr. Rodriguez presented a slide showing the proposed street list for rehabilitation, which includes streets all over Enfield. He noted the cost for design, construction, inspection, and police amounts to \$29.9 million dollars, and with the finance and management cost, the total is \$30,565,000.

ROOFS 2021 PROJECT

Mr. Nunes stated their current roof replacement strategy is funding a typical elementary school project at pre-referendum limits for about three years through CIP. He noted this amounts to about \$683,000 for three years through CIP.

He noted DPW has performed an expense analysis from FY2016 until June 1, 2021, and they learned they spent an average of \$77,000 per year to fix leaks on failing roofs, and this does not include soft costs such as the actual damage done by leaks.

Mr. Nunes shared the condition of the 25 roofs that were inventoried:

Two in excellent condition
Four in good condition
Five in fair condition
Fourteen in poor condition

He stated the 2021 Roof Project would cost \$13.7 million dollars for town and school roofs and would encompass seven facilities amounting to approximately 406,000 square feet of roof over five years. He pointed out if school roofs meet a certain criteria, the Town will qualify for up to a 70% reimbursement, which amounts to about \$5 million dollars in reimbursement from the State. He noted taking these projects away from CIP reduces the CIP burden to tackle other roofs or other important projects.

Mr. Nunes stated they are proposing the following projects:

Parkman School – Phase I
Stowe Building – Phase I
Public Safety Complex
Alcorn Building
Prudence Crandall School
Enfield Street School
The Annex

He explained Phase I for Parkman and Stowe are proposed because portions of these roofs are not eligible for reimbursement. He noted this is a preliminary program, and they are working with this to be sure they get all the eligible reimbursement they can through the State.

Mr. Nunes stated if the bidding climate is good and everything works out well, they have added a continuation list of other roofs.

Mr. Nunes stated if they do not have a roof referendum, it would be necessary to have multiple CIP projects for roofing, and this would delay roof replacement and likely incur greater year-to-year expenses in leak repairs. He added there would also be inflation costs to consider.

RECREATION PROJECTS

Ms. Purciello stated the Recreation Referendum is anticipated to cost approximately \$6.5 million dollars. She provided an overview of the latest Higgins Park master plan. She noted a few of the planned amenities have already been funded in FY21 and FY22 budgets. She stated amenities include a walking trail, playscape, basketball court, fitness stations, band shell, pool, and splash pad. She noted the playscape has come in and work will begin on that item in the coming weeks.

She noted the referendum proposes three additional splash pads across town, and they would be located at Green Manor Park, Hazardville Memorial School and Prudence Crandall School. She stated the approximate cost of each splash pad would be \$125,000. She noted the Town extended the community garden program at Green Manor Park, and garden plots are already reserved in that area. She pointed out the addition of a splash pad will make this area a family destination.

Ms. Purciello described the Higgins Park pool and splash pad and noted the pool would be a state-of-the-art, zero entry, 25-meter pool with a splash pad outside the pool fencing area, therefore, the splash pad could be used during warmer months for a little longer. She noted also included would be free-standing bathrooms and locker rooms. She stated this would replace the Lamagna pool, which will be opening for its last season.

She provided an illustration of the pool area and splash pad near the St. Adalbert's gymnasium, and she provided an illustration of where the playground will be. She stated these amenities will result in a full recreational complex right behind the Town Hall.

Ms. Purciello described the walking trail, which will be a quarter of a mile and a third of a mile loop, and there will be decorative lighting and this area can be used year-round. She noted they are contemplating fitness stations along the walking path.

She showed an illustration of the proposed Higgins Park band shell, which will provide the community with access to performing arts, i.e., summer concerts. She noted this would have green space seating, which would accommodate chairs or blankets.

As concerns parking accommodations, Ms. Purciello stated the Town has a lease and option to purchase 800 Enfield Street, which is the Enfield Express building. She noted that building is also the home of the Tax and Assessor's Office. She stated it has also become the home of the Thompsonville Police substation. She explained there is a lot of wooded area behind the Enfield Express, which they would clear to provide additional parking to support the recreation complex. She noted this will provide for 83 additional parking spaces, which would be accessible from Route 5.

REGIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX

Chief Fox stated the Enfield Police Department and the Enfield EMS have outgrown their current facilities. He noted the Town acquired seven acres at the corner of Elm Street and Moody Road to allow for expansion of the Public Safety Complex.

He noted the Enfield Police Department has a lack of adequate storage space for records and equipment. He stated both the male and female locker rooms are inadequate for the number of members of the department. He noted training ability is limited by the current facility infrastructure. He stated they also do not have a matted training room where they could incorporate some of the less than lethal force option training, skills, and scenarios and some of the de-escalation strategies. He noted they borrow space wherever they can find it, i.e., the Annex or fire departments. He stated they have annual firearms qualification at a sandpit at the recycling center, and that is what they use for daytime firearm qualification. He noted it is also a very good idea

that they also train periodically in low light or no light firearms qualification. He pointed out they borrow space, courtesy of the positive relations that they have with the Connecticut Department of Corrections. He stated all of these are items that they have successfully worked around, but they are areas where vast improvement is a strong suggestion.

Chief Riggott stated in the 1990's, the Enfield Police Department operated the Town ambulance, and Enfield EMS started in early 2000, and in 2005 they operated out of the Enfield Police Department, but they quickly outgrew that space. She noted in 2007, they moved to 1296 Enfield Street, which is an old Enfield firehouse. She stated while they were appreciative of more space, they knew this would not be their forever home, and they have already outgrown that space as well. She stated the current station has four bays for vehicles, and they own ten vehicles, and there's inadequate staff parking at that location. She noted there is no training or conference space, and it is just one open room. She stated there is no storage space or temperature control. She noted they have no lockers or locker rooms and they have inadequate rest areas. She stated there is no separate employee workspace, and there is limited office space in the current station.

Chief Fox provided a graphics of what the current facility looks like as well as what the add-ons would look like. He then provided details about the proposed expansion and build-out. He noted this facility build-out will provide the following:

- Adequate space for 100 officers and support staff
- Locker room space and physical fitness facility
- Underground state-of-the-art firearms range
- Dedicated workspace for Social Service partners
- Potential location for regionalized dispatch services
- Location of the Enfield Joint Operations Center (currently housed off-site)
- Location of the Enfield EMS
- A regional conference center, which would include a state-of-the-art auditorium and conference room

Mr. Bromson stated the public safety regional complex was not something they anticipated going to referendum this fall, but because last fall the Council saw the wisdom of acquiring the seven acres adjacent to the department for future growth, they were then able to put together a plan. He noted Mr. Nunes produced schematics, and they were able to put the entire package together with their vision of a regional center. He stated they talked with East Windsor, Suffield and Windsor Locks and were able to get the support of the State Attorney's Office regarding this regional approach. They also got the support of Congressman Courtney, and Representative Arnone and Representative Hall submitted this to the Legislature and within a few months, the Governor included this in his bonding bill. He stated they anticipate the full cost of the project is \$12.8 million dollars and it will be paid for with the bond money coming from the State.

He thanked staff for their work on these presentations. He commended the Town Council for their very prudent approach to look at these projects and phase them in. He noted roads and roofs are necessary, and he believes recreation is necessary because for many years Enfield residents have expressed the need for more recreation for all ages.

Mr. Bromson stated Enfield is fiscally conservative. He noted they have a very healthy reserve fund. He noted the Director of Finance has spoken to Enfield's bond counsel and Standard & Poors to reach a reasonable point because they do not want to borrow too little, and they do not want to borrow too much. He stated there will be a public hearing on July 5th, so the public can come forward and give their opinion. He stated they are anticipating a community conversation at the first meeting in August. He noted the final questions can be adopted at the end of August, and there would be four separate questions on the referendum ballot in November.

Councilor Sferrazza stated the addition for the Police Department is fantastic. He noted the officers and Enfield residents deserve it. He noted Enfield will continue to be a regional leader. He questioned if there is a provision for the Emergency Operations Center. Chief Fox stated he envisions running events out of a joint operations center because it does give them the advantage for being able to see the camera feeds in real time.

Councilor Sferrazza stated his belief an auditorium could be a revenue source for the Town. Chief Fox responded that is correct and noted there was an inquiry about Enfield serving as a location for a post satellite academy, which would be run by a vendor.

Mr. Bromson referred to the regional center at the Police Department and noted they could also do trainings with the fire departments and EMS.

Councilor Cekala stated she is concerned about the wording on the referendum question concerning the Public Safety Complex. She noted the question needs to be very clear.

She stated they have the Public Safety Complex roof included in the roof referendum, and she questioned if they should be doing that roof if the Town plans to re-do or add on to the Public Safety Complex. Mr. Bromson stated that is the purpose of the secondary list.

Councilor Muller raised a question concerning parking for the regional Public Safety Complex, and Chief Fox stated there will be sufficient parking.

Councilor Hemmeler stated her understanding that originally there was a path to the Moody Road facility for accessing gasoline. She questioned if that is part of the plan. Chief Fox stated his belief that is part of the long-term plan.

Councilor Bosco thanked staff for their hard work on the proposed road referendum. He acknowledged a lot of work went into this proposal.

Councilor Hemmeler stated the Meadowlark and Broadleaf area is a mess. She noted it would be good to move that earlier in the program since that area is in dire need. She stated other roads in desperate need include the Walnut Street and Garfield Street area. Mr. Cabibbo stated the schedule is very preliminary.

Councilor Muller questioned if they are doing some roads with a PCI of 70 to 75 because they are already in that neighborhood, and Mr. Cabibbo responded yes, and they are trying to make sure they do not leave out any streets within a neighborhood.

Councilor Riley stated her impression the Town already paved Somers Road. Mr. Cabibbo stated what was done on Somers and Moody Road was similar to what was done on Mullen Road. He explained it really was not the full solution, but rather work was done for safety purposes. He noted they simply milled a little off the top and paved it to make it safer, but in reality, that road needs a full base.

Councilor Riley questioned if they would have a secondary list if money is left over, and Mr. Cabibbo stated they do have an ancillary list.

Councilor Riley stated there is a small part of Ridge Road that gets overlooked, and this is west of Cartier and St. James Avenue. She questioned why that small part of Ridge Road seems to get neglected.

Councilor Unghire stated a resident on South George Washington called her and said part of that street is curbed, but the other point is not. She questioned whether that is due to water drainage, or was it overlooked. Mr. Cabibbo stated he is unsure why some is curbed, and another part is not. He noted they will look into that. Mr. Rodriguez added when they do the design for these new roads, they will tell the designer not to curb the road if there is no curb already.

Councilor Mangini stated the Council previously approved a certain amount of funding to do some work on Somers Road. She questioned the amount of funding that went into addressing Somers Road. She questioned what will have to be done in addition to that process. Mr. Nunes stated they previously addressed Somers Road in house with DPW staff, and they used left over funds to do that work. He noted the base of that road is destroyed, and that is why there is a lot of cracking and heaving. He stated that previous work was just a band aid. He noted the cost of that work was approximately \$110,000.

Councilor Szewczak referred to South George Washington Road and noted that road has quite a slope to it and the water does do some damage on the side of the road.

Chairman Ludwick stated when a utility cuts into a brand-new road, the road must be patched properly. He pointed out that did not happen at the intersection of Steele and Weymouth Roads, and the road is buckled already. Mr. Cabibbo noted that was a water main break. He added they do track the cuts through excavation permits, and sometimes they do have to do a temporary patch and must wait a three-month period before doing a mill and pave patch.

Chairman Ludwick stated his understanding that Enfield is one of the higher PCI towns in the State of Connecticut. Mr. Cabibbo stated the consultant that Enfield uses said Enfield is at the top of the charts for road conditions.

Councilor Cressotti commended staff for all the hard work that went into these presentations.

Councilor Muller spoke about the importance of passing this roof referendum. He noted with the piecemeal method, the Town was paying for mobilization and demobilization three times for roof work, and that adds up to quite a bit of expense. Mr. Nunes stated it takes a lot of work to get a contractor and get the job up and running. He noted the Joint Facilities Committee worked

tirelessly towards the finalization of these presentations. He also thanked Jeffrey Leonowicz for all his hard work.

Councilor Cekala questioned how much the maintenance or annual water costs will be for the splash pad. Mr. Bromson noted that information can be provided. He went on to note there is a recommendation for splash pads for additional parts of town. He stated if they install the first splash pad and no one comes, then it may be decided not to install any more splash pads.

Councilor Cekala stated her understanding they have a splash pad coming in at Parkman, and she believes everyone is on board for Higgins. She stated she likes the idea of having a splash pad at Green Manor because there is a playscape, community garden and skateboard park. She noted she does not see it necessary or smart to do five of them right now. She stated they should do one at Higgins to see how it goes. Mr. Bromson agreed. Councilor Cekala questioned if the splash pads will have the same size and layout. She stated her understanding the Higgins Park splash pad will be bigger with a different annual cost. She noted she is more interested in the annual cost at the other splash pads. Mr. Bromson noted that figure can be provided.

Councilor Cekala stated she is really upset that they are getting rid of the Higgins field.

Councilor Hemmeler questioned if there is a way to exempt the splash pad water from the sewer because it is similar to watering a lawn. Mr. Bromson noted the Director of Finance will look into that.

Chairman Ludwick questioned the possibility of heating the pool, so it can be used longer, and Mr. Bromson noted that figure can be provided.

Chairman Ludwick stated they will be presenting this to the bonding agencies as well.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #5829A by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Muller to adjourn the Special Meeting.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #5829A** adopted 11-0-0, and the meeting stood adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila M. Bailey
Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council

Jeannette Lamontagne
Secretary to the Council