

**ENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2021**

A Regular Meeting of the Enfield Town Council was called to order by Chairman Cressotti on Monday, November 15, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

**PRAYER** – The prayer was given by Councilor Cekala.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**ROLL-CALL** – Present were Councilor Cekala, Cressotti, Despard, Finger, Hopkins, Ludwick, Mangini, Pyznar, Santanella and Unghire. Councilor Bosco was absent. Also present were Town Manager, Christopher Bromson; Town Clerk, Sheila Bailey; Town Attorney, James Tallberg; Director of Finance, John Wilcox; Director of Public Works, Donald Nunes, Deputy Director of Economic and Community Development, Nelson Tereso; Chief of Police, Alaric Fox

**FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT**

Chairman Cressotti made the fire evacuation announcement.

**MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS**

**MOTION #5976** by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Cekala to accept the minutes of the October 18, 2021 Regular Meeting.

**MOTION #5977** Councilor Unghire pointed out the minutes say, “Chairman Riley”, and it should read, “Councilor Riley”

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, **MOTION #5976** fails 5-0-5, with Councilors Pyznar, Sullivan, Hopkins, Santanella and Finger abstaining.

**MOTION #5978** by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Finger to accept the minutes of the November 8, 2021 Organizational Meeting.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #5978** adopted 10-0-0.

**SPECIAL GUESTS**

**John Wilcox, Director of Finance**

Mr. Bromson stated notices went out to residents on Friday regarding the revaluation of homes. He noted there has been a significant increase in people’s property value, but much less of an

increase in industrial property, therefore, there will have to be an equalization. He stated people will be asking if their taxes will go up as a result of their house value going up. He noted if they left the mill rate the same, it would, but the Director of Finance will explain how things will be equalized and determine what the costs are and what is needed, and there will be a change in that, but it does not mean that there will be a tax increase.

Mr. Wilcox stated revaluations are required by Connecticut's general statutes. He explained revaluation is required every ten years, and the last one was done with the October 1, 2011 grand list, therefore, the October 1, 2021 grand list is the one being adjusted based on this revaluation. He noted the revaluation is done to ensure the Assessor's Office has the correct fair market values for properties in town, and they want to be sure everyone is being taxed appropriately.

He stated they hired Vision Government Solutions to perform the revaluation. He noted this company does a large number of surrounding towns and in Massachusetts as well. He stated the full revaluation performed this year required a full physical inspection of all properties, but because of Covid, they only did the outside this year. He noted for the inside of the property, they sent mailers to the town to verify that the information on record is correct.

Mr. Wilcox stated there was a 27% increase in the value of residential properties and an 8% increase in the value of commercial and industrial properties. He noted these rates are comparable with surrounding towns, so Enfield is not out of line. He added these are preliminary numbers, and the information that was mailed out to residents last week tells people what the new value will be and provides an opportunity to set up a meeting with Vision Government Solutions and the tax assessment staff to discuss any problems with the assessment.

He stated 27% is a big increase, but the split between the residential and the industrial/commercial piece only changes about 3.2% because the value of the whole grand list is going up. He explained the property tax has two major factors – the assessed value, which is 70% of the market value, and the mill rate. He noted they would look at the total expenditures they would need to operate the town for the next fiscal year, and if that number increases, they might require an increase. He stated the next step is to evaluate what are the other sources of revenue that the town will get, and they will get as much information as possible from the state because the state is the second biggest contributor to the town's revenues. He noted they then look at what their expected fees will be, i.e., building permits, and all those things that fall into the revenue side of the budget.

Mr. Wilcox pointed out the tax piece that he needs to collect is the difference between the expenditures and the other sources of revenue, and if that number does not change, and the assessed value goes way up, the mill rate will go down because he still only needs to collect the same amount of taxes in any one fiscal year. He noted just because someone had a 27% increase in someone's market value of their home, that does not mean there is going to be a 27% increase in their taxes because it really depends on what they do with the budget.

He stated the town added several police officers and settled some union contracts, and those things will put some pressure on the budget next year, but those are far less than a 27% increase in taxes.

Councilor Hopkins questioned with the inspection of the interiors of buildings being just a survey, are there any after the fact fixings that must occur because of that different process during Covid. Mr. Wilcox stated they sent what they have on record, and if nothing is returned, they assume that information is correct. He noted they've also analyzed building permit data and similar things to be sure they get any potential changes. He noted typically within a revaluation year, they get a lot more submissions to the Board of Assessment Appeals. He noted if people can't get anything corrected in meeting with Vision Government Solutions at the beginning of the process, people may still appeal it.

Councilor Mangini questioned if they're basing their assessment on 70% of the market value and they know that they are in a very unique real estate market, will they make adjustments at some point in time if things go back to normal. Mr. Wilcox stated every fifth year they do a statistical update at which time an analysis is done on properties sold in the past couple years, and any revision to the property values at that point will be adjusted. He added people who submit building permits would have their properties adjusted at that time.

### **PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS**

Caroline Cogtella, 5 Main Street

Stated she has been here before with a request to rescind the previous Council vote that approved the taking of her home and property by eminent domain. She believes the taking is unnecessary. She stated the reasons for this include, but are not limited to the following:

On 5/6/2019, Mark Burns, Connecticut DOT representative, stated the South River Street Bridge could be rebuilt without taking any property with the federal funding remaining available to use. The issue at that time was that Amtrak had a right-of-way down the middle of South River Street and in order to widen the street for a bike path, the house had to be destroyed. We have proved that there is no Amtrak encroachment. We asked for a meeting with the surveyor from GM2, the Town's consultant, to meet with their attorney to discuss this issue, and it was denied. Then the State sent an email that advised, "whether or not there's an existing encroachment, design options were investigated, and the Town of Enfield made a decision to proceed with the acquisition."

Ms. Cogtella questioned who from the Town made that decision, and they believe the Council was given inaccurate information to obtain the original vote.

She noted the second issue had to do with the installation of a bike path of 140 feet from Main Street to the bridge, taking more of their property. She stated the Council voted to rescind the bike path on August 3, 2020 by Resolution #5497. She questioned why they are still taking the property.

She stated the third issue is a train station proposal west of the tracks, including the building on 33 North River Street. She noted this building was destroyed by fire at a cost of well over \$700,000 to the town thereby eliminating the vision of a retail and apartment location. She stated the station is now a platform and has been moved to the east side of the tracks with a bus stop, eliminating the need to widen South and North River Streets.

Ms. Cogtella stated another issue is safety, and she believe the safety issue is moot since the design of the proposed bridge lanes are two feet smaller – currently 22 feet versus proposed 20 feet. She noted her FOI to the police indicated no incidents for over 15 years on the bridge.

Ms. Cogtella stated another issue is Eversource, and if the Eversource acquisition ever occurs, the environmental removal may take months at her estimated cost of \$1 to \$2 million dollars. She questioned why take the house now.

She stated they were advised that the state and town met in October, 2021, and when they requested to attend that meeting, they and their attorney were denied. She noted this area is part of TOD and TIF, and they are the only two houses left in Thompsonville District #4 with direct access to the Connecticut River. She stated their property is unique, and any building is hampered by current zoning laws. She noted they explored options of moving the house or building a new one on adjacent land they own, but they found it was not feasible.

Ms. Cogtella stated all of the above issues should have been researched regarding eminent domain before and after a vote was taken, or at least questioned as to why a home has to be taken for a street that has existed over a century with no problems.

She pointed out she will be 79 next month, does not drive and lives next to her brother. She noted she has had several medical issues, including cancer, lupus and asthma and does not need any more stress. She stated her family is not rich, and legal action has been expensive. She noted it is not easy at her age to move, and she wants to die in her home.

Ms. Cogtella acknowledged the bridge work is necessary, but as the Connecticut State Department of Transportation expressed, it can be completed without the acquisition of her home and property. She noted the original design that was done has not been modified since the Council's prior votes. She stated perhaps some Council members can get involved and research this issue. She noted she is willing to discuss this and cannot understand the motivating factors involved in the taking, especially since the major reasons for widening the street have been eliminated.

Pam Townsend, 54 Kimberly Drive

Stated she is the location coordinator for the Wreaths Across America ceremony that will take place at St. Patrick's Cemetery. She noted every year Wreaths Across America headquarters sets a theme, and this year's theme is "Live Up to Their Legacy". She noted they come together to remember the fallen, honor those that served and their families and teach the next generation about the value of freedom. She stated the John Maciolek American Legion Auxiliary Unit 154 is once again hosting a Wreaths Across America ceremony for Enfield, Connecticut on Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup> and it will take place at St. Patrick's Cemetery located at 1558 King Street. She noted the ceremony begins promptly at 12:00 p.m., and the public is invited to attend and volunteer to place wreaths after the ceremony.

She stated an eighth ceremonial wreath will be added to this year's ceremony, and this wreath will represent the newest branch of service, which is the United States Space Force. She noted the U.S. Space Force was established December 20, 2019. She stated a ceremonial wreath representing each military service, prisoners of war and missing in action will be placed during the ceremony.

Ms. Townsend stated sponsorship information is published on several Facebook pages, and there is also a display at the Enfield Public Library.

She stated chairs will not be provided, but people are welcome to bring their own seats. She noted pre-arranged, reserved wreaths are available for pickup between 10:00 and 11:00 a.m., which is prior to the ceremony. She noted people who are not sure if they have a pre-arranged, reserved wreath may contact her at [enfieldwaa@yahoo.com](mailto:enfieldwaa@yahoo.com). She stated people should allow enough time to place a wreath on a loved one's final resting place prior to the ceremony.

Ms. Townsend stated St. Patrick's Cemetery does not have a parking lot, therefore, attendees are asked to arrive early and respectfully park within the cemetery. She noted some of the roads will be blocked off, but they hope to have people available to move traffic through.

She stated the inspiration for this year's theme came from a statement made by the United States Army Chief of Staff, General James C. McConville, in an interview with Chris Wallace on Fox News Sunday in early November, 2020. She noted he was present to speak on behalf of the United States Army and the upcoming opening of the National Museum of the United States Army. She noted in the discussion he said, "We stand on the shoulders of heroes that have gone before us and really what we strive to do is live up to their legacy." She noted his message resonated deeply, and it is the men and women who serve - everyday people - giving of themselves for their country and community.

Ms. Townsend concluded by urging everyone to look to the people and families that made these sacrifices to keep this country free and live up to their legacy.

Kelly Hemmeler, 10 Hartford Avenue

Stated it's really strange because two weeks ago, she saw Council members at their party and none of them were wearing masks.

Ms. Hemmeler stated she looked up the Enfield Together Coalition website, which states, "Moving Forward-Drug Free-Finishing Strong". She noted the Enfield Together Coalition was established to assess the extent of substance use in Enfield, Connecticut and to develop ways to reduce the use of alcohol and other drugs by Enfield youth. She stated her belief that anyone who votes "yes" to sell recreational marijuana in Enfield should resign from the Coalition. She noted if someone is going to then say Enfield should close all the package stores in town, she's okay with that too. She stated she hates drug and alcohol abuse because it ruins families.

She stated throughout the campaign she heard a lot of Democrats saying that she did not listen to the people, and that is untrue. She noted at the public hearing she heard 30 people describe marijuana to be used medically, and she totally agrees with that. She questioned where and when is medicine ever considered recreational, and she questioned what message this is telling the youth.

Ms. Hemmeler stated at the public hearing, the three people who wanted recreational marijuana sold in Enfield heckled everyone who came to speak in favor of prohibiting the sale, and they went so far as openly mocking a well-known woman in town, who found her son deceased from an

overdose when she didn't even know he used drugs. She noted that woman now runs an organization that educates parents, so that they don't experience the tragedy that she experienced. She noted it was shameful to heckle anyone who came to speak their conscience, no matter what side they were on.

Ms. Hemmeler stated during her 2021 campaign, she knocked on a lot of doors in her district, and the majority of people really didn't care either way. She noted quite a few people thanked her for voting to prohibit the sale of recreational marijuana in Enfield. She stated her belief this was the right thing to do for this town because she does not see much benefit. She noted the social cost will be high and the tax collected will be very narrow as to what it can be spent on because it cannot be used to spend down the Town debt, it cannot be spent on public safety, and it will never help reduce property taxes. She read Page 211 of Senate Bill #2101, "The tax collected pursuant to this section shall be used in such municipality to make improvements to the streetscapes and other neighborhood developments in and around the community of which the cannabis hybrid retailer or micro-cultivator is located. It will fund educational programs for youth, employment, and training and programs in such municipality. It will fund services for individuals released from the custody of the Commissioner of Corrections, probation, or parole, residing in such municipality. It funds mental health and addiction services. It will fund youth service bureaus established pursuant to Section 10 through 19 of the general statutes and municipality juvenile review boards and for efforts to promote civic engagement in communities in such municipality."

She concluded stating her belief it was the right thing to do to prohibit this sale.

Matthew Schmitt, 55 Main Street. 1304 Bigelow Commons

Stated everyone is aware of the federal vaccine mandate set to be implemented in less than two months. He noted the staffing shortages people have come to know will likely be exacerbated once they reach the January 4<sup>th</sup> deadline when hard-working people are put out of work. He noted it will definitely put a strain on the local economy. He stated more importantly it will put a strain on those residents who refuse to be coerced by these rules. He noted those people are facing the real prospect of losing their job, which could possibly be a life-long career built up by years of personal sacrifice. He noted these residents arguably are strongest and most brave in the face of increasing social and governmental pressure. He questioned if anyone could imagine having such conviction to be ready to lose everything. He noted these are not nameless, faceless people, but people a community needs, and they are people that strengthen a town. He stated these people are under threat and they need help. He stated this town, and this Council needs to come through for them, and they do not deserve to be kicked to the curb.

Mr. Schmitt asked this Council to create a framework or commission to help any and all residents who may be discriminated against, segregated, or forced to undergo arbitrary testing due to federal rules. He asked this Council to set aside funds to help those residents forcibly put out of work by mandates. He noted Enfield has access to American Relief Plan funds and other state and federal grants that are earmarked to help those negatively effected by Covid restrictions. He noted this is not a matter of "can", but rather a matter of "will".

He stated his belief this request is not a stretch because Enfield is no stranger to supporting its residents. He noted there are programs for those with mental health issues, those with drug

addiction, those facing domestic abuse, and Enfield seems to be eager to address social justice issues as well. He stated he does not know a matter that runs counter to social justice more than the mass firing of an entire segment of the population, of forced unemployment based on a belief that some group of people have a right over another person's body. He noted it does not matter if that belief is centered on race, religion, or gender, nor does it matter if its centered on science, health or some perceived societal benefit. He noted if a person or group of persons, whether they're organized as a business or a government dictating what another must put into their body is not a feature of an ethical and moral society. He noted it is not inclusive or ethical, it is unjust and flat out wrong.

Mr. Schmitt concluded stating his hope this Council will consider his proposal and will act quickly, especially since they're entering the holiday season, a season meant for joy and giving and of community. He noted Enfield has families at their wits end and stressed to the hilt by these federal rules, and these are families who contribute to Enfield, and they need to know their town reciprocates and shows up for them. He urged the Council not to be another source of despair for these families, but rather be a source of hope. He stated the Town should become a source of refuge for those who will be harmed by these rules. He noted Enfield should be made a sanctuary for those forced from their livelihoods and show the caring, the compassion and humanity that this town desperately seeks to portray and show them and the world what Enfield truly is.

George Young, 8 Holly Lane

Questioned why Holly Lane is waiting until 2025 to be repaved. He noted his road will be 55 years old by that time. He noted plows can be damaged by roads in poor condition. He stated his believe Holly Lane should be done next year at the latest and not in 2025. He noted Ridge Road should also be completed. He noted for some reason, half of Ridge Road was completed, and the other half is in poor condition like Holly Lane.

Mr. Young read an article from the AIC Campus Update concerning cannabis. He stated that there is now an undergraduate cannabis certificate available online. He read as follows: "AIC's Micro-Emerging Market Cannabis Certificate will now be offered in a fully virtual format beginning with the Fall 2021 semester. The program opens to non-matriculated students and requires no pre-requisites, other than a high school diploma or GED equivalency. AIC offers a rotation of three courses – Cannabis Entrepreneurship, Cannabis Business Operations, and Law and Ethics of Cannabis. The certificate program's switch to a virtual format follows the successful rollout of AIC's Master of Science in Cannabis Science and Commerce Program, which has been offered online since the Fall of 2020. American International College is excited to offer both a graduate level program that offers courses focused on developing business acumen in a field that is experiencing a meteoric rise and a certificate program that is a business-based offering that provides courses in a developing field."

He noted the School of Business Arts and Science Dean, Susanne Swanke, stated "AIC is positioning itself to be an educational leader in this rapidly emerging market that offers entrepreneurial and employment opportunities for the future."

Mr. Young stated employment opportunities are very important, especially for high school graduates that do not want to go onto college. He noted they can enter into a program and guarantee

future employment, not only here in Enfield, but also in the surrounding communities such as Springfield, Northampton, or wherever else they're going to allow cannabis. He noted it does not mean they have to be smoking it.

Mr. Young stated his hope the new Council will take another look at the cannabis issue, whether they vote yes or no. He noted this is one of the fastest growing industries in the United States. He stated they can either be on top of it, or they can follow behind it and Enfield will remain where it is today.

He referred to the revaluation increase and noted the exemption for seniors and veterans should probably be increased in accordance with state law, which allows much more than they are giving their senior and veterans.

Mr. Young referred to the property purchase near Town Hall for around \$750,000 and stated he noticed they will be paying for that with the grant money from the federal government. He questioned if they would take all of the \$750,000 and purchase that property, or will there be a lesser figure since the Town leased that property with the understanding there would be a reduction in the purchase price.

Lucien LeFevre, 54 Kimberly Drive, and the Vice Chairman of the Enfield Veterans Council

Referring to the recent Veterans Day Parade, he thanked all the Town departments that helped make this happen. He noted they had a great showing of people with a wonderful guest speaker at the Town Green, and that was the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs for the State of Connecticut. He noted he was disappointed there weren't more spectators.

Walter Kruzel, 21 Charnley Road

Stated before he was on the Board of Education, he was a member of the Enfield High School Building Committee. He noted one of their first tasks as a Committee was the submittal of special legislation to the State to be fast-tracked to get that project done. He stated when he heard that there were issues about getting that special legislation, he emailed his State Representatives, and he got an answer from Representative Kiner, who was on the Education Committee, and they worked at getting this included in the Appropriations bill at the last minute to get the fast-tracked done and get the high school done a year ahead of time. He noted at that time, the State promised a traffic light at the top of the hill, and to date that has not happened. He requested this Town Council work towards getting that traffic light installed.

### **COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS**

Councilor Mangini thanked the Veterans Council for putting on a wonderful parade. She also thanked Pam Townsend for her hard work with Wreaths Across America. She noted Boy Scouts Troop 108 will be there.

She stated there are many openings on boards and commissions, and she hopes people will be interested in serving on these committees.

Councilor Mangini requested an update on the Eli Whitney School roof and its leaking problem.

She noted the Council Chambers are always cold, and she would like that checked into.

Councilor Pyznar stated she will be serving on the Veterans Committee. She noted she buys wreaths from Wreaths Across America for family members. She stated all the grammar schools are selling these wreaths. She thanked Pam and Lucien for their work for and with veterans.

Councilor Finger stated he does not believe in eminent domain, and he supports Caroline Cogtella.

He thinks Wreaths Across America is fantastic, and Enfield is proud of having this program, and he recalls attending the ceremony at Parkman School.

He referred to Mr. Schmidt's comments and stated his belief he is fighting a good fight. He noted he has two granddaughters who hate wearing masks, and he hates wearing them too, but the law is the law. He stated he has to wear his mask at work, and if he does not, he gets disciplined. He stated hopefully things will change in the near future. He noted he is not looking forward to seeing anyone forcibly mandated and losing their job because he thinks it's wrong.

He agreed with Mr. Young about his road being terrible. He noted perhaps this road should be re-looked at.

He commended Mr. LeFevre for a great Veterans Parade.

He agreed with Mr. Kruzel that there needs to be a traffic light at Enfield High School.

He referred to comments by Kelly Hemmeler and noted 50-50 is where he stands, and he has been doing a lot of thinking about this and what the people said that day. He stated he will be supporting the cannabis if it happens.

Councilor Santanella stated he received Ms. Cogtella's email, and there's a very long history here, and he wants her to know that he needs to understand where they are, what they can do, if anything, to help her. He stated she has not been ignored, and he's sorry she left before he could say that to her directly.

Councilor Ludwick stated his understanding that the American Rescue Plan guidelines are to address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency, i.e., if someone loses a job based on a choice they made. He noted they are looking at potentially helping small businesses at some point, and he questioned if they could look at Mr. Schmidt's suggestion as well. He stated his belief this is a great suggestion if it does qualify within the American Recovery Act.

**MOTION #5979** by Councilor Cekala, seconded by Councilor Mangini to suspend the rules to address under Miscellaneous Items A1-A5, B1-B5, E, F, G, H, I, J, and L.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #5979** adopted 10-0-0.

Chairman Cressotti stated this past week he met with Governor Lamont for one of his state initiatives for education and also with the State Department of Education Commissioner, Charleen Russell-Tucker, and the initiative called, "A Voice for Change Roll Out". He explained this is an initiative for area high schools where students are going to have a right on how to spend government funding for their schools. He explained Enfield High School will be taking part in that particular program.

He congratulated Chloe Clark for her selection as Enfield's Kid Governor. He suggested inviting her as a special guest at the next meeting, so that the Council can congratulate her.

He stated he and the Town Manager have been contacted by some of the cannabis corporations, and they're interested in providing tours and educating them in their business. He thanked them for reaching out to the Town and initiating a conversation as they proceed forward. He noted all this information will be forwarded to Laurie Whitten.

Chairman Cressotti thanked everyone who spoke tonight.

## **TOWN MANAGER REPORT & COMMUNICATIONS**

### **Project & Activities Report**

Mr. Bromson referred to the Veterans Day Parade, and he believes perhaps people did not know that the parade was going to happen. He noted the Town is upgrading its website, and they are also working on a multi-modal communication, i.e., a podcast, trying to work with Asnuntuck and the high school, and he spoke with the Superintendent of Schools for their own TV show and radio. He stated they will work with the Veterans Council to make the next parade much more robustly attended.

Referring to Mr. Young's comments, Mr. Bromson stated they hope that the funding that they're getting from the American Recovery Act will help do things like the pump stations. He noted they put \$3 or \$4 million dollars towards pump stations, and they're putting money towards other improvements that are critical infrastructure, and that will save the Enfield taxpayers in the long run because that's millions of dollars that they will not have to appropriate and pay for with residents' taxes.

As concerns the purchase of the Enfield Express, Enfield was committed to spend \$680,000, but the federal government has deigned to say its included, and they are being rewarded for the forethought to having something unique like this to help people during Covid.

As concerns the cannabis inquiries that the Town has been receiving, Mr. Bromson stated they will give those to Laurie Whitten, and she can speak to these different people, and they will send something to the Town Council as to the kinds of tours they can have, and they'll do a sign up and do a research trip.

Mr. Bromson stated leadership can discuss a traffic light at Enfield High School, and if they would like to formally pursue this, they can have a meeting with DOT to see what the cost is.

Referring to comments by Mr. Schmidt, Mr. Bromson stated he will look into the appropriate expenditure to see if Mr. Schmidt's proposal is allowed for Council consideration. He noted they have expanded to some degree as to what their initial rules were on the expenditure of the American Recovery money.

Mr. Nunes referred to leaks in Rooms 24 and 26 at Eli Whitney School and stated this area was cleaned up first thing in the morning. He noted there are still two active drips going on, and there are two trash barrels collecting that. He stated the contractor cannot visit this site until Wednesday morning.

Councilor Mangini expressed appreciation for the passage of the roof referendum. She noted this is an ongoing issue at that school. She questioned if there's a way to slow down some of the leaking until they can get the roof done properly. She noted right now they have buckets sitting up between the rafters, and that is unacceptable. Mr. Nunes stated they are waiting for the State to approve the RFP, so they can go out to bid. Mr. Bromson stated in the interim, perhaps they can do something more than the buckets in the ceiling. Mr. Nunes stated they were out there last week doing other repairs on that roof.

Councilor Mangini stated teachers' books have been destroyed, and school property has been adversely affected by that water. She noted she is concerned about mold, health and slips and falls. She encouraged the Town to do remedial work, and she will check back on Wednesday.

Councilor Ludwick requested a report on if and when the courthouse will be reopened in Enfield. He noted this is a big impact to law enforcement because cases are shifted to Hartford, and cases can be thrown out due to there being too many cases. He questioned if they could reach out to the State. He suggested perhaps the State Prosecutor can come to a meeting to share the impact of not having that courthouse open. Mr. Bromson stated he has been in contact with the State Attorney, who has shared his concerns about this. He noted they reached out to Representative Arnone and Senator Kissel, who talked to the Judicial Department, who said this was temporary due to Covid, however, the State Attorney indicated to him that all the files have been moved to Hartford. He noted having to travel to Hartford impacts manpower, overtime, and other costs, and this also impacts victims of crime. He noted they will again talk to the State Rep to see if they can have a meeting with the judicial officials.

Councilor Unghire questioned if the Town filed for the \$2 million dollars in State brownfield funding for the cleanup for the Eversource property. Mr. Bromson questioned if Mr. Tereso applied for the brownfield grant with the State. Mr. Tereso responded the application was submitted on time a few weeks ago, and he anticipates hearing the results in early January.

## **TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT & COMMUNICATIONS**

Attorney Tallberg referred to the South River Street Bridge replacement and stated there was a public hearing in April, 2019 with a Council vote May 6, 2019 to proceed with the replacement of the South River Street Bridge, and the project is being carried out by the State DOT. He noted they circulated, through the Town Manager's Office, an update to all the Councilors as an

attorney/client communication because the Cogtella's have legal counsel involved. He noted if the Council decides to revisit this, he asks that they go through the documents for what occurred in 2019 and 2020. He stated he will be happy to answer questions as they arise.

As concerns cannabis, Attorney Tallberg stated the Council has a resolution proposing a public hearing. He noted this is a request that came to them, and the issue was framed as if the newly elected Council wished to repeal the recently enacted ordinance banning cannabis establishments, what would need to happen. He noted research revealed they would need another public hearing because in order to repeal an ordinance, the law is that a local legislative body would have to pass another ordinance. He stated according to the Charter, Chapter 3, Section 6 requires that to pass an ordinance, they need to have a public hearing. He explained after that process, it would be up to the will of the Council as to whether they pass another ordinance to repeal the original ordinance.

### **REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL**

There were no reports this evening.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Items A, C and D remained tabled.

**MOTION #5980** by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Hopkins to remove Item B from the table.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #5980** adopted 10-0-0.

**MOTION #5981** by Councilor Cekala, seconded by Councilor Mangini to waive the reading of the resolution.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #5981** adopted 10-0-0.

Resolution authorizing the Town Manager to enter into a purchase and sale agreement with Bellsite Development.

- **A copy of the resolution is appended to these minutes –**

Mr. Bromson stated this is 90 Alden Avenue, the St. Adalbert's School gymnasium and auditorium. He noted after the Council toured the gym, it was the unanimous consensus that this would be a gem. He stated it would be renovated to new with a new roof, new HVAC, new interior, and state-of-the art floors which will allow for basketball tournaments, three pickleball courts, volleyball, and other uses along with a climbing wall. He noted there will be a track inside along the edge of the court, so during inclement weather it can be used. He stated there is also a little stage in this gymnasium, and there's an interest to have art shows there, and it can be used by theatrical people. He stated at the last budget, the Council put in half the amount of money, and over the last year they did their due diligence by having the Town Attorney, Public

Works and all their building departments and others review the plan to fine tune it to be sure it is what they wanted. He noted if this is passed tonight, it is hoped this facility will be completed in six to nine months. He stated a former NBA player is interested in holding clinics at this facility. He feels this will be a very exciting project and of great use to the town. He went on to note there is a matching fund, not ARA money, that the Governor passed a couple weeks ago in the amount of \$100 million dollars, and Mr. Tereso has already reached out. He pointed out Enfield is now eligible for all of the Higgins Park improvements that they've done and all the expenditures for the last two years, including the parking and St. Adalbert's for a 50% reimbursement from the State of Connecticut. He noted he is guardedly optimistic that Mr. Tereso will be successful in getting that money back to use for other projects in the town.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #5981** adopted by a 10-0-0 vote.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

There were no items under New Business

### **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

All items were moved to Miscellaneous.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **MOTION #5982 CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Bromson explained Items 1 and 2 relate to Emergency Management. He noted this is the pass-through money that the Town gets, and it funds some of their positions and the cost of their emergency management - Steve Hall.

He stated the Historic Documents Preservation Grant has been done for a number of years, and that's through the Town Clerk's Office. He noted it is the same amount at \$7,500.

He noted the \$11,500 transfer is the grant money going into the police accounts to conduct "Click It and Fix It" stops.

Mr. Bromson stated the last resolution is regarding a donation to the Police Department from Ocean State Job Lot. He noted this donation must come through the Council, be approved, accepted, and sent back to the Police Department.

Councilor Ludwick expressed appreciation to Ocean State Job Lot for their donation.

Mr. Bromson stated that donation is for supplies for the officers, as well as an \$1,800 gift card to the Animal Control Officer for the use for their canines.

- Resolution authorizing the Town Manager to sign and submit a Memorandum of Agreement regarding the use of federal Fiscal Year 2021 State Homeland Security grant
- Resolution authorizing the Town Manager to sign and submit a grant application to the State of Connecticut Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security
- Transfer of funds from the Historic Documents Preservation grant \$7,500
- Transfer of funds for Public Safety \$11,500
- Resolution accepting donation from Ocean State Job Lot

**-Copies of consent agenda resolutions are appended to these minutes –**

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #5982** the Consent Agenda is approved by a 10-0-0 vote.

### **APPOINTMENTS (TOWN COUNCIL APPOINTED)**

**NOMINATION #5983** by Councilor Mangini to reappoint Joel Cox (D) to the Ethics Commission for a term which expires 10/31/2023.

**MOTION #5984** by Councilor Finger, seconded by Councilor Santanella to close nominations.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #5984** adopted 10-0-0.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared Joel Cox reappointed to the Ethics Commission by a 10-0-0 vote.

**NOMINATION #5985** by Councilor Cekala to reappoint Elizabeth Ellery (I) to the Ethics Commission for a term which expires 10/31/2023.

**MOTION #5986** by Councilor Finger, seconded by Councilor Santanella to close nominations.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #5986** adopted 10-0-0.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared Elizabeth Ellery reappointed to the Ethics Commission by a 10-0-0 vote.

**NOMINATION #5987** by Councilor Mangini to reappoint Raymond Walsh (U) to the Ethics Commission for a term which expires 10/31/2023.

**MOTION #5988** by Councilor Finger, seconded by Councilor Santanella to close nominations.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #5988** adopted 10-0-0.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared Raymond Walsh reappointed to the Ethics Commission by a 10-0-0 vote.

**NOMINATION #5989** by Councilor Pyznar to reappoint Howard Coro (D) to the Enfield Housing Authority for a term which expires in 2026.

**MOTION #5990** by Councilor Finger, seconded by Councilor Mangini to close nominations.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #5990** adopted 10-0-0.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared Howard Coro reappointed to the Enfield Housing Authority by a 10-0-0 vote.

**NOMINATION #5991** by Councilor Pyznar to reappoint James Byrne (R) to the Blight Review Committee for a term which expires 03/31/2023.

**MOTION #5992** by Councilor Finger, seconded by Councilor Santanella to close nominations.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #5992** adopted 10-0-0.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared James Byrne reappointed to the Blight Review Committee by a 9-0-1 vote, with Councilor Santanella abstaining. Councilor Santanella informed the Council that Mr. Byrne is his corporate attorney, and although he is an upstanding gentleman, he will abstain from voting because he has a financial relationship with Mr. Byrne.

**RESOLUTION #5993** by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Cekala.

RESOVLED, that in accordance with Chapter VI, Section 8(f) of the Town Charter, the following transfer is hereby made:

TO: COVID-19 Fund

|                                              |                 |           |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Higgins Park Bandshell-Construction Services | 24508215-545000 | \$200,000 |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|

FROM: COVID-19 Fund

|                              |                 |           |
|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Revenue-Grants-COVID-Federal | 24540000-460004 | \$200,000 |
|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|

**CERTIFICATION:** I hereby certify that the above-stated funds are available as of November 9, 2021.

/s/ John Wilcox, Director of Finance

Mr. Bromson stated all the following resolutions have to do with infrastructure and Higgins Park, St. Adalbert's, a bike path with state funding and the Express parking area. He noted this item had been included in the referendum for recreation, which was defeated by the voters. He stated he has the utmost respect for the will of the people. He noted the reason they still came forward with this is because they like to work on concurrent paths. He stated some things they did outside the budget, some in the CIP and some things went to referendum. He explained they submitted their American Recovery Plan of the \$12.9 million dollars basically after they had to formulate the question for the voters. He noted they are under strict state guidelines as to what the questions will be for a referendum, so in the referendum they included a couple items. He noted as a redundancy and a concurrent path, they were not sure because the final rules for the American Recovery money aren't written yet in stone. He stated they've been talking to their Congressional delegation, CRCOG and others in other towns. He noted they think it's appropriate that this is covered by the American Recovery Act under one of the four criteria. He noted they did not know that for certain when they did the referendum questions, so he put it in both places. He stated they were transparent, and they said they were putting it in the referendum, but they were also going to do it for American Recovery, and the same was done for the Police Department roof. He noted they never would have paid twice, they would have just simply not borrowed the money under the roof referendum to do it.

Councilor Pyznar stated as much as she promoted the recreation referendum, she will not support the next three items since the referendum failed. She noted there may be other ways they can spend that money because that is not the way the Town wanted to spend it.

Councilor Cekala questioned if for some reason if this project, or any of the other ones that they are going to be discussing are not eligible for ARA expenditures, before the project is done, will the Town Manager come back to the Council to say something is not eligible for ARA funding. Mr. Bromson stated that is correct.

Councilor Cekala stated sometimes referendums fail because people do not understand the question. She stated her belief this is a way to reach the same goal, but taking a different path to get there, and that is why she will support this.

Councilor Hopkins questions how these transfer funds allow them to be competitive with the reimbursement they are looking to get from the state and the larger picture of Higgins Park and what that means for the State allowing the Town to get more money than what they might have otherwise.

Mr. Bromson stated Enfield is poised to be at the front of the line. He noted Enfield fits it like a glove as concerns what the State is looking for to invest this \$100 million dollars in the cities and small towns of Connecticut. He stated the fact that Enfield already committed and already put in the playscape, which is hugely popular, they've now put in a basketball court and the walking path is already going in, therefore, Enfield is beyond shovel ready. He believes Enfield is very attractive to the State regarding reimbursement.

Mr. Tereso stated the State Department of Economic and Community Development is reaching out to all the municipalities and asking them to come up with a project that meets livability, vibrancy, convenience, and outdoor recreation for residents. He noted there are projects downtown, major redevelopment projects, infrastructure projects, public space projects, mobility improvement projects, and Enfield's project meets mobility and public space. He stated they also look at housing projects as well, but shovel ready projects will get ahead of the line. He noted for every dollar Enfield spends, the State provides a dollar, so it is really a matching grant.

Councilor Finger questioned what kind of use does the Town get out of the gazebo, and he questioned the use of a bandshell. Mr. Bromson stated the gazebo is not a bandshell. He stated to his knowledge, they haven't had any renting or leasing of the gazebo. He noted the Town used it for the Fourth of July and the Farmers Market. He stated there's usually a waiting list for weddings. He pointed out someone else brought about the plan for Higgins Park about ten years ago. He stated his thought was to put it under the Facility Use Plan, so it could be used by the high school, recreation, concerts, and for the Fourth of July. He stated there would be ample parking, a beautiful great lawn, and an open band shell.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #5993** adopted 6-4-0, with Councilors Finger, Ludwick, Pyznar and Unghire voting against the resolution.

**RESOLUTION #5994** by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Cekala.

RESOLVED, that in accordance with Chapter VI, Section 8(f) of the Town Charter, the following transfer is hereby made:

TO: COVID-19 Fund

|                                                     |                 |          |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------|----------|
| Higgins Park Fitness Stations-Construction Services | 24508216-545000 | \$93,000 |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------|----------|

FROM: COVID-19 Fund

|                              |                 |          |
|------------------------------|-----------------|----------|
| Revenue-Grants-COVID-Federal | 24540000-460004 | \$93,000 |
|------------------------------|-----------------|----------|

**CERTIFICATION:** I hereby certify that the above-stated funds are available as of November 9, 2021.

/s/ John Wilcox, Director of Finance

Mr. Bromson stated this would be in addition to the two walking paths that are currently under construction. He noted this was suggested and it was in the initial plan. He stated these are fitness stations that allow people to do different kinds of exercises. He noted they heard back from the people who are putting them in that they are very popular with seniors. He stated it's cheaper to do this when they're putting in the walkways. He added this would be eligible for the 50% matching grant from the state. He displayed and explained a design.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #5994** adopted

7-3-0, with Councilors Ludwick, Pyznar and Unghire voting against the resolution.

**RESOLUTION #5995** by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Hopkins.

RESOLVED, in accordance with Chapter VI, Section 8(f) of the Town Charter, the following transfer is hereby made:

TO: COVID-19 Fund

|                                                   |                 |           |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Enfield Express-Parking Lot-Construction Services | 24508170-545000 | \$425,000 |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|

FROM: COVID-19 Fund

|                       |                 |           |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Revenue-COVID-Federal | 24540000-460004 | \$425,000 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------|

**CERTIFICATION:**

I hereby certify that the above-stated funds are available as of November 9, 2021.

/s/ John Wilcox, Director of Finance

Mr. Bromson stated this will double the parking behind Town Hall. He noted they have always had a deficit of parking for the Fourth of July and the Farmers Market. He stated this will also accommodate visitors to the Higgins Park, St. Adalbert's, and Town Hall. He noted they would not have needed all that parking if they had not approved St. Adalbert's, but now that it has been approved, they will need it because it will be highly utilized. He noted this will be a safe, family park for everyone to enjoy.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #5995** adopted 8-2-0, with Councilors Ludwick and Pyznar voting against the resolution.

**RESOLUTION #5996** by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Cekala.

RESOLVED, that in accordance with Chapter VI, Section 8(f) of the Town Charter, the following transfer is hereby made:

TO : COVID-19 Fund

|                                       |                 |           |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Bike Path-Other Professional Services | 24508214-533900 | \$100,000 |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|

FROM: COVID-19 Fund

|                              |                 |           |
|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Revenue-Grants-COVID-Federal | 24540000-460004 | \$100,000 |
|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|

**CERTIFICATION:** I hereby certify that the above-stated funds are available as of

November 9, 2021.

/s/ John Wilcox, Director of Finance

Mr. Bromson stated this was a grant that the Town previously received, and it is called LOCIP from the state, and it is specifically for this bike path, which will give them up to \$920,000 for the construction costs. He noted the Town's share of this is to do the engineering and the plan, which is approximately \$100,000. He stated they've deemed it eligible under the American Recovery Act. He pointed out the canal path and the bike path in Suffield, which comes over the bridge, will now be connected at Franklin Street and come all the way up to Town Hall.

Mr. Tereso stated the project spans about 3,800 linear feet and provides a new connection between the Windsor Locks Trail and the Freshwater Pond path. He explained the pathway would connect to Franklin Street and Route 5. He noted his office is prepared to issue a purchase order with their on-call engineering consultant and they hope to go out to bid in the spring and have the work done in the summer.

Mr. Bromson stated the Council has a map included with the Council's materials, and they will also include that on the Town's website tomorrow.

Councilor Cekala stated if this is going to include changing parking, they first need to educate people who live on Franklin Street, and Mr. Tereso indicated that would be done. He noted they would have a public informational meeting. He stated most of those residences have ample driveway space for parking.

Councilor Cekala stated her understanding that the Town is getting a grant for about \$920,000 for a project that may cost about \$1 million dollars, and they are using \$100,000 of Enfield funds, but it's really ARA funds. Mr. Bromson responded that's correct.

Councilor Cekala stated her understanding that on top of that they can possibly get 50% of that \$100,000 back, and Mr. Bromson stated he doesn't know if this project is eligible. He noted the park, and all the other projects were eligible. Mr. Tereso stated if they consider that this bike path project is part of Higgins Park, they may be able to include it, but that's a battle that he is going to have to fight with the State. Mr. Bromson stated they are not going to try and torture an interpretation. He noted Enfield has a great reputation with the State. He stated this project has never been part of Higgins, although he appreciates the sentiment. He noted they can stand alone, and if they can submit it on its own merits, they will. He stated he does not see this project tied to the park, and it never has been. He noted this is a project they've considered for years. He stated it is \$100,000 up front towards a million-dollar project, and it's 90% State and 10% is Enfield, and he believes that is a great bargain, but he does not know that it is eligible for any kind of reimbursement. Councilor Cekala questioned if they could look into that, and Mr. Bromson stated they will look into it, and if it is, Mr. Tereso will apply, but they are not going to say it is part of Higgins Park.

Councilor Santanella stated he does not agree that there is a lot of extra parking on Franklin Street. He noted if you drive down there now, and people are at home, both the north and south side of that street are packed with cars, and there is not a lot of driveway space for residents to

park their cars. He stated he really wants to understand if this is going to go to a review with the neighbors and what is going to happen if the neighbors really object to this, what is Plan B. He stated he sees people being very put out by this, and he completely understands why. He noted he does not want to approve something today without being able to revisit this. He questioned if this would come back to the Council. Mr. Bromson responded yes, they would do much like Councilor Cekala indicated previously, whereby if they found something ineligible, they'd come back and not just spend town money. He noted likewise on this, its very attractive because it is almost a million dollars the State is giving Enfield. He stated they could tailor this. They could dedicate the money, go through the process, and have the public hearing. He noted if there is an uproar, or they cannot accommodate the concerns of that neighborhood to their liking, they must be able to pull the plug. He stated unfortunately, if they can't use this money for this, they cannot use it for something else. He noted this is a specific earmark for bike paths. He stated they could ask and look for some other area, but normally it is tied to what was approved before.

Mr. Tereso agreed and stated if the Town decides not to pursue the project, they may lose out on the grant.

Mr. Bromson stated the worst-case scenario is that whatever amount they're able to get the plans for—the \$50,000—if you pull the plug, that's money that the Town spent. He noted it was a good endeavor, but they would not get the \$50,000 back. He stated the Council has the ultimate discretion to say they don't want to do the project because they don't want to inconvenience the residents. He stated hopefully, they'll be able to accommodate the residents, but if not, the loss the Town is facing is up to \$100,000.

Councilor Santanella clarified the Town would only lose the \$100,000, not the entire grant. Mr. Bromson stated the Town would lose \$920,000 if the Town cannot come to an agreement with the residents about using Franklin under the plan, or they cannot come up with an alternative, the \$920,000 goes away. He pointed out these are specific earmarks for the State, and if this isn't used for the intended purpose, they have the right to pull it. He noted they could ask or reapply, but Mr. Tereso has already indicated to him that the chances of utilizing it anywhere else would be pretty much zero.

Councilor Mangini questioned if the Town is putting the cart before the horse. She noted if they are looking to get public input or to find out what the public thinks or wants, why are they passing a resolution tonight.

Mr. Bromson stated if the Town wants to start the process for the grant, to be eligible for it, they must appropriate the engineering. He noted they don't have the formal plan until they do the engineering. He stated they are in a tough spot because they must do this to get the plan to go to the residents. He noted if they were to have a public hearing now, they would not have a plan to show them.

Councilor Mangini questioned if it is more prudent to pass a resolution before a public hearing. Mr. Bromson stated the Town can't get the money to do the final engineering until the Council approves it. He noted they could go with a theory to the residents, but he doesn't know how that would work without plans.

Mr. Tereso stated this grant application was done in 2017 and it must have been endorsed by the town to submit this project for approval, and now they have a new Council. He noted right now they would have to go through the process, hire an engineer to complete a semi-final design and have a public informational meeting on the project so they could take public comment to see if they could alleviate any of the parking concerns.

Councilor Mangini stated if the public comes forward and says they're not interested or comfortable, then the Town loses some money in the process. Mr. Bromson stated the Council would then have to make a hard decision as was done on South River Street. He noted the question is whether the Town is going to accept millions of dollars to replace a bridge in the best interest of the town even though it's going to adversely impact a lovely lady such as Ms. Cogtella, so public comment is just for that. He noted the Council will have to weigh it and decide if residents can be accommodated, and then decide they can proceed with the project. He stated if the Council thinks the voices of those there are to the degree and magnitude where they are not comfortable proceeding, they will not have the \$925,000 to construct it, and there only loss will be whatever was spent to get the final plans. He noted if this works out, he believes the Town will have a very nice bike path, which will be highly used. He stated if this was Town money, he would still recommend doing it. He feels this is appropriate because if the town doesn't do it, they lose almost a million dollars.

Councilor Ludwick questioned if there's a time limit on LOCIP money, and Mr. Tereso stated there is no time limit whatsoever on the grant.

Councilor Ludwick stated this is a million dollars, therefore, why isn't this going to referendum. Mr. Wilcox stated he does not believe this would have to go to referendum. He noted if it was a \$3 million dollar amount, they can only appropriate .0002 of the grand list in any fiscal year towards a project. He stated the appropriation is on the expenditure side, so they would end up doing less than \$600,000 this year, and the rest in Fiscal Year 2023. He noted they are accumulating \$925,000 over two fiscal periods, which will allow them to do that without having to go to referendum.

Mr. Bromson stated they do that on almost all the other projects in town to be able to afford to do these. He noted when they did the Charter review, they tried to raise the limit, and it wasn't adopted.

Councilor Ludwick clarified this will be a phased project, and Mr. Wilcox responded yes.

Councilor Finger questioned if this money could be used in a different location for a bike path, and Mr. Bromson responded no.

Councilor Finger stated he used the Windsor Locks bike path a few times. He noted they shut it down half the year for nesting eagles. He stated he doesn't see this as necessary, and he will be voting against it.

Councilor Santanella stated the document in his package has no mention of community impact whatsoever, and he does not see anything mentioned about the parking situation. He noted it would be nice to have known that was going to be part of this decision. He stated this would have given him a little bit of an opportunity to speak to people before making this vote. He noted he will vote in favor of this because of the greater good and give the neighbors the opportunity to participate, but he would rather be ahead of these things than to be having these kinds of conversations right here in the moment. He noted if it is possible, when there are these kinds of community impacts that are going to impact the living in somebody's neighborhood, if that could be a bullet, so that Council members could at least know in advance.

Mr. Bromson stated this is the case with every one of these that they've done, and the Council is new. He noted they could always include more information in the packet, and that is why Nelson is here. He stated truthfully, it's all up to the Council. He noted the Council wants to make issues, and these things were supported before the election, and now the Council is against them. He questioned if the Council wants to tell the voters that they want to turn away \$900,000. He noted the public will have an opportunity, and this is just the state of law. He noted he can include as much or as little as the Council wishes.

Councilor Cekala stated her belief it is a fair point that there was zero in here about any re-doing of any road or travel path.

Mr. Bromson stated he can't put in every state law or every single thing that might be triggered in these. He noted they talked about it tonight, and they don't need to grandstand about it. He questioned whether the Council wants to pass it and have the public hearing or not.

Chairman Cressotti questioned whether there's any further discussion on this.

Mr. Bromson stated tonight, watching the Council and being in Executive Session, he thinks it's time for the Council to pick its own Manager and to proceed on its own course. He noted he is going to leave now and make his resignation effective in two weeks. He stated his belief the Council will have to appoint an Acting Manager and suggested Mr. Wilcox take that position. He noted the Council then can decide with CCM or whomever they are going to appoint in December. He stated he can just see this is not going to be something he wants to be involved in going forward. He stated his belief they've done incredible things and there's picking and making...and he doesn't want to be part of it. He bid the Council adieu and wished them good luck.

The Council took a recess.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #5996** adopted by a 9-1-0 vote, with Councilor Finger voting against the resolution.

**RESOLUTION #5997** by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Cekala.

RESOLVED, that in accordance with Chapter VI, Section 8(f) of the Town Charter, the following transfer is hereby made:

## GENERAL FUND

FROM:

TO:

|                           |           |                            |           |
|---------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|-----------|
| 10040000-499000           | \$273,000 | 10800092-593010            | \$273,000 |
| General Fund Revenue      |           | General Fund – Unallocated |           |
| Appropriated Fund Balance |           | Transfers to Capital       |           |

## CAPITAL AND NON-RECURRING FUND

FROM:

TO:

|                       |           |                            |           |
|-----------------------|-----------|----------------------------|-----------|
| 31042021-480001       | \$273,000 | 31008203-545000            | \$273,000 |
| CIP Fund Revenue      |           | Alden Ave Gym-Construction |           |
| FY 2020-2021-         |           | Services                   |           |
| Gen Fund Transfers In |           |                            |           |

**CERTIFICATION:** I hereby certify that the above-stated funds are available as of November 10, 2021.

/s/ John Wilcox, Director of Finance

Mr. Wilcox stated in a previous resolution, the Council approved the signing of an agreement for the purchase of 90 Alden Avenue. He noted this transfer, and the next transfer appropriates those funds. He stated they appropriated some funds in the prior fiscal year, and some funds in the current year budget. He noted after review of the actual plans, they decided to add the air conditioning and to change the roof design to a metal roof, which has increased the cost. He stated these two transfers increased the appropriations, so they have sufficient funding to make the acquisition.

Councilor Ludwick clarified this is in phases, and Mr. Wilcox responded that's correct, noting these two will bring them to the maximum amount. Councilor Ludwick questioned the overall cost of the project, and Mr. Wilcox responded close to \$1.3 million dollars.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #5997** adopted by a 10-0-0 vote.

**MOTION #5998** by Councilor Cekala, seconded by Councilor Hopkins (Item J. on the agenda)

**MOTION #5999** by Councilor Cekala, seconded by Councilor Mangini to waive the reading of the resolution.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #5999** adopted

10-0-0.

- Request for Transfer of Funds for 90 Alden Avenue for Fiscal Year 2022 \$439,000.

- **A copy of the resolution is appended to these minutes –**

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared the **MOTION #5998** adopted by a 10-0-0 vote.

**RESOLUTION #6000** by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Cekala.

WHEREAS, the Enfield Police Department wishes to and has previously obtained Town Council approval to replace the sidearms issues to sworn department personnel, owing to the age and condition of these sidearms; and

WHEREAS, the Enfield Police Department has reviewed and tested available and appropriate sidearms and, as a result, wishes to continue using Glock sidearms, owing to this company's proven reliability and corresponding services; and

WHEREAS, Glock has three retail vendors authorized to sell firearms in the State of Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, Parro's Gun Shop and Police Supplies, Inc. of Waterbury, Vermont, which is not on the State of Connecticut contract list, has provided the lowest quote of these three authorized vendors at \$30,898 and that further, this quoted price is less than that set under the State of Connecticut contract list.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that in accordance with Chapter V, Section 8, Paragraph (d) of the Enfield Town Charter, the Enfield Town Council does hereby determine that it is against the best interests of the Town to require competitive bidding for replacement Glock firearms.

Chief Fox stated the Town Council, in this year's CIP undertaking, approved the replacement of the Police Department's pistols. He noted these guns are ten years old and are beginning to show signs of wear and tear and failure. He noted in a real-world situation, that has the potential to be catastrophic. He stated in reviewing the options for replacement, they are opting to stay with the same company. He noted they found a vendor that is under the State bid. He noted they are not on State contract, so while it seems perhaps contrary to logic, he needs permission from the Council to buy at the lower price because it's a deviation from what is the norm.

Mr. Wilcox clarified one of the items in the Town Charter says any purchase that is \$15,000 or more be purchased either through a competitive bid process or a state bid but is really any purchasing cooperative that is competitively bid.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared the **RESOLUTION #6000** adopted by a 10-0-0 vote.

**RESOLUTION #6001** by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Despard.

WHEREAS, on September 7, 2021, the Enfield Town Council (the “Council”) enacted an ordinance Prohibiting Cannabis Establishments; and

WHEREAS, the Council wishes to revisit that ordinance and consider its repeal; and

WHEREAS, the Council wishes to seek input from the public on the proposed repeal of the Cannabis ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council hereby schedules a public hearing regarding the proposed repeal of the ordinance Prohibiting Cannabis Establishments to be held on December 6, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. in the Enfield Town Hall, Council Chambers, 820 Enfield Street, Enfield, Connecticut in order to receive public comment.

Attorney Tallberg stated this is the procedure that the Council should follow if they wish to consider repeal. He noted they are having the public hearing on December 6<sup>th</sup>. He stated they had prepared a resolution that would serve that purpose for December 6<sup>th</sup>, but it didn’t make it into this packet. He noted the Council will have that for their next meeting.

Councilor Pyznar stated she will vote against it. She noted they just appropriated money for a park and bike path, and it’s all quality of life. She stated she does not believe recreational cannabis is good for quality of life. She noted if they thought about this a few years ago, they wouldn’t have a vape shop on every corner in Enfield, and maybe they shouldn’t have as many package stores as they have. She feels this is sending the wrong message, and she will stand firm on that. She noted there was an article in the JI stating, “Officials grapple with how to control use of the new legal vices-cannabis and gambling.” She acknowledged she is from another generation, but she is looking forward because she saw mistakes that were made long ago. She noted Enfield should be a destination, but it should not be a destination for things that are not healthy for people. She stated she has no problem concerning medicinal marijuana, but she still feels recreational marijuana is not a healthy lifestyle. She stated she is going to stand true to that, and she will fight it with all her might. She noted they are making a decision for generations to come. As concerns comments from everyone saying Enfield is going to get all this money, she noted if \$5 million dollars is sold, that’s \$150,000. She noted it’s going to take \$100,000 to figure out a bike path, and she questioned what’s going to be done with \$150,000 when the town’s hands are tied as to how it can be used. She stated it is known that the State of Connecticut has lied to the town before, so while they’re going to give the town 3% now, maybe in the future the town will get 1%. She stated she doesn’t want cannabis in her town.

Councilor Hopkins stated he really appreciates the thoughtful words of Mr. Young and his approach to this as an economic standpoint. He noted he personally believes it is an important thing for Americans, who are of age, to be able to choose what they consume within reason. He stated his belief the science supports this, and he thinks there are some strong economic arguments, and he really welcomes the chance for people to come out again and speak at the public hearing about this.

Councilor Finger stated one of the things he ran on his campaign was listening to the people. He noted when they have public hearings and the majority of the people vote for something, the Council should follow. He stated at the last public hearing, they had a lot of people and 36 wanted it. He stated he advised the Council that night not to vote that night but have another public hearing in a bigger place. He stated as long as they're having a public hearing again on it, he will vote yes because he'll know if the public really wants this or not. He invited people for and against this to show up and express their opinion because that's how he will vote that night.

Councilor Mangini stated she will support this resolution to have the public hearing and then overturn the prior resolution because this cannabis issue is not about giving children marijuana, it's about bringing business into town and encouraging the growth of business. She feels its imperative to hear from the people. She noted she will support the opportunity to hold another public hearing and ultimately overturn the prior resolution.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #6001** adopted 7-3-0, with Councilors Ludwick, Pyznar and Unghire voting against the resolution.

### **PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS**

Pam Townsend, 54 Kimberly Drive

Stated she has no issues with medicinal marijuana. She noted she keeps hearing this is a business thing. She stated she wants to see the numbers as to how it's a business thing. She noted she also wants to know if someone gets stopped, how do the Police determine if someone is misusing marijuana. She stated she is not for recreational marijuana, and she doesn't care if somebody else is smoking it, but she wants to understand why it is being supported as a business. She noted right now, she can't support it. She feels they are trying to put something in this town that really doesn't need to be here right now. She stated she probably will be here December 6<sup>th</sup> to speak again.

Lucien LeFevre, 54 Kimberly Drive

Stated the marijuana issue is so controversial in this town and even in this room. He noted from the past, if they can get 30 people in favor of what you want to show up at a public hearing, you will get what you are looking for. He questioned why this couldn't have gone out for a referendum vote for all the people of the town to vote on it, so they know where they stand. He noted you don't get the pulse of the town at a public hearing, but rather you get the group that shows up that night. He stated his personal opinion-recreational-no and medical-yes. He stated his understanding it goes by population as to how many establishments are allowed, and he thinks it's per 20,000 people, therefore, they are looking at one establishment in the town, and he does not believe that will do a lot for Enfield.

George Young, 8 Holly Lane

Stated his belief it's interesting how they have a duplicity of budgeting when they go for a referendum for money and at the same time, they're putting in another way to stay under the percentage of the budget that they can do without a referendum. He noted there's more than one way to skin a cat, and it seems to him like that is what was done tonight in a number of items. He

stated he doesn't disagree with it fully because he likes to see things done even though it sometimes is a little deceitful to some of the public.

As concerns ARA funds, he knows what happened down in West Haven where they misappropriated a little over \$600,000 for various reasons. He stated his hope the town is going to start having some real good control or maybe a separate report and approve the vendors that are involved in spending some of this money to make sure that they're not attached in any way to the Council or other people in town because he would hate to see Enfield come up as another name for misuse of funds.

Patrick Flaherty, 78 Jackson Road

Stated the Council is supporting recreational marijuana where they must take that money, but they can't put it in the bank because the federal government says that's a big no-no. He noted the federal government is the same government that the Council is telling people to trust the science on. He stated his belief this is very hypocritical. He noted the federal government does not back recreational marijuana. He noted the Council is sitting here worrying about marijuana. He suggested talking about real issues like masks and curriculums.

### **COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS**

Councilor Finger questioned if they check for licenses when people speak before the Council to be sure they are residents of the Town of Enfield.

He stated he will support what the people want.

Councilor Finger stated his hope Chris Bromson stays. He noted he loves him, and he did a lot with him. He feels it's a shame the way things went down, and he's not happy about it. He wants him to stay.

Councilor Santanella stated he did not intend to offend anybody here, and if Mr. Bromson is listening, he is deeply sorry if he came across in a way that was in anyway offensive to him. He noted he has known Mr. Bromson for a long time, and he knows all that he has done for this town, and he's very sorry if his nerves got the best of him in his first Council meeting that upset him that much. He addressed himself to the Council and stated he knows how much they all respect Mr. Bromson, and if this is about him, he is sorry to everyone. He noted that was not his intent. He stated his hope Mr. Bromson will reconsider, and he offered his deepest apologies.

Councilor Unghire stated it's unfortunate how this first meeting played out, and she hopes Mr. Bromson will rethink this because everyone gets upset over different things. She stated her hope he will rethink his statement, and they want him back.

Chairman Cressotti stated they are not happy about what transpired this evening. He noted they do respect Mr. Bromson, and they want him to reconsider. He wished everyone a safe, healthy and Happy Thanksgiving.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION #6002** by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Despard to adjourn.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #6002** adopted 10-0-0, and the meeting stood adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila M. Bailey  
Town Clerk  
Clerk of the Council

Jeannette Lamontagne  
Secretary to the Council

**ENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL**

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**Resolution Authorizing the Town Manager to Enter into a  
Purchase & Sale Agreement for the Acquisition of a Portion of 90 Alden Avenue**

**WHEREAS,** Bellsite Development, LLC owns the former St. Adalbert School property located at 90 Alden Avenue; and

**WHEREAS,** the Enfield Town Council wishes to purchase a 38,000± square foot parcel of land located in the southeastern portion of the above-referenced property, including the former St. Adalbert School gymnasium; and

**WHEREAS,** the owner's representative has offered to make various renovations and improvements to the gymnasium; and

**WHEREAS,** the cost for the purchase of the land has been discussed and negotiated by appropriate Town officials, subject to the Town Council's approval; and

**WHEREAS,** the cost and scope of the renovations and improvements to the gymnasium have not been finalized, but rather remain the subject of ongoing discussions and negotiations between the owner's representatives and Town officials; and

**WHEREAS,** the Planning & Zoning Commission, per Conn. Gen. Stat. §8-24, issued a favorable report on October 14, 2021.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Enfield Town Council does hereby authorize the Town Manager, or his designee, to negotiate the terms of the purchase and sale agreement, including, but not limited to, the purchase price of the property and the scope and costs of renovations and improvements to the former St. Adalbert School gymnasium.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** the Town Manager, or his designee, is authorized to enter into a purchase and sale agreement and any other documents necessary for the purchase of the 38,000± square foot parcel of land located in the southeastern portion of the above-referenced property, including the former St. Adalbert School gymnasium, subject to the review and approval of the Town Attorney.

Prepared By: Town Attorney's Office  
Date Prepared: November 10, 2021

**ENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL**

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**Resolution Authorizing the Town Manager to Sign and Submit a Memorandum of Agreement Regarding the Use of Federal Fiscal Year 2021 State Homeland Security Grant Funding and Custodial Ownership of Regional Assets in DEMHS Region 3**

**WHEREAS**, the above-referenced Memorandum of Agreement is by and between the Town of Enfield, the Capital Region Council of Governments (CRCOG), the Region 3 Regional Emergency Planning Team (Region 3 REPT), and the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP), including the Division of Emergency Management & Homeland Security; and

**WHEREAS**, the funding is used for six regional set aside projects.

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Manager, Christopher W. Bromson, is authorized to sign and submit the above-referenced Memorandum of Agreement in the name and on behalf of the Town of Enfield, subject to the review and approval of the Town Attorney.

Submitted: November 15, 2021  
Submitted by: Steven M. Hall  
Director, Emergency Management

**ENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL**

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**Resolution Authorizing the Town Manager to Sign and  
Submit a Grant Application to the State of Connecticut  
Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security**

**WHEREAS**, this grant provides reimbursement for the Emergency Management Director, partial reimbursement for staff support, and operational expenditures such as office supplies.

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Manager, Christopher W. Bromson, is authorized to sign and submit the grant application in the name and on behalf of the Town of Enfield with the State of Connecticut Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security and to affix the Corporate Seal.

Submitted: November 15, 2021  
Submitted by: Steven M. Hall  
Director, Emergency Management

Appended to the minutes of the  
November 15, 2021 Regular Town  
Council meeting. See Page 13

***ENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL***  
**REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OF FUNDS**

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**RESOLVED**, that in accordance with Chapter VI, Section 8(f) of the Town Charter, the following transfer is hereby made.

**TO:       Town Clerk**

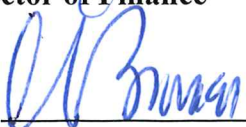
|                    |                 |         |
|--------------------|-----------------|---------|
| Technical Services | 10160100-534000 | \$7,500 |
|--------------------|-----------------|---------|

**FROM:   General Fund Revenue**

|                     |                 |         |
|---------------------|-----------------|---------|
| Misc. State Revenue | 10040000-413699 | \$7,500 |
|---------------------|-----------------|---------|

**CERTIFICATION:** I hereby certify that the above-stated funds are available as o

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**John Wilcox, Director of Finance**

**APPROVED BY:**  \_\_\_\_\_ **Town Manager**

**Date:** 11/10/21

**ENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL  
REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OF FUNDS**

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**RESOLVED**, that in accordance with Chapter VI, Section 8(f) of the Town Charter,  
the following transfer is hereby made.

**TO: Police Services**

|          |                 |          |
|----------|-----------------|----------|
| Overtime | 10200500-514000 | \$11,500 |
|----------|-----------------|----------|

**FROM: General Fund Revenue**

|                    |                 |          |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------|
| Grants-Other-State | 10040000-460001 | \$11,500 |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------|

**CERTIFICATION:** I hereby certify that the above-stated funds are available as of  
October 14, 2021.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John Wilcox, Director of Finance

10/15/21  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date:

**APPROVED BY:**   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Christopher Bromson, Town Manager

11/10/21  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date:

Appended to the minutes of the  
November 15, 2021 Regular Town  
Council meeting. See Page 13

**ENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL**

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**Resolution Accepting Donation from Ocean State Job Lot**

**WHEREAS**, Ocean State Job Lot wishes to donate \$1,106.34 in PPE supplies for the health and safety of Enfield Police Department personnel, as well as an \$1,800 gift card to be used by the Animal Control Officer for appropriate animal health, safety, and welfare equipment, supplies, and appropriate expenses; and

**WHEREAS**, Connecticut General Statute §7-148(c)(3)(A) permits the Town to accept gifts of personal property for municipal purposes.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Council does accept these donations from Ocean State Job Lot.

Date Prepared: November 3, 2021  
Prepared by: Chief Alaric J. Fox, Enfield Police Department

***ENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL***  
**REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OF FUNDS**

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**RESOLVED**, that in accordance with Chapter VI, Section 8(f) of the Town Charter, the following transfer is hereby made.

**GENERAL FUND**

**FROM:**

10040000-499000                      \$439,000  
General Fund Revenue – Appropriated Fund Balance

**TO:**

10800092-593010                      \$439,000  
General Fund - Unallocated-Transfers to  
Capital

**CAPITAL AND NON-RECURRING FUND**

**FROM:**

31042022-480001                      \$439,000  
CIP Fund Revenue FY2021-2022-Gen Fund Transfers In

**TO:**

31008203-545000                      \$439,000  
Alden Ave Gym-Construction Srvcs

**CERTIFICATION:** I hereby certify that the above-stated funds are available as of November 10, 2021.



**John A. Wilcox, Director of Finance**

**APPROVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_



**Town Manager**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

