

**ENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, March 21, 2022**

A Regular Meeting of the Enfield Town Council was called to order by Chairman Cressotti on Monday, March 21, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

PRAYER- The prayer was given by Councilor Santanella.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE- The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL-CALL- Present were Councilors Cekala, Cressotti, Despard, Finger, Hopkins, Ludwick, Mangini, Pyznar and Santanella. Councilor Bosco and Unghire were absent. Also present were Town Manager, Ellen Zoppo-Sassu; Assistant Town Manager, Kasia Purciello; Town Attorney, James Tallberg; Director of Human Resources, Steve Bielenda; Director of Social Services, Cindy Guerreri; Town Clerk, Sheila Bailey

FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT- Chairman Cressotti made the fire evacuation announcement.

MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

MOTION #6155 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Despard to accept the minutes of the March 7, 2022, Special Meeting.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6155** adopted 8-0-1 with Councilor Cekala abstaining.

MOTION #6156 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Despard to accept the minutes of the March 7, 2022, Regular Meeting.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6156** adopted 8-0-1 with Councilor Cekala abstaining.

SPECIAL GUESTS – None.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Pam Townsend, 54 Kimberly Dr.

Ms. Townsend is a location coordinator for Enfield Wreaths Across America. She thanked the community for their amazing support in the mission to honor the fallen, those that serve and their families and teach the next generation the value of freedom. This year is her fifth year as location coordinator for Enfield. Each year she reaches out to businesses and the town for support, and she has never been turned away. Thanks to Lori Gates we were able to have the convoy visit again. This past year was the sixth year and in 2021 Enfield was the only stop in CT before heading to Arlington Cemetery and Shanksville, PA. The convoy comes back to Enfield because of the positive reactions

from the schools and townspeople. Thank you to St. Patrick's Church for allowing us to host the ceremony at the cemetery. There were volunteers and participants from each veteran organization, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Enfield High, Enfield Hockey Association, Enfield Little League, Home Depot and Enfield's semi-pro football team, the CT River Valley Northman. The goal is to honor all 5000 veterans that are laid to rest in Enfield. You can support and buy a wreath anytime on Facebook or email enfieldwaa@yahoo.com or call (860)463-2795. If you sponsor a wreath through a group, the group will receive \$5 back. The ceremony this year will be December 17th.

Kelly Hemmeler, 10 Hartford Ave.

Ms. Hemmeler stated that there is proposed text for regulations for zoning for recreational marijuana. In Thompsonville they are asking for a 100-foot buffer from public buildings, public parks, recreation areas and places of worship. They want a 1500-foot buffer for schools. For the rest of the town, they are asking for 1000 feet from parks, public buildings, churches and recreation areas. It would be 1500 from schools and 1000 from existing dispensaries, same as T-Ville.

She used to live in District 1, and when she moved to Thompsonville, she found she was treated differently. Thompsonville is slowly getting better, but this would set us back. Not everyone has driveways in Thompsonville. People use street parking and municipal lots. We are going to bring in a business with lines of people buying drugs in front of churches and kids playing basketball and they are going to take our parking. Spot zoning is wrong and it is unfair to treat one section of town differently than the rest of town. We are waiting for the spark to set off economic development in this historic and walkable community. This is not it.

Mark Dion, Property owner in Thompsonville

Mr. Dion spoke about more tipper barrels for commercial properties. He stated that he has about 50 apartments and 2 businesses. He is speaking tonight because of the tipper barrel situation. Currently, 4-family houses are getting a tipper barrel for each unit. He also has Mark's Restaurant and a 7-family building, and he has one tipper. That does not make a lot of sense. When he did this project in 2009, Zoning determined there was not enough room for a dumpster. If he had a dumpster this would not be a problem. He has spoken with other landlords in the same scenario. He asked that for existing structures, if the structure is predominantly residential even though it is commercial, give them 4 tipper barrels and make them pay for the additional tippers for each unit. If you can't get rid of garbage, you can't live there. It's a health problem.

Matt Ochrymowicz, 4 Hummingbird Ln.

Mr. Ochrymowicz stated that the town only has Cox and Frontier for high-speed internet. He feels we need to explore fiber optic to better suit the needs of Enfield. These providers will be able to provide faster service at a fraction of the cost. Most of our lives have shifted online due to the pandemic. Many more people are now working from home. People are also learning from home, shopping from home, receiving healthcare virtually, engaging socially, gaming, streaming, consuming and producing more and more digital content. This is a trend that has no signs of reversing itself. Recent federal legislation appropriates funds for the expansion of access and infrastructure related to broadband internet. Governor Lamont's 2023 budget includes \$100 million revision towards broadband and technology. Enfield's current providers do not offer the bandwidth capacity, performance or price of a modern network. Adding a fiber provider will force current providers to become more competitive. 20th century internet service will no longer cut it in the 21st century.

Matt Schmitt, 1304 Bigelow Commons

Mr. Schmitt commented that 2 weeks ago it was revealed that the reason Enfield was still operating under emergency rule, besides waiting for other communities to end theirs first, was that there may be money tied to remaining in a state of emergency. The reasoning for the emergency being based on money erodes trust in government. Government is not a physical institution. People do not trust their institutions and the handling of the pandemic is a glaring example. When “should do” turns to “must do” and when “recommendations” turn into “mandates”, that is when government fails. It opens that government up to doubt. Enfield’s Council is responsible to not put any more strain on its residents. It is time for this council to run our government the way it was meant to be run. End the emergency.

Chairman Cressotti declared public communications closed.

COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor Mangini asked motorists to be aware of buses and children on foot and riding scooters and bikes. She said that she has seen many motorists speeding. She also congratulated the Girl Scouts of America for their 110-year anniversary. She and Mayor Cressotti attended a beautiful ceremony last weekend.

Councilor Hopkins wished everyone a belated Happy St. Patrick’s Day and thanked everyone who wore green in honor of Jaylene, the Enfield High student whose life was tragically lost.

Councilor Finger urged people to watch out for motorcycles. We have a lot of veterans around here who ride motorcycles.

Councilor Finger let everyone know that DPW lost a great man this week. Timothy Riach passed away this past weekend from cancer. He will be missed.

Councilor Despard thanked Pam for what she does with Wreaths Across America. The Chamber of Commerce is having a Home Show this weekend 3/26 and 3/27 at the Enfield Mall. There will be vendors, raffles, prizes and entertainment.

Councilor Cekala wished all the kids good luck for Spring try-outs for middle school and high school sports. She also officially welcomed Ellen as Town Manager, as she was not at the last meeting.

Chairman Cressotti thanked everyone who spoke tonight. He has spoken with Mr. Dion about the situation that he is experiencing and said that they will look at that. He thanked Pam and Lori Gates for all the hard work they do for Wreaths Across America. It was a great honor welcoming all the truckers this year.

Chairman Cressotti attended the Girl Scouts of CT mall madness. Gail Myers organizes the event and does a fantastic job.

Chairman Cressotti mentioned that the pandemic has affected our health, safety, finances and our emotional well-being. The Town of Enfield and Social Services is going to be convening a workshop with community partners to begin to understand the needs of the community. He said that he and Councilor Cekala will be part of this group. He thanked Cindy for putting this together with Social Services.

Chairman Cressotti along with the Town Manager met with Ron Salas who is doing great work on North Main St. and Main St. and for the improvement of Thompsonville. Thank you to him and everyone else in town putting forth effort and making things happen here in town.

Chairman Cressotti wanted to recognize the Enfield Police Department for disbanding a drug factory here in town last week.

Chairman Cressotti stated that we are trying to create a stand-alone Water Pollution Control Board. Our water pollution division is responsible for the operation, maintenance, and repair of 16 pumping stations and over 1 million gallon per day wastewater treatment plant. We have over 250 miles of sewer. It is time that we have a group of citizens along with some council members put their expertise in this and take the helm on a regular basis. We can have our Town Manager and Town Attorney start looking at the steps to move forward with this. Chairman Cressotti would like everyone's input in the coming days.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

- American Rescue Plan Act Presentation

Assistant Town Manager, Kasia Purciello gave a brief overview of the eligible use of funding. She spoke about the amount of funds the town has received and would be receiving and the deadlines to use the funds. She also spoke about some of the completed projects.

Town Manager, Ellen Zoppo-Sassu spoke about the remaining funds left to spend. She spoke about projects that have been allocated but not yet spent. She then spoke of proposed projects with no action yet. Other proposals and ideas for consideration were listed. As we go through the budget process, some items were pulled for consideration that could help with the general fund.

A copy of the slideshow is appended to the minutes.

Councilor Cekala commented on what a great presentation it was. She thinks something of this magnitude deserves community/resident input. The funds are meant to enhance our community and our town. She said it would be great to have a community outreach survey. Other people may have other great ideas.

Councilor Cekala likes that Mark Twain bathrooms are on the list. She asked if those can be placed in a spot that is easily accessible for the soccer fields and pickleball. Parents and families love bathrooms when they are out with their kids. She also mentioned adding bathrooms to the Eli Whitney area by the library. There are softball fields and a playground there. The kids tend to run through the library and use one of their two or three little bathrooms. It would alleviate the traffic in

the library. She would like to see some of this money go to an adult daycare program as well as the need for mental health services for our youth and adults due to the pandemic.

Councilor Cekala would love to see the fields done right at Enfield High. She would love for the fields to be as beautiful as the building.

Chairman Cressotti mentioned that years ago the Rotary put a quarter-mile walking track around the library. He would like to upgrade that track along with the Eli Whitney/playscape restroom idea.

He suggests that the Council and BOE meet to make sure every dollar is being stretched correctly. He is going to suggest premium pay for teachers, paras and cafeteria workers. It is the right thing to do.

Chairman Cressotti commented on commercial facelifts. He thinks businesses should be able to apply for commercial facelifts on their buildings in the strip malls in Thompsonville and Hazardville.

Chairman Cressotti said this is a great opportunity to improve our fields at the middle and high schools. It is a great way to get quality fields that we can take pride in

Councilor Despard said that when we passed the premium pay two weeks ago, he thought that teachers would be getting compensated on the school side. This needs to get done. Teachers are still dealing with the long-term effects of the pandemic.

Councilor Despard thought that the Town Farm Road bike path design costs would be part of the presentation. That part of town needs some recreation.

Kasia Purciello said that the design for the bike path is \$80,000 and construction is \$847,000 which would have to be over two years because of the referendum limit.

Ellen Zoppo-Sassu stated that they are working with finance on that project because it is another referendum project. It is in movement.

Councilor Mangini stated that one of the proposed ideas was respite care for caregivers. There were some councilors that did not support closing our adult daycare. Including adults that have social needs and requirements is important too.

It was also brought to her attention by the Veterans Post 80 on Enfield Street that that they have a water issue out back and very poor lighting and inadequate parking. Our veterans give a lot to our town.

Councilor Ludwick stated that in his opinion the next big allocation should be to small businesses. The other group that did a good job during the pandemic was the taxpayer. Tax collection during the pandemic was almost 99%. Inflation is affecting businesses and their customers. We should include respite care because a lot of people had to take care of their parents and a lot of parents had to work from home and help teach their kids. All the ideas are great, but it is time to take care of the taxpayers. He is all for helping the teachers, but the BOE has a huge chunk of money to do that.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu stated that the BOE has received several pieces, but premium pay is not an eligible use, which is why it is included on the town side.

Councilor Ludwick commented that our pump stations need to be done. We are an old town, and the sewer system was overrun by the prisons. We had to build a 40-million-dollar water pollution control plant. Those pump stations are old, and we can't handle another heavy rain season. It is not the most glamorous thing to do but it is important moving forward as a community.

Councilor Hopkins stated that he is happy to see a good amount of the ARPA money going to sewer infrastructure. The idea of a Water Pollution Control Board is a good idea so that we can anticipate these huge costs.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu said there was a meeting with Eversource about the parcels down where the train platform is going to go as well as the Levitz property. There are a lot of entanglements there that we are trying to somehow keep moving. It is extremely valuable but contaminated property that we are interested in.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu said that our referendum limit will be going up next year to \$827,000. She stated that at the next meeting there will be a list of our top 25 taxpayers in town.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu said that another topic is the new health and wellness coalition being proposed. Representative Arnone has been a pivotal person in that over the past several years. The focus will remain with children but will add in the town side and extend to families and seniors.

TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Attorney James Tallberg reported that there were two land use appeals filed recently. He doesn't usually bring this up but wanted to correct some misinformation that is out there. Both appeals arose from the approvals concerning the land use application at 35 Bacon Rd. The first one filed was of the Inlands Wetlands approval and the second was of the approval of P&Z Commission. These are both lawsuits, one against the Inlands Wetlands Agency and one against PZC. There were some posts on social media that the applicant's counsel was representing the town in these actions. That is not the case. The applicant in both actions has interest because they have been issued a wetlands permit and a zoning permit. The IWWA and PZC will be represented by the office of the Town Attorney. The applicant will have their own counsel.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Councilor Hopkins stated that he and Councilor Finger met last week regarding usage of town fields. He encourages teams out there looking for exemptions to the rental fees to submit their materials in quickly. There are four teams that have been approved. If you have difficulty or have questions, he said to reach out to the Town Manager's Office or him.

Councilor Hopkins stated that concerning the solid waste ordinance, they are trying to balance fairness, costs to the town and practicability when it comes to tying up the loose ends with the ordinance. Enfield still has a municipal trash service, and we need to work hard to keep it that way.

Chairman Cressotti stated that he, Councilor Despard, the Social Services Director and the Town Manager met for the Social Services Subcommittee. They awarded grants for the upcoming budget year. Each of the non-profits should be commended on the amazing job they did submitting the forms and submitting them on time.

OLD BUSINESS

MOTION #6157 by Councilor Santanella, seconded by Councilor Finger to remove item 12A from the table.

Upon a **SHOW OF HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #6157** adopted 9-0-0.

RESOLUTION #6158 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Cekala.

WHEREAS, the Town of Enfield and the five Fire Districts executed the above referenced Memorandum of Understanding (MOU); and

WHEREAS, the term of the MOU commenced on July 1, 2018 and expired on June 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, although the MOU expired on June 30, 2020, the Town of Enfield has continued to honor its terms and has continued to collect and distribute taxes for each of the five Fire Districts; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council wishes to amend the MOU and extend its term through June 30, 2023.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Enfield Town Council hereby authorizes the Town Manager, or her designee, to execute the attached amendment to the MOU, extending its term through June 30, 2023.

Councilor Santanella stated that he thinks that it is important to note as we take this off the table and agree to move forward, that this is a short-term solution to a long-term issue that we need to take up with the districts. We are looking to them to take over this responsibility. Right now, we have this memorandum signed in conjunction with all five fire districts and the Town Manager. It might make more sense to do separate agreements with each district going forward.

James Tallberg echoed Councilor Santanella's observations. He has had conversations with the fire districts' counsel about this being a show of good faith that the town has honored the MOU in the breach. Whether it is for one district or all five, we need to have it in writing.

Councilor Cekala asked for clarification on whether we could do five separate resolutions on this tonight.

James Tallberg stated that this resolution authorizes the Town Manager to execute this amendment. We will proceed with this as is with the five and revisit it going forward.

Councilor Ludwick asked if this is the last extension of the agreement, how much leeway do the fire districts need? Will we have to pass another memorandum next year? Should there be an amendment of some sort added?

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu responded that the goal is that we are looking for further consolidation discussions.

Councilor Santanella hopes that tonight's conversations might give enough heads-up notice that 18 months from now there is not going to be this need. We will reiterate that in our meetings with the commissioners and fire chiefs.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the chair declared **RESOLUTION #6158** adopted 9-0-0.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Consent Agenda-Action. None
- B. Appointments Town Council Appointed. None
- C. Appointments Town Manager Appointed/Council Approved. None
- D. P&Z Commission Appointed/Council Approved. None

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

NOMINATION #6159 by Councilor Hopkins to reappoint Jessica Martin (U) to the Blight Review Committee for a term that expires 3/31/2024.

MOTION #6160 by Councilor Finger, seconded by Councilor Cekala to close nominations.

UPON a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6160** adopted 9-0-0.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the chair declared Jessica Martin appointed to the Blight Review Committee 9-0-0.

NOMINATION #6161 by Councilor Mangini to reappoint Nelson Rodriguez (D) to the Prison Town Liaison Committee for a term that expires 02/29/24.

MOTION #6162 by Councilor Finger seconded by Councilor Mangini to close nominations.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6162** adopted 9-0-0.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the chair declared Nelson Rodriguez appointed to the Prison Liaison Committee 9-0-0.

NOMINATION #6163 by Councilor Despard to reappoint Michael Emmons (U) to the Patriot Award Committee for a term that expires 7/31/23.

MOTION #6164 by Councilor Cekala seconded by Councilor Mangini to close nominations.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6164** adopted 9-0-0.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the chair declared Michael Emmons appointed to the Patriot Award Committee 9-0-0.

NOMINATION #6165 by Councilor Mangini to reappoint Scott Kaupin (R) to the Patriot Award Committee for a term that expires 7/31/23.

MOTION #6166 by Councilor Mangini seconded by Councilor Pyznar to close nominations.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6166** adopted 9-0-0.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the chair declared Scott Kaupin appointed to the Patriot Award Committee 9-0-0.

RESOLUTION #6167 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Cekala.

WHEREAS, on April 19, 2021 the Town of Enfield budget adopted a Total School Appropriation of \$72,109,522; and

WHEREAS, the adopted budget as amended included estimates of educational funding from the State of Connecticut for:

- Education Cost Sharing of \$29,185,914 (account 10040000-413300); and

WHEREAS, the adopted budget of the State of Connecticut increased funding for Education Cost Sharing by \$637,731; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Enfield will receive a net increase of \$637,731 in educational funding from the State of Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Enfield desires to increase the appropriation to the Town of Enfield Board of Education by the amount of \$637,731, which is the net increase in educational funding from the State of Connecticut.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council of the Town of Enfield hereby approves the \$637,731 increase in the Total School Appropriation to \$72,747,253.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town of Enfield adopted budget for Educational Cost Sharing (account 10040000-413300) will be increased by \$637,731.

Councilor Santanella asked for clarification on this.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu stated that at the time of the ECS funding, there are variations in the final amount and the Town Council at some point decided not to forward the entire amount until it was received. This is the last piece that was just received, so it is heading to the BOE. We are obligated by law to give them this money. The only concern is that it is late in the fiscal year. Her recommendation is that we suspend this practice and just give them their ECS formula funding when it comes through.

Councilor Santanella asked where the money will be spent by the end of the fiscal year?

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu stated she won't speak for the superintendent, but now that state law allows them to hold over 2% of the budget for surplus, she assumes that will happen.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the chair declared **RESOLUTION #6167** adopted 9-0-0.

RESOLUTION #6168 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Cekala.

RESOLVED, that in accordance with Chapter VII Section II of the Town Charter the Enfield Town Council does hereby adopt the revised job description for Social Worker.

Steve Bielenda, Director of Human Resources stated that Cindy Guerreri came to him a few weeks ago because she had proposals for the job description for social worker position based on the global reorganization in the department.

Cindy Guerreri, Director of Social Services said that this is the last piece of the restructuring and reorganization. The Department of Social Services is about triage assessment and connecting people to services, not clinical treatment.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the chair declared **RESOLUTION #6168** adopted 9-0-0.

RESOLUTION #6169 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Cekala.

RESOLVED, that in accordance with Chapter VII Section II of the Town Charter the Enfield Town Council does hereby adopt the wage adjustment of the following position.

Position	Salary Proposed
Assistant Town Manager (effective March 31, 2022)	\$153,454

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu stated that effective 3/31/22 we are losing Kasia Purciello, our Assistant Town Manager to Manchester. When positions become vacant it is a good opportunity to look at best practices and efficiencies. She has been Town Manager for 90 days in the middle of budget and

ARPA. Kasia was finishing her maternity leave while she was here. If we did a search for a new Assistant Town Manager, it could be 60 to 90 days before interviews. Two people in the office really increases output. There are cost savings with the model. The position will be HR/personnel duties associated with the Town Manager's office. She believes that given the strong relationship that the town has with its labor unions, there is capacity for Mr. Bielenda to take on these additional duties.

Councilor Ludwick asked for clarification on the job description. Will the description show that he is doing two jobs?

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu said that it is the purview of the Town Council to keep it separate. This will be him maintaining his salary and receiving a stipend from the Town Manager's office to bring it to that level.

Councilor Hopkins stated that he is a bit leery of consolidating two very important positions. He does like the three-month probationary period. It is important to have a full crew as we go into budget.

Councilor Finger agreed with Councilor Ludwick in the fact that it says salary as opposed to the stipend that was just mentioned. Do we need to do an amendment?

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu stated that she used the word stipend, so it was clear that there were two sources.

Councilor Finger asked if it is stipend or salary?

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu replied that it is salary.

Councilor Mangini thanked Mr. Bielenda for stepping up. He has been pinch-hitting without looking or asking for anything and has done a superb job. The town will benefit immensely from this.

Councilor Pyznar said she thinks it's a great fit, but after three months what if it's not. It is two important jobs going into one. It may work, but if it doesn't and he goes back to HR what will his salary be moving forward?

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu said that we are all at will employees so it would be what the council chooses to do at that time. If it did not work out, everything would revert, but you can enforce that with a resolution here at Town Council.

Councilor Ludwick stated that usually when we write a resolution, it shows where money is coming from and going to. He is not questioning the move, he is questioning the way the resolution is written.

Mr. Bielenda stated that there is no need to move any money because the Town Manager's office has an adequate amount of money in that department already based on the vacancy throughout the year. Under the Town Charter the Council must approve the salary of each town employee. All we need to do is adopt the wage adjustment.

Councilor Santanella added that it is hard to see Kasia go as she is an extremely talented member of our staff. He wished her well in her new endeavor.

Chairman Cressotti thanked Kasia for her professionalism during her time here in Enfield. Good luck in your new venture. You will do well, and you will be missed here.

Ms. Purciello thanked everyone for her time here and said she will miss the employees here.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the chair declared **RESOLUTION #6169** adopted 9-0-0.

RESOLUTION #6170 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Mangini.

WHEREAS, the Town of Enfield has received a request from the owners of 74 town farm road, Joseph C. and Jacquelyn C. Bosco to discontinue, pursuant to Connecticut general statute §13a-49, a portion of Old Neelans Road; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Bosco own the property on both sides of the portion of Old Neelands Road to be discontinued; and

WHEREAS, the area of Old Neelans Road to be discontinued is shown on the attached map; and

WHEREAS, the Council referred this proposed discontinuance to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a report in conformance with the requirements of Connecticut General Statute §8-24; and

WHEREAS, the Planning and Zoning Commission, at its meeting on March 10, 2022, voted unanimously to send a positive referral to the Town Council.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Enfield Town Council hereby approves the discontinuance of the portion of Old Neelans Road, as shown on the attached map.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the chair declared **RESOLUTION #6170** adopted 9-0-0.

RESOLUTION #6171 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Cekala.

WHEREAS, on April 3, 2017 the Town Council adopted Resolution #4095 regarding the policy and procedure for communicating to the Fire Districts when a tax assessment agreement is under consideration; and

WHEREAS, the above-noted resolution further authorized the Town Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Fire Districts; and

WHEREAS, on April 20, 2017 the Enfield Town Manager and the Chiefs of the five Fire Districts executed a Memorandum of Understanding by and between the Town of Enfield and the Fire Districts of Enfield regarding Tax Assessment Agreements (MOU); and

WHEREAS, the Town Council wishes to repeal Town Council Resolution #4095 and further wishes to withdraw from the MOU.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Enfield Town Council hereby repeals Town Council Resolution #4095, effective immediately; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Enfield hereby withdraws from the MOU, effective immediately; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town Manager, or her designee, is authorized to send to each of the Fire Districts a written notice of the Town's withdrawal from the MOU.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the chair declared **RESOLUTION #6171** adopted 9-0-0.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS – None.

COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor Finger wanted to know if the lawsuits against Inlands Wetlands and P&Z happen after the approvals of both parties.

Mr. Tallberg responded by saying yes, that is how it happens. The approval happens and then within 15 days the persons who are not happy with the approval can go to court and try to get it reversed.

Councilor Finger inquired whether the work can be started while the lawsuit is going on.

Mr. Tallberg responded with yes, work can be started once they have the permit if they feel they will prevail in the appeal.

Councilor Cekala wished Kasia good luck, and we will miss you. She will do great in her new role.

Councilor Santanella had a note to follow up on the traffic light at Enfield High.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu stated that at this time it is not recommended that a traffic light go in based on a traffic study review that was given to members of the council. At this point we will not be pursuing that through the state traffic commission.

Councilor Hopkins would like to make a request for a resolution changing the way that cost sharing grant money is dispersed.

Councilor Ludwick understands that Chief Riggott does not feel she can do a presentation on human trafficking right now but thinks that it is something we should be a leader on.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu stated that the chief has been exploring professional opportunities because she does not want to be the one to speak on it. She is in conjunction with the police department trying to find someone to come and speak. It will be an appropriate overview for the general public.

MOTION #6172 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Hopkins to adjourn.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6172** adopted and the meeting stood adjourned at 9:02pm.

Sheila M. Bailey
Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council

Respectfully Submitted,

Tina Demers
Secretary to the Council

Appended to the minutes of the March 21, 2022

Town Council Meeting. See Page 2

Matthew Ochrymowicz

4 Hummingbird La

mattochrymowicz@gmail.com

413-626-4665

Dear Mayor Cressotti, Town Council, Ellen Zoppo, Carol Hall, John Kissel and Joe Courtney:

I wanted to address a topic that I feel is due for some conversation at the town level. In my experience and knowledge, the town has two major suppliers of high-speed internet or broadband. Cox and Frontier.

I believe the time has come to explore adding fiber optic internet providers to better suit the needs of Enfield now and in the future. These providers will deliver faster, more reliable speeds at a fraction of the cost, while saving town residents and businesses millions of dollars per year based on current census data.

As we have all seen over the last two years, much of our lives have shifted online due to pressures from the pandemic. Many more people are working from home, learning from home, receiving health care virtually, shopping, engaging socially, gaming, streaming, consuming and producing more and more digital content. This has been a predictable trend over the last two decades that shows no signs of reversing itself. The internet is the single greatest and most vulnerable resource of our generation, and we need to invest in its performance and security as a matter of local and national interest. This sentiment is clearly highlighted by recent federal legislation which appropriate funds for the expansion of access and infrastructure related to broadband internet, such as the American Recovery Act, Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill, and Build Back Better. Governor Lamont's 2023 budget also includes a \$100 million dollar revision towards broadband and technology as well.

Enfield Town residents and businesses are being held back by current network providers who do not offer the bandwidth capacity, performance or price of a modern network built on today's technology. Adding a Fiber provider will drive down monthly costs for residents, install a high performance, future proof network into our town, and force current providers to become more competitive in the marketplace.

Local area communities such as East Hartford and West Hartford have collaborated recently with providers such as Frontier Communications, GoNetSpeed and Sifi to deploy fiber-to-home networks to customers throughout their cities. Given Enfield's current relationship with Frontier, they may be the most logical business partner. Alternatively, Westfield Massachusetts manages their own network, run by the municipality, as a service that they have branded Whip City Fiber. I would highly suggest the town investigate proposed federal dollars and capitalize on the spotlight being cast upon broadband, and begin the process of collaborating with an organization that can bring Enfield up to market speed and price and ensure our competitiveness in the future. Regardless of federal monies, Enfield is an attractive community to ISPs due to its high broadband adoption rate and population density.

As a point of comparison, I have compiled charts and reading material that contain plan data to help illustrate the gap in service and price that Enfield is currently forced to bridge daily. In all cases, when compared to local area fiber providers, Enfield residents are paying at minimum, nearly double the going market price for downstream and up to 78x for upstream bandwidth. I would also encourage you to perform your own research to validate these figures.

Access to world class high speed internet service is key to staying relevant in education, healthcare, entertainment and commerce. Without action, Enfield will continue to pay premium prices for antiquated technology with constrained speeds, which prevent the town from realizing its true potential online. I strongly encourage everyone in town to advocate to Frontier, GoNetSpeed and the town council to reiterate that 20th century internet service will no longer cut it in the 21st.

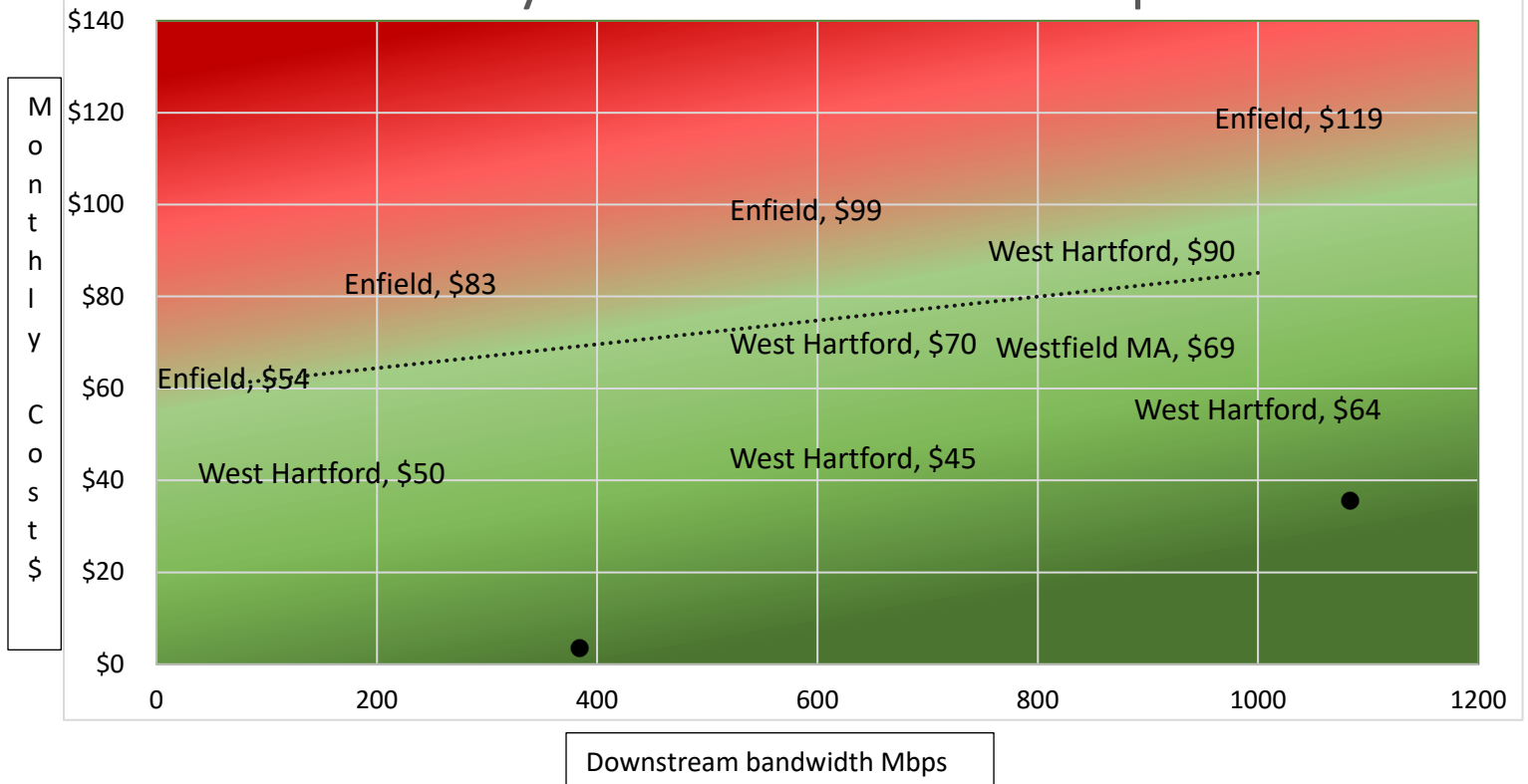
Best Regards,

Matthew Ochrymowicz

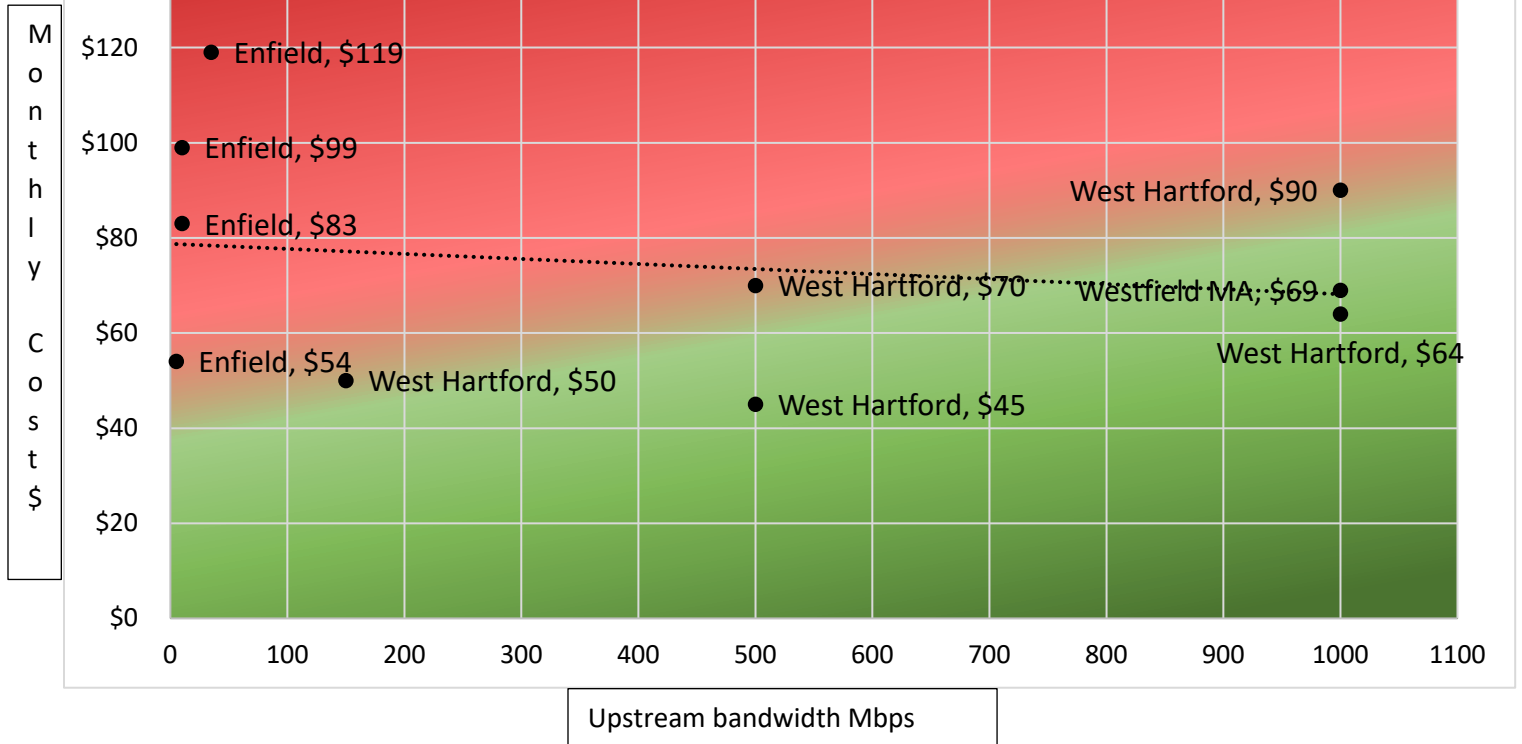
Additional References

Supplier	Down (Mbps)	Up (Mbps)	Ping (ms)	Cost (\$) Month	Terms / Notes	Location	Network
Cox	940	35	25	\$99*/\$119	*12 month contract discount	Enfield	coax
Cox	500	10	25	\$79*/\$99	*12 month contract discount	Enfield	coax
Cox	150	10	25	\$59*/\$83	*12 month contract discount	Enfield	coax
GoNetSpeed	150	150	8	\$50	"No Contracts Ever" / No data Caps	West Hartford	fiber
GoNetSpeed	500	500	8	\$70	"No Contracts Ever" / No data Caps	West Hartford	fiber
GoNetSpeed	1000	1000	8	\$90	"No Contracts Ever" / No data Caps	West Hartford	fiber
Frontier	500	500	8	\$39*/\$45	*12 month contract discount / No Data Caps	West Hartford	fiber
Frontier	1000	1000	8	\$59*/\$64	*12 month contract discount / No Data Caps	West Hartford	fiber
Frontier	~70	~5	25	\$49*/\$54	*12 month discount ~Speed varies by node proximity	Enfield	Fiber/DSL
WhipCity Fiber	1000	1000	8	\$69	No Contracts Public Municipality operated	Westfield MA	fiber
					Data compiled 12/23/2021		

Monthly Downstream Cost vs Speed



Monthly Upstream Cost vs Speed



Frontier Expansion in CT – Definitely read this.

<https://www.ctinsider.com/business/article/Frontier-s-fiber-optic-internet-service-may-be-16315438.php>

Frontier - Nominate your Street

<https://frontier.com/fiberct>

Frontier Blog of differences of Fiber networks

<https://blog.frontier.com/2021/10/whats-fiber-to-the-home-to-the-curb-to-the-node/>

East Hartford recently signed big deal

<https://sifinetworks.com/residential/cities/east-hartford-ct/>

West Hartford previous deal

<https://www.gonetspeed.com/About/Blog/February-2020/GoNetspeed-West-Hartford-Expansion-Continues>

GoNetSpeed – Nominate your address

[Service Unavailable - GoNetSpeed Portal](#)

Network Differences (educational) 5 mins

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qQYiwmamq38>

Whip City Fiber

<https://www.whipcityfiber.com/>

Build Back Better Broadband Article

<https://arstechnica.com/tech-policy/2021/11/congress-oks-42-billion-to-deploy-100mbps-broadband-in-unserved-areas/>

[87% households have internet](#) x 16744 households x \$20 a month overpayment x 12 months = \$3.5 million a year.



American Rescue Plan: Town of Enfield

March 21, 2022

American Rescue Plan Overview

- ▶ Eligible Use of Funding:
 - ▶ Support public health expenditures
 - ▶ Address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency
 - ▶ Replace lost public sector revenue
 - ▶ Provide premium pay for essential employees
 - ▶ Invest in water and sewer infrastructure
 - ▶ Investing in broadband infrastructure

ARPA Funds in Enfield

- ▶ Enfield will be receiving \$12,920,906.60
- ▶ On 6/24/2021, Town received 50% of that amount, \$6,460,453.30
- ▶ The remainder of funds should be received in Spring of 2022
- ▶ Deadlines:
 - Next Report due April 30, 2022
 - Town has until 12/31/2024 to encumber or obligate the funds
 - Town has until 12/31/2026 to spend the cash

American Rescue Plan Overview

- ▶ An Update: What's New with Final Rule:
 - ▶ Final Rule goes into effect on April 1st
 - ▶ Expenses allocated under Interim Rule are recognized
 - ▶ Eligible uses have not changed
 - ▶ Towns may now spend up to \$10 million of total allocation with more flexible reporting requirements

Enfield Express Purchase - Completed



The Town opened Enfield Express in June of 2020 to offer drive-thru services and keep residents and staff safe during the pandemic

The building is now home to Tax and Assessor offices and the Thompsonville Community Policing Unit. The parcel includes 1.7 acres adjacent to Higgins Park & Town Hall

Total: \$725,000

Covid Testing Site for Enfield Residents- Completed



- ▶ \$50,000* allocated to North Central Health District to establish a testing site at The Annex for Enfield residents & town employees
- ▶ 185 tests administered over 8 days

Total: \$26,000

Premium Pay For Town Employees - Completed



- ▶ \$812,800 for full and part time employees for work performed from March 1, 2020 to December 31, 2021
- ▶ 375 FT and 90 PT employees
- ▶ \$50,000 in FICA/Medicare

TOTAL: \$874,230

ARPA Funds Appropriated	Total Amount
Enfield Express Purchase	\$725,000
North Central Health District	\$26,000
Premium Pay for Employees	\$874,230
Thompsonville Bike Path	\$100,000
Higgins Park Bandshell and Fitness Stations & Parking	\$723,000
Total	\$2,448,230

American Rescue Plan Funds Received	\$12,920,906
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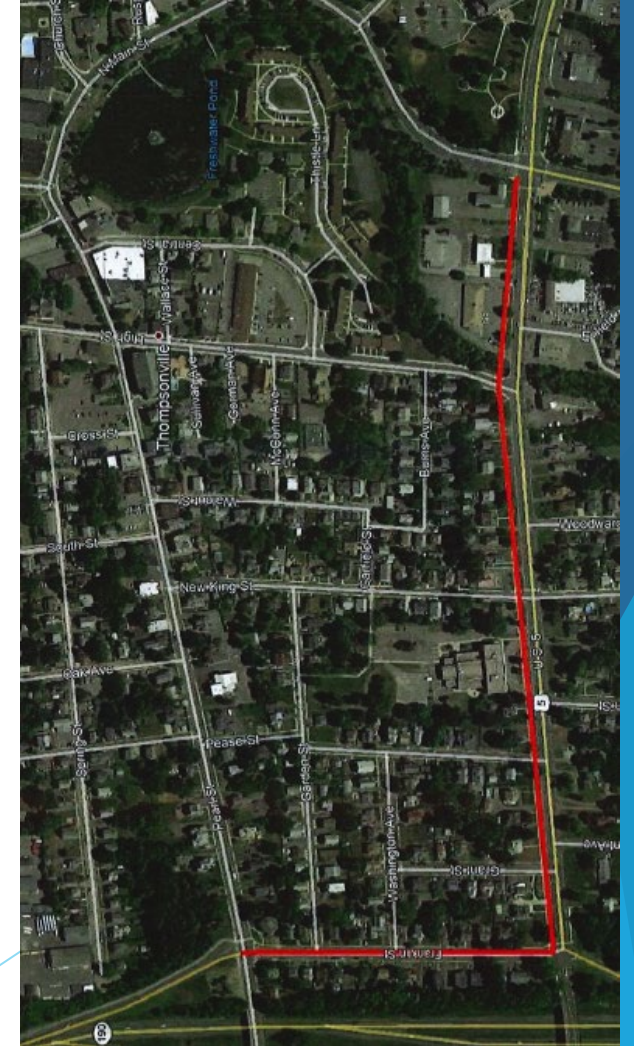
What Remains to be Allocated:

\$10,472,676

**Revisiting
Previous Ideas and
Talking About
New Ones....**

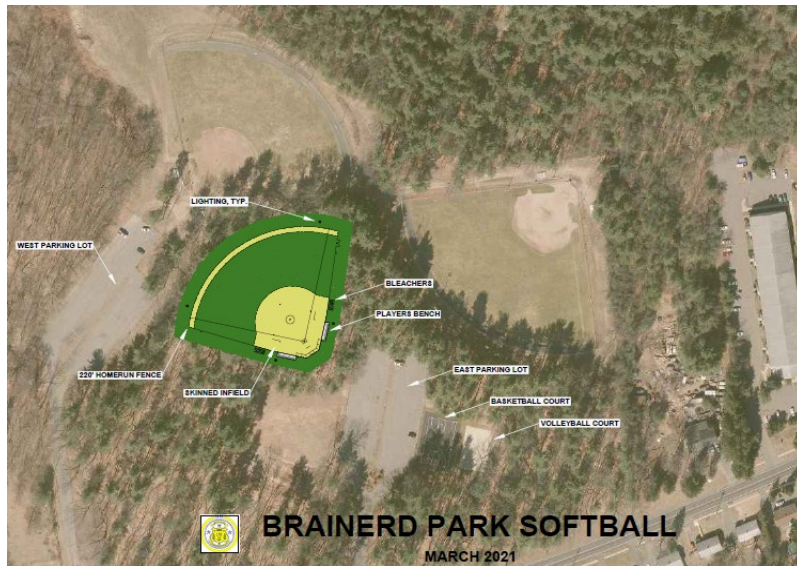
Recreation - Appropriated but NOT Spent

- ▶ Parking for Higgins Park - \$425,000
- ▶ Fitness Stations and Bandshell at Higgins Park - \$298,000
- ▶ LOTCIP Bike Path Design (Franklin/Suffield Bridge) - \$100,000



Rehabilitating Town-Owned Property - PROPOSED Last Fall

- Brainard Park Restrooms/Field Enhancements - \$378,510
- Powder Hollow Restrooms/Field Enhancements - \$378,510
- Higgins Park Restrooms - \$378,510
- Town Hall Bathrooms and Water Fountains - \$437,000



Public Safety Investment - Failed Referendum



- ▶ 15.1 million total project
- ▶ \$12.8 million under Public Act No. 21-111
- ▶ Requires approval by the State Bond Commission
- ▶ This plan includes \$2.3 million for the Regional Public Safety Complex

**No taxpayer dollars
expended on this
project**



Waterline and Sewer Infrastructure

\$3,928,186 to design and replace pump stations

- ▶ 15 pump stations need to be upgraded
- ▶ \$2 million available in Capital Non-Recurring

To be determined which pump stations shall be replaced and on what schedule

- ▶ Pump station upgrades range from \$250,000 per replacement to \$4.5 million.
- ▶ Savings to Sewer Users projected if ARPA funds are utilized



Other Proposals & Ideas for Consideration

- ▶ Funds for Supporting Small Businesses; and/or Community Gift Cards
- ▶ Funds for Supporting Qualifying Non-Profits
- ▶ Funds for Housing Rehabilitation Incentive Program
- ▶ Funds for EHS Field Rehabilitation/Enhancements
- ▶ Workforce Development/Apprentice Programs
- ▶ Respite Programs for Caregivers
- ▶ Revisit Pool Project for Higgins Park/get updated costs issue
- ▶ Town Owned Properties: Parking at Hazardville Institute, 100 High Street, Lafayette Trail, additional fields
- ▶ ARPA Premium Pay for Education Workers



Other Proposals & Ideas for Consideration

- ▶ \$680,000 10 Police Car Purchases to catch up on Replacement Schedule
- ▶ \$15,000 Sunday hours at the Library (January - March)
- ▶ \$42,000 in AV Repairs at the Senior Center
- ▶ \$105,000 for Upgrades at The Annex Pool & Gym
- ▶ \$165,000 for a new Ambulance
- ▶ \$100,000 for Basketball Court repairs at Wallop - Neelans Rd
- ▶ \$120,000 in IT Equipment
- ▶ \$100,000 Records Scanning Project for Additional Departments
- ▶ \$100-\$500,000 range: Additional Splash Pads
- ▶ \$450,000 Lights & Bathrooms at Mark Twain (pickle ball)

Remains to be Allocated...	\$10,472,676
10 Police Car Purchase	\$680,000
Sunday Hours at Library (Jan - March)	\$15,000
AV Repairs at Senior Center	\$42,000
Upgrades at Annex	\$105,000
New Ambulance	\$165,000
Basketball Court - Wallop Park	\$100,000
IT Equipment	\$120,000
Record Scanning - Planning	\$100,000
Splash Pads - Range	\$100,000 - \$500,000
Lights & Bathrooms at Mark Twain	\$450,000
	\$1,877,000 - \$2,277,000

Remaining	\$8,595,676 - \$8,195,676
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Next Steps:

Determine Parameters & Budget
For Projects that Town Council
would like to Explore

Amount Available:

\$10,472,676