

**ENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2022**

A Regular Meeting of the Enfield Town Council was called to order by Mayor Cressotti on Monday, December 19, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

PRAYER – Councilor Despard gave the Prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, led by Enfield’s Kid Mayor, Tristen Courchesne.

ROLL-CALL – Present were Councilors Cekala, Cressotti, Despard, Finger, Hopkins, Ludwick, Mangini, Nelson, Pyznar, Santanella and Unghire. Also present were the Town Manager, Ellen Zoppo-Sassu; Assistant Town Manager, Steven Bielenda; Town Attorney, James Tallberg; and Town Clerk, Sheila M. Bailey.

FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT – Mayor Cressotti made the fire evacuation announcement.

MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

MOTION #6437 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Pyznar to accept the minutes of the Special Meeting held on December 5, 2022.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #6437** adopted 8-0-2 with Councilors Despard and Unghire abstaining.

MOTION #6438 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Finger to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on December 5, 2022.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #6438** adopted 8-0-2 with Councilors Despard and Unghire abstaining.

MOTION #6439 by Councilor Cekala, seconded by Councilor Mangini to accept the minutes of the Special Meeting held on December 12, 2022.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #6439** adopted 9-0-1 with Councilor Ludwick abstaining.

SPECIAL GUESTS

Tristen Courchesne – Enfield’s Kid Mayor

The Mayor and the Town Council congratulated Tristen Courchesne, who won election as Enfield's Kid Mayor with a platform of "All Humans are Equal." He promises to help end racism and encourage conversations in his school and community promoting kindness to all. He is creating a song, developing his own blog called Tristen's Tips, and holding community conversations led by professionals in anti-racism and anti-bullying. Tristen will also develop his "We All Are Human" t-shirts to encourage people to be kind to one another.

Pam Townsend – Wreaths Across America

Ms. Townsend wishes to say thank you to every volunteer, business, organization and to those who prefer to stay behind the scenes but make a huge contribution to the success of Enfield's Wreaths Across America. She especially wants to thank Lori Gates, Superintendent Drezek, the students, faculty, Enfield's first responders and the residents of Enfield that stood along the roadside and saluted as the precious cargo passed by. She encourages everyone to watch the video on the Enfield Public Schools' website. It is truly heartwarming to see the children along the sides of the road.

Ms. Townsend stated that they are already preparing for the 2023 ceremony. There are three things the community can do to make a difference:

- Help them locate veteran's graves by maintaining your loved one's burial plot and clearing it of leaves and debris.
- Wreath sponsorship. Right now, there is a wreath match promotion which runs until January 15th. For every wreath sponsored, the cemetery gets another wreath. You can sponsor a wreath by going online at www.wreathsasscrossamerica.or/spce and select a fundraising group. Or you can email Ms. Townsend at enfieldwaa@yahoo.com
- Volunteering. There are many jobs that need to be done before, during and after the celebration. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Ms. Townsend.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Chris Lang, 90 South Road

Ms. Lang is here as a member of Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ). She would like the Council to give the listening public a description of how they solicited, vetted and chose the candidates to serve on the Diversity, Equality and Inclusion (DEI) Committee. She would also like to discuss the possibility of a liaison from SURJ being appointed to the committee. She requested an explanation as to why the party affiliations for each member are listed on the agenda.

Eric Drouin, 221 Broad Brook Road

In Suffield, they have a Transportation, Infrastructure and Pedestrian Safety Committee and he would like to suggest Enfield create the same type of committee. As evidenced by the attendance at the Mall Transit Study meeting, there is interest by residents on improving pedestrian and bicycle safety in our town.

Chairman Cressotti declared Public Communications closed.

COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor Mangini congratulated Ms. Townsend on an organized and successful event. She also attended another successful event, Rachel's Challenge, which really drives home the message, especially to our youth, of respect, caring and community service.

Councilor Nelson would like the culverts behind the mall to be inspected because they are partially blocked and creating a water problem. We should also have CT Route 91 and Route 5 and High Street inspected because those were the three points that caused all those neighborhoods to flood.

Councilor Pyznar would like to recognize Kari Monteforte and Lauren Andrew of 2Moms on a Mission whose mission it is to raise money for local charities and families in need. Together, they help make Christmas possible for kids in town who may not have Christmas without them.

Councilor Hopkins asked if we could jumpstart conversations regarding creating a separate Water Pollution Control Commission.

Councilor Cekala wanted to congratulate Enfield Public Schools who were in the top five school districts for fundraising on EPS-PJ Day. They raised \$10,802 this year in support of the Connecticut Children's Hospital. Councilor Cekala would like an update on having the ice rink at Powder Hollow this year and where we stand with the field updates at Powder Hollow.

Chairman Cressotti congratulated Alyssa Rossignol for scoring her thousandth point for Enfield High School's girls' basketball team. Also, former Enfield field hockey player Taylor Geaglone earned first team All-American, University of New Haven.

Chairman Cressotti thanked Connie Provencher who has managed the Market for the last few years. She will be stepping down from her position at the end of the indoor season.

MOTION #6440 by Councilor Nelson, seconded by Councilor Unghire to authorize the Town Manager's office to send Connie Provencher a letter of recognition on behalf of the Town Council.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #6440** adopted 11-0-0.

Chairman Cressotti and Councilor Finger attended the CRCOG meeting regarding the Enfield Square Traffic Impact Study. We had 1,180 survey responses. If anyone is interested in the report compiling results from the survey responses, please go to CRCOG's website. Chairman Cressotti supports having a townwide committee regarding improving pedestrian and bicycle safety in town. It was stated during the meeting that Enfield is not user-friendly when it comes to pedestrians and bicycles.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu reminded everyone that January's council meetings will be held the second and forth Mondays because of the holidays.

The small business grants are under consideration by the Economic Development Commission. There were over fifty applications and remains open until Friday. There were applications that exceed the amount of money Council allocated, so they are going through the process of evaluation. The EDC will be making their recommendations possibly by January. Likewise, the non-profit ARPA grant application process is open until Friday and for anyone who is interested, the grants are for non-profit and not-for profit organizations recognized by the IRS.

The Assistant Town Manager and Manager are working on a report regarding the status of various projects in town which should be helpful as we enter this budget season.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu stated that she supports the establishment of a Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Committee and believes there would be support in town for such a committee.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu explained that in terms of political affiliations being put on the agenda, this follows state law which stipulates the town maintain a balance between political parties.

The obstructions Councilor Nelson mentioned have been reported to DPW and she will follow up with them tomorrow.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu reported that there was damage done to the liner for the ice rink last year. That has been replaced and DPW has started to put the boards up. The contractor for the other work at Powder Hollow has not been responsive so the DPW Department has decided to go with another contractor.

Assistant Town Manager, Steve Bielenda stated that last week we held promotion interviews for detective, sergeant, and lieutenant. He compiled panelists from various towns to conduct the interviews. Mr. Bielenda stated that he received two unsolicited compliments from the panelists who commented that everyone seems so happy working here. Mr. Bielenda described the many small things we as a town do to help make our employees feel valued and happy working here. He feels this is a testament to the town as well as to all the Council Members here tonight.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

Councilor Mangini stated that the Joint Facilities Committee met in executive session last week to review an in-house assessment of the schools that was performed by our staff. All schools, except JFK and Enfield High due to the security updates already in place at those two schools, were reviewed by B&G staff. Locksmiths fixed all the items that needed attention. Councilor Mangini asked the Town Manager to share the presentation with our Town Council.

Council Unghire attended the Enfield Beautification Committee meeting. One of the items they addressed was the Adopt-a-Spot program. There are several areas still available and if any business or resident is interested in adopting a spot, they must maintain it and may plant flowers or bushes and place

a small sign. The fee is \$100 for a lifetime. If you are interested, please call Ken Boulette at 860-763-7524.

Councilor Pyznar would like to recognize the Commission on Aging and specifically, Alice Egan, who does all the shopping for Saint Josephs and Parkway to ensure no one is left out at Christmas.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA – None.

APPOINTMENTS/TOWN COUNCIL APPOINTED

MOTION #6441 by Councilor Cekala, seconded by Councilor Mangini to appoint John Malinoski (R), Yanired Toledo-DeMicheli (D), Brandon Jewell (D), Monica Ogums (U), Rosalind Swift (D), Chad Woodyard (U), and James Hoyne (D) to the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee (DEI) for terms to be determined upon final resolution.

Councilor Pyznar stated that she wanted to stipulate that there should be two council liaisons appointed to this committee. Councilor Despard agreed but stated that it will be part of the final resolution. He is glad to see movement on this and is also happy that they have taken their time to do this the right way.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #6441** adopted 9-0-2 with Councilors Nelson and Unghire abstaining.

MOTION #6442 by Councilor Nelson, seconded by Councilor Unghire to reappoint Darren Ketchal (R) to the Enfield Beautification Committee for a term that expires 12/1/25.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6442** adopted 11-0-0.

MOTION #6443 by Councilor Nelson, seconded by Councilor Unghire to reappoint William St. George (I) to the Commission on Aging for a term that expires 1/1/26.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6443** adopted 11-0-0.

MOTION #6444 by Councilor Nelson, seconded by Councilor Unghire to reappoint Howard Florian (U) to the Commission on Aging for a term that expires 1/1/26.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6444** adopted 11-0-0.

MOTION #6445 by Councilor Nelson, seconded by Councilor Unghire to reappoint Alice Egan (R) to the Commission on Aging for a term that expires 1/1/26.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6444** adopted 11-0-0.

RESOLUTION #6446 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Cekala.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council does hereby find, based on the foregoing compelling public interest, and in accordance with Town Charter Chapter V, Section 8(d), that it is therefore against the best interest of the Town to solicit bids for the purchase of Department-wide Professional Development support and services.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #6446** adopted 11-0-0.

RESOLUTION #6447 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Cekala.

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

FROM:	ARPA Revenue		
	Grants-COVID-Federal	24540000-460004	\$ 12,300
TO:	ClearGov Software		
	Software	24508331-573600	\$ 12,300

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council does hereby find, based on the foregoing compelling public interest, and in accordance with Town Charter Chapter V, Section 8(d), that it is therefore against the best interest of the Town to solicit bids for the purchase of software and implementation services.

Certification: I hereby certify that the above stated funds are available as of December 19, 2022.

/s/ John Wilcox, Director of Finance

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #6447** adopted 11-0-0.

RESOLUTION #6448 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Cekala.

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

FROM:	Fuel Tank Removal		
	Construction Services	31008214-545000	\$ 85,016.11

TO: Troubled Properties

Miscellaneous Expenditures 31008877-589000 \$ 85,016.11

Certification: I hereby certify that the above stated funds are available as of November 8, 2022.

/s/ John Wilcox, Director of Finance

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #6448** adopted 11-0-0.

RESOLUTION #6449 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Nelson.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Enfield Town Council does hereby schedule a Public Hearing to be held on January 9, 2023 at 6:45 p.m. in the Enfield Town Hall Council Chambers, 820 Enfield Street, Enfield, Connecticut in order to allow public comment on the proposed "Ordinance Establishing the Number of Justices of the Peace at Seventy-Five (75)."

Town Clerk, Sheila Bailey explained that the Town of Enfield is one of 33 towns out of 169 which have yet to adopt an ordinance limiting the number of justices of the peace. By State Statute, the Town of Enfield may have up to 5,405 justices. A third of this number is allocated to the Republicans, a third is allocated to the Democrats, and a third is allocated to the Town Clerk for unaffiliated and minor parties.

In the month of May preceding the new term, the Town Committees send the town clerk's office their list of endorsements for justices of the peace. We then verify that they are eligible voters living in Enfield and create their Certificate of Credentials as well as their signature cards. After November, candidates are sent letters indicating that they now have ten days to receive their oath of office and provide their signature. In May of 2020, The town clerk's office received 142 party endorsements. Out of 142 endorsements, only 76 candidates came in to receive their oath of office. 66 reverted to vacancies.

Currently, the Town has forty-two Republican JPs. Sixteen have performed weddings since the beginning of the term in January, 2021. Out of those sixteen, ten have only performed one wedding. The Town has forty-three Democrats listed as JPs. Eleven of those have performed weddings since the beginning of their term and out of those eleven, seven performed one wedding. The Town Clerk stated that she interprets this to mean that many people may become JPs so they can officiate a wedding for their friend or niece. There are other avenues in the law to accomplish this. Connecticut passed a law recognizing online ordinations. The resident completes the application online, sends in the fee and receives their credentials.

Ms. Bailey proposed that Council adopt an ordinance limiting the number of JPs to seventy-five (75). This would mean the Republicans, Democrats and Town Clerk would each have twenty-five slots.

Councilor Santanella asked whether Connecticut has a one-day permit to marry someone? Ms. Bailey responded that Connecticut does not have a law allowing one-day credentials.

Councilor Mangini asked how we would determine who is appointed to those twenty-five slots. Ms. Bailey explained that the Town Committees would endorse major-party members according to

their party rules. Town Clerk appointments are managed differently. Residents have an application period in August through November in which to apply. This ordinance would become effective for the next term beginning in January 2025 and would not affect the people currently serving.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #6449** adopted 11-0-0.

MOTION #6450 by Councilor Nelson, seconded by Councilor Unghire to waive the reading of the full resolution.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6450** adopted 11-0-0. The full resolution is appended to these minutes.

RESOLUTION #6451 by Councilor Nelson, seconded by Councilor Santanella

BE IT RESOLVED the Town Council receives the resolutions on the Intent to Consolidate from the Hazardville and Shaker Pines Fire Districts and to notify the Town Clerk to place on file.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #6451** adopted 11-0-0.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS – None.

COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS– None

MOTION #6452 by Councilor Cekala, seconded by Councilor Unghire to adjourn the meeting.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6452** adopted 11-0-0 and the meeting stood adjourned at 8:46pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila M. Bailey
Clerk to the Council
Town Clerk

HAZARDVILLE FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION

APPOINTMENT OF A COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER CONSOLIDATION

Whereas, in 2022, the Hazardville and Shaker Pines Fire Districts funded a consolidation study to determine if the two fire districts could be consolidated and, if so, what steps needed to be completed to affect that consolidation. Shoreline Associates, Inc. ("Shoreline") was selected to complete that consulting project; and

Whereas, thereafter, on January 6, 2022, Shoreline Associates, Inc. issued its Final Report; and

Whereas, the Report provides an overview of the procedures performed, the results of those procedures, Shoreline's recommendations to consolidate the two fire districts, a plan of consolidation and a post-consolidation financial projection; and

Whereas, throughout the Report Shoreline uses the term consolidation, with the intent of it being perceived as a coming together of two (2) equals to create a new fire district. The overriding intent of the Report is to integrate the fire districts to enhance service delivery without increasing costs; and

Whereas, as a result of the procedures performed, results obtained and research conducted, Shoreline recommends that Shaker Pines and Hazardville undergo a full consolidation; and

Whereas, the proposed consolidation plan provides for a phased approach to achieve full consolidation over time; and

Whereas, the Hazardville Fire District needs to establish a committee to consider the implementation of the Shoreline recommendations and to develop a proposed Consolidation Plan and to report its recommendations to the Board of Commissioners; and

Whereas, after receiving the Committee Report and recommendations, the Hazardville Fire District Board of Commissioners will consider adoption of a proposal to consolidate with the Shaker Pines Fire District.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved:

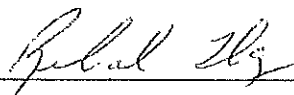
1. That the Hazardville Fire District hereby appoints a consolidation study committee of four members to consider consolidation with Shaker Pines as recommended in the Shoreline Report; and

2. To charge the Committee with the task of making a recommendation to the Hazardville Fire District Board of Commissioners regarding a proposed plan of consolidation; and

3. To inform the Shaker Pines Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners of the formation of the consolidation study committee.

Adopted by the Board of Commissioners this ____ day of ~~November~~, 2022.

5 December

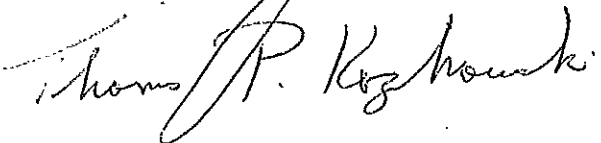


Hazardville Fire District

~~John J. Flanagan, Chief~~

Richard Trace, Commissioner

 Commissioner

 COMMISSIONER

SHAKER PINES FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION

APPOINTMENT OF A COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER CONSOLIDATION

Whereas, in 2022, the Hazardville and Shaker Pines Fire Districts funded a consolidation study to determine if the two fire districts could be consolidated and, if so, what steps needed to be completed to affect that consolidation. Shoreline Associates, Inc. ("Shoreline") was selected to complete that consulting project; and

Whereas, thereafter, on January 6, 2022, Shoreline Associates, Inc. issued its Final Report; and

Whereas, the Report provides an overview of the procedures performed, the results of those procedures, Shoreline's recommendations to consolidate the two fire districts, a plan of consolidation and a post-consolidation financial projection; and

Whereas, throughout the Report Shoreline uses the term consolidation, with the intent of it being perceived as a coming together of two (2) equals to create a new fire district. The overriding intent of the Report is to integrate the fire districts to enhance service delivery without increasing costs; and

Whereas, as a result of the procedures performed, results obtained and research conducted, Shoreline recommends that Shaker Pines and Hazardville undergo a full consolidation; and

Whereas, the proposed consolidation plan provides for a phased approach to achieve full consolidation over time; and

Whereas, the Shaker Pines Fire District needs to establish a committee to consider the implementation of the Shoreline recommendations and to develop a proposed Consolidation Plan and to report its recommendations to the Board of Commissioners; and

Whereas, after receiving the Committee Report and recommendations, the Shaker Pines Board of Commissioners will consider adoption of a proposal to consolidate with the Hazardville Fire District.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved:

1. That the Shaker Pines Fire District hereby appoints a consolidation study committee of four members to consider consolidation with Hazardville as recommended in the Shoreline Report; and

2. To charge the Committee with the task of making a recommendation to the Shaker Pines Board of Commissioners regarding a proposed plan of consolidation; and

3. To inform the Hazardville Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners of the formation of the consolidation study committee.

ADOPTED 11-21-2022

Peter G. Burk
Pt M/S

President
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MARGARET GUYETTE
Margaret Guyette
COMMISSIONER / CLERK

Peter Burk
COMMISSIONER

Guy Beck
Vice President
Guy Beck

Scott Beiler
Scott Beiler
Commissioner