

**ENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2023**

A Regular Meeting of the Enfield Town Council was called to order by Mayor Cressotti on Monday, March 6, 2023. The meeting was called to order at 8:23pm.

PRAYER – The Prayer was given by Councilor Nelson.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

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

MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

MOTION #6509 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Nelson to accept the minutes of the special meeting on February 6, 2023.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #6509** adopted 10-0-1. Councilor Hopkins abstained.

MOTION #6510 by Councilor Cekala, seconded by Councilor Mangini to accept the minutes of the regular meeting on February 6, 2023.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #6510** adopted 10-0-1. Councilor Hopkins abstained.

MOTION #6511 by Councilor Nelson, seconded by Councilor Mangini to accept the minutes of the special meeting on February 13, 2023.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #6511** adopted 9-0-2. Councilors Hopkins and Ludwick abstained.

SPECIAL GUESTS-Members of the Senior Tax Relief Committee

Chairman Cressotti introduced Marlene Hoginski, Mike Arnone, and Dave Goyette.

Mr. Goyette stated that they had five to seven meetings and a lot of homework to do before and after each meeting. They then came up with the proposed plan. They have looked at extending the Circuit Breaker Program by a couple of thousand dollars and adding \$26,000 a year for seniors who volunteer in town more than fifty hours a year.

Ms. Hoginski stated that there are many seniors who volunteer in the town.

Chairman Cressotti thanked all those who were involved with the Senior Tax Relief Committee. Seniors can receive up to a \$400 tax credit for volunteering.

Councilor Ludwick asked if seniors who work can qualify for the tax credit. Ms. Hoginski clarified that they still must volunteer at least one hour a week of their time.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Nikki Price, 1324 Enfield St.

Ms. Price asked how the Council could accept the draft POCD when all the action items on development are based solely on Thompsonville. She said at an August 10, 2022 conservation workshop, she asked two staff members why the focus was only on Thompsonville. They replied that Thompsonville is what they were charged to do because there was not enough money in the budget. She wrote an email to Dr. Poland expressing her concerns on August 21, 2022. She thinks development is becoming more important than protecting our environment's character and charm. She also emailed the Council on February 13, 2023 after the public hearing expressing her thoughts.

George Young, 8 Holly Ln.

Mr. Young pointed out that on the agenda item later in the meeting about the senior tax credit, it states the limit for married people but not unmarried people.

John Hartley, 19 Auburn Rd.

Mr. Hartley stated that he was basically born and raised on South River Street in town. He passed around a flyer that says Enfield Train Station on it. He said it is miss-spelled and it should say Thompsonville Train Station. He has an old book called the History of Connecticut Railroads and Thompsonville is listed on the schedule. He has promised the book to the Enfield Historical Society. He wanted to know why they are changing the name of the station.

Walter Kruzel, 21 Charnley Rd.

Mr. Kruzel stated that he is a volunteer for First Readers. He thanked everyone that came out for the trivia night on February 25, 2023. He thanked Councilors Mangini and Nelson for attending. First Readers was at JFK and eighty readers were awarded. The program was suspended for a couple years due to COVID.

Mr. Kruzel also brought up a fact that his father rented a space at the Casket Building back in the early 70's and the address was Thompsonville, CT. Two years later the post office changed it to Enfield. Change does happen and it is inevitable.

Robert Bukowski, 21 Francis

Mr. Bukowski stated that he emailed the Council a copy of his comments yesterday. He is asking for a 120-day extension of the parking ban near Jimmy's Pub because it is coming to an end and there is no permanent solution yet. He would like a report on all the solutions that are being worked on. The pub owner is paying for his patrons parking tickets, he was or is violating his karaoke liquor license by having a DJ, and he is moving forward with his live band entertainment license to the Planning and Zoning Commission. The parking ban enforcement currently relies on resident call-ins. There should be active police patrols and towing for repeat offenders. The parking stickers should be transferable to give their guests a permit when visiting. The parking ban should be 24/7. He would like a progress report on the parking fine issue. He knows of two instances of drunk driving and disturbances since the pub's renovation. He would like to see the Council request a report of all police activity related to the pub and make it public. There is a pedestrian safety concern and intoxicated patrons crossing Route 5. He would also like to know what the current capacity is for the pub and the previous occupancy prior to the renovation. He will be asking for a delay in issuing a live entertainment license.

Ken Bedard, 27 Burnham St,

Mr. Bedard, owner of Jimmy's Pub, stated that he and his wife have extended many olive branches to the residents of Francis Avenue. He has asked them to come to him with problems and he said instead they police the neighborhood vigilante style. He is sick of being harassed by the residents of Francis Avenue. He is a commercial property operating within his rights and working on the live entertainment part.

Melanie Dubiel, 4 Francis Ave.

Ms. Dubiel stated that the owner of the pub paying patrons parking tickets is not trying to work with the residents. She said she has a video of him having a DJ and he is not supposed to. People are roaming the street still at 2:00am. There were two drunk girls that backed into the speed limit sign, live entertainment, and underage drinking and they are still operating.

Chairman Cressotti declared Public Communications over.

COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS

Chairman Cressotti mentioned that a couple of weeks ago the BOE had a major distraction. There is zero tolerance for attempting to distract elected officials from doing their jobs and fulfilling the commitments of the role for which they were elected. The police department will continue to investigate this type of activity. March is Board of Education Appreciation month. He thanked all the elected officials on the BOE.

Chairman Cressotti congratulated the Enfield Stars for their participation in the Special Olympics Winter Games. He thanked Eversource for making snow for the kids to compete.

Councilor Mangini mentioned that it was great to see the First Readers ceremony so well attended after being absent during COVID.

Councilor Mangini mentioned that the Rotary Club is having a pancake breakfast on March 25, 2023 from 8:00-10:30am at Enfield Senior Center to raise funds for Santa Claus gifts, and scholarships.

Councilor Hopkins asked if they could schedule a Leisure Services meeting for the end of this month or beginning of next month due to all the discussion about parks.

Councilor Hopkins would also like an update on the parking ban.

Councilor Nelson stated that a bunch of residents have received letters from the assessor regarding personal property tax. He said due to the BAA being short one member, he would like to get a motion to add Donna Dubanowski's reappointment to the next meetings agenda. Councilor Ludwick seconded the motion. Ellen Zoppo-Sassu stated that she is still a member because she has not been replaced or reappointed. Councilor Nelson withdrew his motion.

Councilor Cekala reminded everyone that is not the way to add items to the agenda, it is done in leadership.

Councilor Hopkins mentioned that it was great that Ms. Dubanowski can still serve in her current capacity and take appeals. He thinks that the current investigation needs answers before moving on.

Councilor Pyznar reminded everyone that the property tax appeals have to be in by March 20, 2023. She wanted to know if residents can get the form anywhere else besides online in case they don't have a computer.

Councilor Ludwick wanted to know if anyone made Donna aware because she is under the impression that she did not get reappointed.

Councilor Ludwick asked for clarification on the appeals from the re-evaluation and how long they are good for.

Councilor Finger was sorry that he could not attend the First Readers ceremony as he was at a retirement party for Sue Wilson, the benefits administrator.

Councilor Finger mentioned that Jack Hartley is the gentleman that spoke about the train station. He is the one that organizes the flags up and down Enfield Street.

Councilor Cekala attended the Invention Convention and she said they should all be very proud of themselves.

Councilor Cekala stated that they are globally looking at the parking fines, not just related to Francis Avenue.

Councilor Ludwick asked if it would be possible to name the train station Thompsonville-Enfield Station. He also wanted to know what kind of safety plan is in place in case of a derailment.

Councilor Unghire was wondering if a date has been set for the next Public Safety meeting. Councilor Despard responded that it will be the first Wednesday of the month at 1:00pm.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Ellen Zoppo-Sassu stated that there will be a Leisure Subcommittee meeting after they get a report back from the people about disc golf. Any actions that the Council takes regarding Brainerd Park will go to Leisure Services also. We do need to set up a meeting for Leisure.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu stated that in the packet is a list of recommendations regarding parking fines from the General Government. She also mentioned that they are cataloging and keeping in a file all the emails and phone calls regarding Francis Avenue. Most want the signs to stay, and some would like to see some tweaks. There will be something on the next agenda.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu wanted to clarify there are no income restrictions on the volunteer tax credit. Married couples can only get one credit but they can split the hours. Ms. Zoppo-Sassu stated in response to Mr. Young that they are just increasing the income level to \$60,000. It was just added to the State of Connecticut qualifying income program. What is not filled in is the tax credit percentage. It needs to be carried across the line. She will have it updated.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu said in terms of the BAA, the letters went out and there are some concerns that they have been working through. Any action that the BAA takes in the spring, the assessor has statutory authority to put something back on the tax rolls to modify it. BAA appeals hearings will start in April. We might want to look at the charter when it comes time for revision concerning adding hearing officers. We currently don't have that opportunity because the language is charter driven.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

Councilor Mangini mentioned that the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee met and came up with their mission statement.

The Fourth of July Committee also met and had their dinner dance fundraiser to help offset costs.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

RESOLUTION #6512 by Councilor Cekala, seconded by Councilor Hopkins.

BE IT RESOLVED, that in accordance with Chapter VII, Section II of the Town Charter, the Enfield Town Council does hereby adopt the wage adjustment up to \$75,000 for the current Assistant Assessor position and advertise the salary range of \$65,000-\$75,000 for the vacant Assistant Assessor position.

Councilor Hopkins supports the salary increase to have multiple qualified people working in the Assessor's office. Councilor Nelson agreed with Councilor Hopkins that we need to have a full staff in case changes are made. He will support the motion.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #6512** adopted 7-4-0. Councilors Unghire, Pyznar, Ludwick, and Finger voted against.

RESOLUTION #6513 by Councilor Nelson, seconded by Councilor Mangini.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Enfield Housing Authority is not charged for use of the Transfer Station; that the Town Manager and the EHA Executive Director discuss opportunities to transition from barrels to dumpsters when appropriate and feasible, and that the EHA begin paying for the direct costs that the town incurs for appliance and Freon disposal fees effective July 1, 2023.

Councilor Ludwick thanked Scott Bertrand and Donald Nunes for this. He thinks it is a fair compromise.

Chairman Cressotti commended Scott Bertrand for being upfront with the committee. He also thanked the Town Manager and the people on the subcommittee.

Councilor Finger wanted to clarify what appliances the fee policy refers to. For example, washing machines are free because they are metal. Ms. Zoppo-Sassu responded that it includes anything that is not free.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #6513** adopted 11-0-0.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #6514 by Councilor Nelson, seconded by Councilor Cekala to approve Consent Agenda.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #6514** adopted 11-0-0.

- Consent Agenda Resolutions are appended to the minutes.

APPOINTMENTS/TOWN COUNCIL APPOINTED

MOTION #6515 to appoint Daniel Keating (U) to the Enfield Culture and Arts Commission for a term expiring 6/1/24.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION#6515** adopted 11-0-0.

MOTION #6516 to appoint Kenneth Edgar (D) to the Prison Town Liaison Committee for a term expiring 2/28/25.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION#6516** adopted 11-0-0.

RESOLUTION #6517 by Councilor Cekala, seconded by Councilor Nelson.

BE IT RESOLVED, that in order to promote the goals of scientific, educational, literary, historical, governmental, charitable and non-profit entities located in the Town of Enfield by drawing upon the skills, knowledge and experience of its senior citizens, the Town Council of the Town of Enfield hereby establishes a Senior Volunteer Tax Relief Program for senior citizens who choose to donate their time, talent and experience by volunteering services to qualifying entities.

Councilor Cekala asked where residents can go to get the form for this. Ms. Zoppo-Sassu answered it will be on social media, web-based, at the Senior Center, and the libraries. There are appeal forms in those locations as well.

Councilor Pyznar asked if seniors can apply if they are on a board or a commission. Ms. Zoppo-Sassu responded, yes.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #6517** adopted 11-0-0.

RESOLUTION #6518 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Nelson.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council accepts the recommendation of the Senior Tax Relief Committee to adopt the expanded brackets up to \$60,000 for Enfield senior citizens who qualify.

Councilor Ludwick wanted to make sure that we point this out in the budget, so people know we cover it. Ms. Zoppo-Sassu stated that they are not sure they will be putting it in the budget, they are going to encumber it. There is no ceiling on this.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #6518** adopted 11-0-0.

RESOLUTION #6519 by Councilor Nelson, seconded by Councilor Mangini.

WHEREAS, the Town has the opportunity to purchase a brand-new leftover 2020 Labrie refuse truck body at a substantial savings; and

WHEREAS, the body is functionally identical to a 2023 body and can be mated to a 2023 Autocar chassis; and

WHEREAS, the purchase of this combination will result in a savings to the town of \$26,609 compared to a standard 2023 vehicle; and

WHEREAS, because of this vehicle’s unique configuration, a bid waiver is required.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council does hereby find, based on the foregoing compelling public interest, and in accordance with Chapter V, Section 8 (d), that it is therefore against the best interest of the town to require bids for the above-described vehicle.

Councilor Hopkins mentioned that this sounds like a deal that someone else did not buy and now it is a deal for us, so he justifies waiving the bid.

Councilor Ludwick commended Donald and staff. This is a great reason to use the bid waiver.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #6519** adopted 11-0-0.

RESOLUTION #6520 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:	General Fund-Non departmental charges		
	Contingency	10800092-584000	\$83,000
TO:	General Fund-Non departmental charges		
	Transfer to Capital	10800092-593010	\$83,000
FROM:	Capital Non-recurring Fund – 2023 Revenues		
	Transfer from General Fund	31042023-480001	\$83,000
TO:	Capital Non-recurring Fund –Municipal Facilities		
	Furniture and Fixtures	31008110-573300	\$83,000

Certification: I hereby certify that the above-stated funds are available as of March 1, 2023.

/s/ John Wilcox, Director of Finance

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #6520** adopted 11-0-0.

RESOLUTION #6521 by Councilor Nelson, seconded by Councilor Mangini.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Enfield Town Council hereby authorizes the Town Manager to sign on behalf of the Town of Enfield the following Settlement Participation Forms:

- Allergen Settlement
- Teva Settlement
- CVS Settlement
- Walgreens Settlement
- Walmart Settlement

Councilor Ludwick just wants to make sure all money goes to purchasing Narcan or helping people with any kind of drug use. Ms. Zoppo-Sassu said that we are unaware of the amounts of the settlements at this time.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #6521** adopted 11-0-0.

RESOLUTION #6522 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Despard.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the ancillary structures located on 56 College Street will be demolished per town standards and subject to a final inspection by the town by July 6, 2023; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that 56 College Street must be sold by the Executor of the Estate of 56 College Street by March 6, 2024; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that if these conditions are not met, the town shall continue and finalize the foreclosure proceeding against the property at 56 College Street; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if these conditions are not met, the Enfield Town Council does hereby authorize that the waiver of the above-referenced property maintenance fines, the release of the above-referenced property maintenance lien, and the withdrawal of the above-referenced foreclosure.

Councilor Nelson asked a question about the address of the house and the other structure connected with the property may not have the same address and wondered if they needed to amend this. Attorney Cerrato confirmed that it is all one address and not necessary to amend.

Councilor Hopkins complimented the members of the Blight Committee. He said it is a great first wave of changing the way they do things.

Councilor Ludwick would love to see another business there after it is knocked down.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #6522** adopted 11-0-0.

RESOLUTION #6523 by Councilor Nelson, seconded by Councilor Mangini.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the proposed improvements to the Higgins Park, including the construction of the bandshell, are hereby referred to the Planning and Zoning Commission in conformance with the requirements of Connecticut General State §8-24.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #6523** adopted 11-0-0.

RESOLUTION #6524 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Nelson.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the proposed conveyance/transfer of the Nathan Hale School property at 5 Taylor Road is hereby referred to the Planning and Zoning Commission in conformance with the requirements of the Connecticut General Statute §8-24.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #6524** adopted 10-1-0. Councilor Ludwick voted against.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS PROPER TO COME BEFORE SAID MEETING

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Walter Kruzel, 21 Charnley Rd.

Mr. Kruzel agreed with Councilor Ludwick in getting another business at 56 College Street.

Chairman Cressotti closed Public Communications.

COUNCILOR COMMENTS

Chairman Cressotti mentioned that on Saturday, March 11, 2023 they are having a free shopping event for youth for prom dresses, suits, jewelry, purses, makeup, and shoes etc. It is at the Opera House Players on High Street. It is from 11:00-3:00.

MOTION #6525 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Despard to adjourn.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #6525** adopted 11-0-0 and the meeting stood adjourned at 9:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila M. Bailey
Clerk to the Council
Town Clerk

Tina Demers
Secretary to the Council



Date: March 6, 2023

TOWN OF ENFIELD

Subject: Resolution to appropriate additional funds awarded by NCAAA to Social Services, Adult & Elderly Division - \$10,000

This grant operates on a FFY, therefore any unspent funds remaining in the current FY will be rolled over to subsequent fiscal years

Highlights:

- The Town FY 23 budget was prepared prior to this increased award amount.
- NCAAA awarded these additional funds to be used for Other Professional Services for community trainings.

There will be no impact on the town budget.

Recommendation:

That the Town of Enfield Town Council approve the resolution of authorization.

Certification: I hereby certify that the above-stated funds are available as of March 6, 2023



John A. Wilcox, Director of Finance

3/1/23

Date:



Steven V. Bielenda, Assistant Town Manager

3/2/23

Date:

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

FROM: DSS-AE-NCAAA Supportive Services Grant

Revenue	22040415-460700	\$10,000
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TO: DSS AE NCAAA Supportive Services Grant

Other Professional Services	22040415-533900	\$10,000
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Date Prepared: March 6, 2023

Prepared By: Cindy Guerrerri, Director of Social Services



TOWN OF ENFIELD

Date: March 6, 2023

Subject: Resolution to Transfer Funds within the Community Initiatives Division/Mental Health & Wellness to Other Professional Services: \$2,200

Highlights:

- The Department of Social Services is hosting a training for the Crisis Response Team for the first time in 4 years.
- Riverside Trauma Center will provide a 2-day training on Psychological First Aid/Posttraumatic Stress Management
- The contract amount requires a transfer of funds within the Division budget

There will be no impact on the town budget.

Recommendation:

That the Town of Enfield Town Council approve the attached resolution of authorization.

Certification: I hereby certify that the above-stated funds are available as of March 6, 2023.



John A. Wilcox, Director of Finance



Date: 3/1/23



Steven V. Bielenda, Assistant Town Manager



Date: 3/2/23

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

FROM: Community Initiatives

Instructional Supplies	22046168-561100	\$2,200
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TO: Community Initiatives

Other Professional Services	22046168-533900	\$2,200
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Date Prepared: March 6, 2023
Prepared By: Cynthia Guerreri, Director of Social Services