



**MINUTES**  
**ENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**October 2, 2023**  
**7:00 PM - Council Chambers**  
<https://youtube.com/live/aEFQLuFm2U4>

**1. PRAYER - Marie Pyznar**

A moment of silence in memory of Enfield High School teacher, David Cardaropoli, was observed.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

- Recited

**3. ROLL CALL**

Major Cressotti called the meeting to order at 7:14 pm.

Present: Gina Cekala, Robert Cressotti, Matthew Despard, Douglas Finger, Nick Hopkins, Michael Ludwick, Cynthia Mangini, Ken Nelson Jr., Marie Pyznar, John Santanella, Lori Unghire

Absent: None

Also Present were Town Manager, Ellen Zoppo-Sassu; Assistant Town Manager, Steve Bielenda; Town Attorney, James Tallberg; Chief of Police, Alaric Fox; and Town Clerk, Sheila Bailey.

**4. FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT**

- Announced

**5. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS**

- Special Meeting - September 18, 2023

**MOTION #6723** by: Cynthia Mangini seconded: Gina Cekala to accept the minutes.

Upon a **SHOW OF HANDS** vote, the Chair declared **MOTION #6723** adopted. Yes: Ken Nelson Jr., John Santanella, Cynthia Mangini, Lori Unghire, Matthew Despard, GinaCekala, Douglas Finger, Nick Hopkins, Marie Pyznar, Michael Ludwick, Robert Cressotti No: None Abstain: None.

- Regular Meeting - September 18, 2023

**MOTION #6724** by: Gina Cekala seconded: Cynthia Mangini to accept the minutes.

Upon a **SHOW OF HANDS** vote, the Chair declared **MOTION #6724** adopted. Yes: Ken Nelson Jr., John Santanella, Cynthia Mangini, Lori Unghire, Matthew Despard, GinaCekala, Douglas Finger, Nick Hopkins, Marie Pyznar, Michael Ludwick, Robert Cressotti No: None Abstain: None.

- Special Meeting - September 20, 2023

**MOTION #6725** by: Cynthia Mangini seconded: Gina Cekala to accept the minutes.

Councilor Ludwick asked for confirmation that the presentations from the Assessor and the Board of Assessment Appeals were appended to the minutes and the Town Clerk confirmed that they were.

Upon a **SHOW OF HANDS** vote, the Chair declared **MOTION #6725** adopted. Yes: Ken Nelson Jr., John Santanella, Cynthia Mangini, Lori Unghire, Matthew Despard, GinaCekala, Douglas Finger, Nick Hopkins, Marie Pyznar, Michael Ludwick, Robert Cressotti No: None Abstain: None.

- Special Meeting - September 26, 2023

**MOTION #6726** by: Cynthia Mangini seconded: Gina Cekala to accept the minutes.

Upon a **SHOW OF HANDS** vote, the Chair declared **MOTION #6726** adopted. Yes: Ken Nelson Jr., John Santanella, Cynthia Mangini, Lori Unghire, Matthew Despard, GinaCekala, Douglas Finger, Nick Hopkins, Marie Pyznar, Michael Ludwick, Robert Cressotti No: None Abstain: None.

## **6. SPECIAL GUESTS**

- Enfield Food Shelf

Enfield Food Shelf Executive Director, Kathleen Souvigney, stated that the Food Shelf has celebrated its 55th anniversary and most recently opened their new facility. Ms. Souvigney introduced Lanie Labren, Outreach Coordinator, who provides education and outreach regarding the numerous services the Food Shelf has available to meet the emergency and chronic needs of the community. Ms. Souvigney said the new facility is different than most other food pantries as it is designed like a small grocery store where customers take carriages around the store and choose items they need. They are also available for other services which address people's basic needs as well as delivery. Ms. Souvigney stated that it was the Town of Enfield that has allowed the Food Shelf to be so successful and that monetary donations allow them to purchase food in bulk, but individual food donations provide variety to their shelves.

## **7. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION AND PETITIONS**

George Young, 8 Holly Lane

Mr. Young asked for an update regarding the ARPA funds for the two pump stations and asked whether the residents would be responsible for paying back the \$3 million and interest. He also inquired about the status of the Police and EMS complex since it was voted on in the last referendum. He would like to see what the Grand List was at the time of the last charter, as he believes the new assessments are increasing the values on the Grand List. He suggested the Council look into freezing taxes for seniors and consider the impact of closing schools and building new ones with the newly approved School Modernization Pre-Referendum Committee.

Lucien LeFevre, 54 Kimberly Drive

Mr. LeFevre invited the public to the Veteran's Day Parade held on Saturday, November 11 at 11:00 am, beginning at Enfield Street School and heading to Enfield Town Green. Immediately following the parade is the wreath laying ceremony on the Town Green. In the event of inclement weather, they will utilize Enfield High School for an indoor ceremony.

Pam Townsend, 54 Kimberly Drive

Ms. Townsend stated that Enfield was in the top five groups in Connecticut for Wreaths Across America. The support of people of Enfield allowed for the coverage of 100% of the veteran graves at St. Patrick's Cemetery last year and are on the way to doing it again this year. At three Enfield cemeteries, 100% of veteran graves were honored with a wreath. December 16 is the 2023 "Wreaths Across America Day". The ceremony starts at St. Patrick's Cemetery at 12:00 pm and is free and open to the public.

David Martin, 14 Elan Street

Mr. Martin read Zoning Regulation Section 7.10.7 to the Council and brought 2 Parsons Road to their attention stating that the property abuts his. Jarmoc Farms acquired the property and removed trees and vegetation, creating a catch basin that funnels thousands of gallons of pesticide contaminated water and soil onto his property every time it rains. It then, in turn, floods the road and the contaminated water ends up in the catch basins and eventually in the Connecticut River. The flooding on Mr. Martin's property had caused damage to his shed, pool pump and various other materials. His property is now growing tobacco plants due to the runoff. He asked the Council to enforce the Zoning Regulation.

Pamela Pasha, 8 Weymouth Road

Ms. Pasha asked for signage for town meetings or activities for those that are not internet-savvy to be placed at schools, libraries, and the Town Green. She stated that there has been increased truck traffic on Weymouth Road over the years and was hoping to see a larger police presence on her side of town to help mitigate the speeding and illegal car modifications on that street.

Melanie Dubiel, 4 Francis Avenue

Ms. Dubiel offered her condolences to the family of Mr. David Cardaropoli. She stated there was a scheduled Halloween party at Jimmy's Pub. The cease-and-desist order issued by the Zoning Enforcement Officer is on hold due to court proceedings. She referenced a video she sent to the Council earlier that showed the garbage on their streets and the behavior of patrons between the hours of 10:00 pm and 2:00 am. She asked to have 120 days of residents-only parking on Francis Avenue.

Nikki Price, 1324 Enfield Street

Ms. Price read from the Town Charter which clarified the role of the Town Manager, the Council, and the Mayor. She also referenced a portion of the Charter regarding investigations into offices and agencies of the town that gives the Council the authority to investigate and issue subpoenas. She said that the Council is more than just a volunteer position and is eligible for a small stipend.

Robert Buczkowski, 21 Francis Avenue

Mr. Buczkowski also saw flyers for the Jimmy's Pub Halloween party on October 7th that mentioned karaoke and a DJ. He reached out to Planning Director Laurie Whitten and Property Inspector Rick Rachele to see if anything could be done as it was a violation of the cease-and-desist order. The response was that the Zoning Enforcement Officer had their hands tied until the court case was over, and that the DJ and live entertainment violations are unenforceable until the court case is over.

## **8. COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS**

Councilor Santanella shared a video of Mr. and Mrs. Martin's yard and street every time it rains to show the extent of the flooding due to Jarmoc Farms' tree removal and potential re-grading of the property. He has reached out to the State Department of Environmental Protection to no avail. He would like to see a solution as many lifelong residents on that street are distraught and experiencing many of the same problems as the Martin's.

Councilor Hopkins offered a solution for possible water emissions testing to possibly help with the situation on Elan Street and Parsons Road. He would like clarification on Jimmy's Pub and the enforcement or lack of enforcement for live entertainment and DJ's during the court proceedings. Regarding truck traffic, there has been discussion previously that has fizzled out on regulating large trucks on town roads. He shared Mr. Young's opinion of underutilized and abandoned schools. He would like to see the School Modernization Committee present a concrete plan for the future purchase of some of the older schools. He asked for an update of funding for the Safety Complex.

Councilor Mangini thanked Mr. LeFevre and Ms. Townsend for their efforts for Veteran's Day and Wreaths Across America. She announced that Tony Torres was the Veteran of the Year, and the ceremony would be held in December. There will also be an American History Teacher of the Year nominated by the Superintendent's office.

Councilor Nelson asked if a meeting could be set up with Steve Jarmoc to discuss the issues on Elan Street and Parsons Road, as he has been a great partner in the past with concerns regarding their property and the effects on neighbors. He revisited his request to

have signage put up for Council meetings on the Town Green.

Mayor Cressotti empathized with the Martin's and said that something needs to be done to correct the flooding on their property and street. He said he believes the town does a good job of letting the community know about meetings and activities but will continue to work to improve communications. Concerns with truck traffic on Weymouth Road will be investigated and addressed. The town recently held a Mental Health Wellness and Coalition Meeting that will work on subjects such as the loneliness epidemic, youth, homelessness, and mental health. The corner of South Road and Route 5 will receive a donation from Mr. Abbe to spruce up the area. There is a Public Safety meeting scheduled in the near future that will discuss the issues on Francis Avenue.

Councilor Unghire stated she would mention concerns about tractor trailer trucks on Weymouth Road and speeding at the next Public Safety meeting. They will brainstorm new ideas for letting the public know about meetings and activities around town.

Councilor Pyznar thanked Mr. Young for his questions, and she looked forward to reviewing the packet that was provided. She agreed the flooding of the Martin's property is unacceptable and she wished to meet with Steve Jarmoc to discuss a resolution. The traffic and speeding on Enfield roads are not unknown to the police and she has faith that it is being looked at. She hopes to have a solution for Francis Avenue after the next Public Safety meeting. She thanked Ms. Price for the Charter reminder but made it clear she's never received a stipend and still considers the Councilor position to be a volunteer one.

Councilor Despard stated the Public Safety committee has been looking at tractor trailer truck traffic to see which roads can be limited to truck traffic and which roads can't and the CT DOT has a large part in the discussion.

Councilor Ludwick questioned if any additions were made to the minutes package for the BAA meeting, to which it was stated everything that was received was appended and anything additional may not have been presented at the time. He asked for clarification from the Town Manager on technicalities for land grading and was told a synopsis would be given. He asked the Town Attorney to provide an opinion regarding a business going back to normal business practices once a "stay" is ordered.

Councilor Finger inquired about resident-only parking signs on Powder Ridge Road and what it took for the residents to get those. He believes the situation is more dire on Francis Avenue than it was for prohibiting parking for people looking to swim the Scantic River.

Deputy Mayor Cekala offered clarification to Mr. Young about the School Modernization Committee and stated that any recommendation or plan would go to referendum. There is a reimbursement program in place for eligible reimbursements at a rate of about 79%. If nothing is done, there is 0% reimbursement repairs are complete school by school.

## **9. TOWN MANAGER REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Town Manager Zoppo-Sassu stated that on Friday, October 6, the town will receive a portion of the funds to start to move forward with the Public Safety Complex. After speaking with the Governor and other officials, it is safe to start this project in phases. The three-phase project will start with EMS, as it is the most pressing need. As the phases continue, the state will continue to re-evaluate and provide additional funding if deemed necessary. If additional funding is not provided, it would be able to go to referendum and be voted on whether to continue working on the project in phases.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu reported that the pumping stations far exceeded their capacity with the influx of rain from Friday to Saturday. There were over 120 hours of overtime due to having to switch from automatic to manual controls. The situations on Francis Avenue and Elan Street appear to be private situations, but there is more going on than meets the eye and requires more complex resolutions. While farming has different regulations, its current impact on the residents must be investigated as well as the municipal impact.

The traffic situations on Weymouth Road are observed by the police at multiple locations: Steele Road, Deerfield Circle and Parkman School as requested by the Council. There are currently eighty-one enforcement locations. Ms. Zoppo-Sassu further stated that there are significant concerns regarding the vacancies at Nathan Hale School and Brainard Road School. Currently, there is interest in the Nathan Hale School, and they would like to add it to the Grand List. The owners of Brainard School have agreed to the assessment of the property to incentivize them to move forward with developing the property.

She noted that a couple of items discussed during the meeting would be added to the next Public Safety Committee agenda. She would like to make an appointment to meet with representatives or attorneys of Jarmoc Farms. Ms. Zoppo-Sassu also mentioned a report by the Office of Policy and Management regarding the various forms of government across the state of Connecticut. The report is the Connecticut Data Report, which is maintained by the state government. She stated that Connecticut has a diverse governing style, and each municipality participates in one form or another.

Assistant Town Manager Bielenda stated that there were three interviews for the Crossing Guard position and also thanked the Council for the increase in the rate of pay.

Councilor Pyznar presented her questions about the roof for the Public Safety Complex and the bonded amounts and asked whether it could be completed in phases based on what was approved at the referendum. Ms. Zoppo-Sassu said the potential bonding of \$2.3 million could be used in Phase 1 and is not a violation. While a promise in writing could not be achieved, the Governor understands the importance of the Public Safety Complex project. There are certain goals that need to be attained by EMS that may not be achieved due to the condition of their current facility. Eventually, training, and other offerings could become available in Enfield with an updated safety complex, even leading to the town making money if other towns found it desirable to take classes here. While she understands the concern about cost, if done in phases, it would be the best option.

Councilor Santanella questioned the wording of the referendum and where the additional \$10 million would come from to complete the project. As it stands, the town only has a little over \$5 million to complete a phase, not the projected cost of \$15 million. There could be multiple ways of funding the project, but it is important to focus on completing the first phase for the guaranteed \$5 million or under budget. Councilor Ludwick requested a public information hearing to discuss the different phases and which phase would be a priority for the Public Safety Complex, since the referendum was approved with the police as the first phase. He would like to see the Bond Council at the public information hearing to provide transparency to the taxpayers. He asked for clarification from the Town Clerk about the meaning of "no more than a bare majority of members" in the Charter revision packet and he would also like to see the Charter discussion pushed out a month.

Town Manager Zoppo-Sassu reviewed that language in the resolution approving the complex which stated, "to be funded by state grants and other available funds". She would also like to have a public information hearing, perhaps as a series, and open houses for the public to see what the facilities are currently.

Councilor Nelson said that the \$2.3 million was supposed to buy the taxpayers a rebuilt police department, an expansion to the police department and EMS building. He would like to see the project go back to referendum to go forward. Any money outside of the \$2.3 million would, in fact, exceed what was agreed upon. He would like to see existing buildings being maintained before purchasing or building new ones. Clarification from the Town Manager stated that the funds outside of the \$2.3 million could not be from bonded funds, the money could come from grants or other available funds.

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

Attorney James Tallberg said he would review the situation at Jimmy's Pub concerning the "stay" of the cease-and-desist order.

Deputy Mayor Cekala stated that tonight seven recommendations from the Independent Review would be up for vote and these seven items have unanimous bipartisan support from the subcommittee. There will be another meeting within the next week or two to continue the discussion and more will be forthcoming.

- General Government and Finance Subcommittee - Recommendation from the Independent Report on the 2021 Revaluation

## **11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- None

## **12. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Consent Agenda**

#### **1. Resolution Waiving the Bid Waiver Requirements for the Police Department Purchase of the Starchase System**

WHEREAS, Connecticut law enforcement has been impacted by the precipitous increase in vehicles failing to stop upon signal since the change of state protocols regarding police pursuits; and

WHEREAS, these vehicles very often have improper plates attached and, without additional identifying information, law enforcement frequently has no leads to subsequently identify or charge the offending operator; and

WHEREAS, to assist in rectifying this issue, the Enfield Police Department has identified the Starchase system, as a method of tagging and tracking vehicles involved in these pursuits and other crimes; and

WHEREAS, Starchase is a proprietary technology and purchase from this vendor is the sole source of procurement.

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

**FROM: GENERAL FUND REVENUE**

MISCELLANEOUS FEDERAL REV      10040000-413980      \$35,000

**TO: POLICE SERVICES**

|                 |                 |          |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------|
| OTHER EQUIPMENT | 10200500-573900 | \$31,884 |
| OVERTIME        | 10200500-514000 | \$ 3,116 |

*I hereby certify that the above-stated funds are available as of September 28, 2023, by John A. Wilcox, CPA, Director of Finance*

Upon a **SHOW OF HANDS** vote, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #6727** adopted. Yes: Ken Nelson Jr., John Santanella, Cynthia Mangini, Lori Unghire, Matthew Despard, Gina Cekala, Douglas Finger, Nick Hopkins, Marie Pyznar, Michael Ludwick, Robert Cressotti  
No: None Abstain None.

B. Appointment(s)–Town Council Appointed - None

C. Resolution Concerning Recommendations from the Independent Report on the 2021 Revaluation

**RESOLUTION #6728** by: Cynthia Mangini, seconded: Gina Cekala.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Council endorse these specific recommendations from the General Government & Finance Committee.

Councilor Nelson asked if the BAA or the Assessor was present when the recommendations were discussed, and Councilor Cekala responded that they were not. Councilor Nelson would like the Council to form a committee consisting of two Councilors, the BAA Chair, and the Assessor to determine what recommendations should be made.

Councilor Hopkins made a Point of Order and asked that one Councilor speak at a time which was sustained by the Chair.

Upon a **ROLL CALL** vote, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #6728** adopted. Yes: John Santanella, Cynthia Mangini, Matthew Despard, Gina Cekala, Michael Ludwick, Robert Cressotti No: Ken Nelson Jr., Lori Unghire, Douglas Finger, Nick Hopkins, Marie Pyznar Abstain None. ***A copy of the recommendations is appended to these minutes.***

D. Resolution Waiving the Bid Requirements for the Leasing of Two Unmarked Vehicles for the Police Department

**RESOLUTION #6729** by: Cynthia Mangini, seconded: Ken Nelson Jr.

**WHEREAS:** The Enfield Police Department is using a long-term rental service for unmarked vehicles; and

**WHEREAS:** The Enfield Police Department has identified and established a relationship with a vendor that offers the only available long-term rental service specializing in the rental of unmarked vehicles to police departments; and

**WHEREAS:** The Enfield Police Department has been using ACME Auto Leasing for several

years: and ACME Auto Leasing has been identified as the only organization in the region that rents, allows unlimited mileage upon, offers unlimited change outs of vehicles, and performs all maintenance on said vehicles.

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

Upon a **ROLL CALL** vote, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #6729** adopted. Yes: Ken Nelson Jr., John Santanella, Cynthia Mangini, Lori Unghire, Matthew Despard, Gina Cekala, Douglas Finger, Nick Hopkins, Marie Pyznar, Michael Ludwick, Robert Cressotti No: None Abstain None.

E. Resolution Waiving the Bid Requirements for the Purchase of 100 Optical Red Dot Sights for the Police Department

**RESOLUTION #6730** by: Cynthia Mangini, seconded: Ken Nelson Jr.

WHEREAS: The Enfield Police Department is purchasing 100 Optical Red Dot Sights; and

WHEREAS: The Enfield Police Department will need a qualified law enforcement vendor with the higher quality control standard that other retailers do not need to follow and has the ability to provide the sights in a timely manner to ensure all officers are qualified to use them; and

WHEREAS: C+H Precision Weapons has been identified as the only organization in the region that sells these sights to have them in stock and at the best possible price.

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

Upon a **ROLL CALL** vote, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #6730** adopted. Yes: Ken Nelson Jr., John Santanella, Cynthia Mangini, Lori Unghire, Matthew Despard, Gina Cekala, Douglas Finger, Nick Hopkins, Marie Pyznar, Michael Ludwick, Robert Cressotti No: None Abstain None.

F. Resolution Reducing Property Maintenance Fines at 2 Stage Road

**RESOLUTION #6731** by: Cynthia Mangini, seconded: Ken Nelson Jr.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, the Enfield Town Council does hereby authorize the reduction of property maintenance fines at 2 Stage Road, related to the Property Maintenance lien recorded October 26, 2022 at Volume 2855 Page 138, from \$70,524 to \$5,000.

Upon a **ROLL CALL** vote, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #6731** adopted. Yes: Ken

Nelson Jr., John Santanella, Cynthia Mangini, Lori Unghire, Matthew Despard, Gina Cekala, Douglas Finger, Marie Pyznar, Michael Ludwick, Robert Cressotti No: Nick Hopkins Abstain None.

G. Resolution to Authorize the Foreclosure for Property Maintenance Fines totaling \$61,299 for 122 Windsor Street

**RESOLUTION #6732** by: Cynthia Mangini, seconded: Ken Nelson Jr.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Enfield Town Council hereby authorizes the foreclosure of 122 Windsor Street for the \$61,299 in property maintenance fines; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Town Manager or her designee is authorized to begin the foreclosure process for the property maintenance liens referenced above.

Councilor Nelson stated that the owner attended a Blight Review Committee meeting during which they agreed that if the owner cleaned up the property and maintained it for a period of time, the Blight Committee would make a recommendation to reduce the fines to zero. The property is still in disarray and the owner has not contacted them. Timothy Collins, owner of 122 Windsor Street, approached the Council and asked to speak.

**MOTION #6733** by: Nick Hopkins, seconded: Matthew Despard to suspend the rules and allow Mr. Collins to speak to the Council.

Upon a **SHOW OF HANDS** vote, the Chair declared **MOTION #6733** adopted. Yes: Ken Nelson Jr., John Santanella, Cynthia Mangini, Lori Unghire, Matthew Despard, GinaCekala, Douglas Finger, Nick Hopkins, Marie Pyznar, Michael Ludwick, Robert Cressotti No: None Abstain: None.

Mr. Collins stated that during COVID, he allowed people to stay at his house and they did not take care of it. One was an owner of a roofing company, so he brought building materials and lawnmowers and materials and left them in his yard. He had altercations with one of the residents and the police were involved. After going through the court system, the person no longer lives there but has left all the stuff in his house and yard. Mr. Collins is disabled and has had difficulty obtaining help cleaning the property up. He believes he has made progress.

**MOTION #6734** by: Robert Cressotti, seconded: Douglas Finger to table **RESOLUTION #6732**.

Upon a **SHOW OF HANDS** vote, the Chair declared **MOTION #6734** adopted and **RESOLUTION #6732** was tabled. Yes: Ken Nelson Jr., John Santanella, Cynthia Mangini, Lori Unghire, Matthew Despard, Gina Cekala, Douglas Finger, Nick Hopkins, Marie Pyznar, Michael Ludwick, Robert Cressotti No: None Abstain: None.

H. Higgins Park Value Engineering Proposal to Complete Parking Lot Improvements

**RESOLUTION #6735** by: Cynthia Mangini, seconded: John Santanella.

***BE IT RESOLVED*** that the Enfield Town Council does hereby approve the reallocation of \$613,324.80 from the listed ARPA funded line items to the Higgins Park parking lot project.

***The list is appended to these minutes.***

Councilor Nelson stated that he brought to the Council's attention at the last meeting the poor condition of the bridge that connects to Higgins Park as well as the need for sidewalks at Upper Abbe Road and Post Office Road, and was told that no funds were available, but the town has found money for Higgins Park. Councilor Despard agreed with Councilor Nelson as he felt there needed to be more equity in how the town's money is spent across the entire town.

**MOTION #6736** by: Robert Cressotti, seconded: John Santanella to table **RESOLUTION #6735**

Upon a **SHOW OF HANDS** vote, the Chair declared **MOTION #6736** adopted and **RESOLUTION #6735** was tabled. Yes: John Santanella, Cynthia Mangini, Lori Unghire, Matthew Despard, Marie Pyznar, Michael Ludwick, Robert Cressotti No: Ken Nelson Jr., Gina Cekala, Douglas Finger, Nick Hopkins Abstain: None.

I. Resolution to Appropriate \$15,000 to Create Engineering Plans for CAD plan and Education Specifics Needed for HVAC Design at Parkman School

**MOTION #6737** by: Cynthia Mangini, seconded: Lori Unghire to table items 12-I, 12-J, and 12-K.

Upon a **SHOW OF HANDS** vote, the Chair declared **MOTION #6737** adopted and items 12-I through 12-K were tabled. Yes: Ken Nelson Jr., John Santanella, Cynthia Mangini, Lori Unghire, Matthew Despard, Gina Cekala, Douglas Finger, Nick Hopkins, Marie Pyznar, Michael Ludwick, Robert Cressotti No: None Abstain: None.

J. Resolution to Appropriate \$15,000 to Create Engineering Plans for CAD plan and Education Specifics Needed for HVAC Design at Eli Whitney School

K. Resolution to Appropriate \$15,000 to Create Engineering Plans for CAD plan and Education Specifics Needed for HVAC Design at Enfield Street School

**13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS PROPER TO COME BEFORE SAID MEETING**

- None

**14. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS/APPLIES ONLY IF PRIOR TO 11:00 p.m.**

Zach Zannoni, 6 Howard Street

Mr. Zannoni commended the Councilors that voted to implement the recommendations of the Independent Review and suggested that after seventeen weeks of deliberating a 74-page report, to then throw out the recommendations and create a committee is outrageous. The seventeen-week deliberations surrounding the 74-page report was full of CourtTV-style meetings, egos, and accusations. There is distrust among both sides, and he feels the BAA shouldn't be given full authority to determine assessed values and shouldn't be allowed the authority to override the Assessor and the assessment process.

Joshua Hamre, 52 New King Street

Mr. Hamre congratulated the Enfield football team and encouraged everyone to come out to the games.

Nikki Price, 1324 Enfield Street

Ms. Price said that town staff interfered with a 2/3 vote and that it was against FOIA statutes to allow Mario Coppola to speak at the last meeting. It would have required a 2/3 vote to do so. She was in agreement with Councilor Ludwick regarding the Town Charter being reviewed every ten years or sooner if a commission is appointed by the Council to make any revisions as they see fit. She would like to see the Council use the same decorum that is required of the public.

George Young, 8 Holly Lane

Mr. Young provided clarification to Councilor Cekala regarding his comments about the reimbursable versus non-reimbursable funds used for the School Modernization. He believes the rate would 71.9% if reimbursable.

## **15. COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS**

Councilor Mangini stated it is disturbing to constantly hear attacks against town staff and state government. She believes as they enter the political season, this behavior becomes more prevalent.

## **16. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION #6738** by: Gina Cekala, seconded: Matthew Despard to adjourn.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #6738** adopted unanimously, and the meeting stood adjourned at 10:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila M. Bailey, Town Clerk  
Clerk of the Council

Lindsay Petrucci, Assistant Town Clerk  
Secretary of the Council



C

## TOWN OF ENFIELD

Date: October 2, 2023

### **Title: Resolution Concerning Recommendations from the Independent Report on the 2021 Revaluation**

The General Government & Finance Committee has been charged with reviewing the recommendations from the Report. To date, the following recommendations have been vetted and discussed, and are put forward to the full Town Council for endorsement:

- *That the Assessor refrain from attending BAA meetings;*
- *The BAA shall decide whether to record their meetings;*
- *All of the BAA materials shall be retained in Town Hall (Assessor's Office) in accordance with the General Records Retention scheduled and FOIA;*
- *The Assessor should work with the farming and agricultural community including annual PA 490 public information sessions; as well as utilize various media to advertise/disseminate important information, dates and deadlines;*
- *When doing inspections, the Assessor should attempt to announce his presence prior to inspecting and/or measuring the property;*
- *The Town Council will create a policy concerning the notification of a property owner who is at risk of being removed from the 490 program with the assumption that they are to stay in the program(s).\* (\*A similar policy should also be developed for the quadrennial non-profit reports as well.)*
- *Reorganization: The Assessor and Tax Collector position should be split into 2 different positions.*

**Budget Impact:** There is the potential of salary line item impact if the division is reorganized with an additional position; negligible impact for increases in postage for additional communications/mailings.

**Recommendation:** that the Town Council endorse these specific recommendations from the General Government & Finance Committee

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Town Council endorse these specific recommendations from the General Government & Finance Committee.

Date Prepared: 9/28/2023  
Prepared By: Ellen Zoppo-Sassu, Town Manager



H

## TOWN OF ENFIELD

Date: October 2, 2023

### **Title: Higgins Park Value Engineering Proposal to Complete Parking Lot Improvements**

The Town Council requested that the Contractor with the awarded bid be asked by Staff to revise the bid amount to complete the necessary components of Higgins Park, so work could begin in the Fall of 2023.

### **Budget Impact:**

**Recommendation:** Allocate \$350,000 of ARPA funds for the CT Communities Challenge Grant program for 132 Weymouth Road and the creation of bathrooms at Higgins Park

**Certification:** *I hereby certify that the above-stated funds are available as of September 28, 2023, by John Wilcox, CPA, Finance Director*

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Enfield Town Council does hereby approve the reallocation of \$613,324.80 from the listed ARPA funded line items to the Higgins Park parking lot project.

### **FROM:**

### **COVID-19 FUND**

|                              |                 |            |
|------------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| COVID Service Pay            | 24500350-589000 | \$500      |
| Front Load Refuse Truck      | 24508223-573200 | \$805.40   |
| Enfield Street Sprinkler     | 24508224-545000 | \$9,515.40 |
| Alcorn Builders Steam Piping | 24508226-545000 | \$200,000  |
| Bulky Waste Compactor        | 24508232-573100 | \$250,000  |
| Midi Excavator               | 24508235-573100 | \$2,504    |
| Weymouth Challenge Grant     | 24508332-589000 | \$150,000  |

### **TO:**

### **COVID-19 FUND**

|                     |                 |              |
|---------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Express Parking Lot | 24508170-545000 | \$613,324.80 |
|---------------------|-----------------|--------------|

Date Prepared: 9/29/2023

Prepared By: Ellen Zoppo-Sassu, Town Manager