



MINUTES
TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING - AMENDED
May 8, 2024
5:30 PM - Council Chambers
<https://youtube.com/live/5Lar4JIEkes>

1. Roll Call

Present: Gina Cekala, Robert Cressotti, Douglas Finger, Bob Hendrickson, Michael Ludwick, Cynthia Mangini, Jim Nasuta, Ken Nelson Jr., Marie Pyznar, John Santanella, Lori Unghire

Absent: None. Councilor Mancini arrived at 5:37 pm.

Also Present were Town Manager, Christopher Bromson; Assistant Town Manager, Steve Bielenda; Director of Finance, John Wilcox; and Town Clerk, Sheila Bailey.

Mayor Nelson apologized to the members and public for the inconvenience of moving the meeting from the Scitico Room to the Council Chambers at the last minute. He explained that he made the decision for transparency and in the interest of full disclosure.

Town Manager Christopher Bromson announced that budget deliberations would focus on the town's side of the budget; however, he wanted to take some time to discuss some possible misunderstandings concerning Board of Education funds. Mr. Bromson explained that all approved funding for the current and last fiscal years has been received by the Board of Education. Mr. Bromson displayed a chart which helped explain Education Cost Sharing (ECS) funding for the BOE. ***The chart is appended to these minutes.***

Mr. Bromson explained that in 2018, the state paid the town almost \$5M less in ECS funding than what was anticipated and budgeted. The town made the BOE whole and covered those funds. During FY2019-2022, the budgeted amount and the ECS funds received were equal. In FY2023 and 2024, the town received approximately \$1.4M more than we budgeted for totaling \$2.8M. The discussion has been that since the town received more than was budgeted for, why weren't those funds given to the BOE.

Director of Finance John Wilcox explained that prior to that year, there was a change in the law concerning the alliance districts. In the Spring of 2022, the town was informed that the school district would be in an alliance district and so Mr. Wilcox budgeted according to what that statutes were at that time. Subsequently, the state modified the law and said that any increase in funds received over the amount the town received for FY2022 shall be transferred to the Commissioner of Education. Mr. Wilcox explained that the amount of ECS funding Enfield received in 2022 was the same as in 2023 and therefore no funds were transferred. The town received what we were supposed to receive according to the statute.

Mr. Bromson stated that legally, because the statute was changed, the town received the funds and put them in the general fund. The BOE can ask for the funds and it is up to the Council to make the decision as to whether to do so, but it is not legally required.

Mr. Bromson also touched on the \$1.7M that the BOE is looking for the town to reimburse for completed capital projects. The BOE completed some tennis courts and parking lots. Assistant Town Manager Steve Bielenda reviewed an agreement between former Town Manager Ellen Zoppo-Sassu and the BOE regarding these projects. The BOE then applied for a grant which was not awarded and is now requesting that the town reimburse the board for these projects. The decision is up to the Council. 5

2. Budget Deliberations

Budget deliberations for FY2025 continued.

3. Adjournment

MOTION by: Lori Unghire, seconded: Michael Ludwick to adjourn.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION** adopted unanimously, and the meeting stood adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila M. Bailey, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council

Town of Enfield
Analysis of Budget
FY28 to FY25

Fiscal Year	Total Budget			Town			BOE Budget Funded By			Actual ECS Received		
							Taxes	ECS Budget				
2018	\$	132,291,054	\$	62,601,869	\$	69,689,185	\$	40,011,478	\$	29,677,707	\$	24,794,788
2019	\$	134,113,558	\$	62,823,433	\$	71,290,125	\$	42,533,435	\$	28,756,690	\$	28,765,624
2020 *	\$	137,452,722	\$	65,760,856	\$	71,691,866	\$	42,521,867	\$	29,169,999	\$	29,166,613
2021 *	\$	139,328,844	\$	67,219,322	\$	72,109,522	\$	42,923,608	\$	29,185,914	\$	29,570,136
2022 *	\$	147,189,701	\$	74,442,448	\$	72,747,253	\$	42,923,608	\$	29,823,645	\$	29,795,779
2023	\$	145,450,039	\$	72,174,787	\$	73,275,252	\$	44,675,252	\$	28,600,000	\$	29,712,963
2024	\$	153,338,312	\$	77,408,757	\$	75,929,555	\$	47,549,555	\$	28,380,000	\$	29,824,100
2025 Proposed	\$	161,763,604	\$	79,244,522	\$	82,519,082	\$	52,695,437	\$	29,823,645		TBD

* - BOE and ECS Budgets were increased midyear due to increases in ECS award amounts that were not known at the time the budget was passed.
 The increases were: \$401,741 for FY20, \$417,656 for FY21 and \$637,731 for FY22.