



**MINUTES
TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
December 2, 2024
5:30 PM - Town Hall, Scitico Room**

1. Roll Call

Present: Gina Cekala, Bob Hendrickson, Michael Ludwick, Jim Nasuta, Ken Nelson Jr., Marie Pyznar, Jeff Rousseau, John Santanella, Lori Unghire

Absent: Robert Cressotti, Cynthia Mangini

Also Present were Town Manager, Christopher Bromson; Assistant Town Manager, Steve Bielenda; Assistant Town Attorney, Mark Cerrato; and Town Clerk, Sheila Bailey.

2. Executive Session

Motion #7074 by: Marie Pyznar seconded: Lori Unghire

to go into Executive Session to discuss the following item(s).

Upon a **SHOW OF HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #7074** adopted.

Yes: Gina Cekala, Bob Hendrickson, Michael Ludwick, Jim Nasuta, Ken Nelson Jr., Marie Pyznar, Jeff Rousseau, John Santanella, Lori Unghire No: None Abstain: None.

The Executive Session of the Enfield Town Council was called to order by Chair Nelson at 5:31pm.

A. Real Estate Negotiations

Director of Economic and Community Development Aaron Marcavitch was present for items 2-A.

- Union Square

- 90 Alden Avenue

Mr. Marcavitch left the meeting at 6:08pm.

B. Contract Negotiations

- Teamsters

3. 6:00 PM - Fire Department Tax Collection

Members of the Enfield Fire Districts and Board of Fire Commissioners attended the meeting to discuss the continued agreement between the districts and the town for the collection of district taxes.

Pat Tallarita, Thompsonville Fire District, stated that he believed the town should make their proposal. He would like the money to stay within the town if possible. However, the 3% fee the districts have been paying the town represents a significant cost difference from what the vendor has quoted. He would like to see a fair and equitable agreement. Mayor Nelson proposed a ten-year contract between the town and the districts at a rate of 2%. The 1.89% quote the districts received from a private, non-union company would equate to approximately 2% including incidentals. He felt it was a fair compromise based upon the information the fire districts have provided, without the town having to spend funds analyzing the cost of every service the town is currently providing the districts.

Maureen Brennan, Enfield Fire District No. 1, asked what the consequences for the town would be if the districts terminated their agreement with the town. Finance Director John Wilcox responded that the town still needs to collect town taxes and the difference in workload for the town would be minimal.

Councilor Ludwick stated that he was in favor of the 3%. However, he would be willing to compromise. He asked Mr. Wilcox how much money the 1% reduction represented, and Mr. Wilcox responded with approximately \$120K. Councilor Santanella was against the town contracting and continuing to collect the fire districts' taxes and believed they should collect their own taxes, similar to how sewer taxes are collected. Mr. Nelson indicated that Councilors Cressotti and Mangini are in favor of the ten-year, 2% contract.

Mr. Tallarita stated that they would need to bring this offer back to all the fire districts and hold a formal vote. Marge Perry, Thompsonville Fire District, pointed out that if the fire districts were consolidated, this contract would no longer be valid if signed, since the districts would no longer exist.

Mr. Ludwick asked if each district would decide on the contract individually or would it be an all or nothing deal. Mr. Tallarita responded that they had not discussed that, but he felt that if the districts couldn't come to a consensus over this contract, it would be extremely unlikely that they could come to a consensus over consolidation. Furthermore, he did not believe the costs to the town should be a consideration. The important consideration is what the districts will have to pay for the service, whether to a separate entity or to the town. Mr. Tallarita remarked that receiving separate sewer bills is a constant source of irritation for residents, and he would hate to see that happen for the fire district taxes as well. He would prefer to see the town lose \$100K instead of \$400K, because they will have to make up that loss of revenue in some way, either by raising taxes or by cutting services.

Ms. Brennan asked Mr. Nelson if he would go back to the council members for a rate of 1.5% because she doesn't have a consensus on the 2% rate. She felt that the town had already indicated that collecting the fire district taxes did not have a significant impact on the town's workload, and that it could be accomplished for less than 2%. Mr. Nelson responded that he had a consensus for 2% and did not support any less.

The districts agreed that they would go back to their districts and see what the consensus is for a ten-year contract at 2%.

4. Adjournment

MOTION by: Gina Cekala, seconded: John Santanella to adjourn.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared the **MOTION** adopted unanimously, and the meeting stood adjourned at 6:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila M. Bailey, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council