

**ENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A PUBLIC HEARING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2017**

A Public Hearing was called to order by Chairman Kaupin in the Council Chambers of the Enfield Town Hall, 820 Enfield Street, Enfield, Connecticut on Tuesday, January 3, 2017 at 6:50 p.m.

ROLL-CALL – Present were Councilmen Arnone, Bosco, Davis, Deni, Edgar, Kaupin, Lee and Szewczak. Councilor Cekala arrived at 6:54 p.m. Councilor Hall was absent. Also present were Town Manager, Bryan Chodkowski; Town Attorney, Christopher Bromson; Director of Finance, John Wilcox; Superintendent of Assessment & Revenue, Della Froment; Library Director, Jason Neely; Director of Public Works, Jonathan Bilmes; Director of Social Services, Dawn Homer-Bouthiette; Town Clerk, Suzanne Olechnicki

Chairman Kaupin read the notice of Public Hearing, which was published in the Hartford Courant on Friday, December 23, 2016 as follows:

**TOWN OF ENFIELD
LEGAL NOTICE - PUBLIC HEARING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2017**

“The Enfield Town Council will hold a Public Hearing in the Enfield Town Hall Council Chambers, 820 Enfield Street, Enfield, Connecticut on Tuesday, January 3, 2017 at 6:50 p.m. to allow interested citizens an opportunity to express their opinions regarding the proposed **ORDINANCE TO WAIVE PENALTY ASSOCIATED WITH INCOME AND EXPENSE REPORTS FOR OWNERS OF RENTAL INCOME PROPERTY IN ACCORDANCE WITH CONN. GEN. STAT. 12-63c(d)**.

Chairman Kaupin announced the ground rules for the Public Hearing.

Mr. Chodkowski stated when businesses are delinquent with regards to providing their revenue and expense statements and a penalty is incurred, traditionally what has happened is that information is normally provided, but because there’s no means to immediately waive the penalty, which is a one-time charge, the value is appealed and ultimately the Appeals Board then reduces the total value by the amount of the fine over a five-year term. He stated this is a tool to make sure they can maintain assessed values as high as possible on the grand list.

As there were no comments from the public, Chairman Kaupin closed the Public Hearing at 6:55 p.m.

**ENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2017**

The Regular Meeting of the Enfield Town Council was called to order by Chairman Kaupin in the Council Chambers of the Enfield Town Hall, 820 Enfield Street, Enfield, Connecticut on Tuesday, January 3, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

PRAYER – The Prayer was given by Councilor Cekala.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL-CALL – Present were Councilors Arnone, Bosco, Cekala, Davis, Deni, Edgar, Kaupin, Lee and Szewczak. Councilor Hall entered at 7:15 p.m. Also present were Town Manager, Brian Chodkowski; Town Clerk, Suzanne Olechnicki; Town Attorney, Christopher Bromson; Director of Finance, John Wilcox; Superintendent of Assessment and Revenue, Della Froment; Library Director, Jason Neely; Social Services Director, Dawn Homer-Bouthiette; Director of Public Works, Jonathan Bilmes

FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT

Chairman Kaupin made the fire evacuation announcement.

MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

MOTION #3965 by Councilor Arnone, seconded by Councilor Szewczak to accept the minutes of the December 19, 2016 Regular Meeting.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #3965** adopted 9-0-0.

SPECIAL GUESTS

Jason Neely, Library Director, gave a presentation about the library website.

Mr. Neely shared the changes made to the library's website. He noted the goal was to make the website more aesthetically pleasing and user friendly because it was very difficult to navigate and find information. He stated more than half of web traffic comes in via mobile devices, i.e., I-Pads and phones and the website was almost un-navigable. Mr. Neely highlighted the difference between the current library website and the new website.

Councilor Arnone stated it is the same issue with all the department sites. He commended Mr. Neely for redesigning the library's website.

Mr. Chodkowski stated the Town is working toward a Town website that is more user friendly.

Councilor Szewczak questioned what is required as far as maintenance of the library's website, and Mr. Neely stated it will actually be less time to maintain the new website, and that responsibility will be divided up as it is currently.

Councilor Bosco stated he likes the new design and looks forward to trying it.

Councilor Deni commended Mr. Neely for doing this and stated his belief all the departments should be doing the same.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS

Maureen Mullen, 1625 King Street

Questioned who she should refer questions to regarding the earth moving project at the CREC site.

She noted much soil is leaving the site, and it's up to 90 truckloads a day for the past two weeks. She stated her understanding the most contaminated soil was taken out of state. She noted the days that there has been rain, the ditch has filled up with muddy water. She questioned if any Town employees or commissioners are monitoring this process.

Ms. Mullen thanked the Town Attorney for his efforts.

She referred to Mullen Road and Mullen Hill and noted a lot of trees have been cut down at the top of the hill. She noted in the past there was a snow fence that went along the top of the hill and that stopped the drifting snow from filling in the hill. She suggested that be kept in mind.

William Ballard, 321 Abbe Road

Expressed appreciation for the Town straightening out bumps on Raffia Road.

Mr. Ballard stated approaching Town Farm Road from Wallop School Road, drivers are taking their lives in their hands because the traffic coming over the hill is fast. He suggested perhaps the Town can contact the property owner to cut back some brush to provide more visibility.

He noted a few weeks ago, the Town was talking about a path that will go to Somers and doing some restructuring in the Fletcher Road area. He stated his belief the easiest solution is to put in a walkway from Town Farm Road down Abbe Road all the way to Broadbrook Road and hook up going into Ellington, Tolland and Rockville. He stated his belief his street is the only street that doesn't have sidewalks all the way up one side or the other. He noted since the road has been re-paved, drivers are speeding. He stated between Jewell Street and the brook, there's no complete sidewalk to walk up Abbe Road, and he feels something has to be done about that. He stated there are 240 homes on

Neelans Road and the lower half of Abbe Road, and people can't walk in this area. He pointed out there are families with little children in this area, and they cannot walk from Grant Road to Jewell Street. He stated he would like this looked into.

COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

MOTION #3966 by Councilor Lee, seconded by Councilor Szewczak to suspend the rules to address under Miscellaneous Items 14 A1 through A3, E, F, G and H.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #3966** adopted 10-0-0.

Chairman Kaupin stated a lot of tipper barrels are being put out not according to the ordinance or schedule. He questioned if something can be done to educate the public regarding this.

He stated there will be a "Chili For Life Cook Off" on Saturday, January 21st at the Pleasant View Golf Center from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tickets are \$7.00. He stated ages 6 and under or 70 and over are free. He noted this year's event will benefit an Enfield resident, Al Baker, who is a former firefighter in Hartford and a volunteer firefighter in Somers. He stated Mr. Baker was involved in a very bad accident and needed numerous surgeries. He noted Mr. Baker's wife works for the Town of Enfield.

Chairman Kaupin stated Governor Malloy reduced the budget by over a half a million dollars to the Town of Enfield, which is \$226,000 in ECS funding and over \$300,000 in LOCIP funding. He referred to the ECS funding and questioned based on resolutions that Council passed when adopting the budget, whose responsibility is it to cover the \$226,000 reduction in ECS. He questioned the impact regarding the \$300,000 LOCIP funding, and what project(s) will that impact on the Town side, and what funding options does the Town have if they deem projects critical whereby they may have to move money from one project to another, and what are the options to handle LOCIP.

He stated the State Comptroller, Kevin Lembo, came out with an update. Mr. Lembo stated this fiscal year, he's projecting the State is in deficit by \$56.2 million and next fiscal year, it's \$1.3 billion dollars. He warned Enfield residents to prepare themselves because unless the State can do something with the new Legislature, there will be some tough decisions. He noted at this time they're looking at a \$226,000 reduction in ECS, but the new projection could mean millions across the board.

Councilor Bosco stated he received a complaint from a resident that a neighbor's cars are all registered in Massachusetts. He stated something has to be done about this because the Town can get more revenue by collecting money owed to Enfield.

Councilor Deni agreed with Councilor Bosco and noted when he was campaigning, he saw residents' cars with Massachusetts plates. He noted this is a growing problem. He

stated his understanding residents have 90 days to change their plates, and some people have out of state registrations for long period of time.

Councilor Bosco stated years ago, an Enfield police officer use to ticket and tow away these cars. He stated his belief there has to be a way to use laws in place to correct this problem. He noted the Town of Enfield talks about needing money, but there are people living in Enfield and not paying their fair share.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT & COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Chodkowski stated they're working on a troubled properties listing, and this is a cooperative effort between Planning, Zoning and Public Health. He noted they're looking at the ten worst properties that continue to be repeat offenders.

He stated the 2017/18 budget is rapidly approaching, and they're putting together a tax and service list of comparable regional municipalities to be used as part of the budget process.

He noted they are also looking at committee structure and staff support issues, employee appraisals, and personnel policy manual updates. He stated he and the Finance Director are meeting with all of the fire district leadership later in the month to talk with them about their questions and concerns about the grand list and tax distribution, as well as tax abatements and how those impact the districts.

Mr. Chodkowski stated the new Director of Development Services, Michael Ciriello, will be at the next Town Council meeting.

TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT & COMMUNICATIONS

Attorney Bromson stated he had no formal report this evening.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

Enfield High School Renovation Building Committee

JFK Pre-Referendum Committee

There were no Committee reports regarding Enfield High School or JFK Middle School this evening.

Councilor Lee stated the Enfield Culture and Arts Commission will be producing a juried artists and craftsmen show on the Town Green for Saturday, September 30th. He noted this event will promote Enfield artists and craftsman.

OLD BUSINESS

Appointments (Town Council)

MOTION #3967 by Councilor Arnone, seconded by Councilor Deni to remove Item #19 from the table.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #3967** adopted 10-0-0.

NOMINATION #3968 by Councilor Cekala to appoint Jennifer Bakowski (D) to the Ethics Commission as an Alternate for a term which expires 10/31/2017.

MOTION #3969 by Councilor Hall, seconded by Councilor Szewczak to close nominations.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #3969** adopted 10-0-0.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared Jennifer Bakowski appointed to the Ethics Commission as an alternate by a 10-0-0 vote.

MOTION #3970 by Councilor Lee, seconded by Councilor Hall to remove Item #23 from the table.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #3970** adopted 10-0-0.

NOMINATION #3971 by Councilor Lee to appoint Jason Walsh (R) to the John F. Kennedy Pre-Referendum Committee for an indefinite term.

NOMINATION #3972 by Councilor Cekala to appoint Gina Sullivan (R) to the John F. Kennedy Pre-Referendum Committee for an indefinite term.

MOTION #3973 by Councilor Hall, seconded by Councilor Lee to close nominations.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #3973** adopted 10-0-0.

Chairman Kaupin stated when the last opening came up on the John F. Kennedy Pre-Referendum Committee, it was a Democratic appointment to fill, and the Republicans allowed the Democrats to come forward with their nomination, and the Republicans supported that nomination 100% as well as other Democratic appointments on boards and commissions, therefore, he asked the Democrats to honor the Republican's nomination. He pointed out the Republicans interviewed Jason Walsh, and they believe he will make a great addition to the John F. Kennedy Pre-Referendum Committee.

Councilor Cekala stated Gina Sullivan served on the pre-referendum committee for the Enfield High School Building Committee, and she is currently on the Enfield High School Building Committee. She noted Ms. Sullivan is a registered Republican, therefore, it would not be a Democratic nomination.

Chairman Kaupin questioned whether the Democrats want Republicans to start nominating Democrats for Democratic open positions. He noted that is something that they don't do. He questioned why this is being done now. He added his belief this is unfair.

Councilor Davis stated her belief the Republicans didn't want to seat her on the Council unless they did a backdoor deal. She noted her interview was recorded.

She stated Gina Sullivan is extremely qualified for this position, has done an amazing job in four years, and she doesn't understand why Republicans sought another applicant because of personal issues. She stated they should do what's right for the citizens.

Chairman Kaupin stated he supported the nomination of Councilor Davis to this Council a hundred percent, and the request was that she be interviewed. He noted Councilor Edgar gave his word that Councilor Davis was going to resign as Chairman of the Democratic Town Committee as a way for the Republicans to support her appointment to the Council, and she was supposed to resign, but she hasn't. He stated this was questioned and it was said they're having difficulty finding a new chair.

Chairman Kaupin stated the Republicans have supported the Democrats' appointments and nominations. Councilor Davis disagreed about the one hundred percent support noting they didn't support the appointment of Virginia Higley.

Councilor Davis stated she will be fine when the Democratic Committee is ready to vote and bring in a Chair. She stated stipulations behind doors have to stop.

Chairman Kaupin stated his belief accusations are being made that are totally false. He pointed out they have a new, willing person to serve on this committee.

Councilor Bosco noted Gina Sullivan is a friend to him, but it was never mentioned by anyone that Gina Sullivan's name would be brought up, and for that reason he will support Jason Walsh.

Councilor Bosco stated he finds it very troubling that someone would tape a private meeting. He questioned whether Executive Sessions are also being taped. He stated he finds this very offensive and unethical. He noted Councilor Davis should resign her seat now for that.

Councilor Edgar stated at leadership he said they were going to bring up Gina Sullivan. He noted he spoke to Chairman Kaupin several times and told him about the internal

problems the Democratic Town Committee was having in replacing Councilor Davis. He noted once those problems are resolved, proper things will be done.

Councilor Edgar stated about four years ago, the Democrats put a name up for the Town Council, and the Republicans knocked it down.

Chairman Kaupin asked the Democrats to support the Republicans' choice for the JFK Committee. He pointed out if the Democrats choose not to support their choice, this will come up at future meetings until he is seated.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the nominations failed by a 5-5-0 vote, with Councilors Arnone, Cekala, Davis, Deni, and Edgar voting for Gina Sullivan and Councilors Hall, Kaupin, Lee, Szewczak and Walsh voting for Jason Walsh.

Discussion followed about whether the Chair could break the tie by voting twice. Attorney Bromson stated according to the Town Charter, six affirmative votes are required to pass anything, and that should trump Roberts Rules of Order, however, he will research this for the next meeting.

MOTION #3974 by Councilor Lee, seconded by Councilor Hall to take a five minutes recess.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #3974** adopted 10-0-0, and the meeting stood recessed at 7:58 p.m.

Chairman Kaupin reconvened the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

All other Old Business items remained tabled.

NEW BUSINESS

NOMINATION #3975 by Councilor Szewczak to appoint Michael Ludwick (R) to the Enfield Town Council as a Councilor-At-Large for a term which expires 11/13/2017.

MOTION #3976 by Councilor Hall, seconded by Councilor Lee to close nominations.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #3976** adopted 10-0-0.

Councilor Davis stated at this time she can't vote in favor of this because she has emails from parents asking not to support Mr. Ludwick after he just voted to close a school and now he's going to the Town Council. She noted this is the only reason she can't support him, although she knows he would do a great job.

Chairman Kaupin stated he supports Mr. Ludwick's appointment to the Council. He noted they did serve on the Council together years ago before he stepped away to have

more time with his family. He stated he has been really impressed with his performance on the Board. He noted he brings a wealth of knowledge through his career and his involvement with the community. He stated when Mr. Ludwick stepped away from elected politics, he stayed involved in volunteer service in Enfield. He feels he will be a great addition to the Council. He noted he has heard praise about his service on the Insurance Committee, and Mr. Ludwick has a lot invested in this community, and he feels he will be a great addition to fill the vacancy left by Gregg Stokes.

Councilor Hall stated she had the privilege of serving with Mr. Ludwick on the Town Council in the past, and he was a great Town Council person. She added he was also a great asset on the Insurance Subcommittee.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared Michael Ludwick appointed to the Town Council by a 9-1-0 vote, with Councilor Davis voting against.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

All items were moved to Miscellaneous.

MISCELLANEOUS

MOTION #3977 by Councilor Hall, seconded by Councilor Deni to approve the Consent Agenda.
Child Development Center \$7,500 Transfer
Town Manager \$15,000 Transfer
Authorize Town Manager – Agreement with Federal Substance Abuse & Mental Health Svcs Admin

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #3977** adopted 10-0-0.

RESOLUTION #3978 by Councilor Arnone, seconded by Councilor Hall.

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

TO:	Family Resource Center Revenue		
	22044470 460098	LEGO Grant	\$14,487
	22046098 533900	Other Professional Services	\$20,688
	22046098 561100	Instructional Supplies	\$ 7,848
	22046098 573300	Furniture and Fixtures	\$ 1,169
FROM:	Family Resource Center Expenses		
	22046098 512000	Salaries	\$41,030
	22046098 522000	Social Security	\$ 2,562
	22046098 522100	Medicare	\$ 600

CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify that the above-stated funds are available as of December 9, 2016.

/s/ Rose Bouchard, Deputy Director of Finance

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #3978** adopted 10-0-0.

RESOLUTION #3979 by Councilor Hall, seconded by Councilor Szewczak.

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

TO:	Enfield Child Development Center Expenses		
	22040432 532400	Field Trips	\$ 1,500
	22040432 533900	Other Professional Services	\$ 1,000
	22040432 561100	Instructional Supplies	\$23,000
	22040432 573400	Technology Equipment	\$25,000
FROM:	Enfield Child Development Center Revenue		
	22044432 460098	LEGO Grant	\$50,500

CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify that the above-stated funds are available as of December 9, 2016.

/s/ Rose Bouchard, Deputy Director of Finance

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #3979** adopted 10-0-0.

RESOLUTION #3980 by Councilor Arnone, seconded by Councilor Szewczak.

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

TO:	CIP		
	CT Greenbank Equipment	31008333-573000	\$21,198.28
FROM:	CIP		
	Grants Other	31042017-460001	\$21,198.28

CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify that the above-stated funds are available as of December 21, 2016.

/s/ Rose Bouchard, Deputy Director of Finance

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #3980** adopted 10-0-0.

RESOLUTION #3981 by Councilor Lee, seconded by Councilor Szewczak.

WHEREAS, Conn. Gen. Stat. 12-63c requires that the owner of rental income property submit an income and expense report; and

WHEREAS, failure to do so subjects the owner to a ten percent penalty; and

WHEREAS, Conn. Gen. Stat. 12-63c (d) allows the Assessor or the Board of Assessment Appeals to waive the penalty associated with income and expense reports; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Town Charter, Chapter 3, Section 6, a Public Hearing was held on January 3, 2017; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that it is in the best interest of the Town to adopt the ordinance, attached hereto, allowing such a waiver;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Enfield Town Council does hereby adopt the amendment to Enfield Town Code, waiver of penalty on income and expense reports.

Councilor Szewczak questioned what they actually do with these reports. Ms. Froment explained the income and expense are used to drive an income approach to value of property during a reval year, which they do every five years. She noted they are using the most recent information (2014 and 2015 income) for the current grand list to derive what it is for a small three-unit rental commercial building on Enfield Street versus the Scitico area or Raffia Road. She noted each area of Town would have its own cost for income and expense so they have trending income and expense on all properties.

Councilor Szewczak questioned if that's part of the assessment of the property, and Ms. Froment responded that's correct.

Councilor Lee thanked the Assessor for closing a loop hole or fixing a quirk. He noted this definitely has an impact in maintaining values where they should be.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #3981** adopted 10-0-0.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

William Ballard, 321 Abbe Road

Stated in 2008 he ran for State Rep and at that time the State Comptroller stated they were \$300 million in arrears. He noted he did some research and learned it was \$730 million. He stated a week after the election, the State was \$760 million in arrears.

Mr. Ballard stated the State Democratic party for the last five or six years has increased the budget close to a billion dollars just to pass the budget. He noted they borrowed the money and said they wouldn't start paying it off until three years. He stated the next year, they borrowed a billion dollars, and they said they weren't going to start paying it off for three more years. He noted they are now approaching the "atomic bomb", and this will continue for another six or seven years. He stated for years, the opposition party was trying to help towns with their taxes to make taxes lower for the individual person. He noted just the opposite has happened.

Maureen Mullen, 1625 King Street

Questioned who in town is monitoring the CREC work, and where should questions be referred to regarding this work.

Mr. Chodkowski stated the most appropriate staff person to contact would be Jonathan Bilmes, the Public Works Director.

COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor Hall questioned whether anyone from the Town is monitoring the CREC site and the landfill.

Mr. Bilmes stated they have an employee at the transfer station whenever they're hauling material, and they're counting every truck and making sure the material goes where it is supposed to go and that everything is being graded properly. He noted the Town isn't monitoring the CREC site.

Attorney Bromson stated this has been followed. He noted the Town retains Fuss & O'Neill to test all the soil. He stated they're supposed to do new drainage to address the issues at Ms. Mullen's property. As concerns the grading and site work, a final plan had to be submitted to DEEP and engineering will be looking at that to be sure everything is done according to their promise and the court agreement.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #3982 by Councilor Hall, seconded by Councilor Szewczak to adjourn.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #3982** adopted 10-0-0, and the meeting stood adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Appended to minutes of
January 3, 2017 Regular
Town Council Meeting
See Page 8

ENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
RESOLUTION NO. _____

Resolution Authorizing the Town Manager to Enter Into Agreement with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager, Bryan R. H. Chodkowski, is empowered to enter into and amend contractual instruments in the name and on behalf of the Town of Enfield with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for the Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Support Program Grant and to affix the Corporate Seal.

Date Submitted: December 19, 2016
Submitted by: Social Services Director