

**ENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2020**

The Regular Meeting of the Enfield Town Council was called to order by Chairman Ludwick in the Council Chambers of the Enfield Town Hall, 820 Enfield Street, Enfield, Connecticut on Monday, January 6, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

PRAYER – The Prayer was given by Councilor Hemmeler.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL-CALL – Present were Councilors Bosco, Cekala, Hemmeler, Kiner, Ludwick, Mangini, Muller, Riley, Sferrazza, Szewczak and Unghire. Also present were Town Manager, Christopher Bromson; Assistant Town Manager, Kasia Purciello; Town Clerk, Suzanne Olechnicki; Director of Public Works, Donald Nunes; Assistant Director of Public Works, Kenneth Boulette; Republican Registrar of Voters, Tom Kienzler, Democratic Registrar of Voters, Lewis Fiore; Assistant Registrar of Voters, Tony Swanger

FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT

Chairman Ludwick made the fire evacuation announcement.

MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

MOTION #5285 by Councilor Mangini seconded by Councilor Muller to accept the minutes of the December 16, 2019 Special Meeting.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #5285** adopted 10-0-1, with Councilor Hemmeler abstaining.

MOTION #5286 by Councilor Muller seconded by Councilor Riley to accept the minutes of the December 16, 2019 Regular Meeting.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #5286** adopted 10-0-1, with Councilor Hemmeler abstaining.

SPECIAL GUESTS

Proclamations were presented to Bob Cressotti and Ed Deni for their service on the Town Council.

A proclamation was presented to the Enfield Ramblers C Team in recognition of their undefeated season in the NCFL Superbowl championship.

Mr. Nunes introduced Mr. Boulette as the new Assistant Director of Public Works. He noted Mr. Boulette has worked for the Town of Enfield for many years, and he has shown he can do this job. He added it will be a pleasure to work with him.

Mr. Boulette thanked everyone for this opportunity. He stated he loves Enfield, and it's a great place to work, and he will work hard for the taxpayers of Enfield.

Councilor Sferrazza congratulated Mr. Boulette and stated this is an excellent choice.

Councilor Unghire congratulated Mr. Boulette and stated her belief he will do an excellent job.

Chairman Ludwick congratulated Mr. Boulette and stated this is well-earned.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS

Gina Sullivan, 11 Spier Avenue

Stated she's disgusted with the way the vote took place for the closure of the Enfield Adult Day Center. She referred to minutes of the May 20th budget meeting and noted Chairman Ludwick stated this program isn't successful due to the changing market and that people are choosing to stay at home. She stated her belief this is untrue because people are staying home longer to avoid a nursing home, and she believes adult day centers are the reason residents are able to stay in their homes longer because it provides a structured day with socialization and recreation as well as respite for families caring for them.

Ms. Sullivan disagreed with Councilor Sferrazza in that because the Felician Sisters program is available this decision is acceptable.

She noted Councilor Unghire also referenced the changing market and the answer being placing clients in a brand-new situation.

Ms. Sullivan referred to the closing of Blair Manor and those residents who passed away shortly after being relocated to another facility.

She referred to Councilor Szewczak's comment about a failed referendum, and she questioned why the Council keeps blaming failed referendums for the lack of maintenance of buildings. She stated her belief maintenance should have been done over the past ten years for all Town buildings.

Ms. Sullivan stated a comment was also said at the May 20th meeting that the center would stay open for at least one more year. She questioned the sudden vote that no one was aware of until the Town Council meeting before the holidays. She stated she would like an explanation how this vote came about on December 16th.

Ms. Sullivan stated since budget constraints was the reason for closing the center, she expects no Town monies will be given to any non-profits moving forward. She pointed out under Republican majority, the Hazardville Institute was given \$300,000, and that building is still empty. She questioned how much money was given to the Enfield Community Development Program. She questioned if loans were ever repaid. She stated every July, Enfield tax dollars are spent on a police presence at the Fourth of July Celebration. She noted this is an example of a few non-profits getting Town money while the most vulnerable, disabled seniors are left out. She doesn't feel this is representation for all. She questioned how non-profits rate higher than Town programs.

George Young, 8 Holly Lane

Stated his understanding the Council voted last month not to continue the Enfield Adult Day Center for approximately ten people, with only two clients being Enfield residents. He noted there's projected to be a budget deficit of \$150,000 for the year, and it did make monetary sense to discontinue it based on those numbers. He pointed out when Enfield has sent its children to schools outside of Enfield, Enfield always had to pay for that to be done. He questioned whether Enfield ever considered asking towns, other than Enfield, to defray part of the cost since 20% are Enfield residents and 80% of the clients come from surrounding towns. He noted in that case Enfield's share would be \$30,000, and the other towns would have to pay Enfield the other \$120,000. He questioned if this was ever done, and if so, was there a response. He noted if not, why doesn't Enfield do this before the March 31st closure date.

Mr. Young stated the Finance Department and the auditors should be commended for completing the Fiscal Year 2019 annual audit report seven days earlier than last year. He stated his hope the Town Council takes the time to read all 144 pages of the report and especially the notes in the financial statements starting on Page 25 and the statistics in Tables 15, 16 and 17 on Page 115 as they begin asking questions regarding the budget preparation for 2021.

He stated while this is the spring they've been waiting for to finally complete the \$36 million dollar voter approved upgrade to the Water Pollution Control Plant, it was noted that the Town did receive the monies owed from the State of Connecticut based on the Department of Corrections agreement of \$2.5 million dollars as noted in the audit report. He noted that was welcome news. He stated hopefully when the other temporary levels are converted to long-term basis, the interest will not exceed the 2% rate that the Town must pay for the debt.

Referring to Page 74 of the audit report, Mr. Young stated his belief the WPC fund balance has gone from a negative balance of 2.544 million to a negative 3.649 million as of June 30, 2019. He noted the net change in the negative fund balance was \$1.1 million dollars. He stated the rates that were paid in 2019 were increased to offset the anticipated expenditures. He noted it appears that there was \$300,000 that did not get transferred from the WPC as scheduled in 2019, which would have made the deficit worse. He questioned whether these are the monies that were supposed to be repaid to the Town for the advances given to the WPC. He noted the audit report does indicate that the rates were structured to pay back the general fund \$300,000 per year over a ten-year period, however, when he looks at the 2020 budget, it appears that only \$250,000 will be scheduled to be

paid back in this coming period. He questioned whether the Town is on track to pay this back in ten years.

Mr. Young stated the WPC revenues from customers increased in the past year from \$4,516,000 in 2018 to \$6,772,000 in 2019. He noted the budget in 2019 was \$100,000 in revenue from property taxes and the actual received was \$351,000. He questioned what property taxes the WPC gets and from where. He stated the monies for charges for services was \$100,000 more than budgeted for 2019, which was good.

He referred to Page 116 of the audit report, the WPC processed in 2019 the largest average daily sewage treatment gallons in the last ten years. He noted the ten million gallon per day capacity plant processed 6.2 million gallons per day, which is an increase of 28.3% from 2018 and a 35.3% increase from 2017. He stated perhaps someone might give an explanation about this dramatic increase. He noted it would be meaningful if the statistics for the number of customers and the gallons billed were also shown. He stated there must be some correlation between the gallons coming in and the gallons going out, since they're billed on the gallons coming in. He stated he doubts the WPC is billing enough, and people will be surprised by a rate increase more substantial than has been previously seen.

Jack Sheridan, 7 Buchanan Road

Referred to the latest recycling list, and it appears less recyclables than ever are being accepted. He noted it appears things are changing, which will result in more refuse than recyclable materials.

Mr. Sheridan disagreed with spending \$600,000 for another scale at the transfer station.

He agreed with Councilor Szewczak concerning Water Pollution Control that it should stay as is, and perhaps they could hire Karen LaPlante as a consultant. He pointed out they also have a new director for WPC.

Mr. Sheridan stated he hasn't heard any reports about the money given to the Opera House Players.

He noted he spoke to a couple exchange students in the schools, and they don't have extracurricular activities because the focus is on academics. He feels until the school system can get academics up to the point where the grades are such that they can cut the budget by a state statute which says the budget can be cut as long as the academics reach that goal, then that's what they should be focusing on.

Lucien LeFevre, 54 Kimberly Drive and Commander of American Legion Post 154

Stated the 70th Annual Four Chaplains Mass will be held at St. Patrick's Church on February 9th at 11:00 a.m. He noted this is to honor the four chaplains who gave their lives on the USA Dorchester on February 2, 1943.

Marie Pyznar, 25 Roy Street

Voiced her opposition to the proposal to divide up the mall into parcels. She feels this space should be multi-use, i.e., residential, medical, entertainment, dining and shopping. She encouraged Commissioners and staff to investigate their toolbox and to find a way to stop this proposal from happening.

Gina Sullivan, 11 Spier Avenue

Stated her belief the Town encourages people to stay in Enfield and raise families, but she feels a viable program is being taken away that helps with caregiving for aging parents or relatives.

She thanked Councilors Mangini, Cekala and Kiner for their continued support of the Adult Day Center. She also thanked former Councilors Cressotti, Davis and Deni, who were strong advocates for this program. She expressed her disappointment with Councilors Bosco, Unghire, Muller, Szewczak, Ludwick, Sferrazza and Riley for voting to close the Enfield Day Center Program. She stated her belief they lied to the voters about the time frame. She stated she's ashamed to live in a town with this type of leadership that cares so little about its most vulnerable residents.

George Young, 8 Holly Lane

Stated his belief there are many questions that the Council should be asking when new budget discussions begin. He referred to the last three years of statistics on page 115 of the audit report and noted the Council should ask why Social Services went from 53 to 68 employees when the Senior Center was moved to the budget for the library. He questioned why the library has 25 now, when only three of them are from the Senior Center, and they had only 18 employees three years ago. He noted the number of volumes and collection has decreased by 26,000 in the past ten years, and the total volume borrowed has decreased an astounding 163,000 volumes. He noted in 2019, there were only 19 library employees.

Mr. Young agreed with Mr. Sheridan about recycling. He referred to Page 116 of the audit report and noted the refuse collected has decreased from 66 tons per day to 57 tons per day, and the recyclables have decreased from 17 tons per day to 15 tons per day, but the number of employees remains the same at 20 full-time equivalent. He stated there should be an explanation for the decrease in the tonnage.

Jack Sheridan, 7 Buchanan Road

Stated his belief the lights on police cars are so bright they blind drivers.

Mr. Sheridan referred to the number of students that utilize extracurricular activities because he believes the percentage is quite small. He noted if the academics were where they needed to be to the point where the Town could cut the budget, they could then spend it on extracurricular activities.

COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS

Councilor Mangini stated she has observed cars speeding in the mornings, particularly the Raffia Road area and sometimes cars come close to not stopping for school buses. She feels people must be reminded about the safety of children.

Councilor Unghire stated she attended the Commission on Aging meeting last month, and they're working on the Blue Book for the seniors. She noted this book is a community resource book with all kinds of information that's important to senior citizens, i.e., healthcare, physical assistance, financial security, transportation, etc. She stated the proofs of this book will be reviewed in early March, and they will be distributed afterwards.

Councilor Bosco referred to the trash and recycling numbers and requested a report as to why trash is going up and recyclables are going down.

He agreed with Mr. Sheridan concerning the additional scale at the transfer station. He agreed the employees at the transfer station do need a clean, safe building to operate out of, however, he doesn't believe showers are required, and he did check to see that this is not an OSHA requirement.

Councilor Szewczak stated the additional scale at the transfer station would cost about \$78,000, not \$600,000. She noted things must be fixed, whether they go with one or two scales. She noted the figures are under the referendum limit, but the numbers were from 2014, and they just escalated those figures at 4%, which is standard construction practice.

As concerns referendums, Councilor Szewczak stated any kind of repair, maintenance or CIP project that's over the Charter limit must go to referendum.

MOTION #5287 by Councilor Szewczak, seconded by Councilor Muller to suspend the rules to address under Miscellaneous Items 14 E, F, G and H.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #5287** adopted 11-0-0.

Councilor Sferrazza referred to the police car flashing lights and noted when police pull cars over, especially on not well-lit roads, this helps protect police officers and people who may be getting out of a pulled over car. He agreed those lights might be a little blinding momentarily, but the lights being used in Enfield are standard lights and are used to encourage people to slow down and move to the left.

Councilor Hemmeler stated on January 9th at 6:30, Poetry in Enfield will be at Enfield High School, and students in Grade 6 to 12 will be reciting their poems.

Councilor Hemmeler stated the Cultural Arts Commission is having an event at Central Library on January 24th, and this is “Music Together”, which is a class for children from ages birth to 5 years old. She noted registration is not required. She noted later in the month, the Friends of the Library are having an automatic door opener installed in the rear entrance to increase accessibility.

She stated she does plan to attend the Four Chaplains Mass on February 9th at St. Patrick’s Church.

Councilor Hemmeler stated she attended the Economic Development Commission meeting, and they’re working on some great ideas to energize businesses in Enfield.

Councilor Muller requested the Town Manager let the Registrar of Voters know construction will begin during the April break at JFK Middle School, and he’s unsure how that will affect the November election for the coming years, since this project won’t be finished until October, 2022.

Chairman Ludwick thanked everyone for helping their neighbors with snow removal.

Chairman Ludwick also thanked all the businesses that sponsored the Girls’ Basketball Tournament.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT & COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Bromson referred to the Adult Day Care Center closure and stated the Social Services Department is currently speaking with clients and families about defraying some costs they may experience with this closure, particularly transportation. As concerns the allocation of funding derived from the closure of the Adult Day Center, he noted they’ve been looking at some of the suggestions that have come forward in the area of senior needs. He noted Social Services is looking into the possibility of a geriatric care manager, who would help a person or family with all the different services that may be available or needed. He stated such a position would be about \$65,000 with benefits, which is well within the money that has been allocated yearly to this program. He stated the Town Council is anxious to let residents know that they want to reinvest that money into Enfield’s senior population and make services available to that same group of people on a broader scale. He noted more information will be available at the next meeting.

Councilor Sferrazza stated for years the State of Connecticut contributed toward a circuit breaker program, but a couple years ago the State said they no longer have the funds for this program. He stated his understanding 400 to 600 families each year participated in the circuit breaker program, and this applies to 65 years and older, financially qualified, or if a person is disabled. He noted a lot of these people are seniors on fixed incomes, and \$500 to \$1000 is a lot of money. He stated he would support funding this if the state is not going to step up.

As concerns a geriatric care manager, Councilor Sferrazza stated there are a lot of concerns as people age, besides dementia, such as energy assistance and tax relief, and he believes it would be

outstanding if there was a point person to help seniors navigate all the different programs that are available. Mr. Bromson stated this is being receptive and cognizant of the changing environment. He noted last year the Town provided over \$305,000 towards the circuit breaker program, and that helped 500 families in Enfield. He noted that will be in the budget again this year.

Chairman Ludwick questioned when the fire chiefs' report concerning consolidation will be going out, and Mr. Bromson indicated he will check into this.

TREE TRIMMING PRESENTATION 2020

Present for this item from Eversource were Kevin Witkos, Community Relations Specialist and Bear LeVangin, Arborist

Ms. LeVangin highlighted the following concerning tree trimming for 2020:

- Contractor is Asplundh
- Asplundh will go door-to-door requesting a consent signed from each resident for proposed tree work for each property
- Total trimming for 2020 involves a total of 79.27 miles
- Homeowners will receive a pamphlet, which contains a lot of information
- Details were provided on tree trimming methods

Councilor Riley questioned whether this presentation can be made available on the Town's website and was informed it will be on the Town's website.

Councilor Kiner questioned what recourse property owners have if they want to contest the removal of a tree, and Ms. LeVangin stated if it's a Town tree, they would talk with the tree warden, and if it's a tree on a person's property, they can refuse removal. She added if it's a threat to the lines, or if the tree is damaged or structurally weak, she would have a conversation with the homeowner to talk about the health of the tree and why it should be removed. Councilor Kiner stated his understanding that if the owner doesn't want the tree down, it doesn't come down, and Ms. LeVangin responded that's correct.

Councilor Sferrazza questioned whether an Eversource representative would be present at the Emergency Operations Center during prolonged outages, and Mr. Witkos stated that remains an option.

Councilor Unghire questioned who the tree warden is, and Mr. Bromson responded the Director of Public Works, Donald Nunes, is the tree warden.

Councilor Szewczak questioned the final outcome with the outage on Beverly Street, where they lost power for almost a week. She noted the tree that caused that was in the middle of someone's front yard. Mr. Bromson stated they cannot compel a homeowner to remove a tree, but if there's

an untoward result, not only is there an outage, but the homeowner may have responsibility for any personal injury or property damage to others.

Mr. Bromson noted perhaps around Arbor Day Ms. LeVangin can return and provide a tutorial on different types of trees and where it might be best to plant different kinds of trees.

Chairman Ludwick questioned if there's data showing the relationship of outages and heavily treed areas. Ms. LeVangin indicated that can be provided.

Councilor Riley questioned what happens if a homeowner does not fill out the form, and Ms. LeVangin noted they keep on trying to get the form completed.

Mr. Nunes stated he will issue the permit to Eversource to start this work. He noted he will get a map and this presentation on the Public Works website.

TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT & COMMUNICATIONS

There was no report this evening.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

Councilor Muller provided a JFK Building Committee update and noted the construction documents will go to the State of Connecticut for code review on February 4, 2020, and they're presenting to the Board of Education on January 28th. He noted they value engineered 34 items to stay within the \$84 million dollars. He stated there will be about 37 to 40 bid packages for public procurement.

Councilor Riley stated Joint Facilities will meet this Thursday, and hopefully B&L will have an update about the consolidation of buildings.

OLD BUSINESS

APPOINTMENTS (TOWN COUNCIL)

MOTION #5288 by Councilor Muller, seconded by Councilor Riley to remove Item A2 from the table.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #5288** adopted 10-0-0. (Councilor Bosco absent at the vote)

NOMINATION #5289 by Councilor Muller to appoint John Unghire (R) to the Board of Assessment Appeals for a term which expires 12/31/2021.

MOTION #5290 by Councilor Szewczak, seconded by Councilor Muller to close nominations,

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #5290** adopted 9-0-1, with Councilor Unghire abstaining.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared John Unghire appointed to the Board of Assessment Appeals by a 9-0-1 vote, with Councilor Unghire abstaining.

MOTION #5291 by Councilor Szewczak, seconded by Councilor Riley to remove Item #11 from the table.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #5291** adopted 10-0-0.

NOMINATION #5292 by Councilor Muller to appoint Jacob Nadeau (R) to the Historic District Commission as an Alternate for a term which expires 8/31/2021.

MOTION #5293 by Councilor Sferrazza, seconded by Councilor Cekala to close nominations.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #5293** adopted 10-0-0.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared Jacob Nadeau appointed to the Historic District Commission as an Alternate by an 11-0-0 vote.

MOTION #5294 by Councilor Muller, seconded by Councilor Riley to remove Item #13 from the table.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #5294** adopted 11-0-0.

NOMINATION #5295 by Councilor Muller to appoint Deb Giddings (R) to the Loan Review Committee for a term which expires 12/31/2021.

MOTION #5296 by Councilor Cekala, seconded by Councilor Szewczak to close nominations.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #5296** adopted 11-0-0.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared Deb Giddings appointed to the Loan Review Committee by an 11-0-0 vote.

All other Old Business items remained tabled.

NEW BUSINESS

NOMINATION #5297 by Councilor Mangini to reappoint Mary Scutt (D) to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a term which expires 12/31/2023.

MOTION #5298 by Councilor Szewczak, seconded by Councilor Muller to close nominations.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #5298** adopted 11-0-0.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared Mary Scutt reappointed to the Planning and Zoning Commission by an 11-0-0 vote.

NOMINATION #5299 by Councilor Muller to reappoint Charles Mastroberti (R) to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term which expires 01/01/2024.

MOTION #5300 by Councilor Szewczak, seconded by Councilor Muller to close nominations.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #5300** adopted 11-0-0.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared Charles Mastroberti reappointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals by an 11-0-0 vote.

All other New Business items remained on the agenda.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

The Enfield Culture and Arts Commission appointment remained on the agenda.

All other items were moved to Miscellaneous.

MISCELLANEOUS

RESOLUTION #5301 by Councilor Muller, seconded by Councilor Mangini.

WHEREAS the Registrar of Voters wishes to eliminate the part time administrative assistant position for a net savings to the Town and transfer the available funding to the stipend and temporary/seasonal line items;

BE IT RESOLVED the Enfield Town Council does hereby eliminate the part time administrative assistant position under the Registrar of Voters;

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

TO:	Registrar of Voters		
	Stipend	1015000-516000	\$10,000
	Temporary/Seasonal	1015000-513000	\$ 4,000
FROM:	Registrar of Voters		
	Salaries-Part Time	1015000-512000	\$14,000

CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify that the above-stated funds are available as of January 6, 2020.

/s/ John Wilcox., Director of Finance

Present for this item were Registrars of Voters Thomas Kienzler and Lewis Fiore.

Mr. Kienzler explained the position that has been in place for several years has a very seasonal flavor to it as concerns workload, and they've struggled to keep this employee busy during certain periods. He stated this is a very busy position for 20 to 26 weeks per year, but in other times of the year there is a light workload. He noted they estimated returning about \$9,000 out of this line item and bringing in the deputies for more hours and in addition create a safe space of money for temporary workers that they'd use right before an election and during canvass time.

Mr. Fiore stated they did try to fill this position three times over the last 14 months, and they were successful for a short period of time, and they had a very capable person who filled the position for about two months, but unfortunately her husband got transferred out of state and she had to move away. He noted they were unable to fill this position the other two times, therefore, this is thinking outside the box by manning the office with their deputies, which is why they're asking to raise the deputies' pay because they're asking a lot more from them. He stated they can also train some of their moderators or assistant moderators to come in as seasonal help.

Councilor Cekala questioned why they're doing this now and not during budget presentations. Mr. Kienzler stated they got through a long period of wasting time, energy, funds and people's time out of the Human Resources Department to try and fill this position. He noted they therefore decided to put this before the Town Council.

Mr. Fiore stated they wanted to come before the Council earlier, however, by Charter they had to wait until January.

Councilor Cekala questioned what happens if this doesn't work. Mr. Fiore stated this works because the four of them want to make it work.

Chairman Ludwick questioned where voters go if JFK Middle School becomes unavailable. Mr. Fiore stated they have tentative plans, and they will be coming before the Council very shortly.

Mr. Bromson commended the Registrars for coming up with this proposal. He noted if they have any difficulty with this arrangement, the Registrars will come back and it can be addressed at that time.

Councilor Mangini questioned if the Registrars' budget will be reflective of what they're looking to do from January going forward, and Mr. Fiore responded yes, and this will be included in their new budget as well.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #5301** adopted by an 11-0-0 vote.

RESOLUTION #5302 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Muller.

WHEREAS, the Town of Enfield has an interest in purchasing a portion of the property known as 90 Alden Avenue, Enfield, Connecticut, consisting of approximately 36,900 square feet, including the 9,490+ square foot gymnasium; and

WHEREAS, Bellsite Development, LLC is willing to grant to the Town an option to purchase the Property at any time during a 24-month Option Period; and

WHEREAS, the Purchase Price shall be determined by two licensed commercial real estate appraisers, who shall be mutually agreed upon by the parties.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Manager, Christopher W. Bromson, is authorized to enter into an Option to Purchase Agreement in the name and on behalf of the Town of Enfield with Bellsite Development, LLC, subject to review and approval by the Town Attorney.

Mr. Bromson stated the Town has been working on this for a period of time, and it's hoped to incorporate this into a plan that will offer more and better recreation services regarding basketball and theatrics. He noted this will secure the property for two years and it provides the Town the option to be able to purchase it at an agreed upon price later. He stated if the Town isn't interested after they do further inspections, or the cost is too high, the Council is free to exit the agreement. He noted the basketball court at the Lamagna Center is rather small and the pool requires quite a bit of money to improve it.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #5302** adopted 11-0-0.

RESOLUTION #5303 by Councilor Muller, seconded by Councilor Mangini.

WHEREAS, On July 1, 2019 the Town Council appointed Lodestar Energy, LLC as the Town's Authorized Representative pertaining to Virtual Net Metering; and

WHEREAS, Town staff has had discussions with Lodestar Energy representatives to negotiate the contract and the parties have been unable to reach a satisfactory agreement;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Enfield Town Council hereby cancels and rescinds Lodestar Energy, LLC appointment as the Town's Authorized Representative for Virtual Net Metering.

Mr. Bromson stated the Town entered into this agreement to further explore the project subject to negotiating the terms and the contract, but upon further discussion it didn't seem to be a good fit. He stated based on the recommendation of the Assistant Town Manager, the Director of Finance and the Assistant Town Attorney, it's being recommended to cancel the agreement.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #5303** adopted 11-0-0.

RESOLUTION #5304 by Councilor Muller, seconded by Councilor Sferrazza.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Enfield Town Council does hereby appoint James Tallberg as Town Attorney for the Town of Enfield effective January 6, 2020 for a term which expires December 31, 2021.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Enfield Town Council does hereby authorize Mayor Mike Ludwick to sign the employment agreement with James Tallberg as Town Attorney for the Town of Enfield.

Date Prepared: December 19, 2019
Prepared by: Town Manager's Office

Mr. Bromson stated the Town did advertise for this position, and they received a robust application pool of very fine candidates. He noted after an interview process, Attorney Tallberg was chosen. He stated Attorney Tallberg is known by the Town as being skilled and professional. He feels this is a wonderful choice, and he will be a great addition.

AMENDMENT #1 by Councilor Cekala, seconded by Councilor Sferrazza to correct the Date Prepared to January 3, 2020

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **AMENDMENT #1** adopted 11-0-0.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #5304** adopted 11-0-0, as amended.

Attorney Tallberg expressed his appreciation for this vote of confidence. He noted he first represented the Town of Enfield around 1998, and it involved a land use dispute, and the Town prevailed. He stated that was the start of a long relationship. He noted over the past 20 years, he has represented the Town and its employees in several different matters that have all turned out well. He stated he looks forward to working with everyone.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Jack Sheridan, 7 Buchanan Road

As concerns the police lights, he stated his concern was about the safety of the police because the lights are so bright that people driving by have trouble seeing.

Mr. Sheridan stated although \$78,000 is taken out for a scale for the transfer station, that leaves a balance of \$513,000, and he believes they can build a palace at the transfer station for that money.

He referred to the new listing of acceptable recyclables and pointed out they're no longer accepting shredded paper, and he questioned why. He noted they're also not accepting lids and yogurt containers.

Mr. Sheridan stated no one addressed the fiduciary regarding the Opera House Players. He stated his understanding that previously Tom Arnone was going to be watching over this.

Wendy Osada, 8 Windmill Road

Stated her belief one of the points a previous speaker was trying to make is that if there is an opportunity to perform maintenance more frequently and in smaller increments, so that the dollar amounts don't exceed what needs to be done at referendum, rather than waiting until a building is in such disrepair that it requires millions of dollars in repairs.

Ms. Osada referred to extracurricular activities and noted she checked and learned there are 18 sports teams at just Enfield High School, and there are 57 clubs. She feels there must be a fairly large number of participating students. She pointed out families want academics and extracurricular activities. She noted if a school system is lacking in these areas, families will seek to live elsewhere.

Lucien LeFevre, 54 Kimberly Drive

Stated at this time, Wreaths Across America is doing "sponsor one/get one wreath". He noted hopefully they will then be able to cover every veteran's grave at St. Patrick's Cemetery. He stated interested people can send an email to enfieldwaa@yahoo.com, people will be sent a direct link to Wreaths Across America, which directs people to the St. Patrick's Cemetery. He noted there are also a list of fundraiser groups, and in order to take advantage of the "sponsor

one/get one”, they must pick one of the fundraiser groups, and they vary from veterans’ organizations to PTO’s, etc. He stated people pick one, and this deal is good online until January 15th. He noted if a person plans on picking up a wreath to put on a specific grave, that should be indicated on the form, otherwise it goes with the general wreaths going to St. Patrick’s Cemetery.

COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor Bosco referred to maintenance of Town buildings and pointed out boilers, furnaces and roofs eventually wear out and need to be replaced. He noted the Town is maintaining things, but things wear out.

Councilor Riley stated the First Readers Trivia Night is scheduled to be held at Mt. Carmel on Saturday, February 22nd at 7:00 p.m. She noted people can buy tickets online or at the door, and a table of ten is \$130, and an individual ticket is \$15.00.

She referred to recycling and would like to know if the Town is tied by the company that takes the recycling away, and that company dictates what can and cannot be recycled.

Councilor Riley stated the State of Connecticut has a minimum budget requirement (MBR) and the Town can’t go under the MBR unless the student population severely decreases, and this is also based on a formula that includes free and reduced lunch. She noted for high performing districts, they can have the MBR reduced, but they must be in the top ten percent of the entire state to get a reduction. She went on to note that kids are so into their devices that if they don’t have other outlets such as extracurricular activities, they won’t have well-rounded students to go out into the world and be active participants.

Councilor Kiner referred to the Planning & Zoning vote at the last Town Council meeting and what happened at that meeting and with that vote. He recalled when Councilor Sferrazza and other Councilors were sworn in a year ago, they stated they don’t represent Democrats or Republicans, but rather they represent the people. He noted he applauded that comment. He stated this did not happen at the last meeting. He stated the Democratic minority leader nominated someone, who was truly qualified, and that was Anthony DiPace, but this is not saying the other person nominated was not qualified because she was also qualified. He stated he was troubled by this because this is truly a Democratic appointment, and the minority leader nominated Mr. DiPace, and it was seconded. He noted the Councilwoman from the third district, a member of the Republican party, nominated Ms. Scutt and six votes were not garnered and as such the motion failed. He stated they voted today to put Ms. Scutt on Planning & Zoning, and he believes that’s a good choice, but he is bothered because there’s a process that they conform to and when that process is followed the wheels of government turn well. He stated when they don’t conform to that process, there are problems. He stated he respects all Council members regardless of political affiliation, and no one serves for money or egos, but rather they serve because they care about Enfield and the people. He stated it must be recognized there’s a process, and he believes that process was abrogated at the last meeting, and he hopes that doesn’t happen again. He stated if the majority party has a

problem with the qualifications of anyone that's nominated, he requests they be told either before or during the meeting, but nothing was ever said about Mr. DiPace that was negative. He noted Mr. DiPace served 12 years on Planning & Zoning, and he was the Chair of Planning & Zoning for several years, and he believes he was certainly qualified. He stated the process that he holds dear was not followed and that bothers him. He stated his hope in the future, the majority party will regard the wishes of the minority party as the minority party regards the majority's desires and wishes.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #5305 by Councilor Muller, seconded by Councilor Sferrazza to adjourn.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #5305** adopted 11-0-0, and the meeting stood adjourned at 9:15 p.m.