

**ENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2022**

A Regular Meeting of the Enfield Town Council was called to order by Chairman Cressotti on Monday, February 7, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 7:09pm.

Chairman Cressotti stated that effective today, February 7, masks are recommended for those who are not vaccinated in municipal buildings. He also recommended that all residents follow guidelines such as social distancing and asked the public not to enter a municipal building if they are ill. He encouraged residents to visit the vaccine and booster clinics and to practice caution indoors. We need to respect the well-being of the elderly, children, and those with compromised immune systems.

He expressed his support to the BOE and asked that residents be supportive and respectful to Superintendent Drezek and Assistant Superintendent Longey and all our teachers who do what is best for our students daily. We are asking for respect from those who attend the BOE meetings.

PRAYER- The prayer was given by Councilor Ludwick.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE- The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL-CALL- Present were Councilors Cekala, Cressotti, Despard, Finger, Hopkins, Ludwick, Mangini, Pyznar, Santanella and Unghire. Councilor Bosco was absent. Also present were Acting Town Manager, Ellen Zoppo-Sassu; Assistant Town Manager, Kasia Purciello; Town Attorney, James Tallberg; Human Resources Director, Steve Bielenda; and Town Clerk, Sheila Bailey.

FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT- Chairman Cressotti made the fire evacuation announcement.

MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

MOTION #6095 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Pyznar to accept the minutes of the January 18, 2022 Special Meeting.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6095** adopted 9-0-1.

MOTION #6096 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Pyznar to accept the minutes of the January 18, 2022 Regular Meeting.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6096** adopted 9-0-1.

SPECIAL GUESTS- None.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Rudolph Allende, 4 Summer Wind Cir.

Mr. Allende stated that he has been in Misty Meadows since 1999. He stated that the trend in his neighborhood since then has not been a good one. Things such as the Amazon building, Fermi changing to the Annex and now the Winstanley warehouse are making the quality of life go downhill in this neighborhood. He then read an article from the Wall Street Journal on 1/27/22 about truck traffic and trucks tearing up roads. He stated that there will be noise and air pollution. He pointed out that it will be more dangerous for the kids coming out of Hazardville Memorial School. In his opinion Winstanley should pay their fair share to offset the costs. He closed by saying that it is making folks in town and this area think about whether or not that they will stay in town. The result of tax abatements is tax burden on the residents.

Lucien Lefevre, 54 Kimberly Drive

Mr. Lefevre let everyone know that Sunday, February 13, 2022, St. Patrick's Church 11:00 mass will be American Legion Post 154 the 74th Annual Fort Chaplain's mass and the 79th anniversary of the sinking of the USAT Dorchester and the acts of selflessness of four army chaplains onboard. The four chaplains gave up their own lives to assist others. He closed by saying, "May we never forget the four chaplain and all who serve to keep this country safe".

Karen Mulready, 147 Cottage Road

Ms. Mulready stated that this decision is not whether you are Democrat or Republican, this is a decision about the future of our town. She stated that it is interesting that we have the word "field" in our town name yet there seems to be no conscious effort to preserve fields and open space. If you read the town's vision on the town website, it does not include being known as the "concrete mausoleum" of CT. She stated that she is adamantly opposed to the tax abatement program for Winstanley. She is not opposed to the business itself, but it should be in an industrial area, not residential. She asked the Council to think about how many businesses we have that are tax exempt and how many abatement arrangements we have when making this decision. She said we don't want to end up taxing non-profits like other cities and towns have had to consider in order to make up for shortfall. She closed by asking Council to please vote no for this tax abatement so the residents can have a future we can all be proud of.

Randy Daigle, 55 Cottage Road

Mr. Daigle stated that he was perplexed why this is even being considered after allowing drugs to be sold in town was overturned. He stated that this will allow a multi-million-dollar company to come in and destroy the roads you drive on. Why didn't we put them off Phoenix where the golf course was supposed to go? He stated that the proposed emergency/convenience exit will have trucks coming down Cottage Road which is 16 feet wide. It is a beach community with kids out playing. He asked that we reconsider this abatement and the fact that it will bring in so many more trucks to the area. Vote with your heart and think about if you lived in this neighborhood.

Matt Schmitt, 1304 Bigelow Commons

Mr. Schmidt stated that he is against the proposed tax abatement for Winstanley. He stated that the purpose of a tax abatement was to attract a business to an area. They are already here building on the site; you can't miss it. Winstanley wants to be here; we don't need to pay them to come. Enfield is attractive to them because of our location. He pointed out that even the leasing advertisement calls

the property “ideally located”. The abatement should be rejected. Why should we aid a large company like Winstanley while on the other side of town Ms. Cogtella’s home is being taken by this Council through eminent domain? He stated that unfortunately, the fate of Ms. Cogtella’s home will not be undone by this Council. He closed by saying how Winstanley and Ms. Cogtella’s home are handled is important and should be remembered when they envision what they want this town to be going forward.

Kathleen Levesque, 10 Winter Way

Ms. Levesque asked that the Council think very hard about the decision for this abatement. She also said she is familiar with the property being built right now by Winstanley and invited everyone to her home to see it because it is in her backyard. She does not have 30-foot trees on her property blocking her from seeing this. She is new to the area after retiring to be closer to her children. Unfortunately, she knew about this, but not until her full deposit was sent in on the purchase of her home. She said the building being built is water under the bridge now that it is already here. She asked the Council to think hard about why we would give this corporation a tax abatement. Again, she welcomed everyone to come to her home to see what she has to look at every day. She now must worry about being able to afford this home if the tax abatement goes through and what it will do to her property value.

Lisa Batchelor, 6 Deer Run

Ms. Batchelor stated that many residents are opposed to the proposal for the tax abatement. She stated that per the tax abatement guidelines on the town website, part of it reads that the Town of Enfield is committed to the promotion of economic and commercial development and the ongoing improvement in the quality of life of Enfield residents. She does not see why they qualify for an abatement. They are not generating jobs or providing services for Enfield residents. It will bring truck traffic and deteriorate our roads and cause noise and air pollution which will not improve the quality of life. When the taxes paid by Winstanley are not enough to repair the infrastructure, the residents will live with the conditions, or their taxes will go up. She pointed out the new additional fees for yard and waste removal. She ended by saying that on 11/3/2021, Enfield residents voted four new members to the Town Council in the hopes of change. I ask that you not put the wants of a business before the needs of the residents. Please vote no for the abatement.

Lori Parker, 105 Cottage Road

Ms. Parker expressed that she is not in support of the tax abatement. She stated that the current proposal is not the original agreement that was discussed; it is giving more dollars off the tax. She doesn’t think it is fair that the tax burden will be on the residents. Farmers are losing their tax status and having to pay more. There will be a strain on the services such as the fire department not getting their fair share of taxes, and they may end up having to fight a warehouse fire. There should be a limit to the number of abatements given to a company, or limit to one at a time. Winstanley is still currently receiving an abatement on Hallmark. She stated that she is all for use of empty buildings and we have plenty of them. She read the 1999 Plan of Conservation and Development and it said that 68% of Enfield was already developed and if it continued that pace, we would be built out in 14 years. Here we are 23 years later, and she said I think we are there. She has neighbors who have moved out of other towns for putting buildings in their backyard. She closed by saying that she has been here her whole life and it is becoming unrecognizable, and it is sad that her only option may be to leave Enfield.

Tony Renna, 12 Ryefield Drive

Mr. Renna thanked the Council for letting the public see the current proposal. He stated that Winstanley is a \$25 million revenue corporation with over 125 properties in over 20 million square feet and currently own three properties in town. He also brought up that there is a roads referendum and the stretch of Moody Road where Winstanley plans on moving their trucks through is up to be reconstructed this year. Where the heck are they going to go, he asked? If they pay their full load, that will help pay for that stretch of road that their trucks will be using. He also said if you are giving money away, let's give some to the senior's and veteran's where it belongs. He ended by saying Winstanley is not going to spend that kind of money and leave it vacant, so vote no.

Doreen Kibbe, 20 School Street

Ms. Kibbe said that the Council lulled us into accepting this building before it was built because they said it would bring business. Now we find out there is going to be a tax break for them and that is the only thing they would be providing. It is adding insult to injury and the building is ugly. She said once beautiful land is now a big, gray ugly monster. She ended by saying that this is not acceptable.

Angela Foss, 16 Crescent Beach Drive

Stated that she had sent a pdf today and hopes that the Council had a chance to look at it. It is titled Rethinking Tax Incentives for Business. She said that tax breaks are sometimes given to businesses that would have chosen the same location without the incentives. The first question you should ask when deciding to grant a tax break is, will the firm asking for the tax incentive locate elsewhere with a significantly high probability? If the answer is no, you do not grant the incentive. They have already begun construction. She stated that your focus should be on assisting the taxpayers. She suggested we use the money to help seniors and veterans and to replace the school roofs that are leaking. She suggested that we use the money to repair our roads or assist lower income residents. She ended by asking the Council to please listen to the residents and do not approve this abatement.

Paul Lukens, 353 North Maple Street

Mr. Lukens stated that he is in favor of the tax abatement. He also brought up the fact that on the ballot there were four criteria requesting money in bonds and notes for things previous speakers have mentioned such as roads and roofs. So, knowing that the bonds will ultimately be paid for with tax revenue, he assumes that we are not in the position to give money away. He stated that if we are going to write checks to large and profitable corporations, he is okay with the abatement if he can get one too. He is in favor of this embarrassing failure of fiscal responsibility as long as he can get in on the municipal gravy train. He is a board member at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church and last week the priest received notification from the town that they will begin to be taxed on a portion of land that was part of the existing lot when we purchased it. He ended by saying no American, Republican, Democrat, Green or Libertarian wants corporate welfare.

David Stolpinski, 20 High Meadow Lane

Mr. Stolpinski stated that when we all bought our homes here, we asked the question, what are my taxes going to be? He said not to be fooled by Winstanley, he knew what he had to pay when he came here and then he tried to get an abatement from us. He ended by saying that the money could go a long way in our kid's future in this town.

Kathleen Sarno, 102 North Maple Street, 6B

Ms. Sarno wants the Council to consider voting no on the tax abatement. She said they are bringing no jobs to this town. She added that it does not have a good impact on the abutting neighborhoods, schools, churches, or roads. Moody and Elm are the town roads being affected, but North Maple will be affected too. North Maple is a state road, and we have no control over that. She said that she does support new business. Winstanley has deep pockets, he is here in Enfield for a reason. Let him pay to be here; he is not doing anything for us. She stated that when she pulls out of her driveway, she gets to see the lovely cement building right in front of her. Her cell phone service is interrupted, and trucks are turning around in her small little complex because they don't know where they are going. She wanted to know if she would receive a tax abatement for living across the street from this. She encouraged the Council to vote no and asked why they keep postponing the vote. She ended by saying just vote on it and vote no.

Elizabeth Davis, 201 North Maple Street

Ms. Davis asked why we would give this tax break and hurt the residents. She wanted to know if anyone on the Council lives over here staring at this building. If they did, they would vote no and would not have wanted it in their backyard. She closed by saying that some of the Council has been fighting hard and some have been involved in backdoor deals, and the residents will remember this.

Vinnie Weseliza, 12 Deer Run

Mr. Weseliza stated that he does not live as close as those on Winter Way, but all he heard all summer long was back-up alarms. He said it's like they have a policy that they can't drive forward. This quaint little section of town is gone forever, and we haven't even started moving trucks through the area. He ended by saying it does not seem right that the residents are the ones suffering and Winstanley is going to get the benefit.

Elizabeth Werner, 74 West Shore Drive

Ms. Werner thanked the Council for having the public meeting. She said that nobody is against bringing businesses to the town, but they must be appropriate for the area. She would not like to see us destroying our precious farmland and wetlands. She said that there is a place in town for the businesses with large trucks, it is by the highway. She said there may be nine jobs coming with this building and that is a lot to give up in taxes for nine jobs. Businesses come in for the tax abatements and they leave as soon as they run out and the taxpayers are left with bills, an empty business, and no jobs. She said that for the Hallmark building, Mr. Winstanley has decided to give up plans in the interest of being a good neighbor, yet all the points he mentions there are required by P&Z. We want to encourage businesses that have a good work ethic and treat us properly.

Jeff Foss, 16 Crescent Beach Drive

Mr. Foss said he was born and raised in Enfield. He then used cell phone companies as an example stating that one phone company offers a free phone and discounts when you sign up but not to the existing customers. The existing customers jump ship and go to another company that offers a free phone and discount to both new and existing customers. The moral of the story is that we the residents are the existing customers. He stated that he is the largest taxpayer for the Town of Enfield for residential and commercial properties. He said he has about 8 to 10 million in property. If you are going to give this discount, he would like the same discount. He also said that he owns most of Thompsonville and that is where the money should be going. He is a resident of Enfield, lives in

Enfield and cares about Enfield. He ended by saying if you are going to do it for the newcomer, also do it for someone who has been here his entire life.

Shari Jackson, 119 Cottage Road

Ms. Jackson said that tax abatements began to lure businesses during the Great Depression. There are many articles that have been published that say tax abatements don't work. She said that tax abatements are often abused by large companies. They collect the tax savings then move on leaving behind abandoned warehouses that are an eyesore. This is a bad deal for the taxpayers of Enfield. We could use this extra money for our schools. We have teachers who are burnt out and not enough substitutes who will work for the peanuts we pay them. We need new material and equipment, and this tax money should support our children. There is a huge monstrosity in every corner of Enfield now and asked if this is where we want to raise our children. She ended by saying that she hopes that you hear us this evening and listen to us saying that we do not want to grant this tax abatement.

Karen LaPlante, 166 North Maple Street

Ms. LaPlante stated that her concern is priorities and where should the Town Council put their priorities. She stated that she is on the Conservation Commission, and they have continually asked for funding for small projects and open space acquisition. She stated that the state goal is to preserve 21% of the land in the state for open space and farmland preservation. Enfield needs to preserve another 2000 acres to reach that goal of 21%. She urged the Council to consider the residents and the taxes they are paying. She urged any farmers that have had abatements rejected to contact the Assessor and make sure they file an appeal.

Amanda Marquez, 8 Hoover Lane

Ms. Marquez stated that the Winstanley property at 113 North Maple Street is a subject of much concern in our town. She said that the "it's the cost of business" attitude is not an acceptable answer to the residents who have come out to speak tonight. The people of Enfield have chosen this Council to echo their voice when voting on town matters. She ended by saying however the Council votes tonight, she hopes they are truly listening to what most of the room brought forward tonight. We all have a vested interest in our town, and we want to be proud to call Enfield home so make us proud to have you representing us, knowing we have a voice in our local government.

Joe Golas Jr., 31 Stardust Drive

Mr. Golas came to say they don't get to talk at the BOE. He talked about his background in Enfield and in Education. They we are not going to be able to handle the truck traffic from Winstanley. He spoke about N95 masks. He stated no other masks work properly.

Cheryl Cote, 92 Cottage Road

Ms. Cote stated that she against this tax abatement. She thinks it is important to show our children to stand up for what we believe and what our rights are. She said many are thinking about whether they should stay in Enfield. She hopes the reason for tabling the vote is to really take this seriously. She said once the big warehouse is in our backyard our houses will not be worth anything. She would appreciate you voting no to the tax abatement.

Stacey Daigle, 55 Cottage Road

Ms. Daigle said if they are getting this abatement, the seniors should too. Her mom who is 82 pays \$10,000 in taxes. Winstanley does not need an abatement, they want to be here. She said if they had been put in the industrial park there would probably not be such a push-back. They will be doing more harm than good. She asked if we would be back in three months having the same discussion about Bacon Road. This town is changing and not for the better. She asked the Council to think as people and not a political party. She thanked the Council for letting the people speak, but not if they are not hearing what is being said.

Stephanie Quail, 62 Cottage Road

Ms. Quail stated that she lives near the Winstanley complex on Bacon Road. She said that there is an influx of tractor trailers coming down her street and Bacon Road is not even built yet. The roads in her community are small and are not meant to carry the load of the trucks. People go for walks and kids play and ride bikes. She ended by saying please vote no for our children.

Ryan Moore, 10 Ryefield Drive

Mr. Moore asked why did Planning and Zoning keep this project quiet for so long? Why did they only hold a public hearing in the 11th hour after someone was honest enough to let residents know? Who benefits? What are the benefits to the residents? Are home values increased by this? Does this make Enfield more attractive to families? Where are the jobs that are coming in? Is Agrimark bringing the jobs? Are we afraid of losing Winstanley or are we afraid of community loss? If this was agreed on by the previous Council, why was it not voted on then? Is Bacon Road another done deal? Watch this vote closely, and you may see what it means when a uni-party subverts the will of the people.

Jonathan Grande, 33 Spruceland Road

Mr. Grande thanked the Council for hosting and thanked Mr. Winstanley for investing in our town. We are pro-business in this town because businesses provide jobs and taxes. He then said that this Winstanley project does neither. He stated that if this passes through, we need to add another clause on the contract that states that if after the seven to ten years they leave, they must tear down the building and restore it to the way it was before.

Susan Fracasso, 50 North Street

Ms. Fracasso stated that the decision to build the monstrosity across the street is a travesty and the decision to let yet another building arise between the lakes is also a travesty. She ended by saying, giving a tax abatement would be a tragedy.

Maureen Butler, 69 West Shore Drive

Ms. Butler stated that she would like to add her voice to say that she is against this abatement. She said it is not fair for large wealthy landowners to come in and residents be ignored. They already live with noise pollution from the smaller buildings that are already on Bacon Road. Even if they were bringing jobs in, do we need the jobs? Everywhere you go businesses are pleading for people to come work. She wanted to know what will happen when a truck is stuck in the middle of Cottage Road and someone's house is burning, how will the fire trucks get by?

Neal Narkon, 5 Clear Street

Mr. Narkon asked the Council to listen to everyone and not just go through the motions. He said he is appalled that we have a Town Planner that allowed this building. He stated that if this building went into the industrial area, we would not be having this discussion. He feels sorry for the folks in Misty Meadow who have to look out their back door to see this building instead of a tobacco field. He asked why Planning and Zoning is harassing small businesses? Is Council is working for corporate America or everyone in the room?

Dale Butrymowicz, 11 Winter Way

Mr. Butrymowicz stated that we are here tonight because of a lack of transparency on the part of elected officials and town staff. He said that the generosity of the incentives is quite shocking. Knowing that because of reevaluations our taxes have increased, and it is going towards subsidizing distribution centers, is not right. No matter what has already happened in the past, there is nothing binding you to accept this resolution. It is not a case of not in my backyard but a case of what kind of community do we want this to be. He said to rip the band-aid off and vote tonight if you feel this is right for Enfield. He hopes that you all vote to reject this abatement.

Chris Gomeau, 19 Winter Way

Ms. Gomeau stated that she that she understands that each of you volunteer your time to serve on the Council. Her family home of 24 years has been negatively impacted by the Winstanley building. She said that it is her understanding that in order to receive a tax abatement they should add to the grand list and increase the value of a property. There should be a sizeable jobs creation component and the project should have minimal impact to the community and neighborhoods. We have not begun to realize the impact having tractor trailers on roads not built for them and around neighborhoods and a primary school. This is the first building in Enfield of this size near a neighborhood. Her understanding is the only benefit of the warehouse is additional tax revenue, so why are they not going to pay their fair share of taxes to support our town? She said she was told that the Council is receiving hundreds of emails and her hope is that they are listening. She asks for a vote of no tonight.

Peter Jonaitis, 3 Farmstead Circle

Mr. Jonaitis said it was apparent that the chairman wanted to have a motion to table tonight's vote. He hopes that someone would demand a discussion take place on that motion. He doesn't care who started the negotiations with Winstanley, he only cares about who finalizes the agreement. He ended by saying, vote tonight.

Ed Deni, 19 Aloha Drive

Mr. Deni said in the 77 years that he has lived here; this is the worst deal that ever existed. He has spent years donating his time to the Mt. Carmel Society. They have hosted dinners, free halls and donated the fields for football and baseball and the town never paid a nickel. He asked who will pay Mt. Carmel's taxes, so they don't go out of business? Winstanley? Mt. Carmel does a free dinner for the Honors Society every year. Now you want to give an abatement to a billionaire.

Bill (name and address inaudible)

Stated that he moved here last spring to retire. He said his assessment on his home has already gone up 28%. Giving this abatement will be hurting the homeowners, property owners and small

businesses. He asked why in the agenda you stated that there are no special guests when Mr. Winstanley keeps being referred to?

Linda Ostapoff, 109 Cottage Road

Ms. Ostapoff stated that it seems like there is a wall between the town and the people who live in it. She said she can't believe the building was even built and now another building between the two lakes. The Annex is sort in shambles, and she was surprised that there isn't enough money to turn the lights on in the parking lot. She also commented on the fact that we barely mow the grass at our schools that we have walked away from. Use the money and take care of these buildings and clean them up and take the buildings down.

Lisa Rogers, 8 Winter Way

Ms. Rogers said that it was nice to have a new neighbor. She was speaking about the Winstanley building. She said her new "neighbor" builds a lot, shakes her house and makes everything a dirt pile. She apologized for her sarcasm, but she felt it was a kick in the face that her assessment was \$100,000 now and Winstanley is assessed less. She stated that the second proposed abatement is worse than the first one. She said Winstanley is referred to as a good neighbor, but she said a good neighbor cares about his surroundings. She hopes that you represent the people who voted you in.

Chairman Cressotti asked if anyone wanted to speak a second time.

Randy Daigle, 55 Cottage Road

Mr. Daigle stated that the Council convinced the majority of us that they were going to make a change. Here is your chance and here is what you can be known for. He understands if this is what was agreed on previously, but he said you guys are voting on it.

Rudolph Allende, 4 Summer Wind Circle

Mr. Allende stated that there is a high level of distrust in government nowadays. This Council must decide between a wealthy businessman and the town. Sadly, you folks drew the short card and are forced to make this decision. He thanked Councilor Despard because this is the district impacted most. He ended by saying this is your chance to restore faith in government. Do the right thing.

Kathleen Sarno, 102 North Maple Street

Ms. Sarno wanted to encourage the Council to vote tonight. She said that there is a Planning and Zoning Commission meeting Thursday, and they will probably be voting and passing the new building. She said they may be able to put conditions on it, but it will pass. She ended by saying that this has been drawn out long enough and it should be voted on tonight. Don't cower to Winstanley.

Peter Jonaitis, 3 Farmstead Circle

Mr. Jonaitis said vote tonight, vote tonight, vote tonight.

Neal Narkon, 5 Clear Street

Mr. Narkon said that everyone here wants a vote of no. We can't afford this. We are being decimated by the economy. You (council) know what to do.

Chairman Cressotti declared Public Communications closed.

MOTION #6097 by Councilor Cekala, seconded by Councilor Despard to move Item E up for action now.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6097** adopted 10-0-0.

RESOLUTION #6098 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Despard.

WHEREAS, PPF WE 113 North Maple Street LLC owns the property at 113 North Maple Street (the property); and

WHEREAS, PPF WE 113 North Maple Street LLC is currently constructing a 502,000 square foot building to be used primarily as a warehouse, storage, and distribution facility; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Enfield and PPF WE 113 North Maple Street LLC negotiated the attached Tax Assessment Agreement in accordance with Connecticut General Statute § 12-65b and pursuant to the Town's Tax Abatement Guidelines.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Acting Town Manager, Ellen Zoppo-Sassu, is empowered to enter into a Tax Assessment Agreement, subject to review and approval by the Town Attorney, in the name of and on behalf of the Town of Enfield with PPF WE 113 North Maple Street LLC.

Councilor Despard stated that what you are about to see is democracy in action and he is touched to be a part it. You all stood up, organized, and fought and we are hearing you. This Council is a council that does value your voice.

Councilor Santanella thanked everyone for coming today and saying what they had to say. He said you are mad, and he is mad too. How this happened is absolutely unacceptable. He stated that this is not their mess that they created, but that they are going to fix it. He was a member of this Council for one hour when he saw the terms of this deal and had a lot of questions about it. They were the kinds of questions that made someone rip off their mask and walk off the job, so if you want to connect the dots, those are the dots. He said there are good people here committed to do the work you sent us here to do. He remarked that people need to continue to come out and let their voices be heard. Municipal elections are about you, the people, and your house and taxes and the services the town can provide you. Of the 20,000 people registered to vote in this town, he said only 7,000 came out to vote.

Councilor Mangini thanked everyone that came out and spoke and the ones watching on TV. She also thanked the town staff for all their hard work and providing materials. She thanked everyone who sent emails and phone calls and she took everyone to heart.

Councilor Pyznar thanked everyone for coming out. She stated that she is going to abstain from the vote. Her reason for abstaining is because the abatement in the packet is not the original abatement they saw. She is not against abatements but does not like the abatement in the packet. She clarified

that she is not against Mr. Winstanley building in our town and that she is all for negotiating a good abatement. The one in the packet is not good, so she will abstain from voting.

Councilor Finger thanked everyone who sent him emails reminding him of his bio when he ran for office. He said he is not a politician; he is the property taxpayer's voice. He thanked everyone for showing up.

Chairman Cressotti thanked everyone that emailed him and talked to him personally. He appreciates everyone's opinion. He said he will not express his personal thoughts. His job is to listen to the people. He then said that he is going to be voting no on this abatement.

Councilor Unghire thanked everyone for coming out. She said we really listened to all your words and concerns. She does support business in town, but she is not exactly pleased with some of the different proposals that they were given. She said there have been sleepless nights thinking about what has been said and trying to do the right thing.

Councilor Hopkins thanked everyone for coming out and speaking. He said it is heartening to see democracy in action. At the end of the day, we need to decide what kind of community we want.

Attorney Tallberg said that he is compelled as the town's attorney to recommend that the Council table the resolution and not vote tonight. He has indicated that it is not ready, but if the Council wishes to express its prerogative and disregard the advice of its counsel and staff, at the very least they should allow the applicant to be heard.

Adam Winstanley thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak tonight. He stated that he is currently a taxpayer in this community with three buildings and pays \$1.5 million a year in taxes. He finds it odd that there is no vote occurring right now as he has been working tirelessly for months trying to figure out how this can work for both groups. He stated that there is so much misinformation out there right now.

Mr. Winstanley first came to Enfield in 2016. He said he has been investing in Connecticut for 32 years and has done 45 projects throughout the state. He first came to Enfield in 2016 to look at the Hallmark building when it was announced that 1700 people were going to lose their jobs and they were shutting down. He has completed redevelopment projects all over the state, mostly rehabs in existing buildings. He stated he was offered a tax deal by the then town manager to come and tackle the project. He was given a modest agreement of 35% off for the first seven years and the agreement did help him attract tenants. He said he has invested \$41 million to turn that building around and that it has generated jobs.

He said that then Town Manager, Bryan Chodkowski, told him that if he could do new construction in town, he would give him 50% off for the first ten years at either 35 Bacon Road or 113 North Maple Street.

MOTION #6098A by Councilor Despard, seconded by Councilor Hopkins to Move the Question.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6098A** failed 2-8-0.

Mr. Winstanley continued and said that he was in communication with the prior town manager about 113 North Maple Street, and that the agreement and representations that he said were made to him were the ones he made in the market to his tenants. His leases are not tied to having a tax agreement and that is why he has come here. He said this is not a tax abatement, it is a phase-in of taxes. He stated that this is an awkward position to not be able to put a fair deal together. He has been working on the agreement that was initially offered to him, and he is willing to be flexible. He agreed to shortening the term up. He is not looking to pay no taxes but is trying to collaborate and find something that works. He said he only wants a fair deal which has been stated to him by two different administrations. It is not his fault that the town manager quit, and everyone is new on the Council. He feels that he has negotiated in good faith. He thanked everyone for their time.

Chairman Cressotti thanked Mr. Winstanley for his comments and for sitting and listening to everyone else's comments.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the chair declared **RESOLUTION #6098** failed 0-7-3.

COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor Mangini wanted to echo Lucien's invitation regarding the four chaplains. She said she encourages people to attend the mass and show respect for what the four individuals gave for our country.

Councilor Ludwick wanted to let everyone know that if they need to challenge their assessment, especially any PA490s, March 18th is the deadline for all applications. He stated that the application is on the town website and Tax Assessor's office. Appeals will go before the Board of Assessment Appeals in April or May.

Chairman Cressotti announced that Enfield received a grant for \$548,000 for the Elm Street sidewalk gap closure. He said the Governor along with the Transportation Commissioner announced that Enfield received a grant from the competitive grant program for local projects that support improved mobility and accessibility as well as pedestrian and bike safety.

Chairman Cressotti mentioned that he attended a ceremony for an Enfield resident that performed an act of kindness to an Ellington family during the holidays. Ms. Worthington, who resides in Enfield, is a mail carrier in Ellington and surprised a family with a gift after the family had just lost their father and husband. Mr. Cressotti presented her with a Certificate of Appreciation for her act of kindness with Representatives Foster and Hall.

Chairman Cressotti mentioned that there is a senior tax aid program at the Senior Center. There will also be vaccine clinics at the Senior Center on Fridays through March 18. Staff from Griffin Health will provide first, second and booster shots for adults 12 and over.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Acting Town Manager Ellen Zoppo-Sassu said due to the lateness of the hour, there will be no report.

TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Attorney James Tallberg had nothing to report.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES – None.

OLD BUSINESS

Item A is still tabled.

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTION #6099 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Finger to adopt the Consent Agenda items.

1. WHEREAS, the Home Depot wishes to donate a \$1,000.00 gift card to the Enfield Police Department, for the betterment of department operations, for the acquisition of equipment or supplies that will impact and benefit the department as a whole; and

WHEREAS, Connecticut General Statute §7-148(c)(3)(A) permits the Town to accept gifts of personal property for municipal purposes.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council does accept this donation from the Home Depot.

2. RESOLVED, that in accordance with Chapter VII Section II of the Town Charter the Enfield Town Council does hereby adopt the new job description for Deputy Director-Capital Project & Administration.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #6099** adopted 10-0-0.

NOMINATION #6100 by Councilor Finger to appoint Brandon Jewell (D) to the North Central District Health Department Board of Directors Enfield Representatives for a term which expires 6/30/2024.

MOTION #6101 by Councilor Finger, seconded by Councilor Mangini to close nominations.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #6101** adopted 10-0-0.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the chair declared Brandon Jewell appointed to the North Central District Health Department Board of Directors Enfield Representatives 10-0-0.

NOMINATION #6102 by Councilor Hopkins to appoint Nancy Martin (D) to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency for a term which expires 6/30/24.

MOTION # 6103 by Councilor Finger, seconded by Councilor Mangini to close nominations.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6103** adopted 10-0-0.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared Nancy Martin appointed to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency 10-0-0.

NOMINATION #6104 by Councilor Hopkins to appoint Anne Collins (R) to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency for a term which expires 6/30/23.

MOTION # 6105 by Councilor Finger, seconded by Councilor Hopkins to close nominations.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6105** adopted 10-0-0.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared Anne Collins appointed to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency 10-0-0.

NOMINATION #6106 by Councilor Hopkins to appoint Sean Deane (U) as an Alternate to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency for a term which expires 6/30/23.

MOTION # 6107 by Councilor Finger, seconded by Councilor Mangini to close nominations.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6107** adopted 10-0-0.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared Sean Deane appointed as an Alternate to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency 10-0-0.

NOMINATION #6108 by Councilor Pyznar to appoint Frank Alaimo (R) to the Capital Region Council of Governments Regional Planning Commission Enfield Resident-Regular Member for a term which expires 12/31/22.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared Frank Alaimo appointed to the Capital Region Council of Governments Regional Planning Commission Enfield Resident-Regular Member 10-0-0.

NOMINATION #6109 by Chairman Cressotti to appoint John Petronella (D) to the Capital Region Council of Governments Regional Planning Commission Enfield Resident-Alternate Member for a term which expires 12/31/22.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared John Petronella appointed to the Capital Region Council of Governments Regional Planning Commission Enfield Resident-Alternate Member 10-0-0.

RESOLUTION #6110 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Council Finger.

RESOLVED, that in accordance with Chapter VII Section II of the Town Charter the Enfield Town Council does hereby adopt the wage adjustment of the following positions:

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>SALARY PROPOSED</u>
Deputy Director-Operations (Public Works) (effective March 1)	\$115,000
Payroll Clerk (effective March 1)	\$70,100
Benefits Administrator (effective March 1)	\$69,449
Personal Coordinator (effective March 1)	\$66,839
Part Time Attorney Hourly Rate (effective February 7)	\$90/hr.

Councilor Pyznar stated that we are very close to the budget. She would like these positions added into that budget. She thinks it is too close to the budget to put them forward now.

Councilor Unghire agreed with Councilor Pyznar and said this should be discussed during the budget sessions.

Councilor Mangini disagreed and thinks that it is imperative that it passes.

Councilor Ludwick said that the cover letter stated funding for the increase in the above referenced position will be transferred from a vacant position in finance. He said that shouldn't have been a resolution of what we were transferring from one line item to another.

Steve Bielenda, Human Resources Director said on the February 2nd John Wilcox approved the resolution for the transfer.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #6110** adopted 7-3-0.

RESOLUTION #6111 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Despard.

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

To:
Human Resources

Salaries	10170000-511000	\$ 6,924
Social Security	10170000-522000	\$ 430
Medicare	10170000-522100	\$ 102

Town Attorney

Salaries	10130000-511000	\$ 3,360
Social Security	10130000-522000	\$ 209
Medicare	10130000-522100	\$ 49

From:
Treasury

Salaries	10181000-511000	\$11,074
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CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify that the above-stated funds are available as of February 2, 2022.

/s/ John Wilcox, Director of Finance

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #611** adopted 7-3-0.

RESOLUTION #6112 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Finger.

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

TO: Alcorn Remodel

Construction Services	31008199-545000	\$14,090.52
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FROM:

Electrical	Construction Services	31008735-545000	\$7,929.72
Fleet	Equipment New	31008724-573000	\$4,977.82
Fleet	Other Professional Services	31008724-533900	\$1,182.98

CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify that the above-stated funds are available as of February 3, 2022.

/s/ John Wilcox, Director of Finance

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #6112** adopted 10-0-0.

RESOLUTION #6113 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Despard.

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

GENERAL FUND

FROM:

10800092-584000 \$79,000
General Fund - Unallocated-Contingency

TO:

10800092-593010 \$79,000
General Fund – Unallocated-Transfers to
Capital

CAPITAL AND NON-RECURRING FUND

FROM:

31042022-480001 \$79,000
CIP Fund Revenue FY 2021-2022
Gen Fund Transfers In

31008162-545000 \$79,00
Transfer Station – Construction Srvc

CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify that the above-stated funds are available as of February 1, 2022.

/s/ John Wilcox, Director of Finance

Councilor Ludwick asked if the two scales are included in the final project.

Councilor Cekala replied with yes.

Assistant Town Manager, Kasia Purciello, stated that it is \$98,000 for the alternate/second scale.

Councilor Ludwick stated that he is for the project minus the second scale. He asked for clarification on needing to go to referendum and using sinking funds.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #6113** adopted 8-1-1.

RESOLUTION #6114 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Despard.

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

TO: TOWN INFRASTRUCTURE SINKING FUND

Transfer Station-Construction Services 31008162-545000 \$300,000

FROM: TOWN INFRASTRUCTURE SINKING FUND

Unallocated-Contingency 30500000-584000 \$300,000

CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify that the above-stated funds are available as of February 1, 2022.

/s/ John Wilcox, Director of Finance

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #6114** adopted 9-0-1.

RESOLUTION #6115 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Despard.

WHEREAS, the town of Enfield, through its Town Council, is currently reconstructing Higgins Park in the Town of Enfield; and

WHEREAS, SLR International Corporation has contributed important design and engineering work to this project, and in creating these designs has gained particular and valuable technical knowledge and insight into this project which is unavailable to other engineering firms; and

WHEREAS, further design and engineering work is required for the Higgins Park parking area, which is located behind the Enfield Express; and

WHEREAS, SLR International Corporation's prior work on the Higgins Park project makes them uniquely qualified to perform this work.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council does hereby find, based on the foregoing compelling public interest, and in accordance with Chapter V, section 8(d), that it is therefore against the best interest of the Town to solicit bids for the design of the municipal parking lot expansion at the Enfield Express.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #6115** adopted 10-0-0.

MISCELLANEOUS- None.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS- None.

COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor Cekala thanked ETV for all their hard work and being there tonight so we could have enough room. She also thanked the Town Manager's Office and Town Attorney; we ran them ragged these last couple days. She also welcomed back Kasia Purciello.

Chairman Cressotti seconded that. He said the past few weeks have been difficult. He thanked the Town Manager and Town Attorney for going above and beyond.

MOTION #6116 by Councilor Finger, seconded by Councilor Unghire to adjourn.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote, the Chair declared **MOTION #6116** adopted 10-0-0 and the meeting stood adjourned at 10:22pm.

Sheila M. Bailey
Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council

Respectfully submitted,
Tina Demers
Secretary to the Council