

**ENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2021**

A Special Meeting of the Enfield Town Council was called to order by Chairman Ludwick on Tuesday, February 16, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

**ROLL-CALL** – Present were Councilors Bosco, Cekala, Cressotti, Hemmeler, Ludwick, Mangini, Muller, Riley, Sferrazza, Szewczak and Unghire. Also present were Town Manager, Christopher Bromson; Assistant Town Manager, Kasia Purciello; Town Clerk, Sheila Bailey; Town Attorney, James Tallberg; Chief Technology Officer, Paul Russell; Deputy Director of Economic & Community Development, Nelson Tereso; Director of Public Works, Donald Nunes.

**MOTION #5682** by Councilor Mangini seconded by Councilor Muller to go into Executive Session to discuss Real Estate Negotiations and Pending Litigation.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #5682** adopted 11-0-0.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Executive Session of the Enfield Town Council was called to order by Chairman Ludwick at 5:31 p.m.

**ROLL-CALL** - Present were Councilors Bosco, Cekala, Cressotti, Hemmeler, Ludwick, Mangini, Muller, Riley, Sferrazza, Szewczak and Unghire. Also present were Town Manager, Christopher Bromson; Assistant Town Manager, Kasia Purciello; Town Clerk, Sheila Bailey; Town Attorney, James Tallberg; Chief Technology Officer, Paul Russell; Deputy Director of Economic & Community Development, Nelson Tereso.

Chairman Ludwick reconvened the Special Meeting at 6:06 p.m. and stated during Executive Session the Council discussed Real Estate Negotiations and Pending Litigation with no action or votes being taken.

**PATRICE SULIK, DIRECTOR OF NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT HEALTH DEPART.**

Ms. Sulik stated as of February 14<sup>th</sup>, data showed there were 2,785 Covid cases in Enfield with 43 deaths, and 18% of the Covid cases happened within institutional settings, but there wasn't any clarity as to how many of the deaths occurred in institutions as opposed to out within the community.

She stated during the pandemic the Health Department provided guidance and information packets to food establishments and cosmetology salons. She noted they also responded to complaints, and between July 1<sup>st</sup> to mid-November, they had 151 complaints from the public about people not

adhering to mask use, mitigation strategies in food establishments and cosmetology salons. She noted this occurred throughout the entire district and not just in Enfield.

Ms. Sulik stated the Health Department understood the dire circumstances that food establishments were experiencing, so they called the food establishments asking them how they were doing and offered guidance.

She stated the Health Department's initial disaster relief funding from the State was only approximately \$53,000. She noted when they began contact tracing, the District was awarded close to a million dollars, and those resources have helped immeasurably in trying to tackle all the work.

She noted they worked very closely with town partners, i.e., library directors, senior center directors, recreation departments, all town leadership, school superintendents and the school nurses. She stated some unintended benefits include less flu in the community, and they have not heard anything about the stomach bug going through schools.

Ms. Sulik stated they spent a lot of time with day care facilities, which went through a difficult time with some closings, and this presented problems for working people finding childcare.

She noted the Health Department had a role in the distribution of personal protective equipment to certain sectors of health providers in the community.

Councilor Riley questioned if the Health Department is making recommendations to the school system about allowing younger grade school children to return to school March 1<sup>st</sup> for four days per week. Ms. Sulik stated data shows that there has not been much in-school transmission from children under the age of 10 compared to older children or adults. She noted they speak to school superintendents multiple times a week, and there have been different reasons for closing schools, i.e., contact tracing or not enough staff to run the schools due to quarantining. She stated her belief most superintendents are serious about trying to move to as much in person learning as possible.

Chairman Ludwick suggested perhaps they should switch the school schedule for a few years, so they can get students back in school. He stated his belief they are underestimating the mental health aspect of this situation.

Ms. Sulik stated there isn't necessarily an association that the virus will be lower in warm weather. She stated her hope they can get enough people vaccinated to start developing herd immunity. She went on to note that the Covid virus does not mutate as quickly as influenza mutates. She noted she also heard the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines should be able to resist these strains as well. She stated the good news is that these strains don't make people sicker, but they are more contagious.

She explained the two major kinds vaccines are the Pfizer and the Moderna vaccine. She noted the Pfizer vaccine has a lot more challenging storage requirements, therefore, they're not distributing it to local health departments. She stated they are receiving the Moderna vaccine, and they received the first shipment the day before Christmas. She noted they administered about 165 vaccines in Stafford today. She stated they also have volunteers helping, i.e., EMT's, PA's,

doctors, dentists, etc. She pointed out the Health Department is one of many partners, who are providing vaccinations, i.e., private providers, CVS, Walgreens, Walmart, hospitals, etc.

Councilor Unghire questioned Ms. Sulik's opinion about vaccinating people who have the convalescent plasma. Ms. Sulik stated she's not comfortable answering that question because she's not a nurse. She noted she can look into this and provide an answer.

Councilor Muller questioned the biggest challenges the Health Department is facing. Ms. Sulik stated it's difficult to turn people away from getting the vaccine if they don't fall within a certain criterion.

Councilor Bosco questioned who is eligible for the vaccine at this time, and of those people getting the vaccine, what's the percentage of people experiencing side effects. He questioned if people get side effects on the first one, will they get side effects for the second vaccine. Ms. Sulik stated those people eligible for the vaccine at this time are health care workers, medical first responders, 75 and older and 65 and older, as well as congregate housing.

Councilor Bosco questioned whether people with health conditions are eligible for the vaccine. Ms. Sulik stated they wondered if that would happen with the 65 and older, but that isn't part of it at this point in time. As concerns side effects, Ms. Sulik stated she does not know the percentage. She noted she knows more about Moderna than Pfizer because that is the vaccine that the Health Department is working with. She stated it's less likely to have side effects after the first vaccination, and after the second vaccination, it's not uncommon to have some flu-like symptoms. She pointed out the vaccine is not a live or dead virus, but rather it's a messenger that tricks a person's cells into thinking they've already had Covid. She noted she has heard some talk that if people have had Covid and they then get vaccinated, they could have more of a reaction to the first dose of the vaccine. She noted as concerns the people in her office, who have been vaccinated, they've had one person feeling like she had the flu for two days.

Councilor Cressotti questioned how the Health Department coordinates to set up clinics. Ms. Sulik explained the State does not tell the Health Department where to have their clinics. She noted for the older population, they try to have the clinics within different towns for the convenience of that population. She noted when they vaccinate school staff and municipal employees, they can go right on site, and they would also coordinate with the private schools. She stated nothing has been officially decided for the next segment of the population, but they believe the most efficient thing to do is to have a major site within their three main towns.

Councilor Riley questioned what happens if a person meets the criteria, but they're coming from Massachusetts. Ms. Sulik stated they can be vaccinated if they work in Connecticut, and their job puts them in an eligible category.

Councilor Riley questioned if there are people who have health conditions or allergies, who should not be getting a vaccine. Ms. Sulik stated there have been a few people turned away because of past serious reactions to a vaccine. She noted some of the questions on the consent form include questions such as whether a person is on chemotherapy. She pointed out it doesn't automatically mean a person can't be vaccinated, but their nurse manager, who is coordinating the vaccination

station efforts consults with people who have concerns. She recalled only about three people could not receive the vaccine, and it could be because they were having a procedure, or they will be starting chemotherapy. She noted such people can get the vaccine, but they just can't get it that day. She stated the nurse manager consults with the person's doctor as to when a person can get vaccinated in such instances.

Councilor Riley stated if a person prefers the Pfizer vaccine, can they learn where that vaccine is being distributed. Ms. Sulik stated when it's known where the Pfizer vaccine is being distributed, they will share that information.

Councilor Mangini questioned whether it's a 72-hour test or 10-day wait period when a person has traveled out of state and returned to Connecticut. Ms. Sulik stated people are supposed to self-quarantine for ten days after traveling out of state, unless it is New York, New Jersey or Rhode Island. She noted a person should produce a negative test result, and it shouldn't be a rapid test for someone that's asymptomatic and hasn't had a known exposure because it won't provide a true picture of what's going on. She added this should be done within three days of returning. She added a person who is 14 days past their second vaccination does need to self-quarantine.

Chairman Ludwick questioned who determines where available vaccines go to, and Ms. Sulik stated she will check into this and provide that information. Chairman Ludwick stated the demand is there, but he questions who is controlling the supply.

Chairman Ludwick stated the Health Department is a great partner.

Ms. Sulik stated they are only able to do this with the support of all their town partners. She noted Enfield has been great.

Chairman Ludwick closed the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Bailey  
Town Clerk  
Clerk of the Council

Jeannette Lamontagne  
Secretary to the Council