

**ENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2022**

A Regular Meeting of the Enfield Town Council was called to order by Mayor Cressotti on Monday, October 3, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 7:13pm.

PRAYER – The Prayer was given by Councilor Unghire.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The pledge was led by Anthony Rosato and Troop 108.

ROLL-CALL – Present were Councilors Cekala, Cressotti, Despard, Finger, Hopkins, Ludwick, Mangini, Nelson, Pyznar, Santanella, and Unghire. Also present were Town Manager, Ellen Zoppo-Sassu; Assistant Town Manager, Steven Bielenda; Town Attorney, James Tallberg; Town Clerk, Sheila Bailey; Director of Economic and Community Development, Nelson Tereso; Director of Emergency Services, Erin Riggott.

FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT – Mayor Cressotti made the fire evacuation announcement.

MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

MOTION #6384 by Councilor Cekala, seconded by Councilor Mangini to accept the minutes from the Regular Meeting on August 29, 2022.

Councilor Pyznar brought up the fact that those minutes were not in the packet, and they were denied at the last meeting. She did not realize they would be voting on minutes that were not in the packet.

Councilor Nelson asked if any changes were made to them.

Chairman Cressotti did not have any changes in front of him.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6384** adopted 6-4-1. Councilors Ludwick, Finger, Unghire, and Pyznar voted against. Councilor Nelson abstained.

MOTION #6385 by Councilor Nelson, seconded by Councilor Mangini to accept the minutes from the Special Meeting on September 19, 2022.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6385** adopted 10-0-1. Councilor Hopkins abstained.

MOTION #6386 by Councilor Cekala, seconded by Councilor Nelson to accept the minutes from the Regular Meeting on September 19, 2022.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6386** adopted 10-0-1. Councilor Hopkins abstained.

SPECIAL GUESTS – Eagle Scout Court of Honor Recognition – Anthony Rosato

Anthony Rosato received his Eagle Scout during COVID, so he was unable to have a regular Court of Honor. They acknowledged him at the meeting for his work well done on his significant achievement. Only 4% of scouts reach this level.

For his Eagle Scout project, Anthony Rosato raised funds by collecting bottles and cans to refurbish 20 tables at the American Legion. His troop met at the American Legion during COVID. He raised enough money to sand down and re-stain all 20 picnic tables.

Chairman Cressotti said that Anthony should be proud of his accomplishments. He read the proclamation. The proclamation was in honor of Anthony Rosato of Troop 108. Anthony has progressed through the various levels of scouting to the level of Eagle Scout. He has earned 88 merit badges, 25 nights of camping, 28 miles of hiking, and 58 hours of community service. He is the recipient of the Emergency Preparedness Award, the Paul Bunyan Woodsman Award, and the World Conservation Award. Chairman Cressotti, Mayor of Enfield, stated that on behalf of the Town Council, Town Administration, and the entire community, the Town does hereby extend our congratulations to Anthony Rosato for attaining scouting's highest and most distinguished honor, the rank of Eagle Scout.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Christina Lang, 90 South Road

Ms. Lang stated that she is a core member of Showing up for Racial Justice, Enfield Chapter. (SURJ) Enfield SURJ is an affiliate of SURJ National, which has over 200 chapters across the country. SURJ is helping to improve racial inclusion and representation in Enfield. The intent of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee on the agenda is to take this to the next level in the form of a true partnership. Enfield SURJ consulted with Enfield residents, other groups, and DEI committees from neighboring towns. The proposal tonight is for a town committee dedicated to diversity, equity, and inclusion. The overall goal of the DEI committee is to create a platform for holding conversations about diversity in town policies and government. The way to reach potential is to make sure everyone is included.

Zach Zannoni, 6 Howard Street

Mr. Zannoni spoke about the DEI proposal that is being discussed. The racial incident on Haynes St. has pushed this forward. He wants to know why the BOE was not included in these discussions. He thinks the schools serve as the strongest and most diverse part of the community. He thinks it is the foundation to combat racism and inequity. Most prejudices start to form in adolescence. Ms. Cox-Blackwell is a liaison, but a liaison is not a partnership. It is his understanding that five members of the Council were not even aware that this was going to be on the agenda. That is unfortunate. To be the

best Enfield we can be, all eleven members should have been included in the discussion as well as the BOE.

Patrick Thibodeau, 20 Cora Street

Mr. Thibodeau stated that today the single-family neighborhoods in town are substantially white. The political system is not responding well to the demographical changes in the town. Businesses that prioritize inclusion and diversity, especially in their management teams, perform better financially. He thinks Enfield can benefit from a DEI committee. According to the Plan of Conservation and Development, Enfield's economy is declining. We are losing residents, the population is getting older, family sizes are smaller, and per capita spending is declining. We need all hands on deck to create a town that people want to live in, especially young people.

Rosalind Swift, 14 Gary Drive

Ms. Swift is in agreement for the proposal for the DEI committee. She has a lot of experience working and living in Enfield. It is not about "them" or "they", it is about "we". The committee needs to look at data. There is lack of equity and inclusiveness. She invited every white person to attend a SURJ meeting.

Nikki Price, 1324 Enfield St.

Ms. Price wanted to know why our Assistant Town Manager is also Human Resources Director. Isn't that a conflict of interest? She agreed with Councilor Ludwick when he said there is a difference when it comes a town mayor, councilors, and town manager when it comes to support for a political party, regardless of prior relationships. A town manager must remain neutral to ensure the town's best interests are upheld.

The proposed town mural ordinance should be heavily regulated as to ensure that such works of art are properly placed, and long-term aesthetics are maintained.

Chad Woodyard, 6 Parkway Drive

Mr. Woodyard believes the DEI committee is necessary for the future of Enfield. He said his wife is from Enfield and he moved here in 1997. He said that all his sons have been called the "N" word in schools here in town. His wife and her siblings were also called the "N" word in schools here. We cannot change the thought process, but we can make it uncomfortable to act on these thoughts. He said you can think "fire" all you want in a movie theater, but if you say it, you are in trouble. Forget your color and remember your culture, we are all Americans.

Bob Tkacz, 815 Woodgate Circle

Mr. Tkacz stated that everything starts in the schools, it is where they learn to work together. They should be part of that committee.

Mr. Tkacz said we have to move on the Sisters of the Poor. This is a great opportunity to move the town in the right direction.

Mr. Tkacz said that in the last 10 years, the deaths have exceeded the births. The population is now 39,000, at one point it was 54,000. Thompsonville is improving but District 1 is starting to fail.

Melanie Dubiel, 4 Francis Ave and Susan Budd, 2 Francis Avenue

Ms. Dubiel and Ms. Budd came with complaints about Pizza Palace. The parking is a problem because they were zoned entertainment. They can't get out of their driveways when they have things going on and it is 6 nights a week. There is garbage being left in front of their houses. Fire trucks and ambulances would have a hard time getting down the street. They said they were told that if they don't like it, they can move. There are 33 parking spots for the bar and the amount of people going in far exceeds that amount. It is also affecting Highland Park. They would like to get permit parking. They asked for direction and what can be done about the situation.

Alyssa 22 Prospect St.

Alyssa stated that she has never had a teacher of color growing up in Enfield. She graduated in 2007. Currently 35% of students are people of color and 4.8% of teachers are people of color. We need to stop living in a bubble. She is in favor of the DEI committee.

Pat Thibodeau, 20 Cora St.

Mr. Thibodeau stated that one of the seats is a dedicated school liaison who works directly with the school official who is responsible for these issues.

Zach Zannoni, 6 Howard St

Mr. Zannoni emphasized that partnership and liaison are two different things. Four weeks ago, Mayor Cressotti took extensive effort to create a community conversation. He is proud about this committee. It needs to be done right. We need to reach out to the Superintendent and Ms. Cox-Blackwell and the BOE. It needs to be a partnership with the BOE. Amendments can be made.

Chairman Cressotti declared Public Communications over.

COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor Cekala mentioned that the light at the intersection of Phoenix and South Road has a protected green. The arrow is pointing up and not to the left.

Councilor Cekala thanked everyone who spoke about the DEI, and she is proud to be part of the Council when this is coming up.

Councilor Cekala stated that others on Francis Ave have voiced the same concerns. There is parking on both sides of the road, trash, nips, glass beer bottles, and food everywhere. She wanted to let the ladies who spoke know that they have been heard. She is not sure if the Town Manager will have more information in her report or not. She believes there have been conversations with the Enfield PD.

Councilor Hopkins stated that he is the District Councilor for Francis Avenue, and he gave the ladies his phone number, (860)253-9590. He encouraged them to call him, and they would figure it out.

Councilor Mangini stated that the Town Manager is aware of the parking issue on Francis and Highland Park and hopefully there will be a resolution.

Councilor Mangini said it saddens her that we are still facing issues with diversity, equity, and inclusion in 2022 and that we have not accepted one another as humans. This needs to start at the lower-level preschool, and we need to teach our children to be loving, caring and respectful of one another. She is pleased that there is a committee forming.

Councilor Mangini mentioned that October is breast cancer awareness month. It affects both women and men.

Councilor Nelson clarified to Zach Zannoni that they received the information late Friday night. It was not available for leadership to discuss, so at the caucuses they were given very little information about it.

Regarding the parking issue on Francis, Councilor Nelson said he will help with solutions, not promises. There is occupancy for every commercial building there is. If we have to get the Fire Marshal to show up on a Thursday or Friday night when they are having a live venue to see if they are over occupancy. That is an enforcement action that can be taken immediately. Planning and Zoning puts hours of operation on live events like bands. Also, if the owner does not want to work with the neighbors in the neighborhood, it would be sad to see a DUI checkpoint right out front on Route 5. The hit and run was probably somebody that had too much to drink. We need to deal with this before someone gets killed.

Councilor Nelson asked The Town Manager if they had a chance to look at the sidewalks on Louise and Belinda.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu stated that they will be looking at those Thursday.

Councilor Nelson asked if the area of upper Abbe Road where it turns into Broadbrook near Taft is on the roads project because it is horrendous.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu stated that it is, and she will find out when that will get started.

Councilor Nelson asked if anyone has seen some of the Adopt-a-Spot areas in town. He asked why there are signs on them still because they are atrocious.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu stated that the Beautification Committee oversees the program and has some new members. She has asked them to look at how the program is run. The one in front of Longhorn's is terrible.

Councilor Pyznar stated that she received a phone call from a constituent saying that there is a post on the Economic Development Facebook looking for on-call property maintenance services. Why is this not being done in house?

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu stated that they do try to keep a lot of the work in house. They have had DPW employees do overtime on Wednesdays to keep up with property maintenance issues. They are spread very thin. The offer is always made in house first, but the list is getting very long. They have an on-call list of businesses with approved insurance and licenses ready to go to handle calls from residents.

Councilor Pyznar responded by saying asking if this is for blighted properties.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu confirmed that to be true.

Councilor Pyznar asked who posts the minutes from the committees in town.

Ms. Bailey stated that her office is only responsible for posting the Council minutes. Generally, she believes the staff liaison should be posting them but is not sure for each commission.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu stated that FOI Law requires them to be filed. The website is a courtesy.

Councilor Finger mentioned that the Beautification Committee has not been able to get a quorum so there are no minutes for the past few meetings. Hopefully, now that there are new members, they will start to have a quorum.

Councilor Finger corrected Zach Zannoni by saying that there are six Democrats, four Republicans, and one Unaffiliated member on the Council. He stated that he is unaffiliated, not Republican. He can't commit to either party because he finds himself agreeing with things from both caucuses.

Councilor Finger stated that he is okay with the DEI committee, but he has issues with some of the wording. He disagreed with the resident that brought up "white privilege."

Councilor Finger is confident that the issue on Francis Avenue will be taken care of. Councilor Hopkins and other people on the Council are good people.

Councilor Despard thanked everyone who spoke in support of the DEI committee. He did mention that the BOE was consulted during the process of developing the proposal.

Councilor Unghire stated that it has been a pleasure to serve as the Minority Leader. She offered the position of Minority Leader to Councilor Ken Nelson. She stated that he brings much knowledge having previously served on the Council and Planning and Zoning.

Councilor Ludwick stated that no parking signs can be put up on Francis Avenue if the residents want them. Then officers can ticket cars.

Chairman Cressotti mentioned at the last meeting the town worker and school personnel who helped with a situation at a football game. He wanted to recognize a couple more people who helped revive the young man. He wanted to recognize Paramedic Colin Sweeney and EMT Isabella Reviv. He said they took some criticism for walking to the scene, but they need to keep their blood pressure down so their

fingers are able to operate in a way for them to do their job. They will be recognized at an upcoming home game. The young man is in stable condition, still being monitored.

Chairman Cressotti visited Heather Stewart at 4 Polk Drive. Councilor Ludwick visited with her last year. She was presented with a proclamation for awareness for Limb Girdle Muscular Dystrophy Awareness Day which was recognized on Friday. She has had this rare disease over the past 30 years. The disease affects muscles closest to the body like shoulders, upper arms, pelvis area, and thighs. It is a debilitating disease. She is a self-sufficient woman who does not rely on anybody. The State also recognized her with a proclamation.

Chairman Cressotti mentioned that on October 7th there will be a ribbon cutting at the Senior Center. The Bocci Court ribbon cutting is at 11:00am and the TRIAD is at 12:00.

Chairman Cressotti asked the Town Manager if they could get an update from the JFK Building Committee.

Councilor Nelson stated that all the dealerships and garages in town got letters from the Assessor that lists their repair plates and dealer plates asking them to identify what the plate is on. Dealer plates and repair plates should not be on anything. They are for temporary use only. The bottom of the letter stated that any plate number that is not accounted for will be subject to an estimated value. What is he going to tax them on? He feels that it is another attempt to hijack the Enfield residents with this Assessor.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu stated that they received the complaints about Francis Avenue. The Police Department traffic division has completed its study. They have five or six options including putting no parking signs on one side of the street, or the resident only option. They have asked for a zoning assessment to look into drawing a line around the adjoining streets because if the two streets near the business are affected, they will be looking to park elsewhere. She would like the neighbors to weigh in before the Town Manager's office makes a recommendation. Ms. Zoppo-Sassu and the Assistant Town Manager have met with the owner of Jimmy's Pub and tried to discuss with him ways to combat the impacts on the neighborhood. It is difficult when you have adjacent businesses with two different types of uses. There will always be these types of issues. They do have an arrangement with a neighboring business where they can park most of their employees. There is also concern if people start parking across the street for the crossing Route 5 piece. It would be good for the people in the neighborhood to come and hear the options so that they can have a say.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu stated that if the Council does enact a DEI committee, it will be posted on the website for people to apply to serve on the commission.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu stated that she passed out the latest ARPA funding allotment. There have been no changes since last time she did the report, other than putting in a placeholder amount for \$50,000 for a grant writer. That brings us to \$808,602.00 in reserve. The small business assistance program officially launched on Saturday. They have already received a couple applications and some questions. This will

run through the month and up next will be the non-profit assistance. We may exceed the amount allocated in terms of people who want to participate. She highlighted in yellow the item that is on the agenda tonight.

Attorney James Tallberg brought up the fact that the independent review involves complex legal issues, pending tax appeals, potential litigation, and potential personnel issues. So given the nature it would not be appropriate for him to discuss much publicly about it. The review is well under way. The attorney was in Town Hall this afternoon and had a productive meeting with the Council Liaisons, Councilor Ludwick, Councilor Santanella, and Councilor Hopkins. It is his understanding that the liaisons will report back to the caucuses.

Councilor Ludwick inquired whether some of the reserve money can be used in the winter months when people can't afford oil and gas bills. He also thinks we should be able to help any small businesses that went under during COVID with their debt.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu stated that economic difficulties are an eligible use. She will check on fuel bank issues.

Councilor Hopkins stated that they brought forth a bi-partisan list of questions for this investigation. We should not play politics with this. It will do us a disservice to what we are trying to do here. The liaisons agreed to operate with a code of silence while the answers are being determined so as not to taint the investigation.

Councilor Finger asked the Town Attorney if he would be able to get him regarding what is going on, since he does not have a caucus. Also, he stated that Councilor Hopkins wanted to keep the public informed of what was going on and he does not know why he changed his mind.

Mr. Tallberg stated that he learned at 3:35 on Friday that Councilor Finger had changed his party affiliation. It took him some time to research the implication of that change. He stated that renouncing his membership in the Democratic Party comes with a waiting period pursuant to CT General Statute 9-59 for 90 days from the filing of the application for transfer or erasure from a party during which he is not able to vote on any political appointments or caucus with either party.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Councilor Santanella mentioned that in the Fire Chief Association Committee there was a process started to look at premium pay for the firefighters. He believes that they have all the information needed to compensate the firefighters for premium pay during COVID using the same metric used for town employees and BOE. He thinks it needs to go to a resolution.

Councilor Santanella stated that during meetings of the Government and Finance Committee the issue of out-of-state license plates has been discussed before. There were two more phone calls this week about residents with neighbors who have vehicles registered in a different state. People are breaking the law and costing everyone else money.

Councilor Ludwick stated that government should not be putting neighbor vs. neighbor. He has no problem educating people.

Councilor Santanella is not suggesting that we come between neighbors. He stated that there are less invasive ways to solve the problem.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

MOTION #6387 by Councilor Pyznar, seconded by Councilor Mangini to remove the Raffia Road land swap referral from the agenda.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6387** adopted 11-0-0.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #6388 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Cekala to cancel the November 21st meeting.

Councilor Ludwick asked why it was being canceled.

Chairman Cressotti responded that because of the election the first meeting is on November 14th and having one on the 21st would be back-to-back meetings.

Councilor Pyznar asked what if something comes up?

Chairman Cressotti stated that there can be a special meeting if something come up.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6388** adopted 9-2-0. Councilors Ludwick and Pyznar voted against.

TOWN COUNCIL APPOINTED

MOTION #6389 by Councilor Cekala, seconded by Councilor Mangini to reappoint Shari Riddick (U) to the Ethics Commission for a term that expires 10/31/24.

Upon a **SHOW-OF HANDES** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6389** adopted 10-0-1. Councilor Finger abstained.

TOWN MANAGER APPOINTED/COUNCIL APPROVED – None.

P&Z COMMISSION APPOINTED/COUNCIL APPROVED – None.

MOTION #6390 by Councilor Nelson, seconded by Mangini to remove Item E from the agenda because there is no signed letter of intent.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6390** adopted 11-0-0.

RESOLUTION #6391 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Cekala.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the filling of an application by the Town of Enfield in an amount not to exceed \$4,000,000 is hereby approved, and that the Town Manager is hereby authorized and directed to file such Application with the Commissioner of the Department of Economic Development and Community Development, to provide such additional information, to execute such other documents as may be required by the Commissioner, to execute an Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut for State financial assistance if such an Agreement is offered, to execute any amendments, rescissions, and revisions thereto, and to act as the authorized representative of the Town of Enfield.

Chairman Cressotti stated that the work that has been done to remediate the Strand and Lamagna stands as the towns match for the application at \$1.3 million. That was for demolition, testing, and construction monitoring.

Councilor Ludwick wanted to know what the investment from the private developer was.

Mr. Nelson Tereso stated that this is round two of the Connecticut Community Challenge Grant Program. We applied round one for Higgins Park which we did not get. They are committing up front \$700,000 equity commitment at minimum but make take more depending on sources of funding. The plan for the project is two mixed-use buildings with commercial space on the first floor and 55 1–2-bedroom unit apartments on the upper three floors. They are looking at adjacent properties to maximize their development. 80% of the units are going to be affordable Workforce Units with people earning 60% of the area median income, the other 20% will be market rate. The property manger will provide amenities like support service, services for the households, community health services, financial counseling, and social services. The schedule is going to be contingent on them obtaining low-income housing tax credits.

Councilor Ludwick stated that we have already put in \$1.2 million. It is an important project, but it is relying on government money which makes him nervous. He is concerned that we are funding more than they are when it should at least be equal.

Mr. Tereso stated that there will be five or six sources of funding for the overall.

Councilor Hopkins wished there were more people lining up to build housing in Enfield, but they are not. We need to revitalize Thompsonville. He would like to see the developer do all of this; reality is a bit more complicated.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the chair declared **RESOLUTION #6391** adopted 10-1-0. Councilor Nelson voted against.

RESOLUTION #6392 by Councilor Cekala, seconded by Councilor Mangini.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council does hereby designate the EMS Chief to act as the authorized representative of the Town of Enfield in waiving fees up to \$500.

Councilor Nelson mentioned that when they created Enfield EMS, Enfield residents that did not have insurance or were responsible to pay part of it were billed three times and then the bill was disregarded, and they did not have to pay it. Is this \$500 for Enfield residents only? If that is the case, are we billing Enfield residents now?

Chief Riggott stated that they bill everyone that uses their service. There is some difference between residents and non-residents and how they bill set by Council. There is a Medicare waiver for residents, and they do not charge the co-pay. Non-residents are sent to collections if they are delinquent on their accounts. They send three bills to residents and non-residents. The only ones that are pushed through to collections are non-residents.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the chair declared **RESOLUTION #6392** adopted 11-0-0.

RESOLUTION #6393 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Cekala.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council does hereby designate \$75,000 from the ARPA Funds toward the repair of the Shaker Pines Spillway, and to provide grant guidance to seek additional funds for the \$151,000 proposed project.

Councilor Hopkins stated that this spillway allows the lake to release water, so flooding is controlled. There has been discussion about this for years but has never been acted upon. He would like to make an amendment in the highlights section that says additional funds of up to \$75,000 may be allocated during the Capital Improvement Project Planning during the budget cycle to ensure the project is able to move forward. He thinks we need to express intent to use CIP to make sure the project is completed. We should make sure that it is our intent to fix this critical infrastructure.

AMENDMENT #1 by Councilor Hopkins, seconded by Councilor Despard to change the word “may” to “will”.

Councilor Ludwick would like to help but it should not come out of Capital Improvement and ARPA funds. The Beach Association is a private association. He is willing to be a partner but not to fund the whole thing.

Councilor Despard stated that the private organization has been providing a public service and maintaining this spillway for the town.

Councilor Finger brought up the fact that it is not the town’s property. We need to stop using ARPA funds for everything.

Councilor Despard stated that yes, they do maintain it for the Lake Association but if they did not maintain it there would be a vast majority of the town flooding. There would be flooding all over the place.

Councilor Santanella stated that the point of ARPA funds is to spend them to zero. He has never seen something so important to a town in private people's hands. We are looking at a \$150,000 investment to prevent millions of dollars in property damage. Hopefully, there is grant money that can be used so we don't need to use ARPA or Capital Improvement.

Councilor Mangini will be supporting this as the issue has been going on for a long time and she is glad it has come up to vote on it. It qualifies for ARPA more than some of the other projects that we have.

Chairman Cressotti stated that this has been an issue for many years and has been ignored for many years. This affects the town from the lake all the way down to the Connecticut River. We are allocating \$75,000 in ARPA money that fits the guidelines to a T. We are going to be looking for grants.

Mr. Tallberg stated that he does not think the amendment changes the resolution. Ms. Bailey stated that amending the highlights does not amend the resolution.

Councilor Hopkins said he could change his motion to change the wording of the highlights.

Councilor Nelson asked if anyone knew how deep the spillway was. He stated that it is about four feet deep. It was a stream that they put a little dam in. It is small. They did that so they could raise the lake up a little. Are we going to start taking on drainage problems for condos and PUDS? That is what this is. We are taking public money to work on private property. They are a lake association and the thing that makes it a lake is their spillway. They should have funds to maintain it and upgrade it. If this is approved, we are setting a precedent for other condos and PUDS to do the same if they have drainage issues. We need to table this and get the engineers to come down with maps and show us what would happen if the gate was taken out of the spillway. It is not going to flood Enfield.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the chair declared **AMENDMENT #1** adopted 6-5-0. Councilors Finger, Ludwick, Nelson, Pyznar, and Unghire voted against.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the chair declared **RESOLUTION #6393** adopted 6-5-0. Councilors Finger, Ludwick, Nelson, Pyznar, and Unghire were against.

RESOLUTION #6394 by Councilor Cekala, seconded by Councilor Mangini.

BEIT RESOLVED, that the Enfield Town Council does hereby approve in accordance with the Charter authority granted to the Town Council and in adherence to the policy and procedure established by the Town Manager that:

Section 1: The aggregate sum of \$115,780 in COLA wage increase is authorized for all qualified non-union full-time employees of the Town in accordance with FY21/22 performance evaluations approved by the Town Manager.

Section 2: The aggregate sum of \$39,758 in COLA wage increases is authorized for all qualified non-union regular part-time employees of the Town in accordance with FY21/22 performance evaluations as approved by the Town Manager.

Section 3: The application of the increases referenced herein shall be applied retroactively to the date of July 1, 2022.

MOTION #6395 by Councilor Nelson to table this and discuss it in executive session because it is employee related matters. Councilor Pyznar seconded.

Councilor Cekala stated that this will be voted on tonight because it was discussed in leadership four weeks ago, three weeks ago and there was direction to go back to your caucuses and discuss it.

Councilor Finger stated that before he went unaffiliated from the Democratic Party caucus, this was never brought up to him. He agrees with Councilor Ludwick that it needs to go to executive session.

Councilor Pyznar stated that she is concerned that she has no idea who is getting the raises. The list she was given today had some repetition because some of the people just got raises in February. She is looking at this with a taxpayer's view, every meeting we seem to be giving out raises.

Mr. Bielenda stated that employees usually get raises on July 1. If they received a raise before then it was a wage adjustment or promotion, not a raise. It does not make them ineligible for COLA after.

Councilor Pyznar mentioned that on the list are the bus drivers and Dial-a-Ride workers and they just got raises two weeks ago.

Mr. Bielenda stated that it was not the Dial-a-Rides to weeks ago, it was the dispatch drivers during impact bargaining. The jobs listed here are non-union.

Councilor Unghire stated that if they are discussing salaries it needs to be done privately during executive session.

Councilor Nelson stated that Mr. Bielenda said these are performance-based raises. He mentioned that on Friday he and Ms. Zoppo-Sassu discussed a person on the list who is not in good standing.

Councilor Ludwick stated that they have given COLA adjustments in the past, but it has not been 3% cart blanche. It was based on evaluations by the management team on who was performing well.

Mr. Tallberg stated that he does not think the topic of COLA adjustments qualifies for executive session.

Upon a **SHOW-OF HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6395** failed 5-6-1. Councilors Finger, Ludwick, Nelson, Pyznar and Unghire voted against.

Councilor Finger stated that if you make less than \$30,000 you only pay 3% for insurance premium, \$30,000 to \$60,000 you pay 8%, and over \$60,000 11%. When was the last time these percentages were brought up to take the burden off the taxpayers? His union is at 17%.

Mr. Bielenda stated that non-union members pay less because they have no contractual rights and no negotiating leverage. They have no just cause protection. It is an incentive not to go into the union.

Councilor Hopkins stated that spillways and sewers, like workforce, require maintenance. It is fair to have a different vision and if some people want to “cheap out” that is fine. What he is not okay with is the name calling.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the chair declared **RESOLUTION #6394** adopted 8-1-2. Councilor Unghire voted against and Councilors Ludwick and Pyznar abstained.

RESOLUTION #6396 by Councilor Cekala, seconded by Councilor Mangini.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council creates a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee.

Councilor Pyznar thought that it is a great idea to start the committee, but to Zach’s point, this is the first time she has seen it. She thinks it is an important committee. She received a hard copy Friday night. She called her Minority Leader on Saturday morning and was told it was not on leadership, which has been confirmed. Tonight was the first time she is hearing lots of wonderful people speak about it. She likes the idea, but things need to be changed. She thinks tabling it for a special meeting would be best. She asked who wrote the draft because she does not know.

Councilor Unghire thanked the residents that spoke and agrees that they have great ideas. She was out of town all weekend and just read it last night. She mentioned that some of the verbiage may subvert the Charter. She thinks with a little more work it can be better.

Councilor Hopkins thought they should have the discussion immediately as they have a proposal from a group in town that has done a lot of work.

Councilor Mangini stated that this is very important. She said discussion is good and healthy, however this group has worked very hard to bring forward their ideas and make a positive change in our town. She thanked the group that started this and said it needs to be done.

Councilor Pyznar stated that she is for the committee, but she was not included when everyone on the other side knew this was in progress. She was never asked if she wanted to meet with the group. She said she knows the other side was smiling, but how is that inclusion? She wants to work with the group and see it go through but there are parts that she is not comfortable with. She is asking for a healthy

discussion, and she asked that it be tabled. She stated they need time to digest this idea so it can be done right.

Councilor Unghire mentioned that there was a comment made that this should not be made political, however, half of the dais was not included in on the conversation from the start. She asked why everyone wasn't included if it is going to be a Council appointed committee.

Councilor Despard stated that he thinks this idea is a decade or so too late, so he does not want to see any more time wasted. He invited everyone to SURJ meetings that happen on the 3rd Wednesday each month at 6:30 on Zoom. They have a Facebook page.

Councilor Finger thought the idea was great, but he had a few issues. He stated that no other committees have term lengths of three and five years. He also pointed out in the paperwork where it says "Structure" it says "immigrants." He would like to make a motion to add the word legal before immigrant.

Councilor Nelson stated that the committee is being formed to have an all-inclusive town, but in the structure, it reads, resident of Enfield but shall not be an elected official, or a member of a town committee. He wanted to know what is wrong with being a committee member. He also wanted to know what the budget is. It states there is a budget to be set by the Council. We are going to vote on something, and we don't even know what the budget is?

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu stated that it would most likely be funded through the process like all other non-profits, not connected to what is happening tonight. They don't have a budget unless it is voted yes tonight.

Councilor Ludwick would like to see the terms consistent with other commissions. He too was questioning the budget and some of the wording. He mentioned that it says the committee may petition the Council for ad hoc funding for costs, including, but not limited to, subject matter experts. We need to know how much this is going to cost. He brought up that they want to make recommendations on our hiring practices. Does that have to be run by the union? We need answers before we can vote yes.

Councilor Mangini stated that the resolution simply states that Council creates a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. It does not state specifics like budget, etc.

Chairman Cressotti stated that two weeks ago we made a commitment to not look the other way or turn our cheek after an incident that happened at the end of August. There was a Community Conversation and many people attended, and some did not. This is the next step after the Community Conversation that already happened. He stated that it is a good draft and committee, and maybe a few things need to be changed. He pointed out the fact that it says "draft" proposal. Once the resolution is passed, we can talk about the particulars.

Councilor Pyznar stated that once something is given to them, they have to make a decision that affects every single resident. All she is asking is to have a civil conversation about it in a special meeting. All she got was finger pointing. She will abstain, not because she is against it, but because she needs more information for every resident.

MOTION #6397 by Councilor Hopkins to move the question. Motion failed to receive a second.

Councilor Cekala said that she, too, was not involved in the creation of the committee and the draft. She too saw it for the first time on Friday. She said she it okay with that because it is not about her. It is just a draft, and she is fine voting on it.

Councilor Finger stated that he will stand on changing the terms, but he will remove his request for the word “legal” before immigrants.

MOTION #6398 by Councilor Pyznar, seconded by Councilor Unghire to table.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6397** failed 5-6-0. Councilors Despard, Hopkins, Santanella, Cressotti, and Cekala were against.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **RESOLUTION #6396** adopted 8-1-2. Councilor Nelson voted against and Councilors Pyznar and Unghire abstained.

RESOLUTION #6399 by Councilor Nelson, seconded by Councilor Santanella.

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

CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify that the above-stated funds are available as of September 29, 2022.
/s/ John Wilcox, Director of Finance.

Please see Attachment A for account detail.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the chair declared **RESOLUTION #6398** adopted 10-0-0. Councilor Unghire stepped out.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS PROPER TO COME BEFORE SAID MEETING – None.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Bob Tkacz, 815 Woodgate Circle

Mr. Tkacz stated that there was a lot of corruption in the census takers this past time which is why there is a difference in the population. The prisoners have the residency of where and when they were arrested. We only have 83 residents in the prison.

Mr. Tkacz mentioned that according to an article in the Wall Street Journal, there are 440 million barrels in the reserve. A barrel of oil is 40 gallons. They are depleting it and adding alcohol. If it were pure, we would be getting ten miles per gallon more. They are trying to stretch reserves.

Mr. Tkacz stated that if someone comes from another country, they are an illegal immigrant, no matter how they get here, it's federal law. When they get citizenship, they are called a legal resident.

Mr. Tkacz stated that the car plate thing is a very small percentage of the total taxes received. If you live in Florida six months and a day you can have a Florida plate on your car. Rental cars have out of state plates. People have visitors from MA.

Rosalind Swift, 4 Gary Drive

Ms. Swift stated that she appreciates everyone's opinions. She also mentioned that every time the issue of inclusion, diversity or racism comes up, it is always put aside to another time. She invited Marie to come to SURJ. Everyone has the opportunity to hear, not just heart stories, but data. She is thankful that this is moving forward.

Marcy Taliceo, Coolidge Drive

She also thanked the Council saying it is long overdue. She is happy being part of the historic voting and passing of the committee. SURJ will support the committee in any way they can.

Chad Woodyard, 6 Parkway

Mr. Woodyard stated that he would be willing to have a conversation with anyone outside the meeting. None of us are responsible for slavery, we know that, we should be able to talk about it without getting angry. He stated that if someone does not stand for the Pledge of Allegiance, we should be able to talk about why. We are humans first, Americans second and it does not matter the color of one's skin. We can't stop the way people think, the objective is to have conversation to see why we say and do the things we do.

COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS – None.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #6400 by Councilor Mangini, seconded by Councilor Nelson.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the chair declared **MOTION #6400** adopted 11-0-0, and the meeting stood adjourned at 10:12pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila M. Bailey
Clerk to the Council
Town Clerk

Tina Demers
Secretary to the Council

Appended to the Minutes of the October 3, 2022
 Regular Town Council Meeting. See Page 16,
 Resolution #6399

Town of Enfield
 Year End Council Transfer
 FY 2022

Attachment __A

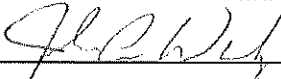
Department	Account	Description	To Amount	From Amount	Account	Description
General Fund						
Town Manager	10120000	511000 Salaries	31,424	13,123	10120000	521000 Health/Medical Insurance
Registrar of Voters	10150000	522000 Social Security	93	93	10150000	513400 Election Workers
Town Clerk				2,242	10160100	511000 Salaries
Records Management	10161600	511000 Salaries	2,177			
	10161600	516000 Stipend	65			
Finance Administration	10180100	511000 Salaries	4,203	4,212	10180100	533100 Financial/Audit
	10180100	516000 Stipend	9			
General Services	10184000	511000 Salaries	212	279	10184000	522000 Social Security
	10184000	512000 Salaries - Part Time	67			
Historic District Commission	10190960	512000 Salaries - Part Time	435	462	10190960	554000 Advertising
	10190960	522000 Social Security	24			
	10190960	522100 Medicare	3			
Prison Liason Committee	10190991	589000 Miscellaneous	97			
Emergency Management	10250000	512000 Salaries - Part Time	17			
Public Works Administration	10300100	511000 Salaries	357	357	10300100	521000 Health/Medical
Buildings and Grounds	10300340	511000 Salaries	39,650	44,000	10300340	521000 Health/Medical
	10300340	514000 Overtime	10,050	6,000	10300340	541000 Utility Services
	10300340	515100 Shift	100			
	10300340	516000 Stipend	200			
Custodial Maintenance	10300345	511000 Salaries	33,900	33,900	10300345	521000 Health/Medical
	10300345	514000 Overtime	11,020	11,020	10300345	522000 Social Security
Highway Maintenance	10300370	511000 Salaries	1,960			
	10300370	514000 Overtime	9,811			
	10300370	521000 Health/Medical	23,126			

Department	Account	Description	To Amount	From Amount	Account	Description
Equipment Repairs and Maintenance						
	10300380	511000 Salaries	9,225			
Refuse Collection and Disposal						
	10300390	514000 Overtime	2,037	2,037	10300390	521000 Health/Medical
Economic and Comm Develop						
	10606600	516000 Stipend	775	775	10606600	521000 Health/Medical
Building Inspection						
	10606800	521000 Health/Medical	8,668	4,376	10606800	514000 Overtime
	10606800	562600 Gasoline	1,359	5,651	10606800	533900 Other Professional Services
Employee Benefits						
	10800091	519000 Employee Separation Pay	318,671	318,671	10800091	523100 Pension-Police
Unallocated Charges						
				44,236	10800092	584000 Contingency
				18,301	10800092	593070 Transfer to Collective Bargaining
Total General Fund			<u>509,735</u>	<u>509,735</u>		
Social Services						
Social Services Admin						
	22040001	512000 Salaries - Part Time	490	490	22040001	533900 Other Professional Services
Congregate Living						
	22040413	521000 Health/Medical	2,264	2,264	22040413	512000 Salaries - Part Time
Neighborhood Services						
	22040460	511000 Salaries		14,481	22040460	521000 Health/Medical
Family Resource Center						
	22040470	511000 Salaries	2,368			
	22040470	511100 Certified Salaries	1,500			
	22040470	516000 Stipends	157			
	22040470	521000 Health/Medical	10,285			
	22040470	521500 Life Insurance/Disability	171			
Total Social Services Fund			<u>17,235</u>	<u>17,235</u>		

Department	Account	Description	To Amount	From Amount	Account	Description
Library Fund						
Library & Leisure - Admin	22505500	511000 Salaries	3,647	3,614	22505500	521000 Health/Medical
				33	22505500	522000 Social Security
Library	22505510	511000 Salaries	18,637	1,922	22505510	555100 Copying & Reproduction
	22505510	521000 Health/Medical	15,292	5,814	22505510	564200 Library Books
	22505510					
Library and Leisure - Senior Center	22505520	511000 Salaries	2,426	28,619	22505520	533900 Other Professional Services
Total Library Fund			<u>40,002</u>	<u>40,002</u>		
Information Technology Fund						
Information Technology	24012100	511000 Salaries	4,540	4,676	24012100	521000 Health/Medical
	24012100	516000 Stipend	136			
Total Information Technology Fund			<u>4,676</u>	<u>4,676</u>		
Grand Totals			<u>571,648</u>	<u>571,648</u>		

I hereby certify that the amounts are available for transfer per the guidelines established by the Town Council.

Finance Director



Town Manager

