

Supervisor Highlights August/September 2018

Usually, I put together highlights or my thoughts on the recent Town Board meeting for this report. This month, since there's so much going on, I've not had a lot of time to do that. So, I thought I'd share some details about a few goings on in town that I've been working on as well as work we've been addressing as a Town Board.

Resident Concerns-

Recently, residents have inquired about many quality of life concerns such as speed limits, noise levels, and property maintenance. In rural communities, we are often faced with questions about what it means to live "out in the Country". We appreciate the freedoms we have to enjoy uncongested views, less traffic, a smaller community. On the other hand, we also enjoy living in spaces where not many people tell us what we can and can't do. So, where is the balance? As residents ask us to visit these topics more and more, the Town Board will likely be considering how these issues impact our lives and how best to manage them in the best interest of all residents of the Town of Enfield. While these topics can be emotionally charged, due to the fact that they impact our homes and our lives very closely, our job is to learn what the community wants, what we can and cannot do to manage it, and make decisions based on facts. I hope that our town continues to be one where residents feel comfortable discussing their concerns and working toward solutions together.

Town Board notes:

In August, the Town Board worked with the Code Officer, Alan Teeter, to update the building permit fee structure and the Unified Solar Permit. The new schedule can be found on the town website at this link: <http://townofenfield.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/FINAL-Enfield-Application-for-Building-Permit-8-18.pdf>

Alice Linton proposed changes to Dog License fees and the Board approved new fees of \$12 for altered dogs and \$24 for unaltered dogs. If you have a dog and live in the Town of Enfield, you must register it. Please stop in and visit our Town Clerk, Alice Linton, and she will help you take care of this.

Quarterly meetings with the Fire Department begin in September. Councilperson Mehaffey and I are looking forward to these meetings, as there are many mutual concerns that we can respond to better with good communication.

Delaware River Solar has not completed their solar facility on Podunk Rd. as of yet. However, we have signed a Host Community Agreement for \$8,000.00 and a De-Commissioning Plan. This plan will provide funds annually to defray costs of removal of the solar facility in the event it is no longer operational and they are unable to do so.

Moratorium Update- The Moratorium on Commercial Wind and Solar was extended by the Town Board through December 31st, 2018. The work set forth in the Moratorium included development of solar oversight, an update to the Wind Law if necessary, and completion of the Comprehensive Plan. The Renewable Energy Advisory Committee has been very busy working on the solar law. They have provided a version to the Town Board for review and incorporated Town Board comments. Review of the document is nearly complete and we'll be working on developing a PILOT and Host Community policy to compliment

the law soon. This will take some time, as there is much to know about Real Property Tax Law and Enfield's current Opt-Out status for renewable energy property assessment.

The Board budgeted for a Planner to review the Comprehensive Plan in 2018 and the review is nearly complete. Final data and source collection and formatting options are being explored at this time. Wind Law updates are being explored as time allows. Once the solar law is in place, work on this task will become more focused.

Budget- Budget discussions have begun in the Finance Committee and the Town Board will be planning the budget meeting schedule at the September regular meeting. I have been working to get budget requests nearly a month early, and each department has worked hard to provide information regarding their needs for 2019. It is challenging to predict things like materials for the Highway Department , as these fluctuate sometimes radically. And we have little control over health and other insurance costs. We do the best we can and have been working hard this year to find the places where we may be spending more money than we should, just simply because we have not explored other ways of achieving the same goals.

We will have many conversations about how best to manage our obligations to residents through the services we provide. I'm looking forward to working with the board to make a solid plan for stable budgeting practice. How great would it be if we could provide a more predictable picture of future budgeting needs that allows residents to enjoy the services they require, as well as easing the burden of the tax bill?

The Beautification Committee has been working on some projects around the Town Hall this year. My husband Darren and I built planters for the front of the building and Joe Dawson has nearly completed a new information sign along the front of the Town Hall property. I hope we can still complete some final work around the Park and Ride and new directional signage between town buildings before the season is out. The projects completed by the Beautification Committee are most often reimbursed through a grant from Cornell Cooperative Extension if they qualify.

A grant has been received from Home Depot through the help of resident Maureen Bolton to refurbish the community space in the lower floor of the Community Building. A fresh coat of paint, some storage, and a handicapped accessible bathroom are tasks we hope to complete by the end of October. I am really looking forward to giving this space new life and opportunities to house resident activities in a bright and clean space.

If you would like to assist in getting this project completed, we would love to have your help for an hour or a day! Please contact me at supervisor@townofenfield.org or call me at 607-288-2384 and we'll find a way for you to share your talents with us there.

Committee appointments will be renewed at the beginning of the year. If you are interested in serving in your community in some way in 2019, please reach out to myself or another board member and let us know. There are many varied tasks from youth concerns to beautification, town finances, renewable energy, environmental concerns and much more. Your participation would be a great benefit to your town.

To see what I'm up to around town, like and share my facebook feed at: <https://www.facebook.com/supervisormcgee> Feel free to share your questions and concerns with me there. If you see something interesting going on, please share with other Enfield residents.

And if you haven't signed up for updates from the town website yet, what are you waiting for????? Go to TownOfEnfield.org and enter your name and email address in the form on the right side of your screen, so we can help you stay up to date on all the latest in the Town of Enfield.

I hope this note finds you still enjoying some sunshine and warmth. I have to admit, Fall is not my favorite time of year (I know. Weird, right?) . So if you see me, stop and chat, tell me a joke, or share something great about our community with me. I'm going to need a pick me up as the days get cooler and darker!

See you in Enfield!

Beth McGee, Supervisor

Supervisor's Report August 2018

1. Held A special meeting and Regular Town Board meeting
2. Purchased materials and built two planters for the Town Hall with Darren McGee
3. Finalized and submitted a grant for the Community Building
4. Finalized and submitted a CFA for a Salt Storage grant
5. Finalized and submitted the Clean Energy Communities grant application
6. Held two Finance Committee meetings/prepped minutes
7. Created a contract for a Burial Coordinator
8. Cleaned Community Building meeting space twice
9. Communicated with Judge Poole with regard to contact confusion and resident court needs
10. Worked with the Confidential Secretary to complete the abstract in the Bookkeeper's absence.
11. Responded to Worker's Comp concerns for an employee and a volunteer
12. Researched Medicare supplement options available to the town
13. Participated in a Property Tax Cap webinar
14. Prepared budget materials for 2019 budget
15. Held two Comprehensive Plan meetings
16. Attended the Enfield Volunteer Fire Department picnic
17. Worked on a Beautification grant
18. Responded to various code enforcement/property concern calls from residents.
19. Attended TCCOG