

## Supervisor Highlights April 2019

The following is a report of highlights for the Town of Enfield prepared by Beth McGee, Town Supervisor. These are not meeting minutes, such as those provided by the Town Clerk. Drafts of meeting minutes may be available at [TownOfEnfield.org](http://TownOfEnfield.org) one week prior to the regular monthly meeting and are subject to corrections upon discussion of the Town Board before approval.

Dear Enfield Resident-

It's safe to say that Spring has sprung and it's a fresh new season to come out of our winter caves and connect as a community in the sunshine and warmth. I hope you'll find something of interest in these highlights of Town events and projects. There is a lot going on in town these days so I'll get right to it. If you have any questions or concerns, as always, please feel free to reach out to me at 607-288-2384 or [supervisor@townofenfield.org](mailto:supervisor@townofenfield.org). You may also reach the whole Town Board at: [townboard@townofenfield.org](mailto:townboard@townofenfield.org)

### Highway News-

**Town of Enfield Clean Up Days will be Wednesday May 8<sup>th</sup> - Friday May 10<sup>th</sup> from 12-5 PM and Saturday May 11<sup>th</sup> from 7 AM- 12 PM. Please take this opportunity to clean up and clean out by bringing your items to dispose of in our free dumpsters at the new Enfield Highway building at 475 Enfield Main Road. For information about what is accepted call the Town Clerk or visit our website at [townofenfield.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/2019-Enfield-Clean-Up-Days.pdf](http://townofenfield.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/2019-Enfield-Clean-Up-Days.pdf)**

Highway Superintendent, Buddy Rollins, provided a tour of the Enfield Highway Department at our February Town Board meeting. It was very informative and provided an opportunity for Town Board members and residents alike to hear about the daily operations and challenges of the department and to ask questions. It was a good opportunity to see the equipment we have, the challenges we face and the great effort the Enfield Highway Dept. makes toward caring for our inventory and our roads. We're moving in a good direction with equipment needs.

In late 2018 and early 2019 the Highway Dept. has been diligent about finding replacement equipment at auction, which has allowed us to update our inventory and bring us closer to a proper replacement schedule. The goal is always to prevent the waste of repair and downtime, in order to focus on maintenance of Enfield roads, as is their priority.

### Energy News-

The Renewable Energy Advisory Committee hopes to have their solar recommendations available to the Town Board by May. We are also developing our strategy for large energy developments that we hope will provide fair compensation to Enfield for locating such projects here.

A final version of our contract with NYSERDA for a grant to install a solar array to offset municipal energy costs has been signed and an RFP is in the process of being developed. We will be discussing this and finalizing it in the coming months at Town Board Meetings.

### Fire News-

The Enfield Volunteer Fire Company assisted the Enfield Community Council (ECC) and Town of Enfield in providing a fun day for Enfield kids (and adults!) on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. We had hoped to have a bonfire, however, the wood and the weather would not cooperate. We still enjoyed games, food, and a tour of the Fire Company and demonstrations of fire safety and putting out a fire by the EVFC Juniors. To see a

great video of them in a race to don their fire gear, visit my facebook page at [facebook.com/supervisormcgee](https://www.facebook.com/supervisormcgee).

With the assistance of the Fire Company, the Town has purchased new KNOX boxes for the Highway Dept and Town Hall. These boxes facilitate secure entry into town buildings by the fire company in the event of a fire or EMS event. We're also working with EVFC to develop a new member approval process in which the Town Board can honor the service of volunteers who join the fire/EMS service in Enfield. We hope that once that process is in place, community members will take the opportunity to welcome them and reach out to learn about being a firefighter and/or EMS volunteer.

In April, I was invited to participate in a fascinating training regarding clandestine meth labs to learn about the safety concerns, prevention and response to the issues surrounding our drug crisis in Tompkins County. I know we have many conscientious residents who gift our community with cleaning up garbage by the side of the road each Spring and Summer. If you do this, please use great caution. This article details with images some of the paraphernalia you may see if you've come across garbage from a meth lab tossed out the window of a car along the road. Exposure can be very dangerous. If you see any materials described in this article, or anything else suspicious, please do not touch it and report it to the State Police. They are diligent about responding to reports of this nature.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/15/us/15meth.html>

EVFC has complied with all reporting per the new contract and are meeting quarterly with Councilperson Mehaffey and I to increase our communication efforts and work together on mutual needs.

#### **Town Board notes:**

Town Board meetings are the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM in the Community Building meeting space upstairs. Meetings are also recorded and you may listen to them on our website to keep up to speed with what's happening in your town and county. You can see minutes and listen to meeting recordings at this link:

<http://townofenfield.org/town-board-meeting-agendas-minutes-and-public-documents/>

The Planning Board and Town Board have been reviewing the Comprehensive Plan Update and are in the process of formatting Plan for Public review and comment. Once the Town Board has determined it's ready for Public comment, a Public Hearing will be scheduled and plenty of time for comment will be offered before adoption. We look forward to completion of the document, so we may begin the process of prioritizing the many initiatives set forth in the Plan for Enfield's future. To better understand the purpose of a Comprehensive Plan, here is an excerpt from our draft document:

***A comprehensive plan serves the community by giving residents a voice in the long-range community planning and decision-making process, recognizing the needs of current and future generations. As a working document, the Comprehensive Plan enables the Town to apply for county, state, and federal funding to achieve community-defined goals and objectives. It also facilitates cooperation between Town and other governmental agencies in the planning and implementation of capital projects.***

***This comprehensive plan is the product of The Town of Enfield Town Board, Planning Board, and Enfield residents, who came together in a community effort to define the needs and desires of the Town of Enfield. All Enfield residents were invited to participate in this process.***

***The Town of Enfield Comprehensive Plan is to be used by all members of the community, as well as any other person or organization interested in the future of the Town. The many citizens and officials who have prepared the Plan hope it is a useful, easy-to-read document for all who use it.***

We hope you'll take the opportunity to review it and comment once we've prepared the final draft.

Town Board Committee appointments have been made for 2019. We are still in need of residents to serve on the Finance, Beautification, and Cemetery Committees. If you have interest in any of these appointments, please contact me for more information. I have found these committees to be a great way to learn a lot about my town. The Beautification team will be working on several projects this Spring, so if you or your group would like to volunteer for a day on some landscaping upgrades, please get in touch. We'd love to connect with the community on these projects.

The Finance Committee is working on Fund Balance and Investment Policy recommendations for the Town Board. Before we know it, it will be Budget season and who wouldn't want to help with that process? Your participating on any of these committees is a valued and meaningful contribution to our community. If you're interested, please get in touch.

In my last report, I mentioned that Governor Cuomo has proposed to eliminate Aid and Incentive to Municipalities funding that reduces our tax burden at the local level. Many local governments and individuals (including myself) reached out to State Reps and adopted resolutions protesting such funding reductions. The representatives I have heard from agree that this funding should not be eliminated, and should in fact be strengthened. New York State did keep this aid in place for this season, however, the much needed increases were not realized.

Councilperson Mimi Mehaffey and I attended the Association of Towns Annual Meeting and trainings in February. This is a three day conference with two full days of workshops and training that pertain to all things Town related. It's a great opportunity to learn and network with other municipalities. The cost of this event is very small at \$125.00 and has resulted in significant savings to the Town from knowledge we've gained over the last several years attending the event.

We have also availed ourselves of consulting services the last two years from the NY Dept. of State, in which we receive advice and ideas about economic development and grant opportunities and other funding sources for projects that could benefit our town.

Other offerings include legal workshops to update us on changes in the law and labor requirements, the impact of potential marijuana legalization and hemp production opportunities, health insurance options, shared services, renewable energy development information, accounting practices, municipal investing, technology advancements and how to anticipate their impacts, aging in place and so much more. We really appreciate the opportunity to attend.

### **Community News-**

***The Enfield Valley Grange*** is a non-partisan organization that provides a hub in our town for opportunities to learn and socialize and strengthen our bond as a community. Please consider joining the Grange and supporting these efforts. Did you know ours is the only physical Grange building remaining in Tompkins County. If we care for it as a community, we can count on it to be here for generations to come. A common complaint in our town is that we lack proper community spaces. With some attention focused on this great space, the Grange could meet community needs long into the future. I encourage you to contact them and learn how you can support the sustainability of this building and organization. Email [info@enfieldvalleygrange.org](mailto:info@enfieldvalleygrange.org) or call Carol Baker (607) 272-2144 or Joanna Green (607)379-9270. Don't miss the Pancake Breakfast (8-10:30 AM) and Square Dance (7:30 PM) on May 4<sup>th</sup>!

***Enfield Community Council*** meetings are held in the Community Building upstairs meeting space. They have recently updated their by-laws and have designated their new officers for 2019. Every resident in the Town of Enfield is a member of the Enfield Community Council just because you live here. Please take the opportunity to attend their meetings and engage in their work. Their Summer Camp is a great

opportunity for Enfield children to participate in a terrific summer experience. Information is available at <http://townofenfield.org/enfield-summer-camp-july-8-august-16-2019>. The Town of Enfield invests in their work (and play!) and your participation to make these initiatives a success would be greatly valued. Check out the Town of Enfield website calendar for dates and times for meetings and events.

Councilperson Mehaffey and I recently visited with the **Enfield Seniors** to listen and learn what's on their minds these days regarding our town. It was a great opportunity to discuss possible solutions together to some immediate concerns and enjoy a terrific pot luck spread not seen for miles around! If you have not joined the Enfield Seniors, you don't know what you're missing. Over 50 members meet regularly for monthly luncheons or trips and more than 100 people are members. You can be a member as young as 55 to join and if you're over 80, your membership is free! Annual membership cost is only \$5.00. The Town of Enfield provides some funding for the Seniors and I'm happy to see it's a thriving group, so please take the opportunity to connect regularly with your community in this way if you're eligible. Contact Seniors President, Pat Baker at 607-273-6241 for information.

### **Swift911**

The Town of Enfield is now set up to participate in the Swift911 system for community emergency and information alerts via phone, text, and email. We'll be providing more information in the coming months about how to participate, make message choices, or be removed. Please watch for announcements about this. For more information, please call the Town Clerk's office at 607-273-8256.

If you haven't signed up for updates from the town website yet, what are you waiting for???? Go to [TownOfEnfield.org](http://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.

To see what I'm up to around town, visit 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.

There is a lot going on in town for sure, and I'm interested in what you think. What are some priorities you think we should have in Enfield? What do you love about it here? What do you think we're missing here? Feel free to email or call me or visit me on facebook to start a conversation. Let's find solutions together.

See you in Enfield!

Beth McGee, Supervisor

Supervisor Reports:

\*Aside from the items below, the Town Supervisor completes the following tasks throughout each month: review all bills and prepare vouchers for board review and payment, correspondence, payroll and abstract review, budget monitoring and modifications, deposits and transfers, documentation for all meetings, resolves legal issues, trainings, attendance at County level meetings, communication with employees and department heads regarding daily town operation and budget concerns, building maintenance and upgrades, purchases, resident complaints and concerns, employment and benefits administration, all actions dictated by the Town Board for the Supervisor, all other tasks that arise daily.

## February 2019 Supervisor Report

- Met with Alarm company to get an estimate for security concerns
- Coordinated the Town internal audit
- Visited three area food pantries
- Spoke on a panel of elected women for Natural Leaders Initiative
- Attended the County Tourism grant workshop
- Worked with TCTC to open a Decommissioning fund account for Delaware River Solar
- Prepped and facilitated Town Board meeting
- Met with Food Pantry and Food Bank representatives to address concerns and best practices going forward
- Registered concerns with the SPCA and Tom Omara's office regarding poor animal conditions reported
- Communicated with Tompkins County Planning regarding Hazard Mitigation, NFIP, and FEMA Flood Mapping
- Communicated with FEMA and NYS regarding grant funding and process for a Highway generator
- Reached out to other towns awarded Salt Storage grants to learn about their projects- and began communications with DEC regarding the Salt Storage project
- Worked with Bookkeeper Debby Kelley to reconcile bank statements and go over the budget
- Cleaned the Community Building
- Installed downstairs bathroom equipment
- Evaluated Electricity Costs for Community Building since Walk-in Freezer was installed at Food Pantry
- Sought pricing for fuel products through Mirabito
- Compared Health Insurance Policies
- Completed the Beautification Grant
- Communicated with Credit Card companies to reduce credit limits and change payment dates.
- Communicated with AOT Legal on several issues including:
  - Setting up restricted funds
  - Elections
  - CHIPS Funds
  - Employee Privacy and Surveillance
  - Archiving requirements
  - Town Board Training Requirements
- Reviewed documents provided by the Enfield Fire Department
- Attended TCCOG
- Opened a savings account for Decommissioning Funds for Delaware River Solar
- Researched Enfield's RPTL 487 Opt Out status to resolve issues with NYSERDA
- Researched Host Community and PILOT agreements to determine best guidance for Enfield moving forward with regard to renewable energy projects.
- Worked with Enfield Community Council to coordinate the Enfield Bonfire/Winter Games event on February 23<sup>rd</sup>

## March 2019 Supervisor's Report

- Attended Association of Towns Annual Meeting and trainings- 3 days
- Cleaned Community Building in prep for February 23 youth event- and again after
- Facilitated Feb 23 event for youth
- Worked with Attorney Krogh regarding property encroachment issues
- Researched RFPs in preparation for the solar installation
- Finalized language in the Clean Energy Communities Contract with NYSERDA

- Met with insurance advisor for NYMIR regarding risk management
- Met with Beth Harrington of TC Dept of Emergency Response regarding emergency management and hazard mitigation planning
- Worked with the bookkeeper regarding Annual Update matters
- Worked with Ellen Woods and JD Drader of the Tompkins Human Services Coalition to bring information services to the community space during food pantry hours
- Attended the Planning Board meeting to answer/ask questions regarding the Comp Plan and other issues
- Researched salt storage buildings

### **Supervisor's Report April 2019**

- Researched FIRE/EMS trainings possibility through TCCOG Academy and proposed resolution for Fire Companies to participate in this opportunity
- Reviewed and finalized NYSERDA contract for Clean Energy Communities Grant and began RFP development process
- Prepared Resolutions for Barbara Lifton to introduce to the State Legislature on Town authority for hotel tax and Gross Receipts Tax from utilities.
- Continued work with Highway Superintendent Rollins on salt storage options and contract information
- Finalized encroachment agreement documentation
- Repaired the town website
- Worked with TCCAT to resolve insurance requirements and steps to install a bike rack at the park and ride
- Worked with Planner Matt Johnston to incorporate changes and corrections dictated by the board to the Comp Plan for formatting
- Met with and hired Pat Baker to be the cleaning staff for the Community Building community spaces
- Met with Councilperson Mehaffey, Denny Hubbell and Ellen Woods for our quarterly meeting with EVFC
- Took the vacuum for repair
- Resolved AUD questions with Office of State Comptroller
- Researched Community Income Surveys
- Obtained zombie property database authorization
- Developed a draft speed reduction request policy
- Met with CCE staff for Beautification Grant project development
- Worked with the County and State offices to determine how to get reimbursement for a resident farmer who lost a cow to rabies (Rabbit hole of State complication!)
- Researched legal concerns about building uses and insurance requirements with attorney and risk manager
- Researched how to obtain a NYGOV ID for overweight permit requirements
- Cleaned the Community Building to prepare for the Poor People's Campaign event on April 6<sup>th</sup>
- Worked with Highway Superintendent, Burial Coordinator, and Deputy Clerk to facilitate a burial in Budd cemetery
- Held a Finance Committee meeting
- Prepared and facilitated town board meetings (March 28<sup>th</sup> for truck purchase approval and April 10<sup>th</sup> regular meeting)