

Town of Enfield
Special Town Board Meeting
Enfield Community Building
Tuesday, September 24, 2019
6:30 p.m.

Present: Town Supervisor Beth McGee, Town Councilperson Virginia Bryant, Town Councilperson Mike Carpenter, Town Councilperson Mimi Mehaffey, Town Councilperson Becky Sims, Town Highway Superintendent Buddy Rollins, Town Clerk Alice Linton.

Supervisor McGee called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Town Clerk Linton lead the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Changes to the Agenda: Supervisor McGee asked if anyone had changes to the agenda. She changed privilege of the floor to be after the presentation by the Tompkins County Sheriff's Department.

Proposal: Building Use Request – Tompkins County Sheriff's Department: Supervisor McGee stated Darren McGee sent a proposal to Town Board members last week and Sheriff Derek Osborne was invited to speak publicly about the proposal and answer any questions at this meeting.

Darren McGee read a proposal for setting up a Sheriff satellite office at the Enfield Town Hall. He arranged a meeting with Sheriff Osborne and Supervisor McGee and they concluded the old highway facility would meet their needs by using the Town Historian's space, a bathroom and one of the bays with an automatic door. Benefits to Enfield could include reduced response times, involvement with schools and community groups, and a strong sense of safety in Enfield. Some of the tasks the Town would need to complete before a satellite office could be situated at Town Hall would be to replace existing office window, replace wooden office door with a fire-proof door, have Haefele install free cable in the office, provide access to the existing internet connection, install a new LED light fixture in the office, find an energy efficient option for heating/cooling, replace the sink fixture in the restroom, install CO2/smoke detectors outside the office, install key pads on the office door and exterior door leading to the garage, purchase paint for the restroom, garage bay area and office, and promote a community clean-up effort to clean and prepare the space.

Councilperson Mehaffey asked how many hours would be involved. Sheriff Osborne stated the office would be more of a work place - a place for deputies to start their shift at. The space would provide the possibility of one or two shifts starting from Enfield. The deputies would be able to phone in to the main office for debriefing.

Councilperson Bryant feels their presence there, and comingling with the community members would be great. This location would be close to the school. Sheriff Osborne stated this will be a benefit to Newfield and Ulysses also.

Councilperson Sims asked if the Sheriff's Department is currently operating any other satellite stations in the county. Sheriff Osborne stated no they are not.

Councilperson Carpenter mentioned the space is a highway garage. He asked if there would be any significant drawbacks that would need to be remedied. Sheriff Osborne stated not a lot is required for a satellite office. There is a place to park a patrol car, there is an office and restroom. He doesn't feel any major renovation would be needed.

Supervisor McGee stated there is a window available for replacement, but that new window would not be able to have an air conditioner in the window. Councilperson Carpenter stated a heating/cooling unit similar to the one in the Town Clerk's Office could be installed.

Town Historian Sue Thompson suggested checking the electricity in the office as sometimes the light doesn't come on at all.

Although County Legislator Anne Koreman was not present, she had suggested smoke detectors and CO2 detectors. The fuel line to the furnace that is in the garage should be capped.

Councilperson Sims stated she appreciated Darren McGee bringing this to the Town Board. She questioned the cost sharing on this. She asked if there had been discussion about set up and operation and maintenance, and cost sharing with other municipalities? Sheriff Osborne stated a desk, computer, and phone would be provided, and possibly signage. If the Town wanted to present the plan to Tompkins County public safety they might help with expenses. Legislators suggested we ask for a match for an over-target request. That might help pay for an air source heat pump with a cost of around \$3,000 and keypads for doors instead of keys.

Councilperson Sims liked the idea of an overall presence by the Sheriff's Office by adding something like this in the community. Enfield has historically been one of the poorest areas of the county, so this could be a benefit, but that being said not everybody sees law enforcement as friendly. She feels that needs to be acknowledged and she would hate to see this further compound criminal justice processing that might otherwise be happening. She'd like to see other services in this community, such as WIC. A little bit of everything would be good so as to have all needs met. She asked how this might make a positive impact. Sheriff Osborne stated he doesn't want deputies to look at this as an opportunity to target anyone. Ulysses, Enfield and Newfield would be covered by one person per shift. They are looking at this as having a presence in Enfield, and don't think there is more crime here than other places. Their motivation is not to make anyone uncomfortable.

Supervisor McGee has spoken with both Judge Betty Poole and Jean Owens who runs the Enfield Food Pantry. She stated Judge Poole is excited about the plan. Jean works mostly with the demographics previously mentioned. She had an overwhelming sense of safety when this plan was discussed. Sheriff Osborne added if there is an office here, there will be direct contact with him so there would be some control of where the deputy's presence would be welcome.

Supervisor McGee stated she would have a better cost idea by the regular October meeting and she would ask Code Officer Teeter to look at this from a code officer viewpoint. She will put the resolution on the October meeting agenda. The historian's office would need to be moved, and this needs to be a part of the whole project. Supervisor McGee suggested displaying some materials instead of storing them. This entire project might not happen until next year. Councilperson Mehaffey suggested some money would need to be put in the budget for this. Supervisor McGee feels there is enough in this year's budget to cover expenditures.

Privilege of the Floor: Marc Sadovnic of Enfield questioned if it is economically feasible for a wind farm to be built in Enfield with the way the law is currently written. Councilperson Carpenter stated it would depend on many factors. Supervisor McGee stated she feels technology changes all the time. Councilperson Mehaffey had questioned if there is an area of town that is broken up into plots, would there be enough room for setbacks - probably not. One large farm in the area might have enough land to provide setbacks. Supervisor McGee stated the Town Board worked hard to set the standard, since we don't want to have a law in place that isn't enforceable.

Jude Lemke of Enfield stated Attorney Gary Abraham's office has reviewed the law. She read one paragraph from his Memorandum: "Under current law, and for the foreseeable future, Article 10 preempts a town's permitting procedures but requires a State Siting Board to apply any local substantive standards that would have applied in the absence of Article 10. A waiver of specific local substantive standards may be requested by any Article 10 applicant, but the Siting Board has consistently stated such waivers are not favored, and has stated it is the Board's policy not to approve projects where the host community is clearly opposed. Your draft local law clearly evinces an intent by your Town Board,