

**Town of Enfield**  
**Town Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday, July 14, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.**  
**Town Courthouse and virtually via the Zoom Platform**

**Present:** Town Supervisor Stephanie Redmond, Town Councilperson Virginia Bryant, Town Councilperson Robert Lynch, Town Councilperson James Ricks, Town Councilperson Jude Lemke, Town Clerk Mary Cornell.

Supervisor Redmond called the meeting to order – 6:32 p.m.

**Presentation by Sachem George:** Postponed until the next regular town board meeting.

**Privilege of the Floor:**

**Ed Hetherington** led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance. They thank Stephanie and Asa Redmond for putting up the new flags on the Town light posts.

**Denny Hubble** commented as the President of the Enfield Fire Department on the report from Ron Mendrick. While he does not necessarily disagree with the end result. He does disagree with his fact finding he does not believe the report contains accurate information and that fact checking was not completed.

**Councilperson Ricks** did not stand for the pledge and he said that his 4<sup>th</sup> grade grandson came to him and asked if he has to say the pledge. he mentioned that a public figure completed crimes and his crimes were reduced by politicians. He feels that we are a nation divided. He wanted to explain why he sat.

**Ellen Woods** Stated that when she decided to resign from the position of Town Clerk which was during Tax Season, she spent a lot of time outside of her regular hours to make a smooth transition. She stated the Mendrick report had many contradictory statements and inaccuracies. No mention of the pandemic was in the report and she is disappointed that the town did not try to honor the fact that she left the office in good standing and that she did not have a month to work with the investigator to make sure that the report was accurate.

**Additions and Changes to the agenda:** Supervisor Redmond requested to purchase 4 more of the same chairs from the Enfield Community Council. Dec-commissioning agreement - Councilperson Lemke would like to go through her proposed changes. Councilperson Lynch would like to update the board on the IDA agreement discussion. All items will be added under new business

**Correspondence:** Urban Forestry agreement. If someone would like to organize and look into this further, please connect with Supervisor Redmond. Enfield will receive COVID relief funds and they will be split between this summer and next summer.

**Monthly Reports:**

**County Legislator Ann Koreman** – Covid numbers are going down and hovering between 3-6 over the last few weeks. One person is currently hospitalized. She is making sure that people understand why she is wearing a mask when she is wearing one. She explains that she takes precautions and encourages others to do so. With vaccinations the mall site is closed and individuals can now go to pharmacies. The county is at a ~70% vaccination rate. 12-17 years old is the current group and they are trying to get as many vaccinated before the start of the school year. Call 211 for more information on COVID. The County has hired a new finance manager and the position is a two-person position rather than a one-person position. They are getting ready to start the hiring process for a county administrator. Lisa Holmes is the current acting administrator. 570,000 was given for tourism, the county gets 10 million this year and another 10 million for next year. They are looking to put 75% of that towards their capital funds. There are a lot of hoops any certain things that the money can be used for. The whole process and expenses need to be tracked and approvals for some expenses need to

happen. They are looking at ways to pay off debt to reduce possible layoffs and large future expenses. They will be having hybrid meetings next month and you can attend meetings now. Councilperson Lynch has attended meetings previously. The committee meetings will be kept in a hybrid manor as it allows for better attendance and committee participation. Pertaining to the DMV, they are understaffed and backlogged, they are currently 4 weeks behind. New hires take 6 weeks to train. If you want an appointment for permit, enhanced license they are asking ppl to call or make an appointment. If it is a more urgent matter registering a car etc., call them to get assistance sooner. Data table will only be updated weekly. Supervisor Redmond asked if the new cases were the Delta variant, she believes ~7 have been reported in our County. If you are vaccinated the Delta variant will not be as severe.

**Town Supervisor – Stephanie Redmond.** This month she attended bi-weekly meetings with other Town Supervisors and has been working on the RFP and Emergency operations plan and has sent to the committee and read plans for several other towns and ours has some holes in it and they will hopefully have a meeting at the end of this month. HeatSmart campaign, they had the webinar and had no one show up, so they will have to work on other avenues to gain interest. Supervisor Redmond and her husband put up new flags. She attended several other meetings and discussions as well as performed the regular duties of the Town Supervisor.

**Town Clerk Report – Mary Cornell.** The Town Clerks office issued Marriage, new and renewal dog licenses and collected funds for building permits in addition to the regular duties of the Clerk's office. The Clerk's office has two new computers that replaced old poorly functioning ones.

**Town Code Enforcement Report - Alan Teeter.** He has sold three building permits this month. There is an issue with AlarmTech. He has his new computer that is working well. He is working with landowners regarding some recent complaints. He worked with Highway Superintendent Rollins regarding salt barn questions.

**Fire Department Report:** Alan Teeter reported last week they had Kubota training. Next week they will have training at Upper Robert Treman state park. Last few weeks they will have cleaning of the station for the summer picnic. Denny Hubble stated ordered turnout gear will hopefully be delivered at the end of this month. It has taken 7 months to purchase them. They have used some fire department funds and will be purchasing the full 20 sets. They are trying to purchase a new rescue vehicle and they have not been able to get any bids/quotes due to CHIPS issues. In the process of the replacement plans for their pumpers, the price of metal has gone up 128% which has driven the costs up and they do not for see it coming down and it may not be where it has been before. They were informed a few days ago that all of the portable radios that the county has purchased are no longer usable. When they quick working they will need to be replaces and they are \$2,500 each and they may hard to purchase. The computer guy has let them know that almost of their reporting is done electronically and they are finding out that any computers three years old are recommended to be replaced. Some of these programs wouldn't even take the windows 10, but worked fine on the windows 7. They will have some discussions at their quarterly meetings. EMS, Enfield runs a bls first response agency and does produce a chart after each patient. Ellen woods reported NYS EMS agencies must move to electronic charting and there had previously been an extension to this requirement. This is an unfunded mandate. After the calls the responder is usually home within 1 ½ hrs. of the call. They need more certified first responders or EMT's for Enfield. There have been challenges due to the pandemic, trainings tend to be in Cortland and do not usually tend to come this far out. They may be able to work with Schuyler County to have a closer training. They will keep protocols in place that were established during COVID.

**Planning Board Monthly Report – Dan Walker.** Quorum was not met at the last planning board meeting. There will be a special planning board meeting next Wednesday. Most members will attend in person with a couple of them still remote. A couple of Subdivision requests need approval and the water committee has recommendations that have been sent to the report. Councilperson Lynch, a community member was concerned that they were not notified. 600' is the current requirement. Councilperson Lynch asked if we should spread the radius, Dan Walker said that for small projects no, for big projects like a solar farm, yes. The public hearings are published and if it is within 600' they need to notify the county level. If it is a 1,000' tower than you would still only have to notify those within 1,000' radius. He is curious of

what similar towns do, Dan Walker said when he was an engineer with Ithaca it was 600' as well, anything larger then they would need input from the county. Councilperson Lynch if anything is considered to be commercial in nature it should be more than 600' it would be nice if I was 700'. Anne Koreman asked if those attending remotely would vote. She mentioned at the county level if they are attending but not voting then they does not need disclose personel addresses. Dan Walker is impressing the importance to attend the meetings so that we may have quorum.

**TCCOG Monthly Report** – Councilperson Lynch. At the Broadband Committee’s meeting, Blake Stovall and Ray Diaz, representatives of study partner Fujitsu Corporation, presented their “Market Assessment Study” and outlined in relatively generic terms the communities they seek to serve by the County’s eventual extension of broadband Internet cables to those county populations determined to be “unserved” or “underserved.” However, the demarcation of those so-called “underserved” populations has become a rather hot-button issue.

At the TCCOG meeting members adopted a Resolution that, if endorsed by the State, would give local governments increased flexibility in allowing Board members’ permission to attend meetings virtually or even for the Board to hold an entire municipal meeting via zoom.

**Consent Agenda:**

**Audit Claims** General fund vouchers #138-#151 Dated July 14, 2021 in the amount of \$4,863.55. Highway Fund Vouchers #95-#112 Dated July 14, 2021 in the amount of \$28,814.26. T&A voucher #1 Dated July 14, 2021 in the amount of \$43.44.

Councilperson Lynch Moved and Councilperson Seconded Second, No discussion.

Councilperson Bryant – AYE, Councilperson Lemke AYE, Councilperson Lynch AYE, Councilperson Ricks AYE, Supervisor Redmond AYE, CARRIED.

**Minutes:** Postponed until the August Regular Town Board Meeting.

**Old Business:**

Resolution #2021- Tabled Move to Adopt Local Law #1 of 2021- “LOCAL LAW INCREASING THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE TOWN SUPERVISOR FROM TWO (2) to FOUR (4) YEARS”.

Resolution #2021- Tabled Move to Adopt Local Law #2 of 2021- “LOCAL LAW INCREASING THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT FROM TWO (2) to FOUR (4) YEARS”.

Resolution #2021- Tabled Move to Adopt Local Law #3 of 2021- “LOCAL LAW INCREASING THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK FROM TWO (2) to FOUR (4) YEARS”.

**New Business:**

**ECC Contract** – In the past the town has had a public hearing to renew these contracts, AOT has said we do not have to have a public hearing. Article 13 may need to have the town attorney’s input. Supervisor Redmond can meet with them with Councilperson Lemke and they will discuss any changes.

**The Spirit of Tompkins** – Supervisor Redmond shared that the Spirit of Tompkins have portraits that they would like to display of Town residents and Town groups. They Encourage a donation from the Town as each portrait costs approximately \$400. The town would decide where they would be placed. Councilperson Lemke said they are large and they are not sure where to put them. Supervisor Redmond will coordinate on the size to see if they would fit on the opposite side of the flags on the light poles.

**Resolution #2021-72 – Environmental Management Council Appointment**

RESOLVED, the Town Board hereby appoints Stephanie Redmond to represent the Town of Enfield on the Environmental Management Council.

Councilperson Lynch moved and Councilperson Lemke seconded. No further discussion.

Councilperson Bryant – AYE, Councilperson Lemke AYE, Councilperson Lynch AYE, Councilperson Ricks AYE, Supervisor Redmond AYE, CARRIED.

**Budget Amendment #2021-9 Move funds for Highway Department**

WHEREAS, the Enfield Town Highway Superintendent requested funds from the sale of a 2001 Ford F450 to be transferred to Machinery Equipment, therefore be it

RESOLVED, the Enfield Town Board authorizes the Town Supervisor to transfer \$2,225 from Unallocated Fund DA599 to line DA5130.2 Machinery Equipment

Supervisor Redmond Moved, Councilperson Bryant seconded. No further discussion.

Councilperson Bryant – AYE, Councilperson Lemke AYE, Councilperson Lynch AYE, Councilperson Ricks AYE, Supervisor Redmond AYE, CARRIED.

**Delay of concrete pouring** -Concrete pouring in front of the Food pantry (Lower level of the courthouse) is delayed until September as this is a very busy time construction season. The Board agrees to the delay and will be staying with the same contractor.

**Motion to approve purchase of four (4) additional chairs from the ECC.**

Councilperson Lynch moved and Councilperson Lemke seconded. No further discussion.

Councilperson Bryant – AYE, Councilperson Lemke AYE, Councilperson Lynch AYE, Councilperson Ricks AYE, Supervisor Redmond AYE, CARRIED.

**De-Commissioning: Councilperson Lemke’s recommended changes.** This agreement appears to be the sole complying document. She had proposed changes to have it comply with the wind law and the solar law. Every two years it decreases and she has added the requirements of the decommissioning and they left out some statutory requirements. Norbut Solar Farms definitions did not conform with the Towns/decommissioning. Norbut Solar Farms has to update the letter of credit just not for the two percent. Norbut Solar Farms put a new definition of solar law that did not correspond with ours and she updated the document. Key point, if you look in the middle paragraph. They are trying to get the letter of credit released in the beginning instead of the end. Paragraph four, they put a whole process in that did not conform with our law and she inserted our definition in place. They have to wait until they have finished de-commissioning before they get the letter of credit released. Councilperson Lemke advised that we need to be sure any agreements not only apply to the currently owner, but transcribes to the new owner before adopting the agreement with the town. These are her suggested changes. She has not sent it to the attorney yet, waiting until the board has looked at it. Supervisor Redmond suggested sending it to Guy or Gary for review. Councilperson Lynch would like an outside attorney to review it. Councilperson Bryant suggested that it go to Gary. Supervisor Redmond stated this is our next step.

**IDA – Robert Lynch.** It doesn't look good for Enfield, in terms of what we want to do. If Norbut wants a pilot agreement it should also include a community host agreement that also compensates Enfield. IDA policy is to establish a pilot compensation even at \$4,200 per megawatt. But because solar farms are not as advantages that the subsidies are no longer there. Norbut is willing to meet the \$4,200 and usually they would not support this, but if they paid this there would be no host community agreement. The IDA is playing hardball and they do not want to cut their compensation below 4,200. Councilperson Lynch took privilege of the floor and reiterated what Enfield would like. The IDA would like to have a public hearing in Enfield, they do not know the location and may contact supervisor Redmond in the next few weeks. They have to post a hearing notice. They could attach a stipulation that this must be accompanied by a host community agreement. Martha Robertson does not want to start a new precedence of mandating host community agreements. Other members do not want set a new standard where host community agreements are tied to a pilot agreement. Councilperson Lynch drafted a resolution that reiterates the position the town board took last month.

**RESOLUTION #2021-73 A Resolution stating the Enfield Town Board's Position on a Proposed PILOT Agreement with Norbut Solar Farms**

Whereas, Norbut Solar Farms has proposed a 15 Megawatt solar array to be located on land east of Applegate Road South in the Town of Enfield;

and Whereas, Norbut Solar Farms has made development of this project contingent upon the granting of a Payment in Lieu of Tax (PILOT) Agreement through Ithaca Area Economic Development (formerly the Tompkins County Industrial Development Agency; hereinafter referred to as "IAED") under which the Town of Enfield, Tompkins County, and the Ithaca City School District would each benefit by a set amount of compensation over a 30-year period;

and Whereas, IAED has established a policy setting a \$4,200 per Megawatt standard for PILOT Agreements affecting projects such as Norbut has proposed;

and Whereas, the Enfield Town Board, by its action of June 9, 2021, deemed a \$4,200 per Megawatt compensation rate exclusively through a PILOT Agreement as constituting inadequate compensation for the Town, absent a Host Community Agreement specified at the level of \$1,200 per Megawatt to compensate the Town of Enfield, with the Town Board requesting that IAED incorporate a Host Community Agreement as a condition of any PILOT Agreement with Norbut Solar Farms;

and Whereas, Norbut Solar officials have stated that they are unable or unwilling to provide more than \$4,200 per Megawatt as combined compensation under a PILOT Agreement whether or not coupled with a Host Community Agreement, but would consider a hybrid agreement providing Host Community Agreement compensation in exchange for a corresponding reduction in PILOT compensation;

and Whereas, the IAED Board of Directors, by action at its meeting this date, July 14, 2021, agreed to advance the Norbut Solar PILOT Agreement to local Public Hearing in the Town of Enfield, at a date not yet specified, but likely to occur before the IAED Board's August meeting, and specified by its action that IAED would set PILOT compensation at \$4,200 per Megawatt, and not require Norbut Solar to negotiate a Host Community Agreement with the Town of Enfield as a condition for receiving said PILOT Agreement,

and Whereas, the Enfield town Board believes such a stand-alone PILOT Agreement without an accompanying Host Community Agreement would not be in the best interests of the Town, its residents or taxpayers;

therefore be it Resolved, that the Enfield Town Board takes the official position that the proposed PILOT Agreement with Norbut Solar Farms stands unacceptable to the Town, absent an accompanying Host Community Agreement

between Norbut Solar and the Town, and that the IAED should stipulate the requirement for said Host Community Agreement within any PILOT Agreement the IAED negotiates with Norbut Solar;

and be it Resolved, further, that Town of Enfield officials, including members and representatives of this Town Board, are authorized and encouraged to convey the sentiment expressed by this Resolution at any future local Public Hearing IAED may schedule.

Councilperson Lynch moved and Supervisor Redmond seconded. Councilperson Lemke stated that Biden put out a new plan which has new incentives in it and would they could possibly be eligible for if it's passed. Councilperson Lynch suggested that others go to the IDA YouTube channel to view the recording of today's IDA meeting. If we lock in at a low point of the cycle, we may be stuck with it.

Councilperson Bryant – AYE, Councilperson Lemke AYE, Councilperson Lynch AYE, Councilperson Ricks AYE, Supervisor Redmond AYE, CARRIED.

**Public Hearing and Special Town Board Meeting.** Supervisor Redmond moved and Councilperson Lynch seconded to set a Public Hearing with a Special Town Board meeting set for July 28<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.

Councilperson Bryant – AYE, Councilperson Lemke AYE, Councilperson Lynch AYE, Councilperson Ricks AYE, Supervisor Redmond AYE, CARRIED.

**Privilege of the floor:**

**Tom Joyce** a longtime resident on Hayts Rd. The photo project he assumes the banners could be easily be moved places. He suggests possibly showing them at the school. Considering with moving them around so more people can see them.

**Beth McGee** – She appreciates that we are doing this hybrid and knows that there will be glitches and believes the former board and asks what the current Town Clerks hours are. Clerk Cornell stated that she works 30 hours a week.

**Ellen woods** stated that when she went to hire a Deputy Clerk the hiring pool was limited due to the minimal hours for the position. She suggests that the hours should be increased to 20 hours a week and stated that the Town Clerks office could assist the highway superintendent and possibly work 8 hours a week at the library which is currently open and needs assistance. She would like the debate if the Town Clerk's position is full time to end and that time is over and it should be considered a full-time position.

**Executive Session** to discuss a matter of personnel: Supervisor Redmond moved and Councilperson Lynch seconded. No further discussion.

Councilperson Bryant – AYE, Councilperson Lemke AYE, Councilperson Lynch AYE, Councilperson Ricks AYE, Supervisor Redmond AYE, CARRIED.

**Motion to adjourn:** Councilperson Lemke motioned and Councilperson Ricks seconded. Adjourned 8:28 pm.

Executive Session: 8:30-8:46

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary Cornell*

Mary Cornell - Town Clerk.