

**Town of Enfield  
Special Town Board Meeting  
Monday, October 4, 2021  
Virtual Meeting via the Zoom Platform 6:30 p.m.**

**Present:** Supervisor Stephanie Redmond, Councilperson Ricks, Councilperson Lynch, Councilperson Lemke, Highway Superintendent Rollins, Town Clerk Mary Cornell.

**Meeting Called to order by Supervisor Redmond 6:31 pm**

**Privilege of the Floor:**

**Briana Binkerd** – She has a comment on the fact that there has been no change to the Town Clerk’s salary. Supervisor Redmond stated that the Town Clerk’s is receiving an increase to their salary this year.

**Dennis Hubble** – First he wants to say that he knows how difficult budget preparation can be. He is aware that it is not an easy task. He stated that for the highway department that they are paid among the lowest throughout the county. He states it looks like we are not supporting the people in our Town. He stated that we need to increase the wages for these positions in relation to others in our area. He stated that the real winner in this will be the Town Board as it shows they are invested in our community.

**Ellen Woods** – She wants to address that she would not have left the office at the \$24,000 level. When she left office the new clerk came in at \$26,000 level. Additionally, another deputy was brought on board at \$4,000. In 2021 when Ellen left office she was proud that the first clerk in Enfield’s history would make minimum wage. Town of Caroline Town Clerk compensation is at \$37,000 and their deputy clerk is paid less. It is not a mystery that these meetings were kept confidential, they do not want the salaries opened for comment.

**James Ricks** – It seems like since he has been in office for less than a year and that the Town Clerk’s salary is constantly at the forefront. He thinks this has been brought up to much.

**Beth McGee** – She wants to give a history lesson. She started the finance committee meeting and anyone can attend the meeting. She stated that Bob Lynch could have someone represent him and give him an update on what was discussed. A third board member can not attend due to open meetings law. She understands that Art Godin, Diane Aramini, and Alice Linton were in attendance when Bob Lynch joined after the meeting has started. Buddy Rollins as Highway Superintendent, Betty Poole as Town Justice.

**Robert Lynch** – Led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance. He could not find the link to the finance committee meeting and then obtained the link. He joined the meeting and Supervisor Redmond stated that he could not attend as it would be a violation of “Open Government Law”. He stated that he could get mad or get even, but he has drafted a resolution that he would like presented at the Regular Town Board Meeting on October 13, 2021. He read part of the resolution on Transparency in Government.

**Stephanie Redmond** – She acknowledged that there was an issue with the Finance Committee Meeting.

**Jude Lemke** – There are no requirements for a finance committee to comply with open government laws. New York State does not require the open meetings law to be enforced. She stated that she thinks this process is working as it currently is.

**Supervisor Redmond** - Stated that everyone needs to follow the meeting guidelines. Unruly attendees will be removed from the meeting.

**Additions and changes to the Agenda:** Supervisor Redmond would like to add a resolution authorizing her to sign a contract with Palo Alto Network for IT services. She met with NYMIR and they stated that we are not complying with Cyber Security.

**Resolution #2021-82 Authorization for the Supervisor to Sign a Contract with Palo Alto Network for IT Services**

**WHEREAS**, NYMIR has asked the town to address cybersecurity protocols, and;

**WHEREAS**, Palo Alto Networks is a highly recommended IT company that specializes in cybersecurity, therefore be it;

**RESOLVED**, the Enfield Town Board authorizes Supervisor Redmond to sign a contract with Palo Alto Networks.

Supervisor Redmond moved and Councilperson Bryant seconded.

**Discussion:** Councilperson Bryant stated that it is essential for Town. Councilperson Lynch stated this is a hefty price tag, are others cheaper? Supervisor Redmond stated she looked around and feels like this is a good company to work with. She feels assured based on her conversations with them that they would be an appropriate choice. Councilperson Ricks stated to have security on our computer programs and is shocked that we do not currently have it. Supervisor Redmond stated that the company will not touch our system until they have a signed contract.

Councilperson Bryant AYE, Councilperson Lemke AYE, Councilperson Lynch AYE, Councilperson Ricks AYE, Supervisor Redmond AYE, carried.

**Correspondence:** None

**New Business:**

**Budget:**

Supervisor Redmond shared her screen and discussed the changes in the budget lines. Some areas show increases across the board. They are looking for budget increase in most supply lines, etc. of 10%.

**Discussion:**

Supervisor Redmond went to the top of the budget and went over with the board each budget line and accepted comments. Councilperson Lynch would like to move the town clerk's proposed line to \$30,000. Councilperson Lemke supports moving it upwards and proposes moving it to \$26,000. She favors moving the figure to \$26,000 instead of \$30,000. Councilperson Lemke suggested looking at Danby and Caroline and Danby is paying a full-time clerk at \$40,000 with health insurance. Danby has a deputy at halftime and earns \$20,000. Caroline has more funds and only has one Town Clerk their Town Clerk gets \$37,000. If you look at those two towns then our Town Clerk needs to be brought up. It is clear that we are an outlier in total. She does not think that we can go to \$30,000 in one fell swoop. Councilperson Bryant states that this should be a step system. She is not worried that we are not getting our money's worth. The Town Clerk has a lot of job duties. Councilperson Lynch stated that there is systemic sexism. A past Town Clerk who has spoken on pink collaring. He stated that we need to correct a prior injustice and he is going to stake his claim on this for gender equality. The Town Board moved the Town Clerk's salary line to \$30,000 and the Deputy Town Clerk's to \$12,000. Highway Superintendent Rollins spoke on his budget requests. Former Supervisor Beth McGee spoke on clarity for the unappropriated revenue under advisement from the comptroller's office. The intention of having the monies is DA9950.1 So the funds could be used for chips expenditures and was a good line to draw from when chips funding is used. Highway fund savings does not help with much. It was put there to build the highway funds savings until that account meets the requirements. DA fund savings needs to be built. Supervisor Redmond will work with our current bookkeeper to see if it moves over and would like to address this more going forward. Former Supervisor McGee stated if the Town Board is not using these monies for the purpose of being in this fund then it should be removed from the Budget. The Board will look into understanding this more. Councilperson Lynch asked if it would be a fair compromise to hire a full-time person instead of the two seasonal employees. Councilperson Lynch states that we need to get back to 5 full-time staff. Highway Equipment Line was discussed in detail. Art Godin asked about the change in the equipment line.

Councilperson Lynch asked what timeline of meetings should we have. Some questions need to be answered and hopefully, the town residents will give some input, and hopefully, we can have a preliminary budget at the October 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Announcements: The Town has an invoice out to NYSERDA for ~\$30,000. This will be a one-time payment. Town Board members look into how you would like to appropriate these funds.

Councilperson Lemke asked if these funds were a wash or if they are unappropriated. Councilperson Bryant feels these funds may also be a wash. Supervisor Redmond will get clarification on how the funds should be attributed in our budget. Former Supervisor McGee stated the funds from NYSERDA need to go directly into the Town Savings account.

Councilperson Ricks spoke with Sachem Sam who would be interested in attending some of our meetings and he told him that we would welcome him.

**Motion to adjourn** - Councilperson Lemke and seconded Councilperson Bryant. adjourned 8:26 pm.

DRAFT