

**Town of Enfield Regular Town Board Meeting  
Wednesday, August 9, 2023  
6:00 pm**

**In-Person at the Enfield Town Courthouse and Via the Zoom Meeting Platform**

**Present:** Supervisor Stephanie Redmond; Town Councilpersons; Cassandra Hinkle, Robert Lynch, Jude Lemke; Highway Superintendent Rollins, Town Clerk Mary Cornell; Code Enforcement Officer Alan Teeter.

**Absent:** James Ricks

**Call to order:** Supervisor Redmond called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

**Privilege of the Floor:** Tom Joyce – At the last Town Board Meeting there was a speaker during privilege of the floor who spoke on small farm cannabis production. It wasn't the clearest presentation and it wasn't clear why we had the presentation. But if he understood the issue which was small scale farming and big corporations taking the lead and small farms being bypassed, then he hoped the Town Board understood the significance of the issue. Councilperson Robert Lynch led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance. He also spoke on the decision that the Town Board made in selecting the five Fire Commissioners. He cannot speak of what was said in the executive session that night before the vote was taken, however, each Town Board member had to choose five individuals to be commissioners. Comments have been made that the Town Board did not choose wisely, and there were candidates not chosen that night that would have received his vote, said Councilperson Lynch. If residents think that we are not doing our job then vote us out. In this election year none of our board members are facing opposition. There will be a second Fire Commissioner election this year and you may run or encourage others to run. Councilperson Lynch concluded by asking town residents to please consider running for a Fire Commissioner position and to please vote.

**Additions and Changes to the Agenda:** Possible amendment of Resolution #62-2023, and the addition of a resolution to appoint a treasurer to the Enfield Fire District. Supervisor Redmond will add both resolutions to the agenda.

**Correspondence:** Supervisor Redmond shared that she had received correspondence on bringing electric charging stations into the town and possibly adding them to town properties as a form of revenue. She will add this topic to the October Regular Town Board meeting. A thank you from Woodard Rd Resident Anne Steinle to the Highway Department.

**New Business:**

**Resolution #2023 Appointment of Fire Commissioners**

**WHEREAS** the Town of Enfield established the Enfield Fire District; and

**WHEREAS** Jim Mathews, Robyn Wishna, Barry "Buddy" Rollins, Marcus Gingerich, and Geoff Hollister have interest in serving as Fire Commissioners, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED** Jim Mathews, Robyn Wishna, Barry "Buddy" Rollins, Marcus Gingerich, and Geoff Hollister are appointed to serve as Fire Commissioners for the Enfield Fire District

Supervisor Redmond moved and Councilperson Lemke seconded. Discussion. Councilperson Lynch would like to introduce a change in verbiage,

**WHEREAS** the Town of Enfield established the Enfield Fire District; and

**WHEREAS** Jim Mathews, Robyn Wishna, Barry “Buddy” Rollins, Larry Stilwell, Roy Barriere, Ellen Woods, Marcus Gingerich, and Geoff Hollister have expressed interest in serving as Fire Commissioners, now therefore be it  
**RESOLVED** Jim Mathews, Robyn Wishna, Marcus Gingerich, Larry Stilwell and Geoff Hollister are appointed to serve as Fire Commissioners for the Enfield Fire District.

Councilperson Lynch moved and Councilperson Lemke seconded and then withdrew her second. Discussion: Supervisor Redmond liked the addition to the first WHEREAS.

**WHEREAS** the Town of Enfield established the Enfield Fire District; and

**WHEREAS** Jim Mathews, Robyn Wishna, Barry “Buddy” Rollins, Larry Stilwell, Roy Barriere, Ellen Woods, Marcus Gingerich, and Geoff Hollister have expressed interest in serving as Fire Commissioners, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED** Jim Mathews, Robyn Wishna, Barry “Buddy” Rollins, Marcus Gingerich, and Geoff Hollister are appointed to serve as Fire Commissioners for the Enfield Fire District.

Supervisor Redmond moved and Councilperson Hinkle seconded to amend the resolution as shown above.

VOTE: Councilperson Hinkle, Aye; Councilperson Lemke, Aye; Councilperson Lynch, Aye; Supervisor Redmond, Aye; Carried.

**Resolution #69-2023 Appointment of Fire Commissioners as amended**

**WHEREAS** the Town of Enfield established the Enfield Fire District; and

**WHEREAS** Jim Mathews, Robyn Wishna, Barry “Buddy” Rollins, Larry Stilwell, Roy Barriere, Ellen Woods, Marcus Gingerich, and Geoff Hollister have expressed interest in serving as Fire Commissioners, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED** Jim Mathews, Robyn Wishna, Barry “Buddy” Rollins, Marcus Gingerich, and Geoff Hollister are appointed to serve as Fire Commissioners for the Enfield Fire District.

Supervisor Redmond moved and Councilperson Hinkle seconded to amend the resolution as shown above.

VOTE: Councilperson Hinkle, Aye; Councilperson Lemke, Aye; Councilperson Lynch, Aye; Supervisor Redmond, Aye; Carried.

**Resolution #70-2023 Treasurer of Enfield Fire District.**

**WHEREAS** the Town of Enfield established the Enfield Fire District and under state law holds the duty to appoint a treasurer for said district to serve through December 31, 2023, and

**WHEREAS** Cortney Bailey has expressed interest in the position of Fire District Treasurer and stands duly qualified for the position, and has agreed to be appointed to the position, therefore be it

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board appoints Cortney Bailey to serve as treasurer of the Enfield Fire District.

Councilperson Lynch moved and Supervisor Redmond seconded. Discussion: Supervisor asked for input from the Fire Commissioners that were present on this appointment. Brad Pinsky asked Cortney Bailey if she knew QuickBooks? She

stated that she does know QuickBooks as she works for LAP (a local accounting firm). As she had currently been doing the books for the Enfield Fire Company for said company she would be removed from that account.

VOTE: Councilperson Hinkle, Aye; Councilperson Lemke, Abstain; Councilperson Lynch, Aye; Supervisor Redmond, Aye; Carried.

### **A Resolution to Revise Resolution # 62 of 2023 Establishing the Enfield Fire District**

RESOLUTION #2023-\_\_\_\_\_

**Whereas**, on June 14, 2023, the Enfield Town Board adopted Resolution #62-2023, said Resolution entitled, "Establishing Enfield Fire District;" and

**Whereas**, upon further review, this Town Board believes it stands in the public interest to revise that resolution's directive relating to the long-term status of Fire District Treasurer; therefore, be it

**Resolved**, that the fifteenth paragraph, the ninth operative clause, of Resolution #62-2023 shall be amended and revised to state as follows:

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the first individual appointed as Treasurer of the Board shall be appointed at the discretion of the Town Board. The appointed Treasurer of the Board shall serve until December 31, 2023, and the Treasurer thereafter shall be elected in accordance with provisions of New York State law, providing, however, that the position of Treasurer shall, in the alternative, be made appointive upon the resolution of the Board of Fire Commissioners and subsequent approval by the electorate at an annual Fire District election, under the procedures that state law provides; and...."

Councilperson Lynch moved and Supervisor Redmond seconded. Discussion: Supervisor Redmond shared that it should come as the discretion of the Fire District as this appointment holds some liability for the Commissioners. She would feel uncomfortable as a fire commissioner being liable having no control over who is elected to the position. Councilperson Lynch is supportive of this as it is done for the reason of independence. There are very much two sides to Fire Protection and there is a level of distrust and having an independent position will serve this community well and that is what motivated him to support this resolution. Councilperson Lynch would like Mr. Pinsky to comment, what happens on January 1, 2024 should this be an elected position, can we, must we hold an election in December of this year who would serve for three years. Mr. Pinsky made the following comments; Of the ~100 fire districts that he represents he does not know of one who has an elected treasurer. He believes it should be an appointed position based on their merits, all the records are public and can be audited. The District Commissioners would be hamstrung if you have someone who is not qualified, that ran on popularity. They would be unable to remove the elected person. He would not run or be a commissioner if he could not have control over the treasurer position. Councilperson Lynch people in Enfield like there democracy and there is enough disconnect about moving to a fire district and it would be a lot easier and solve some concerns. Jim Mathews asked Brad Pinsky what the legal issues are of an elected treasurer verses an appointed position. Mr. Pinsky - The legal exposure could be public misconduct (you could go to jail.) Good treasurers know how to steal. He respects the election, but it is not an election based on skill they are going to run on popularity. He does not think that it is a fair election process. Jim Mathews stated he knows Cortney Bailey and knowing the legal ramifications, he would have a hard time serving as a commissioner if the treasurer is an elected position. Considering that the commissioners will be running for election in December. He is very much in favor of the public seeing the books. He would be reluctant to remain on the board if he did not have control of the treasurer. Cortney Bailey, they have a hard time getting anyone to run for a position in this town regardless of their skill levels. Anyone can learn to be a treasurer. She does not believe that Enfield has a lot of options of skilled bookkeepers and if it is an elected, then the only persons

eligible would need to be Enfield Residents. She is afraid with an elected position that you may not be able to find anyone to run. If you cannot find a qualified person to appoint as an Enfield Resident then you would be able to go outside of the district to find a viable candidate if it is an appointed position.

VOTE: Councilperson Hinkle, Nay; Councilperson Lemke, Nay; Councilperson Lynch, Aye; Supervisor Redmond, Nay; failed.

**Swearing in of Fire District appointees:** Deputy Clerk Alice Linton swore in the newly appointed Fire District Commissioners; Geoff Hollister, Robyn Wishna, Jim Mathews, Barry “Buddy” Rollins, Marcus Gingerich, and Fire District Treasurer Cortney Bailey.

### **Monthly Reports:**

**County Legislator- Anne Koreman/Randy Brown:** The legislators are looking into options on how to dispose of garbage better and how municipalities can assist with this. They are restructuring the fees for solid waste for colleges and universities. The Sheriffs and Probation Department accepted the GIBB grant. This grant will help by allowing for more patrol of areas in coordination with the Ithaca Police Department of high crime areas. Councilperson Lynch thanked Anne for her show and tell at a recent Legislature meeting, where she showed a box of recyclables and ways that they can be repurposed.

**Town Supervisor’s Report- Stephanie Redmond.** She met with the Water Protection Committee and they are getting ready to finalize their recommendations and are hopeful to have something to bring to the Town Board by the September meeting. She met with Arlando from Tompkins County regarding transportation issues within the County and issues with the intersections/roads of rte. 79 and 327 and the possibility of adding sidewalks. Councilperson Lynch asked if we had received word yet on the restore NY grant for the Bostwick Rd project, she had not yet heard.

**Town Clerk Report- Mary Cornell.** The clerk’s office completed the normal duties of the Office of Town Clerk.

**Highway Superintendent Report- Buddy Rollins.** Rothermich rd. and Enfield Center W were paved on Monday. Bostwick rd. should be paved starting this coming Monday.

**Code Enforcement Report- Alan Teeter.** He issued 10 permits last month, which included a couple of new homes, which brings the total to 17 new homes currently in construction this year.

**Volunteer Fire Company- Alan Teeter.** They had 29 calls last month. Trainings for the month will include: continued training on the new engine and a Rescue training. Councilperson Lynch asked if the pumper has been sold yet. Alan stated that a Fire Company in PA came to look at it and showed interest, they are waiting to hear from them.

**Planning Board Report- Dan Walker.** The planning board has been a little quiet, no new projects coming in. They were able to work. Bob asked if the planning board has a time table of when they will be able to present the subdivision regulations to the Town Board. Dan shared that they have one more section to go through. They want to take construction details out of the regulations and put them in a separate highway rd. regulation. The goal is to get through these regulations at the September meeting and bring something to the Town Board at the October meeting.

**Tompkins County Council of Govts- Robert Lynch.** The full report is on file with the Town Clerks office.

### **Budget Projections and Calendar. Blixly Taetzsch.**

Supervisor Redmond shared the budget calendar on Zoom. Blixly went over the schedule for the budget planning. The Board discussed and changed dates as needed. Blixly gave an overview of the 2023 budget projections. Councilperson Lynch had a question regarding the 284 agreement, due to the increase in expenses Councilperson Lynch thought that Superintendent Rollins would be over his budget allocation and he could not get a straight answer from him. Blixly shared that the highway department could be using some of their budgeted funds in conjunction with CHIPS funds for the projects listed in the 284 agreement. Councilperson Lynch thanked Blixly for her thorough work on these projections.

### **Employee Manual: Blixly Taetzsch**

Supervisor Redmond shared the employee handbook projections with those present and those on Zoom. She had previously shared this information with the Town Board via email. Blixly shared that everything has been highlighted where a change is taking place. Councilperson Lynch asked if we were still waiting for costs on some of the policy changes. Blixly pointed out that anything in the table of contents has not been revised. As you go through starting on page 1 after the table of contents anything that is in red are comments that were made by someone else previously. She has been going through and imputing the changes that the Town Board had already made and she made sure that it is currently correct. The record of attendance on page 2 is a new addition as it has been extended to 20 yrs. or more and this will assist in determining the number of hours for salaried positions. Pg 5 employee classifications, she made an addition which would show what employees are eligible for. On pg. 18, time records, show that all employee that are salaried must complete a record of attendance to determine benefit eligibility. Appendence A needs to be updated as it does not reflect the boards current policies. Dental Insurance, all fulltime employees get 100% of dental coverage. Councilperson Lynch would like to include offering both health insurance and dental insurance to all benefit's eligible employees, lets be consistent. Councilperson Lynch thanked Blixly for all of her work on this.

### **Discussion: Basketball Court**

Greg Hutnik. The Town Board did apply for and receive a grant to put in a basketball court at the ECC. He received several quotes recently and tried to get a couple of additional quotes, but was unable to get them for tonight. Buddy suggested Cayuga paving and Coopers (they have a so-so reputation, but do good work on driveways). Buddy asked if the contractors need to pay prevailing wages? Greg commented that Mancini's stated they pay more than prevailing wage regardless of if it is a requirement. Councilperson Lynch, before we invest money into this project, we need to know who has clear ownership of the ECC building. Councilperson Lemke is not confident that we will have that answer by the end of this year. A decision has been tabled.

### **Discussion: Town Park: Cornell Design Connect Program**

Greg Hutnik. He applied for the program which would design a park for the Town. The location of the park would be on Town owned property where the Highway Department is located. He imagines with this property there could be different equipment and staging areas, there might be contention on what would be appropriate of the property, without getting into too much detail, those are things that can be flushed out during the process. Supervisor Redmond applied for this program for two years for a Town Hall design which was not awarded and she was excited to hear that this project was chosen, however, it does take some funding from the municipality. Greg, they do ask for \$600 to cover some of the student's expenses, he is asking the Town Board to pay the \$600 for this study. Superintendent Rollins, the original plan was to use a corner of the land for a park with a separate entrance and a gate would be added. It would be a large expense to put in a roadway as it is pretty wet. Councilperson Lynch has always had a problem with location as previously was a corn field and not in his opinion an ideal location for a park. He thinks there are better areas in the town to put a park. Councilperson Hinkle stated that there are several possible areas in the town.

Supervisor Redmond moved and Councilperson Hinkle seconded

VOTE: Councilperson Hinkle, Aye; Councilperson Lemke, Aye; Councilperson Lynch, Aye; Supervisor Redmond, Aye; Carried.

**Discussion: Highway Generator**

Supervisor Redmond – Superintendent Rollins sent a generator quote from Milton Cat and Two generator quotes from Witmer’s to the Town Board. Supervisor Redmond will draft an RFP and put it on the September meeting agenda.

**Discussion: Estimate for HVAC/Floor and remodel of Clerk’s office.**

Supervisor Redmond - The quote that she circulated to the Town Board was higher than she had expected. She will draft an RFP for the Town Hall and put it on the September meeting agenda.

**Consent Agenda:**

Audit Claims

General Fund Vouchers #174 to 198, dated August 9, 2023 in the amount of \$28,540.20  
Highway Fund Vouchers #124 to 135, dated August 9, 2023 in the amount of \$21,119.07

Supervisor Redmond moved and Councilperson Lemke seconded.

VOTE: Councilperson Hinkle, Aye; Councilperson Lemke, Aye; Councilperson Lynch, Aye; Supervisor Redmond, Aye; Carried.

Approval of Minutes: July 12, 2023

Supervisor Redmond moved and Councilperson Lynch seconded.

VOTE: Councilperson Hinkle, Abstain; Councilperson Lemke, Aye; Councilperson Lynch, Aye; Supervisor Redmond, Aye; Carried.

**Privilege of the Floor:** N/A

**Announcements:** - Councilperson Lynch asked Buddy if he could give an update from the Fire Commissioners meeting. Buddy shared that Jim Mathews is the Chair of the Fire Commissioners, and they have agreed on a date for the statutory spending limit vote.

**Adjournment:** Councilperson Hinkle motioned to adjourn, Adjourned at 9:17 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

*Mary Cornell*

Mary Cornell  
Town Clerk