



STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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JAMES M. PRICHARD
Deputy First Selectman

SARAH D. COOK
MELINDA M. FERRY
DAVID E. STAVENS
RONALD F. STOMBERG
JOHN W. TURNER

LORI L. SPIELMAN
First Selectman

BOARD OF SELECTMEN SPECIAL MEETING

Wednesday, July 22, 2020

Town Hall Meeting Hall and Via ZOOM Conferencing

SELECTMEN PRESENT: Lori Spielman, James Prichard, John Turner, Ronald Stomberg, David Stavens, Melinda Ferry, Sarah Cook

OTHERS PRESENT: Dorian Famiglietti, Town Attorney; Jeff Duke, Arlo Hoffman, Robert C. Sandberg, Mike Swanson, Peg Busse, Corinne Sandberg, George Fetko, Katherine Heminway, Angie Sandberg, Betsy Spielman; Erika Purdy and Jim Michaud, Journal Inquirer

PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Tiffany Pignataro, Finance Officer/Treasurer; John Rachek, Board of Finance Chairman; Tim Jensen, Ellington Patch; Jane Roets, Molly Moseley, Jessica Fay, Kelly Maloney, Jennifer Brindisi, Marcos Rodriguez, Dale Roberson, Douglas Harding, Joel Nadel, Kyra Flatow, Leah Simmons, Louise Ruel, Charles McCleary, Anthea Grotton, Kerrie McHenry, Kare White, Jenna Miller, Emily Preston, Emily Breen, Lois Timms-Ferrara, Sarah Nedwick, Joel DeFelice, Molly Ferrara, Deanna Wambolt, Jenna Francis, B. Sisco, Annalyse Cyr, Rosalie Guerette, Laurie Burstein, Harrison Waltman, C. McKechnie, Sandra Andrews, Kimberly Holliman, Jessica Tarrant, Jon Camp, John Smith-Horn, Judy Plantier, Keith Durao, Christine Sanford, David Joy, Rebecca Riskey, Joyce Armstrong, Jennifer Vallez, Robert Wallace, K. Vallez, Harry Evageliou, Amber Krasinski, Angela Attardo, Mariann Betz, Francie Berger, Jaime Foster, M. Varney, Corissa Dubord, Gail Ameral, James Fay, Brittney Desmond, Victoria Mortensen, Abby Varney, Lynn Stoddard, Erin Wardrop, Betsi Feldman, Karl Stocker, Shahila Edwards, Marcella Marchand, Deanna Pitrowski, Erin Stavens, Karen Trantalis, Rachel Steel, Jim Dixon [also included 10 phone-in attendees and several unidentified attendees]

I. CALL TO ORDER

Deputy First Selectman James Prichard called the Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Discussion regarding resolution of Executive Session matter:

Deputy First Selectman James Prichard resumed the meeting that was recessed on June 20, 2020 due to technical difficulties with the ZOOM connection.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STOMBERG) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 11.2 OF THE TOWN OF ELLINGTON PERSONNEL RULES AND REGULATIONS, TO ISSUE A WRITTEN REPRIMAND TO FIRST SELECTMAN LORI SPIELMAN FOR VIOLATION OF SECTION 10.11 C AND D OF THE PERSONNEL RULES AND REGULATIONS. THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN ALSO REQUESTS THAT FIRST SELECTMAN SPIELMAN ATTEND FORTY (40) HOURS OF DIVERSITY TRAINING.

Ms. Cook said that based on the advice of counsel, there was no other disciplinary sanction that the Board had the authority to impose in this situation.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (COOK) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO PLACE ON THE AGENDA OF THE NEXT REGULAR BOARD OF SELECTMAN MEETING AN ITEM TO DISCUSS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AD HOC COMMITTEE ON DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION.

Ms. Ferry said hopefully, someone on the BOS, maybe Ms. Spielman in her training, can dovetail with what this Committee will be doing and work together to get some good vibes going back to the Town. Mr. Stavens said that the BOS needs to establish some membership selection ground rules. Mr. Turner said that the entire committee will realistically not be established through one BOS meeting. Initially, it will be important to discuss the formation, the make-up and the representation in the community and develop the framework as is done in any other Town committee. People will have the opportunity to apply for membership to this committee through the Town website. Mr. Turner said that the Committee should be represented by the Human Services Department and other appropriate agencies in Town. Mr. Turner said his intent tonight is to let people know that everything may not fall into place within the first BOS meeting where this is addressed. It will take structuring and planning. He added that he believes that the BOS members agree that this is a step in the right direction. Ms. Ferry referenced a video that she said was taken on June 20, 2020, and she suggested that Ms. Spielman watch it so she will know what to do to heal the divide in Town.

Ms. Spielman addressed the Board of Selectmen with the following words:

"I truly want to apologize to all of you for the unfortunate firestorm that was created by my Facebook post. As I've said, it was not my intention to hurt anyone in Ellington or anywhere. I accept that what I did has caused some people concern and anger, and therefore I am truly sorry. I will take diversity training very seriously and will learn from it to avoid any such happenings moving forward. Again, I am very sorry and will do everything in my power to bring the Ellington community together. Once again, I am very sorry and if I could take it back, I would have never done it."

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED (PRICHARD), SECONDED (TURNER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN AT 6:06 P.M.

Submitted by


LouAnn Cannella

Recording Secretary

Approved by


James Prichard

Deputy First Selectman