



JOHN P. RACHEK
Chairman

STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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DOUGLAS B. HARDING
Vice Chairman

BOARD OF FINANCE

PEGGY BUSSE
DAVID J. OLENDER
BARRY C. PINTO
JOSEPH E. WEHR

REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 18, 2020 MINUTES

Members Present: John Rachek-Chair, Peggy Busse, Douglas Harding, David Olender, Barry Pinto, Joseph Wehr

Others Present: Lori Spielman-First Selectman, David Stavens and Melinda Ferry-Selectmen, Dr. Scott Nicol-Supt. of Schools, Brian Greenleaf-Director of Finance & Opers., Rebecca Gonzalez-Director of Facilities, Timothy Webb-DPW Director, Chief Jack Rich II, Betsy Feldman-EVFD, Chad Adams-CLFD, James York-Fire Marshal, Thomas Palshaw

Call to Order

Chairman John Rachek called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Citizens Forum - None

MOVED (HARDING) SECONDED (OLENDER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADD TO THE AGENDA UPDATE ON TRASH COLLECTION FEES.

Board of Selectmen present Capital Improvements FY 2020-21

First Selectman Lori Spielman presented the Capital Improvements Budget as approved by the Board of Selectmen for FY 20-21.

Road Construction - Funding of Road Overlay \$500,000, LOCIP \$123,301, Unimproved Road Improvement \$30,000 and Large/small Bridges \$30,000 for a total of \$683,301.

Peg Busse ask Tim Webb what affect the reduction of \$100,000 will have. Mr. Webb stated that he wanted to move the program forward. He will be reprioritizing some roads that were on the list.

Building Repairs – EVFD Improvements to Station 43 of \$45,500. This request was reduced from \$75,000 and will fund the roofing of the building this year. CLFD Diesel Exhaust Removal System of \$35,000. This request was reduced from \$65,000 and will enable the department to plan the job in two sections; one section to be funded this year. BOE Fire Doors across district of \$82,000. This request was reduced from \$278,000. Mr. Greenleaf stated that this amount will be used do the High School and that there is a 50% grant from the State. This project is a result of a 2018 change to the fire code which showed significant deficiencies. The quote received is from the company that did the inspection. BOE Center School Roof Repair of \$32,000 will fund the replacement of the front side of the building. This is based on a quote from Dzen Roofing. The remainder of the original request of \$532,000 will complete the entire roof of the school. Total for Building Repairs is \$194,500.

Miscellaneous – Parking Lot Renovations \$100,000, Accounting System Conversion \$80,000, Library Air Conditioning Replacement \$80,000. The Library air conditioning request was reduced from \$320,000 and the \$80,000 moved forward will fund the first four fan coils in the ceiling that are the most difficult to access. Tennis Court Maintenance \$40,000, BOE Underground Storage Tank Removal \$100,000 and BOE EHS Athletic Field Lights \$125,000. Mr. Greenleaf stated that the underground fuel tanks will be removed from Windermere, Center and Middle Schools this year. This project also qualifies for a 50% State grant. He stated that the High School tank is above ground and Public Works will take it for waste oil storage. The Athletic Field lights were reduced due to elimination of the fencing. The need for additional lights is that there are lights on one side of the field only which creates shadows and creates safety concerns. Dr. Nicol stated that the Board of Education is still working on the quotes and recommending exploring lease purchase or financing of the lighting. Total for the Miscellaneous category is \$525,000.

Equipment Purchase – DPW Brush Chipper \$60,000, Emergency Services Portable Radio Replacement for \$84,069 which will fund replacements for all emergency services agencies, CLFD Service Vehicle Replacement \$57,000. Chad Adams of CLFD stated that this vehicle will replace two service vehicles that are 24 and 18 years old. EVFD Pumper Replacement for \$750,000 is to be purchased through a lease. Chief Rich stated that this piece of equipment is identical to the last one purchased and housed at the Nutmeg Rd firehouse. The current ET-143 is 23 years old and the department has spent \$27,000 in repairs over the past year. This purchase will standardize the fleet. He stated that this purchase has been in the 20 year plan and should not be a surprise. This truck will prolong the purchase of the next piece of equipment because it serves two purposes as it is a pumper/rescue truck.

Mr. Rachek stated that the Board of Finance has a responsibility to the taxpayers and that two trucks were purchased over the last two years. There are other departments to consider. He stated his concern regarding increased debt.

BOE Maintenance Vehicle \$25,000. Mr. Greenleaf stated that this is a firm price. BOE System-wide Security Enhancements \$25,000. Mr. Greenleaf stated that this is the second year of improvements to the security system. This will fund a visitor management system and mantraps in the vestibules. Audio/visual Upgrades \$25,000, Mr. Greenleaf stated that this will replace some outdated equipment at the High School and Center School in the way of 5 classroom smart boards and projectors. Fire Marshal Vehicle \$43,000. Jim York stated that in the Personnel Policies the Fire Marshal is assigned a dedicated vehicle because he is on call. There was some talk about shuffling vehicles around and purchasing a new one for the First Selectman and then the Police vehicle was going to be given to him but they decided to keep it. He is not necessarily looking for a new vehicle but it's about the right vehicle that can handle the necessary equipment. The total for Equipment Purchases is \$1,069,069.

Lori Spielman stated that the total capital budget is \$2,471,870, less State grants and funds and lease purchase of the Replacement Pumper for a net to be funded of \$1,507,569.

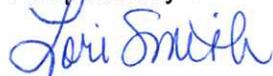
Trash Collection Update

Tim Webb, Public Works Director stated that the Town is in its last year of no increases from the contractor for the pickup fee. Over the next two years until the contract is up, there will be a CPI increase. Currently the disposal fee for trash is \$85/ton and is going up to \$92/ton on July 1, 2020. The Town currently pays nothing for recycling disposal. He stated that the current user fee of \$125 is not covering the cost, it only covers the pickup. MIRA has sent out a non-binding agreement for Towns to sign and many of the towns that opted out are coming back. Therefore, the cost may change, however they are doing an upgrade to the facility, the effect of that is unknown. He stated that the choice to be made is to either include all trash in the tax base which would probably add one mill or increase the user fee substantially to possibly \$375.

Adjournment

MOTION (OLENDER) SECONDED (HARDING) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted:



Lori Smith, Recording Secretary