



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

Monday, September 14, 2020

Town Hall Meeting Hall and Via ZOOM Conferencing

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Felicia LaPlante, Assistant Finance Officer/Deputy Treasurer; Brian Greenleaf, Director of Finance and Operations, Board of Education; Peter Hany, Sr., President, Ellington Volunteer Ambulance Corps; Jack Rich II, Chief, Ellington Volunteer Fire Department; Tom Palshaw, Heather Stavens, Peg Busse, Deb Lynch

PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Tiffany Pignataro, Finance Officer/Treasurer; Timothy Webb, Director of Public Works/WPCA Administrator; Susan Phillips, Hall Memorial Library Director; Lisa Houlihan, Town Planner; Lois Timms-Ferrara, Registrar of Voters; David Olender and Joe Wehr, Board of Finance; Scott Nicol, Superintendent of Schools, Board of Education; Laurie Burstein

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Board of Selectmen (BOS) meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by First Selectman Spielman.
- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- III. **CITIZENS' FORUM:**

Laurie Burstein, 10 Woodland Trail, provided public comment regarding staffing and citizen's forum identification requirements.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. August 10, 2020 Board of Selectmen Public Hearing

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 10, 2020.

V. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** There was none.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Tax Refunds/Abatements

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (COOK) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE TAX REFUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$23,263.02 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE TAX & REVENUE COLLECTOR AND AS SPECIFIED IN THE REFUNDS/ABATEMENTS STATEMENT DATED SEPTEMBER, 2020. [ATTACHED]

B. Alleged violation of the Personnel Rules and Regulations Social Media Policy by an Elected Official [requested to be held in open session vs. executive session]

Extensive discussion was held among the BOS members regarding the alleged violation by an elected official of the Town of Ellington's Personnel Rules and Regulations Social Media Policy.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (PRICHARD) AND PASSED [AYE: TURNER/PRICHARD/STAVENS/STOMBERG/COOK; NAY: FERRY] THAT THE FIRST SELECTMAN WILL OFFICIALLY REMIND ALL EMPLOYEES AND ELECTED OFFICIALS, IN AN EFFORT TO ENCOURAGE MUTUAL RESPECT AND TO NOT EMBOLDEN DIVISIVENESS, TO BE MINDFUL THAT THEIR ONLINE SPEECH BECOMES PART OF THE WORLDWIDE ELECTRONIC DOMAIN AND THAT THEY ARE ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR ON-LINE ACTIVITY UNDER TOWN OF ELLINGTON PERSONNEL RULES AND REGULATIONS, CHAPTER 10 EMPLOYEE CONDUCT, SECTION 10.11 SOCIAL MEDIA.

C. Re-establish Graduation Party Committee

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (COOK) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO RE-ESTABLISH THE AD HOC DRUG-FREE GRADUATION PARTY COMMITTEE FOR ANOTHER YEAR TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2021.

D. Reclassification of Finance Office Administrative Assistant Position

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (COOK) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE REVISIONS AND RECLASSIFICATION OF THE JOB DESCRIPTION FOR THE FINANCE OFFICE ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT PART-TIME POSITION, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE FINANCE OFFICER/TREASURER.

E. Board of Education – Medical Self Insurance Fund Ordinance

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO REFER THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEDICAL SELF INSURANCE FUND PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO THE TOWN ORDINANCE COMMITTEE FOR REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN.

F. State of CT DOT Virtual Public Information Meeting concerning the proposed replacement of Bridge No. 06141, Strawberry Road over Abbey Brook on Thursday, September 24, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Ms. Spielman said that the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation will hold a virtual public hearing regarding the Strawberry Road Bridge project on Thursday, September 24, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

G. Coronavirus Relief Fund Reimbursement Submission

PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE ORDER 7JJ, MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (COOK) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST THROUGH THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT FOR THE PERIOD OF MARCH 1, 2020 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2020 IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$14,468.

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

- A. Building Official
- B. Emergency Services
 - 1. Resident State Troopers' Office

2. Ellington Volunteer Ambulance Corps: Mr. Turner suggested that Chief Hany work with the First Selectman to make a determination regarding how long the second ambulance operates.
3. Ellington Volunteer Fire Department: Chief Rich expressed appreciation of the Town residents who have been very supportive and generous in lieu of the annual Carnival being canceled. Ms. Spielman thanked Chief Rich and his crew for attending the Wall of Honor Ceremony and for the parade through Town that occurred on Saturday.
4. Crystal Lake Fire Department
5. Emergency Management Director
- C. Fire Marshal
- D. Hall Memorial Library
- E. Tax & Revenue Collector
- F. Town Planner: Mr. Turner asked if Accu-Time Systems, Inc. has moved entirely out of Town and Ms. Spielman confirmed that they have moved as the space they were in became too small.
- G. Finance Department: Ms. Pignataro said that financial statements are sent to Department Heads each month as a good way to keep perspective on spending.
- H. Human Services Department
- I. Recreation Department: Ms. Cook noted that the revenue as well as the youth programs have increased.

VIII. SELECTMEN COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Personnel Committee

MOVED (PRICHARD), SECONDED (COOK) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO INCREASE THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE AD HOC ELLINGTON BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE FROM EIGHT MEMBERS TO TEN MEMBERS.

1. Resignations

MOVED (PRICHARD), SECONDED (COOK) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF DANIELLE HUBLEY FROM THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION.

MOVED (PRICHARD), SECONDED (COOK) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF EDWARD P. JESKI FROM THE HOUSING AUTHORITY.

2. Appointments

MOVED (PRICHARD), SECONDED (COOK) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT NORMAN PERKINS AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS TO COMPLETE AN UNEXPIRED TERM ENDING JANUARY 31, 2021.

MOVED (PRICHARD), SECONDED (COOK) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT FRANCIS HANN AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY, TO COMPLETE AN UNEXPIRED TERM ENDING JANUARY 31, 2022.

MOVED (PRICHARD), SECONDED (COOK) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT JENNIFER LOVETT TO THE INSURANCE ADVISORY BOARD TO COMPLETE AN UNEXPIRED TERM ENDING APRIL 30, 2021.

MOVED (PRICHARD), SECONDED (COOK) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT JACOB NADEAU, KAREN HUNT AND JENNIFER WELLS TO THE AD HOC ELLINGTON BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE TO COMPLETE UNEXPIRED TERMS ENDING APRIL 30, 2021.

MOVED (PRICHARD), SECONDED (COOK) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT JACOB NADEAU TO THE CENTRAL REGION TOURISM DISTRICT, INC. TO COMPLETE AN UNEXPIRED TERM ENDING JUNE 30, 2023.

MOVED (PRICHARD), SECONDED (COOK) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT JACOB NADEAU TO THE AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE PINNEY HOUSE TO COMPLETE AN UNEXPIRED TERM ENDING JULY 31, 2021.

MOVED (PRICHARD), SECONDED (COOK) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT DEBORAH NEWTON TO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY TO COMPLETE AN UNEXPIRED TERM ENDING JUNE 30, 2024.

MOVED (PRICHARD), SECONDED (COOK) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT LINDSAY CASTONGUAY HANY, BRIAN COCUZZO, FRANCIE BERGER, AMY MONDSCHIN, SCOTT RAIOLA, KHARA DODDS, JAMELLE ELLIOTT, LENORA WILLIAMS, TRUDIE LUCK ROBERTS, ABBY VARNEY, UMA SEKAR, KERRIE SANDER, PAULETTE BARNES, RAMONA PUCHALSKI-PIRETTI, BHARANI SHAKAMURI RAJENDRAN, GJOMATHI RAMACHANDRAN, LORI SCHOFFER, ANTHEA GROTTON AND JOE WEHR TO THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION TO COMPLETE ONE-YEAR TERMS ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2021.

MOVED (PRICHARD), SECONDED (COOK) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT AYUSHMAN CHOUDHURY AS A STUDENT/ASSOCIATE MEMBER TO THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION TO COMPLETE A ONE-YEAR TERM ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2021.

MOVED (PRICHARD), SECONDED (COOK) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT JOSEPH PALOMBIZIO, DUSTIN HUGUENIN, TIMOTHY WEBB, DIANE LASHER-PENTI, LISA HOULIHAN, JULIA CONNOR, ERIN GRAZIANI, REBECCA STACK, SGT. BRIAN SANTA, BRIAN GREENLEAF, LORI SPIELMAN, FREDDIE WEEKS, JAMES YORK, MICHAEL E. LANZ, SUSAN P. CONTE AND SHARON J. MCLAUGHLIN TO THE AD HOC LONG TERM RECOVERY COMMITTEE TO COMPLETE ONE-YEAR TERMS ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2021.

IX. SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS:

E-911 Municipal: Mr. Turner updated the BOS on the preemption work slated for the Big Y intersection.

X. FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

A. Staff:

1. New Hires:

- Noah Welti, EMT/Ambulance Driver, Per Diem, EVAC
- Aaron Virkler, EMT/Ambulance Driver, Per Diem, EVAC
- Bruce Berin, EMT/Ambulance Driver, Per Diem, EVAC
- Lisa Ouellette, Temporary Clerk, Town Clerk's Office

2. Resignations/Retirements/Other: There were none.

3. Promotion/Transfer/Etc.

- Jessica Maitland from Seasonal Program Coordinator to Program Coordinator

B. Other: Ms. Spielman updated the BOS on Town activities.

- Staff Training

1. September 15, 2020: Wheeler Group will be presenting their employee assistance services and the effects of COVID19 on employees and families.

2. September 30, 2020: CIRMA will be on site to present Sexual Harassment Prevention and Blood borne Pathogens training to all employees.
 3. October/November: Working on scheduling Diversity and Inclusion Training for all staff.
- Priority Urgent Care will be on site on September 29, 2020 to provide flu shots for employees who are interested.
 - Trails ribbon cutting on the Batz Property.
 - Nellie McKnight Museum – a new floor was added for a display area.
 - Wall of Honor Ceremony honoring Robert Tedford was held on September 12, 2020 at Arbor Park.
 - Ms. Spielman sent a letter to Eversource Energy regarding their response to the recent storm in an attempt to get reimbursement.
 - The Barnyard and Earthlight Technologies will be expanding near Casey's Restaurant.
 - September 15, 2020, the Towns of Vernon and Stafford will receive a truckload of fresh vegetables. With the help of David Stavens, deliveries will be made to the Ellington food pantries as well as Snipsic Village. Any undelivered vegetables will be available to residents at Hall Memorial Library.
 - World War II Veterans are being honored individually; there are five remaining World War II vets from Ellington. Ms. Spielman and Joe Palombizio are visiting each of them to thank them for their service and each veteran is presented with a hand-made remembrance and a plaque.
 - The Annual Scarecrow Contest will go forward this year. Nellie McKnight Museum will also participate with pumpkin carving exhibits on display for families to walk around and enjoy.

XI. CORRESPONDENCE: There was none.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. To discuss alleged violation of the Personnel Social Media Policy by an Elected Official

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (COOK) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:11 PM FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING ALLEGED VIOLATION OF THE PERSONNEL SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY.

Present: BOS Members; Lois Timms-Ferrara, Attorney Patrick McHale

The Board of Selectmen came out of Executive Session at 8:28 P.M.

B. To discuss privileged communications provided by Labor Counsel

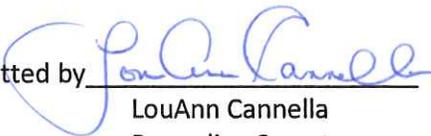
MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (COOK) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:30 PM FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATIONS PROVIDED BY LABOR COUNSEL.

Present: BOS Members; Felicia LaPlante, Attorney Patrick McHale

The Board of Selectmen came out of Executive Session at 8:58 P.M.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (COOK) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN AT 9:00 PM.

Submitted by 
LouAnn Cannella
Recording Secretary

Approved by 
Lori Spielman
First Selectman

**TOWN OF ELLINGTON
TAX AND REVENUE COLLECTOR'S REFUND REPORT
SEPTEMBER 2020**

VIA

Amount	Name	Tax	GL Year	Requesting Dept.	Reason
\$195.60	BADDELEY MARGARET	MV	2019	ASSESSOR	Veteran Exemption-Leased Vehicle
\$127.43	CAB EAST LLC	MVS	2018	ASSESSOR	Sold May 2019
\$16.86	CARDONI ALEX A	MV	2019	ASSESSOR	Sold August 2020
\$145.30	CCAP AUTO LEASE LTD	MV	2019	ASSESSOR	Reg in FL June 2019
\$3,715.59	CHRONOS MORTGAGE SOLUTIONS (16 Windmill Rd)	RE	2019	TAX	Duplicate Payment
\$86.54	CORELOGIC CENTRALIZED REFUNDS (34 Hillsdale Dr)	RE	2017	ASSESSOR	Corrected Pool Type
\$89.00	CORELOGIC CENTRALIZED REFUNDS (34 Hillsdale Dr)	RE	2018	ASSESSOR	Corrected Pool Type
\$2,655.68	CORELOGIC CENTRALIZED REFUNDS (3 Sprucewood Dr)	RE	2019	TAX	Property Conveyed-Duplicate Pmt
\$1,334.81	CORELOGIC CENTRALIZED REFUNDS (1 Abbott Rd 146)	RE	2019	TAX	Property Conveyed-Duplicate Pmt
\$2,137.58	CORELOGIC CENTRALIZED REFUNDS (25 Charter Rd)	RE	2019	TAX	Property Conveyed-Duplicate Pmt
\$41.80	DUNNE SUSAN	MV	2019	ASSESSOR	Donated June 2020
\$19.13	HAINES CRISTIN C + GEORGE D 3rd	MV	2019	ASSESSOR	Sold August 2020
\$11.61	HAINES GEORGE D 3rd	MV	2019	ASSESSOR	Junked July 2020
\$204.40	HAYES WILLIAM E + MARTHA B	MV	2019	ASSESSOR	Apply AE/CEB Exemption
\$135.29	HAYES WILLIAM E + MARTHA B	MV	2019	ASSESSOR	Apply Dis Vet AEA Exemption
\$20.57	HODGDON JENNIFER L	MV	2019	ASSESSOR	Sold July 2020
\$151.75	HONDA LEASE TRUST	MV	2019	ASSESSOR	Sold to Lessee May 2020
\$182.92	HONDA LEASE TRUST	MV	2019	ASSESSOR	Sold May 2020
\$9.78	HOVER ELIZA J	MV	2019	ASSESSOR	Sold August 2020
\$195.60	KOZUCH ROBERT + JEAN	MV	2019	ASSESSOR	Veteran Exemption-Leased Vehicle
\$2,033.26	LERETA LLC (111 Orchard St)	RE	2019	TAX	Property Conveyed-Duplicate Pmt
\$3,584.86	LERETA LLC (25 Ellington Ave)	RE	2019	TAX	Property Conveyed-Duplicate Pmt
\$1,060.80	MOORE CATHY + WAYNE	MV	2019	ASSESSOR	Veteran Exemption-Leased Vehicle
\$410.53	TOYOTA LEASE TRUST	MV	2018	ASSESSOR	Sold February 2019
\$56.40	TOYOTA LEASE TRUST	MV	2018	ASSESSOR	Sold July 2019
\$268.20	TOYOTA LEASE TRUST	MV	2018	ASSESSOR	Transferred to Somers
\$254.51	TOYOTA LEASE TRUST	MV	2019	ASSESSOR	Total Loss December 2019
\$684.60	VAIL JEFFREY	MV	2019	ASSESSOR	Veteran Exemption-Leased Vehicle
\$195.60	VISCO JOSEPH C	MV	2019	ASSESSOR	Veteran Exemption-Leased Vehicle
\$3,237.02	WELLS FARGO REAL ESTATE TAX SERVICE (58 Egypt Rd)	RE	2019	TAX	Property Conveyed-Duplicate Pmt
\$23,263.02	REFUND TOTAL FOR SEPTEMBER 2020				