



STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

MICHAEL J. PURCARO
Chairman

55 MAIN STREET – PO BOX 187
ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187
www.ellington-ct.gov

DAVID J. OLENDER
Vice Chairmen

BOARD OF FINANCE

PEGGY A. BUSSE
JAMES F. FAY
DOUGLAS B. HARDING
BARRY C. PINTO

Regular Meeting March 1, 2023

MINUTES

Members Present: Michael Purcaro –Chair via zoom, David Olender, Peggy Busse, Douglas Harding, Barry Pinto.

Others Present: Lori Spielman – First Selectman, John Rainaldi – Assessor, Brian Santa - Resident State Trooper Supervisor, Cynthia Soto – Resident, Scott Lanz - Resident, Tom Palshaw – Resident, Tiffany Pignataro – Finance Officer via zoom, Mary Blanchette – Chairman, Library Board of Trustees via zoom, Susan Philips – Hall Memorial Library Director via zoom.

Call to order

Chairman Michael Purcaro called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman's Report

Mr. Purcaro spoke regarding the current budget process and how each department shares a presentation. The chairman has recommended the board meet separately with each department. He believes this will help to build a connection between the board and the departments as we begin the budget process. He suggests designating short periods of time for each department to better learn their properties and goals for the upcoming year. He stated this will not be in place of the charter requirements.

Presentations

Local Law Enforcement Update

Sgt. Brian Santa presented the board with a 2023 police services overview presentation. Sgt. Santa reviewed the different programs and tasks his department handles. He reviewed recent updates that have been made including purchasing vehicle and body cameras, now required by law. In their upcoming

budget, they are looking to upgrade the 58 cameras around the town. He stated the quality is very poor on the current cameras. The department is also in the works of looking to build an overhang for their vehicles. This will be beneficial for emergencies during winter storms, etc. Mr. Purcaro thanked Sgt. Santa and stated it's the board's priority to keep the town safe.

Grand List Update

Mr. Rainaldi reviewed the 2022 grand list summary. Real estate assessed at 1,283,716,940, motor vehicle 10,752,380, and personal property 77,014,340 for a total net assessment of 1,567,748,360. He stated with scheduled trends in 2023 we will see motor vehicle lower and personal property increase. This will be due to the fact commercial vehicles and leases will now fall under personal property.

Citizen's Forum

Cynthia Soto and Scott Lanz attended the meeting to review the daycare tax abatement. Cynthia stated there are not enough daycares in the town to meet the need of our residents. She believes the abatement would help to open more daycares and help with financials. Cynthia thanked the board for their time and interest over the last few months.

Financial Report

Mrs. Pignataro provided the board with a highlighted summary budget report for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2023. As of January 31, 97.8% of property tax revenue has been collected, and 53.4% of state and federal grant budgets. The short-term investment fund has earned \$85,711 in interest allocated to other APRA projects. She stated they will be revisiting ARPA applications for new projects.

New Business

No new business.

Unfinished Business

Tax Relief for Seniors

Mrs. Pignataro stated one individual applied to be on the committee. The first selectman said it's been quiet, and she will reach out to the senior center to see if there's any interest. Mrs. Busse stated that we need to make sure we are clear on what we're asking the committee to do. If interested in sitting on the committee please reach out to the Board of Selectman's office.

Daycare Tax Abatement

Mr. Purcaro stated he has had conversations with other daycare providers to get more information regarding the abatement. A motion was created for a two-year pilot with reporting requirements from the daycare providers. If there's value in giving the tax abatement it will be extended to the five-year maximum. The first selectman asked what this abatement will do for families in town if providers won't be reducing their daily costs. Cynthia stated the abatement will help keep pricing stable. Mr. Purcaro stated

it's important to give our residents the chance to vote and if we move forward he recommends having a public hearing. The motion was not passed, and this item will stay on the agenda for the board's next regular meeting on Wednesday, June 7th.

Study of Utility Provider Assets

Mr. Rainaldi stated he still suggests the town runs an audit on all utility providers. He recommends continuing annual audits of small businesses in town since Ellington hasn't done so in about 8 years.

Health Insurance/Dependent Audit

Mr. Purcaro stated last time we spoke about this topic, Mrs. Pignataro stated there wouldn't be a large saving for the town. She stated she's exploring shared services and looking to do something jointly to help with costs.

Committee Updates

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

No update.

Shared Services

Mr. Purcaro stated the committee reviewed successful projects. Including the cost savings through combining IT services with the Board of Education. Not only are there cost savings, but the town is also able to provide better customer service. He stated they are going to look at disconnecting old phone lines the town may no longer need, resulting in cost savings.

Deferred Compensation

No update.

Ad Hoc Emergency Services

No update.

Permanent Building

No Update.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

MOVED (OLENDER) SECONDED (HARDING) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 1, 2023 REGULAR MEETING.

Adjournment

MOVED (HARDING) SECONDED (PINTO) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Elizabeth Phelps

Elizabeth Phelps, Recording Secretary