



STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

MICHAEL J. PURCARO
Chairman

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DAVID J. OLENDER
Vice Chairmen

BOARD OF FINANCE

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

PUBLIC HEARING FY 2023-2024 APRIL 11, 2023 ELLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

MINUTES

Members Present: Michael Purcaro -Chair, David Olender – via Zoom, Peggy Busse, James Fay, Douglas Harding, Barry Pinto.

Others Present: Lori Spielman – First Selectman, Tiffany Pignataro – Finance Officer/Treasurer, Dr. Scott Nicol – Superintendent, Brian Greenleaf – Director of Finance & Operations BOE, Board of Selectmen and Board of Education members, Town Officials and Department Heads, Town Residents, and 4 Zoom Participants

Chairman Michael Purcaro opened the hearing at 7:00 PM and introduced members of the Board. He presented a slideshow of the 2023-2024 budget (slides attached). He pointed out this is the budget that was presented to the Board and at the Budget Deliberations meeting on Thursday reductions will be made.

Mr. Purcaro opened the floor for questions or comments:

State Representative, Jaime Foster stated looking at the budget highlights she's wondering if, in the other revenue line, things can be reappropriated for spending differently. Mrs. Pignataro stated the other revenue line is made up of miscellaneous income, investment income, rental income, departmental revues, and state grants. She stated they don't budget for anything that is unanticipated at the time. Mr. Pignataro stated since the budget books have come up a lot of ideas have come up to better prioritize the needs of the town and bring a better impact for a more affordable budget.

Don Judson, 36 Florence Ave, asked if the Board of Finance has targeted buckets for an individual department or the total budget. Mr. Purcaro stated they look at what services the General Government provides and go through the same exercise with the Board of Education, deciding which they want to keep or eliminate.

Bob Smith, 3 Westland Road, stated in a lot of meetings he's heard money thrown into the Capital fund in buckets. He wants to know the requirements and how that's going to be tracked. Mrs. Pignataro stated the money unless it's spent accumulates as a separate project within the capital overlay budget. She stated unless a request comes forward, the funds would just accumulate, and leftover funds would be provided to the Board of Finance to be closed out. All requests must go through the finance office, and they make sure all expenses are accounted for within buckets.

Miriam Underwood, 15 Eva Circle, stated we need to gradually increase the mill rate. She believes as the town begins to grow, there are more needs, and the mill rate hasn't gone up much throughout the years.

The Chairman stated that the 2.8 million budget is not adorable for our town and taxpayers.

Hearing no more questions or comments, the chairman closed the hearing at 7:58 PM

Respectfully submitted:

Elizabeth Phelps, Recording Secretary