



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

AMENDED Regular Meeting JUNE 7, 2023 MINUTES

Members Present: Michael Purcaro -Chair, David Olender, Peggy Busse, James Fay, Douglas Harding.

Members Absent: Barry Pinto.

Others Present: Felicia LaPlante – Assistant Finance Officer, John Rainaldi - Assessor, Anna Marie Conti – Tax Collector, Lori Spielman – First Selectman, Tom Modzelewski - DPW, Cynthia Soto – resident, Mary Blanchette – Chairman, Library Board of Trustees via zoom.

Call to Order

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman's Report

Mr. Purcaro stated it's been a challenging budget year. He thanked the Board of Finance members for their service to the community. He stated he's looking forward to participating in a town administrator panel with the Board of Selectmen. Looking forward the chairman would like to work on ideas for ways to engage the community in voting as numbers have been low.

Presentations

Citizen Form

The Selectman gave us an update on the Pinney House. She stated she met with Eric Santini who stated we can get out of the lease. Next, it will go to the town meeting for a vote on the termination of the lease.

Financial Report

Mrs. LaPlante reported that through April 30th 101% of property tax revenue has been collected which includes \$307,000 of back taxes/interest/lien/revenue. State and federal grants have been collected at 101% mainly due to the STEAP grant for Veterans Park. Youth Services collected 157% due to program revenue. Human Services 453% due to an increase in donations and fuel administration up to \$1,000. Lastly, the investment earnings have earned \$834,910.

New Business

Budget Transfer Request – FY2022-23 – Capital Reserve Fund and Mill Rate Stabilization Fund

The following motion was made to approve the transfer of \$200,00 2023 from account 1011-60851 Capital Reserve Fund to account 1046-60250 Mill Rate Stabilization Fund.

MOVED (HARDING) SECONDED (OLDEDNER) TO MOVE TO APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF \$200,000 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 FROM ACCOUNT 1011-60851 CAPITAL RESERVE FUND TO ACCOUNT 1046-60250 MILL RATE STABILIZATION FUND AS RECOMMENDED BY THE FINANCE OFFICER/TREASURER

Tax Office Suspense List – FY2022-23

The following motion was made to accept the transfer to suspense of 244 accounts totaling \$59,559.20.

MOVED (HARDING) SECONDED (FAY) TO MOVE TO ACCEPT THE TRANSFERS TO SUSPENSE OF 224 ACCOUNTS TOTALING \$59,559.20 AS REQUESTED BY THE TAX AND REVENUE COLLECTOR, ANN MARIE CONTI, SUBMITTED IN MEMO DATED MAY 30, 2023

Closeout of Capital Projects FY2022-23

The following motion was made to move to close out the following capital projects to the general fund unassigned fund.

MOVED (OLEDNER) SECONDED (HARDING) TO MOVE TO CLOSE OUT THE FOLLOWING CAPITAL PROJECTS TO THE GENERAL FUND UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE FOR FY 2022-23, TENNIS COURT MAINTENANCE \$(34,169), BOS/BOF/ANNEX SURFACE PRO TABLET \$10,809, BOE MAINTENANCE VEHICLE \$544.05, BOE SCHOOL SECURITY NETWORK \$(8.06), VETERAN'S MEMORIAL PARK STEAP PROJECT \$(193.09), AND IT COMPUTER REPLACEMENT CYCLE \$34,157.95

Committee Updates

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

Mr. Olender stated Mrs. Pignataro got another \$100,000 in interest for additional projects. The committee's next meeting is June 12th.

Shared Services

The chairman stated they are looking at further ways to utilize shared services. Mr. Modzelewski stated the shared services IT have been fantastic.

Deferred Compensation

No update.

Ad Hoc Emergency Services

No update.

Permanent Building

Mr. Fay stated DRA and OG put together an early bid package which passed at the last meeting. The next meeting is Wednesday, June 14.

Unfinished Business

Tax Relief for Seniors

Mr. Purcaro stated the tax relief committee did a great job of presenting different options to the board. Mrs. Busse asked how we can distinguish between incomes vs. assets. She believes we need to give seniors a meaningful amount. Mr. Olender stated he thinks the flat fee would be best. Mr. Purcaro stated we should do a campaign and reach out to those who would qualify for the circuit breaker program. Mr. Rainaldi stated he has been educating town seniors.

The following motion was made for consideration by the Board of Selectmen.

MOVED (OLEDNER) SECONDED (HARDING) TO MOVE TO RECOMMEND ELDERLY TAX RELIEF PROGRAM LOCAL OPTION, UP TO \$500 CREDIT, NOT TO EXCEED TOTAL AMOUNT OF TAX OWED, AVAILABLE TO ALL PROPERTY OWNERS SEVENTY YEARS AND OLDER WHO HAVE BEEN A RESIDENT FOR TEN YEARS OR MORE WHO APPLY FOR SAID PROGRAM. INDIVIDUALS MUST APPLY FOR PROGRAM EVERY FIVE YEARS AND THE PROGRAM WILL HAVE AN ANNUAL EXPENDITURE CAP OF \$100,000. FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN AS OUTLINED IN CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES SECTION 12-129N

Daycare Tax Abatement

The chairman stated he had a conversation with Senator Anwar who confirmed the problem with the lack of daycares in town is confirmed. The board came up with a two-year pilot program including required reporting bi-annually to the board of finance with the total number of available slots, total number of available slots, and cost per child per week.

The following motion was made to recommend to the Board of Selectmen to authorize a pilot two-year program for the daycare tax abatement.

MOVED (OLENDER) SECONDED (BUSSE) TO MOVE TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN TO AUTHORIZE A PILOT TWO YEAR PROGRAM, FISCAL YEARS 2023-2024 AND 2024-2025, TO ABATE 75% PERCENT OF THE PROPERTY TAXES DUE FOR ANY PROPERTY OR PORTION OF A PROPERTY (1) USED IN THE OPERATION OF A CHILD CARE CENTER OR GROUP CHILD CARE HOME LICENSED PURSUANT TO SECTION 19A-80 OF THE GENERAL STATUTES, OR A FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME LICENSED PURSUANT TO SECTION 19A-87B OF THE GENERAL STATUTES, AS AMENDED BY THIS ACT, AND (2) OWNED BY THE PERSON, PERSONS, ASSOCIATION, ORGANIZATION, CORPORATION, INSTITUTION OR AGENCY HOLDING SUCH LICENSE. PILOT PROGRAM SHALL INCLUDE REQUIRED REPORTING BI-ANNUALLY TO THE BOARD OF FINANCE AND BOARD OF SELECTMEN WITH TOTAL NUMBER OF AVAILABLE SLOTS, TOTAL NUMBER OF FILLED SLOTS AND COST PER CHILD PER WEEK

Approval of Meeting Minutes

MOVED (HARDING) SECONDED (BUSSE) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTE OF THE MARCH 1, 2023, REGULAR MEETING.

Adjournment

MOVED (HARDING) SECONDED (OLEDNER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth Phelps".

Elizabeth Phelps, Recording Secretary