



LORI L. SPIELMAN
First Selectman

STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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DAVID E. STAVENS
Deputy First Selectman

MELINDA M. FERRY
MICHAEL B. MADRU
JAMES M. PRICHARD
RONALD F. STOMBERG
JOHN W. TURNER

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Monday, November 13, 2023

Nicholas J. DiCorleto, Jr. Meeting Hall
and via ZOOM Conferencing

MINUTES

SELECTMEN PRESENT: Lori Spielman, David Stavens, Melinda Ferry, John Turner, Ronald Stomberg, Michael Madru

SELECTMAN ABSENT: James Prichard

OTHERS PRESENT: Matthew Reed, Town Administrator; Walter Lee, Emergency & Risk Management Director; Tiffany Pignataro, Finance Officer/Treasurer; Tom Modzelewski, Director, Perry Dikeman, Department of Public Works (DPW); Aaron Fliss, Director of Technology; John Rainaldi, Assessor; Lisa Houlihan, Town Planner; Officer Don Bridge; *LouAnn Cannella, Human Resources Coordinator; *Susan Phillips, Director, Hall Memorial Library; Mary Blanchette, Chairman, Library Board of Trustees; *Peg Busse, Board of Finance (BOF); Peter Hany, Sr., President, Ellington Volunteer Ambulance Corps (EVAC); Bob Smith, Ellington Volunteer Fire Department (EVFD); Jamie Boucher, Mary Cardin, Tracy French, Tom Palshaw, *Wes Cosgriff

**Attended via ZOOM*

I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board of Selectmen (BOS) meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

II. CITIZENS' FORUM [non-agenda items]: No citizens came forward.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. October 2, 2023 Town Meeting

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 2, 2023 TOWN MEETING.

B. October 16, 2023 Regular Meeting

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STOMBERG) AND PASSED [AYE: STAVENS/FERRY/TURNER/ STOMBERG; ABSTAIN: MADRU] TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 16, 2023 REGULAR MEETING.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Ad Hoc Committee for the Preservation of the Pinney House – Update

No update was provided.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Tax Refunds/Abatements

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (MADRU) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE TAX REFUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,686.74 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE TAX & REVENUE COLLECTOR AND AS SPECIFIED IN THE REFUNDS/ABATEMENTS STATEMENT DATED NOVEMBER 2023 [ATTACHED].

B. Contract Award: Police Accountability Consulting Services

Officer Bridge shared that this would set the Town up for success in the future. Mr. Stavens commented that it was a good deal, and it was confirmed that the other towns involved have already signed contracts.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADOPT THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT FIRST SELECTMAN LORI SPIELMAN IS AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF ELLINGTON WITH BADGE SIX LLC FOR POLICE ACCREDITATION CONSULTING SERVICES FOR THE PERIOD COMMENCING NOVEMBER 14, 2023, UNTIL SUCH TIME AS TIER 3 ACCREDITATION IS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED AS OUTLINED WITHIN SUCH CONTRACT.

C. Authorizations to Fill Full-Time Positions

1. Maintainer I

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STOMBERG) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO AUTHORIZE THE FIRST SELECTMAN TO FILL THE FULL-TIME MAINTAINER I POSITION WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS/WPCA ADMINISTRATOR.

2. Children's Librarian

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO AUTHORIZE THE FIRST SELECTMAN TO FILL THE FULL-TIME CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN POSITION AT HALL MEMORIAL LIBRARY, PENDING HALL MEMORIAL LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES AUTHORIZATION TO FILL THIS POSITION.

3. Reference Librarian/Program Coordinator

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (FERRY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO AUTHORIZE THE FIRST SELECTMAN TO FILL THE FULL-TIME REFERENCE LIBRARIAN/PROGRAM COORDINATOR POSITION AT HALL MEMORIAL LIBRARY, PENDING HALL MEMORIAL LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES AUTHORIZATION TO FILL THIS POSITION.

D. Tax Abatement Request: Ellington Racquet Club

First Selectman Spielman commented that she is supportive of helping new businesses in town. Ms. Ferry asked for consideration of giving Ellington residents preferential access to courts. Tracy French shared that members will have decreased fees for court usage, while non-members will have an additional fee added to clinic and court price; members will take priority. Discussion was held on future collaborative efforts in partnership with the schools and the Recreation Department. Mr. Turner confirmed that the facility will meet all requisite building and fire codes.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO GRANT, PENDING TOWN MEETING APPROVAL, AN ABATEMENT OF TAXES, AS REQUESTED BY TRACY FRENCH/ELLINGTON RACQUET CLUB, LOWER BUTCHER ROAD, FOR A PERIOD OF NO MORE THAN SEVEN (7) YEARS: 85% THE FIRST AND SECOND YEARS, 75% THE THIRD YEAR, 65% THE FOURTH YEAR, 55% THE FIFTH YEAR, AND 45% THE SIXTH AND SEVENTH YEAR, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION TAX ABATEMENT PROGRAM, PENDING A FULLY EXECUTED TAX ABATEMENT AGREEMENT. SAID TAX ABATEMENT WILL APPLY TO THE OCTOBER 1ST TAX LIST IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY.

E. Contract Renewal: Electrical Services

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO AUTHORIZE THE FINANCE OFFICER/TREASURER TO RENEW THE ELECTRICAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH ELLINGTON ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR, LLC UPON EXISTING TERMS FOR A ONE-YEAR EXTENSION FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 1, 2024 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2025. THE INCREASE IN PRICING AS SET FORTH IN ARTICLE 4 PARAGRAPH B WITHIN SAID CONTRACT DATED JULY 2021 WILL BE 15.5 PERCENT, AS CONSISTENT WITH THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (SERIES ID CURX100SA0) INCREASE FROM SEPTEMBER 2020 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2023.

F. Waiver of Bid: ARPA – Upgrade Town Security Cameras

Aaron Fliss commented that he is looking forward to this upgrade, as it is needed. First Selectman Spielman agreed that the current camera setup is not adequate. Mr. Stavens asked if there had been any other options on the state bid list. Mr. Fliss responded that a couple of contractors had been approached and this one came back with a good proposal; he has had a positive experience with this contractor on the school operations side of things.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (MADRU) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO WAIVE THE FORMAL BIDDING PROCESS AND UTILIZE THE MASSACHUSETTS HIGHER EDUCATION COUNCIL CONTRACT AWARD NUMBER MC14-E05 TO PROCURE MATERIALS FROM VULCAN SECURITY TECHNOLOGIES, INC. FOR THE UPGRADE OF THE TOWN SECURITY CAMERAS. WAIVING THE BID PROCESS IS DUE TO SIGNIFICANT COST SAVINGS FOR THE TOWN, TIMELINESS OF THE CAPITAL NEEDS, AS WELL AS THE MHEC CONTRACT ADHERING TO ALL APPLICABLE PROCUREMENT STANDARDS SET FORTH UNDER UNIFORM GUIDANCE.

G. Disposal of Vehicle – DPW 2002 Subaru Forester

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STOMBERG) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS TO SEND THE DPW 2002 SUBARU FORESTER TO AUCTION.

H. Set December Town Meeting Details – Continued from October 2, 2023

Mr. Madru expressed his disappointment that no one was present to provide an update at this meeting, especially given that the Ad Hoc Committee for the Preservation of the Pinney House has been given additional time to work on this item. First Selectman Spielman stated that the members have not presented a viable plan for the purpose of these preservation efforts. Mr. Turner further reiterated that the Committee seems to be focused on what restoration experts have said and what needs to be done to restore the building, but they do not have a direction to be built upon in the future; they need to develop a concept of what this will contribute to Ellington and establish longevity

for the overall project. First Selectman Spielman expressed frustration that the Committee keeps asking for taxpayer funding without doing any work to fundraise independently.

Mr. Reed shared that the reason for the wording on this motion is that if the funding for electricity is to be restored, it will require Town Meeting approval, and a delay to that process may put the structure further at risk. If the lease is terminated, the appropriation item will not be relevant and will not be addressed.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STOMBERG) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO SET A TOWN MEETING FOR DECEMBER 11, 2023 AT 6:30 PM IN THE NICHOLAS J. DICORLETO, JR. MEETING HALL, 55 MAIN STREET, AS THE CONTINUATION OF THE OCTOBER 2, 2023 TOWN MEETING, TO ALLOW CITIZENS TO DISCUSS AND VOTE UPON THE TERMINATION OF THE PINNEY HOUSE LEASE.

FURTHER, MOVE TO ADD THE FOLLOWING ITEM TO THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 11, 2023, PENDING THE VOTE ON THE TERMINATION OF THE LEASE. SUCH AGENDA ITEM IS TO READ: THE TOWN OF ELLINGTON HEREBY APPROPRIATES THE SUM OF \$1,500 TO ACCOUNT 1000.08.00850.20.60241 (PINNEY HOUSE ELECTRICITY) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024.

IT IS FURTHER MOVED THAT THE ADDITION OF THIS AGENDA ITEM IS CONTIGENT UPON THE APPROVAL OF SUCH APPROPRIATION BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE AT ITS REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 6, 2023.

I. Appointment of Local Traffic Authority

Mr. Reed shared that while the BOS is the Local Traffic Authority (LTA), an individual may be appointed to act as the Town's liaison. The First Selectman has held that role previously, but there was a change to the statute requiring ongoing annual training which would be a lot for the First Selectman to tackle as the position transitions to part-time. Mr. Reed has experience in this area and will be in a better position to undergo training as required.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (MADRU) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADOPT THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN HEREBY APPOINTS TOWN ADMINISTRATOR MATTHEW REED AS THE LOCAL TRAFFIC AUTHORITY FOR THE TOWN OF ELLINGTON AS SUCH IS DEFINED IN CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTE SECTION 14-297(7).

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Building Department

B. Emergency Services

1. Resident State Troopers' Office: First Selectman Spielman shared that Animal Control was activated today with Tolland County Mutual Aid; Animal Control Officers will now have radio contact during calls and there will be better connectivity and safety measures in place.
2. Ellington Volunteer Ambulance Corps: Mr. Turner referenced call statistics pertaining to The Ivy and Urgent Care, seeking confirmation that these calls are being invoiced and collected; Mr. Hany confirmed. Mr. Stavens asked if the Town could bill more than what insurance covers to try to offset the budgetary impact of EVAC's operating expenses. Mr. Hany shared that the state sets the rate for allowable charges; letters are sent by a billing

agency, and after a few notices, the amount due is handled by a collections agency. Mr. Hany added that revenues are up; Mr. Turner clarified that there are tiers of allowable charges based on the type of response required.

3. Ellington Volunteer Fire Department: Walter Lee shared that he had responded to the ammonia leak at Country Pure Foods last month and commended EVFD's containment efforts, along with the mutual aid team. Mr. Turner noted that while the EVFD report indicated that Crystal Lake Fire Department (CLFD) had responded to an Ellington Center call, this did not line up with the data in the CLFD report. Mr. Smith commented that sometimes they just need manpower, not a full truck response. Mr. Turner responded that the raw numbers should be provided and should add up.
4. Crystal Lake Fire Department
5. Emergency & Risk Management Director
- C. Fire Marshal
- D. Hall Memorial Library
- E. Tax & Revenue Collector
- F. Town Planner
- G. Finance Department: First Selectman Spielman commended the Finance team for their efforts in getting the audit filed in a timely manner.
- H. Human Services: First Selectman Spielman shared that a Veterans Luncheon was hosted by Human Services at the Senior Center, and there is a monthly Veterans Coffeehouse program held at Hall Memorial Library.
- I. Youth Services
- J. Senior Center: First Selectman Spielman commented that the Senior Center offers a lot of great programming and trips.
- K. Recreation Department
- L. Sustainable CT Bi-Monthly Report: It was agreed that the efforts toward Sustainable CT certification are extensive and time-consuming, but that it is coming together. Mr. Stavens asked if the Town had earned anything yet; Lisa Houlihan shared that the Town has 95 points currently and that 200 are needed for the lowest certification level. The next submission period is in April.

VII. SELECTMEN COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Personnel Committee:

1. Resignations

MOVED (STAVENS), SECONDED (FERRY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF SUSAN STACK FROM THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION.

2. Appointments: No new appointments were made.

B. Personnel Policies Committee

1. Personnel Rules & Regulations – Update

Mr. Reed shared that he attended the PPC meeting last week; the item at hand is the review and modernization of the Personnel Rules & Regulations so the document is an accurate reflection on

current processes. Areas that could be streamlined are being identified, and he asked the Committee to assign this to him as a staff responsibility; he will work with relevant staff members to develop a final draft for review by the PPC prior to recommendation to the BOS. The target date is the end of January, where the incoming BOS members will have opportunity to provide input.

C. Town Ordinance Committee

1. Property Tax Relief Program for Homeowners Age 70 and Over – Update

A TOC meeting was held earlier in the evening. The ordinance has been redrafted in consideration of state statute requirements and local concerns, and it will be adjusted one more time before hopefully being brought before the BOS in December. Pending BOS adoption, the Public Hearing and Town Meeting procedures will be followed prior to implementation. Mr. Reed commented that this age limit has been adjusted to 65+, and the agenda item moving forward will reflect this.

VIII. SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS: None

IX. FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Madru commented that with the First Selectman position transitioning to part-time, it would be nice to also include a high-level summary report of the Town Administrator's monthly activity. Mr. Reed shared that he had a busy month and that he's gained a solid understanding of the inner workings of the Town. He has met with all of the Department Heads and has also spoken with a few residents that have called or stopped by with concerns or questions. He has been involved in a discussion with the Ellington Cemetery Association regarding the cemetery driveway, which involved looking into property transfers and meeting minutes all the way back to 1912; he has also met with individuals to discuss contamination and runoff issues at Crystal Lake. He has been working on the details of the senior tax relief ordinance, and he's been brought up-to-date regarding current litigation the Town is involved with. He echoed Mr. Lee's sentiments regarding the excellent emergency response to the ammonia leak, and also shared that a prayer vigil took place in Town recently. He has also attended various conferences, drills, and local events, and shared that the Tolland County Chamber of Commerce presented a Corporate Citizen Award to Ellington Agway; Town Planner Lisa Houlihan was in attendance for the award presentation.

Discussion was held on current and prospective solar projects in Town; a meeting was recently held regarding the future of solar and how it'll be evaluated and taxed in the future. Ms. Ferry asked if the Town had any ability to regulate solar fields. Mr. Reed shared that the Town is limited as these projects run through the Connecticut Siting Council; the Town can lobby for public hearings to give the public the opportunity to voice their concerns. Mr. Reed shared his thought that the Town should have a consistent position when it comes to these types of projects, and he acknowledged the challenges that these projects present to economic development. Neighboring communities share similar concerns. However, state legislature sets these guidelines, and the benefits of these solar projects may not even be reaped by the communities themselves.

First Selectman Spielman shared that the plans for the library parking lot expansion project are being finalized, and that Arbor Park renovations are also in the works. The details of the 2024 Ellington Farmers Market are also being finalized. She thanked Public Works for their work installing a new sidewalk on Abbott Road across from Windermere School. The Senior Center hosted a Thanksgiving lunch, and a Veterans Ceremony was held at Ellington High School on November 10; she also attended a recent CT Farm Bureau meeting. First Selectman Spielman shared that the Ellington Historical Society

will be holding their sleigh fundraiser again this year. She also shared that she'd like to work with the Town Planner to bring local businesses together to explore options that may exist to further support their operations.

Discussion was held on the concern over high Eversource bills; a huge amount of added fees are being added on top of the core cost. Mr. Turner asked if there were options in terms of different energy suppliers; Mr. Modzelewski commented that they recently collaborated with the Board of Education for a lower combined rate. Mr. Turner asked about the credit from the solar panels; Mr. Modzelewski confirmed that this does offset the bills somewhat, but the transmission/delivery charges are where the bills are really impacted.

Jamie Boucher, 319 Somers Road, brought up the proposed rate hikes by Connecticut Water. Mr. Turner commented that they have improved their infrastructure in Town which has increased the level of fire protection, but he understands and acknowledges Jamie's concern as well.

First Selectman Spielman thanked Ms. Ferry and Mr. Madru for their hard work and input as members of the BOS, stating that they will both be greatly missed. Both took a moment to reflect on their positive experiences as members of the Board.

A. Staffing

1. New Hires

- Derek Wyse, EVAC EMT, Per Diem

2. Resignation/Retirement/Termination

- Cody Langlois, Maintainer I
- Gay Szumyk, Library Assistant I
- Patricia Grundman, Children's Librarian
- Francie Berger, Reference Librarian/Program Coordinator

3. Promotion/Transfers/Probations

- Successfully Passed Probation
 - ✓ Heather Nosack, Library Assistant II
 - ✓ Jessica Maitland, Youth Services Program Coordinator

B. Other

X. CORRESPONDENCE: No other correspondence was shared.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED (MADRU), SECONDED (FERRY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN AT 7:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Connor

Julia Connor, Recording Secretary

Lori Spielman

Lori Spielman, First Selectman

TOWN OF ELLINGTON
TAX AND REVENUE COLLECTOR'S REFUND REPORT
November 2023

Amount	Name	Tax	GL Year	Requesting Dept.	Reason
\$ 834.69	Ally Financial	MV	2022	Assessor	Sold December 2022
\$ 135.85	Charest Logan D	MV	2022	Assessor	Total Loss July 2023
\$ 213.04	Enterprise FM Trust	MV	2022	Assessor	Sold May 2023
\$ 112.93	Enterprise FM Trust	MV	2022	Assessor	Sold July 2023
\$ 1,011.75	Hyundai Lease Titling Trust	MV	2022	Assessor	Registered in SC October 2022
\$ 722.49	Hyundai Lease Titling Trust	MV	2022	Assessor	Sold November 2022
\$ 42.89	Keith Jennifer L	MV	2021	Assessor	Total Loss July 2022
\$ 1,276.82	Roaring Brook Farm LLC	PP	2022	Assessor	Clerical Error
\$ 572.60	Toyota Lease Trust	MV	2022	Assessor	Sold December 2022
\$ 143.54	Toyota Lease Trust	MV	2022	Assessor	Sold June 2023
\$ 490.41	Toyota Lease Trust	MV	2022	Assessor	Sold April 2023
\$ 173.69	Toyota Lease Trust	MV	2022	Assessor	Sold May 2023
\$ 663.67	Toyota Lease Trust	MV	2022	Assessor	Sold February 2023
\$ 292.37	Toyota Lease Trust	MV	2022	Assessor	Sold April 2023
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\$ 6,686.74	REFUND TOTAL FOR NOVEMBER 2023				