



STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND  
INCORPORATED 1786

# TOWN OF ELLINGTON

DOUGLAS B. HARDING  
Chairman

55 MAIN STREET – PO BOX 187  
ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187  
[www.ellington-ct.gov](http://www.ellington-ct.gov)

DANIEL KEUNE  
Vice Chairmen

## BOARD OF FINANCE

MAURICE BLANCHETTE  
BARRY C. PINTO  
LOGAN JOHNSON  
LIZ NORD

## BUDGET DELIBERATIONS AND FINAL MOTIONS FY2024-2025 APRIL 11, 2024

### MINUTES

**Members Present:** Douglas Harding – Chair, Daniel Keune, Barry Pinto, Maurice Blanchette, Logan Johnson, Liz Nord.

**Others Present:** Lori Spielman – First Selectman, Tiffany Pignataro-Finance Officer/Treasurer, Tom –Modzelewski Department of DPW, Jim York – Deputy Fire Marshal, John Rainaldi – Town Assessor, Kristen Harp – Youth Services, Pete Hany – EVAC President, Rebecca Stack – Human Services, Sheila Grady – Senior Center Director, Susan Phillips – Hall Memorial Director, Jack Rich - Chief, Timothy Seitz – Crystal Lake Fire, Dustin Huguenin – Parks and Rec Director, Kevin Barrett - Parks and Rec, Lisa Houlihan – Planning Department, John Turner – BOS, Donna Hosey – Town Clerk, Walter Lee – Emergency Risk Management, Mary Cardin – BOS, Jennifer Dzen – BOE via zoom, Dr. Scott Nicol – Superintendent, Alisha Carpino – Director of Finance & Operations, Miriam Underwood – BOE, Tom Palshaw – resident, Mary Blanchette – Library Board of Trustees Chairman, Peggy Busse – resident, Matt Reed – Town Administrator via zoom.

#### Call to Order

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

#### Pledge of Allegiance

#### Roll Call

#### Public Comment

None came forward.

### **Appropriation Request – Farmland Preservation**

In 2017, Ellington established the Farmland Preservation Program to help protect food and fiber producing land. In 2018, Oakridge Dairy applied with the Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DoAg) to preserve 270 acres of farmland generally located along Jobs Hill Road, Meadow Brook Road, and Hoffman Road. The DoAg separated the acreage into three different easement areas: Farm I for 116.4 acres, Farm II for 101.98 acres, and Farm III for 51.45 acres. Ellington approved funding for Farm I and Farm III in early January 2021 and preservation easements have since been recorded on the Ellington Land Records (Farm I closed October 15, 2021, and Farm III closed March 16, 2023). The DoAg cleared the remaining 101.98 acres for preservation and would like Ellington to consider funding 10% of the value of the development rights.

A request to fund a portion of the purchase of development rights for 101.98 acres of farmland south of Meadow Brook Road.

MOVED (KEUNE) SECONDED (PINTO) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROPRIATE \$35,649.11 FROM THE GENERAL FUND UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE TO FUND 5235 OAKRIDGE FARMLAND PRESERVATION FOR THE TOWN OF ELLINGTON 10% COST SHARE OF THE PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS FOR 101.98 ACRES OF FARMLAND SOUTH OF MEADOW BROOK ROAD, AS SHOWN ON THE PROPERTY SURVEY MAP PREPARED FOR THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM FOR PROPERTY OF OAKRIDGE DAIRY, LLC, DATED APRIL 11, 2023, AS PREPARED BY ROB HELLSTROM LAND SURVEYING, LLC.

### **Appropriation Request – LOCIP**

Mr. Pignataro stated the Finance Office was notified that the Local Capital Improvement Program (LOCIP) grant award for fiscal year 2023-2024 would be in the amount of \$165,755.91, which is approximately \$59k higher than originally budgeted. The Finance Office is requesting a net appropriation in the amount of \$1,681 from the Town's unassigned fund balance to bring the capital expenditure and grant revenue lines to proper.

A motion to appropriate \$60,509.91 from Unassigned Fund Balance to account 1000.11.01102.70.60750 Local Capital Improvement Program.

MOVED (BLANCHETTE) SECONDED (NORD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROPRIATE \$60,509.91 FROM UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE TO ACCOUNT 1000.11.01102.70.60750 LOCAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM. FURTHER TO INCREASE IN THE GRANT REVENUE BUDGET APPROPRIATION FOR ACCOUNT 1000.01.00000.00.40154 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$58,828.91, THUS RESULTING IN A NET TOTAL APPROPRIATION FROM THE UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE FOR LOCAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM ACTIVITY OF \$1,681.00 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024.

## **Budget Deliberations**

Mr. Johnson recommended cutting the Board of Education by \$400,000. Mr. Keune stated he doesn't agree with this recommendation. He has sat on the Board and there is a lot that goes into their budget. Taking care of our children is a priority, cutting them more would cause for issues now and more in the future. Ms. Carpino stated they are currently in a soft freeze and have gone over all of their budgets this year.

Mr. Blanchette stated if we want to give residents the services they have come to know we should push the budget and let the town vote. He stated our school system, including other departments have been under funded for many years.

Mr. Pinto stated with how inflations rates are going, the budget isn't a huge increase. He stated the General Government and Board of Education did a great job.

All Board members aside from Mr. Johnson stated they are good with moving the current budget forward to residents to vote on.

This is a motion to reduce the following budget revenue accounts.

**MOVED (BLANCHETTE) SECONDED (KEUNE) AND PASSED (AYE –BLANCHETTE, KEUNE, PINTO, NORD; ABSTAIN – JOHNSON) TO MOVE TO REDUCE THE FOLLOWING BUDGET REVENUE ACCOUNTS.**

MOVE TO REDUCE THE FOLLOWING BUDGET REVENUE ACCOUNTS			
CURRENT YEAR LEVY \$404,268			
MOVE TO INCREASE THE FOLLOWING BUDGET REVENUE ACCOUNTS			
APPROPRIATION-FUND BALANCE \$56,602;			
MOVE TO REDUCE THE FOLLOWING BUDGET EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS			
121-60250 AUDITORS CONTRACTED SERVICES \$5,700			
310-60222 CENTER FIRE DEPARTMENT DUES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS \$111			
310-60342 CENTER FIRE DEPARTMENT UNIFORM AND CLOTHING \$5,440			
410-50103 GENERAL TOWN ROADS PART TIME LABOR \$14,399			
415-60759 NEW EQUIPMENT \$15,000			
420-60273 EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE MOTOR VEHICLE REPAIRS \$10,000			
420-60351 EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE DIESEL \$24,600			
425-60243 TOWN GARAGE MAINTENANCE WATER \$800			
439-60281 TOWN ROAD AID - WINTER \$14,540			
610 HALL MEMORIAL LIBRARY \$10,000			
750-60408 HUMAN SERVICES NON-REIMBURSABLE \$4,000			
795-60766 BUILDING EQUIPMENT \$10,500			
810-60243 TOWN HALL WATER \$500			
835-60272 HALL MEMORIAL LIBRARY BUILDING REPAIRS & MAINT. \$20,000			
838-60250 CENTER FIRE DEPT - MAIN STREET CONTRACTED SERVICES \$2,020			
839-60250 CENTER FIRE DEPT - NUTMEG DRIVE CONTRACTED SERVICES \$1,970			
845-60243 SENIOR CENTER BUILDING WATER \$1,000			
850-60244 PINNEY HOUSE HEATING FUEL \$500			
950-50151 INSURANCE - ANTHEM BC/BS \$47,872			
950-50155 INSURANCE - CMERS DPW \$15,888			
1301-60501 BOE EXPENDITURES \$120,000			
CAPITAL NON-RECURRING FUND UNIMPROVED ROAD IMPROVEMENT - \$15,000			
CAPITAL NON-RECURRING FUND DPW - ADA ACCESS - \$20,000			
CAPITAL NON-RECURRING FUND TRANSFER STATION SITE IMPROVEMENTS - \$10,000			
CAPITAL NON-RECURRING FUND DPW - GENERATOR UPGRADE - \$5,000			
CAPITAL NON-RECURRING FUND DPW - BLEACHER REPAIR/REPLACEMENT - \$5,000			
CAPITAL NON-RECURRING FUND DPW BUILDING INSPECTOR VEHICLE REPLACEMENT \$50,			
FURTHER MOVE TO INCREASE THE FOLLOWING BUDGET EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS			
420-60350 EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE GASOLINE \$500			
835-60243 HALL MEMORIAL LIBRARY BUILDING WATER \$650			
840-60243 ARBOR COMMONS - HUMAN SERVICES/RECREATION WATER \$100			
841-60243 ARBOR COMMONS - POLICE WATER \$100			
950-60250 INSURANCE CONTRACTED SERVICES \$23,321			
CAPITAL NON-RECURRING FUND LOCAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM - \$57,503			
FURTHER MOVED THAT THE SUM OF MONEY			
RECOMMENDED FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-25 IS		71,603,268	
ALL EDUCATION COST SHARING GRANTS (ECS)			
ARE DEEMED TO BE APPROPRIATED TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.			

FURTHER TO RECOMMEND TO A TOWN MEETING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$ 2,129,567			
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-25 FOR THE CAPITAL NON-RECURRING FUND			
SAID APPROPRIATION TO FUND THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS:			
<b>1100 CAPITAL NON-RECURRING FUND</b>			
		<b>2024-25</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
		<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>ADDITIONS</b>
			<b>(REDUCTIONS)</b>
<b>Project Requests</b>		<b>REQUEST</b>	<b>BOF</b>
			<b>RECOMMEND</b>
Road Overlay		\$ 650,000	\$ - \$ 650,000
Local Capital Improvement Program		108,297	57,503 165,800
Unimproved Road Improvement		30,000	(15,000) 15,000
Sidewalks		20,000	- 20,000
Culvert Maintenance & Repair		10,000	- 10,000
Rd Construction-Large/Small Bridges		30,000	- 30,000
BOE - CIP Construction Projects		135,000	- 135,000
DPW - Town Hall Gutters & Painting		55,000	- 55,000
DPW - Senior Center Updates		20,000	- 20,000
DPW - DPW Building Roof		40,000	- 40,000
DPW - ADA Access		25,000	(20,000) 5,000
DPW - Library Updates		55,000	- 55,000
DPW - Parking Lot Renovations		20,000	- 20,000
DPW - Transfer Site Improvements		20,000	(10,000) 10,000
DPW - Generator Upgrade		5,000	(5,000) -
DPW - Tennis & Basketball Court Maintenance		20,000	- 20,000
DPW - High School Track		10,000	- 10,000
DPW - Bleacher Repair/Replacement		5,000	(5,000) -
DPW - Guiderail Program		20,000	- 20,000
Assessor - Revaluation		67,000	- 67,000
BOE - Equipment Upgrades		95,000	- 95,000
DPW - Snow Plow Dump trucks Replacement		210,000	- 210,000
DPW - Building Inspector Vehicle Replacement		50,000	(50,000) -
DPW - Parks Equipment		50,000	- 50,000
EVFD - Rescue Tools Replacement		51,767	- 51,767
EVAC - Ambulance Replacement		375,000	- 375,000
<b>DEPARTMENT TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 2,177,064</b>	<b>\$ (47,497) \$ 2,129,567</b>
<b>LESS-FEDERAL/STATE/TRUST FUNDS</b>			
Municipal Grants in Aid		\$ 223,527	\$ - \$ 223,527
Ambulance Fee Fund		375,000	- 375,000
State Grant-LOCIP		165,800	- 165,800
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 764,327</b>	<b>\$ - \$ 764,327</b>
<b>NET COST TO TOWN</b>		<b>\$ 1,412,737</b>	<b>\$ (47,497) \$ 1,365,240</b>
<b>CAP NON REC FUND</b>			

FURTHER MOVE TO RECOMMEND TO THE ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:				
GENERAL GOVERNMENT		2,343,729		
BOARDS, AGENCIES, COMMISSIONS		134,394		
PUBLIC SAFETY		3,628,892		
PUBLIC WORKS		5,573,963		
CULTURAL ARTS & RECREATION		789,597		
LIBRARY		778,193		
HUMAN SERVICES		901,871		
TOWN PROPERTIES		773,740		
DEBT SERVICE		3,154,791		
FIXED CHARGES		3,726,195		
MISCELLANEOUS		878,176		
GENERAL GOVERNMENT TOTAL		22,683,541		
CAPITAL OUTLAY		2,129,567		
BOE		46,790,160		
BUDGET GRAND TOTAL		71,603,268		

**Adjournment**

MOVED (JOHNSON) SECONDED (PINTO) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJURN THE MEETING AT 8:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

*Elizabeth Phelps*

Elizabeth Phelps, Recording Secretary