



STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND  
INCORPORATED 1786

# TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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LORI L. SPIELMAN  
First Selectman

DAVID E. STAVENS  
Deputy First Selectman

JAMISON J. BOUCHER  
MARY B. CARDIN  
JAMES M. PRICHARD  
RONALD F. STOMBERG  
JOHN W. TURNER

MATTHEW REED  
Town Administrator

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Monday, June 10, 2024

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

Prior to the meeting, the following Board/Commission/Committee members were recognized for 10, 20, and 25 years of service to the Town of Ellington:

### TEN YEARS OF SERVICE

Douglas Harding, Board of Finance & Emergency Services Committee  
Gary Feldman, Sr., Emergency Services Committee  
Robert Edwards, Emergency Services Committee  
David Bidwell, Conservation Commission  
Dianne Trueb, North Central District Health Department Board of Directors  
Fred Journalist, North Central District Health Department Board of Directors

### TWENTY YEARS OF SERVICE

Michele Beaulieu, Design Review Board  
Jean Burns, Inland Wetlands Agency  
Gary Magnuson, Permanent Building Committee

### TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

Audry Kubas, Insurance Advisory Board

The First Selectman also sent a card of thanks to each member who has served for five and fifteen years and expressed thanks to all who volunteer to serve the Ellington community.

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

### I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board of Selectmen (BOS) meeting was called to order at 6:43 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

### II. ROLL CALL

Selectmen Present: Lori Spielman, Mary Cardin, John Turner, Ronald Stomberg, Jamison Boucher, David Stavens, James Prichard

Town Staff Present: \*Tiffany Pignataro, Finance Officer/Treasurer; John Rainaldi, Assessor; Walter Lee, Emergency & Risk Management Director; Lisa Houlihan, Town Planner; Tom Modzelewski, Director of Public Works; Rebecca Stack, Human Services Director; \*LouAnn Cannella, Human Resources Coordinator

Emergency Service Agency Representatives Present: Robert Smith, Chief, Ellington Volunteer Fire Department (EVFD); Peter Hany, Sr., President, Ellington Volunteer Ambulance Corps (EVAC)

Other Elected Officials Present: \*Peg Busse, Library Board of Trustees; Douglas Harding, Chairman, Board of Finance (BOF); Arlo Hoffman, Chair, Sean Kelly, Vice Chair, Jonathan Moser, Planning and Zoning Commission

*\*Attended via ZOOM*

III. PUBLIC COMMENT [*this portion shall not exceed 30 minutes unless extended by majority vote of the Board*]: No citizens came forward.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. May 13, 2024 Regular Meeting

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (BOUCHER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 13, 2024 REGULAR MEETING.

B. May 14, 2024 Annual Town Budget Meeting

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 14, 2024 ANNUAL TOWN BUDGET MEETING.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: No unfinished business was discussed.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Tax Refunds/Abatements

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE TAX REFUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$290.99 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE TAX & REVENUE COLLECTOR AND AS SPECIFIED IN THE REFUNDS/ABATEMENTS STATEMENT DATED JUNE 2024 [ATTACHED].

B. Special Event Licenses

1. Oakridge Dairy Farm Day

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STOMBERG) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ISSUE A SPECIAL EVENT LICENSE TO OAKRIDGE DAIRY FOR A FARM DAY EVENT TO BE HELD AT 11 JOBS HILL ROAD ON JUNE 29, 2024 FROM 10:00 AM TO 2:00 PM. FURTHER, THAT THE ISSUANCE OF THIS SPECIAL EVENT LICENSE IS CONTINGENT UPON THE APPROVAL OF ALL APPROPRIATE TOWN DEPARTMENTS/AGENCIES AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH TOWN ORDINANCE REQUIREMENTS.

2. Drew Estate Tobacco Educational

Ms. Cardin asked about the details of this event; it was shared that this event provides an opportunity for attendees to learn about different types of tobacco and various growing methods. This event has been held in previous years, with no issues.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ISSUE A SPECIAL EVENT LICENSE TO DREW ESTATE FOR A TOBACCO EDUCATIONAL EVENT TO BE HELD AT 71 ABBOTT ROAD ON AUGUST 10, 2024 FROM 11:00 AM TO 6:00 PM. FURTHER, THAT THE ISSUANCE OF THIS SPECIAL EVENT LICENSE IS CONTINGENT UPON THE APPROVAL OF ALL APPROPRIATE TOWN DEPARTMENTS/AGENCIES AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH TOWN ORDINANCE REQUIREMENTS.

C. Exempt Salary Ranges 2024-2025

Ms. Pignataro clarified that action on this item will only affect the ranges of different exempt employee classifications, and that this does not impact actual employee raise amounts. She shared that individual

raises run anywhere between 0-6%, with the average between 3-4%, based on the employee evaluations that are completed, per Personnel Rules. It was noted that this increase will not impact the range for the First Selectman position.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO INCREASE THE EXEMPT SALARY CLASSIFICATION MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM RANGES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 BY THREE PERCENT (3%).

D. Ellington Volunteer Fire Department Annual Carnival - Request to Use Robert Tedford Memorial Park

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO GRANT PERMISSION TO THE ELLINGTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT (EVFD) TO USE THE WEST SECTION OF ROBERT TEDFORD MEMORIAL PARK FROM AUGUST 26, 2024 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 8, 2024 FOR THE ANNUAL EVFD CARNIVAL AND TO ERECT SIGNS PROMOTING THE ANNUAL EVFD CARNIVAL ON THE PARK GROUNDS, ON THE PROPERTY IN FRONT OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMPLEX ADJACENT TO THE FIREHOUSE, IN FRONT OF THE PINNEY STREET FIREHOUSE ON NUTMEG DRIVE, AS WELL AS SMALLER SIGNS AT MAJOR INTERSECTIONS IN TOWN. ALL SIGNS ARE TO BE REMOVED ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2024 AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE EVENT.

FURTHER, TO DIRECT THE EVFD TO COMPLETE AND SUBMIT TO THE FIRST SELECTMAN'S OFFICE A TOWN PROPERTY USE FORM AND NOTICE OF PROPOSED OUTSIDE PUBLIC ASSEMBLY FORM FOR REVIEW BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR, RESIDENT STATE TROOPERS' SUPERVISOR, AND THE FIRE MARSHAL, WITH FINAL APPROVAL BY THE FIRST SELECTMAN IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE TOWN'S USE OF TOWN PROPERTY POLICY, AND FOR THE EVFD TO ABIDE BY ALL TOWN RULES AND REGULATIONS THROUGHOUT THE ANNUAL EVFD CARNIVAL EVENT.

FURTHER, TO DIRECT THE EVFD TO CONSULT WITH THE PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR REGARDING THE DETAILS OF THE SPACE REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS EVENT.

E. Budget Transfer Request – FY 2023-24 – Capital Reserve Fund and Mill Rate Stabilization Fund

The account numbers of each fund were confirmed with Ms. Pignataro.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO AUTHORIZE THE FINANCE OFFICER TO TRANSFER \$200,000 FROM LINE 1000.10.01011.80.60851 CAPITAL RESERVE FUND TO LINE 1000.10.01046.20.60250 MILL RATE STABILIZATION FUND.

F. Closeout of Capital Projects – FY 2023-24

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO CLOSE OUT THE FOLLOWING CAPITAL PROJECTS TO THE GENERAL FUND UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE FOR FY 2023-24: EVFD/CLFD-REPLACEMENT FIRE HOUSE \$63.36 AND CLFD-SCBA FILL STATION REPLACEMENT \$1,517.44.

G. Grant Acceptance: AARP 2024 Community Challenge

It was confirmed that this grant will cover the majority of the greenhouse purchase, and that the additional funding needed beyond the grant amount is available in this year's operating budget.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STOMBERG) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO AUTHORIZE THE ACCEPTANCE OF A \$9,000 AARP COMMUNITY CHALLENGE GRANT FOR THE PURCHASE OF A GREENHOUSE FOR THE SENIOR CENTER.

H. Proposed Expenditure – Opioid Settlement Fund

Ms. Cardin asked if this expenditure was just to cover the first of three proposed concerts; Ms. Stack confirmed that this funding will cover the July event.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (BOUCHER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO AUTHORIZE THE HUMAN SERVICES DIRECTOR TO EXPEND \$2,500 FROM THE OPIOID SETTLEMENT SPECIAL REVENUE FUND TO COVER COSTS RELATED TO A SUMMER CONCERT SERIES.

I. Proposed Ordinance – Property Tax Abatement for Eligible Farming Operations

Peter Charter, 516 Somers Road and a lifetime farmer in Ellington, spoke in support of this proposal and its goal of keeping farming in Town. Seth Bahler, Oakridge Dairy, recommended that the Town Ordinance Committee (TOC) utilize the knowledge and experience of Joan Nichols from the Connecticut Farm Bureau; this was echoed by Mr. Hoffman. Sean Kelly, 17 Sprucewood Drive and Chair of the Economic Development Commission (ECD), shared that the EDC worked on this proposal for quite some time and that it aligns with the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development goal to preserve agriculture in Ellington; by offering this kind of program, it'll encourage other farms to become established in Town or give existing farms the option to expand. Discussion was held on whether the 50% abatement applied to only buildings, land, or both. Mr. Boucher asked Mr. Kelly about the budgetary impact this program would have. Mr. Kelly replied that the EDC reviewed this exact topic and shared that once Oakridge Dairy's abatement on their new barn is concluded, the program will offset itself. It was noted that there are other farm-related ordinances in Town, and Mr. Boucher asked if the expectation was to continue boosting farm development, which was confirmed. Rick DeCarli, 189 Sadds Mill Road, expressed disappointment that the current state limitations to the program do not allow horse farms to be included, and asked how they could be added to the eligible list; Ms. Houlihan answered that he would need to contact the Department of Agriculture at the State level to request this amendment to state law. Mr. Stavens asked how long this abatement would last; Mr. Kelly stated that it would be continuous but that farms would need to apply each year. Discussion was held on the eligible operations and the minimum requirements that are included in the state legislation. As Oakridge Dairy recently received an abatement on new construction, discussion was held on how this new program would potentially overlap their existing relief. Mr. Turner mentioned that the TOC would welcome the EDC's input and other expert guidance throughout the process. Ms. Houlihan noted that, as with other ordinances that have been adopted in the past, the final proposal would be presented in a Public Hearing and ultimately voted on at Town Meeting. Steve Moser, Sunset Valley Farms, expressed his support of this program for the Town, adding that it is a good thing to support farming and offer this assistance. Mr. Hoffman urged the TOC to examine different provisions within this program that have been adopted in other municipalities, including a wider range of coverage. Given that there are other existing programs offering assistance on various aspects of farming operations, it was noted that it would be helpful if the TOC could create a diagram showing all of the different abatements and programs, highlighting what is covered by the existing programs compared to what is being newly proposed.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (BOUCHER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO REFER PROPOSED ORDINANCE – PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT FOR ELIGIBLE FARMING OPERATIONS TO THE TOWN ORDINANCE COMMITTEE FOR REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN.

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Mr. Turner followed up on the discussion held with the Fire Marshal last month regarding the signal strength testing that was done at Windermere, which had indicated that the exterior signal was substandard. Mr. Turner followed up with the regional center responsible for signal strength and an

independent test was conducted with significantly different results, showing that the signal was well within acceptable margins. Discussion was held on the differences between police and other emergency agencies' signals. Moving forward, the regional dispatch center that services Ellington will be sending out a notice to all involved parties that whenever this testing is required, the dispatch center should be contacted to ensure that an appropriate representative can be on site to verify the test. More discussion was held on the different options that are available to repeat/amplify signals at the schools; depending on the construction and the existing systems, these will likely need to be specifically designed for each facility, as needed.

#### VIII. SELECTMEN COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

##### A. Personnel Committee

1. Resignations: None
2. Appointments

MOVED (PRICHARD), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO REAPPOINT MARC DIWINSKY TO THE COMMUNITY VOICE CHANNEL BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO SERVE A TWO-YEAR TERM THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026.

MOVED (PRICHARD), SECONDED (CARDIN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO REAPPOINT RONALD STOMBERG AND LANDON BARLOW TO THE DESIGN REVIEW BOARD TO SERVE FOUR-YEAR TERMS THROUGH JUNE 30, 2028.

MOVED (PRICHARD), SECONDED (CARDIN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO REAPPOINT DEBORAH NEWTON TO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY TO SERVE A FIVE-YEAR TERM THROUGH JUNE 30, 2029.

##### B. Liaison Reports: No further discussion was held.

#### IX. FIRST SELECTMAN/TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

The 2<sup>nd</sup> round referendum is scheduled for June 11<sup>th</sup> at the Senior Center; an informational session was held this afternoon which was very well attended, and similar events will be held in future years. Projects including the Senior Center and Arbor Park Fitness Areas as well as the library are going smoothly and are grant-funded. Mr. Modzelewski reported that he worked with Gary Magnuson of CMG Environmental to identify the sealed bags in the basement of the Pinney House, noting that the bags contained lead paint from past reconditioning of the building's exterior; a proposal will be put together to dispose of this material. Brief discussion was held on what this original contract included in terms of work done on the windows and building exterior, and if that included the removal of this material. Mr. Turner and Mr. Modzelewski agreed that it is likely that more lead paint remains in the interior of the house.

##### X. CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER COMMUNICATION FROM THE BOS: Nothing was discussed.

##### XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN AT 7:33 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  
June 2024

Amount	Name	Tax	GL Year	Requesting Dept.	Reason
\$ 111.73	Roy Nicole T	MV	2022	Assessor	Sold December 2022
\$ 179.26	Tax Serv LLC	PP	2018	Tax	Collection Agency Fee
<b><u>\$ 290.99</u></b>	<b>REFUND TOTAL FOR JUNE 2024</b>				