



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

August 12, 2024

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

Prior to the meeting, the following members of the Committee for the Preservation of the Pinney House were recognized for 20 years of service to the Town of Ellington: *Dale Roberson, Marcia Kupferschmid, and Debby Wallace*. First Selectman Spielman also commented on the service of Gerry Gillung, longtime Chairman of the Committee.

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

### 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. ROLL CALL

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

Town Staff Present: Matthew Reed, Town Administrator; Walter Lee, Emergency & Risk Management Director; Tiffany Pignataro, Finance Officer/Treasurer; John Rainaldi, Assessor; Tom Modzelewski, Director, Perry Dikeman, Mechanic II, Department of Public Works (DPW); Lisa Houlihan, Town Planner; LouAnn Cannella, Human Resources Coordinator; \*Rebecca Stack, \*Sue Phillips

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

Other Elected Officials Present: Douglas Harding, Chairman, Board of Finance (BOF); Peg Busse, Library Board of Trustees

*\*Attended via ZOOM*

### III. PUBLIC COMMENT [*this portion shall not exceed 30 minutes unless extended by majority vote of the Board*]

Karen Luciano, 36 Ardsley Lane, noted that school will be starting on August 29 and asked if anything would be in place for the traffic that will occur once school is in session. Mr. Modzelewski stated that every effort will be made for the bus loop to be open and for there to be ample parking available. Mr. Reed will reach out to the Superintendent and the Resident State Troopers' Sergeant to see what can be done to alleviate this issue.

Peg Busse, 37 Abbott Road, commented on the increase in recent electric bills and asked if this was also impacting the municipal bills and the related budget line. Mr. Modzelewski stated that the Town had been notified about the impending increase and noted that some cushion was built into the budget to absorb these overages, though there still may be a gap that needs to be covered.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. July 8, 2024 Regular Meeting

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (CARDIN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 8, 2024 REGULAR MEETING.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: No unfinished business was discussed.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADD TO THE AGENDA, UNDER NEW BUSINESS, ITEM N. ARPA BID WAIVER – SENIOR CENTER PICKLEBALL COURT.

A. Tax Refunds/Abatements

There were no tax refunds this month.

B. Authorization of First Selectman to execute documents related to the acquisition of land associated with the Route 140 Geometry Improvement Project by CT DOT

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STOMBERG) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO AUTHORIZE THE SALE OF REAL PROPERTY ALONG ROUTE 140 TO THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT AS PART OF THE ROUTE 140 GEOMETRY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT #0047-0122 FOR A TOTAL OF \$2,700 AS PROPOSED BY THE STATE, AND TO AUTHORIZE FIRST SELECTMAN LORI SPIELMAN TO SIGN THE DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THE SALES.

C. Proposed Expenditure – Opioid Settlement Fund

Ms. Cardin asked what the miscellaneous item would cover; Ms. Stack answered that this would be used for some extra needed supplies.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (BOUCHER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO AUTHORIZE THE HUMAN SERVICES DIRECTOR TO EXPEND \$1,000 (ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS) FROM THE OPIOID SETTLEMENT SPECIAL REVENUE FUND TO COVER COSTS RELATED TO A SUMMER CONCERT SERIES.

D. Contract Renewal – Library Catalog Services

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STOMBERG) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO EXERCISE THE ANNUAL RENEWAL OPTION FOR THE LIBRARY CATALOG SERVICES CONTRACT WITH BIBLIOMATION, INC. FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 1, 2024 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2025, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR. FURTHER, TO AUTHORIZE THE FIRST SELECTMAN TO EXERCISE THE THREE REMAINING RENEWAL OPTIONS UNDER THE EXISTING CONTRACT WITH BIBLIOMATION, UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR AND HALL MEMORIAL LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

E. Bid Waiver – EVFD Hydraulic Rescue Tools

Mr. Stavens noted that these tools were cordless and asked if there was a corded option in case of a power issue; Chief Smith shared that the tools come with a plug-in battery and commented that this is the same exact set that Crystal Lake Fire Department (CLFD) has, so the items can be interchanged as needed. Ms. Cardin asked if Firematic is the only supplier of these tools; Chief Smith responded

that they are the only supplier in Connecticut, and even if the Town chooses to purchase the tools from an out-of-state provider, the annual service calls would cost twice as much, negating any potential cost-savings. Mr. Turner noted that these tools are the industry standard across the country, emphasizing the importance of having this compatibility with the CLFD.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO WAIVE THE FORMAL BIDDING PROCESS AND PROCURE HYDRAULIC RESCUE TOOLS FOR ELLINGTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT FROM FIREMATIC SUPPLY COMPANY, INCORPORATED, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$49,477. WAIVING OF THE BID PROCESS IS DUE TO FIREMATIC PROVIDING A SOLE SOURCE OF PROCUREMENT FOR THE SPECIFIC HYDRAULIC RESCUE TOOLS THAT WOULD BE REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN COMPATABILITY WITH RESPECTIVE ELLINGTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT AND CRYSTAL LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT RESCUE TOOLS, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE FINANCE OFFICER/TREASURER.

#### F. Financial Transfers

##### 1. Year End Transfers 2023-2024

Ms. Cardin asked if these transfers were due to being overbudget within the specific accounts. Ms. Pignataro answered that the departments as a whole were overbudget and needed balancing for the overall fiscal year; she explained that everything is reconciled at the end of the fiscal year, and any department whose allocation exceeds the appropriation requires an end of year transfer. Lines that come in under budget can release funds to cover overages in other areas. The financial statement includes explanations of every transfer. Mr. Turner commented that this isn't a surprise, as the monthly financial report includes where departments stand regarding the budget.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STOMBERG) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO TRANSFER FY 2023-24 FROM THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNTS: 1010-CONTINGENCY \$131,917; 5106-AMBULANCE FEE FUND \$114,116; 410-GENERAL TOWN ROADS \$155,850 TO THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNTS: 120-BOARD OF FINANCE \$2,247; 130-FINANCE OFFICER \$10,302; 320-CRYSTAL LAKE FIRE \$4,194; 331-POLICE SPECIAL DUTY \$30,364; 333-DARE \$1,810; 340-ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER \$5,199; 350-EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT \$854; 360-BUILDING DEPARTMENT \$25,632; 370-EVAC \$114,116; 377-PREEMPTION \$4,400; 415-NEW EQUIPMENT \$18; 435-GROUNDS MAINTENANCE \$531; 440-TOWN ROAD AID-MATERIALS \$15,838; 455-SANITARY RECYCLING \$68,554; 480-ENGINEER & INSPECTIONS \$62,510; 536-MINI PROGRAMS \$25,296; 585-CRYSTAL LAKE WATER MONITOR \$2,738; 810-TOWN HALL \$8,399; 837-CRYSTAL LAKE FIRE BUILDING \$794; 838-EVFD MAIN ST BUILDING \$1,394; 920-INTEREST ON INDEBTEDNESS \$1; 951-INSURANCE REIMBURSEMENT \$13,410; 1021-ERASE GRANT \$246; 1032-ADHOC BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE \$567; 1040-MISCELLANEOUS \$1,369; 1075-TOWN COMMUNICATIONS \$1,100.

##### 2. Salary Adjustment Transfers 2024-2025

Ms. Pignataro stated that at the time of this proposal, the Town Hall Employees' Union hadn't been ratified, so another adjustment will be needed in September to account for those individuals.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF \$69,194 FOR FY 2024-25 FROM ACCOUNT 1065 – SALARY ADJUSTMENT TO VARIOUS TOWN DEPARTMENTS' ACCOUNTS TO COVER THE COST OF SALARY INCREASES, AS SPECIFIED IN THE SALARY ADJUSTMENTS SCHEDULE, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE FINANCE OFFICER/TREASURER.

## G. American Rescue Plan Task Force Recommendations

### 1. Round Four Items

Ms. Cardin asked for confirmation on how many police cruisers were within the proposal; it was confirmed that the proposal is for two cruisers. She also asked for more detail on the Senior Center Pickleball Court item. Ms. Pignataro and Mr. Modzelewski shared some history on the item, including a previous proposal for a larger pavilion which was re-purposed into the pickleball project. As there is typically overcrowding at the Tedford Park courts, this addition will alleviate the current backlog of players. Ms. Pignataro also shared that the deadline to dedicate these funds is December 31, 2024, and the Town needs to move quickly to ensure that all funds are appropriately utilized. All Round 3 submissions were reviewed along with the new Round 4 submissions. Ms. Cardin also asked for an explanation on the Knox Box item; Chief Smith detailed that proposal, indicating that the current system is 20 years old and that this update will also be cohesive with what CLFD works with. Chief Hany asked what the EOC Upgrades entailed; Mr. Lee shared that currently, there is only one workstation that operates all of the monitors so only one system can be run at a time; this will create multiple workstations that can be utilized simultaneously.

Brief discussion was held on partnering with the Ellington Racquet Club instead of installing another pickleball court, but there is no guarantee from the business that non-members would have any type of priority, and the business has expressed desire to incorporate more youth programs into their operations.

Ms. Cardin expressed surprise that departments that had items cut during the budget cycle didn't apply for ARPA funding to cover those items. Ms. Pignataro stated that a lot of items that were cut from the budget represent re-occurring expenses, and as ARPA funds are limited, the Town can't rely on that funding in perpetuity. Mr. Stavens noted that the roadside mower is an item that was proposed and cut multiple times in the past that is now being funded through ARPA. Ms. Cardin noted that the installation of a new pickleball court would create future maintenance needs, and that other existing courts also need ongoing maintenance; Ms. Pignataro stated that ARPA money cannot be stashed for future use, and Mr. Modzelewski shared that creating that type of maintenance funding is more of a long-term budget goal. Mr. Modzelewski also commented that all of the existing courts, as well as the track, are currently in good condition, and savings can be built up over time for needed maintenance in the future.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED [AYE: STAVENS/PRICHARD/TURNER/STOMBERG/BOUCHER; NAY: CARDIN] TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS AS PROPOSED AND RECOMMENDED TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN BY THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN TASK FORCE. UNDER THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT SPECIAL REVENUE FUND ORDINANCE, ANY APPROVED PROJECTS EXCEEDING \$100,000 WILL GO TO TOWN MEETING FOR DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2024. FURTHER, TO AUTHORIZE THE FINANCE OFFICER/TREASURER TO EXPEND AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDS FOR APPROVED PROJECTS FOR THOSE UNDER \$100,000, AND PENDING TOWN MEETING APPROVAL FOR THOSE OVER \$100,000.

- POLICE CRUISERS AND MARKINGS - \$128,210
- SENIOR CENTER PICKLEBALL COURT - \$98,147
- SENIOR CENTER FLOORING - \$21,157.21
- NJD MEETING HALL AV UPGRADE - \$18,996.55

- EOC UPGRADES - \$16,671.98
- BAY FLOOR RESURFACING – STATION 43 - \$62,710
- KNOX BOX UPGRADE - \$22,475
- EXTERNAL WIFI ACCESS AT HALL MEMORIAL LIBRARY - \$2,091.88
- WIFI HOT SPOTS FOR LENDING - \$1,425
- CRYSTAL LAKE DIVER ASSISTED SUCTION HARVESTING - \$59,940
- DPW WING MOWER AND PARTS - \$275,000
- FARMERS MARKET GAZEBO - \$23,486

#### 2. Set Town Meeting, Pending BOS Approval

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO SET A SPECIAL TOWN MEETING FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2024 AT 6:00 PM IN THE NICHOLAS J. DICORLETO, JR. MEETING HALL, 55 MAIN STREET, TO ALLOW CITIZENS TO DISCUSS AND VOTE UPON THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S RECOMMENDATION FOR AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN PROJECT APPROVAL AND EXPENDITURES OVER \$100,000 AS REQUIRED BY TOWN ORDINANCE ARTICLE VII: AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT SPECIAL REVENUE FUND. THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN-APPROVED PROJECTS TO BE VOTED ON AT THIS TOWN MEETING ARE THE POLICE CRUISERS AND MARKINGS - \$128,210 AND THE DPW WING MOWER AND PARTS - \$275,000.

#### H. Contract Awards

##### 1. Bonfire ESourcing & Contract Management Solution

Mr. Stavens asked for more details on this item. Ms. Pignataro outlined the Town's current bid process, and noted that this software would allow Finance staff to utilize an inclusive portal that would include all of the relevant information for interested vendors. There have been delivery issues in the past where bids are received late; this portal would allow bids to be instantly submitted electronically, and at the given time, the bid results would be publicly available on the portal and the bid tabulation would be generated automatically. The associated contract would also be generated directly through the portal, utilizing the previously added data. This software would work seamlessly with the eCivis Grantee Solution which is also being proposed. Other Departments Heads could view available grants, check out examples of successful grant applications, and offer input, but Felicia LaPlante, Assistant Finance Officer, would be the only admin user that could actually post bids. Ms. Cardin asked how many bids the Town typically put out per month; Ms. Pignataro stated that the number varies, but she believes that the Town has had 14-15 bids in the past year. Mr. Boucher asked if there were multiple levels of service available, or if it was a single inclusive package. Ms. Pignataro shared that there are other services available, such as tracking vendor insurance, but that Finance is not opting for those add-ons at this time. Ms. Cardin asked if this would save money elsewhere; Ms. Pignataro shared that the Town could pursue additional grant revenue, create higher levels of efficiency within the Finance Office, and that this would remove the need for the Grant Manager position that had been proposed and cut earlier in this budget cycle.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STOMBERG) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO AWARD THE CONTRACT FOR ESOURCING & CONTRACT MANAGEMENT WITH BONFIRE, GTY SOFTWARE INC, OF OAKVILLE, ONTARIO FOR THE PERIOD OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2024 THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2025 AS RECOMMENDED

BY THE FINANCE OFFICER. FURTHER, TO AUTHORIZE THE FIRST SELECTMAN TO EXECUTE THE CONTRACT EXTENSIONS.

2. eCivis Grantee Solution

No further discussion was held.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO AWARD THE CONTRACT FOR GRANTEE SOLUTION WITH ECIVIS, GTY SOFTWARE INC, OF OAKVILLE, ONTARIO FOR THE PERIOD OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2024 THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2025 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE FINANCE OFFICER. FURTHER, TO AUTHORIZE THE FIRST SELECTMAN TO EXECUTE THE CONTRACT EXTENSIONS.

I. 2024 Capitol Region Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan Update

Ms. Houlihan shared that this is the fourth update of the regional plan that is coordinated with the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG), and that this year's plan includes some climate adaptation details.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADOPT THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION REGARDING THE CAPITOL REGION NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE, 2024-2029:

WHEREAS, the Town of Ellington has historically experienced severe damage from natural hazards, and it continues to be vulnerable to the effects of those natural hazards profiled in the plan (e.g. flooding, extreme heat, droughts, severe storms such as thunderstorms and winter storms, dam failures, wildfires, and earthquakes) resulting in loss of property and life, economic hardship, and threats to public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, the Ellington Board of Selectmen approved the previous version of the Plan in 2014 and 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Capitol Region Council of Governments, of whom the Town of Ellington is a member, has determined that climate change is affecting the frequency and severity of some hazards and therefore elected to expand the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update to become a Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan Update; and

WHEREAS, committee meetings were held and public input was sought in 2023 regarding the development and review of the Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan Update; and

WHEREAS, the Plan specifically addresses hazard mitigation and climate adaptation strategies and Plan maintenance procedures for the Town of Ellington; and

WHEREAS, the Plan recommends several hazard mitigation actions that will provide mitigation for specific natural hazards that impact the Town of Ellington, with the effect of protecting people and property from loss associated with those hazards while adapting to the effects of climate change; and

WHEREAS, the Capitol Region Council of Governments has developed and received conditional approval from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for its Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan Update under the requirements of 44 CFR 201.6; and

WHEREAS, adoption of this Plan will make the Town of Ellington eligible for funding to alleviate the impacts of future hazards; now therefore be it

RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

1. The Plan is hereby adopted as an official plan of the Town of Ellington;

2. The respective officials identified in the mitigation strategy of this Plan are hereby directed to pursue implementation of the recommended actions assigned to them;
3. Future revisions and Plan maintenance required by 44 CFR 201.6 and FEMA are hereby adopted as a part of this resolution for a period of five (5) years from the date of this resolution.
4. An annual report on the progress of the implementation elements of the Plan shall be presented to the Board of Selectmen.

ADOPTED this 12<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2024 by the Board of Selectmen of Ellington, Connecticut.

J. Re-establish Ad Hoc Council for Developing Positive Youth Culture

Ms. Cardin asked what this group does. Mr. Reed shared that the Council provides guidance and advocacy in youth programming and may act in conjunction with certain grant awards. Mr. Turner noted that details of the Council's activity are usually included in the Youth Services report.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (BOUCHER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO RE-ESTABLISH THE AD HOC COUNCIL FOR DEVELOPING POSITIVE YOUTH CULTURE FOR ONE YEAR TO AUGUST 31, 2025.

K. Charter Revision Submission

1. Submission of Report to Town Clerk
2. Red-Lined Copy of Proposed Charter Revisions
3. Acknowledge Receipt and Set Public Hearing

Mr. Stavens noted that last time, the BOS voted to send the questions to referendum and asked if this would occur during this process. Mr. Reed shared the details of the steps that have been taken, adding that the BOS must hold a public hearing as required by state statute, after which the BOS will either accept the report or recommend changes to the CRC and request a revised, final report; if the report is accepted, the included questions will be submitted for inclusion on the ballot. If the report is rejected, there is a 45-day petition/appeal process, giving an opportunity for members of the public to appeal the rejection of the report. The questions can be included individually on the ballot, or a single question inclusive of all substantive issues can be presented. Mr. Stavens stated that the BOS voted on the inclusion of each individual question last time, but this sounds like it would be an all or nothing decision. Mr. Reed shared that picking and choosing questions would supersede the intention of the CRC, and that issues with individual item(s) should be worked through with the CRC to allow for a final report that is acceptable to all parties. It was noted that the questions need to be finalized and submitted to the Town Clerk by September 5<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Cardin brought up two issues she had with the proposal, one regarding the language in Section 1008 – Director of Emergency Management, and one regarding language in Section 1024 – Town Administrator, specifically in regard to the removal of the employee. Discussion was held on the legal standards of removing an “at-will” employee and the process that is undertaken in such situations, including an appeal process. It was noted that all employees under personnel rules and regulations are allowed to appeal a dismissal. Small editorial changes do not require a CRC, and the submitted report recommends another CRC next year when there is more time to address small clerical items. A special BOS meeting will be needed after the public hearing to publicly accept or reject the report.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED [AYE: STAVENS/PRICHARD/TURNER/STOMBERG; ABSTAIN: BOUCHER; NAY: CARDIN] TO ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF THE CHARTER

REVISION COMMISSION DRAFT REPORT. FURTHER, TO HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 2024 AT 6:00 PM IN THE NICHOLAS J. DICORLETO, JR. MEETING HALL, ELLINGTON TOWN HALL, TO ALLOW CITIZENS TO COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED CHARTER REVISIONS.

L. Litigation Update – Discussion

Mr. Reed shared that Ms. Cardin had asked for this to be on the agenda, and shared details on the active CMERS case that the Town is involved in. This case is between the Town and the State in regard to the municipal employee retirement system and is in the discovery phase; the trial is tentatively scheduled for September 9, 2025, with depositions in the fall and opportunities for pre-trial motions. According to counsel, there are no specific updates at this time, as involved parties are working through the administrative process. There are two worker's comp claims currently being handled, six liability claims pending, three constitutional rights claims pending, two claims for contamination to wells pending, and one recent claim of a tree limb coming down and causing damage; these are all in the hands of the insurance company, with no active strategy needed. If desired by the BOS, executive sessions can be scheduled in the future to discuss the details of any of these cases/claims. Ms. Cardin stated that if the BOS is responsible for guiding strategy and making decisions in these cases, she would like to have as much information as possible. Mr. Reed will check the calendar to see when the next decision point will be for the active litigation case.

M. Review and Ratification of Collective Bargaining Agreement for the Town Hall Employees Union, AFSCME, AFL-CIO Local 1303-473 of Council 4

A breakdown of the proposal was provided in the BOS packets. Mr. Prichard asked if the raise percentage was in line with other contracts. It was shared that this is in line with other comparable contracts that are being settled. Raises and insurance contributions had been locked in prior years, and these raise percentages compensate for both the long-term 2.75% as well as the increase in insurance premium costs, with the goal of bringing all employees up to 15% of healthcare contributions. This contract covers 22 employees, so it will not be a high increase amount overall. Mr. Turner noted that he was pleased to see that with the revised hours of operation in Town Hall, there is a reference of days of paid time off being converted to hours, which is more manageable. Mr. Boucher asked if there were any step increases included in the contract, in addition to cost-of-living increases; Mr. Reed shared that unless an employee completes a certification that would call for a merit increase, there are just the flat percentage increases. It was noted that language from a previous memorandum of understanding was incorporated into this iteration of the contract.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STOMBERG) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO RATIFY THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF ELLINGTON AND TOWN HALL EMPLOYEES UNION, AFSCME, AFL-CIO LOCAL 1303-473 OF COUNCIL 4, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2024 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2027 AND TO FURTHER AUTHORIZE THE FIRST SELECTMAN TO EXECUTE SAID CONTRACT.

N. ARPA Bid Waiver – Senior Center Pickleball Court

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO WAIVE THE FORMAL BIDDING PROCESS AND UTILIZE THE CAPITOL REGION COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT (CROG) EZIQ PROGRAM TO COMPLETE THE SENIOR CENTER PICKLEBALL COURT ARPA PROJECT THROUGH MILLENNIUM BUILDERS, INC., AT A PRICE NOT TO EXCEED \$98,147. WAIVING THE BID PROCESS IS DUE TO SIGNIFICANT COST SAVINGS FOR THE TOWN, TIMELINESS OF THE CAPITAL NEEDS, AS WELL AS THE



CRCOG PROGRAM ADHERING TO ALL APPLICABLE PROCUREMENT STANDARDS SET FORTH UNDER UNIFORM GUIDANCE.

#### VII. ADMINISTRATIVE/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

First Selectman Spielman noted that the EVFD report was missing; Chief Smith apologized, sharing that he had been on vacation. Mr. Turner has been following the EVAC reports and noted the high number of patient interactions, averaging 3+ a day. The BOS and Town Administration needs to consider the direction the Town needs to move in this area, as this is not a new or unique problem. Chief Hany shared that volunteerism is down nationwide. Mr. Turner has had conversations with chiefs in other comparable organizations, and echoed these sentiments. Mr. Turner also expressed his appreciation for Chief Hany, who has been taking on more calls personally to lighten the load.

#### VIII. SELECTMEN COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

##### A. Personnel Committee

1. Resignations: None
2. Appointments

MOVED (PRICHARD), SECONDED (CARDIN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO REAPPOINT MARY BARTLEY, REBECCA STACK, ROBIN JOHNSON, KRISTEN HARP, MIKE NASH, TPR. TYLER BURNELL, MARQUE MERCURE, SGT. BRIAN SANTA, JOHN LALLY, AMY DARLING, TRACY KEARCHER, SCOTT RAIOLA, LEAH COUGHLIN, OLIVER BARTON, JULIA JASICA, TARA MOULE, AND LEANNE MASON DOUGHTY TO THE AD HOC COUNCIL FOR DEVELOPING POSITIVE YOUTH CULTURE FOR ONE-YEAR TERMS TO AUGUST 31, 2025.

MOVED (PRICHARD), SECONDED (CARDIN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO REAPPOINT LOIS TIMMS-FERRARA AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER TO THE CT WATER COMPANY CUSTOMER ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR ONE YEAR TO AUGUST 31, 2025.

MOVED (PRICHARD), SECONDED (CARDIN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO REAPPOINT RODGER HOSIG AND RONALD STOMBERG AS ALTERNATE MEMBERS TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS TO SERVE TWO-YEAR TERMS TO AUGUST 31, 2026.

##### B. Town Ordinance Committee

1. Property Tax Abatement for Eligible Farming Operations – Set Public Hearing and Town Meeting Details

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STOMBERG) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2024 AT 6:00 PM IN THE NICHOLAS J. DICORLETO, JR. MEETING HALL, ELLINGTON TOWN HALL, TO ALLOW CITIZENS TO COMMENT ON THE PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT FOR ELIGIBLE FARMING OPERATIONS ORDINANCE.

FURTHER, TO ADD THIS ITEM TO THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 9, 2024, TO DISCUSS AND VOTE UPON THE ADOPTION OF THE PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT FOR ELIGIBLE FARMING OPERATIONS ORDINANCE.

##### C. Liaison Reports: None

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

First Selectman Spielman shared that the Library project is wrapping up, with lights being installed and plants going in later this month. She noted that the milfoil at Crystal Lake is worrisome this

season, and that the Crystal Lake Association spent extra money out of their funding to assist with removal, including an extra week of harvesting. Mr. Turner shared that he has been in touch with Chairman Arzt, who has shared that there has been a bumper crop of milfoil this year, causing more problems than what's been seen in a long time; the warm winter increased growth, but the Milfoil Committee has worked hard and always does a good job. The Ellington Farmers' Market is going well at the new location. The next Department Head meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 13<sup>th</sup> at the Old Crystal Lake Schoolhouse; these are held at rotating locations to showcase different facilities in Town. The Annual EVFD Parade and Fair are taking place in September, with details still in the works. Mr. Modzelewski shared that the Route 140/Newell Hill work is slated for completion in late summer of 2025, acknowledging the traffic issues there have been with this project.

Mr. Reed shared that there were a few troublesome customers during peak tax season, and commended Ann Marie Conti and John Rainaldi for handling customers with patience. Early voting took place for the recent primary, and the Registrar of Voters Office is working toward the upcoming presidential election. Communication with Eversource during the recent storm was very good. The UConn intern will be starting on August 28<sup>th</sup>, and Ellington Public Schools start classes on August 29<sup>th</sup>, with teachers reporting on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Reed congratulated Chief Hany, sharing that EVAC will be nationally recognized at the World EMS Conference. There have been a series of car break-ins at Tedford Park during sporting events; the Recreation Director has been notified to reach out to teams to remind folks to keep their cars locked and valuables out of sight. Mr. Reed is working with Finance for an upcoming bond presentation where the Town will receive a new credit rating. The closing of the Kibbe Road purchase will take place on Wednesday. Mr. Reed shared that Dianne Trueb has presented a great preliminary plan for the market property; ideally, grants can be solicited to create an open-air market with permanent structuring, adding protection from the sun and other weather. The airport solar project has been officially denied by Siting Council, subject to appeal. The main reasons for the denial include adverse effects on air navigation and aviation safety.

First Selectmen Spielman commented that the sandwich boards in Town with messaging on taxes and voting can be hard to maintain, sharing that a lot of towns are using digital signs. The Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) controls how signage can be utilized, and currently, any lighted/digital signs are forbidden along roadways. From a general perspective, regulations must be uniformly applied. Ms. Houlihan will look into existing ordinances and do some research and noted that it would be helpful if the BOS were to pass along a statement to the PZC with some direction.

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

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STOMBERG) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN AT 8:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Julia Connor*

Julia Connor, Recording Secretary

*Lori Spielman*

Lori Spielman, First Selectman