



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 19, 2024

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

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board of Selectmen (BOS) meeting was called to order at 6:13 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

II. ROLL CALL

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

Selectman Absent: James Prichard

Town Staff Present: Matthew Reed, Town Administrator; Walter Lee, Emergency & Risk Management Director; Donna Hosey, Town Clerk; Tiffany Pignataro, Finance Officer/Treasurer; Thomas Modzelewski, Director of Public Works; *Alisha Carpino, Director of Finance & Operations, Board of Education

Other Elected Officials Present: *Douglas Harding, Board of Finance Chairman; *Peg Busse, Library Board of Trustees; Tom Palshaw, Chairman, Charter Revision Commission

**Attended via ZOOM*

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Charter Revision Commission Report

Mr. Boucher noted that he is abstaining as he is a member of the Charter Revision Commission (CRC).

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED [AYE: STAVENS/SPIELMAN/TURNER/STOMBERG; NAY: CARDIN; ABSTAIN: BOUCHER] TO ACCEPT THE FINAL DRAFT REPORT OF THE ELLINGTON CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION DATED AUGUST 7, 2024.

Ms. Cardin said she is reiterating the comments she made at the last meeting, noting that the language proposed in the Charter revision does not match the detailed language in the Personnel Rules and Regulations (PR&R) as it applies to Town staff. She suggested removing from the Charter revision proposed language relative to the Town Administrator, specifically the 10-day appeal process, and following what is outlined in the PR&R instead. Mr. Reed said that procedurally, if the BOS concurs with Ms. Cardin and makes a recommendation for change to the proposed language, this would be returned to the CRC to review. He added that otherwise, Ms. Cardin's comments would be noted for the record and the process would move forward. Ms. Spielman added that the

Town Attorney has reviewed the language several times and this has been discussed at previous meetings.

Mr. Lee said that he does not agree with Ms. Cardin that an exact timeframe for appeal can be effectively outlined in the Charter as each case would depend upon the charges. The employee could be put on paid leave while the investigation into the alleged misconduct takes place and that could take two days or it could take months. He added that it is difficult to add a hard timeline to the process.

Mr. Turner added that if this is clearly laid out in the PR&R, he does not agree that it has to be detailed in the Charter. Mr. Reed added that the Charter reigns supreme so it is not clear where the confusion with PR&R comes in. Mr. Palshaw explained that the CRC considered the PR&R and they specifically wanted this process to be the standard and that is why the language is written as it is; Mr. Reed sees no conflict.

Mr. Stavens asked Mr. Palshaw for clarification of the intent of the language. Mr. Palshaw said that the CRC viewed the Town Administrator as a higher level of employee and wanted to make the process clearly different to ensure that both the Town and the employee were covered. He said it was intentional to provide a higher standard which included the potential for a public hearing before removing the Town Administrator. Mr. Palshaw added that the CRC wanted to establish a way in which partisan politics would not play a role in removing a Town Administrator and this is how the CRC believes they achieved that goal.

Ms. Cardin said that she is opposing this motion as she did not have time to review the material.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED [AYE: STAVENS/SPIELMAN/TURNER/STOMBERG/BOUCHER; NAY: CARDIN] TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING QUESTION TO THE ELECTORS OF THE TOWN OF ELLINGTON AT THE ELECTION TO BE HELD TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2024. SHALL THE CHARTER OF THE TOWN OF ELLINGTON BE AMENDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS SET FORTH IN THE FINAL REPORT OF THE BIPARTISAN CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION DATED AUGUST 7, 2024?

Peg Busse, 37 Abbott Road, asked if the voters will vote individually on the questions or all questions as one vote. Mr. Reed said that the motion that passed set the question as one vote to either accept or reject all of the proposed revisions. Mr. Reed said that in discussion with the Registrars of Voters and the Town Clerk, and in reviewing what other Connecticut towns do, it was decided to present the proposed revisions on the ballot as one question because listing individual question presents several challenges. Mr. Stavens asked how many of the questions are tied together; Mr. Palshaw said that seven of the questions are related. Mr. Stavens said that they must pass or fail as one in order to properly revise the Charter. With this being a presidential election, the time it would take each voter to complete the ballot was considered. Mr. Reed said that the most important thing is going to be public education as there is nothing in the revisions that is controversial and they actually reflect how the Town is functioning now. Ms. Hosey stated that there is already a state question on the ballot so whatever is added may be ignored by voters if it is too much. Should residents decide against any of the revisions, they have the option to vote no.

Ms. Busse said that she feels this is undemocratic; although the changes are not controversial, she finds it disconcerting.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STOMBERG) AND PASSED [AYE: STAVENS/SPIELMAN/TURNER/STOMBERG/BOUCHER; NAY: CARDIN] TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR AND STAFF TO WORK IN COLLABORATION WITH THE TOWN CLERK IN THE PREPARATION, PRINTING AND DISSEMINATION OF CONCISE EXPLANATORY TEXTS OR OTHER PRINTED MATERIAL NECESSARY TO INFORM THE ELECTORS OF THE TOWN OF THE PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENTS.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Bid Award – Ellington Board of Education Student Transportation Bus

Ms. Cardin asked how long the bid is open; Ms. Pignataro checked the Charter and responded to Ms. Cardin that the Charter requires seven (7) days.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STOMBERG) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO AWARD THE BID FOR THE ARPA ELLINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION STUDENT TRANSPORTATION BUS TO RAY SERAPHIN FORD, INC. OF ROCKVILLE, CT, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$113,402, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS.

V. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STOMBERG) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN AT 6:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

LouAnn Cannella, Acting Recording Secretary

Lori Spielman, First Selectman