



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, September 9, 2024

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

Selectmen Present: Lori Spielman, David Stavens, Mary Cardin, James Prichard, John Turner, Ronald Stomberg, Jamison Boucher [arrived 6:02 pm]

Town Staff Present: Matthew Reed, Town Administrator; Walter Lee, Emergency & Risk Management Director; Margaret Schmidt, Assistant Town Clerk; Thomas Modzelewski, Director of Public Works; Molly Lukiwsky, Municipal Management Intern; Lisa Houlihan, Town Planner; Tiffany Pignataro, Finance Officer/Treasurer; John Rainaldi, Assessor

Other Elected Officials Present: Sean Kelly, Planning and Zoning Commission/Economic Development Commission; Peg Busse, Library Board of Trustees; Arlo Hoffman, Planning and Zoning Commission

Emergency Service Agency Representatives Present: Peter Hany, Sr., President, Ellington Volunteer Ambulance Corps (EVAC)

## **PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES**

First Selectman Spielman opened the public hearing at 6:00 pm, and asked Mr. Turner to read the following legal notice:

*The Town of Ellington will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, September 9, 2024 at 6:00 p.m., prevailing time, at the Ellington Town Hall, Nicholas J. DiCorleto, Jr. Meeting Hall, 55 Main Street, Ellington, CT for the purpose of allowing citizens to comment upon a proposed new ordinance:*

- *Property Tax Abatement for Eligible Farming Operations*

*The proposed ordinance is available for review in the Town Clerk's Office, First Selectman's Office and on the Town website at [ellington-ct.gov](http://ellington-ct.gov).*

*All interested parties are encouraged to attend. Individuals will have the opportunity to provide their name, address and comment either in person or via ZOOM.*

*Dated at Ellington, Connecticut, this 27<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2024.*

*BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN, Lori L. Spielman, First Selectman*

*Journal Inquirer: August 30, 2024*

First Selectman Spielman asked if there was any public comment.

Peg Busse, 37 Abbott Road, asked for an explanation of what this ordinance does and doesn't do.

Ms. Houlihan shared that this ordinance was developed by the Economic Development Commission (EDC) and that it is allowed by State Statute; it offers a tax abatement, up to 50%, for dairy, vegetable, fruit and nursery farms, vineyards for growing wine grapes, tobacco farms, and farms

using non-traditional techniques such as hydroponics. The EDC's mission is to encourage a growing, sustainable, and diverse tax base. This ordinance would help to sustain farming operations in Ellington; according to the Connecticut Farm Bureau, 16 other towns in the state have similar abatement programs.

Ms. Houlihan shared details of an evaluation regarding the cost of Town services based on three major land uses: residential, commercial/industrial, and agricultural/open space; it was determined that this proposal meets the EDC's mission for diversifying the tax base in Town. This ordinance also received approval from the Town Ordinance Committee, Board of Selectmen, and Board of Finance prior to this evening's Public Hearing and Town Meeting. Ms. Houlihan briefly outlined the eligibility requirements of the abatement program.

Hearing no further comments, First Selectman Spielman declared that the Public Hearing was closed at 6:06 pm and thanked everyone for coming.

Respectfully submitted,

*Julia Connor*

Julia Connor, Recording Secretary

*Lori Spielman*

Lori Spielman, First Selectman