



STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND  
INCORPORATED 1786

# TOWN OF ELLINGTON

55 MAIN STREET – PO BOX 187  
ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187  
TEL 860-870-3100 FAX 860-870-3102

[www.ellington-ct.gov](http://www.ellington-ct.gov)

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

January 27, 2025

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

### REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

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

The Board of Selectmen (BOS) meeting was called to order at 6:31 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; Tiffany Pignataro, Finance Officer/Treasurer; Tom Modzelewski, Director, Perry Dikeman, Mechanic II, Department of Public Works; John Rainaldi, Assessor; Alisha Carpino, Director of Finance and Operations, Ellington Public Schools  
Emergency Service Agency Representatives Present: Robert Smith, Chief, Cole Prato, Deputy Chief of Training, Ellington Volunteer Fire Department (EVFD); Peter Hany, President, Alisa Smith, Scheduling Officer/Lieutenant, Ellington Volunteer Ambulance Corps (EVAC)

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

#### III. PUBLIC COMMENT [Shall not exceed 30 minutes unless extended by majority vote of the Board]

No citizens came forward.

#### IV. NEW BUSINESS

##### **A. 2025-2026 Capital Improvements Deliberations**

##### 1. Board of Selectmen Capital Improvements Committee Presents Recommendations to the Board of Selectmen

Mr. Stavens brought up the possibility of eliminating one of the Capital Improvements meetings moving forward, as the ultimate recommendation comes from the full BOS. The subcommittee meeting requirement is included in the Capital Improvements Program Policy; if the BOS chooses to review the policy, this requirement could be revised. Currently, if a BOS or BOF member does not attend the subcommittee presentation meeting, redundant questions may be asked at a later meeting. The intention of having the presentation at an earlier meeting is to allow time to review and process the information and ask questions, but since the material goes out in December, there is still enough time for that to occur. BOF members should attend the BOS Capital Improvements meeting to hear the detailed presentation. Ms. Cardin stated that it makes sense to give members enough

time to digest the information, and that there should be one meeting with the presentation and one meeting where the full BOS makes a recommendation to the BOF.

Mr. Stavens went through the five categories and totals recommended by the Capital Improvements Committee: *Road Construction - \$935,800; Building Construction - \$25,000; Building Repairs - \$203,000; Miscellaneous - \$339,668; Equipment Purchase - \$464,200*. The gross total comes to \$1,967,668, less grants and municipal aid, for a net amount of \$1,495,141.

## 2. Board of Selectmen Deliberations – 2025-2026 Capital Improvement Requests

Discussion was held on each item. Mr. Turner asked how many miles of unimproved roads there are in Town; Mr. Modzelewski stated that there are about 4.6 miles, about a mile less than a few years ago. Mr. Turner asked if the mileage is expected to continue to decrease. Mr. Modzelewski shared that ideally yes; there is a shovel-ready project on Ladd Road, there are desired improvements on Newell Hill Road, and Webster Road will become further developed. Ms. Cardin asked if this funding was used for maintenance or improvements to the roads; Mr. Modzelewski said both, depending on weather-related damage over the course of the year. Any additional money could also theoretically be used as a grant match if an appropriate opportunity became available; the fund currently holds \$39,210. Ms. Cardin asked if developers are required to pave roads; Mr. Modzelewski stated that there is no such requirement when developing property adjacent to existing roads, only if the developer built the road and then turned it over to the Town.

First Selectman Spielman asked for a brief summary of the Board of Education - CIP Construction Projects item. Ms. Carpino shared that this funding is to continue repairs to flooring and sidewalks throughout the district, depending on where the greatest needs are. Mr. Turner stated that while he understands certain bucketing approaches, he starts to question grouping small facility maintenance items and calling it a capital request. Ms. Carpino confirmed that any project within this line would meet the policy requirements. Ms. Cardin echoed Mr. Turner's comments, noting that no particular project was identified within the request there was no estimate or quote included; she was not in favor of this item, nor was Mr. Stavens. This item will not be recommended to the BOF.

The Town Hall Renovation/Addition line covers items including handrails, which are not up to proper standards, roof repairs, and fencing. The total request is \$60,000, with the handrails accounting for around \$24,000. Ms. Cardin recommended that all of the specific details be included in the requests moving forward.

Discussion was held on the various library updates that are planned. Mr. Turner asked about the fire protection system; Mr. Modzelewski stated that eventually all of the plumbing will need to be replaced, as there have been issues with leaking, and that there is work to be done in the basement as well as a couple of doors that need replacing. It was confirmed that this work would be done within the upcoming fiscal year, and that costs would be shared with the Friends of the Library for the basement work. Mr. Turner asked if the basement would be completely sealed or if there would be sump pumps incorporated into the area; Mr. Modzelewski stated that there are two different proposals being examined. Brief discussion was also held on the work being proposed at the Old Crystal Lake School House.

First Selectman Spielman asked if it would be possible to put the EVFD Bathroom Remodel on hold in order to get a better idea of what the long-term use of the building will be. However, it was agreed

that this project does need to be completed if the building continues to be utilized. Mr. Stomberg noted that a lot of money has gone into the building in recent years, and although strategic planning is necessary to develop long-term plans for the Town, it is likely that the Town will use this building in the future and the bathroom remodel will prove useful.

Ms. Cardin asked about the Transfer Station Site Improvements, noting that there was no specific documentation. Mr. Modzelewski shared that this request is geared towards engineering and surveying work, including any necessary designing, permitting, and environmental consulting that will be required to properly develop the property. Ms. Cardin noted that it would be helpful to show exactly what makes up the total request for the project. Mr. Stavens commented that this request was getting away from specifics.

Mr. Turner asked if the tennis and basketball courts at Tedford Park were included in this request. Mr. Modzelewski confirmed this, noting that the addition of pickleball courts and lights has significantly increased the use of the Tedford Park courts. Mr. Prichard asked about the High School Track request; Mr. Modzelewski shared that this funding will cover maintenance needs, and any excess funding can be set aside to offset the future cost of a replacement.

Mr. Turner commented that he has been very supportive of the Guide Rail Program in past years, as there are many sections where there are sudden drop offs or old guard posts which is hazardous; he would like this program to continue, and Mr. Modzelewski expressed appreciation for this support.

Mr. Modzelewski clarified that the Crystal Lake Beach item is for engineering and architectural design so that if a grant for the facility is identified, the plan is ready to go. Ms. Cardin noted a discrepancy between the request and the provided estimate. Mr. Stavens noted that the request will still go before the BOF, so this can be clarified before that final meeting.

Discussion was held on the need and purpose of the High School Fence, and Mr. Modzelewski confirmed that there would be emergency vehicle access. Ms. Cardin indicated that she is not in support of this request.

First Selectman Spielman asked if the BOE Equipment Upgrades was a bucketed item; Ms. Carpino stated that it was, including classroom furniture replacement, AV replacements for smartboards across the district, and a lawn tractor with snow equipment. Mr. Turner stated that he understands that new technology needs updating, but when it comes to furniture, he questioned why this needs to happen every year. Ms. Carpino shared that one classroom per year is replaced across the district, so the furniture ends up being replaced approximately every 30 years or so. Mr. Stavens commented that the tractor should be listed as its own item. Mr. Pignataro can create new lines for the individual items if the BOS doesn't want to pass this bucketed category as a group. Mr. Prichard asked if the old tractor would be repurposed or disposed of. Ms. Carpino stated that she would see if it was needed elsewhere but there isn't much life left to it; it could be posted to a surplus website to get some money back on it. Ms. Cardin asked for a breakdown on the total cost of the three items; Ms. Carpino shared that the classroom furniture is \$30,000, the AV needs are \$25,000, and the lawn tractor is \$17,668. First Selectman Spielman said that there may be better prices available for the tractor; it was noted that whatever is not spent will be returned to the undesignated fund balance, and that this will be presented as three separate line items for the BOF.

Moving forward, Mr. Turner would like some indication that either all funds will be spent during the year or that some will be carried over for a future project, but that all requests are for justifiable capital improvement items, as there has been some ambiguity.

Ms. Cardin asked if the Snow Plow Dumptrucks Replacement would be purchased in the upcoming year. Mr. Modzelewski said that it would be, and that request in FY2027-2028 would be to fund the replacement of the Parks Crew Chief Truck; he plans to alternate these types of proposals with the larger expenditures. Mr. Turner noted that the Disc Style Seeder does a much better job than other types and is well worth it. Mr. Stavens asked if the EVAC Service Vehicle Truck Replacement could be postponed for a year, as there are only 23,000 miles on the vehicle. President Hany stated that the contract allows for the replacement this year, the cost of a new vehicle will not go down in the future, and that the charging fund will be paying for it. Discussion was held on possible alternative uses for the old vehicle.

3. Board of Selectmen Recommendation to the Capital Improvements Budget for 2025-2026 and Recommendation to the Board of Finance

Ms. Pignataro read off the following BOS-approved projects and corresponding amounts: Road Overlay \$650,000; Local Capital Improvement Program \$165,800; Unimproved Road Improvement \$50,000; Sidewalks \$20,000; Culvert Maintenance & Repair \$20,000; Large/Small Bridges \$30,000; DPW – Town Hall Renovation/Addition \$60,000; DPW – DPW Building Maintenance \$25,000; DPW – Library Updates \$50,000; DPW – Old Crystal Lake School House Repairs \$20,000; EVFD – Bathroom Remodel \$48,000; DPW – Parking Lot Renovations \$30,000; DPW – Transfer Station Site Improvements \$20,000; DPW – Tennis & Basketball Court Maintenance \$25,000; DPW – High School Track \$25,000; DPW – Guide Rail Program \$20,000; DPW – Crystal Lake Beach \$50,000; DPW – High School Fence \$40,000; Assessor – Revaluation \$57,000; BOE – Modern Classroom Furniture \$30,000; BOE – Lawn Tractor \$17,668; BOE – A/V Upgrades \$25,000; DPW – Snow Plow Dumptrucks Replacement \$90,000; DPW – Loader \$195,000; DPW – Parks Equipment \$20,000; DPW – Equipment Trailer \$20,000; DPW – Disc Style Seeder \$26,000; EVAC – Service Vehicle SUV Replacement \$83,200; BOE – Vehicle Replacement \$30,000.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO RECOMMEND THE AFOREMENTIONED ITEMS, AS PRESENTED BY THE FINANCE OFFICER/TREASURER, TO THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026.

FURTHER, TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF FINANCE A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BUDGET FOR 2025-2026 A GROSS AMOUNT OF \$1,942,668, LESS GRANTS & REIMBURSEMENTS/BONDING/ LEASES: MUNICIPAL GRANTS IN AID (\$223,527); AMBULANCE FEE FUND (\$83,200); STATE GRANT LOCIP (\$165,800), FOR A TOTAL OF \$472,527; FOR A TOTAL NET AMOUNT OF \$1,470,141 **[ATTACHED]**.

V. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STOMBERG) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS DELIBERATIONS MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN AT 8:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Julia Connor*

Julia Connor, Recording Secretary

*Lori Spielman*

Lori Spielman, First Selectman

BOARD OF SELECTMEN								CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BUDGET REQUEST 2025-26					
PROPOSED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT													
BUDGET- 2025-26													
	BOS					APPROVED	BOS	BOF					
	Approved					BOS CAP	APPROVED	APPROVED					
	Requests			TOTAL	BUDGET	IMP COM	CAP IMP						
Amounts shown in dollars	Budget	Cap Non-	BOF	ESTIMATED	REQUESTS	PROJECTS	PROJECTS						
	Requests	Recur	APPROVED	COST	2025-26	2025-26	2025-26	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-2031
<b>ROAD CONSTRUCTION</b>													
Road Overlay	650,000	650,000	650,000	3,900,000	650,000	650,000	650,000		650,000	650,000	650,000	650,000	650,000
Local Capital Improvement Program	108,297	108,297	165,800	994,800	165,800	165,800	165,800		165,800	165,800	165,800	165,800	165,800
Unimproved Road Improvement	30,000	30,000	15,000	425,000	50,000	50,000	50,000		75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000
Sidewalks	20,000	20,000	20,000	120,000	20,000	20,000	20,000		20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Culvert Maintenance & Repair	10,000	10,000	10,000	120,000	20,000	20,000	20,000		20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Large/Small Bridges	30,000	30,000	30,000	180,000	30,000	30,000	30,000		30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
Total	848,297	848,297	890,800	5,739,800	935,800	935,800	935,800	-	960,800	960,800	960,800	960,800	960,800
<b>BUILDING CONSTRUCTION</b>													
BOE - CIP Construction Projects	135,000	135,000	40,000	525,000	25,000	25,000	-		100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Total	135,000	135,000	40,000	525,000	25,000	25,000	-	-	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
<b>BUILDING REPAIRS</b>													
DPW - Town Hall Renovation/Addition	-	-	-	260,000	60,000	60,000	60,000		40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
DPW - Town Hall Gutters & Painting	55,000	55,000	40,000	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-
DPW - Senior Center Updates	20,000	20,000	20,000	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-
DPW - DPW Building Maintenance	40,000	40,000	25,000	125,000	25,000	25,000	25,000		20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
DPW - ADA Access	25,000	25,000	5,000	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-
DPW - Library Updates	55,000	55,000	55,000	200,000	50,000	50,000	50,000		30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
BOE - Roof Replacement	-	-	-	5,151,380	-	-	-		-	5,151,380	-	-	-
DPW - Old Crystal Lake School House Repairs	-	-	-	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000		-	-	-	-	-
EVFD - Bathroom Remodel	-	-	-	48,000	48,000	48,000	48,000		-	-	-	-	-
Total	195,000	195,000	145,000	5,804,380	203,000	203,000	203,000	-	90,000	5,241,380	90,000	90,000	90,000

BOARD OF SELECTMEN PROPOSED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET - 2025-26	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BUDGET REQUEST 2025-26													
	BOS					APPROVED		BOS	BOF					
	Approved					BOS CAP	APPROVED	APPROVED						
	Requests					IMP COM	CAP IMP							
Amounts shown in dollars	Budget	Cap Non-	BOF	TOTAL	BUDGET									
	Requests	Recur	APPROVED	ESTIMATED	REQUESTS	PROJECTS	PROJECTS		2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-2031
	2024-25	2024-25	2024-25	COST	2025-26	2025-26	2025-26	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-2031	
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>														
DPW - Parking Lot Renovations	-	20,000	20,000	180,000	30,000	30,000	30,000		30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	
DPW - Transfer Station Site Improvements	20,000	20,000	-	120,000	20,000	20,000	20,000		20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	
DPW - Generator Upgrade	5,000	5,000	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	
DPW - Tennis & Basketball Court Maintenance	20,000	20,000	-	150,000	25,000	25,000	25,000		25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	
DPW - High School Track	10,000	10,000	-	150,000	25,000	25,000	25,000		25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	
DPW - Bleacher Repair/Replacement	5,000	5,000	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	
DPW - Guide Rail Program	20,000	20,000	20,000	120,000	20,000	20,000	20,000		20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	
DPW - Crystal Lake Beach	-	-	-	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000		-	-	-	-	-	
DPW - High School Fence	-	-	-	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000		-	-	-	-	-	
Assessor - Revaluation	67,000	67,000	67,000	342,000	57,000	57,000	57,000		57,000	57,000	57,000	57,000	57,000	
BOE - Modern Classroom Furniture	-	-	-	-	-	-	30,000		-	-	-	-	-	
BOE - Lawn Tractor	-	-	-	-	-	-	17,668		-	-	-	-	-	
BOE - A/V Upgrades	-	-	-	-	-	-	25,000		-	-	-	-	-	
BOE - Equipment Upgrades	95,000	95,000	95,000	868,895	72,668	72,668	-		356,227	170,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	
<b>Total</b>	<b>242,000</b>	<b>262,000</b>	<b>202,000</b>	<b>2,020,895</b>	<b>339,668</b>	<b>339,668</b>	<b>339,668</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>533,227</b>	<b>347,000</b>	<b>267,000</b>	<b>267,000</b>	<b>267,000</b>	
<b>EQUIPMENT PURCHASE</b>														
DPW - Snow Plow Dumptrucks Replacement	210,000	210,000	210,000	150,000	90,000	90,000	90,000		-	60,000	-	-	-	
DPW - Loader	-	-	-	195,000	195,000	195,000	195,000		-	-	-	-	-	
DPW - Building Inspector Vehicle Replacement	50,000	50,000	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	
DPW - Stand on Blower	15,000	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	
DPW - Parks Equipment	50,000	50,000	50,000	60,000	20,000	20,000	20,000		-	20,000	-	20,000	-	
DPW - Equipment Trailer	-	-	-	70,000	20,000	20,000	20,000		-	-	-	50,000	-	
DPW - Disc Style Seeder	-	-	-	26,000	26,000	26,000	26,000		-	-	-	-	-	
EVFD - Rescue Tools Replacement	51,767	51,767	51,767	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	
EVAC - Ambulance Replacement	375,000	375,000	375,000	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	
EVAC - Service Vehicle SUV Replacement	-	-	-	83,200	83,200	83,200	83,200		-	-	-	-	-	
EVFD - Confined Space Equipment	-	-	-	35,000	-	-	-		35,000	-	-	-	-	
EVFD - Service Vehicle Truck Replacement	-	-	-	150,000	-	-	-		-	-	150,000	-	-	
EVFD - Tanker 143 Refurbishment	-	-	-	350,000	-	-	-		-	350,000	-	-	-	
BOE - Vehicle Replacement	-	-	-	155,000	30,000	30,000	30,000		25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	
<b>Total</b>	<b>751,767</b>	<b>736,767</b>	<b>686,767</b>	<b>1,274,200</b>	<b>464,200</b>	<b>464,200</b>	<b>464,200</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>455,000</b>	<b>175,000</b>	<b>95,000</b>	<b>25,000</b>	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2,172,064</b>	<b>2,177,064</b>	<b>1,964,567</b>	<b>15,364,275</b>	<b>1,967,668</b>	<b>1,967,668</b>	<b>1,942,668</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,744,027</b>	<b>7,104,180</b>	<b>1,592,800</b>	<b>1,512,800</b>	<b>1,442,800</b>	
<b>TOTAL FUNDING</b>	<b>2,172,064</b>	<b>2,177,064</b>	<b>1,964,567</b>	<b>15,364,275</b>	<b>1,967,668</b>	<b>1,967,668</b>	<b>1,942,668</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,744,027</b>	<b>7,104,180</b>	<b>1,592,800</b>	<b>1,512,800</b>	<b>1,442,800</b>	

BOARD OF SELECTMEN								CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BUDGET REQUEST 2025-26					
PROPOSED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT													
BUDGET- 2025-26													
	BOS					APPROVED	BOS	BOF					
	Approved					BOS CAP	APPROVED	APPROVED					
	Requests			TOTAL	BUDGET	IMP COM	CAP IMP						
Amounts shown in dollars	Budget	Cap Non-	BOF	ESTIMATED	REQUESTS	PROJECTS	PROJECTS						
	Requests	Recur	APPROVED	COST	2025-26	2025-26	2025-26	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-2031
<b>LESS FED/STATE GRANTS/ASSESSMENTS/BOND/LEASE</b>													
State Grant - BOE Roof Replacement	-	-	-	2,554,440	-	-	-	-	-	2,554,440	-	-	-
Ambulance Fee Fund	375,000	375,000	375,000	83,200	83,200	83,200	83,200	-	-	-	-	-	-
State Grant - LOCIP (1)	108,297	108,297	165,800	994,800	165,800	165,800	165,800	165,800	165,800	165,800	165,800	165,800	165,800
*Municipal Grants in Aid	223,527	223,527	223,527	-	223,527	223,527	223,527	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>706,824</b>	<b>706,824</b>	<b>764,327</b>	<b>3,632,440</b>	<b>472,527</b>	<b>472,527</b>	<b>472,527</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>165,800</b>	<b>2,720,240</b>	<b>165,800</b>	<b>165,800</b>	<b>165,800</b>
<b>NET COST TO TOWN</b>	<b>1,465,240</b>	<b>1,470,240</b>	<b>1,200,240</b>	<b>11,731,835</b>	<b>1,495,141</b>	<b>1,495,141</b>	<b>1,470,141</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,578,227</b>	<b>4,383,940</b>	<b>1,427,000</b>	<b>1,347,000</b>	<b>1,277,000</b>
<b>CAP NON REC FUND</b>													
One Mill for FY2024-25= \$1,582,582													