



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

February 10, 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 6:30 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; Tom Modzelewski, Director, Perry Dikeman, Mechanic II, Department of Public Works (DPW); Tiffany Pignataro, Finance Officer/Treasurer; Walter Lee, Emergency & Risk Management Director; Molly Lukiwsky, Municipal Management Intern; Donna Hosey, Town Clerk; *Sue Phillips, Hall Memorial Library Director

Emergency Service Agency Representatives Present: Robert Smith, Chief, Thomas Adams, Deputy Chief of Logistics, *Cole Prato, Deputy Chief of Training, Ellington Volunteer Fire Department (EVFD); Peter Hany Sr., President, Bruce Hoffman, Vice President, Alisa Smith, Scheduling Officer/Lieutenant, Ellington Volunteer Ambulance Corps (EVAC); Timothy Seitz, Chief, Crystal Lake Fire Department (CLFD)

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

**Attended via ZOOM*

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

Peg Busse, 37 Abbott Road and President of the Friends of the Library, thanked everyone who helped with the highly successful Mini Golf at the Library event, including DPW workers who ensured that there were pristine sidewalks and a clear parking lot. The Library turned into an 18-hole mini golf course for the Friends of the Library's biggest fundraising event; everyone had a wonderful time, and there were 339 golfers.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. January 13, 2025 Town Meeting

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 13, 2025 TOWN MEETING.

B. January 13, 2025 Regular Meeting

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 13, 2025 REGULAR MEETING.

C. January 27, 2025 Capital Improvements Deliberations

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STOMBERG) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 27, 2025 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS DELIBERATIONS.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STOMBERG) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADD TO THE AGENDA, UNDER NEW BUSINESS, ITEM G. DISPOSAL OF VEHICLE – AMBULANCE.

A. Tax Refunds/Abatements

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE TAX REFUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,071.55 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE TAX & REVENUE COLLECTOR AND AS SPECIFIED IN THE REFUNDS/ABATEMENTS STATEMENT DATED FEBRUARY 2025 [ATTACHED].

B. Ellington Farmers Market Presentation – Dianne Trueb

Ms. Trueb prepared a presentation to share what the Ellington Farmers Market is and how it operates. She started with the Market in 2012, becoming Market Master in 2013. The Market has grown significantly over the years and now operates as a 501(c)(3). Ms. Trueb shared that the mission is to grow a healthy community through economic growth, health and wellness, community building, and providing an outlet for community organizations. There are educational opportunities, including the Kids Power of Produce program. The Market also matches SNAP and doubles Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) vouchers. The Market actively pursues funding through grants, the Market Partner program, and other fundraising efforts. One long-term goal is to create an investment account that would support a future Market Master. The Market moved from Arbor Park to the new location on Maple Street last year, which has proven to be a successful transition. The Market has invested \$17,000 and hundreds of hours into the new property, with assistance from Ellington DPW.

There are two ways that the Town can help support the Market, including the future addition of permanent structures for the farmers and vendors. The space could also be used by other organizations for events, such as Winterfest. Ms. Trueb is asking the BOS to consider providing a long-term agreement for use of the site by the Market, as well as officially designating the site as a Town park. First Selectman Spielman stated that the Market is a wonderful asset to the Town.

Mr. Boucher noted the dramatic jumps of SNAP and FMNP funding and asked if the levels of charitable giving would continue to grow. Ms. Trueb shared that it would depend on the eligibility of the program and availability of program funds. Ms. Cardin asked if other markets in the state are set up as 501(c)(3)s as well; Ms. Trueb stated that most are not, but that it was important to her to be able to give back to those in low-income households.

C. Re-establish Ad Hoc Emergency Services Committee

Mr. Reed noted that this Committee has not met recently, having last acted in 2022. Ms. Cardin asked if these committees were typically reactivated when they had an active purpose. Mr. Reed shared the details of a few of the active Ad Hoc Committees in Town. Ms. Cardin shared that there is a lot to talk about in regard to emergency services but that there should be a purpose or charge to the Committee. Mr. Turner shared that this Committee is strictly advisory and that the original charge was to institute the various emergency services agreements, working with the Town Attorney. Chief Smith stated that it would be good to keep the Committee active and that the members should meet at least once a year. Mr. Turner added that nothing has been referred to the Committee for review, which is why there haven't been any recent meetings.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO RE-ESTABLISH THE AD HOC EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE FOR ONE YEAR THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2026.

D. Consideration of Medical Services Bundle-Billing Agreement with Somers

Mr. Turner asked Mr. Hany if this was in line with agreements with other agencies. Mr. Hany shared the details of current operations and outlined what the proposed agreement entails. Mr. Turner clarified that this would not have an impact on the billing of regular mutual aid responses, only responses that required paramedic-level intervention. Ms. Cardin asked about the bundle billing process, questioning the payment amount that Ellington would be required to cover for these services. If Ellington were to develop in-house paramedic-level services, the Town wouldn't need to use Somers personnel. Mr. Boucher asked if Ellington provided any service to Somers; Mr. Hany shared that there is regular mutual aid between the municipalities.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO AUTHORIZE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR MATTHEW REED TO EXECUTE THE BUNDLE-BILLING AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWN OF SOMERS.

E. Ellington Volunteer Ambulance Agreement – Discussion

Mr. Reed shared some background on the general operations of EVAC and the partnership with the Town. There are some challenges within the current model, and Mr. Reed is looking to review the agreement to match the evolving landscape of the needs of the community and provide a cohesive emergency response plan. The proposal includes hiring a full-time EMS Director and additional full-time staff to ensure maximum availability of the two ambulances, which would allow for greater billing opportunities to recoup some of the operating costs.

First Selectman Spielman noted the amount of time spent recruiting part-time and per diem employees and recognized the various benefits that a full-time director position would offer. Mr. Turner commented on the ever-changing challenges of providing the proper level of emergency response service and offered his support to Mr. Reed to continue reviewing options for the future. Mr. Hany added that change is inevitable and there would be significant up-front costs to make this change, but indicated that the current system is not sustainable. Ms. Cardin is in favor of moving into the future but commented that this is a huge financial investment that the taxpayers are not currently aware of. Mr. Reed clarified that he is not looking for any formal agreement approval at this time; he just wants to ensure that the BOS is agreeable to him continuing these discussions to develop an overall business plan. There is a lot to this overall proposal, and the steps will be fully

vetted and presented to the BOS before any action is taken. The BOS members are in support of Mr. Reed continuing these discussions with Mr. Hany, with Ms. Cardin adding that it is her expectation that detailed plans will be shared with the BOS.

F. Cloud Services – Bid Award

Ms. Cardin asked if the Town had a current agreement with The Computer Company. Ms. Pignataro shared details of the new scoring summary that was provided. Ms. Pignataro stated that this company is currently providing this service at a rate of \$52,000; when these services were competitively bid, the company came in at \$24,000, which is one of the benefits of competitive bidding. There was a lot of activity at the pre-bid meeting, which helped drive pricing.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STOMBERG) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO AWARD THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR CLOUD SERVICES TO THE COMPUTER COMPANY OF CROMWELL, CT FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 1, 2025 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2028 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY. FURTHER, TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE THE CONTRACT EXTENSIONS.

G. Disposal of Vehicle – Ambulance

Ms. Cardin asked if there was an identified buyer. Mr. Reed shared that there are a number of interested parties, and Ms. Pignataro will pursue the avenue that brings in the most money. Mr. Turner encouraged that the vehicle be advertised as it is very marketable and should do well on a resale market. Mr. Stomberg asked why this ambulance was being sold; Mr. Reed stated that this is the oldest of the current vehicles and is being replaced by a newer vehicle.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO AUTHORIZE THE FINANCE OFFICER/TREASURER AND TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO DISPOSE OF THE SPARE AMBULANCE EITHER VIA AUCTION OR PRIVATE PARTY SALE, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE ELLINGTON VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE CHIEF.

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

There was no discussion.

VIII. SELECTMEN COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

A. Personnel Committee

1. Resignations: None

MOVED (PRICHARD), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF JONATHAN KACZMAREK AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION.

MOVED (PRICHARD), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF RACHEL DEARBORN AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION.

2. Appointments

MOVED (PRICHARD), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO PROMOTE JONATHAN KACZMAREK FROM AN ALTERNATE MEMBER TO A FULL MEMBER OF THE INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY, TO COMPLETE AN UNEXPIRED TERM THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2029.

MOVED (PRICHARD), SECONDED (CARDIN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT SUBHRA ROY AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY TO COMPLETE AN UNEXPIRED TERM THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2026.

MOVED (PRICHARD), SECONDED (CARDIN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT ROBERT SMITH AND KARL NEUBECKER AS THE ELLINGTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE AD HOC EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE TO SERVE ONE-YEAR TERMS THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2026.

MOVED (PRICHARD), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO REAPPOINT ROBERT EDWARDS, TIMOTHY SEITZ, PETER HANY SR., BRUCE HOFFMAN, AND WALTER LEE TO THE AD HOC EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE TO SERVE ONE-YEAR TERMS THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2026.

B. Liaison Reports: None

IX. FIRST SELECTMAN/TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

First Selectman Spielman attended COST's 2025 Town Meeting, with legislative updates and networking opportunities. The Barn Yard will be donating a bicycle rack for Tedford Park and is interested in holding a "build demonstration day". She also attended the recent ribbon cutting at No Coast Taqueria as well as an open house event at The Barn Yard. A Friends of Agriculture gathering was recently held at Rockville High School, and she shared that the Mini Golf event was a success.

Mr. Reed is working with the Trails Committee to get draft easements for the Windermere Trail. He commended the work that went into the emergency markers program which allows emergency personnel to know exactly where a hiker is in the event of an emergency on a trail. The budget process is ongoing, and there are two union contracts in negotiations this year, Police and EVAC. He attended a CT Foundation for Open Government event as well as a regional leaders luncheon. Required annual training is ongoing for employees, and he recently met with local legislators to talk about the CMERS litigation. There was a Crumbling Foundations Caucus Update; the program will likely be closed out between 2030 and 2032. Ellington has about 58 pending homes with crumbling foundations; these properties have significantly reduced assessments which is a big hit to the Grand List. DPW is analyzing the services that are performed for the Housing Authority; trash and recycling are being withdrawn, with plowing and WPCA services the next to be reviewed. Mr. Reed shared that each year, the Beautification Committee has a small sum in the Town Budget; however, there is a permanent fund that exists, the Mary Wadsworth Gardner Fund, that may be appropriate to utilize for this purpose, saving taxpayer dollars.

X. CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER COMMUNICATION FROM THE BOS

A news article from Lancaster, PA on Modern Milkman and Oakridge Dairy was shared.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (BOUCHER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN AT 7:57 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
February 2025**

Amount	Name	Tax	GL Year	Requesting Dept.	Reason
\$ 1,257.17	CHAVES MELISSA + MARC	MV	2023	ASSESSOR	SOLD 12/23
\$ 252.22	DELRAY CONTRACTING INC	MV	2023	ASSESSOR	SOLD 3/24
\$ 1,053.91	FLAHERTY THOMAS	MV	2023	ASSESSOR	APPLY AOA EXEMPTION
\$ 126.79	GEORGIAN JOHN	MV	2023	ASSESSOR	APPLY VET EXEMPTION
\$ 133.09	DAVID M GIANNETTE (EXECUTOR)	MV	2023	TAX	OVERPAYMENT
\$ 363.09	HONDA LEASE TRUST	MV	2023	ASSESSOR	SOLD 1/24
\$ 34.38	KRIESKI JOHN	MV	2023	ASSESSOR	SOLD 8/24
\$ 125.00	OPPERMANSTONE JOANN	MV	2023	ASSESSOR	SOLD 10/23
\$ 1,108.51	SAMSON STEPHEN	MV	2023	ASSESSOR	SOLD 4/24
\$ 137.96	SAWYER WILLIAM	MV	2023	ASSESSOR	SOLD 7/23
\$ 106.63	SIROIS DIANNE	MV	2023	ASSESSOR	REG IN SC 7/24
\$ 224.95	TOYOTA LEASE TRUST	MV	2023	ASSESSOR	SOLD 5/24
\$ 147.85	TOYOTA LEASE TRUST	MV	2023	ASSESSOR	SOLD 6/24
\$ 5,071.55	REFUND TOTAL FOR FEBRUARY 2025				