



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

May 12, 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; Rebecca Stack, Human Services Director; Perry Dikeman, Mechanic II, Department of Public Works (DPW); *Sue Phillips, Director, Hall Memorial Library; Sgt. Brian Santa, Resident State Troopers' Supervisor

Emergency Service Agency Representatives Present: Peter Hany Sr., President, Alisa Smith, Scheduling Officer/Lieutenant, *Joshua Rosenfeld, Treasurer, Ellington Volunteer Ambulance Corps (EVAC); Robert Smith, Chief, Cole Prato, Deputy Chief of Training, Ellington Volunteer Fire Department (EVFD)

**Attended via ZOOM*

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

Debbie Newton, 20 Main Street and Tenant Commissioner of the Housing Authority, brought up the discussion from the March 10, 2025 BOS meeting regarding the potential termination of services at Snipsic Village. A specific concern of residents is the snowplowing service that DPW currently provides. Many residents do drive, and others have nurses and aides that regularly come in to assist them, and the Town's plowing response is very prompt, which may not be the case with an outside company. As there are many capital improvements that need to be taken care of at Snipsic Village, there aren't a lot of funds open to use on such a service, though the Housing Authority has expressed a willingness to negotiate and work together with the Town. Ms. Newton shared that the residents truly appreciate the services that the Town provides.

Tom Palshaw, 120 Pinney Street, thanked the BOS for putting the packet material on the website. This offers a nice open history of town business and provides ultimate transparency in government.

Chief Smith asked the BOS to think about solutions for Green Road; issues including brush fires and illegal parties are common there and there should be a discussion about possible fixes. He also

asked about the land purchase that was made to improve access to Soapstone Mountain. First Selectman Spielman shared that the parcel was walked through about a month ago and DPW has been doing some clearing. Brief discussion was held on various access points and ultimate goals.

Mr. Rosenfeld shared that he has concerns about how the Ellington Ambulance transition has been approached; Mr. Stavens stated that this discussion should occur under that agenda item.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. April 7, 2025 Regular Meeting

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (CARDIN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 7, 2025 REGULAR MEETING.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADD TO THE AGENDA, UNDER NEW BUSINESS, ITEM G. LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERSHIP.

A. Tax Refunds/Abatements

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE TAX REFUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,763.40 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE TAX & REVENUE COLLECTOR AND AS SPECIFIED IN THE REFUNDS/ABATEMENTS STATEMENT DATED MAY 2025 [ATTACHED].

B. Re-establish Ad Hoc Crystal Lake Milfoil Committee

First Selectman Spielman shared that this group does a great job, and they take on a lot of work.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STOMBERG) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO RE-ESTABLISH THE AD HOC CRYSTAL LAKE MILFOIL COMMITTEE FOR ONE YEAR THROUGH MAY 31, 2026.

C. Parachute Activity at Ellington Airport

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (BOUCHER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO RECOMMEND TO THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT AIRPORT AUTHORITY THAT THE LICENSE TO PERMIT PARACHUTE JUMPING AT ELLINGTON AIRPORT BE RENEWED FOR ONE YEAR.

D. Special Event Licenses

1. Movie Night at the Farm

Ms. Cardin asked if any departments had submitted responses to the event. The Planning Department had responded, indicating that this seemed similar to past events run by Oakridge that have gone smoothly and there were no concerns.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STOMBERG) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ISSUE A SPECIAL EVENT LICENSE TO OAKRIDGE DAIRY FOR A MOVIE NIGHT ON THE FARM EVENT TO BE HELD ON OAKRIDGE DAIRY PROPERTY ON JUNE 7, 2025 FROM 7:00 TO 10:00 PM. FURTHER, THAT THE ISSUANCE OF THIS SPECIAL EVENT LICENSE IS CONTINGENT UPON THE APPROVAL OF ALL APPROPRIATE TOWN DEPARTMENTS/AGENCIES AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH TOWN ORDINANCE REQUIREMENTS.

2. Oakridge Dairy Farm Day

Mr. Boucher noted that last year's event was great.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ISSUE A SPECIAL EVENT LICENSE TO OAKRIDGE DAIRY FOR A FARM DAY EVENT TO BE HELD AT 11 JOBS HILL ROAD ON JUNE 28, 2025 FROM 10:00 AM TO 2:00 PM. FURTHER, THAT THE ISSUANCE OF THIS SPECIAL EVENT LICENSE IS CONTINGENT UPON THE APPROVAL OF ALL APPROPRIATE TOWN DEPARTMENTS/ AGENCIES AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH TOWN ORDINANCE REQUIREMENTS.

E. Proposed Expenditure: Opioid Settlement Fund, Summer Concert Series

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (BOUCHER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO AUTHORIZE THE HUMAN SERVICES DIRECTOR TO EXPEND \$1,700 IN FUNDING FROM THE OPIOID SETTLEMENT SPECIAL REVENUE FUND TO COVER THE COST OF MATERIALS FOR THE SUMMER CONCERT SERIES AND RESOURCE CARDS FOR UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS.

F. Update: Ellington Ambulance Transition (Discussion)

Mr. Reed provided the current working documents and noted that the major change would be a transition to a full-time paid professional to oversee the day-to-day operations.

Mr. Rosenfeld shared that EVAC has served the Town since 1962. He noted that it still remains unclear to him what role the EVAC organization would play in the new operational standard. He expressed concern with the rapid change of operations, commenting that this transition hasn't been discussed with the full EVAC Board or general membership. Mr. Reed stated that this information should have been shared, as this has been an open discussion for many months; he referenced the report from 2016 that included recommendations to modernize the operations. He shared that it has been made clear in meetings that this is not intended to disparage the fine volunteer work over the history of the organization; it is understood that the volunteers provide hundreds of hours of excellent service. This is an attempt by the Town to further the good work being done; the volunteers will still be utilized as much as possible. Mr. Turner identified the current award and incentive programs that the volunteers are entitled to, adding that those should continue, though this wasn't explicitly included in the draft agreement. Mr. Reed noted that the intent was always to continue these programs, and this will be acknowledged in the agreement. It was also noted that EVAC, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) and that the officers are in charge of running the business of EVAC, not the business of the Town. Mr. Hany confirmed that EVAC would maintain the license and emphasized the importance of working together and collaboration. EVAC meetings are public and open to anyone who wishes to attend. Mr. Rosenfeld noted that the EVAC Board would still have a functional role, and the current draft agreement does not provide for that, and he noted that the real need is staffing on the ground, not a supervisor. The draft agreement is a work in progress and can be further developed with these ideas in mind. Mr. Hany clarified that this proposed position does not have to be filled for the start of the new fiscal year on July 1.

Mr. Reed commented that there comes a point where it's important to move forward and that this agreement should be amenable and beneficial for both sides. The Town would assume responsibility for routine items like staffing and scheduling. Ms. Cardin added that during her years in Town, EVAC has been a great organization that always shows up, and she wants to ensure that all concerns are considered so that there isn't a time period where there are any miscommunications or misunderstandings about who is responsible for what. She also brought up her concern for a set replacement schedule for vehicles, as these should be replaced when it is actually necessary; she

thinks this language should be examined further. Discussion was held on the relationship between the EVAC charging fund and the Town budget.

Mr. Stavens brought up Mr. Rosenfeld's point about staffing, noting that this new position may adjust plans to better fit the shift coverage needs. There may also be the ability to provide framework surrounding supervisory positions within the membership. It was agreed that the overall goal is to have two ambulances on call at all times.

Ms. Cardin asked why the job description was geared more towards EVAC as opposed to general emergency services. A broader public safety position would be the administrative lead for the fire departments as well as EVAC, and this type of position was contemplated a number of years ago. There are a number of fire-related qualifications in the current position description draft, as there is the potential down the road for this position to expand in that direction. Mr. Turner added that many EMS calls also include responses from fire personnel.

G. Library Board of Trustees Membership

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (CARDIN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF JANET WIELICZKA FROM THE LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES, EFFECTIVE MAY 13, 2025.

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

There was no discussion.

VIII. SELECTMEN COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

A. Personnel Committee

1. Resignations: None
2. Appointments

MOVED (PRICHARD), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO REAPPOINT DAVID ARZT, JEAN BURNS, LEON VERETTO, RODGER HOSIG, AND VICTOR LAPTIK TO THE AD HOC CRYSTAL LAKE MILFOIL COMMITTEE FOR ONE-YEAR TERMS THROUGH MAY 31, 2026.

MOVED (PRICHARD), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT LISA RICE TO THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS TO COMPLETE AN UNEXPIRED TERM THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2028.

MOVED (PRICHARD), SECONDED (STOMBERG) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT ALLAN LAWRENCE TO THE ETHICS COMMISSION TO COMPLETE AN UNEXPIRED TERM THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2029.

B. Town Policies Committee (TPC)

1. Wall of Honor

Mr. Turner shared that the packet of eligible candidates was provided, and after some consideration, the TPC selected John S. Watts as this year's nominee. Two new applications were received this year, with six carryovers from 2022. Members acknowledged the significant work done by many of the applicants, noting that the longevity of efforts by Mr. Watts and the wide impact on many groups and individuals was key in this decision.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (CARDIN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO SELECT JOHN S. WATTS AS THE WALL OF HONOR RECIPIENT FOR 2025, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

TOWN POLICIES COMMITTEE. FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT THE INDUCTION CEREMONY WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2025 AT 4:00 PM IN ARBOR PARK.

C. Liaison Reports: None

IX. FIRST SELECTMAN/TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

First Selectman Spielman shared that while Earth Day was a little damp, the event went on and was successful thanks to the hard work of the staff; it is always a great time for people to get out in the spring. Recent events she has attended include a CRCOG Legislative Committee meeting at the Capitol, a CCM meeting in Wallingford, and a Midwest Food Bank tour, where they explained the history and current operations. She also attended the 200th Anniversary Celebration of the Grand Lodge on Orchard Street; it was a great opportunity to learn about what the Freemasons do. On May 1st, a budget presentation was held at the Senior Center; the DPW Director, Finance Officer, and Superintendent were present, but only four residents were in the audience. She attended the most recent Zoning Board of Appeals meeting, and the Farmers Market season kicked off on May 3, which was a great day at the Nellie McKnight Museum as well. She, along with Recreation Director Dustin Huguenin, attended the New England Parks Spring Meeting at Wickham Park, where they could interact with other towns about programming and general improvements. On May 22, there will be a special Veterans Coffeehouse event at Arbor Park. Ms. Stack shared that this will be the unveiling of the new Salute in Banners program; veterans are being honored, and there were 21 applicants this first year. Ellington Printery designed the banners, which will be displayed from Memorial Day Weekend through Veterans Day.

First Selectman Spielman shared that the Ellington Business Open Forum series will be kicking off soon, to be held quarterly on Wednesdays at 10:00 am at alternating locations. Local businesses had the opportunity to provide input on the group, and there will be keynote speakers and different discussions on how things can be improved. The first event will be held at JRego's. First Selectman Spielman also shared that the Meadowview Plaza landscaping will be redone after the sidewalk is installed.

Mr. Reed shared that there was also a budget presentation at the Library; only a couple of citizens attended, but at least it was offered. A mailer was sent out explaining the budget overview and impact on taxpayers. The Annual Town Budget Meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 13 at 7:00 pm at the high school; this will be adjourned to a referendum vote on May 27. The Government Finance Officers Association once again recognized the Town for excellence in financial reporting. He also shared the news that the Town has reached its goal of 99% collection of taxes. He brought up the Green Road issues that were previously discussed, sharing that he has talked to the Police, DPW and the Planning Department to discuss strategies to combat unlawful activity. There was a house fire on Gloria Lane in mid-April; first responders were attentive and limited damage by containing the fire to the garage as much as possible. Mr. Reed shared that there has been some online movement opposing a solar field in East Windsor, and there are individuals rallying support to oppose this development; there are no new solar proposals on the table in Ellington. The Maple Street improvements are almost complete. There was some discussion about the Town-owned 59 Maple Street parcel, specifically on some soil contamination and the plan to move forward.

Mr. Reed noted that he will not be present at the June BOS meeting.

First Selectman Spielman highlighted all of the hard work that was done this year to provide information on the budget, from in-person sessions to social media posts, and it is frustrating that so few citizens participated.

Chief Rich asked about the scheduled blasting on Route 140 this week. Mr. Reed shared that there will be two rounds of blasting, 10:00 am and 1:00 pm each day, on Thursday, May 15 and Friday, May 16. This information will be put out on social media and roadways will be monitored.

X. CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER COMMUNICATION FROM THE BOS

No other correspondence was shared.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STOMBERG) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN AT 7:54 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
May 2025

VI.A

Amount	Name	Tax	GL Year	Requesting Dept.	Reason
\$ 1,421.28	CORELOGIC CENTRALIZED REFUNDS	RE	2023	TAX	OVERPAYMENT
\$ 94.73	COSCINA DOUGLAS	MV	2023	TAX	OVERPAYMENT
\$ 125.69	FLUCKIGER CHRISTENE	MV	2023	ASSESSOR	REG OUT OF STATE
\$ 2,558.34	LERETA LLC	RE	2023	TAX	OVERPAYMENT
\$ 160.74	LUGINBUHL MARK	MV	2023	ASSESSOR	SOLD 6/24
\$ 125.00	NUTMEG INDUSTRIAL PARK LLC	SU	2024	WPCA	NO WATER CONNECTION/USAGE
\$ 277.62	PELLETIER PATRICIA	MV	2023	ASSESSOR	REPO 1/24
\$ 4,763.40	REFUND TOTAL FOR MAY 2025				