



DOUGLAS B. HARDING  
Chairman

STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND  
INCORPORATED 1786

# TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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DANIEL KEUNE  
Vice Chairmen

## BOARD OF FINANCE

Board of Education

Regular Meeting

May 27, 2025

MAURICE BLANCHETTE  
LOGAN JOHNSON  
ELIZABETH NORD  
BARRY C. PINTO

## Minutes

**Members Present:** Douglas Harding, Daniel Keune, Barry Pinto, Maurice Blanchette, Liz Nord, Logan Johnson.

**Others Present:** Tiffany Pignataro – Finance Officer, Matt Reed – Town Administrator, Tom Modzelewski – DPW Director, David Stavens – BOS via zoom, Mary Blanchette – resident, James Fay – resident via zoom.

### Roll Call

All members present.

### Public Comment

None came forward.

A motion to add new business item f. Budget Deliberations to the agenda.

MOVED (KEUNE) SECONDED (JOHNSON) TO ADD NEW BUSINESS ITEM F BUDGET DELIBERATIONS TO THE AGENDA.

### Approval of Minutes

#### a. March 4, 2025 – Regular Meeting

A motion to approve the March 4, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes.

MOVED (PINTO) SECONDED (KEUNE) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MARCH 4, 2024 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES.

#### b. March 12, 2025 – BOE Budget Hearing

A motion to approve the March 12, 2025 BOE Budget Hearing Minutes.

MOVED (KEUNE) SECONDED (PINTO) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MARCH 12, 2025 BOE BUDGET HEARING MINUTES.

**c. March 13, 2025 – BOS/Boards and Commissions Budget Hearing**

A motion to approve the March 13, 2025 BOS/Boards and Commissions Budget Hearing

MOVED (KEUNE) SECONDED (PINTO) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MARCH 13, 2025 BOS/BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS BUDGET HEARING.

**d. April 8, 2025 Public Hearing**

A motion to approve the April 8, 2025 Public Hearing minutes.

MOVED (JOHNSON) SECONDED (KEUNE) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE APRIL 8, 2025 PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES.

**e. April 10, 2025 – Budget Deliberations and Final Motions**

A motion to approve the April 10, 2025 Budget Deliberations and Final Motions.

MOVED (NORD) SECONDED (KEUNE) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE APRIL 10, 2025 BUDGET DELIBERATIONS AND FINAL MOTIONS AMENDING THE MINUTES TO STATE MRS. NORD SAID IT'S IMPORTANT TO BRING THE LOWEST NUMBER POSSIBLE TO GET THE BUDGET TO PASS.

**Financial Report**

Mrs. Pignataro reviewed the financial highlights for the year ending April 30, 2025. To provide an accurate financial picture for the Board, the following tasks were completed: reconciling all Town bank accounts, recording Town deposits and payments, and reconciling investment and inter-fund accounts, including those with the Board of Education.

As of April 30, 100.2% of property tax revenue has been collected (99.0% of Ratebook), a slight decrease from 100.4% of budget (99.09% of Ratebook) at the same time last year. The Town has also received \$10,350,893 Education Cost Sharing Grant, STEAP – HML \$500,000 and Motor Vehicle Tax Reimbursement \$418,233. Year-to-date investment earnings total \$1,434,129 YTD, compared to a budgeted amount of \$520,000.

**New Business**

**a. Budget Transfer Request – FY2024-25 – Capital Reserve Fund and Mill Rate Stabilization Fund**

A motion to approve the transfer of \$200,000 for fiscal year 2024-2025 from account 1011-60851 capital reserve fund to account 1046-60250.

MOVED (JOHNSON) SECONDED (NORD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF \$200,000 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 FROM ACCOUNT 1011-60851 CAPITAL RESERVE FUND TO ACCOUNT 1046-60250 MILL RATE STABILIZATION FUND AS RECOMMENDED BY THE FINANCE OFFICER/TREASURER, PENDING BOARD OF SELECTMEN APPROVAL.

**b. Tax Office Suspense List – FY2024-25**

A motion to accept the transfers to suspense of 47 accounts totaling \$9,266.05 as requested by the tax and revenue collector.

MOVED (KEUNE) SECONDED (NORD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO MOVE TO ACCEPT THE TRANSFERS TO SUSPENSE OF 47 ACCOUNTS TOTALING \$9,266.05.

**c. Closeout of Capital Projects – FY2024-25**

A motion to close out the following capital projects to the general fund unassigned fund balance for FY2024-25: EVFD-HVAC 29 MAIN STREET \$893.04, FS-SENIOR CENTER ENERGY PROJECT \$599.00, AND DPW PARKS EQUIPMENT \$5,050.00.

MOVED (KEUNE) SECONDED (NORD) TO CLOSE OUT THE FOLLOWING CAPITAL PROJECTS TO THE GENERAL FUND UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE FOR FY 2024-25: EVFD-HVAC 29 MAIN STREET \$893.04, FS-SENIOR CENTER ENERGY PROJECT \$599.00, AND DPW PARKS EQUIPMENT \$5,050.00, PENDING BOARD OF SELECTMEN APPROVAL.

**d. Budget Deliberations**

The 2025-26 Budget failed – the board collaborated to come up with a new mill rate. Mr. Harding stated at a minimum we need to decrease the mill rate by two tenths. Mr. Johnson stated we should look at 1.1 and see how bad the cut is and see what we're willing to let go based on what the town comes in with.

Mrs. Pignataro stated the board should consider what the charge to the town and Board of Education is there's not a lot of room if the second referendum doesn't pass. It puts them in a situation where they can't get tax bills out. She stated receiving general direction would be very beneficial.

Mr. Keune stated we made hard cuts on the town side last year and stated BOE will need to come in and help us reach the requested decrease this year. Mr. Johnson stated we should look at EVAC for the first cuts, due to the requested two full times salaries and a director.

Mr. Reed stated they should look at deferring the cost of a new two full time employees and look at keeping the Full-Time Director Position and get a sense of how often the second ambulance needs to run. The Director can then look at hiring more personal as needed.

Mr. Johnson stated the town should look at cutting \$300,000 and the Board of Education \$500,000 for a total of \$800,000 in cuts getting us down to 1 mill. The entire board agree on these numbers.

The next meeting will be Thursday, May 29<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm for deliberations to review the cuts provided.

**Adjournment**

MOVED (BLANCHETTE) SECONDED (PINTO) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJURN THE MEETING AT 9:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Elizabeth Luginbuhl, Recording Secretary

