



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 AMENDED REGULAR MEETING

December 2, 2025

MAURICE BLANCHETTE
LOGAN JOHNSON
ELIZABETH NORD
GOMATHI RAMACHANDRAN

Minutes

Members Present: Douglas Harding, Daniel Keune, Maurice Blanchette, Liz Nord, Logan Johnson, Gomathi Ramachandran.

Others Present: Laurie Burstein – First Selectman, Tiffany Pignataro – Finance Officer/Treasurer, Tom Modzelewski - DPW Director, Matt Reed – Town Administrator, Sheila Grady – Senior Center, Tom Palshaw – Resident, Peggy Busse – Library Board via zoom, David Stavens – BOS via zoom, Alisha Carpino – BOE via zoom.

Call to Order

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

Roll Call

All members present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Election of Officers

Mrs. Nord nominated Mr. Johnson for Chair.

Mr. Blanchette nominated Mr. Harding.

The board proceeded to vote. The vote was as follows:

- Maurice Blanchette: Harding
- Dan Keune: Harding
- Doug Harding: Harding
- Liz Nord: Johnson
- Gomathi Ramachandran: Johnson

- Logan Johnson: Johnson

The result of the vote was a tie both times.

As the board was unable to elect a Chair, the matter will be selected at the next Board of Finance meeting.

A motion to elect Doug Harding as Presiding Chairman for the balance of the meeting.

MOVED (KEUNE) SECONDED (NORD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ELECT DOUG HARDING AS PRESIDING CHAIR FOR THE BALANCE OF THE MEETING.

A motion to table item number IV. Election of Officers for next month's Board of Finance meeting.

MOVED (NORD) SECONDED (JOHNSON) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO TABLE SELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMEN TO OUR NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING.

A motion to appoint Lizzy Luginbuhl as the Board of Finance Recording Secretary.

MOVED (NORD) SECONDED (JOHNSON) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT LIZZY LUGINBUHL AS THE BOARD OF FINANCE RECORDING SECRETARY.

Public Comment

Mrs. Burstein came up and congratulated all for election.

Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting – October 7, 2025

A motion to approve the October 7, 2025, Regular Meeting minutes.

MOVED (BLANCHETTE) SECONDED (NORD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 7, 2025, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES.

Presentation

Freedom of Information

Mr. Reed, Town Administrator, gave a brief overview of the Connecticut Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Under FOIA, whenever a quorum of a board, such as a Board of Finance, meets, that gathering constitutes a public meeting. Boards are required to submit a schedule of their regular meetings each year to the town clerk; those dates become the published "regular meetings."

If the board needs to meet at a time not on the regular schedule, that meeting is considered a “special meeting.” Notice of a special meeting, including date, time, place, and purpose, must be filed with the town clerk at least 24 hours in advance.

Mrs. Nord asked to move up item number A. Committee and Liaison Appointment Recommendations under new business to be moved up in the agenda.

New Business

Committee and Liaison Appointment Recommendations

A motion to appoint a board member as the Board of Finance Representative to the Permanent Building Committee.

MOVED (KEUNE) SECONDED (JOHNSON) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT LIZ NORD AS THE BOARD OF FINANCE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE PERMANENT BUILDING COMMITTEE.

A motion to appoint a board member as the Board of Finance Representative to the Ad Hoc Emergency Services.

MOVED (KEUNE) SECONDED (RAMACHANDRAN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT DOUG HARDING AND LOGAN JOHNSON AS THE BOARD OF FINANCE REPRESENTATIVES TO THE AD HOC EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE.

A motion to appoint a board member as the Board of Finance Representative to the Shared Services Commission.

MOVED (NORD) SECONDED (JOHNSON) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT DAN KEUNE AS THE BOARD OF FINANCE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE SHARED SERVICES COMMISSION.

Mr. Johnson moved to nominate Gomathi Ramachandran as the Board of Finance Representative to the Shared Services Commission. The motion failed for lack of a second.

A motion to appoint a board member as the Board of Finance Liaison to the American Rescue Plan Act.

MOVED (KEUNE) SECONDED (ROMACHANDRAN) AND PASSED (AYE: HARDING, KEUNE, NORD, JOHNSON, RAMACHANDRAN – ABSTAIN: MORRIS) TO APPOINT MAURICE BLANCHETTE AS THE AMERICAN RESUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) LIASION.

A motion to appoint a board member as the Board of Finance Liaison to the Board of Education.

MOVED (JOHNSON) SECONDED (RAMACHANDRAN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT LIZ NORD AS THE BOARD OF EDUCATION LIASION.

A motion to appoint a board member as the Board of Finance Liaison to the Hall Memorial Library.

MOVED (JOHNSON) SECONDED (KEUNE) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT GOMATHI RAMACHANDRAN AS THE HALL MEMORIAL LIBRARY LIASION.

6:53 PM LIZ NORD LEFT THE MEETING.

Financial Report

Mrs. Pignataro reviewed the financial highlights as of October 31, 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 October 31, 2025, the Town has collected \$32,370,067 in property tax revenue, representing 56.5% of the budget and 56% of the Ratebook. This includes \$225,489 in back taxes and interest/lien revenue, compared to a combined budget of \$160,000. At the same point last year, collections totaled \$31,676,063, or 56.8% of the budget (56.2% of the Ratebook). In terms of state and federal grants, the Town has received the following: \$2,585,412 ECS Grant, \$229,029 in Town Road Aid, \$503, 587 Road Work Reimbursement.

Mrs. Pignataro reported that some departments are trending higher YTD due to annual subscriptions or the seasonal nature of the department.

Grant Acceptance – Senior Center Transportation State of CT Dept. of ADS

Mrs. Grady has noted that ARPA funds have been awarded to the Senior Center as a one-time grant, with no local matching funds required. However, the town must still designate funds in reserve for reimbursement purposes. Over the last five years the Senior Center provided approximately 75 rides per week, amounting to nearly 3,000 rides per year. This grant would allow the purchase of an additional vehicle to support that demand. Mr. Harding asked for an estimated timeframe, and she responded December 2026. She has already begun reviewing potential vendors and vehicles.

MOVED (KEUNE) SECONDED (RAMACHANDRAN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE GRANT FROM THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$99,778 FOR THE PURCHASE OF A NEW, ADA-COMPLIANT WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLE TO EXPAND AND MODERNIZE THE SENIOR CENTER'S FLEET, PENDING BOARD OF SELECTMEN APPROVAL.

Appropriation Requests

Windermere Playground Relocation

A motion to allocate \$35,000 for the relocation of Windermere playground equipment. The proposal would move the equipment belonging to the Windermere facility from Windermere to

Robert Tedford Memorial Park. The removal is planned to occur during winter break, and the equipment will be placed into storage at the Department of Public Works until it warms up.

MOVED (KEUNE) SECONDED (BLANCHETTE) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROPRIATE \$35,000 FROM UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE TO CAPITAL NON-RECURRING FOR THE WINDERMERE PLAYGROUND RELOCATION PROJECT, PENDING BOARD OF SELECTMEN APPROVAL.

Board of Education Unexpended Fund

A motion to appropriate \$150,836 from unassigned fund balance to the Board of Education unexpended funds special revenue fund, pending Board of Selectmen.

MOVED (KEUNE) SECONDED (RAMACHANDRAN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROPRIATE \$150,836 FROM UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION UNEXPENDED FUNDS SPECIAL REVENUE FUND, PENDING BOARD OF SELECTMEN APPROVAL.

2026 Board of Finance Calendar Revision

A motion to accept the revised 2026 Board of Finance meeting schedule as attached.

MOVED (BLANCHETTE) SECONDED (JOHNSON) TO ACCEPT THE REVISED 2026 BOARD OF FINANCE MEETING SCHEDULE AS PRESENTED [ATTACHED].

Unfinished Business

None.

Committee/Liaison Updated

a. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

No update.

a. Shared Services

No update.

b. Deferred Compensation

No update.

c. Ad Hoc Emergency Services

No update.

d. Permanent Building

No update.

e. Board of Education Liaison

No update.

f. Hall Memorial Library Liaison

No update.

Adjournment

MOVED (BLANCHETTE) SECONDED (JOHNSON) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJURN THE MEETING AT 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Elizabeth Luginbuhl, Recording Secretary