



LOGAN JOHNSON  
Chairman

STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND  
INCORPORATED 1786

# TOWN OF ELLINGTON

55 MAIN STREET – PO BOX 187  
ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187  
[www.ellington-ct.gov](http://www.ellington-ct.gov)

ELIZABETH NORD  
Vice Chairmen

## BOARD OF FINANCE REGULAR MEETING

February 3, 2026

MAURICE BLANCHETTE  
DOUGLAS HARDING  
DANIEL KEUNE  
GOMATHI RAMACHANDRAN

### Minutes

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

**Others Present:** Laurie Burstein – First Selectman, Tiffany Pignataro – Finance Officer/ Treasurer, Tom Modzelewski - DPW Director, Matt Reed – Town Administrator, Robert Smith – EVFD, Heather Smith - resident, Pete Hany – EVAC, Dave Stavens – BOS, Mary Cardin – BOS, Arthur Biryukas – IT, Liz Dzen – BOE, Miriam Underwood – BOE, Tom Palshaw – Resident, Cole Prato – EVFD, David Flint – CLA via zoom.

### Call to Order

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

### Roll Call

All members present.

### Pledge of Allegiance

### Chairman's Report

Mr. Johnson stated that the Board of Selectmen has begun work on the budget. He noted that the Board of Education has already submitted its budget.

### Public Comment

Mr. Harding thanked Mr. Modzelewski and the Department of Public Works for their efforts during the recent snowstorm. He noted that, while many schools were closed on Tuesday, Ellington schools remained open.

### Approval of Minutes

**Regular Meeting – January 6, 2026**

A motion to approve the January 6, 2026, Regular Meeting minutes.

MOVED (BLANCHETTE) SECONDED (NORD) AND PASSED (AYE: BLANCHETTE, NORD, KEUNE, RAMACHANDRAN - ABSTAIN: HARDING) TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 6, 2026, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES.

## **Presentation**

### **FY2025 Audit Presentation – CliftonLarsonAllen**

David Flint from CliftonLarsonAllen presented the town's FY2025 Audit. The audit included a review of the Financial Statements, the Federal Single Audit, and the State Single Audit.

Executive Summary:

- Financial Statements: The town received an unmodified opinion on the financial statements. A material weakness in internal control over financial reporting was identified.
- Federal Single Audit: An unmodified opinion was issued on the major federal programs, with no compliance findings or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance.
- State Single Audit: An unmodified opinion was issued on the major state programs, with no compliance findings or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance.

The material weakness in internal control over financial reporting was due to a bill that was received late by the finance office. Mrs. Pignataro stated that the department has learned from this situation and will continue proactively reaching out to vendors to ensure bills are processed in a timely manner.

### **Board of Selectmen Presents Capital Improvements FY2026-2027**

The Board of Selectmen reviewed the submitted project proposals. Mrs. Burstein submitted the budget to the Board of Finance, and Mrs. Pignataro provided a detailed review of the budget for reference (see attached).

## **Financial Report**

Mrs. Pignataro reviewed the financial highlights as of December 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 December 31, 2025, the Town has collected \$37,543,048 in property tax revenue, representing 65.69% of the budget and 66.35% of the Ratebook. This includes \$287,999 in back taxes and interest/lien revenue, compared to a combined budget of \$160,000. At the same

point last year, collections totaled \$34,187,733 or 61.43% of the budget (61.43% 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, and \$769,146 Motor Vehicle Reimbursement. Investment earnings received \$774,571 compared to the budget of \$670,000.

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

### **Unfinished Business**

None.

### **New Business**

#### **Shared Services Discussion – Grant Management**

Mrs. Ramachandran presented on navigating grant management, opening a discussion focused on helping employees identify and apply for grants instead of having full-time staff manage this work in addition to their regular duties. She noted the possibility of part-time support in the future.

Mr. Reed commented that this topic had been discussed previously. He shared that in a previous town where he worked, a dedicated grant position existed for two years, but did not yield significant benefits. He also mentioned that the town had purchased a grant management platform to identify grants for which they qualify.

The Finance Department is currently hiring a new staff accountant. Mrs. Pignataro noted that with Felicia's time now more focused, she will be able to assess grants more effectively. She suggested reviewing the results in 6–8 months to determine whether creating a dedicated grant position would be worthwhile.

### **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**

Mrs. Nord stated they held their last meeting at Windermere School. All students have been moved into their new classrooms, with only a few minor items remaining to be completed. The project is currently in Phase 3, focusing on the music section.

**e. Board of Education Liaison**

Mrs. Nord stated they are working very hard on the budget.

**f. Hall Memorial Library Liaison**

Mrs. Ramachandran stated they launched information about celebrating America's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary happening on Saturday, October 3, 2026. The next meeting will be held on February 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Adjournment**

MOVED (BLANCHETTE) SECONDED (HARDING) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Elizabeth Luginbuhl, Recording Secretary

BOARD OF SELECTMEN								CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BUDGET REQUEST 2026-27				
PROPOSED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET- 2026-27		BOS				BOS	BOF					
		Approved				PROPOSED	PROPOSED					
	Budget	Cap Non-	BOF	TOTAL	BUDGET	CAP IMP						
Amounts shown in dollars	Requests	Recur	APPROVED	ESTIMATED	REQUESTS	PROJECTS						
	2025-26	2025-26	2025-26	COST	2026-27	2026-27	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-2032
<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
Local Capital Improvement Program	165,800	165,800	165,756	994,800	165,800	165,800	-	165,800	165,800	165,800	165,800	165,800
Unimproved Road Improvement	50,000	50,000	50,000	450,000	75,000	75,000	-	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
Culvert Maintenance & Repair	20,000	20,000	20,000	120,000	20,000	20,000	-	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Large/Small Bridges	30,000	30,000	30,000	170,000	20,000	20,000	-	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
Total	935,800	935,800	935,756	5,754,800	950,800	950,800	-	960,800	960,800	960,800	960,800	960,800
<b>BUILDING CONSTRUCTION</b>												
BOE - CIP Construction Projects	25,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	25,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>BUILDING REPAIRS</b>												
DPW - Town Hall Renovation/Addition	60,000	60,000	30,000	140,000	40,000	40,000	-	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
DPW - DPW Building Maintenance	25,000	25,000	25,000	120,000	20,000	20,000	-	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
DPW - Library Updates	50,000	50,000	50,000	225,000	75,000	75,000	-	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
DPW - Old Crystal Lake School House Repairs	20,000	20,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DPW - Human Services/Recreation Building Maintenance	-	-	-	25,000	25,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DPW - Police Building Maintenance	-	-	-	20,000	20,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DPW - Animal Control Facility	-	-	-	50,000	-	-	-	50,000	-	-	-	-
DPW - Tedford Pavilion	-	-	-	80,000	-	-	-	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	-
EVFD - Bathroom Remodel	48,000	48,000	20,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
EVFD - Station 243 HVAC Replacement	-	-	-	20,000	20,000	20,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	203,000	203,000	125,000	680,000	200,000	155,000	-	140,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	70,000
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>												
DPW - Parking Lot Renovations	30,000	30,000	30,000	600,000	100,000	30,000	-	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
DPW - Transfer Station Site Improvements	20,000	20,000	20,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DPW - Tennis & Basketball Court Maintenance	25,000	25,000	25,000	150,000	25,000	25,000	-	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
DPW - High School Track	25,000	25,000	25,000	150,000	25,000	25,000	-	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
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
DPW - Crystal Lake Beach	50,000	50,000	60,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DPW - High School Fence	40,000	40,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DPW - Tedford Park Bridge Repair	-	-	-	23,000	23,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assessor - Revaluation	57,000	57,000	57,000	285,000	57,000	57,000	-	57,000	57,000	57,000	57,000	-
Town IT - Network Switch Modernization	-	-	-	26,028	21,028	-	-	-	-	-	5,000	-
Town IT - On-Prem Servers	-	-	-	25,000	-	-	-	-	24,000	-	1,000	-
EVFD - SCBA Filling at Station 243	-	-	-	25,000	-	-	-	-	25,000	-	-	-
BOE - Modern Classroom Furniture	-	30,000	30,000	180,000	30,000	30,000	-	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
BOE - Lawn Tractor	-	17,668	10,886	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BOE - BOE Computer Replacement Cycle	-	-	-	801,965	177,214	168,300	-	149,014	103,894	94,495	100,134	177,214
BOE - A/V Upgrades	-	25,000	25,000	243,056	118,056	103,547	-	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
BOE - Equipment Upgrades	72,668	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	339,668	339,668	302,886	2,629,049	596,298	458,847	-	431,014	434,894	376,495	388,134	402,214

