



DEBORAH NEWTON  
Chair

# TOWN OF ELLINGTON

## Human Services Commission

55 MAIN STREET – PO BOX 187  
ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187

GAYETHRI NARAYANSWAMY  
DEANNA WAMBOLT-GULICK  
LENORA WILLIAMS  
RAJEE ASSUDANI  
PATRICIA SZAFIR  
DIANE HARDING  
KALAGENA SULLIVAN

### HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 9, 2026  
Ellington Human Services  
31 Arbor Way  
**6:00 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Deanna Wambolt-Gulick, Deborah Newton, Patricia Szafir, Gayethri Narayanswamy, Rajee Assudani, Lenora Williams, Kalagena Sullivan

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Rebecca Stack - Director of Human Services; Stephen Clapp – Elderly Outreach, Rene Lambert – Opportunity Works, Jon Lambert – Opportunity Works

#### **Call to Order:**

Debi Newton called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm.

#### **Guest Speaker:**

Speaker – Representatives Rene Lambert and Jon Lambert provided an overview of Opportunity Works Connecticut, Inc., a non-profit organization founded in 2009 and based in Vernon, CT, that supports adults with intellectual and physical disabilities through employment and day support services. The organization partners with the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and offers individualized programs focused on vocational skill development, community engagement, and meaningful daily activities.

Services include supported and group employment, day service options for individuals not seeking employment, transitional and vocational training programs, social and recreational opportunities, and limited transportation for individuals who have exhausted other options. Opportunity Works currently supports approximately 90 individuals, primarily at its Vernon location, with four participants from Ellington. Clients range in age from early adulthood through seniors. Funding is provided through DDS, fundraising, and donations. A discussion followed regarding funding distribution and employee compensation.

**Approval Minutes:**

MOVED (Szafir) SECONDED (Wambolt-Gulick) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 3, 2025 MEETING.

**Citizens' Forum:**

None

**Human Services Report: Rebecca Stack**

Director Rebecca Stack provided an update on contracted services funded through the Human Services budget. Highlights included:

- Rebecca distributed a handout listing all contracted vendors along with their respective funding requests for the Fiscal Year 2026/2027.
- She reviewed the Human Services budget, including current department operations and contracted service commitments.
- The Commission discussed service types, particularly noting that many funded organizations provide counseling services. Pat inquired about the feasibility and potential benefits of adding an in-house counselor. A discussion followed regarding service gaps, costs, and potential impact.
- Rebecca explained the budget process, clarifying how funding requests are submitted through Human Services to the Town Finance Department for review and inclusion in the upcoming fiscal budget.

**Adjournment:**

MOVED (Williams), SECONDED (Sullivan), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:06 PM.

Submitted By:

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Kelly Luginbuhl, Recording Secretary