



STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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MARY B. CARDIN
Deputy First Selectman

JAMISON J. BOUCHER
JAMES M. PRICHARD
DAVID E. STAVENS
SU THANVANTHRI
CHARLOTTE WARD

MATTHEW REED
Town Administrator

LAURIE E. BURSTEIN
First Selectman

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

March 9, 2026

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: Laurie Burstein, David Stavens, Su Thanvanthri, James Prichard, Mary Cardin, Charlotte Ward, Jamison Boucher

Town Staff Present: Matthew Reed, Town Administrator; Perry Dikeman, Mechanic II, Department of Public Works (DPW); Tiffany Pignataro, Finance Officer/Treasurer; Craig Webb, Director of Emergency Medical Services; Rebecca Stack, Human Services Director; *Sue Phillips, Hall Memorial Library Director

Emergency Service Agency Representatives Present: Peter Hany, President/Chief, Alisa Smith, Lieutenant/Scheduler, Ellington Volunteer Ambulance Corps (EVAC); Robert Smith, Chief, Ellington Volunteer Fire Department (EVFD)

Elected Officials Present: Doug Harding, Board of Finance (BOF); Megan Johnson, Jen Dzen, Board of Education (BOE); Subhra Roy, Planning and Zoning Commission

*Attended via Zoom

III. PUBLIC COMMENT [*Shall not exceed 30 minutes unless extended by majority vote of the Board*]: No citizens came forward.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. February 9, 2026 Regular Meeting

MOVED (CARDIN), SECONDED (WARD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 9, 2026 REGULAR MEETING.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Resolution – Opposition to Commercial Solar Expansion

MOVED (CARDIN), SECONDED (THANVANTHRI) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO REMOVE THE RESOLUTION FROM THE LAST MEETING ON THIS TOPIC FROM THE TABLE.

First Selectman Burstein noted that this resolution is not a blanket opposition to solar farms in Ellington; rather, it's establishing the Town's position on approval of solar farms. She cares deeply about preserving the Town's western belt, which is prime agricultural land and part of Ellington's Plan

of Conservation and Development (POCD). This is also a focus of the work done by the Conservation Commission. She stated that the Town has very little say with the Connecticut Siting Council, as they are not required to follow the Town's POCD or zoning regulations. She supports solar when it is responsibly placed, and she feels that it is in the Town's best interest to avoid a disproportionate amount of solar in Ellington. She has had many conversations with concerned residents on the impact of losing Ellington's high-grade soil. The originally proposed resolution was revised based on public comments at last month's meeting and additional feedback that was received.

MOVED (CARDIN), SECONDED (THANVANTHRI) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO WITHDRAW THE MOTION THAT WAS RESTORED FROM THE TABLE.

Ms. Cardin noted that her point in withdrawing this motion is that it was based on the old version of the resolution.

MOVED (CARDIN) AND SECONDED (THANVANTHRI) TO ADOPT THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §16-50k et seq., the Connecticut Siting Council is granted exclusive jurisdiction over the siting of certain electric generating facilities with a capacity greater than one (1) megawatt, thereby limiting municipal land use authority over such facilities; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §8-2, municipalities are charged with adopting zoning regulations to conserve the value of property, encourage the most appropriate use of land, and protect public health, safety, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Ellington supports responsible environmental stewardship and acknowledges the importance of renewable energy as part of Connecticut's long-term energy and climate goals; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Selectmen recognizes that solar energy projects, when appropriately sited and scaled, can contribute to energy diversification and environmental sustainability; and

WHEREAS, commercial solar energy facilities exceeding one (1) megawatt frequently require the clearing or long-term dedication of significant acreage, including agricultural land, forested areas, and open space, which are integral to Ellington's rural character, environmental resources, agricultural heritage, and economic viability; and

WHEREAS, such large-scale facilities may result in long-term and irreversible impacts to land use patterns, wildlife habitat, agricultural-based economy, stormwater management, soil health, and scenic resources; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Selectmen continues to support farmland preservation through a formal Purchase of Development rights (PDR) program established in 2007 by a \$2 million bond authorization, which has enabled the permanent preservation of hundreds of acres of prime agricultural soils, farmland of state importance, and farmland of local importance, in partnership with state and federal farmland preservation agencies.

WHEREAS, the installation and operation of commercial-scale solar facilities can impose additional demands on local infrastructure, including roadways, drainage systems, and emergency response services, without corresponding municipal control or guaranteed mitigation; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Selectmen is concerned that the cumulative impact of multiple large-scale solar installations disproportionately affects rural and agricultural communities such as Ellington; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Selectmen finds that commercial solar facilities exceeding one (1) megawatt often provide limited direct benefit to the host municipality in terms of reduced local energy costs, enhanced grid resiliency, or long-term fiscal benefit relative to the land area consumed; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Ellington opposes the siting of commercial solar energy facilities on, or in close proximity to, land identified within Ellington's western farm belt as designated in the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development, and on other lands containing prime agricultural soils or soils classified as farmland of statewide importance, recognizing that disturbance, grading, and compaction of such soils may result in long-term degradation that is not readily or reliably reversible;

WHEREAS, the Town of Ellington recognizes that certain emerging dual-use or agrivoltaic solar technologies may, in limited circumstances, allow for the continued agricultural use of land in conjunction with renewable energy generation; however, such approaches must be demonstrated through credible, site-specific evidence to preserve soil health, agricultural productivity, and long-term farm viability, and shall not be presumed to mitigate impacts to prime agricultural soils or farmland of statewide importance, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Ellington supports renewable energy development strategies that prioritize:

- Rooftop and canopy solar installations;
- Development on brownfields, landfills, and previously disturbed sites;
- Smaller-scale solar projects compatible with local zoning regulations; and
- Energy efficiency, conservation, and demand-reduction measures;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ellington Board of Selectmen hereby opposes the siting and installation of additional commercial solar energy facilities exceeding one (1) megawatt within the Town of Ellington where such facilities would result in significant and irreversible impacts to prime agricultural land, valuable environmental resources, rural landscapes, and agricultural opportunities upon which the community of Ellington was founded; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen respectfully urges the Connecticut General Assembly, the Connecticut Siting Council, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, and relevant state agencies to:

1. Restore and strengthen meaningful municipal input and consent in the siting of large-scale renewable energy facilities;
2. Encourage renewable energy development that is appropriately scaled and equitably distributed across the state; and
3. Protect agricultural land and agricultural economic viability, open space, and established community character while advancing Connecticut's renewable energy goals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is directed to transmit a copy of this resolution to Ellington's state legislative delegation, the Office of the Governor, the Connecticut Siting Council, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, and other appropriate state agencies.

Mr. Prichard asked what this resolution was going to do. First Selectman Burstein shared that this is a way to ask the Siting Council to at least take into consideration how much the Town has invested in

farmland preservation. Ms. Cardin added that this is setting a town direction relative to solar, showing that Ellington intends to have input and take steps to improve local control with these decisions. Ms. Thanvanthri added that this is a way to officially make the Town's feelings known and make it clear that there should be more local control. Mr. Prichard asked if this would affect future legislation. First Selectman Burstein shared that there are bills being considered right now, adding that Ellington doesn't want to be inundated with large solar projects. Ms. Cardin stated that the Town won't stay silent on this and that if there are applications with negative impacts, she would expect the Town to step in to intervene, in addition to taking steps to support legislative efforts. Mr. Stavens noted that there are pros and cons to this proposal, adding that the Town can't dictate what people do with their land. He's glad that the resolution was updated and while it might not change anything, it's a start.

Ms. Thanvanthri read the following statement from Nicole Paradise of East Windsor into the record:

"Thank you for inviting me to speak. Over the past year I served as an intervenor in the Connecticut Siting Council proceeding for the Gravel Pit Solar project in East Windsor. Through that process, I saw firsthand how the current siting system works – and where it often fails municipalities and residents. Under Connecticut law, once a solar project exceeds one megawatt, the Connecticut Siting Council has exclusive jurisdiction. That means local zoning authority is largely removed from the process. Towns can spend decades planning development, preserving farmland, and protecting open space, but still have very limited ability to guide where large commercial solar projects are located. In East Windsor, our town had to spend significant taxpayer resources responding to the project, including legal costs. Many residents were surprised to learn that state law only allows reimbursement of those legal fees for new applications – not when a developer reopens or modifies an existing docket. As a result, municipalities can be forced to defend their communities while still bearing the financial burden. Another lesson communities should understand is that these projects often evolve over time. Solar developers may present a project in a way that appears manageable initially, but once established, projects can expand or change through amendments or reopened proceedings – as we saw with the Gravel Pit Solar proposal. Decisions made early in the process can have long-term consequences for land use and community planning. It is also critical that towns involve local fire departments and emergency responders early in the review process. Large solar installations introduce unique fire safety and access considerations, and those concerns should be evaluated before projects are approved rather than after construction begins. One of the biggest contradictions many towns are now facing is that the State of Connecticut is spending millions of dollars preserving farmland through agricultural preservation programs, while at the same time allowing large utility-scale solar facilities to be sited on that same agricultural land. Another important point is that the companies presenting these projects are not always the ones operating them long-term. Developers often make strong assurances during the approval process, but projects are frequently sold once permitted or constructed. When concerns arise later – whether related to maintenance, environmental impacts, or safety – it is often the town and local residents who are left dealing with the consequences. Many residents are not opposed to renewable energy itself. What they are asking for is responsible siting. That means prioritizing rooftop solar, parking canopy solar, brownfields, landfills, and other previously disturbed land before converting prime farmland and open space into industrial-scale solar facilities. Residents across our region are paying close attention to these issues. More than 2,200 residents have signed a petition calling for a moratorium on additional utility-scale solar development in East Windsor until stronger protections are in place. Connecticut can meet its renewable energy goals while still protecting farmland, rural

communities, and local planning efforts. What many municipalities are asking for is simple: meaningful municipal input and a more balanced approach to where these projects are located. Renewable energy is important, but where and how it is built matters. If we do not get the siting right, we risk solving one environmental problem while creating another. Thank you for the opportunity to share our experience so that other communities can learn from it. Respectfully, Nicole Paradise”

Mr. Boucher’s concern is similar to what Mr. Stavens brought up earlier. He is not necessarily a proponent of large solar projects, especially on farmland, but he thinks that there is a balance between the rights of residents on their own land, and he wants to preserve that within this process.

Ms. Ward agreed with putting out a formal position as the first of many steps.

First Selectman Burstein took a moment to welcome Ellington Boy Scout Troop 96, in attendance to earn their Citizenship in the Community merit badge.

Ms. Ward read an email from Amanda Galipeau, 14 Grassy Hill Road, into the record:

“I am writing as a resident of Ellington to express my concern regarding the proposed solar farm project. While I fully support responsible renewable energy development, recent experiences in other Connecticut communities highlight significant risks that I urge the Council to consider carefully. In East Windsor, residents reported substantial environmental impacts as solar development expanded beyond its originally stated footprint, most notably clearing hundreds of acres of farmland and mature vegetation, which disrupted local wildlife corridors and changed the character of the community. In addition, a March 2025 fire at a Nextera solar project destroyed more than 40 trees, contributing to broader public safety concerns raised by both town officials and state representatives. Similarly, in Goshen, residents voiced concerns about potential impacts to endangered and threatened species habitats, including the Indiana bat and bog turtle, as well as the overall effect on land use, safety, and the rural landscape. These cases demonstrate that large-scale solar farms, while beneficial in theory, can carry unintended consequences – particularly when sited on or near valuable farmland, wildlife areas, and residential communities like ours. In a town like Ellington, agriculture is more than just part of the landscape – it is a vital piece of the community’s identity, economy and sustainability. Preserving farmland protects the local food production, supports small farming practices and maintains open spaces that define the town’s rural character. By valuing and helping to maintain agricultural land, Ellington helps to ensure that future generations can continue to benefit from a strong local food system, a vibrant farming tradition and natural beauty, while maintaining the natural wildlife and ecosystem of the town. I respectfully ask the Council to proceed with caution, require rigorous environmental and safety evaluations, and ensure that any project approved truly aligns with Ellington’s long term conservation and community goals. Thank you for your time and consideration.”

First Selectman Burstein shared that she has received three letters in support of this resolution, from Jane DeLuc, Darcy Larson, and Ravinder Singh.

Joe Dzen, 2 Justin Drive, spoke as a farmer in Town, and he was curious how this resolution was initiated. He expressed that this will directly impact folks like himself and that farming is getting harder and harder; he feels that this resolution will add another hurdle for farmers to overcome. Ellington is an agricultural community because of its farmers, and it’s getting harder to stay viable. He shared that the farmers in Town have such a small voice and this action seems like a dictation as to what they are allowed to do with their land. He expressed his desire for the Town to reach out to its farmers before

adopting any resolutions that would impact operations and land use. He urged each member of the BOS to take these thoughts into consideration individually before making up their mind on the vote.

Sundar Varadarajan, 25 Windermere Village Road, has been an Ellington resident for the past ten years. He shared that the rural character is what makes Ellington special. The agricultural lands are not just open space; they also support farming, protect wildlife, and help preserve the natural beauty of the Town. Renewable energy is important, but adding large commercial solar sites can permanently change the landscape and impact the waterways, the wildlife habitat, and agricultural use of the land. He respectfully asked the Town to prioritize protecting agricultural land and preserving the rural character of the Town.

Ms. Cardin expressed appreciation for these comments, noting that this resolution is not intended as an absolute opposition to solar but more as a formal indication that Ellington wants to have a voice in the process. There is a long history in Ellington of energy facilities being sited, and she feels that the Town should devote energy and time into having input. Mr. Boucher asked why the Town is getting involved in telling farmers what they can do with their land, noting that that is his issue with this proposal. First Selectman Burstein reiterated that the Town should have a voice and that while it's not a blanket no to solar, there should be balance in the process. Ms. Ward shared that she has had multiple people contact her about this and asked what the difference was between solar projects and other commercial or industrial uses of land in Town. It was noted that solar projects are exempt from zoning regulation compliance, whereas other non-solar projects would need to go through the established zoning processes. Mr. Boucher stated that landowners abide by whatever policies are set in place to sell or lease their property for various purposes. Ms. Thanvanthri stated that this is about changing the mechanism of how solar projects are sited, making the Siting Council more respectful of the residents when decisions are made. Mr. Stavens commented that the resolution should be more directed to the Siting Council, not the landowners.

Mr. Reed shared that a lot of work goes into preparing a petition, and that there is no requirement for the Town to be made aware until plans are filed. He noted that municipalities do have a say to a certain extent with these projects, bringing up the USS Somers Solar project, where significant amendments were made to the project based on concerns that were raised by the Town. Ms. Thanvanthri commented that for the Town to intervene, there are legal costs involved in coming up with a proposal that is hopefully strong enough to sway the Siting Council; if there was a better system in place, the Town could be involved with the planning instead of objecting to a project after the fact. Mr. Reed shared some information about legislation currently under consideration; if a facility is scheduled to be sited in a town, an individual from that town would be placed on the Siting Council, although they wouldn't have a vote. Mr. Reed would support that individual having a full voice, including a vote. First Selectman Burstein added that there is also a bill being presented that has to do with emergency training; she would like to submit a statement to ensure that the Town isn't stuck with the financial burden of this new training requirement. Ms. Thanvanthri shared that this resolution will back up and support proposed legislative updates.

Subhra Roy, 2 Samantha Court, supports the resolution. She is both pro-renewable energy and pro-preservation, and she wants to get ahead of the siting process and have a seat at the table. She would like to see the Town maintain its rural character.

Ms. Ward asked if the current wording of the resolution, specifically the term “opposes”, could be adjusted.

MOVED (CARDIN), SECONDED (WARD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO AMEND THE PRIOR MOTION, AMENDING LANGUAGE IN PARAGRAPHS ELEVEN AND FOURTEEN OF THE RESOLUTION PREVIOUSLY READ AS STATED BELOW.

PARAGRAPH 11 WILL READ “WHEREAS, the Town of Ellington will evaluate and, where appropriate, take a position on the siting of commercial solar energy facilities on, or in close proximity to, land identified within Ellington’s western farm belt as designated in the Town’s plan of Conservation and Development, and on other lands containing prime agricultural soils or soils classified as farmland of statewide importance, recognizing that disturbance, grading, and compaction of such soils may result in long-term degradation that is not readily or reliably reversible”.

PARAGRAPH FOURTEEN WILL READ “NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ellington Board of Selectmen will evaluate and, where appropriate, take a position on the siting and installation of additional commercial solar energy facilities exceeding one (1) megawatt within the Town of Ellington where such facilities would result in significant and irreversible impacts to prime agricultural and valuable environmental resources, rural landscapes, and agricultural opportunities upon which the community of Ellington was founded; and”.

Mr. Dzen stated that the BOS is likely going to take action that directly affects 6-8 residents, adopting a position seemingly representative of the Town; he doesn’t feel that this is a fair representation, as it feels to him like the Town is opposing landowners’ rights and choices to use their farmland as they see fit. He noted that towns do have some say with the Siting Council, and it’s not necessary to step in where there’s already an available venue to be heard.

Jen Dzen, 7 Woodland Trail, shared that farmers have been here for generations and the last thing they want is to sell their land; if they are turning to solar it’s because they can’t make a living anymore. She is glad to see the “opposing” language removed, but it is still the farmers’ land to decide what they want to do with it. The intention may be directed at the Siting Council, but this could penalize the farmers, which is something for the BOS to think about.

Ken Shores, 13 School House Road, commented that farming is not a viable activity anymore. He added that if there is such an opposition to solar, where are those people at this meeting? He added that there aren’t that many brownfields or other property types that are identified as appropriate locations for solar in Town. He added that a lot of work, concern, and effort goes into these projects.

Chris Adams, 30 Stein Road, owns over 25 acres of residential property. He supports the concept of solar farms and likes the resolution as it’s been re-worded, adding that he hopes the BOS and the Town remain open-minded regarding future solar projects.

Tim Schneider, 15 Blueberry Circle and a member of the Earthlight team, shared that they do plenty of solar and one megawatt is pretty small. As someone who has dealt with the Siting Council, he doesn’t think that this resolution will do much and he feels for the farmers, as it is difficult for farmers and other landowners to move forward with solar projects, due to congestion in the lines and other hurdles. He doesn’t feel that the Town should interfere with farmers doing what they need to save

their land. Mr. Reed noted that the one megawatt comes from the State's definition of commercial solar and the Siting Council's jurisdiction for any solar installation greater than one megawatt.

First Selectman Burstein feels that this proposal balances appropriate solar projects while respecting the landowners.

MOVED (CARDIN), SECONDED (THANVANTHRI) AND PASSED [AYE: THANVANTHRI/BURSTEIN/CARDIN/WARD; NAY: STAVENS/PRICHARD/BOUCHER] TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION AS AMENDED.

B. Revision to Town Purchasing Policy (*pending Town Meeting approval of ordinance*)

MOVED (CARDIN), SECONDED (THANVANTHRI) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADOPT THE REVISIONS OF THE PURCHASING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL, INCREASING THE BIDDING THRESHOLD FROM \$25,000 TO \$35,000, TO BE IN LINE WITH THE BIDDING THRESHOLD SET BY THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT AND AS RECOMMENDED BY THE FINANCE OFFICER/TREASURER.

C. Review of Aborn Farm Abatement Agreement

MOVED (CARDIN), SECONDED (THANVANTHRI) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE TAX ABATEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF ELLINGTON AND ROARING BROOK FARM, LLC AND ABORN LAND, LLC, AND AUTHORIZE THE FIRST SELECTMAN TO EXECUTE SUCH AGREEMENT PENDING APPROVAL BY SPECIAL TOWN MEETING.

1. Set Special Town Meeting

MOVED (CARDIN), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO CALL A SPECIAL TOWN MEETING ON APRIL 13, 2026, AT 6:00 PM AND INCLUDE ON THE NOTICE THE FOLLOWING QUESTION: SHALL THE TOWN OF ELLINGTON APPROVE A REAL ESTATE PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT FOR ROARING BROOK FARM, LLC AND ABORN LAND, LLC AS RECOMMENDED BY THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION ON DECEMBER 17, 2025, AND APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN AT THEIR REGULAR MEETING ON JANUARY 12, 2026? SUCH ABATEMENT SHALL BE FOR A PERIOD OF NOT LESS THAN TEN YEARS AND SHALL REDUCE BY 50% ANY INCREASE IN THE ASSESSMENT OF THE REAL PROPERTY ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE SPECIFIC IMPROVEMENTS MADE TO THE PROPERTY. A COPY OF THE DETAILED ABATEMENT AGREEMENT IS AVAILABLE IN THE OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Tax Refunds/Abatements

MOVED (CARDIN), SECONDED (WARD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE TAX REFUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$864.59 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE TAX & REVENUE COLLECTOR AND AS SPECIFIED IN THE REFUNDS/ABATEMENTS STATEMENT DATED MARCH 2026 [ATTACHED].

B. Appointment of Director of Emergency Medical Services

Mr. Reed introduced Craig Webb, an Ellington resident who grew up serving with Ellington Rescue Post 512 and went on to volunteer as an EMT with EVAC and a firefighter with EVFD. He is a career firefighter-paramedic with the Manchester Fire Department, where he rose to the rank of Battalion Chief.

MOVED (THANVANTHRI), SECONDED (WARD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF CRAIG WEBB AS DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR.

C. Re-establish Ad Hoc Committee on the Comprehensive Athletic Facilities Lighting Project

MOVED (THANVANTHRI), SECONDED (WARD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO RE-ESTABLISH THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE COMPREHENSIVE ATHLETIC FACILITIES LIGHTING PROJECT FOR ONE YEAR, THROUGH MARCH 2027.

D. Proposed Expenditure – Opioid Settlement Fund

Ms. Cardin noted that the backup material for this request didn't indicate what the standards would be for approved treatment providers. Ms. Stack shared that no specific treatment centers had been pre-approved, as each individual situation will be different and require different support; Human Services will work with the different organizations as approved vendors to pay them directly for any approved treatment. This is something meaningful that can be done with the Fund to help people that are struggling. Ms. Cardin asked if facilities that provide treatment have to meet certain standards within the industry; Ms. Stack said that she assumes there is appropriate oversight, noting that any facility that is approved will have to be a legitimate organization that meets recognized standards and accreditations. Ms. Ward asked if the funds would be available on a first-come, first-served basis, which Ms. Stack confirmed. Ms. Ward also asked if there were any disqualifiers for this program. Ms. Stack noted that none have been identified at this time.

MOVED (THANVANTHRI), SECONDED (CARDIN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO AUTHORIZE THE HUMAN SERVICES DIRECTOR TO EXPEND \$20,000 IN FUNDING FROM THE OPIOID SETTLEMENT SPECIAL REVENUE FUND TO ESTABLISH A FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO SUPPORT INDIVIDUALS WITH TREATMENT-RELATED EXPENSES.

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Nothing was discussed.

VIII. SELECTMEN COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

A. Personnel Committee

MOVED (PRICHARD), SECONDED (CARDIN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF KENNETH BRAGA FROM THE INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY.

MOVED (PRICHARD), SECONDED (WARD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO REAPPOINT DUSTIN HUGUENIN, TOM MODZELEWSKI, LISA HOULIHAN, CYNDI COSTANZO, KAREN DWYER, AND GREG HURLBURT TO THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE COMPREHENSIVE ATHLETIC FACILITIES LIGHTING PROJECT FOR ONE-YEAR TERMS THROUGH MARCH 31, 2027.

MOVED (PRICHARD), SECONDED (WARD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO REAPPOINT SEAN DWYER AND ROBERT ZIELFELDER JR. TO THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION FOR FOUR-YEAR TERMS THROUGH MARCH 31, 2030.

MOVED (PRICHARD), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO REAPPOINT MATTHEW SHEA AS AN ALTERNATE TO THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM THROUGH MARCH 31, 2028.

B. Liaison Reports

Nothing was shared.

IX. FIRST SELECTMAN/TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

First Selectman Burstein shared that the Ellington Police Department and Resident Troopers Office, along with the Hartford State Attorney's Office and the Town of Ellington, were recognized for their partnership with Community Partners in Action for a month-long clothing drive at the Hartford Community Court. She attended the recognition event with Sgt. Merrill, Officer Decker, Trooper Fratini, and Officer Jose Martinez, who spearheaded this effort. She thanked local businesses and residents for their generosity in donating over 1000 items.

She continues to visit local businesses with Town Planner Lisa Houlihan; they recently went to Country Pure Foods, which is now owned by Peterson Farms; they are focused on community, only buying American and local products. They've also visited LuAnn's Bakery & Café and Oakridge Dairy, which are both bustling operations.

She attended a recent ribbon-cutting at Capital Workforce Partners; it was encouraging to see an organization that supports individuals in overcoming barriers to employment and is actively working to build skills that align with real business needs. Hartford Stage held a night of conversation for new mayors and first selectmen, which she attended with Mrs. Johnson, who can share theater offerings with Ellington students. She also attended a CRCOG legislative breakfast with Mr. Reed; there were opportunities to speak with many legislators including Representative Foster. Lastly, she attended the EVFD awards banquet, which was a wonderful evening celebrating the brave men and women who serve with selflessness and bravery. She also commented that the Earth Day event will be held on April 25th, and the Committee is still looking for sponsors and vendors.

Mr. Reed shared that his complete report had been included in the meeting packet, and he shared that on Wednesday and Thursday of this week, there are Board of Finance budget hearings for the Board of Education and Town Operating budgets.

Ms. Cardin said that in looking through the information provided about ethics and conflicts of interest, she didn't remember there having been any reports to the BOS on this. Mr. Reed did not recall any specific notices being presented, but as there are board members who are business owners in Town, it's been common practice that individuals disclose related information and recuse themselves from votes where there may be a conflict. While the ordinance is very broad and a practical application could be challenging, as long as conflicts are disclosed it should pose no problem. First Selectman Burstein clarified that any conflicts of interest just need to be disclosed to the BOS per Town Charter.

X. CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER COMMUNICATION FROM THE BOS

Nothing further was discussed.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED (CARDIN), SECONDED (WARD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN AT 8:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Merriam

Julia Merriam, Recording Secretary

Laurie Burstein

Laurie Burstein, First Selectman

TOWN OF ELLINGTON
TAX AND REVENUE COLLECTOR'S REFUND REPORT
March 2026

Amount	Name	Tax	GL Year	Requesting Dept.	Reason
\$ 19.64	CYR CAROL	MV	2024	ASSESSOR	SOLD 7/25
\$ 411.60	HONDA LEASE TRUST	MV	2024	ASSESSOR	SOLD TO LEASEE 3/25
\$ 99.33	JOHNDROW SHARON	MV	2024	ASSESSOR	SOLD 11/23
\$ 85.70	LERETA	RE	2024	TAX	OVERPAYMENT
\$ 248.32	SMITH NICOLE	MV	2024	ASSESSOR	SOLD 12/24
\$ 864.59	REFUND TOTAL FOR MARCH 2026				