



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 MEETING MINUTES

Monday, April 6, 2026
Ellington Human Services
31 Arbor Way
6:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Deanna Wambolt-Gulick, Deborah Newton, Patricia Szafir,
Rajee Assudani, Lenora Williams, Diane Harding

OTHERS PRESENT: Rebecca Stack - Director of Human Services; Stephen Clapp – Elderly
Outreach

Call to Order:

Debi Newton called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

Approval Minutes:

MOVED (Szafir) SECONDED (Wambolt-Gulick) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO
APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 9, 2026 SPECIAL MEETING.

Citizens' Forum:

None

Commission Changes:

Deborah Newton announced her resignation as chair of the Human Services Commission. Commission members thanked Ms. Newton for her years of service to the commission. A nomination was made for Patricia Szafir to serve as the new Chair.

MOVED (Assudani) SECONDED (Wambolt-Gulick) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO
APPOINT PATRICIA SZAFIR AS THE CHAIR OF THE HUMAN SERVICES
COMMISSION.

Human Services Report:

a. **FY 2026-2027 –**

Rebecca provided an overview of the proposed Human Services budget. Four contracted services were identified as potential reductions: Opportunity Works, Interval House, Big Brother Big Sister, and the YWCA. Information from these organizations regarding the potential impact of funding reductions was shared with the commission.

Discussion followed regarding the potential impacts on residents and possible alternatives. Mrs. Stack noted that reduced funding would not result in Ellington residents being turned away from services.

Members discussed advocating for these services during the budget process, including attending the Public Hearing and educating residents about available programs.

Mrs. Stack mentioned that after the upcoming budget deliberation meeting, there would likely be a clearer understanding of how the budget process will proceed.

b. Program Updates –

Rebecca Stack shared updates on current programs, including Weekend Wheels, the Renters' Rebate Program, and the conclusion of the Energy Assistance season. A potential volunteer-based program to conduct check-in calls with homebound seniors was also discussed.

Stephen Clapp reminded the commission about the Elderly Property Tax Relief Program for qualifying homeowners, the Renters' Rebate Program for elderly or disabled renters, and available tax relief for veterans.

Adjournment:

MOVED (Williams), SECONDED (Harding), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO
ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 6:44 PM.

Submitted By:

X

Kelly Luginbuhl, Recording Secretary