



LOGAN JOHNSON  
Chairman

STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND  
INCORPORATED 1786

# TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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ELIZABETH NORD  
Vice Chairmen

## BOARD OF FINANCE REGULAR MEETING May 26, 2026 Minutes

MAURICE BLANCHETTE  
DOUGLAS HARDING  
DANIEL KEUNE  
GOMATHI RAMACHANDRAN

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

**Others Present:** Laurie Burstein – First Selectman, Felicia LaPlante – Assistant Finance Officer, Tom Modzelewski - DPW Director, Matt Reed – Town Administrator, Dave Stavens – BOS, Cole Prato – EVFD, Susan Philips – Library, Jennifer Dzen – BOE, Jamie Boucher – BOS, Shane – IT, Jim Fay – resident via zoom.

### Call to Order

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 8:18 pm.

### Roll Call

Present: Logan Johnson, Liz Nord, Daniel Keune, Maurice Blanchette, Doug Harding.

Absent: Gomathi Ramachandran (joined the meeting at 8:19 pm).

### Pledge of Allegiance

### Public Comment

None.

### Approval of Minutes

**Regular Meeting – February 3, 2026**

A motion to approve the February 3, 2026, Regular Meeting minutes.

MOVED (NORD) SECONDED (BLANCHETTE) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 3, 2026, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES.

**Budget Hearing BOE – March 11, 2026**

A motion to approve the March 11, 2026, Budget Hearing BOE Meeting minutes.

MOVED (RAMACHANDRAN) SECONDED (NORD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MARCH 11, 2026, BUDGET HEARING BOE MINUTES.

**Budget Hearing BOS/Boards & Commissions – March 12, 2026**

A motion to approve the March 12, 2026, Budget Hearing BOS/Boards & Commissions Meeting minutes.

MOVED (HARDING) SECONDED (RAMACHANDRAN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MARCH 12, 2026, BUDGET HEARING BOS/BOARDS & COMMISSIONS MINUTES.

**Special Meeting – March 18, 2026**

A motion to approve the March 18, 2026, Special Meeting minutes.

MOVED (HARDING) SECONDED (NORD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MARCH 18, 2026, SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES.

**Public Hearing on Proposed Budget – April 14, 2026**

A motion to approve the April 14, 2026, Public Hearing on Proposed Budget Meeting minutes.

MOVED (HARDING) SECONDED (RAMACHANDRAN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE APRIL 14, 2026, PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED BUDGET MINUTES.

**Budget Deliberations – April 16, 2026**

A motion to approve the April 16, 2026, Budget Deliberations minutes.

MOVED (HARDING) SECONDED (NORD) AND PASSED (AYE: HARDING, NORD, BLANCHETTE, KEUNE- ABSTAIN: RAMACHANDRAN) TO APPROVE THE APRIL 16, 2026, BUDGET DELIBERATIONS MINUTES.

**New Business**

**FY2026-27 Budget Discussion**

The FY2026-2027 proposed budget did not pass at the referendum, with 1,049 votes opposed and 891 votes in favor.

A second referendum will be held on June 9, 2026, from 6:00 am to 8:00 pm at the Ellington Senior Center.

The Board discussed potential reductions to the proposed budget. Mr. Keune stated that he would be uncomfortable making cuts to the Board of Education budget. Mr. Johnson agreed, noting that the Board of Education had been very responsible in developing its budget.

A significant topic of discussion was the proposed fire truck purchase, which accounts for approximately \$310,000 of the budget.

Mrs. Nord suggested exploring a lease option for the fire truck rather than paying the full amount up front. She noted that leasing would spread the cost over several years but would require town approval.

Mr. Johnson stated that he would prefer to keep the truck purchase in the budget, noting concerns about interest costs associated with a lease.

Mr. Keune noted that there are no ideal choices. He emphasized the importance of presenting an aggressive budget reduction to avoid another failed referendum, which could lead to more significant cuts.

Jamie Boucher, Board of Selectmen, stated that the Fire Department needs the truck and that no changes or reductions to the requested amount are expected.

Mr. Harding suggested that town staff review all submitted budget requests to determine whether any expenses have changed since submission, including grants, electricity costs, water costs, or other operating expenses that could potentially reduce the overall budget.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup> to make additional cuts.

### **Adjournment**

MOVED (BLANCHETTE) SECONDED (HARDING) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

*Elizabeth Luginbuhl*

Elizabeth Luginbuhl, Recording Secretary