



STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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LAURIE E. BURSTEIN
First Selectman

MARY B. CARDIN
Deputy First Selectman

JAMISON J. BOUCHER
JAMES M. PRICHARD
LORI L. SPIELMAN
SU THANVANTHRI
CHARLOTTE WARD

MATTHEW REED
Town Administrator

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

October 5, 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 6:34 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

II. ROLL CALL

Selectmen Present: Laurie Burstein, Su Thanvanthri, James Prichard, Mary Cardin, Charlotte Ward, Jamison Boucher

Selectman Absent: Lori Spielman

Town Staff Present: Matthew Reed, Town Administrator; Matt Evans, Finance Officer/Treasurer; Tom Modzelewski, Director, Department of Public Works (DPW); Lisa Houlihan, Town Planner; *Becky Einsiedel, Administrative Secretary

Elected Officials Present: Douglas Harding, Maurice Blanchette, Dan Keune, Board of Finance (BOF); Miriam Underwood, Vice Chair, *David Stavens, Board of Education (BOE)

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

*Attended via Zoom

III. PUBLIC COMMENT [*Not to exceed 30 minutes unless extended by majority vote of the BOS*]

Miriam Underwood, 15 Eva Circle, spoke in regard to the elderly tax abatement program. She served on the ad hoc committee several years ago, and she asked that the program be reviewed, seeing as there are new BOS members, as well as a new Assessor and new Finance Officer. She provided some details of the current program, noting the relevant state guidelines. She stated that it is time to develop some long-term plans to keep seniors in Ellington.

MOVED (CARDIN), SECONDED (WARD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADD TO THE AGENDA, UNDER NEW BUSINESS, ITEM VI. G, PATRIOTIC COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP.

Ms. Cardin shared that this stemmed from a discussion of the Personnel Committee to allow for expanded membership.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. September 14, 2026 Town Meeting

MOVED (CARDIN), SECONDED (THANVANTHRI) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 14, 2026 TOWN MEETING.

B. September 14, 2026 Regular Meeting

MOVED (CARDIN), SECONDED (WARD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 14, 2026 REGULAR MEETING.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Tax Refunds/Abatements

MOVED (THANVANTHRI), SECONDED (WARD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE TAX REFUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,246.18 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE TAX & REVENUE COLLECTOR AND AS SPECIFIED IN THE REFUNDS/ABATEMENTS STATEMENT DATED OCTOBER 2026 [ATTACHED].

B. Discussion Item – Sale of Town Property Policy Revision

Ms. Cardin shared that the Town Policies Committee, a subcommittee of the BOS, recently met and looked at this policy. This review was in reaction to a recent sale of town property, as the current policy doesn't really allow community members and property abutters to be aware of the pending sale early in the process. She reported that it was a good first meeting on this item, adding that she will be submitting comments to Mr. Reed on the current draft, which will eventually come before the BOS with any recommended revisions.

C. Discussion Item – Fair Rent Commission Ordinance CGS 7-148b

Mr. Reed introduced this item to put it on the BOS members' radar for future action. He shared that part of the housing statutes passed in the most recent legislative sessions indicated that communities over 15,000 people must establish a local fair rent commission. There are a few ways municipalities can do this, including passing an ordinance to create their own commission, joining with a contiguous community to create a joint commission, or participating in a regional commission. The statute outlines the specific conditions and procedure for residents to submit their complaints regarding rents and other issues. This topic has been discussed at a number of CRCOG meetings, with speakers from a number of communities sharing their experiences. More information will be shared prior to any decisions being made, and Mr. Reed noted that he is working with Ms. Houlihan on some other housing policies that are required as a result of this legislation. First Selectman Burstein shared that the Town of Suffield had reached out regarding the possibility of joining up for a commission, but Suffield is not contiguous with Ellington. Ms. Cardin noted that Enfield, South Windsor, and Vernon already have commissions, but Ellington is a smaller community; she asked if there is any data available on the cost for these commissions to operate, and Mr. Reed said that this has been a very common question across the board. CRCOG has been very involved with its municipalities throughout this process, but they've been unable to provide a confident cost estimate. It was confirmed that Ellington's commission has to be established by January 1, 2028. Ms. Ward asked if this would be included in the FY2027-28 budget; Mr. Reed noted that this commission will need a budget line at some point. Ms. Thanvanthri noted that the circumstances for a complaint include rent as well as insufficient maintenance and poor conditions and asked what the current process was. First Selectman Burstein shared that Human Services may try to assist in some circumstances, and Mr. Reed added that the state has procedures for things like discrimination complaints, but there is not currently a single town entity that deals with general complaints. Ms. Cardin noted that the material provided from CRCOG also talked about the lack of

avenues for renters. Ms. Thanvanthri brought up the fact that it may be difficult to get volunteers for an in-house commission, as there are certain requirements for membership. Mr. Reed shared that there will be a long legislative session between now and the date that the commission must be established, so there may be additional information or recommendations that will aid the Town as this is further discussed and developed.

D. Discussion Item – Data Centers

First Selectman Burstein shared that she wanted this on the agenda for discussion. She has had several conversations with Ms. Houlihan over the last few months, as she has been concerned about large-scale data centers being placed on agricultural land and the amount of energy and resources they utilize and wanted to have the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) look into a moratorium. Ms. Houlihan then presented it to the PZC, which voted to establish a one-year moratorium. There are notice requirements and a public hearing process; she stated that the moratorium will be in effect by November 1st. This will give the Town time to learn what other communities are doing and discover additional pitfalls and potential benefits; there are many unknowns to work through. First Selectman Burstein added that a lot of towns are in similar positions.

E. EVFD Sale of Property – Jaws of Life and Related Tools from Rescue 143

Ms. Cardin asked what platform this equipment will be listed on. Chief Prato shared that this will be listed on Garage, which is the same platform that the rescue truck was sold on, and if there is no action there, there are other fire department brokers and the Municipal Listserv application that can be used.

MOVED (CARDIN), SECONDED (WARD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE SALE OF THE EVFD JAWS OF LIFE AND RELATED TOOLS, AS LISTED IN THE MEMO FROM THE FINANCE OFFICE DATED OCTOBER 5, 2026, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TOWN OF ELLINGTON'S PURCHASING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL.

F. Board of Finance Membership – Elected Position

1. Resignation of Logan Johnson

MOVED (CARDIN), SECONDED (THANVANTHRI) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF LOGAN JOHNSON FROM THE BOARD OF FINANCE, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 28, 2026.

First Selectman Burstein noted that it was with regret that this resignation was accepted.

2. EDTC Recommendation to Fill Vacancy

MOVED (CARDIN), SECONDED (THANVANTHRI) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT KELLY FUHLBRIGGE TO THE BOARD OF FINANCE TO COMPLETE AN UNEXPIRED TERM ENDING DECEMBER 6, 2027, CREATED BY THE RESIGNATION OF LOGAN JOHNSON AND AS RECOMMENDED BY THE ELLINGTON DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE.

Ms. Fuhlbrigge was present and introduced herself to the BOS. She shared her history and background, both in her personal career and her time serving Ellington as a past BOE member. She has experience as a lobbyist in state and federal government relations, budgeting, and has a lot of expertise from her experience with credit unions. She understands the background of 501(c)(3)s as well, and now that her children are older, she is excited to be a part of Ellington government again.

G. Patriotic Committee Membership

Ms. Cardin shared that this was discussed in the prior Personnel Committee meeting. Two individuals submitted Statements of Interest for the Patriotic Committee vacancy, and both would make great additions to the group. She shared that Ellington's America 250 event this past weekend was evidence of how much work that Committee does, and if there are two people interested in serving, the Committee should be expanded to accept both, which Ms. Ward and Mr. Prichard agreed with. First Selectman Burstein stated that this was a wonderful idea.

MOVED (CARDIN), SECONDED (WARD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO INCREASE THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE AD HOC PATRIOTIC COMMITTEE FROM TWELVE REGULAR MEMBERS TO THIRTEEN TO ALLOW ALL INTERESTED PARTIES TO BE CONSIDERED FOR APPOINTMENT.

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Nothing was discussed.

VIII. SELECTMEN COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

A. Personnel Committee

MOVED (CARDIN), SECONDED (WARD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT SALVITORE DECINA AND MICHELLE MORRILL TO THE AD HOC PATRIOTIC COMMITTEE TO COMPLETE UNEXPIRED TERMS THROUGH DECEMBER 2026.

MOVED (CARDIN), SECONDED (WARD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT THOMAS BROPHY AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY TO COMPLETE AN UNEXPIRED TERM THROUGH JANUARY 2028.

MOVED (CARDIN), SECONDED (WARD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO REAPPOINT PEG BUSSE TO THE SHARED SERVICES COMMISSION TO SERVE A THREE-YEAR TERM THROUGH OCTOBER 2029.

It was noted that Chris Socha also expressed interest in being reappointed to the Shared Services Commission but did not yet submit an updated Statement of Interest. As his current term runs through the end of October, his reappointment, plus any action on the current vacancy, will be handled at the November BOS meeting.

B. Town Ordinance Committee

1. Board of Education Unexpended Education Fund Ordinance

Ms. Cardin shared that the Town Ordinance Committee (TOC) had suggested a change, which was incorporated into the current draft. The BOE, as required under state statute, has to report the fund's activity to the State Department of Education; under the updated ordinance, the BOE will also share this report with the BOF and BOS at the same time. Dr. Sue Nash, Superintendent, was present at the TOC meeting when this was discussed, and she had no objections to sharing this information.

Ms. Cardin made it clear that this is a fund that state statute allows the BOE to establish, noting that the BOS has no authority in terms of the fund being created. However, the ordinance will increase visibility and transparency in showing the activity and operations of the fund.

MOVED (THANVANTHRI), SECONDED (CARDIN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADOPT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION UNEXPENDED EDUCATION FUND ORDINANCE, AS REVISED AND AS RECOMMENDED BY THE TOWN ORDINANCE COMMITTEE, PENDING TOWN MEETING APPROVAL.

MOVED (THANVANTHRI), SECONDED (WARD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2026 AT 6:00 PM IN THE NICHOLAS J. DICORLETO, JR. MEETING HALL, ELLINGTON TOWN HALL, TO ALLOW CITIZENS TO COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE.

FURTHER, MOVED (THANVANTHRI), SECONDED (CARDIN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO SET A SPECIAL TOWN MEETING FOR MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2026, IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED FOR 6:00 PM, TO DISCUSS AND VOTE UPON THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE.

C. Liaison Reports

Ms. Cardin was unable to attend the September Conservation Commission meeting but she did review the records of the meeting. She shared that the Historic Resources Inventory is being submitted to the state office for approval. She also noted a parcel on Sadds Mill Road that was submitted for the Farmland Preservation Program, and she gave a shout out to the Ellington Trails Committee for all the work that they do coordinating with DPW and maintaining and improving Town trails.

Ms. Cardin also was unable to attend the last Housing Authority meeting, but she reviewed their meeting information and shared that the Housing Authority Chair is working on getting the auditors who perform the Housing Authority audit to present their report to the Housing Authority which hasn't been done in the past. She also noted that there is a new representative from Millennium.

IX. FIRST SELECTMAN/TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

First Selectman Burstein shared the following report: *On Saturday, our town celebrated Ellington America 250 and it was a huge success.*

Ellington America 250 Committee has been organizing this event most of the year. Many thanks to the hardworking colunteers and special thanks to Committee Chair John Takach, Caroline Takach, DPW Director Tom Modzelewski, Peter Hany Jr., Sue Phillips, Fayette Lodge 69, Sue & John Kuehn, Rhonda Villanova, Becky Einsiedel and Julia Merriam and the many people who made this a success. The parade was spectacular; the weather was perfect and smiles were in abundance. Thank you to the businesses who immediately embraced this historic event. I also want to thank Congressman Joe Courtney, State Rep Jaime Foster and Senator Jeff Gordon for joining us in this celebration.

Please share your photos with Town Hall for our Photo Contest; the winner will be on the cover of next year's Annual Report.

Community Voice Channel will be having a fundraiser this Sunday, October 11th – Rock This Town. This is a family-friendly event with multiple bands throughout the day.

Congratulations to Ellington Police and Resident State Troopers for being awarded the 3 Tier Accreditation. Sergeant Merrill and I accepted the award at the Police Academy and later attended the meeting there. This award could not have happened without the dedication of Officer Bridge.

Mary Cardin and I participated in the Capitol Region Council of Governments Greater Hartford Civility Summit where elected officials, community leaders, nonprofit partners and educators have meaningful dialogue, sharing and learning about practical tools to strengthen civic culture.

I had my first Lunch with Laurie at the Senior Center, where residents can meet with me and ask questions, share concerns and suggestions. I will continue this once a month.

We look forward to the Ribbon Cutting at Windermere Elementary School on October 15, 2026. Tours are welcomed of the beautiful school.

She shared that she also received an email from The First Company Governor's Horse Guards congratulating the Ellington 250 Committee on such a wonderful event, noting that it was an honor to assist Ellington in this celebration.

She also commented that she would like to add an update and progress report on the Ellington High School radio project to next month's agenda.

Lastly, she shared that the Robert Tedford Memorial 5K was being held on Saturday, October 17th.

Mr. Reed shared that his report had been distributed to the BOS and published online, noting that he had nothing additional to share. He took a moment to recognize First Selectman Burstein's role in the America 250 event; he stated that it was a terrific celebration that happened because First Selectman Burstein really drove it forward, and he wanted to make sure she received proper credit for her efforts.

X. CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER COMMUNICATION FROM THE BOS

Nothing was discussed.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Strategy and negotiations with respect to pending litigation to which the public agency is a party (CGS 1-200(6)) Reference Docket # AC49299 CT Municipal Employees Retirement Commission v. Town of Ellington (2/3 vote required)

MOVED (WARD), SECONDED (THANVANTHRI) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:17 PM, PURSUANT TO CGS 1-225(f), FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING STRATEGY AND NEGOTIATIONS WITH RESPECT TO PENDING LITIGATION, CT MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT COMMISSION V. TOWN OF ELLINGTON.

Present: Laurie Burstein, Su Thanvanthri, James Prichard, Mary Cardin, Charlotte Ward, Jamison Boucher, Matthew Reed

MOVED (CARDIN), SECONDED (WARD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:42 PM.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED (CARDIN), SECONDED (THANVANTHRI) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN AT 7:42 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
OCTOBER 2026

Amount	Name	Tax	GL Year	Requesting Dept.	Reason
\$ 11.39	ESTATE OF NICHOLS MARY T	MV	2025	ASSESSOR	SOLD
\$ 16.83	BENNETT MAVIS A	MV	2025	ASSESSOR	SOLD
\$ 251.27	TOYOTA LEASE TRUST	MV	2025	ASSESSOR	SOLD
\$ 151.38	CCAP AUTO LEASE LTD	MV	2025	ASSESSOR	SOLD
\$ 232.98	CCAP AUTO LEASE LTD	MV	2025	ASSESSOR	SOLD
\$ 14.95	CHAREST LEONA T	MV	2025	ASSESSOR	SOLD
\$ 44.28	CIUCCOLI GERALDINE A	MV	2025	ASSESSOR	SOLD
\$ 145.66	DESCO PROF BUILDERS INC	MV	2024	ASSESSOR	SOLD
\$ 107.32	FOSS DESIRE R	MV	2023	ASSESSOR	TOTAL LOSS
\$ 26.36	NORBUT LYNNE A	MV	2025	ASSESSOR	SOLD
\$ 21.84	RENTZ STEPHAN P	MV	2025	ASSESSOR	EXEMPTION
\$ 91.56	SFS LEASING LTD	MV	2025	ASSESSOR	SOLD
\$ 58.14	BINKOWSKI CRANE DENNIS J	MV	2025	ASSESSOR	SOLD
\$ 17.54	CANAVAN NANCY L	MV	2025	ASSESSOR	SOLD
\$ 34.09	NISSAN MOTOR ACCEPTANCE CORP	MV	2025	ASSESSOR	SOLD
\$ 20.59	GUAY TYLER J	MV	2025	ASSESSOR	SOLD

\$ 1,246.18	REFUND TOTAL
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