

STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786



TOWN OF ELLINGTON

55 MAIN STREET – PO BOX 187
ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187
TEL 870-3100 FAX 870-3102
www.ellington-ct.gov

JAMES M. PRICHARD
Deputy First Selectman

MELINDA M. FERRY
A. LEO MILLER, JR.
DAVID E. STAVENS
RONALD F. STOMBERG
JOHN W. TURNER

LORI L. SPIELMAN
First Selectman

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Special Meeting
Monday, February 8, 2016
Town Hall – Conference Room A

SELECTMEN PRESENT: Lori L. Spielman, Melinda M. Ferry, A. Leo Miller, James M. Prichard, David E. Stavens, Ronald F. Stomberg, John W. Turner

OTHERS PRESENT: Marie Sauve, Human Resources Coordinator; Joseph Palombizio; Timothy Webb, Director of Public Works/WPCA Administrator

I. CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Spielman called the meeting of the Board of Selectmen (BOS) to order at 6:11 p.m.

II. CITIZENS' FORUM

No citizens came forward.

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. For the purpose of discussing personnel appointments

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (MILLER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:12 P.M. FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS.

PRESENT: BOS members, Marie Sauve, Human Resources Coordinator

Joe Palombizio was asked to join the Executive Session at 6:20 p.m. and left at 6:33 p.m.

The BOS came out of Executive Session at 6:36 p.m.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Appointment of Emergency Management Director

MOVE (TURNER), SECONDED (MILLER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT JOSEPH A. PALOMBIZIO AS THE ELLINGTON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR WHO SHALL SERVE A TWO YEAR TERM THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2018 AT A STARTING HOURLY WAGE OF \$26.95 FOR A FLEXIBLE, PART-TIME WORK WEEK. THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS APPOINTMENT SHALL BE TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2016.

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOVE (TURNER), SECONDED (MILLER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO RETURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:39 P.M. FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS.

PRESENT: BOS members, Marie Sauve, Human Resources Coordinator

Timothy Webb entered at 6:50 p.m.

The BOS came out of Executive Session at 7:03 p.m.

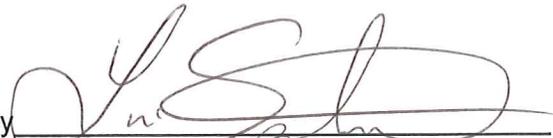
V. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (MILLER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN AT 7:03 P.M.

Submitted by


Marie Sauve

Approved by


Lori L. Spielman

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Monday, February 8, 2016
Town Hall – Meeting Hall

Minutes

SELECTMEN PRESENT: Lori L. Spielman, Melinda M. Ferry, A. Leo Miller, James M. Prichard, David E. Stavens, Ronald F. Stomberg, John W. Turner

OTHERS PRESENT: Nicholas J. DiCorleto, Jr., Finance Officer/Treasurer; Dan Keune, Chair, Ellington Board of Education; Scott Nicol, Superintendent of Schools; Ellington Board of Education; John Streiber and Frederica Weeks, Deputy Emergency Management Directors; Dianne Trueb, Ellington Farmer's Market; Timothy Webb, Public Works Director/WPCA Administrator

I. CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Spielman called the meeting of the Board of Selectmen (BOS) to order at 7:26 p.m.

II. CITIZENS' FORUM

Dianne Trueb expressed concern that a recommended update to the Senior Center *Use of Facility Rules & Regulations* had not been passed. She described the difficulty of lobbying to get this new set of rules passed. Her main goal is to secure space within the Senior Center property for the Ellington Farmer's Market. Ms. Trueb asked the BOS how her situation could be rectified and she confirmed that the Ellington Farmer's Market is a non-profit organization. She asked why the Senior Center is treated differently from other Town buildings. Ms. Trueb concluded by passing out a packet for the BOS to consider and asked them to come to a wise and prompt decision.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. January 4, 2016 Capital Improvements Hearing

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (PRICHARD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS HEARING MINUTES OF JANUARY 4, 2016.

B. January 11, 2016 Board of Selectmen Meeting

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (PRICHARD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 11, 2016 WITH THE FOLLOWING CORRECTION: ADD THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT TO THE BOTTOM OF PAGE EIGHT, PARAGRAPH ONE OF THE JANUARY 11, 2016 MINUTES: "THE APPROVED MOTION DEALT WITH THE MAXIMUM LENGTH OF CONTRACTS."

C. January 25, 2016 Capital Improvements Deliberations

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (MILLER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS DELIBERATIONS MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 25, 2016.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Board of Education Solar Energy Project/Lease

Mr. Miller asked the First Selectman to elaborate on the guarantee mentioned in the motion. Ms. Spielman noted that it would be necessary for budgetary planning.

Mr. Stomberg expressed skepticism regarding green technologies and their need for government subsidies. Mr. Nicol responded that what is attractive about the plan is not necessarily the savings but rather the fixed rate guarantee.

Mr. Nicol asked for a change in date of the Special Town Meeting to Thursday, February 25, 2016. The proposed motion was amended by Mr. Turner with a second by Mr. Miller.

Mr. Miller repeated his question regarding the guarantee to Mr. Nicol. Mr. Nicol responded that if the Board of Education (BOE) decided to buy the panels in year eight that cost would be borne by the BOE.

Mr. Miller asked if the BOE purchases the panels is CT Green Bank still responsible for moving them in the event they need to be moved. Mr. Nicol replied that the BOE would be responsible.

Mr. Miller noted that the BOE might not want to be in the position of owning the panels. Mr. Nicol replied that the BOE had no position on the question presently.

Mr. Keune expressed satisfaction with the Board of Education Solar Energy Project/Lease.

The BOS discussed the possibility of the BOE buying the solar panels after eight years. Mr. Miller suggested that any purchase be subject to the approval of the BOS. Mr. Keune said that could be accomplished if the purchase was structured to go through Capital Improvements – he said there are statutory issues with putting the purchase in the general budget. The consensus of the BOS was that since the issue was eight years hence the decision could be made then. Mr. Stomberg noted that the panels don't ever have to be purchased. Mr. Turner noted that the Town Meeting would ultimately decide if the BOE's answers are appropriate.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (MILLER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO AUTHORIZE AND DIRECT LORI SPIELMAN, FIRST SELECTMAN, TO EXECUTE AND DELIVER ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE ELLINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN FOR THE TOWN'S GUARANTEE OF THE SOLAR POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN

CEFIA HOLDINGS LLC AND THE TOWN OF ELLINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION, AND TO ENTER INTO A BINDING AGREEMENT. FURTHER, TO CALL A SPECIAL TOWN MEETING FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2016 AT 7:00 PM AT THE ELLINGTON TOWN HALL TO ALLOW CITIZENS TO COMMENT AND VOTE UPON THE BOARD OF EDUCATION SOLAR ENERGY PROJECT LEASE AGREEMENT FOR CENTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, CRYSTAL LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND ELLINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL.

For the record, the following provision was noted: if the BOE elects to exercise the right and option to purchase the solar power system, the BOS wants to go on record that the Town is not obligated to pay for this option and recommends that the BOE plan accordingly to budget for this potential expense.

B. Procedure for Submitting Recommendations to Full Board by BOS Subcommittees

Mr. Miller passed out his proposed motion (attached). The motion calls for most motions recommended by the Town Ordinance Committee, the Personnel Policies Committee, or the Town Policies Committee to be submitted "[...] in the form of a legible motion with a copy for each Selectman [...]". Mr. Miller included in his reasoning an assertion that without such a motion it would be impossible to require the chairmen of these committees to submit motions in written form.

Ms. Ferry noted a concern for turnaround time, she asked if it was possible to use computer projection. Mr. Miller said that would be fine.

Mr. Turner asked if it wasn't the responsibility of the First Selectman's office to write motions. Mr. Miller said when he sat on the committees they came up with the wording they wanted.

Mr. Miller contended that it is easier to come to a decision on a motion if it presented written rather than orally. Mr. Miller asked the BOS to refer his motion to the Town Policies Committee.

MOVED (TURNER) AND SECONDED (PRICHARD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO FORWARD THE COMMENTS FROM MR. MILLER PERTAINING TO RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN BY THE TOWN ORDINANCE COMMITTEE, THE PERSONNEL POLICIES COMMITTEE, AND THE TOWN POLICIES COMMITTEE TO THE TOWN POLICIES COMMITTEE FOR REVIEW.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Tax Refunds/Abatements

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (MILLER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE TAX REFUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$13,482.13 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE TAX & REVENUE COLLECTOR AND AS SPECIFIED IN THE REFUNDS/ABATEMENTS STATEMENT DATED FEBRUARY 2016. (ATTACHED)

B. CCM Prescription Discount Card Program

Mr. Stavens asked if there were any cost to the town from the CCM Prescription Discount Card Program. Ms. Spielman responded that there was no cost to the town.

Mr. Stavens asked who benefits from the program. Mr. Stomberg answered that there was an income limit to utilizing the program.

Mr. Turner asked who administers the program. Ms. Spielman confirmed that CCM and ProAct, Inc. will administers the program.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (MILLER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY THAT LORI SPIELMAN, FIRST SELECTMAN OF THE TOWN OF ELLINGTON, IS AUTHORIZED AND DIRECTED TO EXECUTE AND DELIVER ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE ELLINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN AND TO DO AND PERFORM ALL ACTS AND THINGS WHICH SHE DEEMS TO BE NECESSARY OR APPROPRIATE TO CARRY OUT THE TERMS OF SERVICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN PROACT INC. [DBA PROACT PHARMACY SERVICES INC.] AND THE TOWN OF ELLINGTON FOR THE CCM PHARMACY PRESCRIPTION DRUG DISCOUNT CARD PROGRAM PROVIDING FOR THE DISPENSING OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS TO COVERED RESIDENTS AT DISCOUNT PRICES.

C. Appointment of Emergency Management Director to Ad Hoc Emergency Services Committee

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (FERRY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT JOSEPH PALOMBIZIO, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR, TO THE AD HOC EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE FOR A ONE-YEAR TERM ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2017.

D. Re-establish Ad Hoc Emergency Services Committee

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (MILLER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO RE-ESTABLISH THE AD HOC EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE FOR ONE YEAR TO FEBRUARY 28, 2017.

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Building Department

B. Emergency Services

1. Resident State Troopers' Office
2. Ellington Volunteer Ambulance Corps
3. Ellington Volunteer Fire Department
4. Fire Marshal
5. Hall Memorial Library

Ms. Spielman noted that the Hall Memorial Library ran a successful mini-golf fundraiser. She also noted that the latest Department Head Staff Meeting was hosted by the Library.

6. Tax & Revenue Planner

7. Town Planner

VII. SELECTMEN COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Personnel Committee

1. Resignations

There were no resignations.

2. Recommended Appointments

MOVED (FERRY), SECONDED (STAVENS), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO REAPPOINT GARY T. FELDMAN, SR., BRENDAN BURKE, ROBERT EDWARDS, BRYAN HARVELL, NANCY STILLMAN AND SIMON HESSLER TO THE AD HOC EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE TO SERVE ONE-YEAR TERMS ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2017.

MOVED (FERRY), SECONDED (STAVENS), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT PATRICIA BURRINGTON TO THE AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE PINNEY HOUSE TO COMPLETE AN UNEXPIRED TERM ENDING JULY 31, 2016.

MOVED (FERRY), SECONDED (STAVENS), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO REAPPOINT GARY MAGNUSON, DALE GERBER AND JEFF OLENDER TO THE PERMANENT BUILDING COMMITTEE TO SERVE FOUR-YEAR TERMS ENDING FEBRUARY 29, 2020.

3. First Selectman's Salary Review: FY 2016-2017

Ms. Spielman left the room. Deputy First Selectman Prichard chaired this portion of the meeting.

Mr. Prichard noted the proposed range for Level E-8 represents an increase of three percent.

The BOS discussed the history of pay increases for previous First Selectmen.

MOVED (STAVENS), SECONDED (FERRY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY THAT THE SALARY RANGE FOR THE FIRST SELECTMAN'S POSITION (LEVEL E-8) BE CHANGED AS FOLLOWS: MINIMUM RANGE – \$71,027, MIDPOINT RANGE - \$84,686, AND MAXIMUM RANGE - \$98,345.

Recommended Salary:

The members of the BOS expressed praise for the work of First Selectman Lori Spielman. The BOS discussed the pay fluctuations of former First Selectman Maurice Blanchette.

MOVED (FERRY), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO SET AN ANNUAL SALARY FOR THE FIRST SELECTMAN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$83,430 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017.

Ms. Spielman returned to the room.

Mr. Miller asked that the minutes reflect his objection to last year's pay increases for E-7 and E-6.5 employees. He did not disagree with increasing the employees pay but he held that increasing their pay beyond the maximum range for their pay scale was not proper. He suggested raising the maximum pay range for these employees before increasing their pay.

B. Town Ordinance Committee

1. Blight Ordinance Update

Mr. Stomberg reported that the Town Ordinance Committee met on February 2, 2016. He stated that the committee is making progress on analyzing a potential blight amendment; he described it as "still a work in progress". He continued saying that the Town Ordinance Committee would meet on the blight amendment in four to six months.

Mr. Turner stated that the Town Ordinance Committee was looking for a more aggressive enforcement of current rules to set the tone for the Town before they create a new ordinance.

The BOS discussed the difficulties of enforcing a blight ordinance including the problem of changing a homeowner's attitude and confronting homeowners. Ms. Ferry noted that there are different ways of dealing with problem properties besides direct confrontation such as using tax or zoning law.

Ms. Ferry noted that it was reported to her that there had been some improvement in some problem properties.

C. Town Policies Committee

1. Senior Center: Use of Facility Rules and Regulations Update

Mr. Turner reported that there had been two meetings of the Town Policies Committee since January 1, 2016. He noted that the Senior Center staff are interested in preserving Senior Center Programs and he suggested that the Senior Center needs to streamline the forms they use for registering events and programs at the center.

Mr. Stomberg noted that Ms. Trueb brought the lack of organization in the Senior Center's application process to the attention of the BOS – he said that they were building a complete handbook to deal with this problem.

Mr. Turner said that the rules going forward would apply to everyone equally and the handbook should probably have been completed months ago. Mr. Stomberg suggested that the process was slowed down by a recent facility change. Mr. Turner noted that Senior Center staff were very protective of senior's rights in the building.

Mr. Prichard asked how many more meetings it would take before the handbook was complete. Mr. Turner believed it would take at least two more meetings. He did not see the Farmer's Market issue being resolved this year.

Mr. Stomberg noted that requests to use the building are quite varied and that it's almost impossible to put all the requests on one list. He noted that some programs have done damage to the speakers or left the kitchen unkempt.

D. Other

There were no other Selectmen Committee Reports

VIII. SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS: None.

IX. FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

A. New Hire: Kathryn Kane-DiBacco, Assistant Animal Control Officer

The First Selectman noted that Kathryn Kane-DiBacco was hired as Assistant Animal Control Officer on January 11, 2016. She was hired part-time at \$18.00 per hour. She served as Per Diem Assistant Animal Control Officer since May 2014.

B. Other

- New Website

The First Selectman reported the Town of Ellington's new web site went live on Friday, February 5, 2016 for three of the five town sites. She continued that the town's main site and the library site would launch this week. She added that some permits could now be done online.

- Capital Improvement

The First Selectman reported that the BOS would present the Capital Improvements Budget to the Board of Finance on February 9, 2016.

- Resident State Trooper's Office

The First Selectman reported that Trooper Timothy Merrill started working in Ellington last month, replacing Trooper Timme. She added that she was waiting for Troop C to schedule interviews for the Sergeant position and in the interim Sergeant Chris Sharland was overseeing the office.

- Municipal Economic Development Workshop

The First Selectman reported that she attended the EDC Municipal Economic Development Workshop on January 13, 2016. She added that the Towns of Ellington and Tolland conducted the workshop focusing on developing a strong economic foundation for the future.

- Great Country Timber Frames (The Barn Yard)

The First Selectman reported that she attended a ribbon cutting ceremony and dinner reception at The Barn Yard's new facility, Great Country Timber Frames, on January 15, 2016. She added that the Skinner family demonstrated a state-of-the-art CNC timber processing machine which was shipped from Italy and is one of three in use in the United States.

- Friends of Agriculture Breakfast

The First Selectman reported that she attended a breakfast meeting on the future of farming on January 23, 2016.

- Town Newsletter

The First Selectman reported that she met with the owner of Events Magazine and discussed working with them to create a new Town newsletter. The format includes advertisement for Ellington businesses and the town would only be responsible for postage in the first year; the publication would be free to the Town thereafter. In the first year the Town of Ellington will save approximately \$3,000 per issue over the old format.

The BOS engaged in discussion of this proposal and the consensus was that it was a good idea.

- Ellington Athletic Facility Enhancement Project

The First Selectman reported that she had received notice that the Town of Ellington was awarded a \$1,000,000 grant-in-aid for the installation of an artificial turf athletic field and lighting at Ellington High School.

Mr. Webb reported that there are many issues with artificial turf fields and that the fields would still need to be watered to wash them. He added that the Town of Simsbury had to replace an artificial turf field slated to last 15 years after only seven years. He noted that the City of Hartford banned artificial turf fields.

The BOS discussed the negative health effects of artificial turf fields. Mr. Miller noted concussion issues, liability, and carcinogens.

Mr. Prichard and Mr. Miller suggested that the pursuit for the lighting should be separated from the field.

Mr. Webb reported that the current natural turf fields are overused and would recover if the use of school fields were reduced.

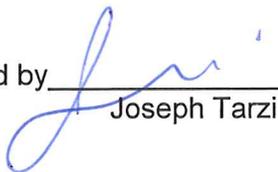
X. CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Spielman noted that Youth Services will host the Ellington Gallery Night 2016 at the Senior Center on February 13, 2016, featuring local art and music.

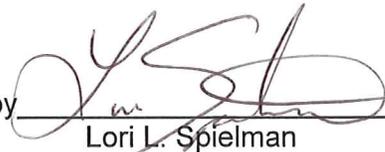
XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED (PRICHARD), SECONDED (MILLER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN AT 9:39 P.M.

Submitted by


Joseph Tarzi

Approved by


Lori L. Spielman

Submitted by Leo Miller at the February 8, 2016 BOS Meeting

Policy respecting recommendations to the Board of Selectmen by the Town Ordinance Committee, the Personnel Policies Committee or the Town Policies Committee.

I make the following motion:

Respecting recommendations to initiate or amend an ordinance by the Town Ordinance Committee, or recommendations to initiate or amend a policy by the Personnel Policies Committee or Town Policies Committee:

The committee making the recommendation to the Board of Selectmen for its consideration shall do so in the form of a legible motion with a copy for each Selectman and the Recording Secretary prior to the Board of Selectmen considering and taking action on the recommendation.

It is understood that this policy does not apply to recommendations of the Town Policies Committee regarding nominees for the Ellington Wall of Honor.

