



STATE OF CONNECTICUT • COUNTY OF TOLLAND  
INCORPORATED 1786

# TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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[www.ellington-ct.gov](http://www.ellington-ct.gov)

## BOARD OF FINANCE

ROBERT J. CLEMENTS  
Chairman

### CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FEBRUARY 9, 2016 MINUTES

DOUGLAS B. HARDING  
MARK A. JOYSE  
BARRY C. PINTO  
JOHN P. RACHEK  
MICHAEL D. VARNEY

#### Members Present:

R. Clements-Chairman, D. Harding, M. Joyse, B. Pinto,  
J. Rachek, M. Varney

#### Others Present:

N. DiCorleto-Finance Officer, L. Spielman-First Selectman, J.  
Prichard, A. Leo Miller, D. Stavens-Selectmen, S. Nicol-Supt. of  
Schools, R. Butler-Dir. Facilities BOE, T. Schneider-Earthlight  
Technologies, G. Feldman-Chief EVFD, T. Webb-DPW Director

#### Call to Order

Chairman Robert Clements called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM.

#### Citizen's Forum

None

#### Board of Selectmen present Capital Improvements for FY 2016-17

First Selectman Lori Spielman and Selectman Jim Prichard presented the 2016-17 Capital Improvement budget as approved by the Board of Selectmen on January 25, 2016. The following items are being brought forth for funding:

Road Overlay \$500,000

LOCIP for Chipsealing \$105,415 per State funding

EVFD Firehouse Improvements 29 Main St. \$200,000 to finish the upgrades

Town Hall Renovation \$1,250,000 (includes \$500,000 STEAP Grant received) to be bonded.

HML – Upgrades to restrooms \$75,000

HML – Interior painting \$25,000

Parking Lot Renovations \$50,000 to include Arbor Park and Center Firehouse

Field Irrigation \$25,000 to complete the Pinney St Fields

Center School Air Conditioning \$47,000; High School A/C was BOE highest priority but the cost for Center School is more in line with the funding for this year.

DPW - Snow Plow Dump Truck \$190,000

DPW – Mower Replacement \$110,000

DPW – ICE Grant Obligation \$30,000

General Govt. Telephone System Replacements \$26,200

CLFD – Replacement Pumper \$334,000 to be a lease purchase for 5 years

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EVFD – Replacement Pumper \$725,000 to be a lease purchase for 5 years  
EVFD – 4 Door Pick-up Truck \$50,000  
BOE – Wheelchair Van \$52,045  
BOE – Center School Phone System \$39,700

The total capital improvements approved by the Board of Selectmen is a net of \$1,394,945 after grants and leases are deducted.

Mr. Varney asked about the body cameras. Lori Spielman told him that it was taken out of the budget due to the data storage problems. Mr. Varney agreed.

Mr. Miller told the Board that the Center Fire will need funding in the 2017/18 capital improvements budget for the replacement air packs which is a \$350,000 item.

Chief Feldman told the Board that the STEAP grant received in 2010 was used to bring the building up to code compliance. The \$200,000 being requested this year will be to complete the building improvements.

### **Board of Education School Solar Project**

Scott Nicol, Superintendent of Schools told the Board of Finance that this project requires zero funding by the Board of Education or the Town. There are no leasing fees and no liability to the Town for the panels. The panels will be repaired by Green Bank and they will remove them after 20 years if we choose. They estimate that the savings over 20 years will be \$600,000. It will not replace all the electricity in the schools but takes one of the variables out of the cost for electricity.

The purchase agreement is being reviewed by the Town Attorney as well as the Board of Education's attorney. They have had the project reviewed by the roofing manufacturer. The roof will be inspected before and after installation so as not to void the warranties. There is an option to purchase the panels after 8 years that increases the savings, but the Board of Education is not intending to purchase the panels. The intent is to secure a 20 year fixed rate. The project began in December 2014 and the Board of Education approved the project, the Board of Selectmen approved to send it to Planning and Zoning, and Planning and Zoning determined that the project falls within the guidelines of the Plan of Conservation and Development.

Mr. Clements agreed that the Town should not purchase the panels. Mr. Rachek asked if there had been an engineering study to determine the strength of the roofs. Tim Schneider of Earthlight Technologies stated that Macchi Engineering did the review and study of the roofs. Windermere School was taken out of the project due to the roof repairs needed. Mr. Joyse asked if the roofs that were looked at will last 20 years without repair, and Supt. Nicol affirmed.

Mr. Joyse also asked about multiple vendors and competition. Supt. Nichol stated that Green Bank has the approved vendor list and that Earthlight is an approved vendor at a good rate. They are on the preferred vendor list. Mr. Clements approved of using a local company.

Mr. Joyse asked if Supt. Nicol felt this is worth doing the project with utility costs currently going down. Mr. Nicol stated that most likely the cost will go up and that the fixed rate is for a particular load not the entire load, so if prices continue to go down, they will be able to take advantage also. He is comfortable with the deal.

Green Bank is responsible for all damage to the panels regardless of how they were damaged and the attorneys are looking at the liability.

Mr. Varney asked about the wind load rating. He was told it was 90 MPH. He also asked about a safety shut off. Tim Schneider told him that it would be located outside the building near the service. If the power goes off, the panels shut down also.

Mr. Clements thanked Supt. Nicol for his presentation tonight and felt the Board of Finance's concerns had been addressed.

**Adjournment**

**MOVED (VARNEY) SECONDED (JOYSE) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:40 PM.**

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lori Smith".

Lori Smith, Recording Secretary