

STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND  
INCORPORATED 1786



# TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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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  
Monday, March 7, 2016  
Town Hall – Meeting Hall

SELECTMEN PRESENT: Lori L. Spielman, Melinda M. Ferry, A. Leo Miller, James M. Prichard (arrived at 7:42 p.m.), David E. Stavens, Ronald F. Stomberg, John W. Turner

OTHERS PRESENT: Robert Ames; Cyndi Costanzo and Chris Weitz, Parks and Recreation Commission; Nicholas J. DiCorleto, Jr., Finance Officer/Treasurer; Lisa Houlihan, Town Planner; Scott Nicol, Superintendent of Schools; Tom Palshaw; Robert Tedford, Recreation Director; Chris Weitz; Timothy Webb, Public Works Director/WPCA Administrator; Richard Will

## I. CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Spielman called the meeting of the Board of Selectmen (BOS) to order at 7:00 p.m.

## II. CITIZENS' FORUM

No citizens came forward.

## III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### A. Board of Education Solar Energy Project/Lease

Mr. Stomberg stated that the Town of Ellington would probably not be interested in purchasing the solar panels after eight years and would prefer a twenty year lease. Mr. Miller agreed. Mr. Nicol did not think the statement applied to this motion.

Mr. Palshaw asked if the contract had a stipulation regarding purchase. Mr. Nicol replied that there is an option to purchase after eight years that is not mandatory.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STAVENS), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN OF ELLINGTON TO ENTER INTO A REAL ESTATE LEASE IN EXCESS OF ONE (1) YEAR WITH CEFIA HOLDINGS, LLC OF THE PURPOSE OF INSTALLING A SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING SYSTEM AT THE CENTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, CRYSTAL LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND ELLINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL, AND FURTHER TO AUTHORIZE LORI SPIELMAN, FIRST SELECTMAN, TO EXECUTE AND DELIVER ANY AND ALL

DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE THE SAME, CONTAINING TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPROVED BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY.

FURTHER, TO CALL A SPECIAL TOWN MEETING FOR MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2016 AT 7:00 PM AT THE ELLINGTON TOWN HALL TO ALLOW CITIZENS TO COMMENT AND VOTE UPON THE REAL ESTATE LEASE.

FOR CLARIFICATION, THE PURPOSE OF THE TOWN MEETING IS TO MAKE MINOR, TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO THE MOTION PASSED AT THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING ON FEBRUARY 25, 2016 CONCERNING A CERTAIN SOLAR POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN CEFIA HOLDINGS LLC AND THE ELLINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION. SPECIFICALLY, THE PROPOSED REVISED MOTION WILL CLARIFY THAT THE TOWN IS NOT GUARANTYING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION'S OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE SOLAR POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT AS PREVIOUSLY CONTEMPLATED. RATHER, THE TOWN IS AUTHORIZED TO ENTER INTO A REAL ESTATE LEASE WITH CEFIA HOLDINGS LLC, WITH A TERM IN EXCESS OF ONE (1) YEAR, FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A SOLAR GENERATING ENERGY SYSTEM ON THE NOTED SCHOOLS.

B. Streetlights Upgrade to Light Emitting Diode (LED) Technology

Ms. Spielman noted that the Town is switching over to LED lighting and there is no action to be taken at this time.

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

Mr. Stavens expressed concern that the motion would tie the hands of the BOS. Mr. Miller assured Mr. Stavens that the motion applies only to the Town Ordinance Committee, the Personnel Policies Committee, and the Town Policies Committee.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (MILLER), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADOPT THE FOLLOWING BOARD OF SELECTMEN POLICY:

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.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Tax Refunds/Abatements

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (MILLER), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE TAX REFUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8,172.98 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE TAX & REVENUE COLLECTOR AND AS SPECIFIED IN THE REFUNDS/ABATEMENTS STATEMENT DATED MARCH 2016. [ATTACHED]

### B. Tax Abatement: 9 Green Street

Ms. Spielman stated that no tax issue in Ellington should go as far as this one has. She stated that the proposed motion is the best option for 9 Green Street. Mr. Miller asked if this motion would enable the property owner to put a new structure on the premises. Ms. Spielman responded that they may put a garage but there is little room for more.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (MILLER), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY THAT IN ORDER TO MAXIMIZE THE COLLECTION OF TAXES APPLICABLE TO PROPERTY AT 9 GREEN STREET, ELLINGTON, THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN HEREBY AUTHORIZES THE TAX COLLECTOR TO ABATE THE BALANCE OF ANY TAX DUE ON THE LIST OF OCTOBER 1, 2014 AND PAST DUE TAXES ON ALL EARLIER TAX LISTS INCLUDING INTEREST AND LIEN FEES NOT TO EXCEED \$54,905.90 AFTER APPLICATION OF ALL PAYMENTS DESCRIBED HEREIN; PROVIDED THAT THE PROPERTY IS CONVEYED FROM MILTON PRENTISS TO RENE PRENTISS AND JAMES J. PRENTISS, JR. BY QUIT-CLAIM DEED AND PROVIDED FURTHER THAT RENE PRENTISS AND JAMES J. PRENTISS, JR. PAY THE TOWN \$17,000.00 TO BE APPLIED TO REAL ESTATE TAXES, SEWER USE AND TRASH USE, PAST DUE. RENE PRENTISS AND JAMES J. PRENTISS, JR. SHALL BE LIABLE FOR ALL TAXES ON THE LIST OF OCTOBER 1, 2015. IT IS FURTHER PROVIDED THAT AS A CONDITION OF THIS TAX ABATEMENT, RENE PRENTISS AND JAMES J. PRENTISS, JR. WILL DEMOLISH THE EXISTING RESIDENCE ON THE PROPERTY AND MERGE THE PROPERTY WITH THEIR CURRENT PROPERTY LOCATED AT 11 GREEN STREET, ELLINGTON BY JUNE 30, 2016. IN THE EVENT THAT THE CONVEYANCE DOES NOT HAPPEN, THE RESIDENCE IS NOT DEMOLISHED OR THE PROPERTY IS NOT COMBINED WITH 11 GREEN STREET, ELLINGTON, BY JUNE 30, 2016, THIS MOTION SHALL BE OF NO EFFECT AND THE TAXES SHALL NOT BE ABATED.

### C. DEEP Grant for Turf Field & Lighting at Ellington High School

Ms. Spielman stated that the crumb rubber base was no longer being considered for the artificial turf field and that sand would likely be used instead.

Mr. Miller asked the First Selectman if she was comfortable moving forward with this project. Ms. Spielman responded that it depends on the exact price but that she was impressed with South Windsor's artificial turf field.

Mr. Stavens asked if the quoted price reflected the sand. Ms. Spielman stated that the price was a 2014 estimate and it was for crumb rubber, not sand.

Mr. Miller asked if anyone had considered a safety assessment regarding injuries sustained by players hitting the artificial turf. Ms. Costanzo stated that studies show a decrease of ACL injuries on artificial turf compared to grass.

Mr. Miller and Ms. Costanzo discussed soccer safety on the field. Mr. Miller understood that players would slide more on the artificial turf. Ms. Costanzo discussed a number of new safety measures for players. Mr. Miller contended that grass is safer for head injuries. Ms. Costanzo implored the BOS not to miss the boat on new technology due to fear. Mr. Miller said it is the wrong time to spending money on wants rather than needs. Ms. Costanzo rebuffed Mr. Miller's argument stating that sports are essential and that the artificial turf field is not an extra; the new field would allow players to utilize it for pre-season training. Mr. Miller argued that there is a durability and maintenance question and he stated that the State would not foot the bill when the

field needs to be replaced. Ms. Costanzo retorted that the cost of replacing the field in ten years is half of what it costs to install it originally. Mr. Miller contended that if the fields are to be used continuously it will reduce the projected 10 year life of the artificial turf field. Ms. Costanzo reported that studies on artificial turf fields are conducted on heavily used collegiate fields.

Mr. Prichard arrived at this point in the meeting.

Mr. Stomberg asked how this grant came about. Mr. Weitz stated that it started as an application for a STEAP grant. Ms. Costanzo replied that a phone call from Senator Larson was essential to the genesis of this grant; he informed the groups involved in securing the grant that they had a good chance to get it.

Mr. Turner stated that more concise costs were required for this project, particularly regarding the cost of daily maintenance. He asked if the Board of Education (BOE) had a position. Mr. Nicol replied that the Board of Education had no official position but would be more than willing to engage in the issue.

Mr. Miller expressed surprise that the BOE had not discussed this project. Mr. Nicol said the school administration is not officially aware of the project.

Ms. Costanzo stated that the Recreation Commission had been tasked with securing this grant by the former First Selectman.

Mr. Miller asked when the last date that the BOS can act upon this grant is. Mr. Nicol replied that he needed to learn more about the Town's process.

Mr. Stomberg asked if the field in question was under the jurisdiction of the Town or the BOE. Mr. Nicol replied that the field in question was under the purview of the BOE.

Mr. Turner asked if there would be an opportunity to opt-out of this grant if the BOS takes the actions described in the motions. Ms. Spielman replied that the Town needs solid figures before it moves forward. She suggested sharing the cost of hiring an engineer with the Booster Club. Mr. Weitz replied that it would be hard to justify spending Booster Club money to research the field if the Town is not sure it will accept the grant. Ms. Costanzo echoed this sentiment.

Mr. Prichard expressed concern that the Town would spend \$40,000 to study the field project before the Town votes on it.

Mr. Webb responded that \$40,000 exceeded the bid limit unless the existing firm is on the State bid list. Ms. Costanzo said it was on the list. Mr. Webb replied that pursuing on this grant would follow a similar process to the Town Hall renovation project.

Mr. DiCorleto suggested appropriating \$40,000 and making an agreement with the Booster Club to pick up the rest of the cost. Mr. Weitz replied that the Booster Club cannot spend the money until the Town agrees to accept the grant.

Mr. Stavens asked how long the grant could be held off. No one knew. He continued, asking if the vote could be delayed another month.

Mr. DiCorleto stated that the grant has to go to referendum with everything priced out. Mr. Weitz asked when the referendum would be and Mr. DiCorleto replied that first they needed cost amounts that everyone agreed were accurate.

Mr. DiCorleto recommended against accepting the grant tonight and instead suggested just appropriating \$40,000 for a study.

Ms. Costanzo implored the BOS to follow the precedent they set in accepting the STEAP grant for Town Hall renovation. She was especially concerned that this grant was being held to much more rigorous standards than the Town Hall STEAP grant was. She contended that the Town Hall renovation was similarly not fully funded and yet that grant was accepted on its merits.

Ms. Costanzo again asserted that her group was charged by former First Selectman Maurice Blanchette with the task of obtaining this grant. Mr. Prichard rejoined that the BOS was not aware of the artificial turf field portion of the charge.

Mr. Stavens asked if it might not be better to build the artificial turf field elsewhere. Mr. Webb replied that recreation programs should simply use fields other than the Ellington High School field to reduce use.

Mr. Turner suggested passing the first motion as it simply secures the grant paperwork.

Mr. Prichard asked if the grant was accepted and the public rejected it could the grant still be used to install new lights. Ms. Costanzo replied no. Mr. Prichard expressed frustration that the field and the lights had been tied to the same grant. Ms. Costanzo replied that when the opportunity for obtaining one million dollars came up she wasn't going to say she only needed \$300,000.

Mr. Prichard estimated that this project would wind up costing two million dollars. Ms. Costanzo estimated the cost at 1.4 million dollars for a 10 year field.

Mr. Stavens stated that there was a field that only lasted seven years. Mr. Webb replied that field was in Simsbury but that it used crumb rubber and South Windsor's field is much more promising. He knew that the older fields were constructed in a different manner but had no history on sand fill fields.

Mr. Turner said that receiving a million dollar grant is very significant and he thanked the Booster Club and the Recreation Commission for their efforts.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (MILLER), AND PASSED (AYE: SPIELMAN, FERRY, MILLER, STAVENS, STOMBERG, TURNER; NAY: PRICHARD) TO ADOPT THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:

RESOLVED, that Lori Spielman, First Selectman of the Town of Ellington be, and hereby is, authorized to execute on behalf of this municipality a Personal Services Agreement with the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for financial assistance for the project titled Turf Field & Lighting Ellington High School CPAP 2016-08.

IN ADDITION, Lori Spielman, the First Selectman of the Town of Ellington, is hereby authorized to enter into and sign such agreements, contracts and execute all documents on behalf of the Town of Ellington necessary to said grant with the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection contingent upon review and favorable recommendation by the Town Attorney.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (MILLER), AND PASSED (AYE: SPIELMAN, FERRY, MILLER, STAVENS, STOMBERG, TURNER; NAY: PRICHARD) TO APPROPRIATE \$40,000

TO THE CAPITAL NON-RECURRING FUND FOR THE ELLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL ARTIFICIAL TURF FIELD AND LIGHTS AND TENNIS COURT LIGHTS FROM THE FY 2015-2016 UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE, PENDING BOARD OF FINANCE AND TOWN MEETING APPROVAL.

D. STEAP Grant for Town Hall Addition

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (MILLER), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADOPT THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:

RESOLVED, that First Selectman Lori Spielman be, and hereby is, authorized to accept on behalf of the Town of Ellington, a 2014 State of Connecticut STEAP Grant in the amount of \$500,000 for the Town Hall Addition Project; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that First Selectman Lori Spielman is hereby authorized to enter into and execute any and all agreements, contracts and documents necessary to obtain said 2014 STEAP Grant with the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management for the Town Hall Addition Project.

E. Computer Service and Maintenance Contract

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (MILLER), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO RENEW THE CONTRACT FOR THE SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE OF THE TOWN'S COMPUTER SYSTEM FOR AN ADDITIONAL YEAR TO APRIL 30, 2017, AS OUTLINED IN ARTICLE 3: TERM OF CONTRACT OF THE CURRENT CONTRACT WITH THE COMPUTER COMPANY OF CROMWELL, CONNECTICUT, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE FINANCE OFFICER.

F. CIRMA Budget Stabilization Program: 07/01/2016-17 through 07/01/2018-19

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (MILLER), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO AUTHORIZE THE FIRST SELECTMAN TO SIGN THE LETTER OF COMMITMENT FOR BUDGET STABILIZATION PROGRAM FOR LIABILITY-AUTOMOBILE-PROPERTY [LAP] COVERAGES, BETWEEN THE CONNECTICUT INTERLOCAL RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY (CIRMA), THE TOWN OF ELLINGTON AND ELLINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR THE POLICY PERIOD JULY 1, 2016 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2019.

G. Planning Department Staffing

Ms. Spielman stated that the position would be left open and no one would be hired. Ms. Houlihan stated that there had been a decline in clerical work in the Planning Department and there is not enough work to justify the position; the individual who would have been effected by this motion had recently resigned to pursue a full-time position.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STOMBERG), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO DISCONTINUE FUNDING FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY II POSITION IN THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT EFFECTIVE MARCH 18, 2016 AND TO INCLUDE FUNDING FOR A RECORDING SECRETARY IN THE PART-TIME LINE ITEM IN THE TOWN PLANNER'S BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017.

H. Set Public Hearing – Crystal Lake Boat Club Regatta

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (MILLER), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2016 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE ELLINGTON TOWN HALL MEETING HALL FOR THE PURPOSE OF ALLOWING CITIZENS TO COMMENT UPON THE CRYSTAL LAKE SAILING CLUB APPLICATION FOR A REGATTA PERMIT.

I. Re-Establish Ad Hoc Planning Committee for the Pinney Street Town-owned Property

Mr. Turner said the Ad Hoc Planning Committee for the Pinney Street Town-owned Property had met their goal and would expire.

V. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED (PRICHARD), SECONDED (STOMBERG) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN AT 8:50 P.M.

Submitted by  Joseph Tarzi Approved by  Lori L. Spielman

