

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

Monday, March 14, 2016

Town Hall – Meeting Hall

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: Rob Butler, Ellington Board of Education; Gary Feldman, Chief, Ellington Volunteer Fire Department; Tracy Kiff-Judson, Ellington Board of Education; Matt Mullen; Scott Nicol, Superintendent of Schools, Ellington Board of Education; Tom Palshaw; Peter Sanborn, President Community Opportunities Group, Inc.; Sam Schneider; Timothy Webb, Director of Public Works/WPCA Administrator; Ed Wysocki

PUBLIC HEARING: SMALL CITIES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

First Selectman Lori Spielman opened the public hearing at 7:04 p.m. and stated that written copies of the call of the hearing that appeared in the press were available to all attendees. Ms. Spielman asked for a motion to waive the reading of the call:

MOVED (FELDMAN), SECONDED (STOMBERG), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO WAIVE THE READING OF THE CALL OF THE HEARING.

Ms. Spielman noted that Peter Sanborn, President of Community Opportunities Group, Inc., was present to answer questions. Ms. Spielman asked if there were any comments from the public.

Matt Mullen commented that he knew of no urgent community development needs in Ellington and saw no need to apply for the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant. He expressed concern that the grant would bring with it associated and hidden costs and he said that Ellington should only take advantage of a grant it needs. Mr. Mullen lamented what he characterized as a large tax increase last year and he requested a turning lane at the traffic light at the intersection of Jobs Hill Road and Route 140.

Mr. Sanborn replied that Ellington has been utilizing the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant for over 20 years and has always addressed the national objective of serving low and moderate income citizens. He remarked that funds from the grant helped pay for the senior center as well as a senior van and housing rehabilitation. He continued remarking that people have to fall within income limits to qualify for assistance through the grant.

Mr. Sanborn said that since the program has been running the Town of Ellington has received millions of dollars. He noted that the grant was not a matching grant and equal funds did not have to be supplied by the Town of Ellington, though homeowners of moderate income do put up 25 percent of the cost of home rehabilitation. He continued stating that the Town's contribution is in the provision of office space, postage, internet services, and legal services.

Mr. Mullen asked if the Town hires a person to run the grant program. Mr. Sanborn replied that he and his firm run the grant and their fees are paid from the grant. He noted that over the years the grant has assisted almost 130 homeowners in Ellington.

Hearing no further comments, Ms. Spielman closed the public hearing at 7:20 p.m.

Submitted by


Joseph Tarzi

Approved by


Lori L. Spielman