

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, April 11, 2016  
Town Hall – Meeting Hall

## MINUTES

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

SELECTMEN ABSENT: David E. Stavens

OTHERS PRESENT: Francie Berger, Hall Memorial Library; Robert A. Butler Jr., Ellington Board of Education; Vicki Close; Gerry Gillung; Joe Palombizio, Ellington Emergency Management Director; Tom Palshaw; 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 7:07 p.m.

### II. CITIZENS' FORUM

Robert A. Butler Jr. came forward with an issue on Porter Road. He said that the dirt portion of the road and portions of his property have been destroyed by SUVs and Jeeps over the past decade and a half. He said that he put up gates on his property but the locks have been cut and Ellington State Troopers are aware of the issue; he said Trooper Timme has been up to the property four times about this issue. He also stated that drugs, alcohol and guns have been a problem in the area. He wanted to find out the procedure for getting the road gated and he said that the property owners he talked to support a gate.

Mr. Webb said that Mr. Butler needs the signed approval of all the affected neighbors in order to put up a gate but he also cautioned that lawbreakers would find a way around the gate. Mr. Butler responded that if the gate were put up it would send the word that Porter Road is no longer a party spot. Mr. Webb noted that the Town Attorney would have to review the documentation Mr. Butler is planning to use before he could go out and get signatures.

Mr. Turner expressed concern that Porter Road shows up as a Town road and a through road, which it is not, on maps and GPS.

Ms. Spielman suggested that Mr. Butler collect the signatures.

## III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

## A. March 7, 2016 Board of Selectmen Special Meeting

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (MILLER), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 7, 2016.

## B. March 14, 2016 Special Town Meeting

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (MILLER), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 14, 2016.

## C. March 14, 2015 Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (MILLER), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 14, 2016.

## D. March 28, 2016 Board of Selectmen Special Meeting

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STOMBERG), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 28, 2016.

## E. April 4, 2016 Board of Selectmen Special Meeting

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (MILLER), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 4, 2016.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: There was none.

## V. NEW BUSINESS

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (FERRY), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADD TO THE AGENDA UNDER NEW BUSINESS, ITEM K. HALL MEMORIAL LIBRARY - HOLI: A CELEBRATION OF SPRING EVENT.

## A. Tax Refunds/Abatements

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (MILLER), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE TAX REFUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,836.59, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE TAX & REVENUE COLLECTOR AND AS SPECIFIED IN THE REFUNDS/ABATEMENTS STATEMENT DATED APRIL 2016. [ATTACHED]

## B. Senior Center: Use of Facility

Ms. Spielman noted that the document was drawn up but has to go to the Town Attorney for approval. Mr. Turner believed the Town Attorney would comment on the document.

Mr. Miller asked if the BOS was approving the document subject to the Town Attorney's approval. Ms. Spielman responded that the BOS was simply taking the document to the next step.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STOMBERG), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE ELLINGTON SENIOR CENTER ROOM RENTAL APPLICATION, PENDING TOWN ATTORNEY APPROVAL. FURTHER TO RE-EVALUATE THE APPLICATION IN SIX MONTHS.

C. Crystal Lake Sailing Club Regatta Permit Application

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (MILLER), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE 2016 APPLICATION FOR A REGATTA PERMIT, AS SUBMITTED BY THE CRYSTAL LAKE SAILING CLUB.

D. Ad Hoc Committee for the Preservation of the Pinney House

Ms. Gillung reported that the Ad Hoc Committee for the Preservation of the Pinney House had spent a long time transforming itself into the Friends of the Pinney House, a 501c3 non-profit organization. She stated that as of December 2013 all meetings of the ad hoc committee had occurred under the auspices of the Friends of the Pinney House. She said their objective was to raise enough funds to have the matching funds necessary for a State grant. She reported that the Friends of the Pinney House had received a Historic Preservation Technical Assistance (HPTA) Grant with the purpose of hiring an architect with historic preservation experience to draw up plans for restoring the interior of the Pinney House. She continued that the desired purpose of the Pinney House would be for it to be used as a cultural arts and education center. She concluded that some changes, not in keeping with the historic character of the house, would be necessary to comply with the American's With Disabilities Act (ADA) as well as other ordinances.

Ms. Spielman asked if the Friends of the Pinney House had a final cost of preservation. Ms. Gillung said they did not.

Mr. Turner asked how the Friends of the Pinney House would comply with the ADA and maintain the historic character of the house – he also asked how the Friends of the Pinney House would accommodate parking. Ms. Gillung said that people could possibly park at the fields across the street though they would need some accommodations for crossing the road and Eric Santini might provide more spaces. Mr. Turner responded that there are no sidewalks and no lights and the state might not approve a crosswalk.

Mr. Turner asked if the upstairs of the Pinney House would be opened. Ms. Gillung responded that they hope to renovate the entire downstairs but there isn't much historic left upstairs so it would be used for offices and storage.

Mr. Turner said that they might be challenged to meet building codes. Ms. Gillung responded that their architect, Bob Herd of Vernon, has experience with historic structures.

Mr. Prichard asked if the Pinney House had a basement. Ms. Gillung said it did.

Ms. Gillung made brief historical remarks about the Pinney House.

Ms. Spielman asked if they had considered the foundation of the Pinney House. Ms. Gillung said they had not talked about it.

Ms. Spielman noted that Eric Santini Sr. said it would cost \$750,000 to \$800,000 to finish the interior of the Pinney House, including the basement. Ms. Gillung said no one has mentioned the need to repair the basement and she disagreed with the financial assessment. Mr. Stomberg said

that last time he was in the basement they had made improvements and he did not consider it a big issue.

E. Request to Use Brookside Park/Ellington Volunteer Fire Department

Mr. Stomberg asked Mr. Turner if they should add signage in front of the new firehouse. Mr. Turner said he couldn't speak to that.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (MILLER), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO GRANT PERMISSION TO THE ELLINGTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT (EVFD) TO USE THE WEST SECTION OF BROOKSIDE PARK FROM AUGUST 23, 2016 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 11, 2016 FOR THE ANNUAL EVFD CARNIVAL AND TO ERECT SIGNS PROMOTING THE ANNUAL EVFD CARNIVAL ON THE BROOKSIDE PARK GROUNDS AND ON THE PROPERTY IN FRONT OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMPLEX ADJACENT TO THE FIREHOUSE. FURTHER TO DIRECT THE EVFD TO CONSULT WITH THE PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR REGARDING THE DETAILS OF THE SPACE REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS EVENT.

F. Regional Local Emergency Planning Committee

Mr. Palombizio said the cost of joining this program to the Town is zero and that joining the Capitol Region Emergency Planning Council (CREPC) takes the burden of running the Local Emergency Planning Committee off of the Town. He said the State would step up if an individual or organization dumped hazardous waste in Ellington if they joined this program.

Mr. Miller asked how many representative should be sent to the CREPC. Mr. Palombizio recommended three representatives.

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

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut requires each municipality to have a designated Local Emergency Planning Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Connecticut State Emergency Response Commission supports any efforts made towards LEPC regionalization; and

WHEREAS, the Capitol Region Council of Governments, through the Capitol Region Emergency Planning Council (CREPC), is one of five (5) recognized regional districts by the Connecticut State Emergency Response Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Ellington acknowledges the value of the regional LEPC district of CREPC.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Town of Ellington elects to join the Capitol Region Emergency Planning Council and designate the CREPC as the Town of Ellington LEPC.

G. Municipal Solid Waste Management Services Agreement/Amendment

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (MILLER), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO TIER 1 LONG TERM MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICE AGREEMENT AND AUTHORIZE THE FIRST SELECTMAN TO EXECUTE THE AMENDMENT.

H. Department of Public Works Open House - May 26, 2016

Mr. Webb said that the Department of Public Works seeks donations from vendors and juice boxes are provided because bees like soda. He said there would be staged equipment, dump truck rides for children, and a meet and greet with the snow plow driver. The event will run from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on May 26 2016.

I. Bright Idea Grant

Mr. Webb said that the Department of Public Works would be replacing the decorative lamps in the Center School parking lot using funds from the Bright Idea Grant.

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

BE IT RESOLVED THAT LORI SPIELMAN, FIRST SELECTMAN OF THE TOWN OF ELLINGTON, IS AUTHORIZED TO SIGN AND EXECUTE AGREEMENTS AND CONTRACTS, ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF ELLINGTON WITH THE CONNECTICUT LIGHT & POWER COMPANY DOING BUSINESS AS EVERSOURCE ENERGY, RELATING TO THE CLEAN ENERGY COMMUNITIES/BRIGHT IDEA GRANT PROGRAM.

J. 2016-2017 Annual Town Budget Meeting:

Mr. Turner said that the public expects to have the right to vote on the budget at referendum. Ms. Spielman said that seniors were strongly in favor of a referendum.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (MILLER), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO SEND THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO THE ANNUAL TOWN BUDGET MEETING, SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2016 AT 8:00 P.M., PREVAILING TIME, AT THE ELLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL, FOR CONSIDERATION:

1. Approval of the 5-year road reconstruction/overlay repair plan [pursuant to CGS Sec. 13a-99], as recommended by the Director of Public Works.
2. Acceptance of prepaid grants and funds fully reimbursable for the Fiscal Year commencing on July 1, 2016 and ending on June 30, 2017, and to appropriate the same to the Board of Education in a sum estimated at \$2,246,010, as recommended by the Board of Education.
3. To determine that municipal tax shall be paid in two (2) installments for real estate and personal property tax in excess of six hundred (600) dollars and motor vehicle tax to be paid in one (1) installment with designated due dates as stated in the Connecticut State Statutes, Sections 12-142, 12-144, 12-144a and Public Act 77-343, Section 2 and to waive any property tax due in an amount less than five (5) dollars as stated in the Connecticut State Statutes, Section 12-144c, as recommended by the Tax and Revenue Collector.
4. To adjourn the Annual Town Budget Meeting to a referendum to be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2016 from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. with one question:

“SHALL THE TOWN OF ELLINGTON APPROPRIATE, AS RECOMMENDED AND AS ALLOCATED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE, THE TOTAL SUM FOR ALL EXPENDITURES, A/K/A BUDGET GRAND TOTAL FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017, THE SUM TO BE DETERMINED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE?”

5. Approval of Draft Legal Notice for Annual Budget Meeting

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (PRICHARD), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE LEGAL NOTICE FOR THE ANNUAL TOWN BUDGET MEETING, AS VOTED ABOVE IN ITEM V.N.4. AND TO INCLUDE THE SUM AS DETERMINED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE.

K. HALL MEMORIAL LIBRARY - HOLI: A CELEBRATION OF SPRING EVENT

Ms. Berger described Holi, an Indian festival that welcomes spring. She noted that there is a large and growing Indian population in Ellington and, this is an opportunity to increase participation in Hall Memorial Library (HML) programming. She said the response to Holi was overwhelming with 325 people signed up within eight days. She said there would be a Chinese acrobat, a DJ, food vendors serving samosas, and dance groups. In accordance with Holi tradition, people would be given bags of colored powder and encouraged to spread the powder on clothing – after the powder is distributed people would not be allowed to enter HML. She said that the Parks and Recreation Department of the Town of Vernon had agreed to provide a stage and she said every snack would be priced at a dollar. She asked if the roads might need to be closed and asked for help in obtaining permits.

Mr. Webb said that the 90 day requirement on permits was in place to answer the concerns of the Building Department, the Fire Marshal, and the Health Department – he did not think that HML could get this event permitted in 36 days.

Ms. Spielman said that she had seen documentation stating that food would not be served. Ms. Berger said that HML had been planning on making their own food but the event got too big.

Mr. Turner said that there are issues with gasoline generators used by food trucks and he noted that there is no chance of closing Routes 140 and 286. He said it was a fantastic idea but noted that HML was tight on time.

Mr. Turner asked if the BOS should make a motion granting the request of HML pending all the permit approvals. Ms. Spielman said Ms. Berger should come back if she meets the approvals.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (PRICHARD), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO TABLE WITHOUT PREJUDICE.

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- A. Building Department
- B. Emergency Services

1. Resident State Troopers' Office: Ms. Spielman noted that Trooper Brian Santa had started his tenure.
2. Emergency Management Director: Ms. Spielman noted that Mr. Palombizio is doing a great job.

3. Ellington Volunteer Ambulance Corps
4. Ellington Volunteer Fire Department (EVFD): Ms. Spielman noted that the EVFD had a nice family gathering on March 31, 2016. Mr. Turner said that the EVFD is planning an open house for the new firehouse from noon to 4 p.m. on April 30, 2016. He also said that since January 7, 2016 over 1,100 volunteer hours had gone into the new Nutmeg Drive firehouse.
5. Crystal Lake Fire Department

- C. Fire Marshal
- D. Hall Memorial Library
- E. Tax & Revenue Collector: Ms. Spielman noted that the new Deputy Tax Collector is doing a very good job.
- F. Town Planner
- G. Public Works Quarterly Report & 2016 Construction Season Work Schedule: Ms. Spielman called Mr. Webb's progress totally amazing. Mr. Miller asked about Church Street drainage. Mr. Webb responded that Public Works was working on the problem but was inhibited by the fact that they are prohibited from attaching to State drainage on either side of the street. It was noted that a new waste oil heater was installed at the new firehouse – it is above ground and powered by waste oil that residents drop off.

## VII. SELECTMAN COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Personnel Committee
  1. Resignations

MOVED (FERRY), SECONDED (TURNER), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF TIMOTHY J. COLLINS FROM THE ELLINGTON HOUSING AUTHORITY.

2. Recommended Appointments

MOVED (FERRY), SECONDED (STOMBERG), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO REAPPOINT SHAWN KOEHLER TO THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY TO SERVE A FOUR-YEAR TERM ENDING APRIL 30, 2020.

MOVED (FERRY), SECONDED (MILLER), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO REAPPOINT DENNIS MILANOVICH TO THE BUILDING CODE BOARD OF APPEALS TO SERVE A FIVE-YEAR TERM ENDING APRIL 30, 2021.

- B. Other

## VIII. SELECTMAN LIAISON REPORTS: There were none.

## IX. FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

- A. Staff:

The First Selectman reported that Walter Topliff, Assessor, resigned from his position effective March 23, 2016.

- B. Other:

The First Selectman reported that the Charter Revision Commission will present their report to the BOS on April 25.

The First Selectman reported that she met with Hilary Kumnick regarding establishing a Lions Club in Ellington. They are actively campaigning and plan to reach out to the community at various locations in Town. They will check the eyes of the kids in the schools for free.

The First Selectman reported that she met with Senator Larson and Seth Bahler at Oakridge Dairy Farm. She reviewed plans to improve the facility and add a Visitor Center and discussed seeking assistance with State Grants.

The First Selectman reported that she provided a summary overview of the 2016-17 budget and highlighted the major changes impacting the budget at the Senior Center.

The First Selectman reported that she was working on implementing training and operating procedures for EMT/Drivers at Ellington Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

The First Selectman reported that she met with Municipal Leaders and Lyle Wray of Connecticut Regional Council of Governments at the State Capitol regarding crumbling foundations.

The First Selectman reported that she attended the Vietnam Veterans Program (Master of Ceremonies, Ted Graziani) with Joe Palombizio at the State Capitol on March 30. March 30 has been designated as Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day as it was the day that the last combat troops withdrew from Vietnam.

The First Selectman reported that she attended the Chamber of Commerce Business Showcase event at Meneeley's.

The First Selectman reported that she attended the Democratic Town Committee Meeting on April 6, 2016.

The First Selectman reported that she toured the Nellie McKnight Museum on April 11, 2016.

The First Selectman reported that she attended a dinner hosted by the Ellington Volunteer Fire Department held at the new Station 243. The formal open house and dedication ceremony is planned for Saturday, April 30, 2016.

The First Selectman reported that she met with Bruce Dinnie from the Town of Vernon and reviewed signage for Town parks.

The First Selectman reported that the Town of Ellington now has a Facebook page and has started posting information. If residents make comments they must be approved by the First Selectman's Office before they will be posted. Mr. Miller noted that the Facebook page would be great to advertise the budget hearings.

Mr. Miller expressed concern about the artificial turf field and said he hoped to get some answers from the Football Boosters. Ms. Ferry expressed concern about carcinogens in the artificial turf. Mr. Miller responded that since they are using sand as fill, carcinogens should not be an issue. Mr. Miller asked if there was some way to do the lights specified in the turf field grant without doing the field.

X. CORRESPONDENCE

- A. March 24, 2016 Email from Ellen O'Shaughnessy, Chairman, Charter Revision Commission, requesting a Special Meeting with the BOS on April 25 to present their recommendations.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED (STOMBERG), SECONDED (FERRY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN AT 8:47 P.M.

Submitted by



Joseph Tarzi

Approved by



Lori L. Spielman

