



# TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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

## BOARD OF FINANCE

ROBERT J. CLEMENTS  
Chairman

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

## BUDGET DELIBERATIONS APRIL 14, 2016 MINUTES

**Board of Finance Present:** R. Clements, D. Harding, M. Joyse, B. Pinto, J. Rachek and M. Varney

**Others Present:** N. DiCorleto-Finance Officer, L. Spielman-First Selectman, Selectmen Prichard and Turner, D. Crayton-Dir Human Services, E. Graziani-Dir Sr. Center, A. Lawrence-Fire Marshal, R. Tedford-Dir P&R, T. Webb-DPW Dir, T. Palshaw

Chairman Robert Clements opened the meeting at 7:40 PM. He expressed his disappointment with the process of immediately setting a referendum for the town budget. He felt that if more people attended the town budget meeting because they thought the budget would be approved at the annual town meeting, they would be a more informed voter. He also expressed his disapproval of the Governor's proposed cuts to the Education Cost Sharing as well as the cut to the Municipal Revenue Sharing.

Mr. Clements stated that the current shortfall due to the Governor's proposed budget is \$791,518 (\$404,272 for ECS and \$387,246 Municipal Revenue Sharing). The Finance Officer reviewed the FY17 Governor's Proposed Municipal Aid spreadsheet.

Mr. Clements stated that the Town Manager in Coventry was quoted in the newspaper commenting that he thinks the Governor's actions are unconstitutional because they changed the formula for Education Cost Sharing. Mr. Joyse stated that since this is not law yet because the Legislature has not acted yet, the Town doesn't know what the final numbers will be. The Board of Finance should have a strategy. All Board members agreed and Mr. Clements stated that no one knows what the final cuts will be. He asked for ideas from the other members of the Board.

Nicholas DiCorleto pointed out a couple of corrections to the budget for a net of \$42,020. Mr. Clements felt that he, the Finance Officer and the First Selectman should meet with Department Heads to see where they could possibly make reductions. He felt that the critical items such as safety agencies and road repairs should be passed over. Barry Pinto offered the option of a reduction of 1% across the general government budget with the exception of fire and police and that the Board of Education bears the \$400,000 Education Cost Sharing deduction.

First Selectman Lori Spielman would like to help the Ambulance Corps create a true budget. She would like to go back several years and tighten it up. Mr. Varney agreed to help with this.

Mr. Varney stated that the Board should reschedule next month's deliberations and hold off as long as possible hoping for the Legislature to revise or approve these reductions. Then if nothing changes before then, the Board of Finance can set the budget as conservative as possible. Budgets cannot be added to after they are approved by the taxpayers. He feels the Board should have a goal in mind for the mill rate. Mr. Clements felt that less than 1 mill increase would be acceptable.

Mr. Joyse felt that a 1% reduction across the budgets should be considered if intelligent cuts cannot be found. The Finance Officer will figure out several scenarios for reductions and how they affect the mill rate and the percentage increase. The next budget deliberation meeting will be scheduled for Tuesday, April 26, 2016.

**MOVED (PINTO) SECONDED (HARDING) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN  
THE DELIBERATIONS AT 8:10 PM.**

Respectfully submitted:

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

Lori Smith, Recording Secretary