

STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND  
INCORPORATED 1786



# TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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JAMES M. PRICHARD  
Deputy First Selectman

MELINDA M. FERRY  
AARON J. FOSTER  
DAVID E. STAVENS  
RONALD F. STOMBERG  
JOHN W. TURNER

LORI L. SPIELMAN  
First Selectman

## TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION PROGRAM

The following employees were recognized for service to the Town of Ellington:

### 5 Years of Service

John Barth, Police Officer  
Francie Berger, Program/Reference Librarian  
Edward Decker, Police Officer/Police Support Administrator  
Tina Modzelewski, Administrative Secretary  
Timothy Webb, Director of Public Works/WPCA Administrator

### 10 Years of Service

Kimberly Bechard, Assessor  
Richard Daugherty, Maintainer I  
Benjamin Pare, Maintainer I  
Dawn Stavens, Tax Clerk

### 20 Years of Service

Leonard Descheneaux Sr., Foreman

### 30 Years of Service

Lisa Giaquinto, Library Assistant II  
Erin Graziani, Senior Center Director  
Barbara Murdach, Animal Control Officer

BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Monday, October 17, 2016  
Town Hall – Meeting Hall

SELECTMEN PRESENT: Lori L. Spielman, Melinda M. Ferry, Aaron J. Foster, James M. Prichard, David E. Stavens, Ronald F. Stomberg, John W. Turner

OTHERS PRESENT: Gary Blanchette, Laurie Burstein, Yale Cantor, Gary Feldman, Ellington Volunteer Fire Department Chief, Jaime Foster, Erin R. Graziani, Senior Center Director, Lisa Houlihan, Town Planner, 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 7:04 p.m.

II. CITIZENS' FORUM

Ms. Burstein disagreed with the proposal to spend taxpayer money on a sidewalk along Route 83 and instead suggested that such funds would be put to better use expanding or creating sidewalks near schools. She said that in some areas, such as near Windermere School, it is very dangerous for children because there is no room to walk.

Mrs. Foster echoed Ms. Burstein's sentiments and added that state funds should pay for a sidewalk along Route 83.

Mr. Cantor agreed with the thoughts of the first two speakers.

Mr. Blanchette said he supports more sidewalks.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. September 12, 2016 Special Town Meeting

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (PRICHARD), AND PASSED (AYE: FERRY, FOSTER, PRICHARD, SPIELMAN, STOMBERG, TURNER – ABSTAIN: STAVENS) TO APPROVE THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2016.

B. September 12, 2016 Board of Selectmen Special Meeting

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (PRICHARD), AND PASSED (AYE: FERRY, FOSTER, PRICHARD, SPIELMAN, STOMBERG, TURNER – ABSTAIN: STAVENS) TO APPROVE THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2016.

C. September 12, 2016 Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (PRICHARD), AND PASSED (AYE: FERRY, FOSTER, PRICHARD, SPIELMAN, STOMBERG, TURNER – ABSTAIN: STAVENS) TO APPROVE THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2016.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Winterfest 2016

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (PRICHARD), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO GRANT THE REQUEST OF THE WINTERFEST COMMITTEE TO HOLD THE 2016 WINTERFEST ON THE TOWN GREEN ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2016 BETWEEN 3:45 AND 7:00 P.M. INCLUDING SET-UP AND CLEAN-UP FOR A TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY TO BE COORDINATED WITH THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, PROVIDED ALL NECESSARY TOWN AGENCY APPROVALS AND STATE PERMITS ARE OBTAINED. FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT POLICE COVERAGE AND TWO SANI-CANS SHALL BE PROVIDED BY THE TOWN FOR THE WINTERFEST ACTIVITIES. FURTHER RESOLVED, TO CLOSE CHURCH STREET DURING THE 2016 WINTERFEST EVENT.

## V. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Tax Refunds/Abatements

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (FOSTER), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE TAX REFUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,413.26 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE TAX & REVENUE COLLECTOR AND AS SPECIFIED IN THE REFUNDS/ABATEMENT STATEMENT FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2016.

### B. 57 Kibbe Road

Mr. Turner supported the Town Attorney's recommendation regarding this issue.

Mr. Prichard asked if a lower payment could be arranged if the property owner decided to pay off the entire tax delinquency. Ms. Spielman replied that the Town tried that before.

Mr. Stomberg wondered why the property owners haven't availed themselves of avenues to escape the delinquency. Ms. Spielman said their financial burden is too much.

Mr. Foster asked if there was a way to cease interest accumulation. Ms. Spielman said no. Mr. Stavens said it would set a precedent.

### C. Appointments to Elected Board/Commission

#### 1. Planning and Zoning Commission

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (PRICHARD), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT MICHAEL FRANCIS TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION TO DECEMBER 4, 2017 TO FILL AN UNEXPIRED DEMOCRATIC TERM, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE.

#### 2. Board of Finance

No motion: Awaiting nomination from Republican Town Committee.

### D. Snow Plowing Contract for 2016-2017

Mr. Foster asked if Barber Utilities would be on call in the event of a blizzard. Mr. Webb replied that they would.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (PRICHARD), AND PASSED (AYE: FERRY, FOSTER, PRICHARD, SPIELMAN, STOMBERG, TURNER – ABSTAIN: STAVENS) TO AWARD THE CONTRACT FOR THE 2016-2017 SNOW PLOWING SEASON (ENDING APRIL 30, 2017) TO BARBER UTILITIES, LLC OF ELLINGTON, CT, UPON THE SAME TERMS AND CONDITIONS AND PRICES AS THE BARBER UTILITIES, LLC CONTRACT SIGNED ON OCTOBER 31, 2014, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS.

### E. Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside FY 2016-2020

The BOS discussed the application for a grant to place a sidewalk along Route 83 between Rockville and Ellington Center.

Ms. Spielman stated her support for sidewalks near schools but said that this particular grant requires certain economic criteria which is why Route 83 was chosen for this application.

Ms. Houlihan said that the proposed sidewalk would be five feet wide and include four footbridges and retaining walls where there are slopes. She said that they are looking not only at walkways but at a system that might be able to support bicycles.

Mr. Foster asked for pedestrian traffic counts of the proposed area. Ms. Houlihan said she had no such data.

Mr. Foster said that sidewalks in areas around schools are a priority and that sidewalks along state roads should be paid for by the state.

Mr. Webb said that the Town would be held to 20 percent of the cost of the project.

Mr. Webb suggested that the Town might look into the Safe Routes to School program for funding of sidewalks near schools. He said the program would require a great amount of collaboration between police, the PTA, and the Department of Public Works.

Ms. Houlihan supported sidewalks wherever they can go and said that if the Town can connect its commercial corridor to Main Street it would promote neighborhood building.

Mr. Foster suggested that one percent of the Town's yearly budget is a lot to choose to spend with only 40 minutes to look over the proposal. Ms. Houlihan replied that this vote is only for a request to seek approval to apply for the grant and that the BOS would have to grant formal approval at a later date.

Mr. Prichard said that supporting the sidewalk currently has no downside.

Ms. Ferry asked why the Big Y complex wasn't required to put in sidewalks. Ms. Houlihan couldn't speak to that question as it happened before her tenure.

Mr. Turner said that there is too much traffic on Route 83 for it to remain a two-lane road and said the Town would see more third lanes. Mr. Foster was also concerned that the State would choose to widen the road in a few years.

Mr. Webb said that there is no money being spent now, this vote is simply to get Ellington into the queue for the grant money.

Mr. Prichard was wary of the cost of engineering plans for projects that may not come to fruition.

Ms. Houlihan reminded the BOS that a lot of people are walking Route 83 currently. She said it is not a competition between a sidewalk on Route 83 and sidewalks near schools.

Mr. Webb again said to the BOS that they could seek school sidewalks via the Safe Routes to School program. Mr. Foster contended that the program they were currently applying for was conterminous with the Safe Routes to School program.

Ms. Houlihan said that the state is not currently looking at expanding Route 83.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STAVENS), AND PASSED (AYE: FERRY, PRICHARD, SPIELMAN, STAVENS, STOMBERG, TURNER – NAY: FOSTER) THAT ELLINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN ENDORSE THE CONSTRUCTION OF WALK/BIKEWAYS ALONG ROUTE 83 FROM THE VERNON TOWN LINE TO MAIN STREET, ELLINGTON TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE (TA) SET-ASIDE BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM AT 80% AND LOCAL TOWN FUNDS AT 20%. THE TOWN OF ELLINGTON ACKNOWLEDGES RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMITMENT TO OPERATE, MAINTAIN AND INSURE THE COMPLETED IMPROVEMENTS. IN ADDITION, UPON PROJECT COMPLETION, THE RESPONSIBILITY OF LIABILITY AND MAINTENANCE TO ENSURE A SAFE, SECURE FACILITY AND COMPONENTS REMAINS WITH THE TOWN OF ELLINGTON, REGARDLESS OF LOCATION WITHIN STATE OR FEDERAL RIGHTS-OF-WAY.

FURTHERMORE, TO APPROVE AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$475,400 WHICH REPRESENTS THE TOWN'S 20% FUNDING COMMITMENT UNDER THE TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE SET-ASIDE 2016-2020 BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM FOR CONSTRUCTION OF WALK/BIKEWAYS ALONG ROUTE 83, PENDING BOARD OF FINANCE AND TOWN MEETING APPROVALS.

#### VI. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- A. Building Official
- B. Emergency Services
  - 1. Resident State Trooper's Office

Ms. Spielman reported that calls to the Resident State Trooper's Office are up.

- 2. Emergency Management Director
- 3. Ellington Volunteer Ambulance Corps

Mr. Turner said that these reports are heading in the right direction toward what the BOS is looking for.

- 4. Ellington Volunteer Fire Department
- C. Fire Marshal
- D. Hall Memorial Library

No report this month.

- E. Tax & Revenue Collector
- F. Town Planner

Mr. Stavens asked Ms. Houlihan to speak to the BOS about a new assisted living facility being built in Town.

Mr. Turner asked if there was potential for a second or third building on the site. Ms. Houlihan said there was.

Chief Feldman said he was uncomfortable with this project as it would result in a dramatic increase in calls for EMS.

Ms. Ferry asked if this facility would affect the Senior Center. Ms. Houlihan responded that it is mainly a self-supporting facility but that some residents might want to take advantage of Senior Center programs.

Ms. Houlihan added that this is strictly an assisted living facility, not a convalescent home.

Mr. Turner asked if the facility would have a psychological ward. Ms. Houlihan replied that it would not.

## VII. SELECTMEN COMMITTEE REPORTS

### A. Personnel Committee:

#### 1. Resignations

MOVED (FERRY), SECONDED (STAVENS), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF SIMON HESSLER FROM THE AD HOC EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE.

#### 2. Appointments

MOVED (FERRY), SECONDED (STAVENS), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT KAREN NEAL AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS TO COMPLETE AN UNEXPIRED TERM ENDING JANUARY 31, 2018.

MOVED (FERRY), SECONDED (STAVENS), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT CHARLES MCCLEARY AS A MEMBER OF THE ETHICS COMMISSION TO COMPLETE AN UNEXPIRED TERM ENDING JANUARY 31, 2017.

MOVED (FERRY), SECONDED (STAVENS), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT CHARLES MCCLEARY AS A MEMBER OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION TO COMPLETE AN UNEXPIRED TERM ENDING MARCH 31, 2020.

### B. Other

## VIII. SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS

## IX. FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

### A. New Hires

- Savannah Blantz, Land Use Commissions Recording Secretary

### B. Other

The First Selectman reported that the second issue of *Ellington Events* was wrapping up.

The First Selectman reported that the Town owned Hall Road house was being put up for auction.

The First Selectman reported that the Town is working on Winterfest 2016.

The First Selectman reported that the Town Hall expansion update meeting was the morning of October 17.

The First Selectman reported that she would be appearing on the Community Voice Channel with Mr. Webb.

The First Selectman reported that she attended the Vietnam veterans' ceremony with Joe Palombizio.

The First Selectman reported that she visited the old and new sites of LouAnn's Bakery.

The First Selectman reported that she attended the emergency drill at Rockville High School.

The First Selectman reported that she attended the police chiefs' meeting in West Hartford.

The First Selectman reported that she attended the Parks and Recreation Commission and that they are excited to start work on the artificial turf field.

The First Selectman reported that EVAC worker Alyssa Smith had a stroke while alone at the EVAC building.

The First Selectman reported that people are coming into Town Hall with the problem of their wells running dry.

#### X. CORRESPONDENCE

#### XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (FERRY), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:40 P.M. FOR THE PURPOSE OF STRATEGY AND NEGOTIATION WITH RESPECT TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING RELATED TO THE 2017-2020 BOARD OF EDUCATION ADMINISTRATORS' CONTRACT.

PRESENT: BOS Members

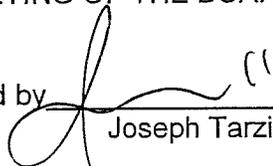
*The BOS came out of Executive Session at 8:56 p.m.*

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (PRICHARD), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE 2017-2020 BOARD OF EDUCATION ADMINISTRATORS' CONTRACT AS PRESENTED.

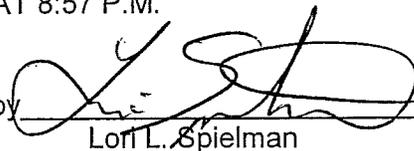
#### XII. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED (PRICHARD), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN AT 8:57 P.M.

Submitted by

  
Joseph Tarzi

Approved by

  
Lori L. Spielman

