



STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND  
INCORPORATED 1786

# TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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## BOARD OF FINANCE

JOHN P. RACHEK  
Chairman

DOUGLAS B. HARDING  
MARK A. JOYSE  
DAVID J. OLENDER  
BARRY C. PINTO  
MICHAEL D. VARNEY

## BUDGET HEARINGS MARCH 28, 2017 MINUTES

**Board of Finance Present:** J. Rachek-Chairman, D. Harding, M. Joyse, D. Olender, B. Pinto, M. Varney

**Others Present:** N. DiCorleto-Finance Officer, L. Spielman-First Selectman, J. Prichard-Deputy First Sel, Members of the Board of Selectmen, T. Webb-DPW Director, G. Feldman-Chief EVFD and Members of the Center Fire Dept., C. Pippin-Chief CLFD and Members of the Crystal Lake Fire Dept., N. Stillman-Pres EVAC and Members of Ellington Ambulance Corps, Dr. Nicol-Supt. of Schools, B. Greenleaf-Dir Finance/Operations BOE, A. Lawrence-Fire Marshal, Sgt. B. Santa, R. Tedford-Director P&R, S. Phillips-Director HML, J. Hollister-Human Svs Director, D. Lasher-Penti-Youth Services Dir, E. Graziani-Sr. Ctr Director, Several residents.

### Call to Order

Chairman John Rachek called the hearing to order at 7:34 PM.

### Board of Selectmen Budget 2017-18

First Selectman, Lori Spielman and Deputy First Selectman, Jim Prichard presented the budget. She read through the total budget figures for each line item and highlighted the increases and decreases. The Board of Finance members asked questions as felt necessary.

#### General Government:

Account 110 Board of Selectman increased 17.06% due mainly from increased hours for Executive Secretary to full time status. Lori Spielman explained that this is due to the workload and that Marie Sauve is now working exclusively with Human Resources. The fringe benefits are accounted for under account 950.

Account 130 Finance Officer - The increase is for part time additional hours for special projects. The Finance Officer stated that many of his contractual services are not due until after January.

Account 131 Tax Assessor – Reduction of 3.19%.  
Account 132 Tax Collector – Increase of 2.61%.

Account 150 Town Counsel – no increase. The question of whether this budget is sufficient because it is generally overspent came up. The Finance Officer stated that he uses averages and that the majority of union contract negotiations are completed.

Account 170 Town Planner - increased 3.34%

Boards and Agencies:

Account 210 Registrars – Increase is due to the cost for constables at referendums.

Economic Development Commission increased 11.11%, Planning & Zoning increased 1.57%, Zoning Board of Appeals 24.39% increase, Inland Wetlands Agency decreased 8.96%, and Conservation Commission increased 25%. Town Planner, Lisa Houlihan stated that the increases are due to the recording secretary's salary being taken out of the Planner's budget and accounted for in each of the commission's budget.

Public Safety:

Account 310 Center Fire Dept. increased 3.40% due to contracted services for cleaning services and NFPA compliant health testing.

Account 320 Crystal Lake Fire – no increase

Account 321 Public Fire Protection increase is due to CT Water fees for hydrants.

Account 330 Police – The increase of 12.17% is due to the Town assuming the responsibility to pay 100% of the Resident Troopers cost. Sgt. Santa stated that they currently have 5 State Troopers including himself and that this budget also includes an increase in fringe benefit rate. They have budgeted for the 100% cost as the worst case scenario; the actual amount will not be determined until the Governor's budget is finalized. The SRO's are in the education budget. Lori Spielman stated that the increase in this budget is due to the Governor's budget as well as increase in calls for service which have gone up by 3,000 this year. Sgt. Santa stated that the State Troopers take the criminal cases and the Constables handle the calls for service such as traffic accidents, etc.

Account 340 – Animal Control increase is due to fence repairs. There is one salaried Animal Control Officer and part time personnel to fill in during off hours.

Account 350- Emergency Management decreased by 2.14%.

Account 370 – Ellington Volunteer Ambulance decreased by .75%. Mr. Rachek asked what the net of contribution from charging funds was. He was told that this year's contribution is \$120,000 with the net budget of \$175,000. FY2017-18 will be a contribution of \$146,000 with a net of \$120,000. The EVAC salary account is reduced. This account is based on average hours and does not include the Rescue Post salaries.

Account 375 Ad Hoc Emergency Services Comm. – Mr. Rachek asked why they needed a recording secretary. Lori Spielman stated that she would look into that.

Account 391 Fire Marshal – Decrease of .62%

Public Works:

Account 410 General Town Roads – 3.89% increase.

Account 420 Equip Maint. – 6.52% decrease, currently the main garage and office building are on natural gas, there are waste oil burners for the other small buildings and one above ground fuel oil tank for the old garage that is filled about 4 times a year.

Account 435 Grounds Maint. – increased 4.76%. Mr. Olender asked if the winter and town road maintenance accounts are expended fully each year. Mr. Webb stated that he works with the Finance Officer and purchases additional salt for the next winter if there are funds available and to chip seal additional roadways if available.

Account 470 Street Lighting – Mr. Webb stated that the streetlights have been changed over to LED, the lights on Main St has been changed over and the decorative streetlights in the subdivisions will be done. While doing this, Eversource found lights that had not been included on our account. Therefore, any decrease in electricity may be offset by an increase in inventory.

Recreation:

Account 540 increased 5.92%. The fees have been increased and the revenues to expenses are 64% which is the same as last budget year.

Account 610 Hall Memorial Library – This budget increased 3.29%. Sue Phillips stated that the library is open 7 days a week. The salary increase is due to a couple of positions she would like to change from part time to full time. The Book Budget has also been increased.

Human Services Commission:

Account 750 Human Services increased 18.01%. Human Services Director, Joy Hollister explained that the increase is due to the Youth Services Coordinator paid for by a grant that is ending and the Town will now be responsible for the funding. She would like to continue the program. She stated that their programs are different than the schools and other agencies and that they are continually be requested to start new programs.

Account 795 Senior Center – This account increased 16.64%. Joy Hollister stated that the increase is due to a new secretary. She stated that the programs and services are increasing steadily and that having a full time secretary will be more efficient. Use of the Senior Center has increased 40% over the past three years with a 27% increase in programming. Mr. Rachek stated that the budget for the Senior Center increases every year. The cost for electricity and natural gas as reflected in the budget was questioned. Ms. Hollister stated that at this point the gas is not completely hooked up and that they will not know the savings for some time. Mr. Webb stated that due to the size of the building and the use, they don't know what the savings will be. These accounts will be looked at and adjusted.

Town Properties:

Account 110 Town Hall increased 1.10%

Account 835 Library – Should be 0% increase (error).

Account 841 Arbor Commons Police – Increase to contracted services. Lori Spielman will research to see what the reason for the increase is.

Account 845 Senior Center – Increase of 16.10% is due to irrigation and sewer user charges. The question of whether a well can be dug or a deduct meter put in was discussed. Lori Spielman offered to look into the water well.

Account 860 Old Crystal Lake Schoolhouse – increase of 35% due to maintenance and repair items required, doors, railings, etc.

**Debt Service:**

Principal increase of 18.99% is due to the EVFD Fire Station and equipment leases.

**Fixed Charges:**

Account 950 insurance decreased 1.21% as well as Social Security (.21%). Mr. DiCorleto stated that the property and casualty insurance went up due to WC Claims and that the new full time positions in this budget are reflected in these line items.

**Miscellaneous:**

Account 1035 Charter Revision Commission decreased. Mr. Joyse asked why there was a \$4,000 budget for the committee. Mr. DiCorleto stated that it is for the printing of the new charters after the referendum.

Account 1065 Salary Adjustment decrease of 78% is for management salaries.

Account 1075 Town Communications budget decreased 75.49% due to advertisers in the Ellington Events magazine.

The grand total General Government budget is \$18,487,178 with a 3.41% total increase.

In closing Lori Spielman stated that she will email to the members Account 110 PT vs FT hours to dollars; explanation for the recording secretary for Account 375, Sr. Center electricity and gas budget figures will be looked at again, and Account 841 increase for Police Dept. will be reviewed for explanation.

Mr. Olender asked if the board sees an accounting of the funds spent for the year and what is left. Lori Spielman stated that the Finance Officer keeps track of the funds spent. The year-end transfers are reviewed and approved by the Board of Finance. The projections for next budget year will include a figure based on a conservative general fund balance figure from this year.

**Adjournment**

**MOVED (JOYSE) SECONDED (OLENDER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:45 PM.**

Respectfully submitted:



Lori Smith, Recording Secretary