

STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND  
INCORPORATED 1786

# TOWN OF ELLINGTON

55 MAIN STREET – PO BOX 187  
ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187  
[www.ellington-ct.gov](http://www.ellington-ct.gov)

JOHN P. RACHEK  
Chairman

PEGGY BUSSE  
DOUGLAS B. HARDING  
DAVID J. OLENDER  
BARRY C. PINTO  
MICHAEL D. VARNEY

## BOARD OF FINANCE

**Members Present:** John Rachek-Chair, Peg Busse, Douglas Harding, David Olender, Barry Pinto

**Members Absent:** Michael Varney

**Others Present:** Lori Spielman-First Selectman, Selectman Ronald Stomberg, Jack Rich II-EVFD Chief, Robert Smith-EVFD Deputy Chief, Thomas Palshaw, Cheryl Chamberlin

### Call to Order

Chairman John Rachek called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM.

### Pledge of Allegiance

**Citizen's Forum – None**

### Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting of February 5, 2019

**MOVED (PINTO) SECONDED (OLENDER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 5, 2019 REGULAR MEETING AS WRITTEN.**

Capital Improvements Hearing February 19, 2019

**MOVED (OLENDER) SECONDED (HARDING) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 19, 2019 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS MEETING AS WRITTEN.**

**Additional Appropriations – None**

**Financial Statements - None**

## New Business

### EVFD Multi-Purpose Class A Pumper/Forestry Unit

Chief Jack Rich told the Board that this item was not included in the capital improvements budget due to an oversight. The Board of Selectmen approved it to go to lease/purchase at their February 25, 2019 special meeting. This is a multi-purpose truck that will replace the Military Hummer and the 1997 pickup truck. Both these vehicles go out together when they are needed. The truck holds the equipment that does fit on the Hummer. The new vehicle is good for calls in bad weather and also will fit up the long winding driveways that a standard sized pumper will not. This vehicle will hold 750 gallons of water. Mr. Rich stated that they are having a hard time finding repair parts for the Humvee.

Mr. Rich stated that the fire department can retrofit the new vehicle with items from the two old trucks. He has applied for a grant but it does not look optimistic. He was asked how many times the current vehicles went out this year. He stated that it was roughly 100 times in a year. Mr. Smith stated that they are purchasing protection for properties that would normally not have it, not looking at the numbers. He stated that the water from this truck will knock down a fire quickly. Mr. Smith stated that this is the same vehicle that Chief Feldman presented last year and that this is not new.

Mr. Olender stated that the Board should wait until the study of the emergency services operations is completed. Lori Spielman stated that the study should be complete by the end of April.

Tracy Rich, 142 Ellington Ave, asked if the Board knew that the fire department makes 800 calls/year and she stated that they should learn the facts about the department in order to make an informed decision.

Ms. Busse stated that the Board of Finance needs to look at the entire town's needs. Mr. Rachek stated that the town needs to know if the equipment on hand now is adequate; we do not want to be buying more than what is needed.

Tom Palshaw, 120 Pinney St, stated that as a taxpayer he does not need a study to tell him that the older trucks are past their prime and that he sees a hole in their program that needs to be filled. He also stated that the item can be withdrawn later on in the process if necessary.

**MOVED (PINTO) SECONDED (HARDING) AND PASSED [AYE: RACHEK/HARDING/PINTO; NAY: OLENDER/BUSSE] TO APPROVE THE ELLINGTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT'S REQUEST FOR A MULTI-PURPOSE CLASS A PUMPER IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$400,000; TO BE FUNDED THROUGH A LEASE PURCHASE AND INCLUDED IN THE DEBT BUDGET; PENDING TOWN MEETING APPROVAL.**

It was decided to rescind the prior motion because it approves the request and the Board's intention is not to approve its purchase but to put it into the Capital Improvements Budget for further consideration. Selectman Stomberg told the Board to be careful and to think about what this may look like to the public.

**MOVED (BUSSE) SECONDED (OLENDER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO RESCIND THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE ELLINGTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT'S REQUEST FOR A MULTI-PURPOSE CLASS A PUMPER IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$400,000; TO BE FUNDED THROUGH A LEASE PURCHASE AND INCLUDED IN THE DEBT BUDGET; PENDING TOWN MEETING APPROVAL.**

**MOVED (PINTO) SECONDED (OLENDER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO MOVE THE EVFD'S REQUEST FOR A MULTI PURPOSE CLASS A PUMPER INTO THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BUDGET.**

### **State of CT Proposed Budget**

John Rachek stated that in the budget document that Felicia LaPlante emailed, it shows the pension costs being offset by other categories. The Town will be down \$6,000.

### **Old Business**

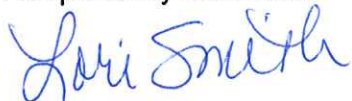
Peg Busse stated that she did not receive the costs for the engineering of the library roof that she had requested at last month's meeting. Lori Spielman stated that she would follow up.

**Liaison Reports – None**

### **Adjournment**

**MOVED (OLENDER) SECONDED (PINTO) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:52 PM.**

Respectfully submitted:



Lori Smith, Recording Secretary