MINUTES
ANNUAL TOWN BUDGET MEETING
TOWN OF ELLINGTON
May 9, 2006

Electors and citizens qualified to vote in Town Meetings were hereby notified that the Annual Town Budget Meeting of the Town of Ellington would be held on Tuesday, May 9, 2006 at 8:00 p.m. prevailing time at the Ellington High School, 37 Maple Street, for the following purposes:

First Selectman Michael Stupinski called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m., and read the warning for the meeting, which was published in the Journal Inquirer on Wednesday May 3, 2006 and is recorded in these records preceding these minutes. Mr. Stupinski then asked for nominations for a Moderator.

Robert Pagani nominated **Atherton Ryan** moderator seconded by **Nancy Way**, vote by acclamation was unanimous, motion so carried.

The Moderator then read the warning for the meeting.

To discuss and vote upon the following:

1. To consider entering into a 5-year lease at 4.76% for the purchase of 4 DPW dump trucks for $468,556, DPW road sweeper for $180,000, DPW roadside mower for $109,515 and EVFD tanker for $375,000 for a total of $1,134,857, as recommended by the Boards of Finance and Selectmen.

Robert Pagani made the motion to approve item (1) as warned, seconded by **Robert Clements,**

Resident Roland LaPorte stated his problem was "4 trucks at the same time" he questioned if they were all purchased at the same time and if not stated that we should take and replace one at a time. He then said he knew we had two sweepers in town and questioned as to why a third sweeper was needed.

Mr. Pagani, chairman of the Board of Finance stated the reason there were 4 trucks in the budget was because 3 were purchased at the same time, and they wanted to replace the 3 oldest trucks and the 4th truck was needed because the mileage and care of the roads has grown so much in town that public works can no longer handle this in a timely manner and must carve out an extra plow route.

Mr. Pagani then addressed the statement on the sweeper. The town has only 1 sweeper which is decades old and the other sweepers seen are rented by the Public Works Department in order to keep up and get the job done in a timely fashion. **Motion so carried.**

2. To consider adopting a plan for repair of town roads and bridges for a period not exceeding five (5) years, as recommended by the Board of Selectmen and pursuant to CGS Sec. 13a-99.

Albert Wachsman made the motion to approve item (2) as warned, seconded by **Robert Clements,** motion so carried.

3. To accept, as recommended by the Boards of Selectmen and Finance, prepaid grants and funds fully reimbursable for the Fiscal Year commencing on July 1, 2006 and ending on June 30, 2007, and to appropriate the same to the Board of Education in a sum not to exceed $612,900.

Maurice Blanchette made the motion to approve item (3) as warned, seconded by **Dale Roberson,** vote by acclamation was unanimous **motion so carried.**

4. To determine whether municipal tax shall be paid in two (2) installments for real estate and personal property in excess of six hundred dollars ($600) and motor vehicle tax shall 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 dollars ($5) as stated in the Connecticut State Statutes Section 12-144c.

Robert Pagani made the motion to approve item (4) as warned, seconded by **Joseph Wehr.**
At this time A. Leo Miller wanted it known that this was a change from last year when residents were allowed to pay in two installments. Motion so carried.

5. To adjourn the Town Meeting to a referendum to be set no earlier than May 16, 2006, and no later than May 23, 2006, to be held from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., with the following questions:

Shall the Town of Ellington appropriate, upon the recommendation of and as allocated by the Board of Finance, the total sum for all expenditures, a/k/a budget grand total, for the fiscal year 2006-2007 the sum of ***$40,452,167?***

Optional, Advisory Questions:
If this Budget fails, would you want the portion of the ***Town Government Budget*** *then to be DECREASED or INCREASED?*
If this Budget fails, would you want the portion of the ***Board of Education Budget*** *then to be DECREASED or INCREASED?*
If this Budget fails, would you want the portion of the ***Capital Improvements Budget*** *then to be - DECREASED or INCREASED?*

Michael Stupinski, made the motion to approve item 5 as warned with the advisory questions and to adjourn the town meeting to a referendum to be held on May 17th, 2006 at the Ellington High School on 37 Maple St., from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ,**seconded by Nancy Way**

Robert Pagani proposed an amendment to the motion which would allow for discussion the budget and the advisory questions separately, **seconded by Joseph Wehr, so moved.**

At this time Mr. Pagani stated the reason he wanted to divide the question was because there is a substantial increase in the budget and there has also been a revaluation, there seems to be lot of concern about what peoples taxes will be and they wanted to give the people the option through these questions to state where they wanted their money to be spent. Mr. Pagani wanted to know if those present felt the advisory questions should be placed on the referendum then asked for comments from the public.

Questions were then asked and answered as to how the machines would be set up, it was explained the budget question would be first, followed by a block stating "please answer the following optional advisory questions", with the three questions following. Mr. Pagani also stated an advisory brochure would be mailed to each household. After numerous questions, answers and discussion from various residents Mr. Ryan asked for a vote of all those in favor of having the advisory questions on the ballot, **motion so carried**

Mr. Pagani then went on to discuss the actual budget explaining in part some changes in funds that were expected from the state. The town budget was prepared before the state legislature adjourned for the year and major numbers did not change , the educational cost sharing grant has not gone up, it remains at $8,023,396.00, however the town will receive an additional special education fund of $81,999.00, school transportation decreased by $1,657.00 an additional $437.00 was received for the adult education fund. The energy assistance program that was anticipated from the legislature in the amount of $151,137.00 to help with the large increase with the energy budgets for the school and the town does not appear to be in the final legislative budget. Additional monies were picked up in town grants and state owned property.

Discussion continued with questions and answers, opinions from residents were given as to possible savings in the budget and a request was made to have the seniors tax rate reduced based on age and not income.

Robert Clements made the motion to move the question, **seconded by James Prichard, so moved**

Mr. Ryan then asked for the vote on the motion on the floor for item 5, so moved

The town meeting adjourned at 9:20p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia J. Lacaprucia

Cynthia J. Lacaprucia, Town Clerk

Received for record May 11, 2006 @ 12:39p.m.