



STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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BOARD OF FINANCE

JOHN P. RACHEK
Chairman

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

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS
FEBRUARY 19, 2019
MINUTES**

Members Present: John Rachek-Chair, Peg Busse, Doug Harding, David Olender, Barry Pinto, Michael Varney

Others Present: Lori Spielman-First Selectman, Selectmen James Prichard, Melinda Ferry and Ronald Stomberg, Felicia LaPlante-Acting Finance Officer, Timothy Webb-Public Works Director, Kathy Webb, James York-Fire Marshal, Brenden Burke and Karl Neubecker, Dennis Varney-EVFD, Joe Palombizio-Emergency Management Director, Thomas Palshaw, Cheryl Chamberlin

Call to Order

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Citizens Forum (non-agenda items)

None

Board of Selectmen present Capital Improvements FY 2019-20

First Selectman Lori Spielman and Selectman James Prichard presented the budget.

Road Construction

Road Overlay \$500,000; Chipseal LOCIP \$195,000, Unimproved Roads \$30,000 and Large/Small Bridges \$30,000. Mr. Webb stated that the Unimproved Roads account is growing and that the plans have been finalized by JR Russo for the Newell Hill Rd and Schoolhouse

Road upgrades. A public hearing for the residents will be held this spring with construction work this summer and fall.

Building Construction

Town Hall Renovation STEAP Grant \$500,000

Building Repairs

Parking Lot Renovations \$50,000; Back Stops and Fencing \$30,000. Mr. Webb stated that this is for new boys' baseball and girls' softball backstops and fencing at the High School. Currently there is temporary fencing used on these fields.

Equipment Purchase

DPW Snow Plow Dump Truck Replacements \$200,000; Brush Chipper \$55,000; Pool Car \$50,000; Police Cruiser \$52,000. Mr. Webb stated that the plow truck is part of the rotation for replacing a truck every other year. This freightliner will replace the 2007 truck that has 67,000 miles on it. The chipper is a 1994 model purchased used and is in such a shape that whenever it is used, it is back in for repairs. The pool car is for a new unit for the Fire Marshal. The police cruiser is for a pick-up truck to replace the Tahoe's.

Mr. York was asked if he knew the number of miles he used on a vehicle; he stated that he did not but that he is on call 24 hours/7 days a week and this is needed for the job. He stated that the former Fire Marshal had a stipend to use his personal vehicle and that the First Selectman told him she would rather purchase a vehicle, so this program was discontinued in lieu of a vehicle purchase. He is currently using the 1999 Jeep Grand Cherokee which he does not feel is reliable and is not set up for the Fire Marshal needs. The new vehicle is the tool and the equipment necessary to do his job.

Miscellaneous

Revaluation \$150,000. Mr. Rachek stated that he would like to see this put into the operating budget for budget year 2020-21. Felicia LaPlante stated that an account would have to be created to do this.

Equipment Purchase (cont.)

EVAC Stretcher Replacements \$41,210; EVAC Pager Replacements \$43,000, EVAC Ambulance Replacement \$243,269. These items would be purchased through the ambulance fee account. Lori Spielman stated that the pager replacements are for the fire departments as well to be paid for through the ambulance fund. There was discussion regarding the purchasing of the ambulance. Felicia LaPlante read from the EVAC Contract that states that they set aside 40% of the cost annually for ambulance replacements every 6 years and service vehicles every 10 years.

EVFD Security System Upgrades \$41,166. Emergency Management Tactical Gear Acquisition \$30,000 (\$15,000 to be paid by ambulance fee). Mr. Neubecker of EVFD stated that they would like to purchase 16 sets of gear, 4 sets to be placed at each of the firehouses and one at the ambulance building. Ms. Busse asked about the Police being trained to allow the emergency responders into the situation. Mr. Neubecker stated that the police have started training but they are a little behind the emergency responders. He stated that this has become a national standard with the level of operations obligated to our citizens. Sergeant Santa understands the need; emergency services want to be up to speed should an incident occur. Mr. Palombizio stated that he attended the run, hide, fight training held by the State Police for the teachers and

staff this morning. It was stated at the training that the Police do not render first aid, their goal is to take out the shooter. The EMS personnel are there to render the first aid. Emergency Service Responders cannot wait, these incidents happen in minutes.

Board of Education Equipment

Lori Spielman stated that the Board of Education priorities are (1) Audio/visual Upgrades \$75,000; (2) Modern Classroom Furniture Middle and High School \$30,000; (3) Maintenance Vehicle \$34,000; (4) System-wide Security Enhancements \$25,000 and (5) Special Education Van \$35,000.

The total capital improvements budget net cost to the town is \$1,402,166.

Mr. Olender asked about the vendors for the Town Hall renovation. Lori Spielman stated that they are getting prices now. Felicia LaPlante stated that she will check the contracts of the current contractors and consult with the Town Attorney as to whether hiring outside for the project would be a breach of contract.

Ms. Busse asked what the priorities for the renovation were. Lori Spielman stated that it is HVAC, Electrical, restroom renovations and replacement of the large front window. There may be some roof repair needed also.

Mike Varney asked about the two fire apparatus that were capital requests. Felicia LaPlante stated she would be adding these to the Board of Selectmen's agenda to be added to the debt budget and to send to Town meeting.

Peg Busse stated that she heard the Windermere Roof was leaking. Felicia told the Board that the Superintendent had another commitment and that Brian Greenleaf was on vacation and that's why they were not in attendance tonight. She suggested that Ms. Busse send Dr. Nicol an email.

Ron Stomberg asked the Board to consider the Fire Marshal's vehicle. He stated that the vehicle is essential to his job as he has to be ready to jump into action as a moment's notice.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted:



Lori Smith, Recording Secretary