TOWN OF ELLINGTON

55 MAIN STREET – PO BOX 187
ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187
TEL 860-870-3100 FAX 860-870-3102
www.ellington-ct.gov

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Selectmen (BOS) meeting was called to order at 7:03 P.M. by First Selectman Spielman.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. CITIZENS’ FORUM: No one came forward.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. Board of Selectmen Public Hearing – March 9, 2020

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STOMBERG) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES OF MARCH 9, 2020.

B. Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting – March 9, 2020

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STOMBERG) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 9, 2020.

C. Board of Selectmen Special Meeting – March 25, 2020

Ms. Ferry joined the meeting via ZOOM.


Equal Opportunity Employer
V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Update: Finance Officer Position
   • Introduction: Tiffany Pignataro, CPA, MBA, Finance Officer/Treasurer
     Ms. Spielman introduced Ms. Pignataro as the new Finance Officer/Treasurer and noted that today is her first day.

B. Town Meeting April 13, 2020 – Postponed/Reschedule: Ms. Spielman reported that this Town Meeting is postponed and will be rescheduled.

C. Crystal Lake Sailing Club Regatta Permit Application: Ms. Spielman reported that the State of CT has advised that this Public Hearing is no longer necessary.

D. Earth Day Celebration Scheduled for April 25, 2020: Ms. Spielman reported that this event is canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Tax Refunds/Abatements

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STOMBERG) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE TAX REFUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF $3,178.73 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE TAX & REVENUE COLLECTOR AND AS SPECIFIED IN THE REFUNDS/ABATEMENTS STATEMENT DATED APRIL, 2020. [ATTACHED]

B. Resolution Pertaining to a Modified Schedule for the FY 2020-2021 Budget Authorized by Executive Orders 2020-7B, 7C and 7I

Ms. Spielman explained that in discussions with the Finance Office, the Town Attorney and other Department Heads, the following motion is being put forward to the Board of Selectmen.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (PRICHARD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADOPT THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, the Governor of the State of Connecticut ("Governor") declared a public health emergency and civil preparedness emergency for the State of Connecticut, pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. §§19a-131 and 28-9, in response to the global pandemic of COVID-19 disease that is currently affecting multiple countries and states; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States ("President") declared a national emergency to combat COVID-19 that is currently infecting the population of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the extensive transmission of COVID-19 has resulted in the spread of infections in Connecticut and throughout the country, as well as resulted in shortages of personal protective equipment and supplies that could jeopardize public safety and civil preparedness; and

WHEREAS, in connection with the issuance of declarations of a public health emergency and civil preparedness emergency, the Governor has issued a series of Executive Orders governing the conduct of the business of state and municipal government during the period of the emergency; and
WHEREAS, on March 14, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order No. 7B (“EO 7B”), paragraph 1 of which suspends all statutes, charter provisions, ordinances and regulations mandating open meetings in order “...to permit any public agency to meet and take such actions authorized by law without permitting or requiring in-person, public access to such meetings, and to hold such meetings or proceedings remotely by conference call, videoconference or other technology...” (“Electronic Meetings”); and

WHEREAS, EO 7B sets forth the following requirements for Electronic Meetings:
- The public has the ability to view or listen to each meeting or proceeding in real time, by telephone, video, or other technology;
- Any such meeting or proceeding is recorded or transcribed, and such recording or transcription shall be posted on the agency’s website within seven (7) days of the meeting or proceeding, and made available within a reasonable time in the agency’s office;
- The required notice and agenda for each meeting or proceeding is posted on the agency’s website and shall include information about how the meeting will be conducted and how the public can access it;
- Any materials relevant to matters on the agenda, including but not limited to materials related to specific applications, if applicable, shall be submitted to the agency a minimum of twenty four (24) hours prior and posted to the agency’s website for public inspection prior to, during and after the meeting, and any exhibits to be submitted by members of the public shall, to the extent feasible, also be submitted to the agency a minimum of twenty four (24) hours prior to the meeting and posted to the agency’s website for public inspection prior to, during and after the meeting; and
- All speakers taking part in the such meeting or proceeding shall clearly state their name and title, if applicable, before speaking on each occasion that they speak; and

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order No. 7C (“EO 7C”), paragraph 5 of which extended by thirty (30) days “all budget deadlines for the preparation of the municipal budget for the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2021 that falls on any date prior to and including May 15, 2020”; and

WHEREAS, EO 7C permits the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Ellington to “alter or modify the schedules and deadlines pertaining to the preparation and submission of a proposed budget and the deliberation or actions on said budget ... including any required public hearings, publication, referendum or final budget adoption”; and

WHEREAS, EO 7C postpones all submission dates as set forth in Chapter XI of the Charter of the Town of Ellington until such time as the Board of Selectmen approves in a modified schedule, consistent with the thirty (30) day extension; and

WHEREAS, on March 21, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order No. 7I (“EO 7I”), paragraph 13 of which dispenses with any in-person voting requirements (including town meetings and referenda) for purposes of adopting 2020-2021 fiscal year municipal budgets and setting the mill rate; in effect conferring final responsibility on the “budget-making authority” of the Town to adopt a budget and set a mill rate, which roles are allocated by the Charter of the Town of Ellington to the Board of Finance; and

WHEREAS, EO 7C and 7I do not alter or modify the control of line-items that fall squarely within the authority of the Board of Education and, thus, the Board of Education should comply with all submission requirements pertaining to budget deadlines adopted by the Town; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, pursuant to paragraph 5 of EO 7C, the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Ellington hereby sets forth the following modified schedule and deadline for the submission,
deliberation and adoption of the Ellington Town Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021, all meetings of which shall be conducted in accordance with the requirements of paragraph 1 of EO 7B:

1. Finance Officer’s initial presentation of proposed budget to the Board of Finance: April 14, 2020
2. Joint Public Hearing between Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance on individual budget requests of each department, board, agency or commission: April 28, 2020
3. Publish notice of Board of Finance public hearing on preliminary budget and summary of preliminary budget in newspaper; Post preliminary budget on website: No later than May 7, 2020
4. Conduct Board of Finance Public Hearing on preliminary budget: May 12, 2020
5. Conduct Board of Finance deliberations on budget; Take action; Set Mill Rate: To begin within two (2) days following closing of public hearing (no earlier than May 14, 2020) and no longer than fifteen days hence.
6. Publish Board of Finance approved budget in newspaper and on town’s website: Within ten (10) days of approval of final budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, pursuant to paragraph 13 of EO 7I, the provisions of Charter Sections 1104 and 1106 are hereby suspended pertaining to the adoption of the Town budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, pursuant to paragraph 1 of EO 7B, the Town of Ellington shall comply with all requirements pertaining to notice, including but not limited to notice and posting on the Town website of all submission items at least twenty four (24) hours prior to the public meeting for which the item has been submitted or shall be considered.

C. 2020-2021 Annual Town Budget

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STOMBERG) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO SEND THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO THE BOARD OF FINANCE, FOR CONSIDERATION:

A. To approve the 5-year road reconstruction/overlay repair plan [pursuant to CGS Sec. 13a-99], as recommended by the Director of Public Works.
B. To postpone the motion to accept prepaid grants and funds fully reimbursable for the Fiscal Year commencing on July 1, 2020 and ending on June 30, 2021, and to appropriate the same to the Board of Education to the May 11, 2020 Board of Selectmen Meeting, as recommended by the Board of Education.
C. To determine that municipal tax shall be paid in two (2) installments for real estate and personal property tax in excess of six hundred (600) dollars and motor vehicle tax to 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 (5) dollars as stated in the Connecticut State Statutes, Section 12-144c, as recommended by the Tax and Revenue Collector.

D. Authorization to Fill DPW Full-time Maintainer I Position

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (PRICHARD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO AUTHORIZE THE FIRST SELECTMAN TO FILL THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS FULL TIME MAINTAINER I POSITION, CREATED BY THE RESIGNATION OF TROY LANGER.
E. Donation of Memorial Bench Arbor Park – In Memory of Nicholas DiCorleto and Robert Tedford

Ms. Spielman reported that the Ad Hoc Patriotic Committee has submitted this request and she added that Nick and Bob spent a lot of time at Arbor Park and the Committee felt this was a good memorial. Mr. Stavens asked if the design of the bench will be consistent with what is already in Town. Ms. Spielman said that this is the plan.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STOMBERG) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE AND ACCEPT THE DONATION OF A PARK BENCH IN HONOR OF NICHOLAS J. DICORLETO, FORMER FINANCE OFFICER AND ROBERT TEDFORD, FORMER RECREATION DIRECTOR, AS RECOMMENDED AND SUBMITTED BY THE AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR THE ROBERT TEDFORD MEMORIAL. THIS PARK BENCH IS TO BE INSTALLED AT ARBOR PARK WITH AN INSCRIPTION IN HONOR OF THEIR OUTSTANDING AND DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE TOWN; IN MEMORY OF ALL THEIR LASTING INFLUENCES BOTH IN THEIR WORK AND IN THEIR INSPIRATION TO COLLEAGUES AND RESIDENTS AND IN RECOGNITION OF THE CLOSE AND ENDURING FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN MR. DICORLETO AND MR. TEDFORD. FURTHER, TO DIRECT THE AD HOC ROBERT TEDFORD MEMORIAL COMMITTEE TO CONSULT WITH THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS REGARDING THE PLACEMENT AND INSTALLATION OF THIS BENCH.

F. Re-establish the Ad Hoc Beautification Committee

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (PRICHARD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO RE-ESTABLISH THE AD HOC BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE FOR ONE YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 2021.

G. Re-establish the Ad Hoc Trails Committee

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STOMBERG) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO RE-ESTABLISH THE AD HOC TRAILS COMMITTEE FOR ONE YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 2021.

H. Fair Housing Month

1. Proclamation of April as Fair Housing Month in Ellington

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADOPT THE FOLLOWING PROCLAMATION, [ATTACHED]

WHEREAS, the month of April is recognized nationally as Fair Housing Month; and

WHEREAS, Fair Housing is important to ensure to all Americans the Right to live in a decent, safe and sanitary environment; and

WHEREAS, Fair Housing is the legal right of every American; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Ellington is proud to participate in the recognition and support of Fair Housing Month;

NOW, THEREFORE the Ellington Board of Selectmen DO HEREBY PROCLAIM April to be Fair Housing Month in Ellington, Connecticut.

April 13, 2020, Lori L. Spielman, First Selectman
2. Fair Housing Resolution

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (PRICHARD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADOPT THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION, [ATTACHED]

Whereas, All persons are afforded a right to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice; and

Whereas, Federal fair housing laws require that all individuals, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, be given equal access to all housing-related opportunities, including rental and homeownership opportunities, and be allowed to make free choices regarding housing location; and

Whereas, Connecticut fair housing laws require that all individuals, regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, marital status, age, lawful source of income, familial status, learning disability, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression be given equal access to all housing-related opportunities, including rental and home ownership opportunities, and be allowed to make free choices regarding housing location; and

Whereas, the Town of Ellington is committed to upholding these laws, and realizes that these laws must be supplemented by an Affirmative Statement publicly endorsing the right of all people to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town of Ellington hereby endorses a Fair Housing Policy to ensure equal opportunity for all persons to rent, purchase, obtain financing and enjoy all other housing-related services of their choice on a non-discriminatory basis as provided by state and federal law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the chief executive officer of the Town of Ellington or his/her designated representative is responsible for responding to and assisting any person who alleges to be the victim of an illegal discriminatory housing practice in the Town of Ellington and for advising such person of the right to file a complaint with the State of Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) or the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) or to seek assistance from the CT Fair Housing Center, legal services, or other fair housing organizations to protect his or her right to equal housing opportunities.

3. Fair Housing Policy Statement

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (PRICHARD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADOPT THE TOWN OF ELLINGTON FAIR HOUSING POLICY STATEMENT [ATTACHED] AS IT IS THE POLICY OF THE TOWN TO PROMOTE FAIR HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES AND TO ENCOURAGE RACIAL AND ECONOMIC INTEGRATION IN ALL ITS PROGRAMS AND HOUSING DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES.

I. State of CT Executive Order No. 75 Protection of Public Health and Safety During COVID-19 Pandemic and Response – Safe Stores, Relief for Policyholders, Taxpayers and Tenants

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (PRICHARD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADOPT THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:
WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, the Governor of the State of Connecticut ("Governor") declared a public health emergency and civil preparedness emergency for the State of Connecticut, pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. §§19a-131 and 28-9, in response to the global pandemic of COVID-19 disease that is currently affecting multiple countries and states; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States ("President") declared a national emergency to combat COVID-19 that is currently infecting the population of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the extensive transmission of COVID-19 has resulted in the spread of infections in Connecticut and throughout the country, as well as resulted in shortages of personal protective equipment and supplies that could jeopardize public safety and civil preparedness; and

WHEREAS, in connection with the issuance of declarations of a public health emergency and civil preparedness emergency, the Governor has issued a series of Executive Orders governing the conduct of the business of state and municipal government during the period of the emergency; and

WHEREAS, on April 1, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order No. 7S ("EO 7S"), paragraph 6 of which requires the Town of Ellington, acting by vote of its Board of Selectmen, to adopt a program to offer support to eligible taxpayers, businesses, nonprofits and residents who have been economically affected by the COVID-10 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, EO 7S further permits the Town of Ellington, acting by vote of its Board of Selectmen, to extend such program to other categories of taxpayers, businesses, nonprofits and residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, pursuant to paragraph 6a of EO 7S, the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Ellington hereby adopts a Tax Deferment Program as follows:

1. The Town of Ellington offers to all taxpayers, businesses, nonprofits, and residents a deferment by ninety (90) days of any taxes on real property, personal property or motor vehicles, or municipal water, sewer and electric rates, charges or assessments for such tax, rate, charge, or assessment from the time that it became due and payable, provided that the original due date for the same falls during the period commencing on March 10, 2020 and running through and including July 1, 2020.

Ms. Busse asked what the impact will be to the Town considering this delay in collection. Mr. Kenzenkovic said that the Town has adequate cash reserves to weather any 90-day delay in payment of taxes. Ms. Busse said that Hartford is making this available, but is requiring proof that the taxpayer was negatively affected by COVID-19. Mr. Kenzenkovic said that it would be difficult to ascertain the impact, as the Town has no way of knowing who might or might not have been negatively impacted by the current situation. Ms. Spielman said trying to keep track of all of that would be a huge project. Ms. Busse asked if the impact to the Town by percentage of taxpayers who hold off paying their taxes was looked at, and Ms. Spielman said that this was all reviewed and it was determined that it would not be worth the amount of extra work it would cause to require taxpayers to provide proof. She said that she is confident that most taxpayers will pay in July on schedule if they have not been affected by the pandemic.

Betsi Feldman, 108 Ellington Avenue, asked if taxpayers would be allowed to make partial payments during the deferment period. Ms. Spielman said that she would check with the Tax Office and get an answer to that question.
J. Ellington Volunteer Ambulance Corps: Sale of 2013 Ambulance

Mr. Hany said that this is the best price he received. Mr. Olender put him in contact with an ambulance broker in New York State. Mr. Hany said he sent pictures and information to this broker last week and did not hear back.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (PRICHARD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO AUTHORIZE THE PRESIDENT OF THE ELLINGTON VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE CORPS TO ACCEPT THE OFFER FROM HUNTER'S AMBULANCE SERVICES OF MERIDEN, CT IN THE AMOUNT OF $15,000 FOR THE SALE OF THE 2013 GMC AMBULANCE. PROCEEDS FROM THIS SALE SHALL BE DEPOSITED INTO THE AMBULANCE CHARGING FUND.

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

A. Building Official
B. Emergency Services: Ms. Spielman thanked all of the emergency services people working hard during this pandemic and for everyone pulling together to help.
   1. Resident State Troopers’ Office
   2. Ellington Volunteer Ambulance Corps
   3. Ellington Volunteer Fire Department
   4. Crystal Lake Fire Department
   5. Emergency Management Director
C. Fire Marshal
D. Hall Memorial Library
E. Tax & Revenue Collector
F. Town Planner
G. Human Services Department
H. Finance Department
   1. Financial Statements
I. Department of Public Works

VIII. SELECTMEN COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Personnel Committee
   1. Resignations:
   2. Appointments

MOVED (PRICHARD), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO REAPPOINT KATHERINE HEMINWAY, KAY LUGINBUHL, CAROLE GERBER, JOE PALOMBIZIO, MAUREEN ECKELS AND ALYCE MAYER TO THE AD HOC ELLINGTON BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE TO SERVE ONE-YEAR TERMS ENDING APRIL 30, 2021.

MOVED (PRICHARD), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO REAPPOINT LAUREN DESROCHER, LOIS TIMMS-FERRARA, VALERIE AMSEL, RACHEL DEARBORN, ERIN STAVENS, CYNTHIA VAN ZELM, LINDA ANDERSON, ANN MCLAUGHLIN, PAM MCCORMICK AND JUDI MANFRE TO THE AD HOC ELLINGTON TRAILS COMMITTEE TO SERVE ONE-YEAR TERMS ENDING APRIL 30, 2021.

B. Other: There was none.

IX. SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS:
E-911 Municipal Coordinator: Mr. Turner gave a report on the activity for the regional 911 center and emergency dispatch services that are provided by the Tolland County Mutual Aid Fire Service who provides those vital services for the Town of Ellington. [ATTACHED]

X. FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT
A. New Hires
   - Joann Bolles, Administrative Clerk, Town Clerk's Office
   - Tiffany Pignataro, Finance Officer/Treasurer
B. Resignations/Retirements
   - Todd Harmon, Police Officer
   - Troy Langer, Maintainer I, Public Works Department
C. Other:
   - Ms. Spielman reported that today there were a lot of trees knocked down due to the wind storm involving the emergency responders and Public Works.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED (PRICHARD), SECONDED (STOMBERG) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN AT 7:52 P.M.

Submitted by: LouAnn Cannella
Recording Secretary

Approved by: Lori Spielman
First Selectman
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<td>$3,178.73</td>
<td>REFUND TOTAL FOR APRIL 2020</td>
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FAIR HOUSING PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the month of April is recognized nationally as Fair Housing Month; and

WHEREAS, Fair Housing is important to ensure to all Americans the Right to live in a decent, safe and sanitary environment; and

WHEREAS, Fair Housing is the legal right of every American; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Ellington is proud to participate in the recognition and support of Fair Housing Month;

NOW, THEREFORE the Ellington Board of Selectmen DO HEREBY PROCLAIM April to be Fair Housing Month in Ellington, Connecticut.

April 13, 2020
Date

Lori L. Spielman, First Selectman
FAIR HOUSING RESOLUTION
TOWN OF ELLINGTON

Whereas, All persons are afforded a right to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice; and

Whereas, Federal fair housing laws require that all individuals, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, be given equal access to all housing-related opportunities, including rental and homeownership opportunities, and be allowed to make free choices regarding housing location; and

Whereas, Connecticut fair housing laws require that all individuals, regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, marital status, age, lawful source of income, familial status, learning disability, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression be given equal access to all housing-related opportunities, including rental and home ownership opportunities, and be allowed to make free choices regarding housing location; and

Whereas, The Town of Ellington is committed to upholding these laws, and realizes that these laws must be supplemented by an Affirmative Statement publicly endorsing the right of all people to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town of Ellington hereby endorses a Fair Housing Policy to ensure equal opportunity for all persons to rent, purchase, obtain financing and enjoy all other housing-related services of their choice on a non-discriminatory basis as provided by state and federal law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the chief executive officer of the Town of Ellington or his/her designated representative is responsible for responding to and assisting any person who alleges to be the victim of an illegal discriminatory housing practice in the Town of Ellington and for advising such person of the right to file a complaint with the State of Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) or the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) or to seek assistance from the CT Fair Housing Center, legal services, or other fair housing organizations to protect his or her right to equal housing opportunities.

Adopted by the Town of Ellington on April 13, 2020

Lori L. Spielman, First Selectman
Fair Housing Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Town of Ellington to promote fair housing opportunities and to encourage racial and economic integration in all its programs and housing development activities.

Programs funded and administered by the Town must comply with the provisions of Section 46a-64c of the C.G.S., and with related state and federal laws and regulations that prohibit discriminatory housing practices.

The Town of Ellington or any of sub-recipient of the Town will carry out an affirmative marketing program to attract prospective buyers or tenants of all majority or minority groups, without consideration of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, creed, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status, lawful source of income, disability, age or because the individual has children in all programs and housing development activities funded or administered by the Town.

The Town of Ellington’s Human Services Department is responsible for the enforcement and implementation of this policy. The Fair Housing Officer, Joy Hollister, may be reached by telephone at 860.870.3128, by mail at 31 Arbor Way, P.O. Box 187, Ellington, CT 06029 or by email at jhollister@ellington-ct.gov.

Complaints pertaining to discrimination in any program funded or administered by the Town of Ellington may be filed with the Ellington Human Services Department. The municipality’s Grievance Procedure will be utilized in these cases.

Complaints may also be filed with the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, Special Enforcement Unit, 21 Grand Street, Hartford, CT 06106, Telephone (860) 541-3403 within 180 days of the alleged violation by submitting a notarized complaint and/or the Boston Regional Office of FHEO, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. Federal Building, 10 Causeway Street, Room 321, Boston, MA 02222-1092, Telephone (617) 994-8300 or 1-800-827-5005, TTY (617) 565-5453. A complaint may be filed with HUD within one year after an alleged violation. Additionally, an individual may file suit, at his/her expense, in Federal District Court or State Court within two years of an alleged violation. If the individual cannot afford an attorney, the Court may appoint one. A suit can be brought even after filing a complaint, if the complaining party has not signed a conciliation agreement and an Administrative Law Judge has not started a hearing. A court may award actual and punitive damages and attorney’s fees and costs.

It is the policy of the Town of Ellington to promote fair housing opportunities and to encourage racial and economic integration in all its programs and housing development activities.

Programs funded and administered by the Town of Ellington must comply with the provisions of Section 46a-64c of the C.G.S. as amended, and with related state and federal laws and regulations that prohibited discriminatory housing practices.
The Town of Ellington, or any sub-recipient of the Town of Ellington, will carry out an affirmative marketing program to attract prospective buyers or tenants of all majority or minority groups, without consideration of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, creed, sexual orientation, marital status, lawful source of income, disability, age or because the individual has children in all programs and housing development activities funded or administered by the Town of Ellington.

A copy of this policy statement will be given annually to all Ellington employees and they are expected to fully comply with it. In addition, a copy will be posted throughout Ellington’s Town Hall.

April 13, 2020
Date

Lori L. Spielman, First Selectman

THIS STATEMENT IS AVAILABLE IN LARGE PRINT OR ON AUDIO TAPE by contacting Ellington’s Human Services Department, 55 Main Street, PO Box 187, Ellington, CT. 06029-0187, Phone 860.870.3128.
As the 911 Municipal Coordinator for the Town of Ellington, I want to give you a report on the activity for the regional 911 center and emergency dispatch services that are provided by the Tolland County Mutual Aid Fire Service who provides those vital services for the Town of Ellington.

Full disclosure, I work part time at the center as the Finance Director. Following the CDC guidelines and Presidential declaration on March 13th, the operations center was placed on lockdown. That meant that only employees could enter the building. All employees were counseled as to appropriate social distancing and disinfectant procedures. As for myself, I excused myself from any volunteer activities in Ellington and limited my social interactions to avoid the possibility of contracting or introducing the virus into the workplace. The administration and dispatch staff were aware of the potential consequences if the virus were to infect the dispatch center, all employees practiced the CDC guidelines.

As for the call taking and EMS dispatches, that was an evolving situation. The towns dispatched represent 8 different Health Districts. Each of those districts was providing their guidance to their emergency responders and the dispatch center. Often the policies presented, contradicted what another health district was requesting. Keep in mind that the national guidance was changing rapidly almost every day as well. Consequently, the TN administration, in consultation with their Med control, produced a single EMS call taking and dispatch policy. As the situation evolved, daily changes were made to accommodate the requests and updates from the CDC, CT – Dept. of Public Health and other regulatory agencies. All EMS emergency service agencies were kept in the loop of these changes. All responders are notified in a manner consistent with HIPPA regulations to protect the rights of the patient and to advise and protect the first responders prior to arriving at an event. It is expected that these guidelines will remain in effect for the next several months.

While our communities are for the most part closed and the citizens practice social distancing, we have seen a general downturn in calls for fire and rescue services. EMS calls for service continue to be scrutinized. Remember, the information obtained is only as good as what the caller can provide. Third party calls for service are difficult to categorize. Most all response agencies have adopted the policy of assuming the COVID risk is present until such time it can be determined otherwise. Calls received for police services are routed to the appropriate police agency.

Sanitation and disinfectant services have been increased at the center. Like most all other agencies, procurement of vital operation supplies has been difficult.

John W. Turner
Ellington 911 Municipal Coordinator