

Members in attendance: C. Iino, L. Annino, Jr., E. Blewett

Visitors (as identified onscreen) Wayne Linsley, Amy Scholz, Cheryl Fine, Laura Lefko, Donnie Venuti, Natalie Ortoli Drew, Robert Rimmer, John Mancini, Walter, Karen Vecchitto, Kristi LiDonni, Eric Marshall, Rick Darin, Bonnie Sirignano, Dawn Mooney, JBP, Doug Lefko, Eileen Unger, Guy Vecchitto, Michele O'Toole, Mike Drew, User, John Mancini, Robert Drew, Lauren Blaha, Malorie Neveu, Nancy Gorski, Sara O'Brien, JP, Jamie, Todd Hajek, Graig Judge, Annie Stirna, Ed Sirignano, DT, Michael Parahus, Graig Judge, Gina Regolo, Richard Pleines, George, David J. Cutillo, John Mancini, David J. Cutillo, Heather Scholfield, Jen Voegtli, DS, Kristi LiDonni, Jen Voegtli, Rick Darin, Sean Connelly, Michael Anderson, Margaret Tobelman, Mike Drew, DT, Dawn Mooney, Benjamin Scholfield, Andrew O'Neill, several unidentified participants.

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Public comment

3. Approval of minutes

Annino moved to approve the minutes of October 12, 2021, amended as follows:

- **Fourth page, item D: Change the “the Trust is prepared to work out” to “the Trust is prepared to attempt to work out ...”**
- **Fifth page, Item E1, last lines: Re annual report: change sentence to read “Iino explained that the that the annual report from FY 2019/20 will be combined with the 2020/21 report, and that the product will be completed by the Board of Finance.”**
- **Last page, second line: change “RFD” to “RSD”**

The motion, seconded by Blewett, passed unanimously.

4. Appointments: none

5. New Business

A. Bid Opening: KVFC Heavy Rescue Truck

Iino opened the following sealed bid proposal from Bid 2021-03 Heavy Rescue Truck for KVFC:

Gowans-Knight Company, Inc	Final bid amount	\$597,676.62
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Cab and Chassis:	\$304,706.31
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Body Refurbishment:	292,970.31
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Optional Equipment	160,689.75
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The proposal will be forwarded to the Fire Commission for review. Annino asked if there was any information as to why parties who received the solicitation opted not to bid. Chief Venuti said that in addition to Gowans-Knight, two other manufacturers (Bulldog Fire Apparatus and New England Fire Equipment) attended the pre-bid conference but did not submit a bid. He

added that two other potential bidders were also expected to bid. When asked if he had received any feedback as to why, Venuti noted that since the bid was issued, he had no contact with bidders (or the others) apart from the pre-bid conference.

B. Assessor appointment

lino moved to appoint Michael Bekech as Assessor for a term ending March 31, 2022.

Discussion: lino explained that the reappointment should have been made in March.

The motion, seconded by Blewett, passed unanimously.

C. Public Health function

lino introduced Health Director and Sanitarian Amy Scholz, who has been faced with new and emerging public health threats such as the COVID-19 pandemic, PFAS contamination, and several storms/power outages that necessitated coordination with all town food service businesses.

As the current health department model is not equipped to handle this level of service, Scholz submitted a proposal outlining options to restructure, including the option to join a local health district, which she recommends. There was discussion. lino described the lengthy process of joining a health district, and said she is investigating temporary options to manage the town's sanitation and public health needs in the interim. Annino and Blewett thanked Scholz for her report and added that this situation requires prompt and thorough consideration.

6. Old Business

A. Employee Manual

Annino offered that given potential conflicts of interests and pending litigation against the town, changes to this document would be best left to the new administration. Annino suggested that some items under consideration may be dealt with retroactively.

Annino moved to postpone discussion of the Employee Manual until the next administration, with the understanding that some items may be dealt with retroactively. The motion, seconded by lino, passed unanimously.

7. First Selectwoman's comments

A. lino reported on recent talks with MIRA (Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority) regarding future options for disposing of municipal solid waste once their facility no longer functions. MIRA is seeking a sense of whether towns would be willing to amend their contracts to eliminate the opt-out provision. That amendment would result in somewhat lower tipping fees than otherwise. Since alternative service options are limited, and since town personnel time to seek alternatives annually is also limited, lino believes we would be willing to forgo the opt-out.

B. The Zoning and Wetlands officer position has been advertised on appropriate professional Listservs and will be advertised in local newspapers with general readership. Talks with private firm Tyche are continuing. lino prefers this option, which is currently utilized by Chester and

7B (cont'd.) Deep River, but it would require the firm to staff up to also serve Killingworth. In the interim P & Z chair Tom Lentz can sign off on permits, and Tom Hogarty, a recently retired ZEO, has offered to assist with resident calls on a pro bono basis.

8. Selectmen's comments

A. Blewett asked lino what was being done with previously noted emergency repairs. lino reported that the HVAC system is now functional, which leaves the exterior siding to be addressed. Blewett questioned whether applying for FEMA funding for the exterior siding based on recent damage was appropriate; lino talked about mitigation funding and also noted that FEMA vets applications thoroughly, so if a project is not eligible for funds, they will not be granted. She added that the damage must first be submitted as a claim to our insurance agent, CIRMA.

B. Blewett asked for an explanation for why the Annual Report was not completed last year. lino explained that it was hoped that the Selectmen's office could produce the document, with an eye on making a broader year-end recap, but that it did not ultimately get produced. In the meantime statutory requirements were reviewed and it was clarified that the report must be produced by the Board of Finance.

C. Blewett gave a statement addressing the current situation regarding her concurrent seats on the BOS and the BOE. She suggested that the outcome may have been different had she been informed of the actions being taken sooner, and permitted to debate the town counsel legal opinion. She found that without that opportunity for rebuttal, she could not simply accept the legal opinion that she could not serve on both boards, after having done so for 2 years. She saw no other choice but to officially challenge the legal action.

She took issue with a Sept 21 letter by lino which referred to working "constructively and respectfully," as she felt she has not been treated with the respect due an elected official. She was particularly frustrated by the fact that a letter to lino from Killingworth Republican Town Committee attorney David Cutillo was made public before she was alerted, and emphasized that she had never been approached by the town about the situation while it was unfolding. She disagreed that Cutillo's letter contained threats or demands, or that lino was being treated disrespectfully in it. She asked that it be made part of this record (attached). Blewett is upset about being accused of acting illegally, and about having her integrity and commitment questioned.

lino would not comment, given pending litigation, except read the following line from Cutillo's letter: *"If such actions are not forthcoming in a timely manner, we are prepared to go forward with legal action against all responsible parties both in their professional capacities and personally ..."*

C (cont'd.) Annino commented that given this was the last meeting as the current elected Board of Selectmen, he commended his fellow board members for their long hours and volunteer efforts, and said it was a privilege to serve alongside them. He added his hopes for a return to that level of cooperation. Both Iino and Blewett concurred.

9. Executive session: Pending litigation, Blewett vs. Town of Killingworth

At 7:44 p.m., Iino moved to go into Executive Session, inviting Town Attorney David Tycz and Town Clerk Dawn Mooney to discuss pending litigation, *Blewett vs. Town of Killingworth*.

**The motion was seconded by Annino. Voting in favor: Iino, Annino Abstaining: Blewett
The motion carried.**

The board came out of executive session at 8:37 p.m. **Iino moved to authorize and direct the town attorney to file appearances and defend the Town and the named Town officials in the pending legal action in the Middlesex Superior Court known as Eileen Blewett v. Town of Killingworth, et al.**

**The motion was seconded by Annino. No discussion. Voting in favor: Iino, Annino
Abstaining: Blewett The motion passed.**

**Blewett moved to add an item to the agenda: Discussion of ramp at front door of town hall.
The motion was seconded by Iino. The motion passed unanimously.**

In response to comments brought up during the break in the meeting (via chat), Blewett inquired about the temporary ramp at the front of town hall. Iino explained that the ramp, which is the property of former building official Richard Pleines, was generously donated (temporarily) to facilitate COVID-safe traffic flow during tax time. The town has been given a choice to either purchase or return the ramp: Iino is inclined to return the ramp. There was discussion about the merits of moving forward with emergency repairs to the rear ramp vs. keeping the temporary ramp up front. Iino agreed to discuss options with Pleines.

10. Adjournment

Annino moved to adjourn at 8:43 p.m. The motion, seconded by Blewett, passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Elizabeth Doyle Disbrow on 11/1/2021.