

In attendance: C. Iino, L. Annino, Jr., E. Blewett, R. Regolo, R. Bauer, D. Venuti, R. Darin, D. Offner, M. Nuhn, M. Bekech, R. Rimmer, A. Stirna, R. Pleines, T. Manzi, T. Nelson, R. Drew, T. Hajek, K. Zandi, L. Lefko., K. LiDonni. State Senator C. Cohen, Town Attorney D. Tycz

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

Iino moved to amend the agenda to move item 8C forward to become Item 2A. The motion, seconded by Blewett, passed unanimously.

2. Public comment

2A. Iino provided background information on the Connecticut Coalition for Sustainable Materials Management. DEEP launched the CCSMM working group as a collaborative effort to respond to the state's waste management crisis. The state has been forced to move away from its goal of being self-sustaining in terms of waste disposal. Exporting materials has become prohibitively expensive for municipalities.

State Senator Christine Cohen, who chairs the state Environment Committee, advocated for the town's participation in the working group. She referred to state efforts to respond to individual municipal needs and to address the overall crisis. She described individual challenges facing the towns (e.g. food waste diversion), then fielded questions from the selectmen regarding specific deliverables from the effort, and on the time frame for future legislation.

A motion, tabled from the previous BOS meeting, was reintroduced.

Iino moved, Annino seconded (for discussion), that Killingworth support the Connecticut Coalition for Sustainable Materials Management waste reduction initiative.

Annino continued to question the value of joining the organization without a promise of deliverables. Blewett concurred, acknowledged the severity of the issue, and added that there would be no harm in joining. Iino emphasized that the issue will become even more crucial moving forward and finds it worth her time to attend meetings. She emphasized that the state, DEEP in particular, should not be making decisions without comprehensive input from "ground level," and that the towns should be in the loop with state actions and intentions.

The motion passed unanimously. Iino will report back.

Iino moved to move item 8A forward to allow the town attorney to participate in discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Attorney Tycz reviewed an updated version of the First Responder Abatement ordinance. He outlined revisions including:

- the addition of emergency management personnel to the roster of eligible participants
- reference to General Statutes
- identifying by grand list year the effective dates for the new maximum allowable amounts

- Requiring consistent methods for determining eligibility. KAA will sign off on annual list and abatement levels, then submit to BOS. KVFC will sign off on annual list and abatement levels, submit to BOFC, then to BOS. BOS will be review other lists and then forward all lists to assessor and tax collector.
- Other minor revisions and a new effective date were noted.

Commissioner Darin endorsed the changes, noting that the revised ordinance follows the statute closely. He underscored the necessity of adding the EM staff as well as the EM director, and suggested clarifying that Emergency Medical Responders (not just EMTs) are eligible. He was pleased that the ordinance allows a member with 25 years of eligible service to receive the abatement after they retire. He recommends final review before proceeding. KVFC Chief Bauer agreed and expressed gratitude for these efforts.

3. Department reports
Health Department and Land Use reports were distributed for review. Building official was asked to clarify data on the December report. Pleines gave a brief report on building violations. No action was taken.
4. Approval of minutes
Annino moved to approve as presented the minutes of the regular meeting of January 11, 2021. The motion, seconded by Blewett, passed unanimously.
5. Clarification of Tax Relief Program
The tax collector had asked that the following clarification be made to the minutes of December 17, 2020. Iino announced for the record that because no action was taken, the reduced interest rate option remains in place for the current tax collection period.

Dec 17, 2020 minutes, page 4, Item 10A

A. Iino reported that Governor Lamont has issued a new executive order which extends the COVID-19 tax relief program. ~~through July.~~ The town is given the same choice – a 90 day deferral of tax payments or a reduced interest rate for late payments. The current reduced-rate option will remain in place unless the board votes to change. Iino and Annino are in favor of the lower interest rate option. Blewett remains in favor of the deferral option. Due to restrictions on special meetings, no action was taken.*

**The lower interest rate of .25% per month or 3% per year will apply for a period of 3 months through and including March 31, 2021.*

6. Refunds and abatements
Motion by Annino, seconded by Blewett, to approve the following refunds, all for overpayment, and allow them to follow their normal course for refunding. The motion passed unanimously.

James D. Livingston Jr.	186 Route 148	\$15.87	overpaid COC#09690M
Christian D. Fekete	11466 Pickford St.	\$64.93	overpaid COC#09702M
Douglas S.M. or Mary M. Callis	10 Lower Ledge Dr.	\$10.00	overpaid

7. Appointments

Iino moved to make the following three appointments:

Maureen C. Farrell Charney (D) to the Conservation Commission (term: 01/01/2021 – 12/31/2023)

Michael D. Drew (R) to the Alternative Housing Committee (term: 01/01/2021 - 12/31/2021)

Heather Greenaway (U) to the Open Space Committee (term: 01/01/2021 - 12/31/2021)

The motion, seconded by Annino, passed unanimously.

Two nominations were received for consideration for appointment to the Charter Revision Commission to fill a vacancy left by the resignation of Dawn Rees Mooney (D). Karen Vecchitto (KRTC) recommended Graig Judge (R) ; Robert Rimmer (KDTC) recommended Kathleen Suzanne Zandi (D).

Iino cited the Charter, section 5-4e which states, "When the person vacating the office had been appointed as a member of a political party, such vacancy shall be filled by the appointment of a member of the same political party, if at all possible." **Iino moved, seconded by Annino, to appoint Kathleen Suzanne Zandi (D) to the Charter Revision Commission.**

Discussion: There was extensive discussion of the origins of the makeup of the commission.

Voting in favor: Iino, Annino

Voting against: Blewett

The motion passed.

8. Old Business

A. First Responder Abatement ordinance: see above

B. Budget process – referendum discussion

Timeline for the budget process, including publication dates, was discussed in depth. Regolo noted that both the BOS and the BOF may have to work differently this year to accommodate a curtailed schedule. Asking the BOF to attend BOS meetings for department/agency presentations, rather than asking for repeat presentations, was considered, with BOF members Rob Rimmer and Annie Stirna expressing skepticism. The BOS hopes to present the Selectmen's recommended budget to the BOF by March 29th.

C. Connecticut Coalition for Sustainable Materials Management follow-up: see above

9. New Business

A. KVFC COVID-19 reimbursement

Regolo submitted a memo recommending that the town reimburse the KVFC for unbudgeted expenses related to COVID of \$5,405.34.

Iino moved that the board approve the reimbursement of the KVFC of the \$5,405.34 outlaid through December 31, 2020 for COVID-19-related expenses. The motion was seconded by Blewett.

Discussion: Blewett questioned the total. Chief Bauer clarified that the \$5,405.34 covered PPE and other COVID supplies and purchases. The approximately \$10,000 outlaid for improvements made to the Ready Room to accommodate social distancing was not part of this particular submission. Bauer offered to present an accounting for further review for reimbursement. Iino said that whether or not this amount could be covered by this round of grant funding, the town could reimburse KVFC for the expense. Blewett asked for a detailed account of the money the town has spent to date for COVID-related expenses.

Annino suggested the board modify the above motion to add that the BOS will give additional expenses related to COVID consideration in the future subject to future grant reporting requirements. Iino agreed and added that other entities are meant to receive state or federal funding through the towns, and we do not yet have their expense accounts. Blewett emphasized that all COVID-related expenses needed to be spelled out for consideration. Iino agreed that review is in order. Rather than move the amendment to the motion above, she clarified for the record that the Board will consider other KVFC and KAA submissions beyond the \$5,405.34 approved by this vote. **The motion passed.**

10. First Selectwoman's comments

A. Iino reported that the process for town residents over 75 to register for the COVID-19 vaccine has not been optimal. Access to email is necessary to make an appointment for many of the vaccination sites and, for many seniors, this is problematic. The town has set up a hotline and is offering assistance to residents with registering by phone.

She noted new processes and improvements including direct access to medical professionals with vaccine. The Former Health Director Paul Hutcheon, Municipal Agent Mercedes Ricciuti, and PHA member Sue Nesci have been enlisted to help Health Director Amy Scholz in contacting the 600 town residents over 75.

B. Iino noted that the current waste ordinance is very outdated and she is in the process of reviewing, comparing and researching alternative language for a new ordinance.

11. Selectmen's comments

A. Blewett asked that vacancies in appointed positions be advertised to the public to encourage broader participation. Iino agreed.

B. Blewett asked if the first selectwoman planned to meet to the RSD17 superintendent in advance of the upcoming joint meeting. Iino replied affirmatively.

12. **Annino moved adjournment at 8:42 p.m. The motion, seconded by Iino, passed unanimously.**