

**BOARD OF FINANCE**  
TOWN OFFICE BUILDING  
TOWN OF KILLINGWORTH  
323 ROUTE 81  
KILLINGWORTH, CONNECTICUT 06419

**MINUTES**

Virtual Regular Monthly Meeting  
November 9, 2021

Chairman Gwenne Celmer called the November 9, 2021 Virtual Regular Monthly Meeting of the Board of Finance of the Town of Killingworth to order at 7:02 P.M.

Members present: Chairman Gwenne Celmer, Vice Chairman Robert Rimmer, Doug Lefko, Andrew O'Neill and Annie Stirna.

Members absent: Clerk Marcel Couture

Also Present: First Selectwoman Catherine Iino, Financial Director Regina Regolo, Board of Finance Secretary Sherry Lee Hynes, BOF Member-Elect Sara O'Brien and Tim Gannon and Peg Scofield of The Parmelee Farm

Prior to the start of the agenda,

Chairman Celmer congratulated Annie Stirna on her re-election to the Board and Sara O'Brien on her election to the Board. Celmer also thanked Cathy Iino for her years of service as First Selectwoman and particularly for her leadership during the pandemic.

Rob Rimmer thanked Celmer for her leadership as Board Chairman and for setting the tone for the Board to strive for a stable mill rate. He also thanked her for her wisdom over the years.

Andy O'Neill thanked Celmer for her leadership and thanked Cathy Iino for her leadership as well. O'Neill thanked Doug Lefko for his work in joining the board in the middle of budget season in 2021 and his effective service.

Annie Stirna read a proclamation from Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz in recognition of Gwenne Celmer's years of service to the Board of Finance.

**Catherine Iino, First Selectwoman.** The Board of Selectmen voted on November 8, 2021 to enter into a short-term contract with the Connecticut River Area Health District, Old Saybrook, Connecticut, for one to three months to replace the Town's current Health Director/Sanitarian who is/has resigning. The present Health Director has recommended that with the onset of Covid-19, the position now warrants coverage by 1 and ½ persons. First Selectwoman Iino gave a brief overview for the process of engaging the Health District. Funding to be determined.

**Regina Regolo, Financial Director.** The October 2021 Financial Report was distributed prior to the meeting. She addressed inquiries from Board Members regarding several operating budgets. She will be sending O'Neill copies of invoices and/or letters he requested.

**Parmelee Farm.**

**Peg Scofield and Tim Gannon** explained the majority of the work is done by volunteers for the most part with donated funds and materials. They explained what the operating budget is used for. Events at the Farm have increased to the extent that an event planner is now employed on an event-by-event basis. The Farm would like to purchase a gator (a four-wheel utility vehicle) which will greatly improve the time and effort needed to move people and materials, especially during times of trail maintenance.

The Town holds an operating budget for maintenance expenses. All donations and income from events go back into the Farm. As to the consideration of ascertaining a non-profit organization status, it has been discussed; but, at this time, it is not feasible as there are not enough full-time members at the farm to man the operations and a board of directors. During the Winter season, the members determine their projects and events. They encouraged Board Members to visit the farm and to call them directly when there is a question on funding or use of funds. They stressed that the improvements to date have been accomplished by donations of time and materials by residents and several resident-owned businesses. They also thanked the Town for its support and encouraged volunteerism by all. The Board in turn praised them for a job well done. First Selectwoman Lino also thanked them while noting that Park and Recreation also depends on a lot of volunteers.

**Audit FY 20/21.** The audit has not been completed. Financial Director Regolo advised that a special meeting of the BOF may be warranted. The goal is to complete the audit by December 31, 2021 so an extension will not be required.

**Minutes.** O'Neill **MOVED** to accept and approve as presented the Minutes of the October 12, 2021 Virtual Regular Monthly Meeting. Rimmer seconded the motion. Discussion: none. Voting in favor: Celmer, Rimmer, Lefko, O'Neill and Stirna. Opposed: none. Abstentions: none. The motion was **carried**, 5-0-0.

**Bills.**

1. October Clerical Hours. O'Neill **MOVED** to accept and approve as presented the Invoice of Hynes for her October Clerical Hours in the amount of \$59.61. Rimmer seconded the motion. Discussion: none. Voting in favor: Celmer, Rimmer, Lefko, O'Neill and Stirna. Opposed: none. Abstentions: none. The motion was **carried**, 5-0-0.

2. Seward and Monde. No invoice for the audit was submitted.

### **Old/New Business**

1. Tax Collector's September 2021 Report. The Report was distributed prior to the meeting. There were no inquiries.
2. RSD #17 Prior Year(s) Budget(s). The joint meeting requested by Stirna should be set soon. The joint meeting attendees to be invited are: Killingworth Board of Finance Member Annie Stirna, Killingworth First Selectwoman, Suzanne Sack, Selectwoman Eileen Blewett, Haddam First Selectman, and, Haddam Board of Finance Chairman Joseph Centofanti.
3. RSD#17 FY20/21 Operating Budget. This will again be pursued with the new superintendent of schools.

### **Additions to Agenda: December 14, 2021 Virtual Regular Monthly Meeting.**

1. Adoption of 2022 Calendar
2. Election of Officers.

### **Membership.**

Member-elect Sara O'Brien was reminded to get sworn in as soon as possible.

Chairman Celmer, whose term will soon end, thanked the Board for all their support during her tenure on the Board, noting she could not have performed her duties as Chairman without the help of Financial Director Regolo. Members, especially, O'Neill, thanked Celmer for her leadership. He stated he found the true meaning of partisan – leaving politics at the door when the meetings began.

There being no further business, Chairman Celmer **adjourned** the meeting at 7:58 P.M. to the December 14, 2021 Virtual Regular Monthly Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

*Sherry Lee Hynes*

Sherry Lee Hynes, Secretary

E-mailed: Dawn Mooney, Town Clerk  
Board of Finance  
Board of Selectmen  
Regina Regolo, Director of Finance  
Elizabeth Disbrow, Administrative Assistant  
Michele Nuhn, Tax Collector  
Donna Dupuis, Town Treasurer