

**MINUTES: REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**Monday, November 14, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. Town Office Building**

In attendance: N. Gorski, J. Young, E. Blewett, L. Lefko, J. Wilcox, D. Long, W. Joyce, K. Zandi, A. Stirna, J. Duffield, R. Pleines Absent: L. Annino, Jr.

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

2. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Public comment

Resident E. Blewett read a letter from T. Blewett regarding recent Facebook exchanges. She also expressed consternation about Selectman Young's participation in these exchanges. KDTC chair A. Stirna also commented and offered further information about the subject of the exchanges. KRTC chair L. Lefko read a prepared statement, which she submitted for the record. Selectman Young commented. Resident W. Joyce commented on the tenor of these public comments.

4. Approval of minutes

**Gorski moved to approve the minutes of the October 24, 2022 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen as submitted. The motion, seconded by Young, passed. [2-0]**

5. Refunds and abatements

**Young moved to approve the following refunds, all for overpayment:**

- **Toyota Lease Trust 20 Commerce Way \$394.97 Overpaid COC#10681M**
- **CCAP Auto Lease LTD PO Box 961272 \$546.72 Overpaid COC#10683M**
- **Richard F. Newton 80-1 Lyme Street \$142.03 Overpaid (paid in person & online on same day)**

6. Appointments

**Gorski moved to appoint Benjamin Elliott Schofield (R) to the Traffic Safety Committee for a term ending December 31, 2022. The motion, seconded by Young, passed. [2-0].** Mr. Schofield had failed to qualify upon his recent appointment.

**Gorski moved to add "Board of Education Report" as Item 7B and to move the subsequent items down on the agenda. The motion, seconded by Young, passed. [2-0]**

7. Department Reports

A. Park & Rec

Duffield, Donna Clark (Park and Rec), and Selectman Young met with local pickleball enthusiasts regarding installing new courts in town. Duffield discussed pros and cons for 4 possible locations and shared estimated costs ranging from \$200,000-260,000. There is a \$25,000 placeholder in the 2024/25 year of the MYCIP. There was brief discussion about scheduling, budgeting and funding options, including applying for ARPA funds for the project.

B. BOE report:

K. Zandi presented her monthly report:

- **Cougar Pride: Student council initiatives, Unified Champion School**
- **Student Reps: 2 new members, Fall play, fall sports, DEI program**
- **Enrollment: new count is 1819, up 26 students from last year.**
- **Academic awards: 3 National Merit Scholars**

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- Operations: HVAC clean air audit, grant
- Food Services: Fully staffed, including new intern
- Recent HK Grads: data on higher ed stats, popular majors
- Website: see strategic plan, core values and district vision at RSD17.org

- C. Building Department: reports were distributed for review
- D. Health Reports: reports were distributed for review
- E. KVFC Building Committee: this item was postponed

8. Budget report

Monthly reports were distributed. 23/24 budget sheets will be distributed next week.

9. New Business

A. Contract Hauling

Gorski shared recent estimates comparing the costs of contracting out waste hauling vs continuing to use town crew and equipment. Town truck, currently being repaired, is scheduled for replacement FY 2025/26.

10. Old Business

A. 2023 Meeting Schedule: this item was postponed.

B. Amended Town Meeting Call

The auditor's flagging of a 22/23 chip sealing invoice was resolved when Comer Contracting confirmed that work was performed in the budgeted year. This item will therefore not need to go to town meeting. The KAA/KVFC Pension Plan was reviewed by town counsel and is ready to be presented to the town.

**Gorski moved to issue the following call to town meeting. The motion, seconded by Young, passed. [2-0].**

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF KILLINGWORTH

The Electors of the Town of Killingworth and all those qualified to vote in meetings of said Town are hereby notified and warned that a Special Town Meeting will be held in the All Purpose Room of the Killingworth Elementary School, 340 Route 81, Killingworth, CT, on Monday, November 28, 2022 at 7:00 PM to consider and act upon the following item of business:

1. To accept the amended and restated Defined Benefit Pension Plan for the Killingworth Ambulance Association and the Killingworth Volunteer Fire Company effective July 1, 2021 of copy of which is available for view on the town's website and in the town clerk's office.

Dated at Killingworth, Connecticut this 14th day of November 2022.

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Nancy M. Gorski  
First Selectman

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Jamie Mowat Young  
Selectman

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11. Selectmen's comments

- Young declined to comment further about above-noted Facebook controversy, but noted that the animosity expressed in local political discourse in recent years is regrettable.
- Young proposed that the town freeze further distribution of ARPA funds in light of the projected costs of PFAS testing and remediation. Young and Gorski , along with KVFC and state entities, met to discuss the broad scope of the problem in Connecticut.

12. First Selectman's comments

- Gorski reported that DPH performed their 5-year sanitary survey for town hall and the library; she will share results when available. She noted a 2017 finding for town hall that was not rectified, placing cement bollards around the well head. Bolts were secured on library well head.
- The town received a letter of project eligibility for DPH Safe Drinking Water Revolving Fund loan funding. The State Fiscal Year 2023 Draft Annual Intended Use Plan (IUP) has been published and Killingworth's project has been included. Gorski spoke with DPH on next steps including a discussion regarding preliminary design work for a new well source.
- Preliminary PFAS results at town hall campus revealed soil contamination on campus. The final report is pending, but Gorski is already collaborating with Canton, another town with PFAS contamination. She plans to meet with their resource, GZA, to understand remediation steps and costs.
- Gorski proposed a future "town hall" public meeting to discuss PFAS in town.
- Fair Rent Commission: Appointments will be discussed at an upcoming BOS meeting.
- Gorski stressed the importance of BOS members staying "above the fray" in local politics.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by E. Doyle Disbrow on 11/15/2022.



Attachment: Letter to J. Young from L. Lefko

Killingworth Board of Selectmen Meeting November 13, 2022

Selectman Young, last week you inserted yourself into an issue that did not concern you because you were asked by DTC chairman and BOF member Annie Stirna to post a letter that she had written on Killingworth Stompin Ground, a page that she is not a member of. You were warned repeatedly that this was not allowed, and your posts were deleted and you reposted four times. Killingworth Stompin Ground is a privately owned Facebook group that I and another anonymous person own and run. The rules of that page are what we decide they are. Membership is what we say it is. The fact that the other person is anonymous is also my choice. You have since been removed from that page.

You repeatedly and publicly stated that I was a "liar" during the exchange on that post. I was provided with screen shots of your personal Facebook page where you said that I had "defamed" you which is also not true. It defies logic that you, a Town of Killingworth Selectman would insert yourself into something that had absolutely nothing to do with you. It also makes me extremely concerned that we would not be treated fairly should something concerning me, my husband or our property ever come before the BOS, or any Democrat controlled board in this town.

While you may not necessarily be subject to a lawsuit for something you do as a selectman, I have been approached by several people who feel that I should consider filing suit against you personally for slander and defamation. As an attorney, I am sure that you know that the laws in CT for defamation and slander do not require me to prove actual damages.

I would hope that you would immediately cease to comment on any private citizen in this town in a public forum. I may not agree with everything that Selectman Annino has done or said, but he has the good sense to stay off social media and not involve himself in political attacks in any public way. He is always civil and appropriate when we see him out in town. Nancy Gorski conducts herself in the same way. I would suggest that you follow their lead.

Sincerely,  
Laura Lefko