

MINUTES: REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN (subject to approval)

Monday, January 9, 2023, 7:00 P.M. Remote

Members in attendance: N. Gorski, L. Annino, Jr., J. Young

Visitors: C. Aniskovich, K. Amoia, L. Connelly, M. Dove, J. Gay, C. Jacob, L. Lefko, D. Long, D. Offner, R. Pleines, R. Regolo, A. Stirna, J. Vece, K. Zandi

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Public Comment
 - Laura Lefko: A conflict in elected officials was brought to the Board’s attention. Stephanie Warren serves on both the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals. Planning and Zoning Commission is a regulatory body and Zoning Board of Appeals is an adjudicating body posing a statutory conflict for her participation on both. The town website lists Bruce Dodson as a Democrat on Historic Review and as a Republican on Zoning Board of Appeals. Laura also shared she would like to receive answers from the Board members to questions she poses during public comment. She referenced Westbrook who have question and answer sessions at their BOS meetings.
4. Approval of Minutes
Annino commented that page 8 of the December 12, 2022, minutes contains duplicate motions by Young to add an agenda item: Trash haulers. Young had not had time to review the minutes and the agenda item was tabled.

5. Refunds and abatements
Gorski moved to approve the following refunds for overpayment:

| Name | Address | Amount | Reason |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Honda Lease Trust | 1919 Torrance Blvd | \$242.16 | Overpaid COC#10693M |
| Estate of Saul Gordon | 125 Cutlers Farm Rd | \$41.96 | Overpaid COC#10699M |
| Rachel or Dara Senechal | 325 Tri City Road | \$26.31 | Overpaid COC#10696M |

The motion, seconded by Annino, passed. [3-0-0].

6. Department Reports
 - A. BOE: K. Zandi gave the December update, covering:
 - Cougar Pride: BES Principal Whidden and selected third grade students shared about the PAWS for
 - Student Representatives: Reported on the Names Can Really Hurt assembly and the status of the Senior portfolios. The chorus and the band held concerts. The HKTV Holiday Show was rescheduled due to weather. All proceeds went to the Webster family.
 - The Free Meals lunch program ended in December.
 - HKHS received a federal Perkins grant which will be used for multimeters, a Snap-On toolbox and five field trips to STEM and manufacturing facilities.

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- HKHS also reported that choir and band students made the Southern Region Music Festival, the first in-person auditions since 2019.
- HKHS Principal Hayward and Assistant Principal Apicella presented a summary of the main parts of the report from the Decennial NEASC Visit April 2022.
- HKMS brought back the tradition of the Turkey Trot, a 1.3 mile walk/run.
- HKIS performed a musical, A Year with Frog and Toad. BES first and second graders took their first field trip to attend the musical at HKIS.
- KES has implemented the Buddy System. All students are matched in an older/younger pairing with another student.
- The BOE approved the Grade 8 Trip to Washington DC.

- B. Building/Health Department reports were distributed with the BOS meeting materials. Tax Collector and Property Transfer reports were distributed via email prior to the meeting.

Young requested a report from the tree warden on the status of trees in town. Tree health and safety is reviewed by both the tree warden and the Eversource arborist. A map in town hall diagrams the trees and their status as reported by the tree warden, Eversource or residents. A high-level summary from the selectmen's office and the decision process to remove trees. Gorski also reported she expects to be over in the tree budget due to the number of trees needed to be taken down.

Annino again asked for progress report on the backlog of open building permits. Gorski will report back, however, she did indicate the volume of new building permits has slowed. Gorski also shared that online permitting would be beneficial in providing summary reports and will included as a budget request in the 23/24 draft budget. Young noted that ZBA has not met in some time. R. Pleines commented that ZBA is used for residents who are requesting an appeal to town zoning.

7. Budget report

Finance Director's reports, with annotations, were distributed prior to the meeting. No questions from either Annino or Young.

8. New Business

A. Water Pollution Control Authority

- On March 3, 2011, it was the joint decision of the Board of Selectmen that the appointments to the Water Pollution Control Authority be rescinded. This action was taken since Killingworth's sludge lagoons have been permanently closed and most of the duties of the Water Pollution Control Authority, by statute, have been re-assigned to the local health departments and/or health districts. The Board of Selectmen will be assuming the remaining duties of the WPCA.
- There have been 11 septic failures at Beechwood in 2022. Do we want to consider re-establishing the Water Pollution Control Authority or work with CRAHD to address. There are other pollution control issues, such as PFAS, that need to be considered.
- Annino commented he would like to take a deeper read into the role of the Water Pollution Control Authority. He was surprised to learn there is no responsibility within the Authority to

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administer a pump-out program. The town needs to review if it has any statutory responsibility regarding pump-out programs, but Annino feels we need to establish some system to ensure our water protection in town is being followed. CRAHD may provide support for this system. Young asked whether we have a Water Pollution Control Plan. Gorski noted she has yet to find this plan, but there is more work to do here.

B. Neglected Cemetery Grant

- Maintenance costs for seven town-owned cemeteries have, in recent years, been offset by a state grant of \$2,000. In order to retain use of this grant money we need a motion and the meeting minutes certified by the town clerk.
- **I move to affirm Chief Elected Official of Killingworth, Nancy Gorski, is authorized to apply for and administer the Neglected Cemetery Account Program grant. By administer, it means that the person duly authorized will have to sign the Notice of Grant Award and the Reimbursement Request form. The copy of the minutes must be certified by the town clerk. Seconded by Annino. Motion passed [3-0-0].**

9. Old Business

A. KVFC Building Committee Request

- The committee is prepared to go out to bid in an effort to estimate costs and develop a phased-in approach. There was discussion at and consensus at the December BOS that this is a “new ask” which requires town meeting approval. After reviewing the 22/23 capital, Gorski asked whether this could be funded by the KVFC - Station 1 Renovations line item. Annino stated this \$500K line item was based on an earlier study estimating a \$5M Station 1 renovation. A new study is expected to identify the needs are greater and the facility needs a higher level of funding. Young commented the study would also include the transition costs, changing the scope. D. Offner responded the bid is intended for this fiscal year. Annino indicated if it is in our means, utilize operating dollars to perform the bid and bank the existing capital. Gorski offered to raise with BOF.

B. Custodial Bid Opening

- Gorski noted only one bid was received but was concerned additional bids could be in the drop box that she was unable to open. Annino commented that it would be helpful for E. Disbrow, who facilitated the RFP and its questions and answers, be available to open the bids and the agenda item was tabled. Gorski to request a special BOS meeting to open the bids.

C. ARPA Policy Update

- Gorski noted with last month’s vote to dissolve the Economic Recovery Committee, updates to the ARPA Policy and form need to be made. Gorski to work with Gina on drafting the changes for review at our next meeting. If you have any recommendations, please let Gina know.

10. Selectmen Comments

- Annino commented that another young person was lost to substance abuse. He would like to see money allocated to the town through an opioid settlement. He thinks it is important to get those dollars out organizations in the community so these awful events can be addressed. Gorski commented a portion of the settlement dollars went to the KVFC. She

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will speak with Resident State Trooper Mulhall and HKYFS to see where he feels these dollars can be allocated.

- Annino commented on the joint BOE/BOS/BOF strategic planning meeting. Annino feels we need more appropriate plans in place to maintain our physical assets when it comes to our schools which over the years have systematically been run down. The BOE request is upwards of \$100M. Annino feels there needs to be a clear separation of the physical assets from the superintendent and BOE.
- Young also commented on the joint BOE/BOS/BOF meeting that while a big number is being suggested, there is no current dollar request for this fiscal year as of yet. As noted by Gorski at the meeting, the town too has large capital needs looming. Young concurs with costs for PFAS remediation and large capital items such as Station 1 and the Town Hall modulars, we need to identify ways to meet these needs without overburdening our taxpayers.

11. First Selectman Comments

- The project plan for a multi-purpose field at Eric Auer Park utilizing DEEP grant monies has been submitted to the state and P&R are working out additional details. Annino commented it was his recollection this grant was specifically for a baseball field. Gorski noted P&R worked with the state to build a multi-purpose field based on P&R field utilization data. Annino asked whether the BOS need to re-approve the project given this change. Annino voiced concern the town voted to approve a baseball field, not a multi-purpose field. Additionally, Annino recalled when he resided over P&Z, two major investments in recreational facilities were approved based on P&R's strategic plan. One was for several soccer fields at Eric Auer Park and the other was the significant modifications for the little league park at Irene Sheldon. At the time of approval, Annino indicated that should another investment in fields come forward, it would have to include renovations of the large baseball field. Annino would like to see how the needs have shifted. Gorski to invite Jim Duffield to our next meeting.
- Walt and I reviewed Roads/Bridges on the MYCIP with Tom Fenton from NLJA and updates are underway. It is important to note, however, that all major road improvements based on the 2017 Pavement Evaluation Study are complete and all town roads are now on a maintenance program.
- I sent a letter to PETA indicating out of respect for Killingworth's history and our early settlers, we will not change the name of Roast Meat Hill Road. We received a response today wishing us a Happy New Year and included a box of vegan jerky in appreciation for our consideration.
- I am working on executing the contract for the DPW Consultant.
- With staff illnesses and Covid rates on the rise, I plan to have meetings remain remote in January. In speaking with CRAHD, postponing the PFAS Town Hall to later in February or March makes better sense. Annino commented before we hold a Town Hall with residents, any solutions should go to BOS. The purpose of the town hall was to report what we know now. Next steps are still TBD. Annino is concerned with the financial implications associated with PFAS remediation and would like we get more attention. Gorski commented that she has raised financial concerns with Senator Cohen and State Representative Aniskovich.
- R. Pleines asked Young about a clear cut of trees by the Connecticut Water Group on Abner Lane. Young indicated she would respond to R. Pleines.

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12. The meeting adjourned at 8:05.

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Gorski
January 11, 2023