

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Monday, March 27, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
Killingworth Town Hall

BOS Members in Attendance: First Selectman Nancy Gorski and Selectmen Jamie Young and Louis Annino, Jr.

BOS Members Absent: None.

Visitors: K. Zandi, C. Jacob, J. Vece, W. Tobelman, A. Stirna, R. Pleines, E. Unger Pleines, J. Samperi, E. Blewett, L. Lefko, D. Mooney, B. Kosturko, J. Gay, E. Nunes, K. Amoia, S. Papoosh, B. Goetsch, G. Judge and J. Sciascia

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Called to Order: First Selectman Gorski called this meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Public Comment:

Eileen Unger Pleines read from a prepared letter about how she feels that her public comment at the last BOS meeting was not taken seriously and she expressed how offensive it was noting that every taxpayer deserves to be respected and represented in Town with being able to voice their concerns they bring forth. Eileen also commented that Meeting Minutes cannot be changed once published.

Eileen Blewett gave an update on Helping Hands Food Pantry. She noted there has been a slight change in hours of operations shifting from two days a week to one, and also noting a time change now open from 3:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m. versus 4:00-6:00 p.m. They will still be serving the same people, feeding approximately 22-26 families a week. She expressed the importance of the Helping Hands Volunteers, how they handle each client with integrity, confidentiality, dignity and utmost respect. She also went over the numbering system for confidentiality reasons. Eileen spoke briefly on the fresh fruit and vegetable grant which allows her to pick up an abundance of fresh fruits and vegetables stored in a warehouse. The Helping Hand Pantry supplies clients with pet foods, hygiene items, cleaning supplies, perishables, basic household items, meats, fresh fruits and veggies. They can take as much as they need, just limited to meat, milk and eggs. This is all run by KWO Volunteers. Please contact Eileen Blewett directly with any questions.

Laura Lefko, Chair of the Town Republican Committee, read from a prepared letter and had several comments : 1) She stated that the Republican Town Committee was not against the Commission on Aging but only against the way it was formed. Further, stating that there was an informal meeting held with a select group without the First Selectman being present, writing an ordinance and bringing it back to a BOS meeting which was not properly added on to the

Agenda. With that being said, the Townspeople were not aware of the topic being discussed; 2) She spoke about a group of residents getting together to work to present a proposal for a property tax relief to certain residents over the age of 67; 3) She raised concerns of where the money would come from to put a Senior Center in the Town of Killingworth.

Joan Gay commented about volunteering at the Helping Hands Food Pantry and how wonderful the experience is. She thanked Eileen Blewett, Roslyn Reeps and Kelly Leash for all they do. She stated that the clients they serve are most appreciative and they give great feedback.

Dawn Mooney, Killingworth Town Clerk, spoke about the Connecticut Freedom Of Information Act for Public Agency Filing Requirements of Meeting Minutes. She stated that all Motions and Votes in the form of a Notice of Vote or Full Minutes must be filed within 48 hours of the meeting. If this document is the Full Minutes, the FOI filing requirement is met. If this document is Notice of Vote, the full minutes must be filed within 7 days to meet FOI requirements. Once filed, all such documents become permanent record and cannot be altered in anyway, and are immediately available to the public. Town Clerk Mooney further stated that if you have any revisions, corrections and amendments in the Minutes, they are to be made at the next meeting and are reflected in those set of Minutes. Lastly, she stated if the BOS has any additional questions regarding the FOI posting requirements of Minutes, to please feel free to reach out to her directly.

Eileen Blewett commented on the Budget, specifically, the three requests from the Ambulance Association that came in as ARPA Requests. She inquired where the rest of the work from the Economic Recovery Committee is, also inquiring whether or not the public knows of the new ARPA Policy. Gorski explained that all the input they received regarding the Economic Recovery Committee is “housed” in a spreadsheet for future access, but still do have to let the public know of the ARPA policy change. Selectman Annino noted that this change was explicitly written out in the Meeting Minutes when they made the shift.

Approval of Minutes:

Upon no Corrections, the Minutes of the Friday, March 10, 2023 Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen were Approved as presented.

Upon no Corrections, the Minutes of the Monday, March 13, 2023 Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen were Approved as presented.

Upon no Corrections, the Minutes of the Monday, March 13, 2023 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen were Approved as presented.

Refunds and Abatements:

Motion #1 - First Selectman Gorski *Moved* and Selectman Young *Seconded* a motion to approve the following Refunds and Abatements, all for overpayment, and allow them to follow their normal course as presented below:

Refunds

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Reason</u>
1. Douglas A. Paul	10 Pleasant Trail	\$23.50	Overpaid

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Appointments:

First Selectman Gorski stressed the importance of moving forward and putting this Committee together and getting Candidates assigned. She is hopeful that there is a possibility of additional candidates in the future to potentially serve on the Committee. Motions were further made for Appointments on the Committee.

A. Committee on Aging

Motion #2 - First Selectman Gorski **Moved** to appoint Mary Joanne Gorman (Republican) to the Commission on Aging for a 2-year term commencing January 1, 2023 through December 21, 2025.

Motion **Failed** for a lack of a Second.

Motion #3 - First Selectman Gorski **Moved** to appoint David L. Long (Republican) to the Commission on Aging for a 2-year term commencing January 1, 2023 through December 21, 2025.

Motion **Failed** for a lack of a Second.

Motion #4 - First Selectman Gorski **Moved** to appoint Jacqueline M. Wilcox (Republican) to the Commission on Aging for a 1-year term commencing January 1, 2023 through December 21, 2024.

Motion **Failed** for a lack of a Second.

Motion #5 - Selectman Annino **Moved** and Selectman Young **Seconded** a motion to appoint Joan D. Gay (Democrat) to the Commission on Aging for a 2-year term commencing on January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2025.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Motion #6 - Selectman Annino **Moved** and Selectman Young **Seconded** a motion to appoint Mary E. Solera (Democrat) to the Commission on Aging for a 2-year term commencing on January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2025.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Motion #7 - Selectman Annino **Moved** and Selectman Young **Seconded** a motion to appoint William R. Joyce III (Democrat) to the Commission on Aging for a 2-year term commencing on January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2025.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Motion #8 - Selectman Annino **Moved** and Selectman Young **Seconded** a motion to appoint Mary Jean Panciera (Unaffiliated) to the Commission on Aging for a 2-year term commencing on January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2025.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Motion #9 - Selectman Annino **Moved** and Selectman Young **Seconded** a motion to appoint Joyce M. Mason (Republican) to the Commission on Aging for a 2-year term commencing on January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2025.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Discussion - Annino commented about how he couldn't think of a better group of candidates with the momentum and enthusiasm to move this Committee forward. Young echoed Annino's comments and added that this core group of Candidates will get this Committee up and moving, also noting that Townspeople can still participate even if not elected. First Selectman Gorski spoke about her concerns with the Committee not being diverse enough, and noted her concerns about not being involved in the informal meeting discussion.

B. Building Official Update

First Selectman Gorski updated the BOS that Karl Auer's Appointment as the Acting Building Official Appointment ends August 31, 2023. She noted that they spent time interviewing another individual and received their Education and Work History from him. Also, Gorski recently received an email from Karl Auer that he is interested in becoming the Town Building Official which they are not acting on now. The BOS has to sort this out before August timeframe.

New Business:

A. Coordinated Medical Emergency Direction (CMED) Telecommunications Service Credit

Motion #10 - First Selectman Gorski **Moved** and Selectman Young **Seconded** a motion to designate Valley Shore ECC as the recipient of the Regional Telecommunications Service Credit.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

B. Draft Ethics Policy:

First Selectman Gorski stated that she drafted a Code of Ethics based on the Town of Clinton's one. It was sent to the Town's Labor Attorney for review. The Town's Attorney recommended that the BOS work through the template to get an Ethics Policy in place and then put it before an Ethics Commission once it is formed. Gorski will forward the Ethics Policy to Annino and Young.

C. Through-Town Event

Motion #11 - First Selectman Gorski *Moved* and Selectman Annino *Seconded* a motion to approve the Closer to Free Ride Through-Town Event scheduled for September 9, 2023 contingent upon the approval of Walt Adametz.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0]

Old Business:

A. Charter Revision Commission

Kathy Zandi, who was the Chair of the CRC, gave an Overview of the CRC. She noted that there were 7 Members of the Commission appointed who discussed, researched, listened, considered and recommended changes to the Charter, all focusing on what's in the best interest for the Town of Killingworth. She reviewed the Timeline and Meeting Schedules, noting the date of March 10th with the submission of Charter materials to Town Clerk Mooney who handed over the draft Charter materials to the BOS. The BOS will do their own analysis of the CRC recommendations, and a referendum will be held in November 2023. Kathy further went through the Key Process they used, breaking out in Working Groups of three, which the groups had homework/research to complete on specific topics and came back to the full CRC with their recommendation for a possible vote. The Process for the Working Group was discussed in length. There were 4 Public Hearings held, and the CRC was delighted that so many Townspeople submitted feedback in those hearings or submitted written Public Comment via email. The feedback that was provided ultimately did influence what the CRC recommended and some motions that were made by the CRC were reverted back. Lastly, Kathy went through the Charter packet that was submitted to the BOS: Clean copy of the Charter, Redlined Version of the Charter, Summary of the Substantial Changes, Running List of Recorded Votes, Recommended to the BOS to Form a Governance of Study Committee, List of Topics For Discussion/If Discussed/If Changed.

First Selectman Gorski stated she forwarded the draft Charter to the Town Attorney, he will review the Charter accordingly. He did note that the BOS must hold a Public Hearing no later than Monday, April 24, 2023. Director of Finance Regolo stated that the Public Hearing for the Budget is scheduled for the same night so the BOS will take that into consideration when scheduling. After the Public Hearing the BOS then has 15 days to recommend any changes or finalize the draft.

Selectman Annino thanked the CRC for their hard work, and stated that the Charter materials were very well organized and well documented. Discussion took place regarding how to address further questions that Annino has and scheduling a special meeting with the members of the CRC would be ideal.

B. Textile Recycling

Motion #12 - First Selectman Gorski *Moved* and Selectman Annino *Seconded* a motion to approve entering into a Contract with Baystate Textile to establish a Textile Recycling Bin at the Killingworth Transfer Station.

Discussion took place regarding how the textile system will be managed in terms of making sure no contaminated materials are thrown in the bins at the Transfer Station. Further discussion took place regarding General Insurance Coverage. Gorski will follow up with Roslyn Reeps and the motion was tabled until the next BOS meeting.

After Discussion, First Selectman Gorski *Moved* to *Table* the Motion until the next BOS meeting.

C. RFP Town Hall Roof Repairs

First Selectman Gorski stated the Board of Finance took Roof Repairs up as an agenda item but no motions were made, asking how quickly they could get an RFP executed and get contractors in the building to repair the roof damage. Gorski spoke with Todd Hajak, stating that the Fire Department worked with a company that would come in and give an Assessment of the damage and then bid out the work which was one direction to go in or they could just go through normal RFP process. Gorski will give the company a call so they can get the process started.

D. Water Pollution Update

First Selectman Gorski gave an update regarding PFAS. DEEP will complete the testing in April for residents who installed filtration systems. This will continue on an annual basis to make sure they continue to work efficiently. Gorski stated they received notification that both KES and the Town Campus are eligible for the DSWRF State Revolving Fund money. DPH's recommendation is that they would like to see both projects designed into one so they can manage it. The next step is to fill out the DPH Financial Assistance Application and Pre-Bid Checklist for next steps. Annino suggested that there is the opportunity to see if we can be added to the class action suit and felt the BOS should reach out to the Town Attorney regarding the same. Gorski noted that Grant Eisenhofer Environmental out of Michigan is interested in representing the Town.

Gorski stated in regards to Sodium Chloride she began providing two residencies with bottled water under CT General Statutes 22a - 471, and noted that the investigation into the current salt shed is not the source of additional contamination. She forwarded a Memo to DPH going back to the 1980's when the salt contamination was first detected noting challenges of the impacting

of two residents on Wolf Hollow. Gorski wants to confirm that the Salt Shed sitting behind them isn't leaching any more salt.

Selectman Young inquired whether or not soil testing around the buildings was completed and if they are seeing specific results of areas that need to be remediated. Further discussions regarding soil testing took place.

Public Comment:

- Casey Jacob, who was a member of the CRC, commented about when the draft Charter comes back with First Selectman Gorski's and the Town Attorney's input, it's her recommendation as a Citizen that the BOS form a group to draft a Code of Ethics and decide what the review process is, should it come back to the BOS or should it go to the Town. She feels that an Ethics Commission needs to be put in place when they have a Code of Ethics, when they receive complaints and hear them in light of the Code of Ethics. She feels that it is very important for the Townspeople that this Code of Ethics be written not by people who invested interest and word it in a certain way because they will be governed by it.

-Laura Lefko commented about how she feels the Commission on Aging wasn't properly handled, the Citizens of the Town were not properly notified that a Committee was being formed, and the topic didn't appear on the Agenda so Townspeople could participate if they wished to do so. Further, she noted her concerns that the Republican Town Committee candidates weren't even considered for the Committee.

-Eileen Blewett was disappointed and felt that the First Selectman should have been involved in the topic of discussion regarding the Commission on Aging and stressed the importance of her being involved in all topics going forward.

Selectmen's Comments:

Selectmen Annino -

- Insurance position with PFAS - Annino suggested an independent person look further into the Town's past insurance policies dating back to the 1980s regarding Sodium Chloride. He also suggested having the Town Council look further into it.

- He stated that he spent a lot of time reviewing the RFP for the Facilities Killingworth Volunteer Fire Department. He spoke with Rick Darin about how it seemed that the initial RFP was mixing with the assessment on some things more appropriate for the design. Annino stated that they aren't in any hurry and when Bill Wright gets back, they will set a meeting to review and finalize.

Selectman Young -

- She thanked the CRC for all their hard work, time and effort. She believes the Ethics Commission is an extraordinary idea and long overdue.

- She noted several concerns: 1) Public Comment - she feels it has become very political lately filled with untruth and false accusations, ultimately creating a chilling effect in the Community; 2) Noted some misrepresentations on certain topics like: the Fair Rent Commission, Pickleball

Courts and the Commission on Aging; 3) She strongly feels the partisan division in the Community needs to end.

First Selectmen's Comments:

First Selectman Gorski commented on two items of disappointment: 1) what transpired when Mr. Pleines 180 day appointment was ending and bringing him forward as a candidate to fill the Building Official position; 2) being uninformed about the Commission on Aging being added to the Agenda.

Adjournment: First Selectman Gorski *Moved* to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Sciascia
Clerk