

NOTE: The Board of Selectmen held a public hearing via GoToMeeting on Thursday, January 20, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. to consider the following items of business:

1. *A proposal to join the Connecticut River Area Health District (CRAHD).*
2. *An ordinance which would allow the Board of Selectmen to appoint additional members to the Board of Assessment Appeals.*

Video of the hearing can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1xmlVfdzUoE>

In attendance: N. Gorski, L. Annino, Jr., J. Young

Visitors (as identified onscreen): E. Disbrow, M. Neveu, T. Hajek, Casey Jacob, Jacqueline Wilcox, Eileen, Guy Vecchitto, Eileen Unger, Sara O'Brien, Bill Shipman, Laura Lefko, Richard Pleines, Dawn Mooney, Gina Regolo, Michele Nuhn, Annie Stirna, AP, Michael Parahus, Brendan Crowley, Andrew O'Neill, Eileen Blewett, David Cutillo, Greta Venuti, Eric Nunes, David Long, Donnie Venuti, Tim Gannon, Cheryl Fine

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.
2. Public comment
 - A. Malorie Neveu, Eric Nunes, Jackie Wilcox, and Guy Vecchitto spoke in opposition to the nomination of former First Selectwoman Catherine Iino to the Charter Revision Commission.
 - B. Eileen Unger and Guy Vecchitto asked the BOS to acknowledge the efforts of the KVFC and emergency responders in response to a recent serious residential fire in town.
 - C. Parmelee Farm Committee chair Tim Gannon requested that the BOS consider not appointing new members to the Parmelee Farm Committee until they have attended meetings, met with members and expressed interest in joining. KW Republican Town Committee vice chair Laura Lefko said that the KRTC does not make recommendations regarding appointments to the PFC. Guy Vecchitto noted that he was asked by Iino to attend 6 meetings before being considered for appointment.
 - D. Town Clerk Dawn Mooney clarified timelines for filling vacancies and reminded those present that anyone can make recommendations regarding appointments at any time, but it is the BOS who makes the actual appointment.
3. Departments/Board of Education report: None
4. Approval of minutes

Young moved to approve the minutes of January 10, amended as follows:
Page 2, Item 8A, line 3: delete "along with Gorski"
The motion was seconded by Gorski. Voting in favor: Gorski, Young abstain: Annino

Gorski asked for a motion to approve the minutes of January 18, 2022, amended to note that Annie Stirna was also a visitor. Young made that motion, adding a second amendment striking the sentence containing "potential conflicts of interest" from Item 2. There was discussion.

Gorski attempted to modify this second amendment to retain a version of the sentence stating that any conflicts of interest would be addressed, and appropriate recusals would be made. There was further discussion. The resulting motion to approve the minutes with the two amendments did not receive a second and was lost.

Annino moved to accept the minutes of January 18, 2022 as presented, with the following amendments:

- *strike the second sentence on item 2*
- *add Annie Stirna to the list of visitors.*

The motion was seconded by Young. Voting in favor: Annino, Young Opposed: Gorski Motion carried.

5 Refunds and abatements

Young moved to approve refunds and abatements. Annino seconded, amending the motion as follows: Add that there are 5 refunds, all for overpayment, and that they should be approved to go their normal course for reimbursement. The motion passed unanimously.

USB Leasing LT	1850 Osborn Ave	\$280.56	Overpaid COC#10225M
Donald Candella	555 N Roast Meat Hill Rd	\$13.36	Overpaid COC#10229M
Donald Candella	555 N Roast Meat Hill Rd	\$13.36	Overpaid COC#10230M
Alberta Zita or David Zita	29 Bridle Path Trail	\$75.70	Overpaid
John M. or Suzanne F. Stevens	7 Goldfield Rd	\$427.79	Overpaid COC#10232M

6. Appointments

A. Charter Revision vacancy

Gorski proposed two candidates -- Amy Roberts-Perry and Michael Parahus – to fill a vacancy on the Charter Revision Commission created by Jennifer Liptak, who failed to qualify.

Gorski moved to appoint Amy Roberts-Perry to the Charter Revision Commission. The motion was lost for want of a second.

Young moved to nominate Catherine Iino to the Charter Revision Commission. The motion was seconded by Annino.

Young spoke in support of Ms. Iino's candidacy, addressed some of the comments raised during public comment, and reminded the room that Iino would be just one vote among many on the commission.

Gorski acknowledged Iino's experience with the Charter, but expressed concern that having a the current and most recent first selectwoman at the same time violated the spirit of the statute limiting the number of town officials who can sit on the commission as they would bring the same perspective to the table.

Voting in favor: Annino, Young Opposed: Gorski Motion carried.

B. Open Burning Official - Ethan Drain

Annino moved to reappoint Ethan D. Drain as Open Burning Official for a term ending December 31, 2022. The motion passed unanimously. Drain had failed to qualify after his December appointment.

7. Budget report

Re: FY 22-23, Regolo reported that she is missing the Fire Company's budget. She asked the board if they had any ideas for changes to the budget development process. She described the typical process. She noted that HKYFS has requested a meeting, and asked the board for input on which entities they would like to see. Gorski said they would invite boards in after reviewing initial budgets. Annino suggested that Gorski first work with the Finance Director and draft a top-down budget, and secondly strongly suggested that the highway department be the first budget addressed. The first budget meeting is Wednesday, February 2.

Young moved to add Item 7 C. Parmelee Farm appointments to the agenda. The motion, seconded by Annino, passed unanimously. Young spoke at length about the appointment process in general, accommodating social distancing requirements at meetings, and about the vacancy/appointments to Parmelee farm in particular. There was discussion about whether Charter Revision should address committee members' role in selecting new members.

Young moved to appoint Lise Mariette Brule to Parmelee Farm Committee. The motion was seconded by Annino. There was more discussion, with input from Tim Gannon, about how the selection process has worked in the past, about whether there was a time constraint on this appointment, about whether the charge to the Parmelee Farm Committee contained guidance about membership, and more. Gorski indicated that further investigation was warranted.

Voting in favor: Young, Annino Opposed: Gorski Motion carried.

8. New Business

A. Town Website Upgrade

Gorski collected quotes based on industry-standard upgrades to the current town website, which would include all current features and services, as well as necessary software upgrades. Quotes were distributed BOS review. There was no action.

B. Part-Time Remote Meeting Coordinator

Gorski is exploring hiring a parttime person to help provide real-time IT support for online town meetings. No action was taken.

9. Old Business

C. KVFC/KAA Volunteer Incentive Program

This item was postponed.

Gorski voted to add to the agenda under Old Business: "follow up on CRAHD proposal." The motion, seconded by Young, passed.

There was brief discussion about the original Health Director job posting. Gorski reported that Haddam and Deep River are pleased with the services offered by CRAHD. It was noted that maintaining sanitarian records onsite would be a necessary part of any contract.

Young moved to give Gorski the authority to extend the current contract by an additional 2 months. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Open Space Committee Charter

It was recently discovered that, according to the charter for the Open Space Committee (OSC), membership must include a member of the Land Trust (KLCT) and of the Conservation Commission (CC). Dawn Mooney suggested endorsement from these groups might be a more practical option. Annino noted that the original intent was to make sure that the OSC didn't operate in a way that was in odds with the other two entities. He suggested that perhaps former members could also serve that purpose. Charge review and FOIA education was discussed. No action was taken.

D. Facilities Management

Gorski noted two maintenance issues (Front door sill, Tax collector window water leak) and asked the board, and Annino in particular, to develop a plan for town campus facility management. Annino discussed the importance of preventative maintenance, and on-call contractors, and proposed making facilities management a standing item on the agenda. He offered to direct this process.

10. Selectmen's comments

- A. Young requested that appointments be made to the currently inactive Energy Task Force.
- B. Annino asked for a status update on producing copies of town employee job descriptions.

11. First Selectman's comments

- A. Gorski was able to secure 44 cases of much-needed COVID-19 test kits for RSD17, which were picked up and distributed by RSD17's John Mercier.
- B. PFAS water sampling was conducted on PFAS. Gorski continues to meet with DPH and DEEP about securing funding for remediation and will report back. Annino also plans to attend the next meeting.
- C. Gorski asked the board to consider priorities in preparation for the annual joint budget meeting with the Board of Finance on the 14th of February.
- D. Gorski reported that the Howard,, MacMillan & Tycz, the current town attorney, has merged with another firm, and is now the Arch Law Group.
- E. Gorski commended and thanked KVFC and first responders for recent efforts addressing serious fires, during an especially busy season.
- F. Gorski noted that Energy Task Force needs a new charge before appointments can be made. The group last met in 2016, when their efforts were directed toward local solar and Clean Energy/Clean Communities programs.

G. Gorski met with the Trust for Public Land regarding the Deer Lake property. She reported that the Boy Scouts of America have not revealed the status of the bids, or any plans moving forward. She intends to gather formal public input from town residents.

H. Gorski expressed hopes for a greater spirit of cooperation with the board. There was agreement.

12. Gorski moved to adjourn at 8:42 p.m. The motion, seconded by Young, passed unanimously.

Submitted by Elizabeth Disbrow on January 31, 2022. Recording available.