

MINUTES: REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Monday, March 14, 2022 7:00 p.m. via Go To Meeting

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

BOE: K. Zandi KLA: L. Hogarty, J. O'Sullivan FINALSITE: Adam Reiser ERC: J. Mancini

Visitors: W. Linsley, T. Hajek, C. Jacob, G. Venuti, E. Marshall, D. Mooney, B. Sirignano, C. MacGonnagle, M. Charney, E. Unger, R. Pleines, J. Samperi, G. Wind, A. Stirna

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.
2. Public comment: None
3. Departments/Board of Education report
 - A. BOE report: Zandi provided the February update, available on rsd17.org. Young commended the BOE/RSD17 on their budget presentation at the annual joint meeting, and asked about access to capital budget documents. Annino expressed concern that they didn't present the capital plan, a necessary part of the budget approval process. He cautioned against deferring necessary capital improvements in order to balance a budget and asked Zandi to speak to the board and report back. Gorski emphasized that while RSD17 acknowledged the intention to reinvest in the schools, specific target areas like capital projects, manpower, etc still need to be defined. Zandi will recommend a separate meeting on the capital budget. She clarified for Young that only the percentage of the budget that goes to capital is voted on at referendum. Annino reiterated that the board should not approve a budget that contains any percentage without knowing the specific capital expenditures it will fund.
 - B. Building and Health department reports were distributed for review. Gorski noted the high volume of building permit activity.
4. Approval of minutes

Annino moved to accept the minutes of February 28, 2022 amended as follows:
Page 3, item 8A: Add "*with Executive Session*" after "*special meeting*" to the last sentence.
The motion, seconded by Young, passed unanimously.
5. Refunds and abatements

Annino moved to approve the following refunds and allow them to take their normal course for refunding. The motion, seconded by Young, passed unanimously.

• Chase Pendleton	117 River Rd	\$66.80 Overpaid COC#10245P
• Brant Hill	181 Route 81	\$130.39 Overpaid
• CCAP Auto Lease LTD	1601 Elm St Ste 800	\$487.10 Overpaid COC#10174M
• Nissan Infiniti LT LLC	PO Box 650214	\$207.62 Overpaid COC#10240S
6. Appointments
 - A. Assessor: Annino moved to reappoint Michael Bekech for a term beginning April 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023. Young amended the motion to include "pursuant to the law." The amended motion passed unanimously.
 - B. Open Space Committee:

Annino moved to appoint Stephanie Warren (D) as the Conservation Commission's representative on the Open Space Committee for a term ending December 31, 2022. The motion, seconded by Young passed unanimously.

Gorski moved to reappoint Jodi Marie Angus to the Open Space Committee. Angus failed to qualify in December due to COVID quarantine. The motion was lost for want of a second.

Young moved to appoint Clark Voorhees Judge Jr. (U) to the Open Space committee for a term ending December 31, 2022. The motion, seconded by Annino, passed unanimously.

Young and Annino noted that they would like to see Angus appointed to something else.

Board of Directors CRAHD

Gorski moved that the board accept the Public Health Agency's recommendation to appoint First Selectman Nancy M. Gorski (R), and Public Health Agency Chair Natalie Ortol-Drew (R) as Alternate, to the Connecticut River Area Health District Board of Directors for a term of 3 years effective immediately. The motion, seconded by Young, passed unanimously.

7. Budget report

There was no report. Gorski noted that public works needs to rent a backhoe in the interim using the Hired Equipment line. The John Deere backhoe is out for repairs for a gas leak at the head.

8. Old Business

A. Town Website Update – Final Site Presentation Adam Reiser

Mr. Reiser was given 10 minutes to present a proposal to update the town website, with 5 minutes of Q and Reiser shared websites FinalSite has produced for other Connecticut towns and discussed upgrade options. FinalSite recently upgraded and currently maintains the RSD17 site. Reiser left meeting at 7:58 p.m.

B. In-Person Meetings

Gorski proposed a return to in-person Board of Selectmen meetings effective March 28th. There were no objections from the board. A plan to schedule special BOS meetings routinely on Thursday's (1st, 2nd, and 4th) at 5 or 6PM as needed was briefly discussed.

9. New Business

A. Killingworth Library Association update

KLA Board of Directors chair Lucinda Hogarty presented and fielded questions from the following reports:

- the strategic plan adopted by the Board of Directors.
- Library Director's report on current and planned activities.
- customized charts from the CT State Library, comparing Killingworth to peer regional libraries for several key indicators.

Young asked for clarification about proposed salary line levels amid recent staff reductions. Jan O'Sullivan and Hogarty responded to this and other questions, and noted the income reduction due to the loss of regular rent from Middlesex Adult Education. Gorski inquired about the exterior lighting project; this needs to be completed before a paving project can be undertaken. Processes for RFPs were discussed. Gorski asked Hogarty to elaborate on the multi-year capital plan. Young asked about payroll protection funding received. O'Sullivan noted that some of that funding remains in reserve, and briefly elaborated on the status of the reserve fund. The selectmen will review the supplied materials.

B. Economic Recovery Committee

Mancini described outreach efforts including the Krier and a dedicated website. While the public comment period has ended, the committee continues to review public suggestions and comments. He described areas of eligible uses for funding:

- Public health funding
- Negative Economic Impacts of the Public Health Emergency
- Lost Public Sector Revenue Government Services
- Water, Sewer, Broadband and Infrastructure
- Premium pay for essential workers.

The committee voted to devote \$1.7 of the \$1.8 million to the Lost Public Sector Revenue Government Services category, as it is the broadest category, which would offer the most flexible use. Remaining funds would be used among the other categories. The committee will continue to narrow the focus. Final recommendations will be forwarded to the BOS in May.

C. GIS mapping of catch basins and guardrails

Gorski proposed catch basin mapping and considering a paid or unpaid intern to perform the work.

D. Through-town events

Annino voted to authorize Gorski, acting as Local Traffic Authority, to approve the following through-town bike events:

- **Tri-State Trek benefiting ALS on June 25th 2023**
- **Pedal for Pies benefiting Hole in the Wall Gang on May 7th 2023**
- **Angel Ride benefiting the Arthur C. Luf Children's Burn Camp in Union CT May 28th**

There was brief discussion about the approval process with the state DOT.

The motion, seconded by Young, passed unanimously.

10. Selectmen's comments

- Annino commended the team at the Parmelee Sugar Shack
- Young asked the best way to respond to the Jan 3 letter from Kathy Amoia and concerns from other Beechwood residents about assessments. She asked to find out more about the assessment and revaluation processes. Gorski recommended Young reach out to the Assessor.
- Young recommends that the town join 129 other Ct towns and participate in Sustainable CT . Possible committee formation and potential candidates were briefly discussed. Young will forward information to review.

11. First Selectman's comments

A. MIRA update: Gorski has reported a reduction in tipping fees to \$111/ton. The town has to sign the amended contract by March 31. There is an informational meeting on Wednesday. D. Tycz is reviewing the amendment to review any exposure if we opt out. She noted that Haddam is staying with MIRA for one more year.

B. Thanks to the efforts of road Foreman Walt Adametz, the town received \$371,311.25 in federal reimbursement from the September 25-26 1018 severe storms and flooding.

C. Gorski met with GZA and NLJA to review short-term and long-term water solutions. She is working with Joe Buehler at DPH to submit a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund application. GZA will send a change order to allow them to complete an Alternatives Analysis, a requirement for the DWSRF. Subsequent services associated with the DWSRF will need to be competitively bid to meet state requirements. A plan needs to be in place by March 31st. GZA report is due this week.

12. Adjournment

Young moved adjournment at 9:01 p.m. The motion, seconded by Annino, passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Elizabeth Doyle Disbrow on 3/17/2022