Monday, April 11, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. Killingworth Town Hall

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

KAA/BOFC/KVFC: D. O'Sullivan, M. Haaga, J. Liptak, D. Offner, R. Bauer

BOF: R. Rimmer. A. Stirna. S O'Brien, M. Couture, T. Amatrudo

Visitors: D. Mooney, M. O'Toole, J. Samperi, E. Nunes, J. Berardino, E. Blewett

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1. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

#### 3. Public comment

Dan O'Sullivan: Stressed the urgency of moving forward the final approvals of the First Responders Service Recognition Plan in order to have it go into effect July 1. He acknowledged the need for redrafting of the plan document but opposed the expenditure of further review by additional legal and actuarial consultants as unnecessary.

Eileen Blewett: Commented on the Economic Development Committees recommendations, expressed support for a timely implementation of the revised First Responder Service Recognition Plan, and disapproval of the level of scrutiny focused on this line item.

Dick Bauer: Echoed previous speaker comments and endorsed the joint initiative of the plan on behalf of the KVFC.

Eric Nunes: Thanked first responders for their contributions to the town. Expressed concerns about the level of involvement required and possible increased expense incurred should the town join Sustainable CT.

## 4. Approval of minutes

Gorski moved to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen of Thursday, April 7, 2022, amended as follows. The motion, seconded by Annino passed [3-0-0].

• Page 2, Item 4, line 2: Strike the word "attached"

#### 5. Refunds and abatements

Gorski moved to approve the following refunds and allow them to follow their normal course for refunding. The motion, seconded by Annino, passed [ 3-0-0].

Jennifer Price	2268 Lakewood Lane	\$64.56	Overpaid COC#10241M
James Price	2268 Lakewood Lane	\$70.67	Overpaid COC#10242M
Denise Evarts	20 Heft Brook Lane	\$7.50	Overpaid COC#10202M
Albertha S. Collins	30 Granite Hill Rd	\$6.62	Overpaid COC#10203M
Corelogic Real	PO Box 9202	\$3,548.82	Overpaid

**Estate Tax Services** 

On behalf of: Amanda Hayward

# 6. FY 21/22 Budget report

There was brief discussion. Expected overages were noted.

# MINUTES: REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN Monday, April 11, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. Killingworth Town Hall

#### 7. New Business

- A. BOF Review of the Final Preliminary FY 2022/23 Town Budget. BOF Chair Rob Rimmer presented the final preliminary budget. Topics discussed included:
  - Specific line-item changes to operating and capital budgets
  - Capital funding sources, ARPA Funds
  - BOE budget, capital transfer, audit adjustment and self-insurance fund credit
  - Projections regarding mil rate

# B. Economic Recovery Committee Recommendations

Gorski presented the ERC's letter of recommendation for use of ARPA funds and referred to feedback she solicited from RiverCOG on how other towns are seeking approval. Most towns are bringing the decision to town meeting.

Gorski moved to add \$561,796 of ARPA funds as a funding source for FY 2022/23 Capital Budget. The motion, seconded by Young, passed [3-0-0].

# C. FY2023 Community Facility Grant Requests

Gorski noted an April 15th application deadline for this grant and identified PFAS remediation as a potentially eligible project.

Gorski moved to submit an application to the Community Facility Grant for \$20,000 for engineering work in advance of PFAS remediation at town hall campus. The motion, seconded by Annino, passed [3-0-0].

## D. Killingworth Inn

Property owner Jay Berardino, recognizing the historic value of the property and its importance to the community, expressed a willingness to work with the town in coming up with a mutually attractive adaptive reuse for the property. Addressing PFAS contamination is a first step, and Berardino hopes that the town will assist with remediation efforts. Identifying a source of the contamination is necessary to be eligible for Superfund assistance. To that end, Gorski noted that test-hole boring will begin on the town campus in May.

## 8. Old Business

# A. MYCIP Approval

Gorski moved to approve the Town of Killingworth Multi-Year Capital Improvement Plan for FY2022 through FY2031. The motion was seconded by Annino. There was very brief discussion. The motion passed [3-0-0].

#### B. Website update

A comparison of FinalSite and PurpleDog, provided by Dawn Mooney, was presented. Young had solicited input from users, and all were pleased with the current level of service. It was noted that the town owns the current platform for the website.

Gorski moved to approve website updates to be performed by PurpleDog. The motion, seconded by Young, passed [3-0-0].

# C. KFVC/KAA Service Recognition Plan

Gorski reviewed approved changes to the plan pending legal and actuarial review, and described the potential impact on the budget as follows:

• 21/22 Budget Mill rate: one mill = \$712,296

Abatement: \$12,000 /\$712,296 = .017 mills

Pension: \$222/\$712,296 = .0003 mills

• Total Increase Abatement/Pension: \$12,222 = .0173 mills

# She further reported on:

- Actuarial Work: Gorski referred to the TPS Group's analysis of proposed benefit changes, and a proposal from Hooker & Holcombe, Inc. to perform a peer review of this original analysis for \$4,500.
- Auditor review: After discussion, it was decided this type of review was not appropriate.
- Labor attorney review: RE stipend, adding individuals to payroll may introduce a small potential exposure for unemployment
- The town Attorney will help with drafting of the ordinance and referred Gorski to a pension attorney for review.
- Pension attorney retainer. Pension attorney agreed that the document needs to be redrafted because it is currently structured as a qualified plan, fine for a pension plan covering town employees, but not for a plan covering town volunteers. An estimated 10 hours of work was proposed to redraft.

Gorski moved to authorize the First Selectman to sign the \$3,500 retainer agreement with Linda Ursin to review the KFVC/KAA Service Recognition Plan. The motion, seconded by Young, passed [3-0-0].

Discussion followed regarding whether further actuarial review was warranted. Regolo pointed out that TPS has plan redrafting capabilities. O'Sullivan recommends TPS redrafting, as they are most familiar with the plan. Young recommends an independent review.

Young moved to do the peer review using Hooker and Holcombe for the actuarial consulting services looking at the firemen and ambulance pension program as provided in the documents for tonight's meeting. The motion was seconded by Annino. Voting in favor: Young, Annino Opposed: Gorski. The motion passed [2-1-0].

#### D. Sustainable CT

Gorski revisited the Sustainable CT proposal/resolution brought to the board by Young. There was discussion about the food scraps collection program and Sustainable CT's minimum requirements for certification. Gorski met with Conservation Commission chair Stephanie Warren, who recommended the establishment of a small working group to understand the feasibility of the projects required for obtaining certification.

Young stressed that membership in the program, which would give the town access to grant opportunities and sustainability expertise, only requires passing of the resolution, and designation of a contact person. She agreed that working towards obtaining certification is not practical at this time. Gorski will invite Warren to the next meeting for further discussion.

## E. Beechwood

To respond to Beechwood residents' concerns about increasing costs, Gorski attended a meeting where Raffie Plodowsky, Connecticut Legal Services, spoke regarding tenants' rights under a Fair Rent Commission. Establishment of a Fair Rent Commission in town would require an ordinance. Gorski will continue to update the board.

F. Issue Requests for Proposals
Sports Turf Maintenance – Eric Auer Park

Gorski moved to issue the RFP for Sports Turf Maintenance – Eric Auer Park pending approval by the Park and Recreation Commission. The motion, seconded Annino, passed [3-0-0].

Sports Turf Maintenance – Sheldon Park, Rocco, and Bethke

Gorski moved issue the RFP for Sports Turf Maintenance – Sheldon Park, Rocco, and Bethke pending approval by Park and Recreation Commission. The motion, seconded Annino, passed [3-0-0].

**Grounds Maintenance for Town Properties** 

Gorski moved to issue the RFP for Grounds Maintenance for Town Properties. The motion, seconded Annino, passed [3-0-0].

Cemetery Mowing Bid

Road foreman and town historian are happy with the current level of service from JAY landscaping. A one year bid below \$5000 would fall below the bid regulations requirements for obtaining quotes.

Motion by Gorski, seconded by Young, to change the bid for the mowing of town cemeteries from a 2-year bid to an annual contract. The motion passed [3-0-0].

9. Selectmen's comments: None

#### 10. First Selectman's comments

 Gorski signed a contract with Asst ACO Madelena Howenstein to complete two court cases and provide after hours on call as needed through the end of the fiscal year.

## 11. Adjournment

Gorski moved adjournment at 8:58 p.m. The motion, seconded by Young, passed [3-0-0].