

ANNUAL TOWN BUDGET MEETING and SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

The Annual Town Budget Meeting and Special Town Meeting was called to order by First Selectwoman Nancy Gorski at 7:11 P.M. in the All Purpose Room of Killingworth Elementary School on May 16, 2022 to consider and act upon the following items of business:

- 1. To adopt the Budget recommendation of the Board of Finance of an Operating Budget for fiscal year July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023 in the amount of \$5,678,862.**
- 2. To adopt the Budget recommendation of the Board of Finance of Capital Expenditures for the fiscal year July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023 in the amount of \$3,227,129.**
- 3. To approve a Multi-year Capital Improvement Plan FY2022 – FY2031.**
- 4. To authorize the additional expenditure of \$25,000 for the Killingworth Volunteer Fire Company annual operating expenses for the fiscal year July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022 to be funded from the American Rescue Plan Act funds.**
- 5. To confirm the Selectmen's appointment of James Joseph Duffield, William Raymond Burley, and Brian James Blair as Killingworth's representatives to the Haddam-Killingworth Recreation Authority, for a term to commence upon confirmation and to continue until June 30, 2023.**
- 6. To confirm the Selectmen's appointment of Jamie Mowat Young to the Representative Policy Board, South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority for a term ending June 30, 2023.**

Lou Annino moved to nominate Elizabeth Disbrow to serve as Moderator; seconded by Dan O'Sullivan. There being no further nominations, Andy O'Neill moved nominations be closed; seconded by Joan Gay. Following a voice vote, the motion to close nominations carried unanimously. Following a voice vote, the original motion to nominate Ms. Disbrow carried unanimously.

Ms. Disbrow explained eligibility requirements to vote at this meeting and advised attendees that Robert's Rules of Order would be followed. She also asked all speakers to identify themselves prior to comment and noted that comments would be limited to three minutes.

Town Clerk Dawn Rees Mooney read the call of the meeting. Jan O'Sullivan moved to accept the call of the meeting; seconded by Cathy Iino. Following a voice vote the motion carried unanimously. Ms. Disbrow explained that votes would be conducted by voice without exception.

Mrs. Gorski introduced and made the following motion:

To adopt the Budget recommendation of the Board of Finance of an Operating Budget for fiscal year July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023 in the amount of \$5,678,862.

Seconded by Lou Annino. Following a brief explanation of the budgeting process by the First Selectman, the motion carried with 3 dissenting votes.

Mrs. Gorski introduced and made the following motion:

To adopt the Budget recommendation of the Board of Finance of Capital Expenditures for the fiscal year July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023 in the amount of \$3,227,129.

Seconded by Lou Annino. Mrs. Gorski explained that the Economic Recovery Committee had recommended the use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for several capital projects including planning for the fire company Station 1 renovations and town hall addition to replace modulares. Phil Stull then voiced his opinion that the repair work currently being done on the town hall portables will extend the portables' life by approximately 15 years and, therefore, makes the \$200,000 line item unnecessary. Mr. Stull then made the following motion:

To reduce the line item in the Board of Finance's recommended Capital Expenditures Budget for developing designs for a permanent town hall addition to replace the modulares by \$200,000.

Seconded by Laura Lefko. Detailed discussion ensued, during which Eileen Blewett expressed her opinion that the \$200,000 line item (and estimated \$2M project cost) are arbitrary figures and Laura Lefko questioned the need for the town hall modulares to be replaced after being repaired. Further discussion by Andy O'Neill, Jan O'Sullivan, and Annie Stirna centered on the process for recommending and utilizing ARPA funds, the town's remaining ARPA funds, and the 10% final project cost formula used

to arrive at the \$200,000 figure. Mrs. Gorski further noted that this expenditure is vital to validate the anticipated project cost. Lou Annino elaborated that estimating \$200/per ft² for a 1000 ft² building, which equals a project cost of \$2M, is typical engineering practice. Following this lengthy discussion, the motion to reduce the line item by \$200,000 failed by a vote of 21 in favor, 97 opposed.

The original motion “To adopt the Budget recommendation of the Board of Finance of Capital Expenditures for the fiscal year July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023 in the amount of \$3,227,129” then carried with one dissenting vote.

Mrs. Gorski introduced and made the following motion:

To approve a Multi-year Capital Improvement Plan FY2022 – FY2031.

Seconded by Jamie Young. Mrs. Gorski explained that the MYCIP is a valuable planning tool to project future expenses, noting it is a fluid document that changes over time. Following this clarification, the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Gorski introduced and made the following motion:

To authorize the additional expenditure of \$25,000 for the Killingworth Volunteer Fire Company annual operating expenses for the fiscal year July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022 to be funded from the American Rescue Plan Act funds.

Seconded by Lou Annino. Mrs. Gorski spoke to the overall increase in the cost of goods and services and noted that this is the perfect opportunity to use ARPA funds. Following this brief explanation, the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Gorski introduced and made the following motion:

To confirm the Selectmen’s appointment of James Joseph Duffield, William Raymond Burley, and Brian James Blair as Killingworth’s representatives to the Haddam-Killingworth Recreation Authority, for a term to commence upon confirmation and to continue until June 30, 2023.

Seconded by Lou Annino. Casey Jacobs questioned why appointments came before the town meeting when the charter does not require such approval. Following a brief discussion, Cathy Iino explained that some organizations require appointees be approved at town meeting. The motion then carried unanimously.

Mrs. Gorski introduced and made the following motion:

To confirm the Selectmen’s appointment of Jamie Mowat Young to the Representative Policy Board, South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority for a term ending June 30, 2023.

Seconded by Joan Gay. Detailed discussion followed about Mrs. Young’s eligibility to serve on this board and previous town meetings. Mrs. Young clarified the start date of her term, detailed her history on the board and cited a previous legal opinion allowing her to serve in this position. Following this discourse, the motion passed by a vote of 76 in favor, 34 opposed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Rees Mooney
Town Clerk