

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

The Special Town Meeting was called to order by First Selectwoman Nancy Gorski at 7:10 P.M. in the All Purpose Room of the Killingworth Elementary School on September 21, 2022 to consider and act upon the following items of business:

- 1. To fund, from the underexpended lines, overexpenditures in FY 2021-22 in excess of \$20,000 for the following line items:**

Town Counsel	\$35,777
Snow Removal	\$26,177

- 2. To authorize the overexpenditure of the following Capital Accounts as of June 30, 2022:**

IT Upgrades	\$204
Sick/Vacation Payout at Retirement	\$1,092

These balances to be funded by the Capital Assigned Fund Balance.

- 3. To authorize the closeout of the following Capital Accounts as of June 30, 2022:**

Revaluation	\$ 1,386
KVFC-Turnout Gear Replacement	\$ 3
KVFC- Bay Doors & Openers – Station 1	\$ 6,240
KVFC-Station 1 Roof Replacements	\$ 58,065
Paving Projects	\$ 93,360
Chip Sealing Projects	\$ 88,050

These balances revert to the Capital Assigned Fund Balance.

- 4. To enact a Fair Rent Commission Ordinance. The complete text of the proposed ordinance is on file in the office of the Town Clerk.**
- 5. To authorize an appropriation from the General Fund Balance of \$40,000 to hire a consultant to review the workings of the Public Works Department.**
- 6. To approve the use of ARPA funds in the amount of \$10,000 to the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce/Killingworth Krier as a one-time assistance payment for operating expenses impacted during the pandemic.**
- 7. To approve the use of ARPA funds in the amount of \$66,864.11 to the Killingworth Ambulance Association to cover the cost of a new stretcher and power loader for their new ambulance.**
- 8. To approve the use of ARPA funds in the amount of \$10,000 to the Shoreline Soup Kitchen to support their purchase of a refrigeration truck.**

Philip Stull moved to nominate Andrew O’Neill to serve as Moderator; seconded by Graig Judge. Marcel Couture nominated Elizabeth Disbrow to serve as moderator; seconded by Jackie Vece. First Selectman Nancy Gorski clarified the qualifications to serve as Moderator and noted that Robert’s Rules of Order would be followed. There being no further nominations, James McDonald moved that nominations be closed; seconded by Daniel O’Sullivan. Following voice votes, the motion to nominate Andrew O’Neill failed; the motion to nominate Elizabeth Disbrow passed.

Town Clerk Dawn Rees Mooney read the call of the meeting. Selectman Annino moved to accept the call of the meeting; seconded by Annie Stirna. A question arose about an error in the legal notice distributed to residents via Constant Contact, and Ms. Disbrow clarified that the call being accepted is the official call that was filed in the Town Clerk’s Office and published in the Hartford Courant. Following a voice vote, the motion to accept the call carried unanimously.

Ms. Disbrow detailed the rules of eligibility to vote at the meeting and explained that each speaker would be allowed three minutes. She further noted that votes would be conducted by voice unless objections were raised and asked all those wishing to speak to identify themselves.

Mrs. Gorski introduced and made the following motion:

- To fund, from the underexpended lines, overexpenditures in FY 2021-22 in excess of \$20,000 for the following line items:**

Town Counsel	\$35,777
Snow Removal	\$26,177

Seconded by Stephanie Izzo. Following a short discussion the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Gorski introduced and made the following motion:

To authorize the overexpenditure of the following Capital Accounts as of June 30,2022:

IT Upgrades	\$204
Sick/Vacation Payout at Retirement	\$1,092

These balances to be funded by the Capital Assigned Fund Balance.

Seconded by Walter Adametz. There being no discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Gorski introduced and made the following motion:

To authorize the closeout of the following Capital Accounts as of June 30, 2022:

Revaluation	\$ 1,386
KVFC-Turnout Gear Replacement	\$ 3
KVFC- Bay Doors & Openers – Station 1	\$ 6,240
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Paving Projects	\$ 93,360
Chip Sealing Projects	\$ 88,050

These balances revert to the Capital Assigned Fund Balance.

Seconded by Selectman Annino. Following a brief discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Gorski introduced and made the following motion:

To enact a Fair Rent Commission Ordinance. The complete text of the proposed ordinance is on file in the office of the Town Clerk.

Seconded by Selectman Annino. In-depth discussion followed Mrs. Gorski’s explanation that this ordinance came about because of reported fee increases at Sun Communities. Numerous concerns were raised including the expansion of government controls, the effectiveness of such commissions, authority and qualifications of Commission members, possible legal expenses to the Town, negative impact on private landlords, and adherence to CT Statutes. First Selectman Gorski listed the factors a Fair Rent Commission considers in making its decision. Mrs. Gorski, Selectmen Annino and Young, and numerous Beechwood residents spoke in favor of the ordinance acknowledging that the ordinance is not the final solution to their problem; but rather, it is a first step toward the final solution by offering an opportunity for both sides to come to the table to negotiate. It was noted that the proposed ordinance has the support of Killingworth’s State Senator, State Representative and CT’s Attorney General.

Following this lengthy discussion, a motion to move the question by Marcel Couture and seconded by James McDonald passed. By show of hands, the original motion carried 91 - 25.

First Selectman Gorski introduced and made the following motion:

To authorize an appropriation from the General Fund Balance of \$40,000 to hire a consultant to review the workings of the Public Works Department.

Seconded by Selectman Annino. Mrs. Gorski explained the purpose of the review is to understand what the DPW does and how (ie- town employees vs. outside contractors), and to determine if a more cost-effective way to operate exists moving forward toward staff retirements. She noted that \$20,000 for this review had been included in the FY2021-22 budget was never used and further explained that since the RFP produced only one bid, there is no cost comparison. It was also clarified that the bid has not yet been accepted allowing for more negotiation regarding the scope and cost of the review.

Following this discussion, a motion to move the question by Graig Judge and seconded by James McDonald passed. The original motion then carried.

Mrs. Gorski introduced and made the following motion:

To approve the use of ARPA funds in the amount of \$10,000 to the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce/Killingworth Krier as a one-time assistance payment for operating expenses impacted during the pandemic.

Seconded by Selectman Young. Mrs. Gorski noted that all three of the ARPA applications being decided at the meeting have been approved for vote by the Economic Recovery committee and the Board of Finance and meet all regulatory requirements. An issue was raised concerning The First Amendment and a government using tax-payer money to support a newspaper noting ARPA uses federal (not town) funds, and it was clarified that this is a one-time payment rather than a recurring line item. Following this brief discussion, a motion to move the question by Lisa Sizer and seconded by Jackie Vece passed. The original motion then carried.

First Selectman Gorski introduced and made the following motion:

To approve the use of ARPA funds in the amount of \$66,864.11 to the Killingworth Ambulance Association to cover the cost of a new stretcher and power loader for their new ambulance.

Seconded by Selectman Annino. Following a brief discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Gorski introduced and made the following motion:

To approve the use of ARPA funds in the amount of \$10,000 to the Shoreline Soup Kitchen to support their purchase of a refrigeration truck.

Seconded by Selectman Annino. Mrs. Gorski explained that 11 local municipalities are contributing to the purchase of this vehicle. Following this brief discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,