

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Monday, May 22, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
Killingworth Town Hall

BOS Members in Attendance: First Selectman Nancy Gorski and Selectmen Jamie Young and Louis Annino, Jr.

BOS Members Absent: None.

Visitors: B. Tobleman, J. Vece, C. Jacob, E. Blewett, K. Amoia, E. Nunes, R. Reeps, R. Pleines, J. Sampieri, B. Goetsch, S. Papoosha, R. Regolo, J. Sciascia (Via Remote)

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Called to Order: First Selectman Gorski called this meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Public Comment:

Casey Jacob read her Public Comment into the record (which is attached to this set of Minutes) about the Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services (IRIS) organization which is a non-profit agency helping refugees and other displaced people settle in CT. IRIS offers services in the areas of housing, health, access to food, employment, education, and legal needs. She shared information on what IRIS currently needs and where you can make donations.

Richard Pleines raised his concerns about appointing a 4 year position to the current temporary Building Official, someone that is not available during the day, a concern that was raised by the BOS when Richard held the temporary BO position. He feels that the BOS is not doing their due diligence since there are other potential candidates.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion #1 - Selectman Annino *Moved* and Selectman Young *Seconded* a motion to approve the Minutes of the Monday, May 8, 2023 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen as presented.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Motion #2 - Selectman Annino *Moved* and Selectman Young *Seconded* a motion to approve the Minutes of the Friday, May 12, 2023 Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen as presented.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Motion #3 - Selectman Annino *Moved* and Selectman Young *Seconded* a motion to approve the Minutes of the Monday, May 15, 2023 Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen as presented.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Motion #4 - Selectman Annino *Moved* and First Selectman Gorski *Seconded* a motion to approve the Minutes of the Tuesday, May 16, 2023 Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen as presented.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Refunds and Abatements: None.

Budget Report:

Director of Finance Regolo spoke about the Multi-Year Plan that was approved at the Town meeting noting only one issue in the year beginning in July having no monetary impact. The word “drainage” was somehow left off the spreadsheet. Young suggested to Regolo to post the Multi Year Plan Document on the website as it was voted on and approved, adding a comment about the word “drainage” not being included which should have been. Annino and Gorski concurred with Young and Regolo will submit to Town Clerk Mooney for posting accordingly. Gorski noted that there was a significant amount of tree work this year.

Appointments - Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Enforcement Officer, Building Official:

Gorski stated that the P&Z Commission appointed Leo Bombalicki, Jr. as the ZEO at their meeting held on Tuesday since Tom Talbot was ready to move on into a new position. The ZEO position was posted on the Town website, three candidates came forward and Leo being one of candidates, was interviewed for the position and the Commission felt he would be a good fit. Young mentioned that his resume be updated with dates and Gorski sent his resume to the Inlands/Wetlands Enforcement Commission and they had no concerns.

Motion #5 - First Selectman Gorski *Moved* and Selectman Annino *Seconded* a motion to hire Leo J. Bombalicki, Jr. as the Zoning Enforcement Officer and appoint him as the Inlands

Wetlands Enforcement Officer for the Town of Killingworth.

Discussion took place about how this situation was unique with P&Z taking the lead with hiring and Gorski stated that she put in the motion "to hire" due to the language in the Charter since Mr. Bombalicki has already been onboarded and the key was to get him into training this week.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Building Official:

First Selectman Gorski stated how the Town is facing challenges without having a Building Official during the day and noted that the Land Use Secretary has been juggling her hours to make everything work. Gorski said Carl's appointment is up in August, and she doesn't want to lose sight of it, noting a few building contractors are interested in day time hours. Young stated she was under the impression that if they hired Carl that he would be able to give the Town at least one day in the office during the week. Annino suggested the BOS meet with Carl to understand what his proposal is, what he can offer the Town in terms of commitment with hours and weigh that against other alternatives that come up between now and then.

New Business:

A. Keystone Preserve

Gorski thanked the Killingworth Land Trust for their phenomenal work and their efforts in purchasing the Keystone Preserve, a 24 acre property from the Greer sisters who didn't want to see the property developed. The property sits directly in the middle of four other Land Trust properties including Winkel Pond. A parking area was created on Route 80 that can hold 3-4 vehicles and it is open for hiking on June 3rd.

B. 23/24 RFPs

Gorski spoke about with the Budget being approved, it is time to prepare Building Town Office RFPs including: Hybrid Meeting Technology Equipment and Software allowing people communicate by being at the Town Hall and also being remote; Budget Book Software for the Board of Finance as well as for the Public as a way to interact as the Budget is being developed; The Building Official RFP for online permitting allowing for individuals to apply/pay for their permits online; HVAC System put up at the Town Office Building; Town Office Building Assessments; Barn Repair (paint and restore, and add meeting space to the Barn).

Old Business:

A. Food Composting

Roslyn Reeps spoke about being in a waste crisis for the State of CT, noting the Town needs to be more creative and come up with more effective solutions due to the expense. The Town just installed textile recycling bins at the Transfer Station and are now looking into food composting. A number of surrounding Towns like Deep River and Haddam have already started utilizing this method and have had great success with it. Blue Earth is a vendor that would come weekly to the Transfer Station and retrieve the food scraps for disposal, also providing education materials to residents on how to use the program. Roslyn further went over the process, cost, pick up fees and starter kits. Annino noted his full support of the Blue Earth program but wanted to make sure a few things were in place before this gets rolled out to the Public. 1) A commitment from Roslyn's group to put together a Community outreach that would be housed at the Transfer Station to make Community members aware of this program and what it entails; and 2) An Exclusion Plan. Young suggested that Gorski publish a short Press Release about Blue Earth to make Community Members aware of the details via Constant Constant. Gorski agreed with Young that once a Timeline has been established by Roslyn this will go out. Gorski also noted that Blue Earth will give us the promotional materials to help push this out.

Once Roslyn Reeps establishes a Timeline, the BOS agreed that a special meeting can be held to get this up and running.

B. Early Voting Letter

Gorski gave the BOS the draft letter she put forth and stated that Town Clerk Mooney was withdrawing from early voting since she wanted to reach out to the Secretary of State independently. Gorski noted if early voting is approved it would take place at the Town Hall and her concerns are since it is a municipal election that if she was running for reelection she would have to be remote the entire time they are conducting it. Annino stated it would be best to back off of this for now, but be prepared as a Town to address some of the concerns for future, possibly create a voting location. Gorski said she doesn't think it would be prudent for them to send this letter for Early Voting right now and it's fine to withdraw it.

C. Charter Revision

Gorski stated that the CRC continues to work through changes noting some "what if's" circulating around Vacation Schedules. Annino suggested, and the BOS reviewed, Section §7-3 - Duties of the First Selectman, in order to provide the CRC with direction. He further stated that

he doesn't believe " the approval of" belongs in that first statement and also noted that creating and updating Job Descriptions he is most sensitive to, pointing out that when the BOS rewrote the Employee Handbook it was explicit in there as well. The issue is the Charter dominates the Handbook so Annino stressed the importance of making sure that they create a check and balance when it comes to Personnel. Young echoed Annino's comments noting it would allow for them to move on the Ethics Policy as a unit.

The BOS will schedule a special meeting to discuss Charter §7-3, 7-7 and get that back to the CRC with their comments as soon as possible.

D. Water Pollution Update

- 1) PFAS - Treatment Design for Town Campus and Elementary School, GZA came in and did measurements for pipe sizes and location of equipment, they are working on a CAD drawing and expected to be completed this week. The CAD drawing will be needed in the bid document and the design estimation completion date is June 16th. Gorski continues to compile the costs associated with PFAS. Discussion took place on further costs and soil remediation and sending a letter regarding same to Senator Representative Christine Cohen. Annino and Young suggested when addressing the soil remediation to Cohen to put a comment in there about how it's anticipated to be in the millions.
- 2) Salt - No Update other than the impacted residents are getting water.

Public Comment: None.

Selectmen's Comments:

Lou Annino -

Inquired if there is a Schedule of Events for Memorial Day. Gorski will send him an email with a Schedule of Events and gave a brief update also. She stated that Bruce Fagan requested Annino's presence in his Navy Uniform at the Flag Raising Ceremony May 30th at the Town Hall; Another Memorial Day Event at Evergreen on Sunday; Our Veterans representative, and Charlie Smith from the Lions Club, will be judging the HK Middle School students for their poems and essays for the individual who is going to win that. Gorski stated there are a number of Events going on during the weekend.

Jamie Young - None.

First Selectman's Comments -

- P&Z endorsed the Tax Abatement for buildings and structures for historical merit. Elizabeth Disbrow has reviewed it with the Assessor's Office and has questions for Town Counsel before coming back to the BOS for further action.

-Town Counsel is working with Valley Shore Emergency Communications on an amended and Restated Lease Agreement for the Tower. No terms were set up for that and no revenue was received for use of that tower. She stated they should consider that moving forward.

- Gave a "shout out" to Premier Stone who donated the mulch for the Garden at the Killingworth Circle and also for the Memorial Garden. She will send them a Letter of Thanks.

Executive Session to discuss a written Memorandum from Town Counsel regarding Attorney-Client Privileged Communication:

Motion #6 - First Selectman Gorski *Moved* and Selectman Young *Seconded* a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:02 p.m. to discuss a Written Memorandum from Town Counsel regarding Attorney Client Privilege Communication.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Motion #7 - First Selectman Gorski *Moved* and Selectman Young *Seconded* a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:57 p.m.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Sciascia
Clerk

Board of Selectmen May 22, 2023
Public Comment – Mary Casey Jacob

During general conversation before a recent BOS meeting officially began, there was discussion of places to give household goods. I spoke about the Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services (IRIS) organization with offices in New Haven and Hartford. Selectman Gorski suggest I come tonight and share more information about this opportunity.

IRIS is a non-profit agency that helps refugees and other displaced people settle in CT. IRIS offers services in the areas of housing, health (including access to food), employment, education, and legal needs.

Apartments for those IRIS is helping to settle are outfitted with good quality donated goods. You can see a comprehensive list of what IRIS currently needs (and what they do not accept) on their website under Give/In-Kind Donations:

IRIS accepts donations in New Haven on Mondays from 9:30 – 12:30 at 75 Hamilton Street.

Arrangements can be made for furniture pickup for a fee -- see the website for details on the process.

If you have boxed items you wish to donate, I would be willing to accept them and deliver them to IRIS since I already go there at least once a month. I would ask that you label the boxes with the contents so that I or another volunteer don't have to do that. IRIS is not currently accepting clothing donations except for infant items.

If you would like to bring donations to me please email me at

and we will arrange to meet.