

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**Monday, August 28, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.**  
**Killingworth Town Hall**

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

**BOS Members Absent:** None.

**Visitors:** E. Couture, W. Adametz, C. Adametz, E. Blewett, M. Albrecht, W. Linsley, J. Vece, A. Roberts, K. Perry, R. Pleines, S. Papoosha, B. Goetsch, E. Nunes, B. Tobleman, J. D'Angelo, A. Stirna, G. Alfieri and J. Sciascia (Via Remote)

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

**Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Public Comment:** Becky Goetsch spoke on behalf of herself and Scott Papoosha that Running Brook Farms will no longer be plowing for the Town of Killingworth. She stated that they have served the Town for over 20 years and this has been a very difficult decision for her and Scott. She stated how much she loves the Community and they will continue to build their beautiful Community and garden center offerings, including the mulch environment. They will also continue to donate to local organizations and charities, provide warmth and fuel to 100 or so townhomes with firewood, and provide organic composition soil made for recycling.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Motion #1 - First Selectman Gorski *Moved* and Selectman Annino *Seconded* a motion to approve the Minutes of the Monday, July 24, 2023 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen as amended:

**Corrections are as follows:**

1. Page 2, Under Budget Report, in the first sentence delete "operating"
2. Page 6, Under D, Eric Auer Ball Field, delete "grade" and replace it with "grate"
3. Page 7, Under PFAS, First Paragraph delete "She" and replace it with "Gorski"
4. Page 7, Under PFAS, First Paragraph delete "She" and replace it with "Gorski"
5. Page 8, Under Public Comment, Richard Pleines, delete "need roof replacements" and replace it with "are considered unsafe"
6. Page 8, Under Selectmen's Comments, Selectman Annino, First Paragraph, delete "Is" and replace it with "Annino is"

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Motion #2 - Selectman Annino **Moved** and First Selectman Gorski **Seconded** a motion to approve the Minutes of the Wednesday, August 16, 2023 Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen as presented.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

**Refunds and Abatements:**

Motion #3 - First Selectman Gorski **Moved** and Selectman Young **Seconded** a motion to approve the following Refunds and Abatements, all for overpayment and allow them to follow their normal course as presented:

**Refunds**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Address</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>	<b><u>Reason</u></b>
1. Andrew or Jaclyn Wright	35 Burr Hill Rd	\$33.55	Overpaid COC#10626M
2. Andrea Vanderwiede	82 Parker Hill Rd	\$57.73	Overpaid COC#11104M
3. John T. Duley	15 Stonehill Drive	\$11.74	Overpaid COC#11125M
4. Anthony J. Duva Jr.	83 Blueberry Hill Reserve	\$43.24	Overpaid COC#11094M
5. Ronald Diotaiuto Jr.	233 Reservoir Road	\$2,709.14	Customer paid online but tax is escrowed and was paid by bank.
6. James Ryan	555 Route 81	\$88.36	Overpaid COC#11128M
7. Florence Marrone	8 Davis Drive Guilford, CT	\$34.62	Overpaid COC#11108M
8. Estate of Kathryn Pucillo	146 Cow Hill Rd	\$53.77	Overpaid COC#11143M
9. Scott E. or Karen A Perry	33 Overlook Farms Rd	\$7.00	Overpaid
10. Helen Mahoney	76 Pond Meadow Rd	\$11.45	Overpaid COC#11137M
11. Kathleen McCurdy	363 Route 148	\$13.92	Overpaid COC#11145M

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

**Budget:**

First Selectman Gorski gave an update that Finance Director Regolo has been watching the Capital Budget, pursuing items that are outstanding. Gorski noted that the Auditors will be in the office starting on Tuesday.

**Appointments:**

First Selectman Gorski received an email from Mike Reimers from the Committee advising that they have not been able to hold a meeting in approximately 5 months due to not being able to establish a quorum. Gorski suggested to discharge the Committee and let the new Administration consider its new path forward. Discussion on possibly keeping the Committee together but reducing the members from a 5 to 3 Committee in order to hold the meetings took place. Selectman Annino suggested making the Traffic Safety as a standing Agenda Item, and putting it on the second Board of Selectmen meeting to hopefully generate action on it. Selectman Young suggested putting Public Comment specifically relating to Traffic Safety next to the Agenda item so the public would be able to speak on any issues and/or concerns at that time. Gorski/Young/Annino concurred this would be the plan going forward.

Motion #4 - First Selectman Gorski *Moved* and Selectman Annino *Seconded* a motion to discharge the Traffic Safety Commission and allow the Board of Selectmen to take on the role of monitoring Traffic Safety for the time being.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

**New Business:**

**A. Charter Revision Referendum:**

First Selectman Gorski advised that the draft Charter has been published in the Hartford Courant. Town Clerk Mooney and Attorney Dave Tycz are in the process of working on the explanatory text. The final step is for the Board of Selectmen to send the Draft Charter to Referendum.

Motion #5 - First Selectman Gorski *Moved* and Selectman Young *Seconded* a motion to send the Draft Charter to referendum on November 7, 2023 in the form of one question: Shall the Town of Killingworth Adopt the Proposed Charter that was approved by The Board of Selectmen on July 24, 2023?

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

**Bid Opening:**

1. **Snow Plowing Services:** Per the Bid Process, First Selectman Gorski opened two bids: 1) Trimside Construction; and 2) Drainscapes. She reviewed the heavy equipment that would be supplied by each company and pricing per hour. Both bids will be listed on the Town of Killingworth's website for public viewing.

## **2. Town Salt Salt Roof Painting:**

Per the Bid Process, First Selectman Gorski opened up both the RFP bids: 1) Ridgeline Painting, LLC in the amount of \$17,390.00; and 2) Scholar Painting, LLC in the amount of \$87,320.00. Both bids will be listed on the Town of Killingworth's website for public viewing. Gorski noted she would like to review both bids further and the Award will be given at the next BOS meeting.

## **C. Amended and Restated Valley Shore Emergency Communications Lease**

First Selectman Gorski spoke about the Amended and Restated Valley Shore Emergency Communications Lease. It is a 15-year Term from the date of execution and it automatically renews in 10-year intervals. This tower would be rented out and the Town would be able to receive 10% revenue of who gets positioned on the tower. As of right now, AT&T and Verizon are the tenants. Valley Share is responsible for the maintenance of the Tower and the property around it. P&Z need to review, and approve the Lease which is scheduled to take place at their next meeting on September 19th. A brief discussion took place about how the Board of Selectmen can't approve anything conditional on the approval of another Board.

Motion #6 - First Selectman Gorski *Moved* and Selectman Young *Seconded* a motion to approve First Selectman Gorski's signing of the Amended and Restated Valley Shore Emergency Communications Incorporated Lease pending P&Z Approval.

After discussion, First Selectman Gorski *Tabled* the Motion for a future BOS meeting.

## **D. Through Town Event:**

### **1. Connecticut Cycling Advancement Program**

The Connecticut Cycling Advancement Program Through Town Event going down Green Hill Road is scheduled for September 16, 2023.

Motion #7 - First Selectman Gorski *Moved* and Selectman Young *Seconded* a motion to approve the Connecticut Cycling Advancement Program Through Town Event scheduled on September 16, 2023.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

## **Old Business:**

### **A. Krier ARPA Funds**

First Selectman Gorski heard back from Attorney Dave Tycz who advised that The Middlesex Chamber of Commerce did show sufficient financials reflecting increasing loss during the pandemic years for the which satisfies the requirement for supporting invoices for disbursement of the \$10,000 of ARPA funds.

Motion #8 - First Selectman Gorski *Moved* and Selectman Annino *Seconded* a motion to approve the disbursement of \$10,000 to the Middlesex Chamber of Commerce.

Discussion - Selectman Young stated how disingenuous it feels given the fact that the Krier knew they were taking the ARPA Funds after their business closed, but agreed that the Board of Selectmen will stand by what they offered. Further, Young stated for the record, how it lacks integrity and this amount of money could have helped with putting food on people's tables, wood to warm people's homes and oil in people's tanks and could have made a bigger difference in the Town versus paying for a business that closed. Annino echoed what Selectman Young stated and feels the funds could be better utilized elsewhere within the Town noting that it is like taking one household worth of tax money and asking that household to write the money out to the Chamber of Commerce to do nothing rather than write it to the Town. Young suggested that the future Boards of Selectmen consider this when outside organizations ask for money from the Town.

Motion Passed [2-1-0].

Voting to Approve: Gorski/Young

Voting to Oppose: Annino

### **B. KAA ARPA Request**

First Selectman Gorski reviewed the cost increase from the original KAA ARPA Request of the Automatic Chest Compression Device, an Automatic External Defibrillator for the Ambulance, and the Public Access Defibrillators. Gorski noted that the Automatic Chest Compression Device (LUCAS) has also increased in cost. Gorski stated that the KAA is requesting another 13 Public Access Defibrillators (20 altogether) so they can put them at Ballfields around Town.

Motion #9 - First Selectman Gorski *Moved* and Selectman Annino *Seconded* a motion to approve the KAA ARPA Request of the Automatic Chest Compression Device, an Automatic External Defibrillator for the Ambulance, Public Access Defibrillators not to exceed \$65,000 and to be sent to Town Meeting for Approval.

Further discussion took place on the costs of the original KAA ARPA Request. Annino suggested sticking with the original approval, and making a separate motion approving the additional equipment brought forward, which could be vetted with the Fire Service if there is some overlap. Annino stated this would allow the original piece to go forward as approved and the BOS could make any adjustments if needed. Also, this would be consistent with the Town's procurement Policy.

Motion #10 - Selectman Annino *Amended* and Selectman Young *Seconded* the motion to approve a separate ARPA Funding Disbursement for 13 additional Defibrillators for Ballfields in Town, plus one for the Transfer Station, plus 10 for updating devices for Technicians.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

### **C. Ethics Committee:**

First Selectman Gorski spoke at their last regular BOS meeting regarding establishing an Ethics Committee to define the Town's Ethics Policy and also feels it would benefit the incoming Administration if this Committee was established before the Board of Selectmen departs. Gorski

also noted that the Charter Revision Commission asks the Board of Selectmen to form an Ethics Committee in order to look at Town Government and since there are only a few meetings left they need to come up with a plan further emphasizing the importance of establishing his Committee. A brief discussion took place about the size of the Committee and when the Board of Selectmen can no longer appoint members. Gorski will confirm in the Charter.

#### **D. Water Pollution Update:**

First Selectman Gorski stated she is working with GZA to submit the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Request (DWSWF) for financial assistance and the paperwork is due Thursday. Gorski noted that once the form is submitted it would be another couple of months before the State would advise if they would approve the design. Discussion took place about how GZA put together a rough order of magnitude of \$780k for the filtration systems, remediation was an order of magnitude of \$10-15 million, and water was \$350 a linear foot to run water from a source. Gorski noted that the Board of Selectmen met with the State Attorney General's Office to look into what the next steps are for the Town, specifically, how the Town will be able to afford costs associated with the different types of phases other than just the filtration system. This includes digging up the contaminated soil. Young raised concerns about putting a filtration system on top of contaminated soil.

Selectman Young inquired about a Beechwood update regarding pumpouts. Gorski stated that some of the Community have agreed to a four-year pumping program versus a five-year on their own.

**Salt:** Gorski stated that the filtration system that GZA is proposing will include some level of filtration for the Salt.

#### **Public Comment:**

Richard Pleines - Richard spoke about receiving correspondence regarding a property located on 148 that has a Tax Lien on it and is concerned that it will fall under selective enforcement. Three properties were sited recently for being an unsafe structure. He stated they are not a threat to the Public and feels that the path that the Building Department is going down is going to lead to some type of litigation for the Town.

Walt Adamatz - Walt thanked Running Brook Farms for all the years of service. He stated they have been great team players, and that any time they had a large snow storm they were always there to lend a hand with their payloaders. Walt spoke about how there will be shortage in Town for the plowing season and could possibly get some complaints due to roads not getting plowed in time.

Wayne Linsley - Wayne thanked Scott Papoosha and Becky Goetsch for their years of service they gave to the Town. He spoke of his concerns for this upcoming Winter season and feels there is no way to cover all the Town Roads due to being understaffed. He stressed the importance of taking care of the plowing bids by September 1st.

Annie Stirna - Annie thanked Running Brook Farms for their years of service to the Town. She noted her confusion as to why the Board of Selectmen is being held responsible since she knows some of the issues are with P&Z. She hopes things move forward and work out for the best for Scott and Becky.

Scott Papoosha - Scott stated what a pleasure it was to work with the Town employees Plowing over the years during the Snow Season.

Eileen Blewett - Eileen stated how disappointed she is and feels that the Ambulance Association knows what is best for the Town in terms of their request for the 20 Defibrillators to be installed at Ballfields and their request wasn't approved. (The Board of Selectmen confirmed that the KAA's Request for Defibrillators was approved but as a separate motion. Eileen apologized for the misunderstanding.)

### **Selectmen's Comments:**

#### **Lou Annino -**

- Annino understands Mr. Pleines concerns being brought forth tonight. He stated that this is why it is important to have checks and balances in place and the First Selectman being the final decision maker before a structure is taken down in Town.

- Annino appreciates the message that came before the BOS tonight about snow removal, and hearing the information tonight for the first time, is a call for action. Annino stated that the Board of Selectmen will not leave the Town roads unplowed.

- Annino thanked Running Brook Farms for the years of service to the Town on many levels. He stated that he knows that they task the P&Z Boards to administer the Zoning Regulations consistent across all parts of Town and he needs to trust what they are supposed to be doing is correct but he doesn't know many details of what is going on in this case. Annino emphasized that it is not the Board of Selectmen that administers Land Use Regulations. He apologized that this is a difficult time for Running Brook Farms, and thanked them for their service.

- Annino spoke about splitting the two KAA ARPA Fund Request Approvals into two separate motions so it was cleaner and apologized if it was confusing to Eileen Blewett.

#### **Jamie Young -**

- Young thanked all who were in attendance and speaking at the BOS meeting and also for the gentlemen that maintain the Town roads during the plowing season. She will listen to counsel to get ahead of it and do what she can by September 1st in terms of hiring plowing contractors.

- Young thanked Running Brook Farms for all they have done in the Town via their business, and giving back in so many ways. She is very grateful they read their letter tonight and she is sorry about the decision they made but stated that it makes sense given what they shared. The Board of Selectmen is not involved in the litigation, she has never seen it, and further noted it would be P&Z. Young stated that if they are not negotiating in Good Faith, she doesn't think there is anything that they can do about it due to a separation of power but is hoping their attorney is

doing everything for them. Young spoke of how the Town has good people on P&Z, they were elected, and she hopes they are doing the right thing. She appreciates the good faith Scott and Becky put forward in developing a plan and working with the parties involved to rectify the situation. Young feels badly that it is affecting Running Brook Farms business the way it is and unfortunately can't issue an opinion and/or comment on it because she doesn't know the logistics of what transpired.

**First Selectman's Comments:**

- Gorski confirmed that she doesn't have any role in the litigation that is going on between Running Brook Farms and the Town, that P&Z handles it. She stated how it's an unfortunate situation, and hoping that it gets rectified sooner rather than later. Gorski is sorry to see the Running Brook Farms leave, they have been a big part of this Town but they need to move forward and get their business on the right path.

- Gorski stated the scoping of the meeting for the Barn Project is scheduled for Wednesday. The Town is part of the Capitol Region Council of Governments and they provide a service to come in and provide a proposal for free. Gorski took the 2018 specifications for the Town Barn repair project in order to see what needs to be done. Gorski's goal is to review the full Barn project broken down in phases: costs to repair the reshealth of the Barn, costs to replace the Windows, costs to redo the floor. Gorski also noted that due to a lack of volunteers in the Town, starting a Barn Committee is not necessary at this point.

- Gorski stated that a camping lantern was placed in the Animal Control Shelter to provide light for a Dog while he was in their care. Gorski has a quote in place of \$6,000 to trench and run electric in the kennel. With the winter months approaching, Gorski will add this onto the next BOS meeting as an Agenda item.

- Gorski stated that she hoped Young/Annino both had an opportunity to read the article Joan Gay circulated "Should Town Meetings Be a Thing in The Past". Based on recommendations from the CRC, and speaking with Joan herself, Gorski stated that Joan encouraged the Board of Selectmen to consider forming a Committee to review forms of Government and make recommendations.

- Gorski spoke with State Representative Chris Aniskovich this week and he is looking into availability for grants in support of establishing a Senior Center. Additionally, he has been speaking to a Local Business owner for grants to support their business. The Town of Clinton set aside a portion of their ARPA funds to allocate to small businesses. Gorski noted that the Town of Killingworth has \$200K in ARPA funds remaining, and may possibly want to consider looking into a way to utilize these funds to reach small business owners.

- Gorski stated the KWO is programming in October in support of Domestic Violence Protection. Gorski stated that the Board of Selectmen might wish to consider assigning October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month at the next BOS meeting.

**Adjournment:** First Selectman Gorski *Moved* and Selectman Annino *Seconded* a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Sciascia  
Clerk