

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Monday, November 13, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
Killingworth Town Hall

BOS Members in Attendance: First Selectman Nancy Gorski and Selectman Jamie Young

BOS Members Absent: Selectman Louis Annino, Jr.

Visitors: Wayne Linsley, Lauren Perley, Bill Tobelman, Joel D'Angelo, Joanne Wilcox, Hardy Long, David, Long, Eric Couture, Annie Stirna, Peter Staniforth, Lisa Connelly, Elizabeth Disbrow, Regina Regolo (Via Remote), Eileen Unger (Via Remote) and Jamie 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.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion #1 - First Selectman Gorski *Moved* and Selectman Young *Seconded* a motion to approve the Minutes of the Monday, October 23, 2023 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen as amended:

The corrections are as follows:

1. On Page 6, in the last sentence after Gorski/Annino delete the second "and"

Motion unanimously passed [2-0-0].

Motion #2 - First Selectman Gorski *Moved* to approve the Minutes of the Friday, October 27, 2023 Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen as presented.

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Reason</u>
1. George W. Roelofsen Jr.	56 Green Hill Rd.	\$56.80	Overpaid BAA#11179M

2. Toyota Lease Trust 20 Commerce Way \$205.86 Overpaid COC#11191M

Motion unanimously passed [2-0-0].

Budget:

Director of Finance Regolo spoke about how she will discuss the Budget Timeline during the next Board of Selectmen meeting as well as the method of communication. Regolo noted she will prepare everything the way she has done in the past regarding the Budget process but will ask the new Board to decide whether that's the way they chose to proceed. Regolo further noted she will check into the new Charter to see if anything has changed regarding the timeline.

Appointments: None.

Department Reports:

Board of Education -

Lisa Connelly reported on the Board of Education Summary Report for the Month of October:

Summary of October 2023 RSD17 Board of Education Meeting

Student Representatives Report

Principal Hayward introduced Madison Moriarty and Michael Perry as the HKHS Student Representatives to the Board of Education for the 2023-2024 school year.

Michael Perry reported to the Board on the events that took place in October for Spirit Week. He also noted that the sports teams have had a great beginning to the fall season.

Madison Moriarty spoke to the Board about the pep rally, which was the first since the 2020 school year. Madison also reported on the upcoming trip to the All-American High School Film Festival in October and also spoke about the new course "If you love it, teach it" which is geared toward potential future educators.

Superintendent Report

Superintendent Wihbey reported to the Board that HKHS students have begun their internships at local businesses and that HKYFS is again coordinating an HK Mentoring Program at BES, KES, and HKIMS this year.

Superintendent Wihbey gave an update on transportation - we are down several drivers but efforts have been made to assure that all students arrive at school and back home as close to their normal times as possible. Also, some delays have occurred due to the swing bridge opening during transportation times.

The Finance Department has begun the preparation for the FY 24-25 budget cycle ahead of last year's schedule, and we are on track to be prepared for our 12/31 annual Federal audit.

HKHS Athletic Director Lynn Flint received the 2023 National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association State Award of Merit.

SPED Program Review:

The Superintendent provided an update and summary of the review Process, in which the team will meet with various stakeholders throughout the district in areas such as individual observations, classroom observations, and focus groups. The dates currently are scheduled for November. The Superintendent will provide the Board with updates monthly and a more substantive report on the January agenda.

District Continuous Improvement Plan 2023-2024

Superintendent Wihbey and Curriculum Coordinators Jennifer Beermuender and Heather Rigatti presented the District Continuous Improvement Plan, which is driven by the District Strategic Plan. They shared various data showing student performance and how RSD17 compares to other districts and the state of CT. They also discussed areas where our students improved despite the pandemic and plans to work on areas where there was less growth.

ADM-Towns of Haddam and Killingworth

Superintendent Wihbey updated the Board about the student population data for the Towns of Haddam and Killingworth as reported to the State Department of Education as of October 1, 2023. The total number of students for 2023/24 reported was:

1069 (60.33%) from Haddam and 703 (39.67%) from Killingworth for a total of 1772 students.

Last year's (2022/23) numbers were:

1118 (61.5%) from Haddam and 701 (38.5%) from Killingworth for a total of 1819 students.

Owner's Representative Selection

The Board unanimously voted to hire Arcadis as our Owner's Representative for the pre-referendum phase of the Master Plan, the cost of which is not to exceed \$35,000. We have since had two meetings with representatives from Arcadis to discuss the details of the plan along with plans for community input and education on the whole process.

BES Solar/Security Shades

The Board approved the purchase and installation of solar/security shades for Burr Elementary School. The project was previously added to the capital list for the 23/24 fiscal year and was tabled due to budget concerns but was revisited to be included in the current budget year and will cost

\$12,104.18.

Communications/Strategic Planning

The Strategic Planning Committee is working to align goals to the Superintendent's priorities and the Strategic Plan and will be discussed in further detail at next month's meeting. The Communications Committee has continued to discuss the budget calendar and communications as well as Master Plan communication.

Master Plan

We invite everyone to participate in the Community Conversation on Thursday, November 16 at 6pm at the HKHS Auditorium. We will present several final options for the RSD17 Master Plan to repair, rebuild, or replace school buildings. There will be a live survey for community members to express preferences and priorities, and the survey will be available online after the presentation.

New Business:

A. HVAC RFP

First Selectman Gorski updated the Board on the HVAC RFP. She noted that \$200,000 has been set aside to repair the roofs as well as to replace the HVAC system. Since the roof has been addressed, the HVAC system is next on the agenda. Gorski also noted that Elizabeth Disbrow sent out a request for proposal circa 2021. Due to timing, this item will be left as unfinished business and for the new Board to consider its course of action. Gorski also advised that after the HVAC gets replaced, there is a \$50,000 line item for a Needs Assessment (whether or not to replace this Modular or repair it as new). Gorski stated how proud of her Administration the way they handled ongoing issues at the Town Hall Building and made the building functional.

B. Facilities Maintenance

First Selectman Gorski noted that Selectman Annino was very generous with his time as Selectman, also serving as the Town's Facilities Maintenance Liaison for the past two years. Gorski stated that the new Administration needs to think about who can fulfill this role going forward.

Old Business:

A. Baseball/Multi-Purpose Field Bid Award

First Selectman Gorski noted that The Killingworth Park and Recreation Commission, recommended with reservations, that the contract be awarded to Ignatowski Excavation. The reservation is that the Contractor is available to get a bond for the completion of the project as their cost was almost 50% less of what the new lowest bidder was.

Motion #4 - First Selectman Gorski *Moved* and Selectman Young *Seconded* a motion to approve the awarding of the bid to Ignatowski Excavation at a cost of \$406,390.56 with the contingency

that they are able to obtain a bond in order to move forward on that project and for the completion of the project.

Motion unanimously passed [2-0-0].

B. Barn Update

First Selectman Gorski gave an update on the Barn advising that the project was approved at \$322,000 but that they needed to sort out the structural repairs. Gorski invited a structural engineer to come in, one that was recommended by Nathan Jacobson & Associates, the Town's Engineer. The structural engineer noted there also needs to be an Architect one that Gorski scheduled to come in tomorrow. Gorski further advised that Lighthouse Construction, who worked on the Town Hall roof and siding, gave a proposal today for \$233,000 which is approximately \$90,000 less. The new Board needs to decide how they wish to proceed.

C. Water Pollution Update

1. PFAS

First Selectman Gorski noted that Congressman Courtney met with the Board of Selectmen, Connecticut Water Company and the impacted residents regarding PFAS. The SB-100 was passed in last year's Legislation to provide Towns with monies to support PFAS testing/PFAS remediation. Congressman Courtney advised that the drinking water State revolving funds that the Town applied for, and received, for at least the filtration systems, are federally funded. Gorski urged the new Board to continue to apply for the drinking water funds, and also to advocate for them because the Town residents and Firemen didn't make the situation occur. Long term water city hookups are unknown at this time.

2. Other Contaminants

GZA will be meeting with Gorski and Eric Couture tomorrow morning at 8:30 a.m. to give an overview of PFAS and their work in the creation of a design system. Gorski noted that the filtration system that GZA put forth addresses not only the PFAS at KES, but the lead contamination. The one challenge the Town still faces, is under the filtration design system that GZA gave, they haven't been able to sort out the Sodium.

Public Comment:

Joanne Wilcox inquired whether the State is supplying funding for anything that happened regarding PFAS.

Annie Stirna inquired about reading an article related to a PFAS lawsuit that was settled and funds were going to be dispersed.

Selectmen's Comments

Jamie Young -

- Young thanked Gorski for her time in office saying how terrific she has been for the last two years. She stated how in the beginning the Board was off to a rocky start but after that they worked hard together. Young stated how it was her distinct honor and privilege to work with Gorski and Annino and to learn from them both. She stated how Gorski's commitment to the Town was incredible; the late hours with sending emails and making phone calls, her patience and guidance and attending so many meetings. Young feels Gorski served wonderfully by attending to so many people's needs and balancing the interests of lots of different parties.

Young further commented on Selectman Annino's remarkable service over the years to the Town and while he is not serving again in office, nor coaching, or volunteering his time, Young is certain the Community members will see him again. Young commented how the three of them put a lot of hours and effort attending meetings interacting with individuals trying to figure out what the needs were in order to balance interests, build compromise, listen to issues within the Community, setting aside politics to figure out what they could fix together and she thinks they did a great job as a unit.

First Selectman's Comments:

Nancy Gorski -

- Gorski agreed with Young's comments on how the Board of Selectmen got off to a slippery start in the beginning but stated once they figured out their place and what needed to be done it was great. She stated that the incoming Administration will face some challenges in the beginning but stressed the importance of finding balance. Gorski thanked Young and Annino for being supportive, getting a tremendous amount of work accomplished together while in office and setting the stage for the incoming Administration to come in.

- Gorski thanked Joel D'Angelo, Eric Couture and Eric Nunes for their willingness to serve and wished them the best of luck as they begin their terms.

- Gorski noted how the new Administration has two important activities coming up: Appointment of Committee members and Approving the Schedule of Meetings. Gorski stressed the importance of finding volunteers in the Community that represent the Board but noted how hard it has been to find them more in recent years.

- Gorski noted that the Board of Selectmen need to consider next steps for Traffic Safety. At the next Board of Selectmen meeting scheduled on November 27th, Traffic Safety is an item on the Agenda. The Board elected to talk about Traffic Safety at the second meeting of each month.

- Gorski noted that the Board of Selectmen have a charge to form a Governance Study Committee and an Ethics Committee based on recommendations from the Charter Revision Commission. The Charter was approved and it goes into effect December 8th.

- Gorski noted an Ethics Committee is needed to establish an Ethics Policy which is required by State Statute but also needed to finalize the Personnel Manual. Next step is that an Ethics Committee will come in and adopt an Ethics Policy and then the Board will transition by Ordinance that Ethics Committee into an Ethics Commission.

- Gorski thanked the Charter Revision Commission again for their efforts, stating how huge it was that they got the Charter through.

- Gorski spoke to Attorney Dave Tycz about a number of follow up items. He will be reaching out to the new Administration shortly.

- Gorski noted that Youth and Family Services would like to come to the Board of Selectmen's Meeting on November 27th to give an update.

Congratulations to Eric Couture, Joel D'Angelo and Eric Nunes on their Appointments to Office.

Adjournment: First Selectman Gorski *Moved* and Selectman Young *Seconded* a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:43 p.m.

Motion unanimously passed [2-0-0].

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Sciascia
Clerk