

MINUTES: REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Monday, June 23, 2014 @ 7:00 p.m. Town Office Building

In attendance: C. Iino, F. Dudek, L. Annino Jr., R. Regolo

Visitors: Jeannie Young, RSD17 Board of Education, Michael Venuti, Venuti Enterprises

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Approval of Minutes:
 - Motion by Dudek, seconded by Annino, to approve the minutes of June 9 with one correction: Item 3, 2nd bullet: Date of Solarize HK meeting should be June 17
Motion carried with 1 abstention (Iino).
 - Motion by Dudek, seconded by Annino, to approve the minutes of June 16 as written.
Motion carried unanimously.
4. Visitors' Comments: RSD17 Board of Education liaison Jeannie Young reported on school district end-of-year-events, and updated the BOS on various committee and sub-committee decisions, including the Finance and Facilities Committees' decision to invest part of the capital fund in a 9-month CD. Considerable discussion of the district's capital fund followed, with Selectman Annino expressing concern that the district's long term capital needs are woefully underfunded. Annino emphasized that the schools are the Town's largest assets and must be maintained, and asked that the BOE provide a long term plan indicating that adequate funds being set aside for future capital expenditures. Young agreed to find out more and report back to the Board. First Selectwoman Iino will attend the next BOE meeting, and will report on recent Community Conversation on STEM education. Young also is hoping to keep the topic of expanded mental health services in the schools, in particular more counselors at the middle school, on the agenda for discussion at upcoming meetings. After a brief discussion all agreed that perhaps better coordination with HKYFS was possible.
5. Tax Abatements and Refunds: Dudek moved to approve one refund for overpayment to CAB East, LLC in the amount of 335.25. Motion, seconded by Iino, carried unanimously.
6. Vacancies on appointive committees remain as indicated on the agenda: Emergency Management (2), Energy Task Force (4), Open Space (1), Parmelee Farm (4), IWWC (1). There was no discussion.
7. Appointments:
 - Motion by Iino, seconded by Annino to recommend that Danilo A. Colonia (D), Robert J. Grasso (R), and William Raymond Burley (U) be reappointed as Killingworth representatives to HK Recreation Authority for a one year term beginning 7/1/14 to 6/30/15. Appointment to be confirmed at town meeting. Motion carried unanimously
 - Motion by Iino, seconded by Annino to appoint Guy J. Vecchitto (R) to the Parmelee Farm Committee for a one year term ending 12/31/14. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Old Business

A. Joint Committee on Compensation:

lino made motion, seconded by Annino, that the BOS establish a Joint Committee on Compensation, to consist of two members of the Board of Selectmen and three members of the Board of Finance, to be named by their respective boards. Motion carried unanimously.

lino then moved, with a second by Annino, that the BOS appoint the following membership of the committee: *For the Board of Selectmen:* Louis C. Annino, Jr.(D), Fred Dudek, Jr. (R)
For the Board of Finance: Gwenne Celmer (D), Nancy M. Gorski (R), John W. McMahon (R)
Motion passed unanimously.

lino then moved, seconded by Annino, to charge the Joint Committee on Compensation as follows:

1.) For nonunion employees

- a) Review compensation packages by job title;
- b) Recommend a compensation structure;
- c) Recommend salary and wage ranges, to be administered by the First Selectman with the concurrence of the Board of Selectmen.

2.)For elected officials:

- a) Review compensation packages by position title;
- b) Recommend a compensation structure and method of applying it;
- c) Recommend salaries or salary ranges.

Motion carried unanimously . lino distributed excerpts from salary survey (attached) Full report will be emailed to committee members. The committee is to report their recommendations to the Board of Selectmen no later than December 8, 2014 and will terminate on December 31, 2014.

B. Capital Projects Review:

- lino reported good news: that Sheldon renovations are well underway, and bad news: that DOT claims that sight lines at the entrance to the park need to be corrected at an approximate cost of \$30,000. lino asks that Park and Recreation Commission report back on this matter.
- lino heard through former State Rep. Brian O'Connor that requested state funding for further Sheldon Park improvements of \$175,000 is likely.
- lino recapped recent DOT meeting regarding the extensive 3-bridge project on and around Route 148. DOT has given an optimistic 8 week time frame. lino expressed concerns about that time frame and about serious traffic issues that will arise from this construction. She added that Burr Hill Road – which is in terrible condition -- will likely be used as a detour throughout this project. She has asked that the DOT undertake to repair and resurface Burr Hill Road in advance of this project.
- Dudek reported on meeting with Emergency Operations Center Building Committee, which has now elected officials and has reviewed needs assessments provided by EMD McDougall
- Finance director Regolo inquired about the status of various projects on the capital improvement plan. The BOS agreed committees should be providing monthly reports.

C. Year-to-date Operating Budget Review: Regolo reported, at fiscal year end, that while there is no large surplus, the town is not overexpended.

9. New Business

A. Venuti property: Michael Venuti commented on previously discussed DOT bridge projects and expressed skepticism that the 3 bridges could be completed in a 3-month timeframe and concern over impact on local business traffic and school bus routes. He asked the BOS if they could approach DOT in hopes of revising plans and concentrating on 1 bridge at a time. Iino repeated that the DOT heard those concerns at the public hearing and remained confident that they should proceed as planned. Annino added that we should be sure that emergency services are not compromised by the projects.

Venuti then thanked the town for approaching him to revisit the subject of the town purchase of the 300+ acre Venuti property on Route 148. Selectman Annino stated that he rekindled this matter based on his belief that the town should be acquiring large tracts of open space, that one way or another this property will be developed, and that the residents should be given the opportunity to vote on it. Venuti has considered development plans included subdivision accommodating 60+ houses, but it has always been their wish that the town acquire the property. Annino added that the Venuti family have been longstanding residents of the town and after many years of back and forth with the town, deserves an answer.

Venuti summarized the history of the discussions with the town dating back the 1990's, paying particular attention to the presentation by then First Selectman D. LeVasseur which provided various scenarios for developing the property and concluded that ownership by the town would be the most cost-effective solution. Venuti reminded the board that the decision to purchase passed at referendum by a 3:1 margin, but ultimately the purchase fell through because of title conflicts.

Extensive discussion followed, including the present favorable financing climate, current tentative housing market, tax implications of town ownership vs. subdivision, and capital carrying costs of town ownership.

Plans for an informational town meeting and referral to the Open Space Committee were agreed upon.

B. Change in Employee Health Benefit: Iino expressed her intention to implement the reduced employee buyout on November 1, to allow those employees affected to make informed decisions about health insurance options.

9. First Selectwoman's Comments

- RE: capital projects bond: Iino received a call from Webster Bank quoting a very low bond rate (2.35) and intends to sign right away.
- Meeting re: proposed cell tower on Spencer Hill Road: little opposition at meeting, new tower doesn't completely solve dead space issues on Green Hill Road
- There's a local movement hoping to waive permit fees (see attachment) for solar installations. Iino clarified that solar installations do not increase a home's assessment. She is in favor of capping or reducing but not eliminating fees. Iino has asked ETF to make recommendations.
- CI received proposal from Eagle Scout candidate to rehabilitate the exterior of Resident State Trooper building and roadside sign.

9. First Selectwoman's Comments (cont'd)

- Statewide Emergency Exercise was performed, with representatives from the Town's Unified Command participating both at the EOC and at a mock shelter at KES, manned by the American Red Cross.
- Iino briefed BOS on pending legal matters regarding Spencer Hill Road resident Petrocelli.

10. Selectmen's Comments

- Annino inquired about Building Official correspondence re : 205 Green Hill Road
- Dudek asked about building permits process, how to make it easier for homeowners to know which permits are required . Iino referred to new permit packets outside land use offices
- Dudek asked for update on CDLA training recommended setting goal date. It was noted that PW has transported the backhoe using the new trailer
- Dudek noted from Park and Rec Minutes comments re: PW not moving stone at for KRP 2 yrs. Recommended P & R and other committees learn about work order system
- Dudek: 2017 is the town's 350 anniversary, urged town to begin preparing celebration. Iino reported that the Historical Society has begun the process. All agreed that a committee of stakeholders be established. Iino asked Dudek and Annino to compile list of people to approach

11. Adjournment

Dudek made motion, seconded by Annino to adjourn at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Elizabeth Doyle Disbrow, Recording Secretary
6/25/14