

**MINUTES: REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Tuesday, February 14, 2017 7:00 p.m. Town Office Building**

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

Visitors: Residents: P. Stull, M. Venuti (arrived 7:40)

BOF: N. Gorski, M. Couture, R. Rimmer, S. O'Connell, C. Anderson, G. Celmer, S. Hynes

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. Public comment: None

**A motion by Iino to make the following changes to the agenda, seconded by Dudek, passed unanimously.**

- A Add *Closer to Free Bike Ride* to New Business as Item c**
- B. Move items 7 and 8,(First Select. comments, Select. comments) to before item 6 (Executive Session).**

3. Approval of minutes: Dec. 12, Jan 10, Jan 17, Feb 7

**A motion by Iino (seconded by Dudek) to approve as written the minutes of December 12, January 10, January 17, and February 7, passed unanimously.**

4. Old Business: none

5. New Business

A. Discussion of 2017/18 Operating and Capital budget, Multi-Year Plan: BOF to discuss priorities

Iino opened discussion with an extensive overview of the potential fallout from the state budget proposed by the Governor. According to her estimate, absorbing the budget cuts alone would mean a 4 mil increase for taxpayers. Given that the severest impact would be felt due to cuts to Education Cost Sharing to the schools, Iino strongly urged the Board of Finance to attend the upcoming RSD17 joint meeting on March 9.

She distributed the executive summary of an alternate set of proposals compiled by CCM and asked the BOS and the BOF to review.

There was general agreement that the town and its committees have been working hard to present a fiscally responsible budget and Capital plan. Before turning over the floor to the BOF, Iino gave a brief overview of factors influencing changes to the 2017/18 budget:

- New Road survey presents a clear picture of needs
- Increase in fees including tipping fees, paramedic fees, resident trooper costs.
- Emphasis on economic development is a priority for 2017, moving forward.

Iino turned the floor over to BOF chair Nancy Gorski.

Gorski stated that the town is working toward funding the capital plan and that constituents need to know what the town is up against. Rimmer noted that towns with lowest mil rates, including Killingworth, would feel the impact of the proposed cuts most severely. Resident P. Stull commented on the importance of increasing the grand list. Celmer cautioned that increased development carries infrastructure upgrade costs that often offset any revenue increases. There was brief discussion acknowledging the challenges facing the town this budget season. [The Board of Finance left the meeting at 7:44 p.m.]

**B. Town Meeting**

A town meeting to approve the purchase of a new pumper truck for the KVFC and to present the Annual Report of the Board of Finance to the town was briefly discussed. March 6 date was proposed.

**C. A motion by Annino, seconded by lino, to permit the Closer to Free bicycle ride to benefit Smilow Cancer Center to pass through town on September 9<sup>th</sup>. Motion passed unanimously.** The route was approved. The sponsoring organization presented the necessary DOT highway use application and insurance information.

**6. First Selectwoman comments**

In light of the proposed state budgetary conditions she presented earlier in the meeting, lino emphasized the importance of contacting state representatives to represent the town's interests and also urged the Selectmen to testify when applicable.

**7: Selectmen comments**

Annino reported on a recent Board of Education meeting and commended the Strategic Capital Planning Subcommittee on impressive efforts to assess the district's short- and long-term capital needs. He and lino observed, however, that the data regarding classroom utilization may have been incomplete as the assessment of total space did not include the administrative offices in the old middle school or those classrooms that had been repurposed. There was general agreement that given decreasing enrollment and increasing costs, the closing of one of the 5 schools must seriously be considered. lino underscored that property values depend on excellent schools, run cost-effectively.

**8. Executive session: real estate**

**Motion by lino, seconded by Annino to enter Executive Session passed unanimously at 8:05 p.m.. Resident M. Venuti was invited to attend part of the session.**

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:58 p.m.

**Motion by lino, second by Annino, to add to the agenda a vote on recommendations regarding real estate. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Annino moved to refer the purchase of the Venuti property to the Board of Finance with the recommendation that the question be put to referendum. Motion passed unanimously.**

**9. Adjournment**

**A motion by Annino, seconded by Dudek, to adjourn at 9:05 p.m. passed unanimously.**