

In attendance: C. Iino, L. Annino, Jr., Blewett, R. Regolo, D. Offner, R. Darin, R. Bauer, D. Venuti, P. Scofield, M. Drew, G. Judge, C. Goupil

1. The meeting was called to order at 706 p.m.
2. Public comment  
Iino introduced newly-elected State Representative Christine Goupil.
3. Board of Education/Department Reports  
November reports were distributed for review. There was no discussion
4. Approval of minutes  
**A motion by Blewett, seconded by Annino, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 23, 2020 passed unanimously.** There was very brief discussion.
5. Refunds and abatements  
**Annino moved to approve the following refunds and allow them to follow their normal course for refunding. The motion, seconded by Blewett, passed unanimously.**

Porsche Leasing LTD	PO Box 24329	\$1,311.21 overpaid COC#09672M
CAB East LLC	PO Box 67000	\$100.90 overpaid COC#09673M

6. Appointments  
There were no 2020 appointments. See Item 9B for 2021 appointments.
7. Budget  
A. Operating and B. Capital: Year-to-date reports were distributed. Regolo fielded questions.
8. New Business  
A. KVFC Life Insurance  
Qualified KVFC and KAA personnel receive life insurance from the town. As of Jan 1, 2016, when a member turns 70, the benefit is reduced by 50%. A small number of members who were to turn 70 before the change went into effect were grandfathered, and the second half of the payment has since been self-insured by the town.

Fire Commissioner Darin reported that the plan is up for renewal in March. He expressed the support of the BOFC for eliminating this automatic reduction and offering the full \$25,000 policy to all qualifying first responders. KVFC Chief Bauer expressed regret that the current system -- cutting benefits at a certain age -- sends a bad message to volunteers, many of whom have offered decades of service and excessive strain in service to the town.

Finance Director Regolo noted that the change was policy driven and is standard for the insurance industry. Town employees face 50 % reduction at age 70 as well.

There was extensive discussion about whether the town could, due to the high-risk nature of first responder volunteer work, find a way to restore the benefit to the full \$25,000 to all members regardless of age. The selectmen discussed the cost of a purchased insurance product vs. the town self-insuring the second half of the benefit Bauer noted several active members

with many years of service who will be approaching age 70 this year. lino will approach the BOF about increasing coverage for the remainder of the fiscal year. The BOS will bring the increase in the FY 2021-2022 budget for taxpayer approval. KVFC and the BOFC will provide an updated list of affected members and a cost analysis for the full policy coverage.

9. Old Business

A. First Responder Tax Abatement

The Board of Selectmen and the Board of Fire Commissioners strongly support increasing the tax abatement for qualified first responders to the maximum amount permitted by the state (now \$1,500). The KVFC is modifying its bylaws to include a new tiered system to reward members who receive medical training and certifications; this system could be used to determine which members are eligible for the increased abatement. The abatement is governed by ordinance, which will need to be amended to accommodate these changes.

B. 2021 Appointments

**lino moved to nominate the following individuals for appointment. The motion, seconded by Annino, passed unanimously.** There were no further nominations. There was brief discussion of the nominating process, and of the advertising of vacancies.

		Proposed Term
ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER:	Marian Smith	01/01/2021 - 12/31/2021
ASSISTANT ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER	Madelena Howenstine	01/01/2021 - 12/31/2021
BOND COUNSEL	Marie V. Phelan	01/01/2021 - 12/31/2021
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	*Donald B. McDougall (U) Tage A. Carlson (R)	01/01/2021 - 3/31/2021 01/01/2021 - 12/31/2021
	*ACTING EMD, 3 MONTH APPOINTMENT	
FINANCIAL ADVISOR	Barry Bernabe, Phoenix advisors	01/01/2021 - 12/31/2021
IWWC ENFORCEMENT OFFICER	Cathie S. Jefferson	01/01/2021 - 12/31/2021
LIBRARY ASSOCIATION Selectmen's appt to the Board of Directors	Keith Nairn (D)	01/01/2021 - 12/31/2023
LOWER CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY Regional Agricultural Council	Walter J. Adametz Jr. (R)	01/01/2021 - 12/31/2021
Regional Planning Commission	Alec Martin (D) Stephanie Warren (alt)	01/01/2021 - 12/31/2022 01/01/2021 - 12/31/2022
MIDDLESEX COUNTY REVITALIZATION COMM.	Catherine lino (D)	01/01/2021 - 12/31/2021
MUNICIPAL AGENT TO THE ELDERLY	Mercedes Ricciuti (D)	01/01/2021 - 12/31/2021
MUNICIPAL HISTORIAN	Thomas L. Lentz (R)	01/01/2021 - 12/31/2021
OPEN BURNING OFFICIAL	Ethan D. Drain (U)	01/01/2021 - 12/31/2021

TOWN COUNSEL	David Tycz, Esq (Howard, McMillan & Tycz)	01/01/2021 - 12/31/2021
TOWN ENGINEER	Nathan Jacobson & Assoc.	01/01/2021 - 12/31/2021
TREE WARDEN	Robert Bruce Fagan	01/01/2021 - 12/31/2021
COMMITTEE ON ALTERNATIVE HOUSING	Beth M. Brewer (D) Jeffrey H. Brewer (R) Michael D. Drew (R) Thomas W. Hogarty (D) Denis J. Jakuc (R) Michelle B, Knockwood (U) Annie K. Stirna (D)	01/01/2021 - 12/31/2021 01/01/2021 - 12/31/2021 01/01/2021 - 12/31/2021 01/01/2021 - 12/31/2021 01/01/2021 - 12/31/2021 01/01/2021 - 12/31/2021 01/01/2021 - 12/31/2021
ENERGY TASK FORCE	Eric Donovan Couture (D) Richard T. Otto (U) Daniel E. O’Sullivan (R) Christopher M. Daly (D) Benjamin Charney (D) Daniel H. Brown (R)	01/01/2021 - 12/31/2021 01/01/2021 - 12/31/2021 01/01/2021 - 12/31/2021 01/01/2021 - 12/31/2021 01/01/2021 - 12/31/2021 01/01/2021 - 12/31/2021
HEALTH and SAFETY COMMITTEE		
KVFC:	James R. McDonald (D)	01/01/2021 - 12/31/2021
KAA:	Donald B. McDougall (U)	01/01/2021 - 12/31/2021
Hwy:	Walter J. Adametz (R)	01/01/2021 - 12/31/2021
AFSCME:	Michele O’Toole(R)	01/01/2021 - 12/31/2021
Non-union	Elizabeth Doyle Disbrow(U)	01/01/2021 - 12/31/2021
1 <sup>st</sup> select:	Catherine Iino (D)	01/01/2021 - 12/31/2021
KLA:	Lucinda Hogarty (D)	01/01/2021 - 12/31/2021
INLAND WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSES COMMISSION		
	William V. Padula (PZ) (U)	01/01/2021 – 12/31/2023
	Glenn A. Johnson (CC) (U)	01/01/2021 – 12/31/2023
OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE	Heather Greenaway (U) Geoffrey M. Picard (U)	01/01/2021 - 12/31/2021 01/01/2021 - 12/31/2021
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION		
	Chris Robert Smalley (U)	01/01/2021 – 12/31/2023
	Glenn A. Johnson (U)	01/01/2021 – 12/31/2023
PARMELEE FARM COMMITTEE		
	Christine F. Cronin (U)	01/01/2021 - 12/31/2021
	Terrence W. Doyle (D)	01/01/2021 - 12/31/2021
	Margaret A. Scofield (R)	01/01/2021 - 12/31/2021
	Linda M. Dudek (D)	01/01/2021 - 12/31/2021
	Timothy E. Gannon (R)	01/01/2021 - 12/31/2021
	Guy J. Vecchitto (R)	01/01/2021 - 12/31/2021
	Scott T. Hawkins (IT)	01/01/2021 - 12/31/2021

C. Roster of Committees

There was brief discussion about introducing several new committees in the new year. Iino recommended that while a committee to address increased solid waste disposal fees was discussed, the issue can be put to the current Conservation Commission. The Board agreed. A committee to address current municipal facility needs, and the hiring of a consultant to address the same, were also discussed. In particular the best way to address the Town Hall and adjacent barn were noted as urgent.

Vacancies remaining on current committees were discussed. Iino will provide a list for the next meeting.

10. First Selectwoman's comments

A. Iino reported that Governor Lamont has issued a new executive order which extends the COVID-19 tax relief program through July. The town is given the same choice – a 90 day deferral of tax payments or a reduced interest rate for late payments. The current reduced-rate option will remain in place unless the board votes to change. Iino and Annino are in favor of the lower interest rate. Blewett remains in favor of the deferral option. Due to restrictions on special meetings, no action was taken.

B. Lovers Lane

The periodic closing of Lovers Lane was put up for discussion. Flooding and freezing creates hazardous conditions, so the town often opts to close the road for extended periods to avoid confusion to drivers. Annino feels strongly that if the road is passable, the town has a responsibility to open it. Iino noted that opening and closing the road involves frequent monitoring, contacting Emergency Services and the school district (busses), and altering signage. Blewett agreed with Annino that the road should be kept open when passable.

C. At BOS request, Trooper Mulhall conducted a background check on the newly appointed Building Official. Mr. Pleines is cleared to serve in that capacity.

11. Selectmen's comments

A. Blewett inquired about a memo from a Registrar of Voters regarding salary increases. Iino noted that these increases are covered by the current budget.

B. Snow shoveling at the Center School was noted.

C. Blewett was moved by an outpouring of support for the annual Helping Hands holiday food drive.

12. The meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.