

In attendance: First Selectwoman Catherine Iino, Selectmen Eileen Blewett and Lou Annino, Jr.
Visitors: Regina Regolo, Finance Director; Walter Adametz, Road Foreman; Kathleen Zandi, RSD17 Board of Education liaison; Board of Finance members Cheryl Fine, Gwenne Celmer, Robert Rimmer, and Annie Stirna.

1. Call to order/Pledge of Allegiance: First Selectwoman Catherine Iino called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Iino moved to add an item, "New Business Item C. Proclamation Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters," to the agenda. The motion, seconded by Blewett, passed unanimously.

2. Public comment: **Board of Education Report**

BOE liaison Kathleen Zandi presented a summary of the January 2020 Board of Education Meetings. Her review covered recognition of the work of the HKHS Public Building Committee, the formation of a Standing Public Building Committee and the award of the bid for the HKHS Field House Project. She also reported on the reorganization of the administration, the HKYFS bi-annual survey, curriculum, and website updates.

3. Approval of minutes:

Annino moved to approve the minutes of February 4, 2020 amended as follows:

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3rd bullet, last line. Period after year, delete the rest of sentence.

4th bullet: Add "While Youth and Family Services has asked for only a 1.6 percent increase, a discussion of the organizations role may be warranted."

The motion passed unanimously.

4. Refunds and abatements

Annino moved to approve the following refunds, all for overpayment and allow them to take their normal course for refunding:

CAB East LLC	PO BOX 67000	\$145.05	COC#09240M
CAB East LLC	PO BOX 67000	\$271.95	COC#09238M
CAB East LLC	PO BOX 67000	\$482.65	COC#09239M
CAB East LLC	PO BOX 67000	\$255.47	COC#09212M

The motion, seconded by Blewett, passed unanimously.

5. Appointments: none

6. Budget priorities

Iino welcomed the Board of Finance and asked Chairwoman Celmer to share FY20/21 priorities. Celmer noted that the board was considering the KVFC request for significant building upgrades and its forecast for need for paid professional firefighters and some degree of regionalization down the line. BOF is frustrated by a lack of documentation supporting points cited in KVFC's recent presentation.

lino added that the BOS has been working with the KVFC to improve financial transparency. Annino underscored the importance of this type of transparency as the boards consider bonding for capital projects. There was consensus that the town needs better data supporting ongoing expenditures and capital needs.

The selectmen reemphasized the role of the Fire Commission in budget discussions and suggested that the Charter Review Commission review provisions relating to the Fire Commission.

lino pointed out that the town's approach to bonding and other forms of capital funding will be the number one priority this budget season. Extensive discussion included a general recognition of the town's fiscal health, the importance of coordinating any proposed bonding with the Board of Education and the Town of Haddam, the Governor's proposal which would result in a \$90,000 reduction in ECS funding, the consistency of the Grand List, and the reduction of the ADM.

The proposed \$2.35 highway capital budget, as projected in the multi-year plan, was noted (see also below.)

7. Old Business

A. FY19-20 budget review

Regolo distributed FY 19-20 year-to-date budget for review. Road Foreman Adametz fielded questions and offered input about potential overruns in tree budget and roadside mowing. lino will be attending a future BOF meeting to review situation.

B. FY20-21 budget preparation

Discussions with road foreman regarding highway budget continued. He discussed dead tree inventory, requested additional staffing, and pointed out the need for long-term succession planning. Blewett asked for a cost/benefit analysis of contractor staffing vs hiring new employee (s). lino talked about the potential for better addressing sightline clearing, gravel road maintenance, and other highway work. Annino asked that Regolo input the requested highway figures into the budget.

8. New Business

A. MIRA Statement of Interest

The trash situation in the state is dire. Killingworth's household solid waste goes to a burn plant in Hartford. This plant is failing, trash has been trucked out of state as there are no landfills left in the Connecticut. The option is trucking it further away, which is not an ecologically sound solution. MIRA would like to build a new plant and is requesting a non-binding statement of interest in a 30 year commitment. lino asked the board to review the proposal and return to discuss at a later meeting. Tipping fees are expected to increase. Current recycling practices in town were briefly discussed.

B. Trash collector registration procedure

lino presented a form for private trash collector registration. There was brief discussion of current practices, including use of stickers and tire recycling, at the transfer station. There was agreement to move forward with the form.

C. Proclamation Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters

lino moved to approve the Proclamation Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters. The motion, seconded by Blewett, passed unanimously. This anniversary coincides with the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment, granting women's suffrage.

9. Selectwoman's comments

A. Accounting for subdivision bonds: Following up on a recent inquiry, lino noted that there are no subdivision bonds outstanding. Finance Director is holding the few driveway bonds. Annino reemphasized the need to regularly track all bonds, expiration dates, and actions required. He questioned whether the Town Clerk, as keeper of Land Records, rather than the Finance Director should maintain this inventory. Regardless, all agreed that records should be examined at least quarterly.

B. Acting Building Official: Richard Pleines has passed the state exam and can now begin work as Acting Official for 180 days. Hours will be posted.

C. Health Director: The preferred candidate has declined, and the position has been advertised with the state and with relevant professional organizations.

D. FEMA reimbursements: Upon lino's urging, FEMA funding for Bethke Road repairs will proceed. Reimbursements had been slated for postponement by the state.

10. Selectmen comments: none

11. Annino moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

[From tape]

Respectfully submitted by Elizabeth Doyle Disbrow on February 18, 2020.