

In attendance: C. Iino, L. Annino, Jr., E. Blewett, K. Zandi (BOE), M. Bekech, S. Ham, R. Bauer (KVFC), D. Offner (BOFC), D. Venuti (KVFC)

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

2. Public comment : none

3. RSD17 Report

BOE Liaison Kathy Zandi provided a written summary of July 2020 Board of Education meetings and discussed reopening plans at length. RSD17's Reopening Committee decided on a hybrid model, with half the students attending in person at a time, two days a week, and learning remotely on the other three days for the first month of school. Students may also choose to attend fully remotely, per Governor's order. Protocols will be reevaluated after a month and regularly thereafter. The hope is to move to fully in-person model. For complete reopening details, residents can consult rsd17.org and are encouraged to direct questions to reopeninghschools@rsd17.org.

4. Appointments

As Emergency Management Director Todd Nelson resigned during Tropical Storm Isaias, it was necessary for First Selectwoman Iino to promote Deputy Director Timothy Withington to Director. Iino asked the BOS to confirm the appointment. Withington, who has been instrumental to the team for many years, immediately opened the EOC, ensuring direct contact with DEMHS for the remainder of the storm.

Annino moved to approve the emergency appointment of Timothy C. Withington (D) as Emergency Management Director for a period ending December 31, 2020. The motion, seconded by Blewett, passed unanimously.

5. Refunds and abatements

Motion by Annino to approve the following 13 refunds recommended by the tax collector, and to allow them to follow their normal course for refunding. The motion, seconded by Blewett, passed unanimously.

- David F. Swensen 90 Route 148 \$43.15 Overpaid COC#09521M
- Sean Sullivan 222 Reservoir Rd \$54.67 Overpaid COC#09564M
- Sherry B./John M. Hansley 63 Laurel Ridge Trail \$33.37 Overpayment COC#09560M
- Gary H. Schwartz 429 Roast Meat Hill Rd. \$64.26 Overpayment COC#09548M
- Michael P. Langer 485 Route 148 \$3.34 Overpayment COC#09574M

- Michael P. Langer 485 Route 148 \$6.68 Overpayment COC#09573M
- Heather Temple 21 Whitewood Road \$465.60 Payment made in error-letter from closing attorney on file
- Robert Young 78 Champlin Rd \$28.27 Overpayment COC#09551M
- Mary Harkin or Arnold Moore Jr. 398 Route 148 \$69.33 Overpayment COC#09566M
- David P. or Laura E. Wing 8 Fox Run Lane \$5,399.85 Payment made in error-letter from closing attorney on file
- Shannon L. Baier 324 Mohegan Park Rd. \$27.97 COC # 09590M
- Randall Bartram 41 Stevens Rd. \$53.71 COC# 09595M
- Marianne Kilby 317 W. Main St. \$49.75 COC#09575M

6. Approval of minutes

A motion by Annino, seconded by Blewett, to approve as written the minutes of July 27, 2020 passed unanimously.

7. Declaration of Emergency

On Wednesday August 5, the first full day of tropical storm Isaias, lino declared a State of Emergency in the town. Governor Lamont also made a statewide declaration. lino gave a brief overview of the challenges posed by this severe storm and praised first responders and town staff for professionalism throughout.

Annino moved to approve the declaration of state of emergency from Wednesday, August 5, 2020 through Friday, August 14, 2020. The motion, seconded by Blewett, passed unanimously.

8. Old Business

a. Award of Revaluation Contract

lino moved, on the recommendation of the Assessor and Assistant Assessor, to award the bid for Request for Proposals for Services in Support of the Reappraisal and Revaluation of Taxable and Tax-exempt Property to eQuality Valuation Services LLC (Bid amounts (\$101,900/\$97,200 – COVID option) contingent upon successful contract discussions.

Discussion: Assessor Bekech and Assistant Assessor Ham recommend that the BOS award the bid to eQuality, the low bidder. Contract amount will be determined based on the level of COVID accommodation ultimately required. Bekech outlined the differences between “full measure” revaluation and the COVID option. Both options involve exterior measurements, which means the COVID option with its data mailers would be more expensive than a normal fifth-year statistical update . lino

noted that a new Executive Order from the governor may waive certain requirements and/or extend deadlines. Bekech added that it may also allow for reimbursement for additional mailings necessitated by COVID accommodations. **The motion, seconded by Annino, passed unanimously.**

b. Helping Hands plan

The Killingworth Women's Organization has assumed management of the Helping Hands food pantry. Selectmen Blewett, speaking for the KWO, described initial steps taken at the Centre School location (deep clean and reorganization) and outlined future plans including:

- Regular pantry hours, during the week and Saturday mornings
- Public relations plan
- Serving people on a more regular basis

Speaking as a selectman, Blewett expressed gratitude to Helping Hands and the Backpack Program for their contributions to the town but also emphasized that these organizations must assume responsibility for upkeep of the town building. lino explained that other organizations that use town property operate under a formal lease agreement. She noted that given current uncertainties, including COVID, economic conditions, and the current state of the property, it would be prudent to hold off on formalizing the relationship between the town and Helping Hands.

lino stated that acknowledgment of the new management is in order, as is an acknowledgment of the exceptional service to the town by Mercedes Ricciuti, who has managed Helping Hands admirably for many years. lino will send a letter to the KWO outlining a new relationship, with follow-up discussions down the line. Blewett asked that any agreement include the responsibilities mentioned above (monitor electricity usage, clean bathrooms) and touched on the relationship between Helping Hands and the Backpack Program.

Annino saluted the work of the two groups and agreed that the relationships and expectations should be formalized, with future requests from other organizations in mind. He asked that the organizations draft a proposal and present to the town. Regolo also reminded the board that the building is prone to flooding and said that the town has been hesitant to formalize relationships for that reason. lino agreed, but noted that Schumack Constructions has addressed the flooding issue. Liability, ADA accessibility, code requirements, and many other issues will need to be formally addressed in order to protect the town.

lino repeated her acknowledgment of Mercedes Ricciuti's service to the town and said she would be forwarding a letter from her to the selectmen. Ricciuti continues as Municipal Agent and maintains good relations with residents who utilize the pantry.

9. New Business

a. Fire Commission request

lino moved to waive the requirement of 3 quotes for renovation work at the firehouse due to extenuating circumstances (COVID-19 accommodation) and a need for compatibility with the Clinton Fire Department. The motion, seconded by Annino, passed unanimously.

Fire Commissioner Offner endorsed the proposed waiver as beneficial to the town, and asked Fire Chief Bauer to summarize the reasons for the waiver. Chief Bauer related that the KVFC was making COVID-related modifications to Station One, including the removal of walls to accommodate required social distancing and the construction of storage areas for PPE. He also noted that the Clinton Fire Department has been warehousing KVFC PPE on Route 81 south of town. Funds for a new access control system are in the FY21 capital budget. Bauer explained the advantages of installing an access system that is compatible with Clinton's and will allow access to both locations. The waiver of the town's 3-quote requirement is requested because compatibility with the Clinton Fire Department access system makes the preferred vendor a "sole source."

Annino asked about whether the construction was authorized by the town, and whether building permits were secured. After discussion, it was agreed that all necessary permits are to be secured, and that purchase of the recommended access system meets the town's sole source consideration criteria. lino will follow up with the Building Department regarding inspections of work.

9. T.S. Isaias response review

lino described a "helluva week." She expressed frustration not only with Eversource's lack of preparedness for this particular storm, but also with organizational deficiencies and inexcusably poor internal and external communications, which led to excessive restoration delays. She gave detailed examples, most notably the complete failure to provide Make-Safe crews to area towns. There were up to 6 roads in town that were completely blocked, the last of which was not cleared until 6 days after the storm. Major state highways were impassable for days. Communication was nonexistent. A serious review is in order.

An internal after-action review for the town services is scheduled, and a community input session is planned. She commended town staff for its handling of resident needs and is seeking input on improvements to communication, signage, roadblock alerts, and other topics. Shelter usage was briefly discussed; lino asked Blewett to convey thanks to RSD17 and to the custodial staff of HKMS in particular for an outstanding job. Annino agreed that communication failures – Eversource's inability to let customers know the status of restoration efforts -- were the most egregious issues. Blewett agreed that cones/signage and better communication about road closures is needed. There was further discussion.

10. Selectwoman's comments

lino noted that the town needs to appoint an ADA Coordinator, and said that our current building official is a potential candidate. Annino agreed that a candidate with a working knowledge of the ADA and the state building codes is ideal.

11. Selectmen's comments

Blewett asked for an update regarding the KHS request to move a barn to Parmelee Farm. lino will address this at the next BOS meeting, if not before.

12. Adjournment

A motion by lino, seconded by Annino, to adjourn at 8:37 p.m. passed unanimously.