

In attendance: C. Iino, L. Annino, Jr., E. Blewett, R. Regolo, R. Bauer, R. Darin, J. Liptak, D. Offner,
A. Stirna, K. Zandi, D. Venuti

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. Public comment: none

3. Department reports

A. Killingworth Volunteer Fire Company

Commissioner Darin introduced KVFC Chief Bauer who reported on First Quarter and YTD expenditures. Expenditures appear to be on track to date and Company does not anticipate any overages. Ready room, funded by KVFC acct and donated labor, is now refurbished and is ready for socially distant meetings. Because this project was initiated due to COVID 19 concerns, grant reimbursement is being researched. This led to a brief discussion of COVID-related grant funding to date by Iino and Regolo and a report on status of vaccination program for first responders to date. A large number of COVID-related medical calls was noted.

B. Board of Education

Kathy Zandi delivered the Dec. BOE Update (available on rsd17.org) including:

- Snow days during COVID
- Finance Committee budget report
- Student services continuous improvement studies
- Sand storage
- Website

Zandi reported that there have been no cases of COVID-19 transmission in schools to date.

4. Approval of minutes

Annino moved approval of minutes of the special BOS meeting of 12-17-2020; Blewett seconded. Annino amended his motion to change the next-to-last paragraph on page 1 as follows: *“Finance Director Regolo noted that the change was ~~policy~~-driven by the insurance provider and is standard for the insurance industry. Town employees face 50 % reduction at age 70 as well.”* **Blewett seconded the amendment. The minutes, as amended, were approved unanimously.**

5. Refunds and abatements

Annino moved approval of the following refunds for overpayment.

| | | | |
|--|---------------------|----------|---------------------|
| Greenwood Credit Union on behalf of Edward and Stephanie Izzo | 2669 Post Road | \$100.01 | Overpaid |
| Patricia H. Fredericksen | 31 Pond Meadow Road | \$25.30 | Overpaid COC#09695M |
| Carol or Richard Pleines | 628 Route 148 | \$41.42 | Overpaid |
| Martin L. Fox | 110 Riverside Drive | \$13.56 | Overpaid |

The motion was approved unanimously.

6. Appointments: none

7. Budget review
 - A. Operating and B. Capital
Regolo was available to answer questions about submitted reports. lino noted that Bethke Road bridge project is substantially completed. Regolo voiced her concern about town office building funding, which needs to be spent. lino noted that if the current contractor cannot proceed, the project will go out to bid. [note: Since this meeting, contractor has agreed to begin work in March]

8. Old Business
 - A. First Responder Abatement ordinance
lino shared the town attorney's recent draft of an updated ordinance that reflects the town's desire to increase abatement to new limits allowable due to recent state legislation. Discussion about determining eligibility and management of the process followed.

 - B. Budget process
lino proposed, in light of pandemic restrictions, the possibility of taking the town budget to referendum, which would require modification to the usual budget process. One benefit: the 2021-2022 town budget could then coincide with school budget referendum. One drawback: the townspeople would lose the ability to address and vote on individual line items. Annino and Blewett were in general agreement. Regolo noted possible questions about funding issues.

The Board briefly noted areas of potential budget increases to consider including:
 - Increasing scope of animal control services
 - Technology costs, cell phones
 - Emergency management position
 - Outside management consulting services

9. New Business
 - A. Connecticut Coalition for Sustainable Materials Management
lino moved, Annino seconded (for discussion) that Killingworth support the Connecticut Coalition for Sustainable Materials Management waste reduction initiative. Motion was tabled until the next meeting. lino spoke about various issues related to the rising costs of solid waste disposal and about this regional effort to address the problem. The coalition is seeking endorsement of its efforts from area towns. The selectmen will study the supplied materials. No action was taken.

10. First Selectwoman's comments
 - A. The state has announced plans for implementing the first phase of COVID 19 vaccination for the general population, for citizens over age 75 in particular.
 - B. The Revaluation has begun. Mailers have been sent, and on-site exterior inspections have begun.
 - C. Next BOS meeting, the Animal Control officers will attend to discuss proposed changes to the services offered to the town.

11. Selectmen's comments
 - A. Blewett asked for clarification about recent changes to the first responder life insurance policy benefit and talked about possible expansion of eligibility for full benefits. Annino suggested that the board revisit the pension benefits, rather than life insurance, if considering rewarding years of service. lino expanded on this idea and suggested looking at the entire

benefits package together. She also noted that benefits are a recruiting tool. Commissioner Darin provided information about the original intentions of the benefit program.

Chief Bauer underscored that the entire incentive package needs to be reviewed as a whole.

B. Cathy Zandi was permitted to speak, and read a statement from superintendent Hageman about conducting testing of students. There was brief discussion about testing opportunities in the area.

12. **Annino moved, Blewett seconded, adjournment at 8:45 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted by Elizabeth Disbrow on 1/19/2021. Video recording available.