

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Monday, November 27, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
Killingworth Town Hall

BOS Members in Attendance: First Selectman Eric Couture, Selectmen Joel D’Angelo and Eric Nunes

BOS Members Absent: None

Visitors: Richard Pleines, Wayne Lindsey, Mark Albrecht, Annie Stirna, Alli Behnke (HKYFS), Nancy Gorski, Bill Tobelman, Bill Kosturko, Elizabeth Disbrow, Regina Regolo (Via Remote), and Jamie Sciascia (Via Remote)

Called to Order: First Selectman Couture called this meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Comment: Nancy Gorski received two text messages regarding the link to access the Board of Selectmen’s meeting tonight. First Selectman Couture will make sure the Public has the link going forward in order to access all meetings.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion #1 - Selectman D’Angelo *Moved* and First Selectman Couture *Seconded* a motion to approve the Minutes of the Monday, November 13, 2023 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen as presented.

Motion passed [2-0-1].

Couture/D’Angelo - Yes

Nunes - Abstain

Refunds and Abatements:

Motion #2 - Selectman D’Angelo *Moved* and Selectman Nunes *Seconded* a motion to approve the following Refunds and Abatements, all for overpayment and allow them to follow their normal course as presented.

Refunds

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Reason</u>
1. Betsy T. or Paul R. Kessler	40 Wolf Hollow Lane	\$16.08	Overpaid COC#11194M

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Budget:

Director of Finance Regolo reviewed with the Board the Monthly Budget Report Process, the Proposed Budget Timeline, Proposed Special Budget Dates and the Process for the next Budget. Regolo further reviewed the signing of checks process, setting up Payroll and Transfers when paying with petty cash and then repaying the General Fund. Lastly, Regolo noted the Town invested in new Budget book software and she is in the midst of learning the new software. The software will allow the Board to access a draft version of the Budget online, which has the availability to be timestamped, and also see the track changes as they are entered in, further eliminating the need for hardcopy drafts to be passed out at meetings. The Board of Selectmen agreed to move forward with the same Budget process and not to change anything for this season.

Appointments:

First Selectman Couture advised that information has been provided in the Board's packet for review of the vacancies to be filled and/or candidates who are returning and also noted that the Board will be going through the process of getting recommendations for potential candidates to fill those vacancies. He advised there is no further action required tonight but will add Appointments to the next BOS Agenda for discussion and vote.

Department Reports:

Youth and Family Services Report -

Alli Benhke from Youth & Family Services provided a Report to the Board of Selectmen:

Alli resides in Higganum for the past 13/14 years raising her two kids who are currently enrolled in the Haddam-Killingworth District. Alli has worked in YSBS her entire career, as a Social Worker, and is currently working part-time, co-sharing the Director position with Jen Favalora.

Alli gave an update on the following: the Backpack Program, Internet Safety Presentation at the Middle School; Bringing in Therapy Dogs at the Middle School and speaking to them about making positive choices to live a drug free life; Drug take back week held both at Killingworth Pharmacy and the Nutmeg Pharmacy partnered with the State Police collecting over 160 lbs combined; Worked with the Women's Club to successfully organize the Kids Fair in October; Pumpkin Run in October; the Mentoring Program is underway; the High School arranged to bring Mark Leinweaver, an agent that represents 75 professional players to develop a presentation on "Why Character Matters." He spoke to students about the importance of Anti-Bullying. Alli spoke about being in the heart of the Holiday Giving Program, with having 82 kids that they matched up with donors this year in the Community. New Image Auto held a Stuff-A-Cruiser Event that was successful and Parmalee Farms has one upcoming on December 2nd. There is a Craft Fair scheduled on December 2nd at the Middle School with over 80

vendors involved as well as Youth Volunteers from both Haddam and Killingworth. Alli briefly spoke about a Survey that will be distributed looking at Wellness and Mental Health. Lastly, Alli spoke about the Opiate Settlement funds and how she is attending training in January of 2024 with a bunch of other YSB Leaders to try to come up with a good plan for smaller Communities to utilize those funds.

New Business:

A. 2024 Meeting Schedule:

First Selectman Couture went over the 2024 Proposed Meeting Schedule advising that no action is needed tonight but noted dates that are marked in red are Holidays/Observance of a Holiday and to keep those in consideration. The Board agreed they will come up with some alternative dates for review for their next scheduled Board of Selectmen's Meeting.

Motion #3 - Selectman Nunes *Moved* and Selectman D'Angelo *Seconded* a motion to add onto the Agenda, Discussion and Vote regarding Acting First Selectman.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Discussion and Vote - Acting First Selectman:

First Selectman Couture noted that per Charter, the Board of Selectmen has to appoint an Acting First Selectman in event he comes indisposed for an extended period of time. A motion was made to appoint Eric Nunes shortly thereafter.

Motion #4 - First Selectman Couture *Moved* and Selectman D'Angelo *Seconded* a motion to appoint Eric Nunes as Acting First Selectman in the event First Selectman Couture becomes indisposed for an extended period of time.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

B. New Committees: Ethics, Governance Study:

First Selectman Couture reported that the Board has to set up and charge an Ethics Committee. This is per the incoming Charter that goes into effect December 8th. There are restrictions by State Statute particularly around minority representation. Selectman Nunes, who was a member on the Charter Revision Commission "CRC" in 2022, spoke about receiving Public Input on the formation of an Ethics Commission as well as a Governance Study but due to time constraints, the CRC wasn't able to look into the two further. The CRC composed a Memorandum to the Board of Selectmen making a recommendation that an Ethics Commission would need to be formed in order to determine what a Committee would be composed of and set up a Code of Ethics in terms of creating an Ethics Committee.

The Board of Selectmen discussed the possible number of members the Committee would need in order to be as productive as possible, agreeing a five no more than six member Committee would be ideal. The consensus of the Board as the first step would be to develop an Ethics Committee and charge it to

develop a Code or Ethics in order to move it forward. A motion was made thereafter.

Ethics Committee:

Motion #5 - First Selectman Couture *Moved* and Selectman Nunes *Seconded* a motion to develop an Ethics Commission consisting of up to six members, to study and develop a Code of Ethics for the Town of Killingworth, as per State Statute.

First Selectman Couture *Amended* and Selectman Nunes *Seconded* a motion to develop an Ethics Committee consisting of up to six members, to study and develop a Code of Ethics for the Town of Killingworth, as per Charter and State Statutes.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Governance Study:

First Selectman Couture spoke about needing to set up a Governance Study. He stated how there has been discussion in Town about, "What does Town Government in Killingworth Look Like"

Selectman Nunes spoke how the CRC recommended forming the Governance Study based on feedback from Town residents. Unfortunately, the CRC did not have the appropriate time it deserved to dive into - "What it would look like for the Town of Killingworth moving forward." The CRC did look at: 1) Do we Change the Number of Selectmen; 2) Do we Change the Terms? Selectman Nunes suggested keeping the Governance Study on the radar, since there are a lot of moving pieces involved. Couture and D'Angelo concurred.

This agenda item was *Tabled* for a future Board of Selectmen's Meeting.

Old Business:

A. Traffic Safety

First Selectman Couture reported that the State put in a double pair of Stop Signs on Stevens Road in order for drivers to stop, look both ways and pay more attention while driving. This was implemented to hopefully address some of the traffic concerns that are ongoing in the Town. Couture noted that speed cameras had recently been set up in two locations; however, at one of the locations someone snipped the wires off the camera and ran it over. A police report was filed with Resident Trooper Rich Mulhall. Walt Adamatz is tracking down replacement parts in order to repair it and put the camera back up.

First Selectman Couture updated the Board about the Cost Sharing Agreements with the Town of Madison regarding Trooper Mulhall. If the Town decides to go that route, they would lose a State Trooper in Town since it is an exclusivity deal. Couture looked at the Charter, and another option is to do constable systems, which is what the Town of Essex does. Couture noted that the Town of Killingworth is one of the last Towns to have a single State Trooper and whether they chose to expand that program, and have a Trooper on weekends, is an ongoing conversation but an important one based on traffic concerns and safety.

Public Comment on Traffic Safety: None.

B. Town Barn Renovation RFP:

First Selectman Couture gave an update on the Town Barn in need of repairs. The EZIQC received from Gordian was \$320,000 and Lighthouse, a company that has done work at the Town Hall, recently came in and quoted the project for \$90,000 less. The Town is under no obligation to move forward with the EZIQC from Gordian and the project can be put out to bid utilizing the 2018 specifications. Both Gordian and Lighthouse could then be able to bid on the project as well as other companies. Couture noted that he is in the process of working up an RFP which will be presented at the next Board of Selectmen's meeting. Couture will also sit in with the Historic Review Committee to see if there are any considerations about restorations versus renovating a structure like the Barn. Couture further mentioned how the Town is in need of future meeting space for things like early voting.

C. Water Pollution Update

1. PFAS

2. Other Contaminants

First Selectman Couture sat with Nancy Gorski and GZA and they are in the process of drawing up plans for a filtration system to handle the water contaminants as it pertains to KES and Town campus. Couture will forward Nunes/D'Angelo the plans as soon as he receives them. After that the RFP process will begin in order to bid on engineering construction placement aiming at June/July installation at KES. Couture noted that the old plans called for it to be put in the Department, the POET system for Town Campus and the Department of Public Works; however, that is not feasible due to space. Further discussion took place about the Town's need for space and considering some sort of storage based system took place. Couture noted that there is some impact with regards to testing for the paving project that will be commencing at the Department of Public Works in order to regrade the parking lot and pave there. After that, additional testing will need to happen causing an additional expense. The long term plan seems to be shaping into a three phase approach: 1) first phase is installing this filtration system at KES and Town Campus, 2) establishing additional monitoring stations around the source contamination which is Town Campus; 3) developing a remediation spot within the center of those monitoring stations.

Public Comment:

Richard Pleines commented on how his job is extremely ethics driven and he suggested that the Town Committee Chairs find candidates who are not currently serving on another Town Committees where it could become a conflict of interest when appointing members to serve on Committees like the Ethics Committee that was developed tonight.

Annie Stirna commented that she wanted to confirm that the filtration system being put in at KES would be taking the sodium out of the water so the kids can drink from it safely versus drinking from bottled water for the past 10 years because of the sodium content.

Selectmen's Comments:

Eric Nunes -

- Nunes stated how he thought it was a great first meeting with the Board and looks forward to working with both First Selectman Couture and Selectman D'Angelo for the next two years.
- Nunes encourages Community members to attend, and participate to see what is happening in the Town at the Board of Selectmen meetings. He is definitely of the persuasion "the more the merrier" and stated and feels it would be better that everyone works together in order to make a better Town government a better process.
- Nunes thanked Nancy Gorski for getting the system set up.

Joel D'Angelo -

- D'Angelo echoed Selectman Nunes' comments. He thanked the Board and stated how he looks forward to working with First Selectman Couture and Selectman Nunes for the next two years.
- D'Angelo expressed his thanks and gratitude to the Community for voting for him and stated to call or email him at any time. He just asked Community members to be patient while he gets up to speed since he just got into office.

First Selectman's Comments:

Eric Couture -

- Couture thanked Wayne Lindsey and Mark Albrecht for all the work they put in cleaning up trees after the storm they had last night. Couture commented how the Town always receives many compliments on how the roads are always kept clean and safe to drive on.
- Couture echoed both comments made by Selectmen D'Angelo and Nunes. He advised that it will require constant effort, communication and keeping the avenue of communication open when working together in the next two years. He stressed how it is important that they all work together, even in times of disagreement, and never out of anger but shared concern in order to make the Community as best as it can be for all.
- Couture thanked the Community, and stated that when you elect someone it is for a matter of trust. Couture hopes he can live up to the trust of the people who voted for him, and more so for the people who didn't.
- Couture hopes to move the Town forward in the next two years and continue to make it a place where people come to live.

Adjournment: First Selectman Couture *Moved* to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Sciascia
Clerk