

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MONDAY, April 8, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.
Killingworth Town Hall/Remote Access Available**

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

BOS Members Absent: None.

Visitors: Nancy Gorski, Michael Kovas, Michelle Knockwood, Wayne Lynsley, Bill Tobelman, Sara O'Brien, Tara Amatrudo, Bill Kosturdo, Bob Szewczyk, Amy Roberts-Perry, Elizabeth Disbrow, Richard Pleines, Regina Regola (Via Remote), Eileen Unger-Pleines (Via Remote), Jackie Vece (Via Remote) and Jamie Sciascia (Arrived Via Telephone at 7:10 p.m.)

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.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion #1 - Selectman D'Angelo *Moved* and Selectman Nunes *Seconded* a motion to approve the Minutes of the Monday, March 27, 2024 Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen as presented.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Refunds, Abatements and Transfers:

First Selectman Couture reported there were no Refunds for review and/or approval. The Transfers provided in the Board's packet were related to bookkeeping (year-end quarter clean-up lines.)

2023/24 Budget: No Report.

Appointments: None.

Department Reports:

First Selectman Couture reported that the Building Department Reports provided in the packet are what's happening in Town.

Board of Education Report:

First Selectman Couture reported that the Board received a copy of the Board of Education Summary for the Month of March 2024. 1) Cougar Pride at KES for the Book Club; 2)

Superintendent's Report (HKHS announced the top two scholars from the Class of 2024); HKMS Spring Musical, The Pirates of Penzance; HKIS Stock Market Program led by Mr. Houlton; 3) Student Representatives' Report - Spring Sports started at HKHS, Substance-Free The Athletics Department partnered with HKYFS on a program called *Substance-Free Athletics to Protect Your Game* about the negative effects of substances on athletic performance; Senior Portfolio Day; Juniors - SATs) Middle School Band Day (March 19th); 8th-graders came to HKHS to play in large groups in the Auditorium and smaller ensembles; HKHS hosted a College Fair; Spring Fundraisers; 4) Participation in Healthy Food Certification; 5) Acceptance of the FY23 Financial Audit Report; 6) Master Plan Update; 7) Personnel & Evaluation Subcommittee 7) Curriculum Subcommittee; 8) Finance and Facilities Subcommittee; 9) Communications Subcommittee; 10) 2024-2025 Budget

The public can access the RSD17 Board of Education's Meeting Agendas, Minutes, Budget related materials as well as the Master Plan Updates directly on the RSD17 website via: [Regional School District 17 - Regional School District 17 \(rsd17.org\)](http://Regional School District 17 - Regional School District 17 (rsd17.org))

Old Business:

A. BOF 2024/2025 Budget Presentation

Annie Stirna thanked the Board of Finance for their hard work and also thanked the two newly elected members that came up to speed quickly during the Budget process. Annie stated that the Board reviewed the Budget line by line and had different organizations come in to answer questions. The Board of Finance feels the Budget being presented is a good one for all the Organizations in Town as well as for the taxpayers. Annie noted that the Public Hearing is scheduled for May 6th at 7:00 p.m. located at the Middle School. This is where the taxpayers and public can ask questions on the Budget. The Town Meeting will then be scheduled shortly thereafter.

Selectman D'Angelo inquired about next steps in the Budget. Annie Stirna reviewed next steps with the Board: May 6th is the scheduled Public Hearing, then the Budget will go back to the Board of Finance to make adjustments based on questions/concerns that were raised at the meeting (noting they can't add anything new on.) After that, the Budget goes to Town Meeting and then directly after the Town Meeting the Board of Finance will set the Mill Rate.

B. Estuary Transit District: State Matching Grant

First Selectman Couture reported that this Agenda item is in follow up from the last Board of Selectmen's meeting regarding the Estuary Transit District State Matching Grant regarding Transportation. Couture was seeking approval from the Board authorizing him to sign the Certification.

Motion #2 - First Selectman Couture *Moved* and Selectman D'Angelo *Seconded* a motion to authorize Eric Couture to sign the Grant Assignment Certification and the Maintenance of Effort

Certification for the State Matching Grant Program for Elderly and Disabled Demand Responsive Transportation for 2024-25.

Discussion - Couture explained that since the Town of Killingworth doesn't have their own transportation program, they are a part of the Estuary Transit District. Once signed, the Certification gives most of the transportation responsibilities to the Estuary Transit District who will administer the funding.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

WPCA Update:

First Selectman Couture reported he conferred with Legal Counsel and he is in agreement with how Couture reads the State Statute and the action of the former Board. Couture gave some brief background when the Board of Selectmen originally dissolved the WPCA circa 2007-2008 noting they took the power onto themselves and in reading the Statute that is allowed. The statute reads that the WPCA Authority can invest in a new Board, an existing Board or Commission or a legislative body of the Town except where the Town has a Town meeting style of Government. Couture noted that the Town of Killingworth would not be able to make the Town Meeting WPCA because it is the Legislative body.

D. MYCIP Approval:

First Selectman Couture met with the Board and reviewed the Capital Improvement Plan with the revisions they discussed. The next steps will be to send off the draft version to the Board of Finance in order to show them the upcoming Capital projects and associated costs. Couture was seeking approval tonight for a draft version of the Capital Improvement Plan.

Motion #3 - Selectman D'Angelo **Moved** and Selectman Nunes **Seconded** a motion to approve the Multi Year Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Year 2025 through 2034.

First Selectman Couture **Moved** to **Amend** the motion to approve the **draft** Multi Year Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Year **2024-25** through **Fiscal Years 2030-34 as presented**.

Selectman D'Angelo **Moved** the adoption of the **Amendment** and Selectman Nunes **Seconded** the motion to approve the draft Multi Year Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Year 2024-25 through Fiscal Years 2030-34 as presented.

Discussion - Nunes inquired if the Board is approving the motion language or just moving it over to the Board of Finance. Couture reported that the Board is approving it as a draft version, but could always move an item from the list to a different year if needed. Regolo advised that the document is still missing some data from year 10, and agreed with using the word "draft," and moving it to the Board of Finance for review. After review, it will need to come back to the Board of Selectmen in order to be cleaned up and finalized before it goes to Town Meeting. Regolo

confirmed this document is not an authorization to spend. Couture also reported that the Board is approving the document as a guideline for the conceptualization of having a plan in place.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

New Business:

A. Station 2 Paving RFP: Open Bids

First Selectman Couture reported that they did not receive any bids for the Station 2 Paving RFP. Couture advised that the Board had two options: They can make a motion to reopen the bidding process another 30 days or they could reevaluate the project. Selectman Nunes inquired if the RFP notification went out in an email blast. Couture advised that it did go out through the proper channels: the Killingworth Website, the Newspaper, and also most contractors receive an alert system to be notified about bids.

Motion #4 - Selectman D'Angelo *Moved* and Selectman Nunes *Seconded* a motion to put the Station 2 Paving RFP back out to Bid.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

B. DEMHS Authorizing Resolution

First Selectman Couture reported that the DEMHS Resolution is executed yearly as part of the participation in the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security.

Motion #5 - First Selectman Couture *Moved* and Selectman D'Angelo *Seconded* a motion to approve the Resolution as follows:

RESOLVED, that the town of Killingworth may enter into with and deliver to the **State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security** any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Eric Couture, as First Selectman of the Board of Selectmen, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Board of Selectmen and to do and perform all acts and things which he deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents, including, but not limited to, executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by such documents.

The undersigned further certifies that Eric Couture now holds the office of First Selectman and that he has held that office since November 21st, 2023.

Discussion - Couture reported that he followed up with Susie Beckman at RiverCog who serves at the Fiduciary Agent for DEMHS Region 2, inquiring if this was previously approved. Susie advised that there was a signature missing. Couture also inquired as to what the Board is required to send. If approved, Couture would be able to act on behalf of the Board of Selectmen for the Town of Killingworth. If not signed, it would put the Town at risk, at the DEMHS level, for not receiving services that would be granted to the Town (for example. they were responsible for distributing the covid kits.)

Public Comment:

First Selectman Couture apologized about not having Public Comment on the Agenda at the beginning of the meeting.

Michelle Knockwood inquired about the Station 2 Paving RFP going out to bid again. Also, she suggested utilizing the State of CT Portal for advertising the bids because it goes out often to Contractors. Also, Michelle stated that the State Contractors list has already been vetted and potentially could help locate a Contractor for this project the next time around.

Selectmen's Comments:

Eric Nunes -

- Nunes thanked the Board of Finance for their hard work in the Budget process and also thanked them for letting him come to sit in on the meetings to see how they work as a group.
- Nunes spoke with a Town resident that is involved with the Valley Shore Community Television, serving the surrounding Towns of Haddam, Durham, Westbrook and Clinton. Valley Shore Community Television is looking for space on the Town of Killingworth's Website in order for Community members to view their content (cooking shows, art shows, town council shows, music on Deer Lake.) Nunes stated there is no cost or obligation to the Town other than to provide a link to access their content. This could serve as an extra resource for the Community especially if people don't have access to cable.

Joel D'Angelo -

- D'Angelo thanked the Board of Finance for all their hard work on the Budget. He is really appreciative of their input, and thoughtfulness that was put into the Budget.

First Selectman's Comments:

Eric Couture-

- Couture thanked the Board of Finance for all their hard work in the Budget. He stated that it's often a thankless job, noting how it is an important part of Town. Couture again thanked the Board of Finance for all their hard work not just in Budget Season but throughout the year.
- Couture gave an update on PFAS and stated that this Thursday he will be meeting with Rob Albert of RSD17 and the Consultants of GZA to do a site walk in preparation to go out to bid for the filtration system at KES. Their goal is to get the filtration system in place at KES before the 24/25 school year begins in the Fall. The Town campus portion of the PFAS project would be next in line. Couture stated that they want to make sure kids have clean water to drink from.
- Couture gave an update on the Barn. An Engineer is scheduled to come in and give a constructional analysis to see what might be necessary to fix and then go out to bid on the Barn's exterior in order to clean it up and make it look presentable for the Town.
- Couture advised that Superintendent Wihbey will be joining him at the next Beechwood meeting. Couture stated how they are partners with the School District in governing the Town, and one of the things as a society they decide to take on is educating students which is wonderful and having an open dialogue in communication is important. Couture looks forward to having Superintendent Wihbey at the next Beechwood meeting.
- Couture thanked the Killingworth Library for putting on their yearly Eclipse Show.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Adjournment: First Selectman Couture *Moved* to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Sciascia
Clerk