

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, April 23, 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, Wayne Lynsley, Annemarie LePard (Studio Assistant/Producer - Valley Shore Community TV), Emily Miner (Public Access Coordinator, Valley Shore Community TV), Regina Regola (Via Remote), Don Offner (Via Remote), Richard Pleines (Via Remote), Eileen Unger-Pleines (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 inquired about when the next round of testing for PFAS would be for herself and her neighbors on Wolf Hollow Lane. Nancy is the only one that doesn't have a filtration system, and inquired if she would be retested since the EPA has now lowered the threshold of PFAS.

Motion #1 - Selectman D'Angelo *Moved* and Selectman Nunes *Seconded* a motion to move New Business, Agenda Item C - Valley Shore TV to be placed after Agenda Item 3, Public Comment.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Motion #1 - Selectman D'Angelo *Moved* and Selectman Nunes *Seconded* a motion to move 10C Valley Shore TV

New Business:

C. Valley Shore TV

Emily Miner and Annemarie LePard, from Valley Shore Community TV, gave a brief presentation to the Board of Selectmen and the Community regarding public access to their local TV station. Valley Shore TV is located at the Water's Edge shops in Westbrook, and is a 24-7 local programming found on Comcast channels 18-19, Frontier 6089, Apple TV, Fire TV, Roku, and also on their home website Video on Demand for all their programs. They serve the following Towns: Chester, Clinton, Essex, Deep River, Durham, Haddam, Killingworth, Old Saybrook and Westbrook. Some services they offer include: live-streaming special events;

posting about upcoming meetings/events on their Community Bulletin Board around Town; free use of their state of the art production studio; utilizing their equipment in order to videotape Town Hall meetings; and for a small fee provide services to videotape meetings. Some examples of stories they have done in Killingworth are: The Killingworth 350th Anniversary, The Killingworth Road Race, The Congregational Church, The Killingworth Community Gardens, and Save Deer Lake 2022. Annemarie and Emily always welcome new ideas for events to film, a town resident to highlight, and/or a parade to film, which would provide outreach to the Community and also show representation from the Town of Killingworth on their channel. In addition, they have done successful 5-10 segments from the First Selectman about what's going on in the Community in the Towns of Old Saybrook and Haddam. Emily and Annemarie came to the meeting tonight in hopes to get permission from the Board of Selectmen to include their link on the Town of Killingworth's website in order to get more Community outreach within the Town of Killingworth. A brief discussion took place regarding the process in order to participate at the Valley Shore TV studio and how to track the number of viewers once a video is up on the Town's website.

First Selectman Couture spoke with Town Clerk Mooney, who oversees the Town of Killingworth's Webpage, and Mooney would be happy to include the Valley Shore TV's link up on the Town's website.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion #2 - Selectman D'Angelo *Moved* and Selectman Nunes *Seconded* a motion to approve the Minutes of the Thursday, April 4, 2024 Board of Selectmen Special Meeting and the Minutes of the Monday, April 8, 2024 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen with an amendment to the following section:

1. Under First Selectman's Comments - last comment, delete "yearly"; delete "Show"; and add the word "viewing" after Eclipse. (*Comment should now read: "Couture thanked the Killingworth Library for putting on their Eclipse viewing."*)

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Refunds, Abatements and Transfers: None.

2023/24 Budget:

Director of Finance Regolo gave a brief update that Revenue came in higher than anticipated and the snow budget was less. Regolo further reported that she is pressing the various agencies about the capital projects that are active to see if there is anything that could be closed out in order to open up funding availability for other projects.

Couture reported that he had a meeting with Regolo, Annie Stirna and Leadership at the Volunteer Fire Company. In the Board's packet, is a letter from the Volunteer Fire Company detailing what is expected in terms of upcoming expenses as well as what is currently in the account. Couture noted that they are seeking \$20,000 of additional funds due to an unanticipated repair costs for one of their fire engines. Since the Board has been notified in writing, and per Charter, this gets passed to the Board of Finance in order for them to hold a special meeting to

discuss further and make a recommendation.

Motion #3 - Selectman D'Angelo *Moved* and Selectman Nunes *Seconded* that the First Selectman, Eric Couture, take a letter from the Killingworth Volunteer Fire Company dated April 23, 2024 to the Board of Finance for their review and ultimate recommendation.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Appointments:

First Selectman Couture reported that the HK Recreation Authority Appointments are handled on a yearly basis. The process for handling these are: The candidates are appointed by the Board of Selectmen and then goes out to Town meeting where the Town approves the appointments. Couture noted that the Board still needs one more candidate to bring forward for the HK Recreation Authority.

Motion #4 - First Selectman Couture *Moved* and Selectman D'Angelo *Seconded* a motion to appoint James Joseph Duffield and William Raymond Burley as Killingworth's representatives to the Haddam-Killingworth Recreation Authority, for a term to commence upon confirmation at Town meeting, and to continue until June 30, 2025.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

First Selectman Couture reported at the end of November 2023 when he was elected into office, he was appointed by CRAHD, as a member of the Public of the Health Agency. Couture further reported that he was supposed to be appointed as a member of the Board of Directors of CRAHD during the time but never was.

Motion #5 - Selectman D'Angelo *Moved* and Selectman Nunes *Seconded* a motion to appoint Eric Couture, the First Selectman of the Town of Killingworth, to the CRAHD Board of Directors with a term ending on February 20, 2025.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Department Reports:

Land Use

First Selectman Couture reported that Linda Kieft-Robitaille is settling into her position nicely. She is working with Robin Zagorodny as well as with Planning and Zoning to provide clarity to their regulations as to where they currently stand and coming up with a number of recommendations to bring to the Planning & Zoning Commission. Couture noted that this is part of the general upkeep of changing laws, new technology etc.

Public Works Department

First Selectman Couture reported that the Public Works Department has been very busy. He still is in the process of making a decision in terms of hiring a Foreman to fill the vacant position. Couture stressed the importance of making the right decision for all and that there have been a

number of good candidates. Couture will have a recommendation very soon.

Old Business:

A. Traffic Safety

First Selectman Couture gave an update on Traffic Safety with two major State projects taking place this summer: Route 80 from Madison Town Line to the Circle and Route 148 from the Traffic Light to the Route 9 Interchange (installing rumblestrips and also paving). Couture noted that he is still working on getting a road safety audit for Green Hill and has to speak with the State about Route 81 and Route 80 at the Roast Meat Hill Road intersection.

B. PFAS Update

First Selectman Couture reported that he walked through KES with GZA and Rob Albert to see what the layout of the work would look like in the school, advising that most of it looks like piping. A bid package is ready to go out, and a special meeting will be scheduled in the near future. Couture further reported that there will be a pre-bid review with the Department of Public Health. The goal is to get the project started and finished in the summer before school commences in August noting there could be potentially time delays. Discussion of what the maintenance would look like for residents and where to dispose of the carbon tanks took place. Selectman Nunes inquired about the homes on Wolf Hollow and the PFAS contaminating the leashing fields due to flushing the water through the system. Couture advised that EPA and DEEP have been investigating same.

Couture reported that the water in the schools across the District are tested on a monthly basis for a number of things: lead, copper, colloform, etc. and further noted that the safety of the students are always everyone's first priority.

New Business:

A. Issue RFP: Pavilion at Eric Auer Park

First Selectman Couture reported that in the current year's Capital Plan there was money set aside for a Pavilion to be built at Eric Auer Park. In the Board's packet there is a copy of where the Pavilion would be placed as well as what it would look like. Couture seeked approval from the Board in order to put the RFP out to bid.

Motion #6 - Selectman D'Angelo *Moved* and Selectman Nunes *Seconded* a motion to issue the RFP for the Pavilion at Eric Auer Park.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

B. Issue Call to Annual Town Budget Meeting:

First Selectman Couture reported that as part of their responsibilities, a Town Budget Meeting is held every year which is the final part of the Budget process. Prior to that, the Board of Finance presents the Budget on May 6th in order to get input from the Town. Couture further reported that the Legal Notice for the Annual Town Budget, needs to be accepted and read into the record by the Board of Selectmen.

Motion #7 - Selectman D'Angelo *Moved* and Selectman Nunes *Seconded* a motion to accept the Legal Notice as presented:

**LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF KILLINGWORTH
ANNUAL TOWN BUDGET AND SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**

The Electors of the Town of Killingworth and all those qualified to vote in meetings of said Town are hereby notified and warned that the Annual Town Budget Meeting and Special Town Meeting will be held in the All Purpose Room of the Killingworth Elementary School on Monday, May 20, 2024 at 7 p.m. to consider and act upon the following items of business:

1. To adopt the Budget recommendation of the Board of Finance of an Operating Budget for fiscal year July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025 in the amount of **\$5,988,512***
2. To adopt the Budget recommendation of the Board of Finance of Capital Expenditures for the fiscal year July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025 in the amount of **\$2,523,248***
3. To confirm the Selectmen's appointment of James Joseph Duffield and William Raymond Burley as a Killingworth's representatives to the Haddam-Killingworth Recreation Authority, for a term to commence upon the confirmation and to continue until June 30, 2025

*to be finalized by Board of Finance following May 6, 2024 public hearing

Dated at Killingworth, Connecticut this 23rd day of April 2024.

Eric Couture
First Selectman

Joel D'Angelo
Selectman

Eric Nunes
Selectman

Public Comment:

- Nancy Gorski commented on two items: 1) "Point of Order" regarding the new Fire Department, she inquired under the new Charter if the \$20,000 they are requesting would have to go to a Town meeting or would it just be able to follow normal process; 2) Call To Town Meeting, Nancy inquired what would happen if the Budget for Town Referendum fails or the Board of Education's School Budget fails? (First Selectman Couture reported that it only affects the Town's portion of the Budget and it does not include the School's Budget portion. Couture advised the School's Budget doesn't have to be set in order for the Town's Budget to go out to Town meeting. Regolo also noted it just delays the setting of the Mill Rate if the School Budget fails.)

- Wayne Linsley spoke as a taxpayer and as a Public Works employee. He commented about how the Board as a whole has known about the open Forman position for 120 days and while he understands that it is an important and delicate decision, he feels that by the Board not hiring someone in a timely fashion, it is putting undue stress on the Public Works Department. Wayne asked that a decision be made as soon as possible.
- Annie Stirna commented on several items: 1) She confirmed with Couture that under the new Charter that the Fire Department's overage comes to the Board of Finance (anything under \$25k); 2) She inquired if the Call to Town Meeting was a draft and if the Board of Finance were to make any changes after the May 6th Hearing, how it would be handled; 3) Annie expressed her support with the School's Budget and feels that it is the best budget she has seen in the last 20 years. She stated it is service heavy, good for the teacher's allowance for repairs that have been neglected, and they also are putting in a Controller's position. Annie hopes the Town of Killingworth will support the Schools' Budget. She further noted that it won't increase the mill rate like previously thought.
- Don Offner thanked the Board for putting the Volunteer Fire Department's letter on the Agenda for tonight. He stated that Engine 851 needed to be repaired last year and is a mandatory, where they are replacing the apparatus and will take 3-4 years out.

Selectmen's Comments:

Joel D' Angelo -

- D'Angelo commented about Valley Shore TV, stating how it is really good Community outreach. He stated anything that the Board can do to get it up and running for the Community he supports and suggested partnering with them.

Eric Nunes -

- Nunes echoed Selectman D'Angelo's comments regarding Valley Shore TV. He stated that having this point of access is important, and he is supportive of increasing the accessibility by putting their link on the Town of Killingworth website.
- Nunes commented that the PFAS update was helpful. He suggested since the PFAS standards have been lowered, that it might be helpful to provide updates on what's happening similar to how the last Board did it on the Town forum relating to PFAS.
- Nunes commented how happy he was to hear that the Revenue is greater than expected and the snow budget is less.
- Nunes thanked Don Offner for providing his input and comments on the fire engine.
- Nunes congratulated Couture with the Board of Directors position on CRAHD and for the update on Traffic Safety.

- Nunes commented on the vacant Foreman position, and doesn't want the Department of Public Works employees to be in a stressful position, stating if there is anything extra that the Board can do in the interim of hiring the Foreman position to please reach out, acknowledging the great work that the Public Works Department does. Nunes thanked Wayne and the Public Works Department for being patient and he hopes it gets resolved very soon.
- Nunes thanked Annie Stirna for her comments about the School's Budget.

First Selectman's Comments:

- Couture echoed what Selectmen D'Angelo and Nunes said about Valley Shore TV and stated how important it is to have the Community aware of what is happening and making the process easier for all is beneficial also reminding people that make Government work is important.
- Couture commented about the hiring of the Foreman position, and how it has been weighing heavily on his shoulders. Couture expressed the importance of hiring the right candidate to fill the vacancy, to make sure their interests are looked after and the Town's/Department's interests are looked after.

Adjournment: Selectman D'Angelo *Moved* and Selectman Nunes *Seconded* a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:48 p.m.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Sciascia
Clerk