

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MONDAY, MAY 13, 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, Mercedes Riccuiti, Wayne Linsley, Amy Roberts-Perry, Jacque Wilcox, Bill Tobelman, Michelle Puzzo (UR Community Cares & Via Remote), Kerry Emerson (HKYFS), Lauren Perley (HKYFS), Regina Regolo (Via Remote), Richard Pleines (Via Remote), Eileen Unger-Pleines (Via Remote), Eileen Blewett (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:**

Mercedes Riccutti commented about her support for the Ur Community Cares program. Mercedes briefly went over the program, the age requirement in order to be a volunteer and/or a member and also discussed the screening process. Mercedes feels that the services that the Ur Community Cares provides (yard work, house work, transportation) are needed within the Town of Killingworth.

Lauren Perley inquired if there are any updates regarding the funding for Pickleball Courts at Sheldon Park.

Motion #1 - Selectman D'Angelo **Moved** and Selectman Nunes **Seconded** a motion to move up on the Agenda Item 10F, UR Community Cares located under New Business to be placed after Item 3, Public Comment.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

**Ur Community Cares:**

Michelle Puzzo, the Executive Director of Ur Community Cares, spoke about what the program entails. Michelle went over how it is a volunteer based program in order to help neighbors with house work, yard work, transportation or being a companion. Volunteers must be over the age of

15 and Members either have to be 18 years of age or have some type of disability where they can't do their daily chores themselves or be over the age of 70. Michelle reviewed the registration process as well as the screening process for both Members and Volunteers. Michelle spoke about Ur Community Cares program filling in the gaps for things that the Town of Killingworth doesn't currently have and stated how it will take some fundraising to get the program started. Selectman D'Angelo suggested reaching out to the Board of Education and also to the Principal at the High School to possibly get Seniors to help for Community Service hours, an avenue worth exploring. Selectman Nunes inquired about what upfront investment the Town of Killingworth needs to put into this program to get it up and running. Michelle reported that The Sun Community donated \$500.00 towards their Community already and feels another \$1,500 would be the ideal starting point. Michelle noted if this is successful, they can explore additional fundraiser activities for the future.

Motion #2 - Selectman Nunes **Moved** and Selectman D'Angelo **Seconded** a motion to add Youth and Family Services onto the Agenda.

**Youth and Family Services Discussion - Agency Quarterly Update:**

Kerry Emerson and Lauren Perley, from HKYFS, gave their Agency Quarterly update for March, April and May 2024.

They reported about the following: Hosting 25 Programs; Therapy Services that are averaging 36 appointments and needing to expand those services; Mentor Program serving 18 Community Members across the School District; on June 1st they are holding their first Community Summer Solstice located at Parmelee Farm; New Summer Groups - Girls on the Run on Wednesdays, 7th Grade and up Trailblazers Group, attending field trips and outdoor activities, Teen Nights with the Haddam Firehouse on Wednesday evenings for social opportunities as a place to gather safely indoors; HKYFS's Website expansion to broaden Community Engagement; Agency is trying to coordinate with other local non-profit agencies to try to connect students to Community Service; Survey at the HKHS Level with results recorded on HKTV and shared on their website. Kerry stated that the HK Youth and Family Services appreciates the Board's support and their continued partnership with them.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

**Approval of Minutes:**

Motion #3 - Selectman Nunes **Moved** and Selectman D'Angelo **Seconded** a motion to approve both the Minutes of the Tuesday, April 23, 2024 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen and the Thursday, May 2, 2024 Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen as presented.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

**Refunds:**

Motion #4 - Selectman D'Angelo **Moved** and Selectman Nunes **Seconded** a motion to approve the following Refund, for overpayment, and allow it to follow its normal course as presented.

**Refund -**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Address</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>	<b><u>Reason</u></b>
Jacob A. Armenia	11 Old Mine Road	\$11.61	Overpaid COC#11435M

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

**Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Budget:**

Director of Finance Regolo reported that Revenue came in higher than expected, the snow budget was less, and there is still some room with the School Budget. Further, Regolo reported that she doesn't anticipate any surprises with the 2023/2024 Budget. Selectman Nunes inquired about the Foreman position line since the position has been vacant.

**Appointments:** None.

**Department Reports:**

**Building Department Report:**

First Selectman Couture reported that the information provided in the Board's packet was for the Health Report and Permits covering part of March and April; specifically, actions that have been taken. A brief discussion about pump-out compliance took place.

**Town Clerk's:** The Town Clerk's Report was for the Transfers that have happened in the year.

**Old Business:**

**A. Budget FY: 24/25 Update:**

First Selectman Couture reported that the Public Hearing that was held last Monday was very well attended. Annie Stirna received questions during the Public Hearing around the Fire Truck and why a loan/lease is being looked at. Couture reported that this is to level the expenditures over the next few years. The Town Meeting for the Budget is scheduled for May 20th and Couture will circulate a reminder in Constant Contact to make sure people get out to vote. Nunes inquired how many Community members received the Constant Constant emails, suggesting the possibility of looking at additional platforms to better communicate the date of the Budget for higher voter turnout. Lastly, Couture reported that the Board needs to make a decision as to where the remaining \$230,000 ARPA funds will be allocated to (Pickleball Courts, a Road Crew Truck, and/or Road Project.) Director of Finance Regolo stated that the ARPA funds allocation/approval needs to follow the normal process: Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance and then go to Town Meeting.

**B. PFAS Discussion:**

First Selectman Couture reported that he will be meeting with GZA on Wednesday to discuss the bidding package. Couture forwarded to the Board about what DEEP shared

regarding how the Town is the one responsible. Couture further reported that he spoke with Superintendent Wihbey last Friday about the direction of KES, noting it will remain KES at least for the near future. The Board had discussion about whether the Board of Education or the Town are the owners of the actual building of KES. Couture will do some additional research as to the ownership and also contact the Board of Education to schedule a meeting.

Couture also reported that further evaluating is being conducted as to how the changed EPA standards impact the action levels from residential wells. Couture noted that public water systems which are the Town Campus and the District Schools must become compliant within a few years. Couture is keeping an eye on any Grants that are applicable for the Town. Regolo advised that any expenses relating to PFAS is noted in a line item under "miscellaneous grants." Couture is meeting with Ensafé on Friday.

## **New Business:**

### **A. Open Bids: KVFC Station 2 Driveway**

First Selectman Couture opened the Bids that were received for the KVFC Station 2 Driveway: 1) B & W Paving \$70,000; 2) Sullivan Paving \$41,900; and 3) Empire Paving \$53,660. The Bids will be uploaded to the Town's website and the Board will review them further and make a decision soon.

### **B. Citizen of the Year Proclamation**

First Selectman Couture reported that the Board has a Citizen of the Year Proclamation that will be presented on May 15th at 6:30 p.m. Couture asked the Board not to read the Awardees's name into the record until the Night of Giving .

Motion #5 - Selectman D'Angelo *Moved* and Selectman Nunes *Seconded* a motion to accept the Citizen of the Year Proclamation as presented.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

*Discussion - Selectman Nunes reported that the Citizen of the Year Proclamation will be presented this Wednesday, May 15th at 6:30 p.m. during the Killingworth Night of Giving located at Parmelee Farm.*

### **C. NAA Public Hearing Info**

First Selectman Couture reported that the Neighborhood Assistance Act Program is a grant opportunity that occurs every year. The Board of Selectmen reaches out to organizations to see if they are looking for any projects that are applicable. Couture noted currently the only project on the radar is the Library. The Board needs to conduct a Public Hearing per that process, and selected Monday, June 10th at 6:45 p.m. prior to the scheduled Board of Selectmen Meeting.

Motion #6 - First Selectman Couture *Moved* and Selectman D'Angelo *Seconded* a motion that

the Board of Selectmen hold a Public Hearing at Town Hall on Monday, June 10, 2024 at 6:45 PM to consider Community Projects seeking to qualify for State of Connecticut Tax Credits from the 2024 Neighborhood Assistance Act Program.

*Discussion - Couture noted that the motion is specifically just to schedule the Public Hearing and a Legal Notice will be sent out. During the Public Hearing, people will present their projects for consideration by the State for these tax credits. Elizabeth Disbrow gave an example of a previous project that received the tax credit.*

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

#### **D. AFSCME Contract**

First Selectman Couture reported that the Board received the AFSCME Contract today and until the Board executes and approves it, the Contract is not a public document. The Contract now covers another 30 years and the wage Schedule changed to 3% a year for the next 3 years. Couture and Director of Finance Regolo both reported no other changes to the Contract.

Motion #7 - Selectman D'Angelo **Moved** and Selectman Nunes **Seconded** a motion to authorize the First Selectman, Eric Couture, to execute the AFSCME Contract for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027.

*Discussion - Selectman D'Angelo inquired if there were language changes and/or different proposals for the clauses to the Contract, if there is a negotiating team for the Town. Couture noted that a union negotiation team would be formed and the Town also has Legal Counsel for more complex negotiations.*

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

#### **E. Salt Contract**

First Selectman Couture reported that the Salt Contract gets approved every year for the upcoming Winter Season. There is a State of CT Approved Vendors list in order to get the Salt at a bulk discount rate. The Board briefly discussed the amount of salt that was used last winter season. Couture briefly discussed the improvements set forth in the multi-year plan for the Salt Shed (StormWater Management).

Motion #8 - Selectman D'Angelo **Moved** and Selectman Nunes **Seconded** a motion to participate and execute the Department of Administrative Services, Department of Transportation Salt Contract for the Winter Season of 2024/25 for the Road Salt and execute the Road Salt Requirement Form.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

#### **Public Comment:**

- Nancy Gorski had several comments: 1) Nancy inquired about the second round of DWSRF on April 26th (a new Funding Application) if that was completed. Couture

stated he spoke to DPH and a new application was not completed since they aren't close to starting the remediation work (noting they are approximately a year or two out.) Couture spoke on the new guidelines for awarding the DWSRF, one of which is a Disadvantage Community Index Report. Also, the State is looking for projects that are ready which the Town of Killingworth is not at this point in time; 2) Nancy commented about when Wolf Hollow Lane was established, and the wells were put in, there were three homes that were affected from the salt shed which is a Town Problem. She suggested keeping an eye on what DEEP and DPH recommends for the Town and urged the Board to make sure they are taking advantage of every opportunity that is given to the Town, something that State Representative Joe Courtney stated prior to her exit.

- Wayne Linsley had several comments: 1) He left the Board with some reading materials during the last meeting and inquired how further along in the process they were in making a decision in the hiring of the Foreman position. Couture advised Wayne that he has several candidates and will be reaching out to those individuals shortly; 2) In regards to the Salt Contract, Wayne inquired whether there had been any discussion with the Public Works Department. Couture advised that he wanted to bring the Contract to the Board of Selectmen first, as part of its normal course, and it will be going to the Public Works Department.

#### **Selectmen's Comments:**

##### **Joel D'Angelo -**

- D'Angelo thanked Youth and Family Services for the Survey results and looks forward to reviewing them.
- D'Angelo thanked Ur Community Cares for their presentation and looks forward to brainstorming and future conversations with them about how to make more contacts in Town.
- D'Angelo looks forward to hearing next steps on the open Foreman position.

##### **Eric Nunes -**

- Nunes echoed D'Angelo's comments and thanked HK Youth and Family Services for the Survey Report. He stated that he always appreciates when Town Departments/Organizations come to speak to them and feels it makes a big impact to him personally.
- Nunes thanked Michelle Puzzo and Mercedes Riccuiti for giving more insight on the UR Community Program.
- Nunes thanked Nancy Gorski for the topic of PFAS because it is an important issue and it is a challenge with the school as to what to do. Nunes is looking forward to seeing what goes on and prioritizing the residents that have been affected.
- Nunes wanted to bring it to the Board's attention about State of CT House Bill #5523 and the \$15,000 that was just allocated to Haddam Killingworth Park and Recreation. Nunes stressed the importance of good responsible financial practices.
- Nunes suggested creating a hiring committee for the open Foreman position. Nunes

understands the amount of work that Couture undertakes and offered his and Selectman D'Angelo's helping hand in the selection of the right Candidate in order to fill the vacancy seat as soon as possible.

**First Selectman's Comments:**

- Couture will bring forward the Candidates names that are in the running for the Foreman position shortly and reach out to the Board of Selectmen regarding next steps.
- Couture reported that the State of CT has been in Legislative Session last Wednesday regarding Budget and Budget Implementation Bill. Couture stated that this is regarding additional funding for early voting, and how it will be divided up. More clarity will be provided tomorrow.

**Adjournment:** Selectman D'Angelo *Moved* and Selectman Nunes *Seconded* a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:37 p.m.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Sciascia  
Clerk