

ANNUAL TOWN BUDGET AND SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

The Annual Town Budget and Special Town Meeting was called to order by First Selectman Eric Couture at 7:03 P.M. in the All Purpose Room of the Killingworth Elementary School on May 20, 2024, 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 representatives to the Haddam-Killingworth Recreation Authority, for a term to commence upon the confirmation and to continue until June 30, 2025.**

Annie Stirna moved to nominate Elizabeth Disbrow to serve as Moderator; seconded by Regina Regolo. There being no further nominations, Louis Annino moved nominations be closed; seconded by Mary Casey Jacob. Following a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously. Ms. Disbrow led the Pledge of Allegiance, clarified voting eligibility, and noted that votes would be taken by voice. She further asked speakers to first identify themselves and limit comments to 3 minutes, adding Robert’s Rules would be followed.

Town Clerk Dawn Rees Mooney read the call of the meeting. Joan Gay moved to accept the call of the meeting; seconded by Mary Casey Jacob. Following a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Couture introduced and made the following motion:

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.

Seconded by Gwenne Celmer.

Mr. Couture expressed his gratitude for the efforts of everyone involved in the preparation of this budget. Detailed discussion of financing followed during which Eileen Blewett questioned the financing and timing of a proposed new truck for Public Works and the addition of a Public Works position, and Regina Regolo explained that the truck’s timing noting the town could decide to use ARPA funds. Todd Blewett questioned the repeated practice of transferring money from the fund balance to stabilize the mill rate. Andrew O’Neill shared he will vote against the budget due to cuts to the Killingworth Library budget. Following this discussion, the motion carried.

Mr. Couture introduced and made the following motion:

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.

Seconded by Marcel Couture. First Selectman Couture and Annie Stirna discussed lease v. capital lease v. loan for the proposed Public Works truck in response to Casey Jacob’s inquiry, and Eileen Blewett noted she hesitates to support the truck when its financing is not clear. Holly Perry, Steven Reeps and Todd Blewett questioned funding pickleball over other projects, and Ms. Perry voiced her displeasure with the approved library budget. First Selectman Couture clarified the rationale and detailed the history of the pickleball funding. Following this detailed discussion, the motion carried.

Mr. Couture introduced and made the following motion:

To confirm the Selectmen’s appointment of James Joseph Duffield and William Raymond Burley as a Killingworth representatives to the Haddam-Killingworth Recreation Authority, for a term to commence upon the confirmation and to continue until June 30, 2025.

Seconded by Andrew O’Neill. Mr. Couture added that the third appointment to HKRec will be made at a future Special Town Meeting. There being no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Rees Mooney
Killingworth Town Clerk