

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, MAY 28, 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: Mercedes Riccuiti, Tom Lentz, Tom Hogarty, 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: None.

Approval of Minutes:

At the request of Selectmen D'Angelo and Nunes, this Agenda item was moved to the next Board of Selectmen Meeting.

Refunds, Abatements, Transfers: None.

FY 2023-24 Budget: First Selectman Couture reported a clearer picture as to the Budget will be provided at the next Regular Board of Selectmen meeting scheduled on June 10th after the start of the new month.

Appointments:

First Selectmen Couture reported that he is still looking for candidates for the Ethics Committee, noting 4 out of 6 candidates have been chosen.

Motion #1 - Selectman D'Angelo **Moved** and Selectman Nunes **Seconded** a motion to appoint Chris Robert Smalley to serve on the HK Recreation Park and Recreation Committee for a term effective July 1, 2024 until June 30, 2025.

Discussion - First Selectman Couture noted that after the motion is made from the Board, the Appointment will need to go to Town meeting for approval in July.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

First Selectman Couture reported that the Middlesex County Revitalization Commission consists mainly of First Selectmen and/or Mayors with one or two Towns selecting a delegate to sit on this Commission.

Motion #2 - Selectman D'Angelo **Moved** and Selectman Nunes **Seconded** a motion to appoint First Selectman Eric Couture to the Middlesex County Revitalization Commission.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Department Reports:

Annual Reports -

First Selectman Couture reported about the Annual Reports. Marcel Couture, from the Board of Finance, is working diligently on getting the Annual Reports formatted and finalized. Couture further noted that the delay in the process of finalizing them is due to the impact of covid.

Director of Finance Regolo reported that the Budget is still on track with coming in with less than what was anticipated. Regolo also noted that the Overs and Unders could be moved until August since typically it takes a while for all the invoices to come in.

Public Works Department -

Couture reported that he is calling references for the Foreman position particularly for one candidate. He will be seeking to bring that person in for an introduction to the Board as soon as possible.

Old Business:

A. UR Community Cares

First Selectman Couture reported that the UR Community Cares presentation given by Michelle Puzzo was well received. Couture spoke to the Director of Finance about the Board's support in order to get the program up in running in the Town of Killingworth and what the appropriate Budget line it could be drawn from. Regolo recommended utilizing the Community Services Support line. Couture also noted that he feels it would be appropriate to match the \$500 donation that was sent to the Beechwood Community. Both Selectmen D'Angelo and Nunes expressed their support with the UR Community Cares program's mission and philosophy.

Motion #3 - First Selectman Couture **Moved** and Selectman D'Angelo **Seconded** a motion to approve \$500.00 from the Community Services Support Line going towards the UR Community Cares in order to support their operation in the Town of Killingworth.

Discussion - Selectman Nunes suggested Michelle Puzzo and Mercedes Ricciuti provide feedback as to how the UR Community Cares services are being rendered in the Town (how many people do they have, how is it working, are there any problems that could be fixed). Nunes also noted that the Lions Club would be interested in helping.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

First Selectman Couture thanked Mercedes Ricciuti for all her hard work as well as volunteering her time and for the Committee on Aging for meeting with Michelle Puzzo (UR Community Cares).

B. Traffic Safety

First Selectman Couture reported that there was a State Grant Program approved for speed patrol for the non-state roads for the months of either (April and May) or possibly the months we are in now (May and June). Additional State Troopers are ticketing people for speeding. The Board had discussion about possibly comparing data between town residents versus out-of-town residents as well as how traffic patterns change over the summer months.

Couture reported that a few Mondays ago a car drove through the Killingworth circle overnight. The Garden Club cleaned up the mess and suggested installing cameras. The Board had further discussion around the installation of cameras for the Town circle.

C. Multi-Year Capital Improvement Plan -

First Selectman Couture reported the majority of the Public Works Multi-Year Capital Improvement Plan items will be figuring out what roads will be chip sealed and/or maintained this year. Couture further reported that he will be working with the Public Works Department and the new Foreman, once hired, to discuss the dollar amount and will bring that to Town meeting for approval.

New Business:

A. Open Bids: Pavilion at Eric Auer Park

First Selectman Couture opened the bid received for the Pavilion at Eric Auer Park. There was one received from Creative Recreations in the amount of \$196,532.00. Per the bidding process, the Board will review the bid, and get back to them as soon as possible.

B. Award Station 2 Driveway Bid

First Selectman Couture reported that he shared an email with the Board from Fire Chief Rick Darin about the Station 2 Driveway Paving. Couture noted that there was one small error in the letter regarding the dollar amount. Chief Darin recommended the Award be given to Sullivan Paving in the amount of \$41,900. The project would commence as soon as possible. Couture advised that the next steps would be to reach out to Sullivan Paving to let them know that they won the Award and have 10 days to respond back.

Motion #4 - Selectman Nunes *Moved* and Selectman D'Angelo *Seconded* a motion to award the bidding of the Killingworth Volunteer Fire Company Station 2 on Little City Road to Sullivan Paving in the amount of \$41,900.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Motion #5 - Selectman Nunes *Moved* and Selectman D'Angelo *Seconded* a motion to add Open

Space Acceptance to the Agenda.

Open Space Acceptance:

Planning and Zoning Commission Members, Tom Lentz and Tom Hogarty, were in attendance to present the Open Space in Killingworth. They spoke about the historical open space property and importance of it. Mr. Lentz reviewed the process, advising that any subdivision has to give a certain amount of land to Open Space to which P&Z usually recommends giving the land in fee to the Killingworth Land Trust. He also noted that easements are hard to enforce. Mr. Lentz explained the problem lies with the developer who didn't want to donate in fee, utilizing the land in order to put a conservation easement on it, preventing anyone else from going onto the Open Space. As a result, the P&Z Commission made a decision that the land be given in fee to the Town which is one of Open Space accepted regulations. Mr. Lentz stated that the Board of Selectmen has to approve it and then it goes to the Town meeting. Couture stated that he missed the Open Space component of it as to why the P&Z would make as a condition the acceptance of the land when there was a possibility that the Town could vote down the acceptance of the land. Couture further noted that he communicated to the developer some misinformation and will inform him of same. Mr. Lentz stated that Wolf Hollow Road and Roast Meat Hill Road covers a large area and artifacts have been found. He further noted access to that Open Space totaling 9 acres of land would be via Roast Meat Hill Road. Mr. Lentz stated that in a Conversation Subdivision the developer gets a reduced lot size but has to give a 30% Open Space land. Selectman D'Angelo would like to confirm the actual parcel of land, and the access point before accepting the land. Further, he inquired if there is an overseeing Native American Commission to help the Town with the study of it and the surrounding area. Mr. Lentz stated that they notified the State Archaeologist which said if any disturbance or excavation being done not only in the Open Space area but in the entire subdivision that an archaeologist would come in to do a study.

Public Comment:

- Mercedes Riccuiti had several comments: 1) Mercedes spoke about being a volunteer for the UR Community Cares program and wanted to make to bring it to the Board's attention that she won't be charging any money for her services; 2) Mercedes spoke on the Helping Hands Pantry and the Friendly Fund both are runned by Town donations in order to make the programs successful. Mercedes has great hopes for the success of the UR Community Cares Program and thanked the Board for their generous donation of \$500.00.

Selectmen's Comments:

Joel D'Angelo -

- D'Angelo commented about the great Open Space presentation and looks forward to understanding more about the parcel of land.
- D'Angelo commented about the Foreman position and looks forward to moving forward with the hiring process. He also offered his helping hand in the hiring process. Couture advised that he has identified a candidate, and is in the process of calling references. Couture will bring him forward to the Board shortly.

Eric Nunes

- Nunes commented about the Foreman position, and offered to use him and Selectman D'Angelo collectively as a resource with the hiring in order to move forward. Nunes further commented that if there is a special meeting that needs to be scheduled to make a decision or action plan, that the Board will make themselves available.
- Nunes commented about the ARPA funds and how they should look to formalize where the remaining funds should be allocated to. Nunes noted that support of the Board is for the Public Works Truck.

First Selectman's Comments:

Eric Couture -

Couture mentioned that roadside trimming is beginning next week, sweeping began first.

- Couture reported that Sunday and Monday were the Memorial Day Commemoration Events. Sunday was held at the Evergreen Ceremony with Amy Aaronson organizing it. Couture was happy to see the number of volunteers to replace flags on the Veterans' Gravestones. Couture also reported that Monday's Memorial Day Parade went well. Couture gave a special thanks to Charlie Smith, the Lions Club, Lou Annino who got everything set up and ready and served as the MC, to the Public Works Department for putting up the Flags in Town, for all who participated and walked in the parade and came out and attended the Ceremony.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Adjournment: First Selectman Couture *Moved* to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Sciascia
Clerk