

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MONDAY, JUNE 10, 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:** Richard Pleines, Wayne Linsley, Bill Tobelman, Eileen Blewett (Via Remote), Eileen Unger Pleines (Via Remote), Elizabeth Disbow (Via Remote), Eileen Blewett (Via Remote), 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:**

Richard Pleines had several comments: 1) He inquired about the status of the Ethics Committee. Couture stated that they are still seeking candidates to serve on the Committee; 2) He inquired about the status of the Water Pollution Control Authority. Couture advised that he had spoken to Legal Counsel about same.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Motion #1 - Selectman Nunes *Moved* and Selectman D'Angelo *Seconded* a motion to approve both the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on May 13, 2024 and the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on May 28, 2024 as presented.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

**Refunds, Abatements and Transfers:**

Motion #2 - First Selectman Couture *Moved* and Selectman D'Angelo *Seconded* a motion to approve the following Refund, for overpayment, and allow it to follow its normal course as presented.

**Refunds -**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Address</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>	<b><u>Reason</u></b>
1. Toyota Lease Trust	525 Fellowship Road	\$311.57	Overpaid COC#114477M

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Couture reported there were Transfers in the Board's packet.

**Abatements:** None.

**2023/24 Budget -** Couture reported that he spoke to Director of Finance Regolo and they are closing out the year as projected. Couture also reported that the assessment for the State Trooper came in under what was anticipated.

**Appointments:** None.

**Department Reports:**

**Building Department -**

First Selectman Couture reported that the Building Department Report reflects the permits being processed for business in the Town. Selectman Nunes inquired how the permit fees specifically for wells get broken out, either by Town or by CRAHD. Director of Finance Regolo reported that CRAHD is in charge of collecting the funds as well as keeping the funds they receive.

**Old Business:**

**Eric Auer Park Pavilion Bid -**

First Selectman Couture reported that the Park and Recreation Commission are meeting tonight regarding the Eric Auer Park Pavilion Bid. Couture noted that they most likely will go out to bid again, having an itemized bid list which potentially could draw more bidders in. Couture further reported that there had been discussion about parts being donated for this project.

**Foreman Position -**

First Selectman Couture reported that he is in the process of checking references and will have an update for the Board later this week possibly by Thursday.

**ARPA -**

First Selectman Couture reported that there are ARPA funds committed to projects that need to be allocated by December 31st. The Board had discussion about the remaining ARPA funds totaling \$256,718. First Selectman Couture stated that they will hold a Town meeting in July/early August for over and unders, the third selection of a candidate for the HK Park and Recreation Commission along with some other business. The Board also discussed the possibility of paying for the Fire Truck out of the remaining ARPA funds and not leasing it as originally planned. The Board discussed PFAS and dealing with the contaminated soil, one of

the options is designing a cap system. Couture noted that if the Board decided not to go forward with the Town Campus design, they would need to go Town meeting seeking to adjust the \$200k, removing it from the list of ARPA projects, and then reviewing the approved list of where the ARPA funds could be applied to (fire truck, road projects, pickleball courts. etc).

### **Ethics Committee -**

First Selectman Couture reported four to five candidates have been selected to fill the seats for the Ethics Committee. They are seeking one more candidate to serve on this Committee. Couture advised that this portion of the Ethics Committee is for the development of the Code of Conduct and once that is completed, then the Committee would have to be created through Town meeting. Couture also noted that while speaking with Joan Gay, who served on the Charter Revision Commission, she referenced Statute and Charter provisions that don't exist so the charge of the Committee would need to be adjusted. Discussion took place on when the document is completed if the Town would need to vote on it. Couture will confirm and get back to the Board.

### **New Business:**

#### **A. NAA Applications**

First Couture reported that the Board's role is to make sure the businesses coming forward are legitimate and also to support the applications along with the amounts that are being submitted for the 2024 CT Neighborhood Assistance Acts.

Motion #3 - Selectman D'Angelo *Moved* and Selectman Nunes *Seconded* a motion to support and send forward the following 2024 CT Neighborhood Assistance Acts: 1) Deer Lake Energy Upgrades, submitted by Pathfinders, Inc., 101 Paper Mill Road Killingworth, CT 06419 in the amount of \$24,000 (contact: Catherine Iino); 2) Deer Lake Day Camp Campership Program in the amount of \$20,000, submitted by Pathfinders, Inc., 101 Paper Mill Road Killingworth, CT 06419 (contact: Catherine Iino); 3) Outdoor Library Space (build a permanent outdoor pavilion), submitted by The Killingworth Library Association, 301 CT-81, Killingworth, CT, 06419 in the amount of \$23,000 (contact: Mariah Miesel) and; 4) Outdoor Library Space (build a permanent outdoor pavilion with solar panels on the roof), submitted by The Killingworth Library Association, 301 CT-81, Killingworth, CT, 06419 in the amount of \$40,000 (contact: Mariah Miesel).

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

### **RiverCog Update - Waste Management**

First Selectman Couture reported that the First Waste Management has received funding from the State in particular from DEEP in order to study and set up a regional waste management authority which is in response to MIRA's dissolution. Couture further reported that it is the largest waste management organization in the State and it is being dissolved. One of the transfer stations that MIRA operated was in Essex. State Senator Norm Needleman is in the process of studying this issue in terms of next steps for the region. In regards to funding, RiverCog will be looking at what a regional waste management plan would look like.

**Transit Study:**

First Selectman Couture reported that funding is available for a Transit Study in the region looking at Route 81 as well as a little bit of Route 80 and Couture put Killingworth's name in for this study. Couture also reported that he volunteered to be a part of the Safe Streets Roads for All Action Plan Advisory Committee which is put together to appeal and update a previous report.

**Municipal Function Sharing -**

First Selectman Couture reported that the Legislative passed aspects of a Municipal Shared Services Bill - 5056. This gives the ability of the Town to utilize organizations like RiverCog for Animal Control Officers, Building Inspectors or ZEO in order to make it easier by eliminating barriers posed by Charter restrictions or ordinances.

**Regional Land Trust -**

First Selectman Couture reported that this falls under RiverCog, they are looking to administer a grant for the restoration of the Osaki house at Gillette's Castle. Mr. Osaki, who is originally from Japan, lived with William Gillette and was the caretaker of the Castle, managing the property. The house which is down the hill from the Castle, and also located near the ferry, is in disrepair and the East Haddam/Hadlyme Land Trust has been looking to restore it, also working with DEEP to get funding for it. RiverCog and the Regional Land Trust are looking to take on the Administration part of it.

Couture also reported that they are continuing to work on eliminating Water Chestnut and Hydrilla, noting that they have large scale programs to rip it out of the water in order to keep it from spreading since both are invasive species.

**Public Comment:**

- Richard Pleines had several comments: 1) Regarding the purchase of the Fire Truck, which he is in support of, Richard stated he thought Western Star wasn't on the State bid list but Freightliner is and asked that Couture double check that information prior to going out to bid; 2) Richard inquired what the \$300k was listed out for the unoccupied building. Couture confirmed that the original request was for the Barn. Richard further inquired if it loosens up any of the ARPA money? Couture noted he just found out about the funding on Friday.
- Eileen Unger Pleines had several comments/concerns: 1) Eileen is concerned where the ARPA funds will be spent on. Eileen feels she spent a lot of time to help the Community get vaccinated and back to work during Covid and feels she the Board would have looked into utilizing the ARPA funds into something more useful for the Community; 2) Eileen spoke about how there is a policy in place, and if the Board is to make a decision, that they need to follow same by going to the Board of Finance and then Town meeting which is during Budget Season. Eileen urged the Board to keep their promise and seek the Town's input on how to spend the remaining ARPA funds. Eileen does understand time is of the essence.
- Nancy Gorski had several comments: 1) Regarding the Ethics Committee, Nancy stated how it is important to have the Committee set up before moving forward with the Employee Manual; 2) Nancy implores the Board to talk to Robin Zagorodny so they could understand where the fees come from.

**Selectmen's Comments:**

**Eric Nunes -**

- Nunes expressed how well he thought tonight's Board meeting went with great discussion.
- Nunes is looking forward to getting the Foreman's position hired.
- Nunes is also looking forward to finalizing the remainder of the ARPA funds.

**Joel D'Angelo -**

- D'Angelo echoed what Nunes said about tonight's meeting as well as the Foreman position. He also stated if Couture needs either Nunes or himself for a helping hand in the hiring process, to please reach out to either of them.
- D'Angelo is looking forward to having a discussion about possibly allocating the remainder of the ARPA funds to the Fire Truck which would be a useful resource to the Town. Both D'Angelo and Nunes said that they would make a special meeting for the ARPA funds allocation, if need be.

**First Selectman's Comments:**

**Eric Couture -**

- Couture had a meeting with Emergency Management Services last week regarding storm response time to look at some better ways to communicate with the Townspeople. Couture advised that another exercise is this Wednesday and is really more focused around elections.

Motion #4 - Selectman Nunes *Moved* and Selectman D'Angelo *Seconded* a motion to enter into Executive Session at 8:05 p.m. regarding a Legal Update.

**Executive Session: Legal Update:**

The Board of Selectmen discussed an update regarding a legal matter.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:15 p.m.

**Adjournment:** First Selectman Couture *Moved* to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Sciascia  
Clerk