

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MONDAY, JUNE 24, 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: Wayne Linsley, Bill Tobelman, Resident State Trooper Richard Mulhall, Michelle Nuhn, Nancy Gorski (Via Remote), Annie Stirna (Via Remote), Eileen Unger Pleines (Via Remote), Elizabeth Disbow, 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: None.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion #1 - Selectman D’Angelo *Moved* and Selectman Nunes *Seconded* a motion to approve both the Minutes from the Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on June 10, 2024 and the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on June 10, 2024 as presented.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Refunds, Abatements and Transfers:

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

Abatements -

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Reason</u>
1. Killingworth Land Conservation Trust	PO Box 825	\$81.38	Sec 12-81dd

Discussion - This is related to an acquisition of a property on Green Hill Road. Michelle Nuhn reported that there is a statute in place and they have an ordinance that states when the Land

Conservation Trust gets a property they can abate the taxes. Nuhn also noted that the property is near Paper Mill Road, where the cranberry bog is located.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Couture reported that there are no Transfers or Refunds.

FY 2023/24 Budget:

First Selectman Couture reported that Director of Finance Regolo is still in the process of calculating the overs and unders. Couture also reported that a Town meeting will be held in mid-July, early August, for the overs/unders as well as some other business. Selectman Nunes inquired about the allocation of the remaining ARPA funds. A brief discussion took place about the Board scheduling a special meeting next week regarding ARPA funds as well as the Multi-Year Capital Plan.

Appointments: None.

Department Reports: None.

Old Business:

A. Traffic Safety

1. Speed Enforcement Update

First Selectman Couture reported that the Town received a grant through the State for Speed Enforcement on the rural roads. The two biggest road concerns in Killingworth are Green Hill Road and Roast Meat Hill Road. Couture would like to bring awareness to the Community that measures are being taken, and the Town takes speeding very seriously.

Resident State Trooper Richard Mulhall provided an update on Speed Enforcement. A two month rural road grant program was received through the State for Haddam and Killingworth. Trooper Mulhall reported there were approximately 100 traffic stops made, several arrests and multiple tickets issued which was very successful. He stated that the enforcement will continue, hoping to seek another grant through the State and/or additional troopers for the Town, if the Budget allows. Trooper Mulhall reviewed the two main focus areas which were Green Hill Road and Roast Meat Hill Road with other traffic stops set up throughout Killingworth. The Board had further discussion about adding another Trooper during the next Budget Season; speed buddies cameras being utilized around Town and receiving data from those, exploring other strategies that would be beneficial in the reduction of speeding and possibly getting another grant from the State.

The Board of Selectmen thanked Resident State Trooper Mulhall for his work and for coming in to provide an update about the grant.

2. Beckwith Road

First Selectman Couture gave an update on Beckwith Road. Couture provided some background

on the road, noting how it is a scenic road and limits what the Town can do in terms of improvements. The road is gravel, and in bad weather (rain and wind) it can cause the gravel to move and come down onto Route 148. The State has asked the Town to approve a portion of the road to be paved, mainly where the apron is and the water flows onto Route 148 causing issues. Many of the residents who reside on Beckwith Road are concerned because they don't want the road paved. Couture reported that they would only pave approximately 100 feet or less (where the area of concern is). Selectman D'Angelo inquired about the process for the residents of Beckwith Road needing to take a vote in order to decide whether they are in agreement with the paving. Couture confirmed this; however, noted that there is an exception when it comes to safety and the State has the data to confirm the area of concern. A drainage improvement project took place recently by the Department of Public Works and the final phase of the project is to pave the apron. Couture would be happy to sit down with any resident of Beckwith Road to discuss the project, and their concerns, and to clarify that only the apron is getting paved, not the entire road. No action from the Board is needed tonight.

3. Sighting clearing/roadside mowing

First Selectman Couture reported that the Town has been getting complaints about the roadside mowing/sightline clearing. Couture spoke about how the Town has one vehicle for mowing, and two full plow routes have already been completed. Couture also reported that the State has a responsibility to mow the side of the roads. Couture wants to keep the Community aware that it is actively being worked on and encourages drivers to be cautious and slow down when the roadside mowing is occurring.

New Business:

A. Tax Collector

First Selectman Couture reported that Michelle Nuhn will be leaving her position as of July 5th, and thanked her for the 17 years of service to the Town. Couture wished Michelle the best of luck with her new venture. Town Clerk Mooney is aware of Michelle's departure and started the process by reaching out to the necessary parties in order to fill Michelle's position. Couture is in the process of coming up with scenarios for office coverage, making sure residents can still come into the office to pay their taxes. Couture will be reaching out to neighboring Towns to see if their Tax Collectors would be willing to help in Michelle's absence. Couture reviewed the process with the Board, reporting that Charter allows for a recommendation to be made within 30 days which is the maximum time period to be allowed. The Democratic Town Committee "DTC" will nominate a candidate for the Board to appoint in order to fill the vacancy. Couture confirmed this is an elected position and the next municipal election is 3 ½ years from now. Michelle offered her assistance to the Town after her July 5th departure.

B. Sheldon Playground

First Selectman Couture reported that there was recent media coverage regarding Sheldon Playground. Last weekend, Jim Duffield, one member of the Park and Rec Commission, as well as First Selectman Couture replaced the slide. Couture also reported that additional steps are being taken to replace other equipment on the playground since a lot of the machinery have bad threads on the nuts, and ball bearings. On July 13th, there is a clean up scheduled for Sheldon Playground. Selectman Nunes spoke with Jim Duffield about the Lions Clubs' interest in helping

with this project, especially since they donated some of the pieces towards the playground. Nunes also expressed his concern with some of the playground pieces being exposed. A brief discussion followed regarding Safety and Town Liability.

Public Comment:

Elizabeth Disbrow commented about a Public Hearing being scheduled for the Historic Review Committee next Thursday at the Killingworth Town Hall with remote access. Elizabeth reported that they continue to enforce the Demolition Delay Ordinance. The Public Hearing scheduled for Thursday, is regarding one of the oldest houses in Town on Parker Hill Ext. which is slated for demolition. Elizabeth stated how public input from the Town is beneficial and important before making a decision. The Planning Conservation and Development Commission's goal is to try to maintain the inventory of old houses across Town, noting the little amount of land that still exists in Killingworth.

Wayne Linsley had several comments: 1) He inquired if the process for the job description had commenced for the FTE that was approved in the recent Budget for the Public Works Department. Couture reported that the next step for him is to reach out to Director of Finance Regolo regarding same; 2) Wayne inquired why the Board hasn't filled the Foreman position, noting the Town is now receiving complaints about roadside mowing. Wayne expressed his concern that it has been approximately six months and the position remains unfilled. Wayne stressed the importance of how hiring the Foreman position not only benefits the Town, but brings Leadership to make the department go further especially with hiring of another FTE position. Wayne hopes that the full time employee can get on board as soon as possible in order to be trained, and also get accumulated before the snow season starts. Wayne urged the Board to fill the Foreman position as soon as possible. Couture reported that he is currently in the process of tracking references.

Selectmen's Comments:

Eric Nunes -

- Nunes thanked Michelle Nuhn for her 17 years of service and wished her the best in her future endeavors. Nunes also thanked Michelle for her generosity in offering her assistance to the Town if they needed it.
- Nunes thanked Resident State Trooper Rich Mulhall for coming in and giving the Board an update about what they have done and all the work they continue to do for the Town. Nunes stated how appreciative of the work that Trooper Mulhall and his staff do.
- Nunes commented about Wayne Linsley's Public Comment and how with the discussion of important topics during tonight regarding: Traffic Safety, Beckwith Road, and the roadside clearing, it all ties into the Public Works Department. Nunes suggested when the Board meets to discuss ARPA Funds, they should also discuss the Foreman position including what challenges there are, and what can overcome them in a reasonable accommodation. Nunes stated how the Town is starting to see the effects of not having a Foreman, and feels from a hiring standpoint it has been a long process but understands that other situations can develop during the course of the day. Nunes feels the Board should continue the discussion of the Foreman position until it gets filled.

Joel D'Angelo -

- D'Angelo thanked Resident State Trooper Mulhall for the update and is appreciative of his leadership and all the work that him as well as the other Troopers have done in the past six to eight weeks as it was very productive. D'Angelo would like to continue the law enforcement work going forward.
- D'Angelo thanked Michelle Nunn for all of her years of service, and reminisced about showing up at elections for the past 15 years with her to watch the results. D'Angelo wished her all the best of luck and congratulated her on her new position.
- D'Angelo echoed Selectman Nunes' comments about finding a candidate to fill the Foreman position. He further stated how he feels there a recruitment piece when seeking a candidate to work for the Town, also trying to impress upon them to work here. D'Angelo expressed his concerns about how he feels the candidate won't accept the position due to the length of time it has taken and recommended that First Selectman Couture utilize both his and Selectman Nunes' expertise collectively in order to reset this position. He feels it is important and commented about how the Town is starting to see the effects of not have a Foreman.

First Selectmen's Comments:

Eric Couture -

- Couture thanked Michelle Nuhn for all her years of service.
- Couture thanked Resident State Trooper Richard Mulhall for coming in and providing an update.
- Couture thanked Wayne Linsley for speaking about the Foreman position. Couture stated that the filling of the position is one of his top priorities and it has been a process. Couture stated that when he comes into work he is met with demands that require immediate attention, noting he understands that this is not an excuse for the position to be vacant at this time. Couture stated he will have an update for the Board soon.

Adjournment: Selectman D'Angelo *Moved* and Selectman Nunes *Seconded* a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:54 p.m.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Sciascia
Clerk