

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

The Special Town Meeting was called to order by First Selectman Eric Couture at 7:01 PM in the Emergency Operations Center at 323 Route 81, Killingworth, on August 5, 2024, to consider and act upon the following items of business:

1. **To fund, from the underexpended lines, overexpenditures in FY 2023-24 in excess of \$20,000 for the following line items:**

Town Counsel	\$ 58,556
Misc Government Refunds – PFAS related expenses	\$112,442

2. **To authorize the closeout of the following Capital Accounts as of June 30, 2024:**

KVFC – Brush/Lt Rescue 887	\$ 41
KVFC – Training Building Improvements/Props	\$ 39
HW Department – Large Dump/Plow/Sander (FY 22/23)	\$ 948
HW Department – Roof for Salt Shed	\$ 10,021
County Road Bridge Project - Phase 2	\$ 22,915

These balances revert to the Assigned Fund Balance of the Reserve Fund for Capital and Nonrecurring Expenses.

3. **To authorize the closeout of the following American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) projects as of June 30, 2024:**

KVFC – AED Replacement	\$ 302
HW Dept – Small Mason Dump w/plow & sander	\$ 4,465
Transfer Station – Reclaim & Pave	\$ 6,701
Develop designs for permanent town hall additions to replace modular	\$200,000
Hybrid Meeting Technology – Equipment and Software	\$ 9,692

These balances to revert to the undesignated ARPA Fund Balance.

4. **To authorize use of ARPA funding of the previously approved capital project “FY 24/25 HW Dept. – Large Dump with Plow and Sander” in the amount \$295,000.**
5. **To authorize use of ARPA funding of the previously approved capital project “FY 24/25 P & R-Build Additional Pickleball Courts (4)” in the amount of \$125,000.**
6. **To authorize the use of the remaining unassigned ARPA funds to the capital reserves for road projects.**
7. **To accept a Multi-year Capital Improvement Plan FY 2024/2025 – FY2033/34 as approved the Board of Selectmen meeting held July 8, 2024.**
8. **To accept the annual report for fiscal year 2021/2022.**
9. **To confirm the Selectmen’s appointment of Chris Robert Smalley as Killingworth representative to the Haddam-Killingworth Recreation Authority, for a term to commence upon confirmation and to continue until June 30, 2025.**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. First Selectman Eric Couture welcomed residents and pointed out the emergency exit routes.

Kathleen Amoia moved to nominate Elizabeth Disbrow to serve as Moderator; seconded by Marcel Couture. There being no further nominations, following a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Disbrow reviewed the eligibility requirements to vote at this meeting and clarified that all votes will be conducted by voice. She also explained that Robert’s Rules would be followed, adding that each speaker would be limited to 3 minutes.

Town Clerk Dawn Rees Mooney read the call of the meeting. First Selectman Couture clarified that the overexpenditure listed for Town Counsel in Item #1 was not correct due to a scrivener’s error and that the correct amount of \$58,446, lower than the amount listed, should be the figure voted upon per the town’s attorney. He, therefore, made the following motion:

To amend the call of the meeting reducing the Town Counsel overexpenditure amount in Item #1 to \$58,446.

Seconded by Annie Stirna. There being no further discussion, the motion to reduce the overexpenditure figure in Item #1 carried unanimously.

Marcel Couture made the following motion:

To accept the amended call of the meeting as discussed.

The motion was seconded William Kosturko. There being no discussion and following a voice vote, the motion to amend the call carried unanimously.

First Selectman Couture then made the following motion:

To fund, from the underexpended lines, overexpenditures in FY 2023-24 in excess of \$20,000 for the following line items:

Town Counsel	\$ 58,446
Misc Government Refunds – PFAS related expenses	\$112,442

The motion was seconded William Kosturko. Mr. Couture explained that the town counsel overage was due to ongoing litigation and the PFAS overage was due to design work for remediation at Town Hall campus and KES. Eileen Blewett suggested the selectmen make PFAS a line item in the budget and Mr. Couture clarified that a line item had already been created. Following a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

First Selectman Couture introduced and made the following motion:

To authorize the closeout of the following Capital Accounts as of June 30, 2024:

KVFC – Brush/Lt Rescue 887	\$ 41
KVFC – Training Building Improvements/Props	\$ 39
HW Department – Large Dump/Plow/Sander (FY 22/23)	\$ 948
HW Department – Roof for Salt Shed	\$ 10,021
County Road Bridge Project - Phase 2	\$ 22,915

These balances revert to the Assigned Fund Balance of the Reserve Fund for Capital and Nonrecurring Expenses.

Seconded by Marcel Couture. Following the summary that these projects were all completed under budget, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Couture introduced and made the following motion:

To authorize the closeout of the following American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) projects as of June 30, 2024:

KVFC – AED Replacement	\$ 302
HW Dept – Small Mason Dump w/plow & sander	\$ 4,465
Transfer Station – Reclaim & Pave	\$ 6,701
Develop designs for permanent town hall additions to replace modular	\$200,000
Hybrid Meeting Technology – Equipment and Software	\$ 9,692

These balances to revert to the undesignated ARPA Fund Balance.

Seconded by Annie Stirna. Mr. Couture explained that these balances resulted from items received or work completed under budget or, in the case of the town hall addition, the project was postponed to a later date. Eileen Blewett questioned the town hall project's postponement to FY2030-31, and Mr. Couture explained that the PFAS issue has taken priority. He further expressed his hope that the extra time could be used for proper planning and design (or re-design), and to investigate other funding opportunities. Following voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Couture introduced and made the following motion:

To authorize use of ARPA funding of the previously approved capital project "FY 24/25 HW Dept. – Large Dump with Plow and Sander" in the amount \$295,000.

Seconded by Annie Stirna. The First Selectman explained that this truck was bid out by another town and is intended to replace the oldest town truck. Marcel Couture added that using ARPA funds before the upcoming ARPA deadlines would free capital funds for other projects. Warren Johnson discussed a guardrail issue but Ms. Disbrow suggested the issue be addressed later in the meeting. Following this discussion and voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Couture introduced and made the following motion:

To authorize use of ARPA funding of the previously approved capital project “FY 24/25 P & R-Build Additional Pickleball Courts (4)” in the amount of \$125,000.

Seconded by Annie Stirna. Jacqueline Wilcox questioned Park and Rec Commission’s decision to move the project to Rocco, and Eric Sodergren questioned the project’s proximity to the library citing noise concerns. In-depth discussion followed noting significant savings and no overcrowding at Rocco. Eileen Blewett questioned the process by which the Special Town Meeting was called, as well as the reason taxes already levied were not being used for this project freeing up ARPA funds for projects not already funded. Board of Finance Chair Annie Stirna explained that using ARPA funds allows less money to be transferred from the general fund to cover this project noting there is some urgency to expend the ARPA funds. Following this discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Couture introduced and made the following motion:

To authorize the use of the remaining unassigned ARPA funds to the capital reserves for road projects.

Seconded by Amy Roberts Perry. Mr. Johnson again discussed his guardrail issue that dates back to the previous First Selectman’s term and limits his access to his own property. First Selectman Couture instructed Mr. Johnson to meet with him at Town Hall later this week. Mr. Couture also explained that the specific dollar amount of the remaining unassigned funds could not be determined at this time because not all projects have been completed and interest is being earned on the remaining funds. Following this short discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Couture introduced and made the following motion:

To accept a Multi-year Capital Improvement Plan FY 2024/2025 – FY2033/34 as approved the Board of Selectmen meeting held July 8, 2024.

Seconded by Kathleen Amoia. The First Selectman explained that the MYCIP is a planning tool used to secure state funding for infrastructure and should be viewed as a roadmap, not a promise. After this brief discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Couture introduced and made the following motion:

To accept the annual report for fiscal year 2021/2022.

Seconded by William Tobelman. Mr. Couture explained that the Charter requires an Annual Report be filed for every fiscal year. There being no discussion, following a voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Couture introduced and made the following motion:

To confirm the Selectmen’s appointment of Chris Robert Smalley as Killingworth representative to the Haddam-Killingworth Recreation Authority, for a term to commence upon confirmation and to continue until June 30, 2025.

Seconded by William Tobelman. Mr. Couture noted that this appointment is the last of the town’s three representatives on the board. There being no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Rees Mooney, Town Clerk