

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 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:** Joan Gay, Richard Pleines, Annie Stirna, Elizabeth Disbow, Regina Regolo (Via Remote), Wayne Linsley, Bill Kosturko (Remote - Joined at 7:07 p.m.), MLP (Remote - Joined at 7:11 p.m.) 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 the following sets of Minutes: 1) Minutes from the Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen that was held on Thursday, August 29, 2024; and 2) Minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen that was held on Monday, August 26, 2024 with the following amendment:

1. Page 5: Under the First Selectmen’s Comments, Eric Couture - In his last comment, replace “prescriptive” with “perspective”.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

First Selectman Couture thanked Abby Albrecht and Brian Winchell for all the hard work in putting the Refunds and Abatements together.

**Refunds & Abatements:**

Motion #2 - Selectman Nunes *Moved* and Selectman D’Angelo *Seconded* a motion to approve the following Refunds, all for overpayment, and allow them 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. Stuart Cadwell	37 Reservoir Road	\$52.55	12-129 Excess Payment
2. Stuart Clark	377 Roast Meat Hill Road	\$23.66	12-129 Excess Payment
3. Stuart Clark	377 Roast Meat Hill Road	\$227.67	12-129 Excess Payment
4. Darlene Evans	6 Woodland Trail	\$17.27	12-129 Excess Payment
5. Robert & Cassidy Hammell	77 Emanuel Church Road	\$24.46	12-129 Excess Payment
6. Blaine Isakson	9833 SW 63 <sup>rd</sup> Loop Ocala, FL 34481	\$163.96	12-129 Excess Payment
7. Amanda Johannes	799 Long Hill Rd. Unit A. Middletown	\$195.41	12-129 Excess Payment
8. Donald Kaszeta	P.O. Box 953	\$15.58	12-129 Excess Payment
9. John & Joan Kuzminski	428 Route 148	\$30.25	12-129 Excess Payment
10. Dean & Carolyn Lindell	3 Kimberly Lane	\$41.83	12-129 Excess Payment
11. Rebecca Loew	33 Beech Tree Ridge	\$49.66	12-129 Excess Payment
12. Robert F. Judge Inc.	P.O. Box 715	\$178.02	12-129 Excess Payment
13. Leslie Shafer	50 Route 80	\$99.91	12-129 Excess Payment
14. Michele Sharp	116 Route 148	\$130.08	12-129 Excess Payment
15. Paul Ward	47 Keith Circle	\$56.92	12-129 Excess Payment
16. Paul Ward	47 Keith Circle	\$48.30	12-129 Excess Payment
17. Paul Ward	47 Keith Circle	\$102.09	12-129 Excess Payment
18. Donald & Jacqueline Wilcox	115 Bar Gate Trail	\$142.36	12-129 Excess Payment

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

**Abatements:**

Motion #3 - Selectman Nunes *Moved* and Selectman D'Angelo *Seconded* a motion to approve the following Abatements as presented.

**Abatements:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Reason</u>
1. Killingworth Land Conservation Trust	P.O. Box 825 for 233 Rt. 81	\$3,296.40	12-81dd Nonprofit Abatement 22GL
2. Killingworth Land Conservation Trust	P.O. Box 825 for 233 Rt. 81	\$2,926.23	12-81dd Nonprofit Abatement 23GL

*Discussion - First Selectman Couture noted that this was from the Robinson Property and there were some back taxes owed when she passed away. In her Will, she gifted this property to the Killingworth Land Conservation Trust. The Town tried to reclaim the back taxes owed but unfortunately the Land Trust put a lien against the property preventing it from being insured. Couture also noted that he is not certain if this is the full amount.*

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

**Budget Reports:**

Director of Finance Regolo reported that collections went well for the first two months and doesn't see any immediate problems in the Operating Budget. Regolo answered questions from the Board regarding miscellaneous grants, PFAS related expenses and miscellaneous government refunds.

**Department Reports:**

First Selectman Couture advised that the Department Reports are in the Board's packet, noting he would be happy to relay questions to those individuals or the Board can reach out to them directly.

**Old Business:**

**A. Personnel/Hiring Update**

First Selectman Couture reported that feedback was received from the job postings for the Director of Public Works position and the Foreman position. Couture plans on circulating an email tomorrow to the Hiring Committee to schedule a meeting next week which would also allow for the job posting to run its course.

**B. Ethics Committee Appointments:**

Motion #4 - First Selectman Couture *Moved* and Selectman D'Angelo *Seconded* a motion to appoint Robert T. Rimmer (Democrat), Ellen L. Oppenheimer (Democrat), Gail Elizabeth Buller (Unaffiliated) and Michele Amendola (Unaffiliated) to serve on the Ethics Committee.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Motion #5 - Selectman Nunes *Moved* and Selectman D'Angelo *Seconded* a motion to appoint Scott Derek Phelps (Republican) and Karen A L Perry (Republican) to serve on the Ethics Committee.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

**New Business:**

**A. Aging Committee Senior Housing Report**

Joan Gay, Chair of the Committee on Aging, presented the Senior Housing Report to the Board for their review and feedback. The Senior Housing Report provided information about Affordable Housing at the Federal and State Levels with examples of such housing and surrounding Towns.

The Board thanked Joan Gay for presenting the information on the Senior Housing Report.

## **B. Regional Waste Update**

First Selectman Couture reported that RiverCog received a grant from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection of the State in order to complete a study about what it would take to stand up a Regional Waste Authority specifically for this region or combined with another Regional Waste Authority. This is due to the fact that MIRA is dissolving itself in a few years. Couture further reported that a Regional Waste Authority study would look to determine how our region handles the waste, partnering with another study in Middletown. The Board had discussions about where the Town trash goes currently, and if the process will change. Couture advised that MIRA leases their Transfer Station from the Town of Essex so when MIRA dissolves, it will revert back to the Town of Essex. Norm Needleman, who serves as State Senator and First Selectman in Essex, is in the process of coming up with an equitable solution for Essex and for the Region. Couture also reported about how MIRA is not required to use the Tip Stabilization Fund to stabilize the tipping fees, noting they may not do that in the upcoming year. This would ultimately increase the tipping fees and leave a financial impact to the Town. RiverCog plans to have this study completed in the next six to twelve months in order to get specific data to determine: what it would look like, how it would operate, and what it would cost with a plan to move forward from there.

## **C. Paper Mill Road Parking - Oct 04 & 05**

First Selectman Couture reported that he was asked by Deer Lake to do a parking ban on Paper Mill Road going into Deer Lake as part of their preparation for their Town picnic. Couture advised since the Board acts as the Local Traffic Authority, they have the statutory authority to do so. Couture further noted that Paper Mill Road is a gravel, very thin road so he recommends declaring this ban from October 4th and October 5th.

Motion #6 - First Selectman Couture ***Moved*** and Selectman D'Angelo ***Seconded*** a motion, acting as the Local Traffic Authority, to put a parking ban in effect starting on October 4, 2024 through October 5, 2024 from River Road to its termination at Deer Lake.

*Discussion - The Board had discussion about Deer Lake not having enough parking. Further discussion took place about utilizing a Shuttle from KES or another close location to Deer Lake.*

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

## **D. MYCIP - Preparation for October Discussions:**

First Selectman Couture discussed with the Board that before they enter into Budget season for next year they need to start thinking about the 10 year framework noting he would like to bring in Park and Rec, Public Works Department, The Fire Department, and Parmelee Farm to discuss what it will look like. Couture noted he would like to keep this discussion at the forefront of the Board discussions in the month of October.

## **Public Comment:**

- Joan Gay thanked the Board for allowing her to present, on behalf of the Committee on Aging, the Senior Housing Report.

**Selectmen's Comments:**

**Joel D'Angelo -**

- D'Angelo thanked all of those people that volunteered their time and efforts for the Ethics Committee, taking six really highly qualified candidates and wishing them all the best. D'Angelo thanked each candidate for putting their name in on behalf of the Town.

**Eric Nunes -**

- Nunes thanked Joan Gay for coming in and presenting the Senior Housing Report on behalf of the Committee on Aging and also stated this is why she is Citizen of the Year.
- Nunes thanked the Resident State Trooper for the continued updates on the monitoring of speed and what's happening throughout Town.
- Nunes commented how impressed he is with the number of Candidates who put their names into the running for the Ethics Committee and also commented how he looks forward to the progress that the Committee will be making.

**First Selectman's Comments:**

**Eric Couture -**

- Couture echoed what Selectman D'Angelo and Nunes said and thanked Joan Gay for the update and everyone that volunteered for the Ethics Committee.
- Couture thanked the public who might watch the video or read the minutes for everyone who was calm during the continued troubles they had with the Transfer Station the past few weeks noting they had some electrical and mechanical failures. Couture acknowledged and thanked the remarkable work the Transfer Station Crew and the Public Works Crew did to make sure that things operated smoothly when the compactor shut down an hour before the Transfer Station was set to open.
- Couture advised that the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence is coming up in 2026, and he received a letter of what the Town's choice of celebration would be and how the Town will organize those celebrations. Couture is looking for volunteers and noted the possibility of establishing another Committee to help organize this celebration.

**Adjournment:** First Selectman Couture *Moved* to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Sciascia  
Clerk