

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MONDAY, November 25, 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: Elizabeth Disbrow, Richard Pleines, Regina Regolo (Via Remote), Eileen Unger Pleines (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 the following sets of Minutes: 1) Minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen that was held on Tuesday, November 12, 2024; and 2) Minutes from the Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen that was held on Monday, November 18, 2024.

First Selectman Couture noted that the Minutes provided in the Board’s packet from the Joint Meeting of the Board of Finance that was held on November 18, 2024 was for Informational Purposes Only.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Refunds:

Motion #2 - First Selectman Couture *Moved* and Selectman Nunes *Seconded* a motion to approve the following Refunds, all for overpayment, and allow them to follow its normal course as presented.

Refunds -

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Reason</u>
1. Backstage Dance Center LLC	176 Route 81 Bldg	\$16.10	Sec. 12-129 Excess Payment

2. CCAP Auto Lease LTD	1601 Elm St Suite 80 Dallas, TX 75201	\$778.19	Sec. 12-129 Excess Payment
3. Corona Farm LLC	228 Chestnut Hill Road	\$59.36	Sec. 12-129 Excess Payment
4. Porsche Leasing LTD	PO Box 24329 Nashville TN 37202	\$399.44	Sec. 12-129 Excess Payment
5. Toyota Lease Trust	525 Fellowship Road Suite 330 Mt Laurel, NJ 08054	\$202.11	Sec. 12-129 Excess Payment
6. Toyota Lease Trust	525 Fellowship Road Suite 330 Mt Laurel, NJ 08054	\$521.11	Sec. 12-129 Excess Payment
7. Vault Trust	PO Box 71119 Charlotte, NC 28272	\$107.39	Sec. 12-129 Excess Payment
8. Vault Trust	PO Box 71119 Charlotte, NC 28272	\$165.64	Sec. 12-129 Excess Payment
9. Vault Trust	PO Box 71119 Charlotte, NC 28272	\$206.79	Sec. 12-129 Excess Payment

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

HKYFS Report: Quarterly Update:

Kerry Emerson, from HKYFS, presented the Quarterly Update. Kerry reported that from July through September the Agency attended 14 Community Events; the Agency’s Mental Health Program for the current school year is 18 Youths being matched with 18 Adult Mentors; the Agency implemented and provided 10 Mental Health and Prevention Programs which were School Based Support Groups and Community Wide Mental Health Programs; and there were 105 Volunteer hours during that quarter. In October, the Agency organized the Pumpkin Run which was a huge success, drawing in over 400 participates; Drug Take Back was also successful in collecting 240 unwanted and/or expired medications both in Haddam and Killingworth; the Agency Community Survey is live on HKYFS Website; the Holiday Giving Program is underway; Two Stuff-A-Cruiser Events are scheduled: one on December 1st located at New Image Auto and the second one on December 7th located at Parmelee Farm; On December 4th a film “Screenagers- Next Chapter” will be held followed by a panel discussion with members of HKYFS in order to assist parents of the impact of the Digital Age specifically for students in Grades K-5; December 7th is the HK Craft Fair located at the Middle School; the Agency is the recipient of the HK Telethon this year and it is scheduled on Friday, December 20th from 8-11 a.m. It is broadcasted on Comcast and Frontier and also can be viewed online via the Holiday Show at RSD17.org.

Old Business:

A. Appointments

First Selectman Couture reported that Appointments are scheduled to take place in December. Couture noted he is restarting the First Selectman's Corner and the first item of discussion will be about "Volunteering for the Town" because he knows the Town runs on volunteers, and there are more than enough positions available. Couture stated that getting new volunteers to participate is both useful and beneficial, and stated if anyone knows someone that has any interest to please reach out to either him or Elizabeth Disbrow directly. Couture also noted that he does have to abide by majority representation.

B. Hiring Update

First Selectman Couture reported that the Hiring Committee meeting is scheduled for tomorrow to discuss the Director of Public Works. Couture noted there are two other important items of discussion that were also part of the Budget recently passed which are the hiring of two part time positions: an Assessor Clerk and a Public Works Operator. Couture advised he will be moving forward with both these positions, posting the jobs internally first per the hiring process.

C. PFAS Update

First Selectman Couture reported that he spoke with GZA and that bid documents will be finished by the end December. Couture reviewed the Timeline with the Board: Bid process will commence in January; Bid walk through in February; Bid Review in February/March; Final walk through in April; Construction will commence in the Summer. Couture briefly noted that it is easier for the construction part of the work to commence during the summer months while school is out.

D. Traffic Safety

First Selectman Couture reported that they had another Rivercog Safe Streets for All meeting last Monday where a lot of the initial data was presented to the Committee. Some of the highlights reviewed were the high frequency areas of severe/fatal accidents that have occurred across the whole region. Couture advised that the people that put pins in were right about where the hotspots are in Killingworth; noting the areas are located on the State's roads along Route 80 and on Route 148 along Beckwith Road. Killingworth Circle is another area where there can be bad accidents. There is an in person Public Forum on December 9th at the Chester Town Hall, and a second Public Forum held virtually on December 10th. Couture will send a constant contact out next week regarding these dates.

New Business:

A. Call To Town Meeting

Motion #3 - Selectman D'Angelo *Moved* and Selectman Nunes *Seconded* a motion to issue the following Legal Call:

**LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF KILLINGWORTH
NOTICE OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**

The Electors of the Town of Killingworth and all those qualified to vote in meetings of said Town are hereby notified and warned that a Special Town Meeting will be held at the Killingworth Emergency Operations Center on Monday, December 16, 2024 at 7 p.m. to consider and act upon the following items of business:

1. To authorize the closeout of the following American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) projects effective immediately

- HW Dept – Large truck w/Plow & Sander \$18,194
- KVFC – Station 2 siding, gutters, driveway \$500
- KVFC – Station 2 Flat Membrane Roof \$10,000
- KVFC – Life Safety Ropes/Equipment \$8,343

These balances to revert to the undesignated ARPA Fund Balance.

2. To release the \$125,000 in ARPA Funds allocated to Pickleball Courts Project (4).

These balances to revert to the undesignated ARPA Fund Balance.

3. To authorize the use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for:

- KVFC – Positive Pressure Ventilation Fans (2) \$10,000
- KVFC – Hose Replacement \$7,600

4. To authorize the use of the remaining American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for “general governmental services not including debt service and pension plan payments” instead of “capital reserves for road projects” as previously authorized at town meeting on August 5, 2024.

Dated at Killingworth, Connecticut this 25th day of November 2024.

Eric Couture
First Selectman

Joel D'Angelo
Selectman

Eric Nunes
Selectman

Couture, D'Angelo -Yes

Nunes - Abstain

Motion passed [2-0-1].

Discussion - First Selectman Couture reviewed with the Board Items #1-4 listed on the Legal Call which will be voted on at Town meeting.

Selectman Nunes expressed his concerns with Item #4 being vague inquiring if the Legal Call needs to be more precise in terms of what the funds will be allocated towards. Director of Finance Regolo reviewed the Flat Standard Allowance process with the Board.

The Board had a discussion in length about the Pickleball Court project noting the \$125k already being approved by the Town, via Town Meeting. Couture reviewed the quote received for this project, as well as the possible option scenarios since the quote was higher than \$125k. The Board also had discussion regarding utilization of ARPA Funds and/or Capital Reserves for this project.

The Board had further discussion about the voting process (1) each item will be voted on separately; 2) can the order of listed items be changed in terms of voting.) Selectman Nunes requested from Director of Finance Regolo a list of all the ARPA projects and what was spent in years prior starting from 2021-22.

B. Parmelee Enclosure Panels RFP

First Selectman Couture *Tabled* this item to the next Board of Selectmen's meeting.

Public Comment:

Richard Pleines commented on the following: 1) Pleines requested under FOIA a full accounting history of the ARPA funds: what's been spent, where it went to, what's under contract, what's outstanding, what's left and what accounts the funds are in. Due to the length of the request, Couture asked that Mr. Pleines to submit his request in writing; 2) Pleines commented from what he reads and understands, that the State Trooper is a recurring fund and therefore cannot be utilized for the Operating Budget, only if the Town hires another State Trooper on a part-time basis this would apply.

Selectmen's Comments:

Eric Nunes -

- Nunes expressed his happiness that the ARPA discussions are coming to an end. Nunes stated for the record that his Vote to "Abstain" tonight wasn't because he didn't want these listed items because he knows the Town has requested them, but he wasn't fully set on understanding the process. Nunes thanked both Couture and D'Angelo as well as Director of Finance Regolo for all their work on getting the ARPA money spent. Nunes also commented about how nobody wants to send money back, and understands

the rush to make it happen at the end. Again, Nunes noted he was just unsure of the process, what it meant, and what it feeds into.

- Nunes thanked Kerry Emerson from HKYFS for coming in and giving an update. Nunes stated that it great to see HKYFS in a resilient state because they do great work for the kids in Town and for the Schools.
- Nunes expressed how the Hiring Committee has been faced with some challenging work, and is still optimistic that they will find the right candidate to start by January. Nunes thanked the Hiring Committee for the work they have done thus far.
- Nunes wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and hopes everyone enjoys spending time with family and friends.

Joel D'Angelo -

- D'Angelo spoke about how he is eager to see based on all the conversations the Board has been having about Traffic Study with identifying the different needs, and identifying all the different pinch points around Town, what the next steps are. He thanked the help of all the data driven results and all the work confirming those. D'Angelo looks forward to defining next steps and tapping into either State Funding, or State Grants and also seeing what the Town can supply in order to improve the Traffic Safety in Town through next steps.
- D'Angelo wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and hopes everyone enjoys spending time with friends and family.

First Selectman's Comments:

Eric Couture -

- Couture wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!

Adjournment: First Selectman Couture *Moved* to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Sciascia
Clerk