

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MONDAY, January 13, 2025 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: Ethan Solur, Anthony D’Angelo, Richard Pleines, Fire Chief Rick Darin, Eileen Blewett, Fire Commissioner Todd Hajek, Lisa Connelly, Elizabeth Disbrow, Nancy Gorski, Eileen Unger Pleines (Via Remote), and Jamie Sciascia (Via Remote)

Called to Order: First Selectman Couture called this meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Comment:

- Nancy Gorski had several comments 1) Nancy had a wonderful discussion with First Selectman Couture today, advising her house will be tested again for PFAS which is extremely important; 2) Nancy suggested that the Community be brought up to speed regarding the Budget Software including next steps. Couture said he will give an update during his First Selectman’s Comments.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion #1 - Selectman Nunes *Moved* and Selectman D’Angelo *Seconded* a motion to approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen that was held on Monday, December 9, 2024 as presented.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Refunds:

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 -

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Reason</u>
1. Jason Smalley	14 Kelsey Road Clinton, CT 06413	\$20.00	Sec. 12-129 Excess Payment

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Department Reports:

First Selectman Couture reported that some Department Reports are in their packets, with the Budget Report having been digitally provided.

Board of Education Report -

Lisa Connelly, from the Regional School District 17 Board of Education, presented the Summary of the Board of Education Report for the December meeting: 1) Cougar Pride - Burr Elementary School (3rd Grade Wit and Wisdom); 2) HKHS Cross Country Teams were presented with a recognition Certificate for their achievements; 3) BES and KES were both recognized Schools of Distinction; 4) Student Representatives reported on the following items: a) 16 HKHS students were accepted to the Southern Regional Music Festival. Most will audition for the All-State festival; b) The winners of the 2024 Gingerbread House competition were Jeffrey Thebeau and Alejandra Hubbard, who will be featured on WTNH Good Morning CT; c) The HKHS 36th Annual Telethon took place on December 20th and raised over \$10,000 for Haddam-Killingworth Youth and Family Services; d) Alumni Day was held on January 8th, where seniors had the opportunity to talk with recent graduates about their experiences after high school; 5) Superintendent's Report; 6) Approval of the HKMS Washington DC Field Trip May 2025; 7) Update on the HKHS Feasibility Study Team; 8) Update on the Policy Subcommittee; 9) Update on the Communications Subcommittee; 10) Update on the Curriculum Subcommittee; 11) Update on the Personnel & Evaluation Subcommittee; 12) Update on the Finance & Facilities Subcommittee; 13) Semi-Annual Board of Education Workshop;

All BOE information and past updates are located on the RSD17 Website at:

<https://www.rsd17.org/district/board-of-education>.

Information on the HKHS Feasibility Study may be found at:

<https://sites.google.com/view/hkhsproject>.

New Business:

A. 2025 Appointments

First Selectman Couture reported that the list of Appointments are those individuals who failed to get sworn in during the 30 days time frame, therefore need to get reappointed. There are two new individuals on the list filling open vacancies: Derek Phelps being appointed to the Cable Television Advisory Council and Mary Casey Jacobs being appointed to the Inlands Wetlands and Watercourse Commission.

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

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Roslyn S. Reeps D 01/01/2025 -12/31/2027

SUSTAINABLE CT Team

Rosalyn S. Reeps D 01/01/2025 – 12/31/2025

PARK AND RECREATION Commission

Jeremy D. Burr U 01/01/2025 -12/31/2027

William Raymond Burley U 01/01/2025 -12/31/2027

OPEN SPACE Committee

Aaron M. Dollar U 01/01/2025 – 12/31/2025

David Kandel Hyman D 01/01/2025 – 12/31/2025

COMMITTEE on AGING

Cheryl K. Fine R 01/01/2025 – 12/31/2025

LCRVRegional Agricultural Council

Walter J. Adametz R 01/01/2025 – 12/31/2025

OPEN BURNING OFFICIAL

Ethan Daniel Drain U 01/01/2025 – 12/31/2025

KILLINGWORTH LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Selectmen’s appt to Board of Directors

Holly Louise Perry U 01/01/2024 – 12/31/2026

CABLE TV ADVISORY COUNCIL

Scott Derek Phelps R present through June 30, 2027

INLAND WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSES COMM.

Mary Casey Jacobs D 01/01/2024 – 12/31/2026

Discussion -

Selectman Nunes inquired if all Committees/Commissions met minority representation. Couture confirmed all have with the exception of Sustainable CT, noting that there is a question whether it needs to be a Town Committee or not, possibly moving it to some type of an Advisory Committee. Couture also advised that even with the above Appointments, there are still vacancies that need to be filled which can be found on the Town of Killingworth’s website.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Old Business

A. KVFC Needs Assessment Update

Commissioner Todd Hajek gave a status update of the KVFC Needs Assessment. He spoke to Michelle Miller, from Silver Petrucelli, giving her an overview of what the Fire Company's needs are which she will in turn create a mock up for a rebuild. Commissioner Hajek explained that once completed, options will be given with associated costs. Michelle just returned from vacation so the project will resume and wrap in the next few months. The time frame of completion of the project as well as the Fire Company's vision for the future was also briefly discussed. Chief Darin spoke about their Capital Proposal for the current year which included a two to three metal bay building which would sit on their property and include storage space in the back. Once all the information comes back from Silver Petrucelli, they would propose an incremental build in order to pace themselves in terms of growth.

Couture advised that once the preliminary work is completed on the Barn the Fire Engine will stay in the other bay. Couture further advised that there is no scheduled completion date for the Barn renovations.

B. Hiring Update

First Selectman Couture reported that the Hiring Committee chose a candidate for the Assessment Clerk's position noting she will be starting soon with a formal offer letter being sent to the candidate this week. Couture also reported that the Public Works Operator position is being advertised for another few weeks, noting there have been some good candidates that have applied thus far.

Couture further reported that the Public Works Director, Chris Mellos, started last Monday and is off to a good start jumping right into his role with tackling an unexpected snow storm, a downed tree on a power line and an exploding water tank in the Public Works garage. Couture advised that Chris is in the process of brainstorming ideas to change practices and the Town crew is responding to him favorably.

C. Director of Public Works Hiring Committee Dissolution

First Selectman Couture thanked all the members of the Director of Public Works Hiring Committee for all the time put into hiring the Public Works Director. Couture advised the Committee needed to be dissolved and a motion was then made.

Motion #4 - Selectman D'Angelo **Moved** and Selectman D'Nunes **Seconded** a motion to dissolve the Director of Public Works Hiring Committee.

Discussion - The Board acknowledged the Director of Public Works Hiring Committee for all their time and effort they put into finding the right candidate for the position. Couture also thanked Chief Rick Darin and congratulated him on his recent hire down at Valley Shore.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

New Business:

A. Invitation to Bid: Class A Fire Engine for KVFC

First Selectman Couture reported that the Bid package is almost complete, just waiting on one small component from the Board of Finance. Once Director of Finance Regolo returns to the office, the Bid package will be finalized. Discussion about unexpected finances regarding the purchase of the Fire Truck, how many companies will respond to the Bid, and future anticipated payment terms took place.

Motion #5 - Selectman D'Angelo *Moved* and Selectman Nunes *Seconded* a motion to go out to bid on the Class A Fire Engine for the Killingworth Volunteer Fire Company.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

B. Budget 25/26 Calendar:

First Selectman Couture reported how they are entering Budget Season and he is scheduled to meet with Superintendent Wihbey in February to discuss their school budget. Couture noted that one of their concerns is how the student population in Haddam lost fifty (50) students and Killingworth gained (1) student which resulted in a 1% shift in the cost sharing, reflecting a significant change. Discussion about future bonding costs took place.

Couture also spoke about the concerns with MIRA and where the trash hauling will go since MIRA plans to dissolve and there is a lot of uncertainty with what the future holds. The Board had discussion about future possibilities, one being if they were to merge with another Regional Waste Management Company in the area to manage those trash hauler costs or to see if the Town should go their separate way which could be less expensive. The Board discussed the Multi Year Capital Plan, Station 2 costs, and switching the order between the Triaxle and the other Sander in terms of when they get fixed (at the request of Mark Albrecht and Wayne Linsley a few meetings prior). The Board discussed scheduling some special meetings focusing on Tuesday evenings. Couture will send a schedule soon.

C. KES PFAS RFP

First Selectman Couture reported that the Board received a draft version of RFP along with the filtration system for PFAS at KES. Couture noted that this is the same draft filtration system, with the addition of some legal language. Couture sent comments back to GZA to clarify some questions he had regarding prevailing wage and whether this counts as new construction or renovation since there are different thresholds.

Motion #6 - First Selectman Couture *Moved* and Selectman Nunes *Seconded* a motion to put out a bid on the Killingworth Elementary School PFAS Filtration System.

Discussion - Couture reported that the KES Filtration System is the same design and specifications, noting the only exception is not using the copper pipe. Couture also confirmed there is a March 7th answer date, with work scheduled to commence over the summer months

when school is out.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

D. Health District (CRAHD) Renewal

First Selectman Couture reported that per the Agreement that the Town has with CRAHD they are part of the Health District indefinitely noting the documents received is for the renewal of his position as a member of the Board of Directors. Couture is finishing out his term on February 22nd and would like to be reappointed for another 3 year term. Therefore, in order to do so, Couture is seeking a motion from the Board reflecting his reappointment to that position.

Motion #7 - Selectman D'Angelo ***Moved*** and Selectman Nunes ***Seconded*** a motion to reappoint Eric D. Couture to the CRAHD Board of Directors for the next three (3) year term.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Public Comment:

- Eileen Blewett commented about the filtration system with KES inquiring if the RFP process is different from working with the school with approvals and use of taxpayers dollars since the Town doesn't own the building. Couture reported that one of the reasons why the work wasn't finished last summer was because they lost their Facilities Director earlier in the year but they have been in constant communication with the School District about coordinating contractor walkthroughs and meeting their dates and requirements for bidding regulations. Ms. Blewett inquired if KES is allowed to have someone else pay for work on one of their buildings. Couture stated that its a matter of the Town being responsible for the clean up portion of it.

Selectmen's Comments:

Joel D'Angelo:

- D'Angelo commented that he is excited about the Director of Public Works hiring. D'Angelo stated that he will be a real asset to the Community, and is also really impressed with the conversations he had with him. D'Angelo stated that everyone should be excited about his appointment.
- D'Angelo followed up on Lisa Connelly's point and urged Community members if interested to go to the RSD17 website to find all of the information about the High School Feasibility Working Group Team. D'Angelo stated the process is moving along quickly, and all data that has presented during the weekly meetings have been posted online for review. D'Angelo stated that next steps are finalizing cost expectations. All meetings are open to the public.

Eric Nunes -

- Nunes wished everyone a Happy New Year since this is the first meeting in 2025.
- Nunes appreciates Lisa Connelly from the Board of Education coming to give a Summary and both Chief Darin and Commissioner Hajek from the Volunteer Fire Company coming in to give an update. Nunes stated it was great seeing Santa and the Fire Truck over the Holidays.
- Nunes acknowledged two guests in attendance: Joel D'Angelo's Father and Son.
- Nunes expressed the same sentiments of Selectman D'Angelo about the Director of the Public Works Hiring Committee, and how appreciative he is of all the work of the Committee. Nunes is looking forward to filling the position of the Operator role and to keep things moving along.

First Selectman's Comments:**Eric Couture -**

- Couture advised that the work is proceeding on the Multi Purpose Field up at KRP. They started blasting last week and noting a lot of work has been done thus far. Couture also stated that the Pavillion work at KRP will also be commencing soon.
- Couture apologized to the Community about any confusion regarding the Transfer Station noting he sent out two emails last Tuesday within thirty minutes of each other, one saying it was closed, and the other saying it was open. Couture stated that there was a power outage on Green Hill and wasn't sure if it would affect the Transfer Station. The winds had an impact at the Town Hall causing them to lose power a few times, therefore didn't want to chance turning anyone away.
- Couture commented about the Budget Software which has been an ongoing process taking time to roll out. Couture stated that the Board of Finance as well as himself play a role into getting the Budget Software operational and it's the Director of Finance's priorities to get it up and running as soon as possible. Couture stated that there was a question raised if the staffing level in Town Hall was appropriate for all of the responsibilities that everyone has, however due to the budget constraints Couture advised that this wasn't the year to address those concerns. Couture's focus has been on the Permitting Software since people will be dealing more frequently with permits also advising that it takes time to also get that up and running. Couture stated that there is one full time staff member in the Building Department, and there has been a lot of constraints on her time.
- Couture commented on PFAS and moving forward with the filtration system at KES. Couture stated that there are Long Term Capital Costs associated with this project noting there are two future components of PFAS: 1) remediation of the soil which has been contaminated, which ties into the construction piece of the Fire House; 2) providing water long term to Killingworth residents and possibly changing how it is delivered to only part of the Town which could be a more expensive path.
- Couture raised a question to the Town, "What is the vision that we all have for the future of the Town?" Couture stated how there is reason why people move and love the Town of Killingworth, however everyone has to be aware of change and that the Town has

changed over the years. Couture stated that if someone takes a visit to the State Library and sees the aerial photographs they will see more farmland versus the houses that are built now. Couture further mentioned that he will soon write an article to Killingworth residents which will appear in the Newspaper with some important questions (what do residents like about Killingworth, what do residents want to keep, how does the Community manage growth and expectations?)

Adjournment: First Selectman Couture *Moved* to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Sciascia
Clerk