

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MONDAY, February 10, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.
Killingworth Town Hall/Remote Access Available**

BOS Members in Attendance: First Selectman Eric Couture and Selectman Eric Nunes

BOS Members Absent: Selectman Joel D'Angelo

Visitors: Elizabeth Disbrow, Chris Mello, Richard Pleines (Via Remote), John Byrne, Mark Albrecht, Wayne Lynsley, Annie Stirna (Via Remote), Lisa Connelly, Regina Regolo (Via Remote), Eileen Blewett (Via Remote), Jackie (Last Name Unknown/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.

First Selectman Couture advised that Selectman D'Angelo is under the weather sick; therefore, he won't be in attendance at tonight's meeting.

Public Comment: None.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion #1 - Selectman Nunes *Moved* and First Selectman Couture *Seconded* a motion to approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen that was held on Monday, January 27, 2025 as presented.

Selectman Nunes thanked Clerk Sciascia for the good work and diligence on the Minutes. First Selectman Couture also thanked Clerk Sciascia.

Motion unanimously passed [2-0-0].

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>
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- | | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------|----------------------------|
| 1. CCAP Auto Lease LTD | P.O. Box 961272
Ft Worth, TX 76161 | \$517.10 | Sec. 12-129 Excess Payment |
| 2. George Roelofsen | 56 Green Hill Road | \$60.55 | Sec. 12-129 Excess Payment |

Motion unanimously passed [2-0-0].

Department Reports:

First Selectman Couture reported that the Department Reports and January Transfers are in the Board’s packet.

Board of Education Report -

Lisa Connelly presented the Regional School District Board of Education Report Summary for the month of January reporting on the following items: 1) The 36th Annual Holiday Telethon raised over \$10,000 with all proceeds supporting the Haddam Killingworth Youth and Family Services; 2) Student Representative Michael Perry gave an update on the following items: a) The Student Equity Advisory Board; b) January 8th was Alumni Day which was a huge success; c) January 17th and 18th was the Southern Regional Festival noting 15 chorus/band students participated; d) 8th Grade Parent Night was held on January 27th; e) HKHS hosted the Shoreline Leadership Conference on January 31st; 3) Superintendent’s Report included the following updates: a) The Indoor Air Quality reports for all school facilities were completed and submitted to the State for review; b) Dual communication systems for fire alarm monitoring were installed at all schools for enhanced safety and reliability; c) The National School Lunch Program grant-funded equipment has been successfully delivered and installed at KES, BES and HKHS; d) The CT State Department of Education notified RSD17 that the Increasing Educator Diversity Plan has been approved; 4) FY24 Audit Presentation; 5) Board Subcommittee Chairs: Joe Centofanti has been assigned to the role of Co-Chair of the Finance & Facilities Subcommittee and Heather Pach has been assigned to the role of Chair of the Policy Subcommittee.

RSD17 Board of Education information and past updates may be found 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>.

Appointments:

Motion #3 - First Selectman Couture *Moved* and Selectman Nunes *Seconded* a motion to appoint Christopher Mello (Republican) to the Health and Safety Committee for a term beginning 01/01/2025 through 12/31/2025.

Motion unanimously passed [2-0-0].

Budget:

Director of Finance Regolo reported that the Board received the Budget Reports through the end of January noting she doesn’t foresee any problems. Regolo advised that the Winter Storm Budget will see a challenge this year.

First Selectman Couture reported on the current and future Budget. Couture discussed with Superintendent Wihbey about what the school's Budget will look like. Due to the shifting of ADM, there will be a gross percentage increase of 3.7%. Right now, it's in the draft preliminary stage and Wihbey plans on presenting the Budget next week. Couture noted the school's Budget increase is largely driven by Salaries, Personnel, Benefits, Insurance and Transportation.

Couture further reported that any costs associated with school construction would have no impact on the upcoming fiscal year's Budget, likely to take effect in a year or two. Couture advised if there was any short term and/or long term borrowing that occurred then there would be an impact. The Board of Finance is in the process of figuring out the best path forward. Couture also reported that the Grand List for this year decreased by approximately \$149k due to State mandated changes with how the motor vehicle property tax would be assessed. Couture noted that there was also a new Veteran's exemption for those who are 100% permanently disabled, that took effect in October of last year. Director of Finance Regolo advised that since this is the Governor's initial proposal, there will be at least two or three other proposals before it's finalized. Couture stated that the Town's Budget is in the process of being finalized and will be presented shortly. Couture noted the increase will be mainly driven by Insurance, Salaries and Benefits. Couture also reported that the State is predicting a 10-11% increase in Benefits but final numbers won't be known until mid to late April.

Old Business:

A. Multi-Year Capital Improvement Plan

First Selectman Couture reported that the Multi-Year Capital Improvement Plan is a useful tool in terms of guidance on how to spend funds over the next ten years. Couture spoke about MIRA and the potential impacts given the fate of the Essex Transfer Station. The Board briefly discussed the Station 2 FireHouse and their incoming Needs Assessment, Proclaiming Paving, PFAS and the potential system design for Town Campus and future plans, and the chip sealing projects. Couture noted two major projects: Emmanuel Church project (delayed due to the Army Corps) and Cow Hill project (the contractor has some ideas on how to approach it due to the drainage issues going off the road.) The Barn construction work will commence March 1st (weather dependent) and the Multi Use Ball Field at KRP is about 50% complete, noting the snow covering the fields from the storms.

Couture also spoke about how the adjustment of costs are built into the Capital Plan having an impact on the Grand List. The other impact to the Multi Year Capital Improvement Plan the Board should consider is devoting resources to the Plan of Conservation and Development given the need for housing, and all the development occurring in the region. Couture noted that residents expressed their concerns with the following: being opposed to putting more development in Town, seeking more services and keeping taxes low. The Board spoke briefly about the residence survey, future bonding stages and associated costs.

New Business:

A. Memorial Day Parade

First Selectman Couture reported that the Memorial Day Parade is approaching, typically being held the last Monday in May. The Lions Club organizes this event including getting volunteers

lined up. Selectman Nunes confirmed Charlie Smith will be the contact this year for this event.

B. Issue RFP for Highway Projects

First Selectman Couture reported that there are multiple Public Works projects.

Director of Public Works, Chris Mello, reported that his goal is to review the bid process to make sure that all details are in the package for the three RFPs involved, especially since they are over \$20k.

First Selectman Couture reported that the RFPs are not finalized yet, but will have the same standard template. Couture requested that a motion be made listing all three items, and he will forward the RFPs to the Board for review once finalized. Couture stressed the importance of acting swiftly to get these posted due to timing quickly approaching to get this work accomplished.

Motion #4 - First Selectman Couture *Moved* and Selectman Nunes *Seconded* a motion to put out three Requests for Proposals for the following items: Street Sweeping, Catch Basins, and Town Grounds Maintenance for the current, and 2025-2026 fiscal years.

Motion unanimously passed [2-0-0].

Public Comment: None.

Selectmen's Comments:

Eric Nunes -

- Nunes expressed his thanks to Director of Public Works Chris Mello for coming in and for taking on the role. Nunes advised if Chris ever needs anything to reach out to him or Couture directly.
- Nunes recognized and thanked the Public Works Department for keeping the roads clear and safe from the storms, stating how they do a good job.

First Selectman's Comments:

Eric Couture -

- Couture recognized and thanked everyone in the Public Works Department for all their work that they do with the snow plowing, noting the praise they receive for their work. Couture also advised he would like to accompany them during the next storm that occurs during the day.
- Couture commented about the recent tragedy of a Killingworth resident being struck and killed when he was out helping a tractor trailer on Interstate 95. Couture stated it was truly inspiring to take the time to help someone in need which unfortunately resulted in a tragedy while doing so. Couture stated how his thoughts are with him, his friends and his family during this difficult time.

- Couture thanked everyone for coming out tonight, stated to stay warm, stay safe and advised if it is snowing, please don't go outside if you don't have to.

Adjournment: First Selectman Couture *Moved* to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Sciascia
Clerk