

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Monday, May 12, 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 (Via Remote)

BOS Members Absent: None

Visitors (All Remote): Nancy Gorski, Eileen Unger-Pleines, Jackie Vece, Annie Stirna and Jamie Sciascia

Called to Order: First Selectman Couture called this meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

First Selectman Couture asked for a Moment of Silence in honor of Louis Annino Sr., a former Selectman who recently passed away at the age of 95 on Friday, May 9, 2025, in recognition of his memory and his many contributions to the Town of Killingworth.

Public Comment: None.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion #1 - First Selectman Couture ***Moved*** and Selectman D'Angelo ***Seconded*** a motion to approve the following sets of Minutes: 1) Minutes from the Special Meeting of the Board of the Selectmen that was held on Monday, May 5, 2025; and 2) Minutes from the Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen that was held on Tuesday, April 29, 2025 as presented.

Motion unanimously passed [2-0-0].

Refunds:

Motion #2 - First Selectman Couture ***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 -

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Reason</u>
1. John & Donna Fornal	86 Route 80	\$20.00	Sec. 12-129 Excess Payment
2. Pedro Gutierrez	17 Roast Meat Hill Road	\$2,755.03	Sec. 12-129 Excess Payment

Motion unanimously passed [2-0-0].

Department Reports:

First Selectman Couture reported that the Department Reports were included in the Board's meeting packet. Couture noted that these reports reflect what's happening within the town. Board members were encouraged to reach out directly to department heads with any questions.

Due to technical difficulties, Selectman Eric Nunes arrived remotely at 7:12 p.m.

A. Board of Education Report:

First Selectman Couture reported about the recent failure of the school's budget referendum and noted that the direction the Board of Education will take next remains to be seen. Couture suggested that the Superintendent's original budget proposal may serve as a reasonable starting point for revisions, though he acknowledged differing opinions on the matter. Couture emphasized the challenge in interpreting referendum results, as the ballots do not specify whether voters believe the budget is too high or too low. Couture further reported that voter turnout in Killingworth was around 670 people, which represents 8% of the approximately 4,400 registered voters in town and in Haddam was a similar percentage.

The Board discussed ways to improve voter turnout for future budget referendums. Selectman Nunes suggested sending a reminder via Constant Contact could help raise awareness. First Selectman Couture noted he didn't believe this would violate any ethical rules and agreed to consider the idea moving forward.

Couture noted that the usual yield signposts placed before referendums were not put out this time, and suggested that using them for the next referendum would only be a benefit to residents. Board members agreed that many voters may have forgotten to participate due to busy schedules, and these simple reminders could encourage greater turnout in the future.

Appointments: None.

Fiscal Year 2024/25 Budget:

First Selectman Couture reported that the Board should have received the regular monthly reports from Director of Finance Regolo. While Regolo is not present on the call this evening, due to the recent passing of her father, she is available to answer any questions regarding the reports at a later time. Couture asked the Board to respect her privacy during this time. Selectman Nunes noted that, based on ongoing updates from the Regolo, the town appears to be ending the fiscal year in a solid financial position. Couture agreed with this assessment.

Selectman Nunes extended his thoughts and prayers to Director of Finance Regolo and her family during this difficult time.

Old Business:

A. KES POET System

First Selectman Couture reported that in speaking with the State they indicated that the bid award must be held until approval is granted by the Department of Public Health Commissioner. Once that approval is received, and the required paperwork is submitted to DPH, a special meeting will be scheduled, possibly ahead of the upcoming budget meeting on Monday. Selectman D'Angelo inquired whether the required disclosure for this proposal includes any exceptions or requests to modify or clarify the response period.

Couture noted that the original plan for the piping installation involved threading piping through the building's interior. However, the selected bidder proposed an alternative approach that would route the piping outside the building, then under the driveway, and into the structure at a different entry point. This alternative is expected to be less time-consuming and potentially more cost-effective, as it would avoid the need to navigate existing ductwork and disturb ceiling tiles. Couture also mentioned that portions of the ceiling had already been examined to assess feasibility, but there was consensus that further disturbance to ceiling tiles should be avoided.

Selectman Nunes asked for clarification that the bid being discussed was the one received the previous week which was confirmed, along with the associated project cost.

Timing of the project is still on track for summer installation, ensuring work is completed while school is not in session. Couture noted that the timeline challenge is procurement of the specialized treatment units, which require lead time for fabrication and delivery.

B. Memorial Day Parade:

First Selectman Couture provided a brief update about preparations for the Memorial Day Parade are proceeding smoothly, with all participants confirmed and logistics in place. Couture reported that all community members are invited to attend the parade, and advised Selectmen D'Angelo and Nunes that they are specifically invited to march in the parade if they choose to do so. The parade will take place on Monday, May 26, 2025. This year, the high school band will be performing, as opposed to last year's middle school band.

New Business:

A. Killingworth Road Race

First Selectman Couture reported that the Board reviewed a request from the Killingworth Congregational Church regarding their annual Killingworth Road Race. This year's event is scheduled for Saturday, August 23, 2025 at 8:30 a.m. The race route follows a familiar path which is up Route 81 to Wolf Hollow Road, down and back on Wolf Hollow, and returning to the church. The Board was asked to approve this so the Church can have their application approved by the State of Connecticut.

Motion #3 - Selectman D'Angelo ***Moved*** and Selectman Nunes ***Seconded*** a motion to accept the Killingworth Road Race as presented.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

B. Citizen of the Year

First Selectman Couture presented the Board with the Proclamation for the Killingworth Lions Club Citizen of the Year and requested that the recipient's name not be read aloud.

Motion #4 - Selectman Nunes ***Moved*** and Selectman D'Angelo ***Seconded*** a motion to approve the Proclamation for the Citizen of the Year as presented.

Discussion - Selectman Nunes advised that the Night of Giving is tentatively scheduled for next Wednesday, May 21, 2025 but could be rescheduled until June. Nunes will keep First Selectman Couture informed if the date changes.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Public Comment: None.

Selectmen's Comments:

Joel D'Angelo -

- D'Angelo commented about the recent failure of the school budget referendum and how there have been no announcements of Board of Education meetings or public forums, though such gatherings are expected in the coming weeks.
- D'Angelo emphasized the importance of increasing voter turnout and encouraged residents to share their thoughts with the Board of Education. D'Angelo stated that input from the Community will help the Board revise the budget proposal in a way that reflects public priorities and gain broader support.

Eric Nunes -

- Nunes commented encouraging all residents to exercise their right to vote, especially in the upcoming second school budget referendum.
- Nunes also stated that if available, absentee ballots provide an additional voting option. Nunes advised residents to contact the Town Clerk for information regarding absentee ballot availability and procedures.

First Selectman's Comments:

Eric Couture -

- Couture echoed both Selectmen's comments about how community input is essential, particularly in explaining reasons for voting against the school budget. While sometimes the rationale is clear, at other times it can be difficult for the Board to interpret without direct feedback. Couture encouraged residents to make their voices heard both ahead of, and on the day, of the next referendum.
- Couture congratulated the HK High School's sports teams for doing well in conferences this spring, with special recognition given to the HKHS Tennis Team, which is reportedly undefeated in their conference this season.

- Couture reminded the community that the Town Budget Meeting will be held on Monday, May 19th at 7:00 PM at KES, noting this meeting will offer residents the opportunity to vote on the town budget and additional items.
- Couture wished everyone a wonderful week, hoping they all enjoy the beautiful weather.

Adjournment: First Selectman Couture ***Moved*** to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Sciascia
Clerk