

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
TOWN OF KILLINGWORTH
BOARD OF FINANCE
Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.
Killingworth Town Hall**

BOF Members in Attendance: Michael Kovacs, William Kosturko, Stephen Reeps, John Mancini, Annie Stirna (Chair)

BOF Members Absent: Marcel Couture

Staff in Attendance: Jamie Sciascia (Clerk/Via Remote)

Visitors: None.

Called to Order: Chair Annie Stirna called this meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Reports:

First Selectman - No Report.

**Finance Director -
Tax Collector -**

The Board received both the Finance Reports and Tax Collector Reports prior to the meeting. No questions were raised.

The Board briefly discussed the snow budget. Although current reports indicate expenditures remain within budget, Chair Stirna noted that invoices for salt and sand have not yet been received and additional winter weather events may occur. It was acknowledged that final expenditures could result in an overage depending on remaining invoices and weather conditions.

Approval of Meeting Minutes - January:

Motion #1 - John Mancini *Moved* and Mike Kovacs *Seconded* a motion to approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Finance that was held on Tuesday, January 13, 2026 with the following amendments:

1. On Page 1, In #1, Visitors, Replace “John Samperi” with “John Byrne”
2. On Page 1, First Paragraph, Line 5, in the “Also present” section, delete “Bryne” and replace with “Byrne”
3. On Page 1, First Paragraph, Line 6, in the “Also present” section, delete “Anunzianto” and replace with “Nunzianto”
4. On Page 1, First Paragraph, Line 5, in the “Also present” section, delete “Pleiness”

- and replace with “Pleines”
5. On Page 2, In #3, delete “Bryne” and replace with “Byrne”
 6. On Page 3, In #6, Under the Roll Call Vote Section, delete the “in favor” vote by J. Mancini and replace with “opposed”
 7. On Page 3, In #6, Under the Roll call Vote Section, delete the “opposed” vote by Annie Stirna and replace with “in favor”
 8. On Page 4, In #10, Budget Timeline, delete “A. Stirna” and replace with “Director of Finance Regolo”

Motion unanimously passed [5-0-0].

RSD17 and Feasibility Committee Report-Community Input:

Chair Stirna reported on the recent School Feasibility Community Input Session noting that community feedback was generally supportive and included constructive suggestions.

Stirna further reported that discussion at the session indicated that deferred maintenance at the schools may be more extensive than previously anticipated. Examples cited included disconnected propane service to science classrooms and other infrastructure concerns at the elementary schools. While certain capital improvements were completed in prior years, some routine maintenance items may have been deferred.

The Board reviewed the importance of pending special state legislation required to secure 50% reimbursement under the “Renovate as New” program. State Senator Christine Cohen is reportedly working to advance the legislation during the current session. Without approval of the legislation, the project cannot proceed under current funding assumptions. Schematic plans must be submitted by June 30, 2026 to qualify for reimbursement consideration. If legislative approval is obtained, a referendum could potentially be scheduled for September 2026.

Discussion of Current Annual Report:

Chair Stirna reported that the Annual Report is nearing completion, with the Board of Finance section and one additional section still to be finalized. Stirna noted that Director of Finance Regolo is coordinating the remaining submissions.

Budget Timeline and Special Meetings:

Chair Stirna reported that Director of Finance Regolo distributed the Budget Timeline and reviewed the key dates. The Board of Selectmen is scheduled to present its proposed budget to the Board of Finance by the third Monday in March (March 16th), with budget workshops expected to begin shortly thereafter.

Chair Stirna also reviewed several upcoming meetings:

- The Regional School District 17 Superintendent’s Budget Presentation is scheduled on February 24, 2026, from 6:00–8:00 PM in the HK Middle School Auditorium.

- The Joint BOF/BOS/BOE Annual Meeting is scheduled on March 3, 2026, from 6:00–8:00 PM in the HK Middle School Cafeteria.
- The Board of Education Community Input Session is scheduled on March 17, 2026, from 6:00–8:00 PM in the HK High School Auditorium.

Discussion of BOS Priorities:

Chair Stirna reviewed the Board of Selectmen’s budget priorities, including a proposed PFAS line item of approximately \$160,000. The estimate reflects anticipated costs for water testing, engineering, and maintenance of treatment systems based on recent historical expenditures. It was noted that continued reliance on the General Fund without a designated budget allocation is not sustainable. Additional supporting details from Director of Finance Regolo was requested. The Board also noted potential future capital costs related to water treatment at Town Hall, and that partial state reimbursement is anticipated for certain PFAS related expenses.

Chair Stirna reported on the potential addition of a second Resident State Trooper. It was noted that although the position may receive support this year, during a previous budget cycle a physical state trooper was not available to serve the Town of Killingworth, despite funding discussions at that time. The Board discussed concerns related to response times, public safety coverage, and the need for greater certainty before including the position in the budget.

The Board reviewed proposed expenditures for asset management and permitting software. The system would support tracking of town assets, infrastructure, depreciation, and anticipated state reporting requirements by 2029. Concerns were raised regarding the wide cost range, staffing capacity for implementation, and prior software investments that were not fully utilized. Ongoing subscription and training costs were also discussed as well as the importance of clear implementation planning and organizational commitment was emphasized.

The Board reviewed portions of the Multi-Year Capital Plan, including preliminary Firehouse architectural planning, playground renovation funding, emergency services equipment replacement, and the Abner Lane Bridge repair (which may be deferred due to cost). Progress on construction of the steel storage building for the Fire Company was noted, with the structure substantially erected but not yet completed. The Board requested additional detail on specific items, including ADA compliance for playground improvements and the scope of Firehouse planning, noting that Firehouse planning remains preliminary and may be several years from construction.

Additions to Agenda:

Motion #2 - John Mancini *Moved* and William Kosturko *Seconded* a motion to add onto the Agenda, Discussion of Parmelee Farm.

Motion unanimously passed [5-0-0].

Parmelee Farm Discussion:

Chair Stirna reported on the Parmelee Farm Committee’s activities and concerns, based on a discussion the Committee requested at the Board of Selectmen’s meeting the previous evening. The discussion included the Farm’s historical background and income sources such as rentals,

events, and maple syrup donations. The Committee noted that funds raised are not taxpayer funds.

The Board of Finance noted that the Committee is not a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, emphasized that all funds raised should be received and controlled by the Town Treasurer, and discussed seeking a formal legal opinion to clarify ownership of funds, authority to expend funds, and potential liability exposure. Budget issues were discussed and clarified. The Board further noted that any capital expenditure exceeding \$25,000 requires prior town approval and must follow a formal RFP process. Finally, Chair Stirna stated that First Selectman Couture will consult with the town attorney regarding the matter.

Bills: None.

Adjournment: Chair Stirna adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Sciascia

Jamie Sciascia
Clerk