MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING
TOWN OF KILLINGWORTH - BOARD OF FINANCE
Tuesday, June 9, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. - Killingworth Town Hall

BOF Members in Attendance: Marcel Couture, William Kosturko, John Mancini, Stephen Reeps, and Annie Stirna (Chair)

BOF Members Absent: Michael Kovacs

Visitors: First Selectman Eric Couture, Matthew Nunzianto, Walter Adametz, Cindy Adametz, Selectman Nancy Gorski, John Samperi, Eileen Unger-Pleines, Abigail Albrecht (Tax Collector) and Jamie Sciascia (Clerk/Via Remote)

Called to Order: Chair Annie Stirna called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Visitors Comments: John Samperi, 154 Schnoor Road, in Killingworth requested that the Board of Finance delay setting the mill rate until the Board of Education budget is approved by voters. He stated that the mill rate should reflect the final approved budget and expressed concern that setting it beforehand could create confusion and require future adjustments if the budget is reduced through the referendum process.

Nancy Gorski concurred with the comments of John Samperi, expressing support for delaying the setting of the mill rate until the Board of Education budget is approved by voters. She stated that, despite potential implications for the Tax Collector's Office, waiting would be in the best interest of the community.

Walter Adamatz also agreed with Selectman Gorski and Mr. Samperi that the mill rate should not be set until voters approve the Board of Education budget. He also noted the Town's aging population and emphasized the importance of maintaining a tight budget to minimize the tax burden on residents.

Matthew Nunzianto stated that the mill rate should not be set prior to the school budget referendum, as doing so could be perceived as disregarding the outcome of the vote.

Reports: First Selectman - First Selectman Couture reported that the Public Works Department is working to fill a vacant crew position, with two candidates scheduled for interviews. He stated that chip sealing is anticipated in late July or early August and that final invoices are being received as the Town closes out the fiscal year, including invoices for salt and sand purchases made earlier in the spring. Couture also reported that a meeting is scheduled for Tuesday to conduct an additional review of the Multi-Year Capital Improvement Plan in preparation for a future Town Meeting. He discussed traffic impacts related to the Route 81 milling and paving project, advised residents to expect delays, and noted that recently received speed-monitoring cameras are being deployed, with Resident State Trooper Oliver providing an enforcement presence in the area.

Chair Stirna introduced and welcomed Resident State Trooper Lucas Oliver to the community. Resident State Trooper Oliver stated he is focused on law enforcement duties, including community and school engagement, and invited the Board to email him with suggestions for high-traffic areas. He also noted he is already actively conducting traffic enforcement.

Finance Director - The Board reviewed Director of Finance Regolos' report and discussed an overage in the file server license renewal line, which was budgeted at approximately $7,000 and totaled about $19,200. Regolo explained that the expense had been misclassified and would be moved to the network support line, and also noted that recent server issues and upgrades contributed to the cost. No further questions were raised.

Presentation of Suspense List - Tax Collector (Abigail Albrecht): Tax Collector Abby Albrecht presented the Suspense List of Uncollectible Accounts, primarily due to deceased taxpayers or individuals who have moved out of state. She noted most balances are motor vehicle-related, with one real estate account, and stated that the totals are consistent with prior years.

Motion #1 - Stephen Reeps ***Moved*** and Marcel Couture ***Seconded*** a motion to accept the Tax Collector's Suspense List and remove the listed accounts from the Tax Rolls. Motion unanimously passed [5-0-0].

Approval of Regular Meeting and Special Meeting Minutes:
Motion #2 - Marcel Couture ***Moved*** and William Kosturko ***Seconded*** a motion to approve both the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Finance dated May 12, 2026 and Minutes from the Special Meeting of the Board of Finance dated May 18, 2026 as presented. Motion unanimously passed [5-0-0].

Discussion of Funding of Fire Truck: The Board discussed three financing options for the new fire truck: pay-as-you-go, a loan, or a lease. Director of Finance Regolo reported that the Town is expected to take delivery of the truck in August 2027, with no payments due until FY 2027–28. Discussion included cost comparisons between leasing and borrowing, including a lease proposal previously obtained by the Fire Department, and consideration of potential savings, escrow requirements, closing costs, and other financing terms. Bond counsel advised that a lease-purchase agreement would require Board of Selectmen approval and annual budget appropriations, while a loan would require Town Meeting approval. The Board expressed concern about the potential impact on the General Fund and future mill rates if a borrowing measure failed. The Board agreed to keep both lease and loan options under consideration and directed Director of Finance Regolo to obtain updated proposals from financial institutions and leasing companies, including interest rates, rate-lock periods, escrow requirements, and timing. The Board also discussed the potential for FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant funding as a possible offset and requested that eligibility and application opportunities be explored.

Discussion of Mill Rate: The Board reviewed updated mill rate projections provided by Director of Finance Regolo, along with general fund balance assumptions and school budget figures, confirming they reflected the most recent adjustments. Multiple scenarios were reviewed showing estimated tax impacts ranging from approximately 8.5% to 10.5%, depending on the selected increase. The Board discussed balancing taxpayer impact with maintaining general fund reserves under a pay-as-you-go approach. The Board expressed concern about avoiding depletion of the general fund, funding future capital needs, and the lack of a reliable multi-year capital plan. A long-term goal of gradually increasing the general fund toward approximately $4 million was discussed, while recognizing affordability constraints. Chair Stirna referenced spreadsheet projections showing multi-year general fund balances and noted that school budget figures remained subject to final adjustment. Director of Finance Regolo noted that reduced capital spending affects reserve growth and that some capital projects also reduce future operating costs. The Board further discussed that several capital items remain unfunded or deferred, reinforcing the need for improved 24-month and multi-year capital planning. Additional discussion addressed road funding, chip sealing, and the balance between bonding and pay-as-you-go capital funding. Engineers are conducting updated road condition assessments, with results expected in November. Chip sealing cycles will continue and road conditions remain relatively strong compared to other municipalities, though ongoing investment is required. The Board reviewed a draft Multi-Year Capital Improvement Plan reflecting approximately $1.8 million annually over the next several years, requiring continued coordination between the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance. The Board agreed to reconvene at a special meeting in the coming days pending school budget updates. No final mill rate was set.

Additions to Agenda: None.

Bills: Motion #3 - Marcel Couture ***Moved*** and John Mancini ***Seconded*** a motion to approve the Clerk's Invoice in the amount of $100.00 as presented. Motion unanimously passed [5-0-0].

Adjournment: Chair Stirna adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:14 p.m.
Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Sciascia

Jamie Sciascia
Clerk