MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Tuesday, May 26, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. - Killingworth Town Hall/Remote Access Available

BOS Members in Attendance: First Selectman Eric Couture, Selectmen Nancy Gorski and Joel D'Angelo (all members present)

Visitors: Regina Regolo (Director of Finance/Via Remote), Elizabeth Disbrow (Executive Assistant to First Selectman), Annie Stirna (Chair, Board of Finance), Eileen Blewett (Via Remote), Jamie Sciascia (Clerk/Via Remote), Kerry Emerson (HKY&FS)

Called to Order/Pledge of Allegiance: First Selectman Couture called this meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

First Selectman Couture asked for a Moment of Silence regarding the passing of Donald McDougall. He was described as a long-time member of the Killingworth Ambulance Association, serving for approximately 50 years, and also served as the town's Emergency Operations Manager for many years. A brief Moment of Silence was held in recognition of his service and contributions to the community, and condolences were expressed to the McDougall family.

Approval of Minutes:
Motion #1 - Selectman Gorski ***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, May 11, 2026 as presented. Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Refunds and Abatements: None.

Department Reports: Kerry Emerson presented the HKY&FS Quarterly Report.

- Youth and Family Services expressed gratitude to the Towns of Haddam and Killingworth for their ongoing support; The agency continues to expand partnerships and relationships with other organizations; Participated in National Prevention Week during May; Focused on mental health awareness and substance use prevention; Offered age-appropriate QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) suicide prevention training for students.
- A new Co-Executive Director will begin the position on July 1st. The staffing change will allow Alli Behnke to return to a more part-time role, which was her original goal;
- Kids Run aMuck Obstacle Course is scheduled for the upcoming Sunday and registration is required for participants; Music Festival at Parmelee Farm is scheduled for June 5th, with Y&FS serving as the beneficiary of funds raised. The Festival fundraising includes an online silent auction and an in-person raffle; Summer Solstice Event scheduled for June 19th. The same band that performed at last year's successful Music Festival will return this year. Community members may participate in the online silent auction through the agency's BetterWorld fundraising platform;
- Summer Programming Programs planned for Grades 7–9 and other youth participants include: 1) Girls on the Run; 2) Be You at the Barn 3) Teen Trail Blazers 4) Teen Impact Week
- Recognition was given to the Haddam and Killingworth Lions Clubs for their role in founding the agency and their longstanding support.

Appointments: Couture reported that Cindy Macgonagle volunteered to serve on the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission. He noted her approximately 40 years of inlands and wetlands experience and current service on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Motion #2 - First Selectman Couture ***Moved*** and Selectman D'Angelo ***Seconded*** a motion to appoint Cynthia Barlow Macgonagle (D) to the Inlands Wetlands Watercourse Commission for a term ending December 31, 2028. Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Couture reported that The Regional Water Authority requested Jamie Mowatt Young's reappointment to its Representative Policy Board. Couture highlighted her assistance in helping the Town understand the Authority's operations and coordinating with Emergency Management. As Town Meeting approval is required, the Board unanimously voted to refer the reappointment to a future Town Meeting.

Motion #3 - First Selectman Couture ***Moved*** and Selectman D'Angelo ***Seconded*** a motion to reappoint Jamie Mowatt Young (D) to the Representative Policy Board of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority for a term ending June 30, 2029, with the appointment to be considered at a future Town Meeting Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Couture reported vacancies on several boards and commissions, including alternate positions on the Zoning Board of Appeals and openings on the Historic Review Commission, and stated that efforts would be made to recruit volunteers.

25/26 Budget Report: Director of Finance Regolo presented the FY 25/26 Budget in draft form. It will proceed to Town Meeting (likely early July) for review. It was emphasized that this is a planning document, not a new spending authorization, as commitments have already been made. It was confirmed the annual budget process must be completed each year, with discussion noting the intent to begin the process earlier in future cycles (around August) to better align with the budget schedule.

Old Business:
A. Multi-Year Capital Improvement Plan - The Board discussed the MYCIP, noting that discussions with Richard Pleines regarding Parmelee had taken place. It was clarified that project listings reflect multi-year ranges rather than single-year allocations (e.g., picnic tables transitioning into maintenance/replacement cycles), resolving most prior confusion attributed to formatting rather than substance. The plan remains a draft, will be further organized and refined before Town Meeting, and must be updated annually as required.
B. NAA Reminder - First Selectman Couture reported that the town is accepting applications for the NAA program, which allows companies (e.g., Eversource) to donate funds to community projects in exchange for tax credits. At least one application has already been received. A public hearing is required to meet legal notice requirements for the program. The hearing was scheduled for June 22nd at 6:45 PM, set just before the Board of Selectmen meeting to meet timing requirements for legal notice publication.

Motion #4 - Selectman D'Angelo ***Moved*** and Selectman Gorski ***Seconded*** a motion to set a public hearing date of June 22, 2026 at 6:45 p.m. for the Neighborhood Assistance Act. Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

New Business:
A. Salt Contract - The Board approved a bulk road salt contract for approximately 300 tons, consistent with prior years (previously about 203 tons), at a higher price of roughly $90.07 per ton compared to about $73.18 per ton last year. The increase was attributed to statewide demand and more frequent icing conditions driving higher usage, though it was noted the salt use cannot be reduced without compromising road safety. The Highway Department is also reviewing and refining application practices, including salt/sand mixing ratios (historically around 1:4, though not exact) and adjusting equipment settings to better control output and improve efficiency.

Motion #5 - Selectman D'Angelo ***Moved*** and Selectman Gorski ***Seconded*** a motion to approve the Salt Contract as presented. Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

B. Killingworth Road Race - Couture reported that the Killingworth Road Race will take place on August 29, 2026, and noted it is an annual event requiring Town approval each year. He stated the only course change is the addition of a route through Lavender Farms, while all other road access points remain the same. He also noted that updated maps and the required highway permit had not yet been received, particularly for the Route 81 section, and that materials were still pending. Despite discussion about tabling the agenda item due to incomplete documentation, it was noted the key item for consideration was the event date.

Motion #6 - Selectman D'Angelo ***Moved*** and Selectman Gorski ***Seconded*** a motion to approve the Killingworth Road Race scheduled on August 29, 2026. Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0]

Public Comment: Annie Stirna commented about the financing decisions for items such as a fire truck (lease, loan, or pay-as-you-go) fall under the Board of Finance, and noted that town meeting sentiment appeared to favor pay-as-you-go, which could significantly impact the mill rate. She explained that bonding was intended to smooth tax impacts amid rising costs and interest rates, and that prior use of general fund balances during Covid helped stabilize rates but reduced flexibility. Ms. Stirna stated that the Board of Finance had worked on these issues for several years and expressed concern that the purpose of the financial

planning had not been fully understood by the public.

Selectmen's Comments: Nancy Gorski -
- Gorksi raised concerns about affordability and transparency in Town finances, noting that residents are increasingly focused on tax impacts and requesting more regular updates from the Board of Finance. They supported continued coordination with departments such as the Fire Department and Parks & Recreation but emphasized the need for greater public transparency.
- Gorski commented that while Parks & Recreation is doing good work, expanding fields increases long-term maintenance costs and raises broader concerns about the affordability of continued expansion, including related library and recreation planning.
- Gorski inquired about a grant request related to a ballpark project, noting she believed it had gone through the Board of Finance and questioning the approval process. Couture explained that the grant was first reviewed by Parks and Recreation and is intended to make Lower Shelton Park more handicap accessible, with Board of Finance support requested due to operational and financial considerations.
- Gorski inquired about public access to the Town's accounting software to improve transparency and real-time budget visibility. It was noted that the budgeting process is being reviewed with no set timeline for broader access.
-Gorski expressed concern about cemetery maintenance, stating it was not mowed for Memorial Day and remains overgrown, noting the importance of proper upkeep, particularly given the presence of Veterans.

Joel D'Angelo -
- D'Angelo reiterated his support and interest in developing a clear prioritization framework to communicate to the town, outlining the baseline cost of operating the Town of Killingworth, including essential best-practice needs, and distinguishing additional "nice-to-have" items that provide added benefit. D'Angelo added that this information should be shared publicly to help explain annual operating costs, but said more work is needed before formalizing any categories.

First Selectman's Comments: Eric Couture -
- Couture reported that paving south from the circle is scheduled from June 9th through August 17th, with milling continuing through June 29th. He noted the project is expected to be as disruptive as last year's work, primarily affecting traffic in Clinton between Big Y and Route 1, with potential impacts on Lower Roast Meat Hill Road. Traffic control assistance may be provided if needed, and a reminder email will be sent June 8th.

Adjournment: First Selectman Couture adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Sciascia

Jamie Sciascia, Clerk