

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Tuesday, May 27, 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

**BOS Members Absent:** None

**Visitors:** Elizabeth Disbrow, Resident State Trooper Richard Mulhall, Alli Behnke (HKYFS), Regina Regolo (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.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Motion #1 - Selectman Nunes *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 12, 2025 as presented.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

**Refunds:**

Motion #2 - First Selectman Couture *Moved* and Selectman D’Angelo *Seconded* a motion to approve the following Refund, for overpayment, and allow it to follow its normal course as presented.

**Refunds -**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Reason</u>
1. Shane Vanderwiede	82 Parker Hill Road	\$291.17	Overpayment COC#1082

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

**Budget 24/25:**

Director of Finance Regolo reported that the Town is on track to close out the Fiscal Year 2024–2025 Budget which is in a better position than expected. Although a few line items are over budget, Regolo noted there are no surprises, and the projected need from the General Fund has decreased from \$1.5 Million to approximately \$1.1 Million.

The Board discussed the timing and legalities of setting the mill rate. While the Town Charter requires all budgets to be finalized beforehand, there is some flexibility if pending changes are minor. First Selectman Couture noted that setting the rate before the June 6th referendum carries minimal legal risk. If the referendum fails, the Board could either retain the current rate or set a provisional rate and adjust it later. Tax bills typically go out in early June, creating urgency. The Charter does not specify procedures following a failed referendum, so maintaining flexibility is essential for ensuring fiscal stability and timely billing.

**Department Reports:****A. HKYFS Quarterly Report**

Alli Behnke, presented the Haddam-Killingworth Youth and Family Services Quarterly Report. Alli updated the Board on the following: 1) HKYFS hosted 18 events, drawing a total attendance of 493 people (January through March); 2) Formed 11 new partnerships with local nonprofits and community groups and launched 14 new programs to support youth and families across the district; 3) 74 youths participated in 20 hours or more of direct in-school and after-school programming at the Middle School (girls and boys), by way of the Opioid Settlement funding; 4) HKYFS Clinicians are also providing after-school therapy services for 13 youths; 5) Mentor Program had a highly successful year, serving 21 students in Grades 3-8; 6) HKYFS secured several grants this quarter including support for our Equine Therapy Program this summer, funding for the Run-A-Muck obstacle course event in June, and a generous award from Liberty Bank in celebration of their 200th Anniversary; 7) The Community Coalition has applied for the Drug-Free Communities (DFC) grant, which, if awarded, would begin in the Fall of 2025 and focus on alcohol and marijuana prevention strategies emphasizing youth safety and support, especially around milestone events; 8) Students attending prom received safety reminder cards which provided tips for making safe choices, encourage open communication with trusted adults, and include key information about Connecticut's Social Host Law. A follow-up email was also sent to parents on prom night, reinforcing the message and reminding them of their vital role in helping teens celebrate safely; 8) HKYFS prepared informational cards for each Senior that they receive at graduation which will offer summer safety tips and connect students with local resources for mental health, and general support ensuring they have the resources to be supported as they move into this next phase of life; 9) At Parmelee Farm, Victor G. Washington, is presenting a concert on Friday night and the return of Kids Run-A-Muck will take place; 10) Summer programming will center on community service, leadership, and self-confidence, through engaging opportunities like Girls on the Run, Community Giveback Days, Teen Trailblazers, and Be You at the Barn.

## **Old Business:**

### **A. KES Poet System**

First Selectman Couture reported that State approval has been obtained for the KES Poet System, and all supporting documentation is cleared. The final step in the process is pending the Commissioner's signature.

Motion #3 - First Selectman Couture ***Moved*** and Selectman D'Angelo ***Seconded*** a motion to award Snyder Civil Construction, LLC the contract for the KES Poet System in the amount of \$311,200.

*Discussion - The Board discussed key topics that have been addressed since the initial meeting with the engineer. Couture noted that the schedule remains achievable, especially with proposed changes to expedite pipe work but also noted that the challenge remains in the delay of the manufacturing time for the treatment units. D'Angelo suggested coordinating with the Facilities team, and Couture noted that they all have been very involved thus far and will continue to be going forward.*

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

### **B. Traffic Study:**

First Selectman Couture reported on the Safe Streets for All initiative. A site visit is scheduled for tomorrow along the Route 81 corridor, going from Chittenden to Hemlock, which includes the Killingworth Circle. Couture clarified that the study area does not start at Green Hill Road or Stevens Road, as the corridor was divided into half-mile segments for evaluation. The purpose of this visit is to explore possible safety improvements in the area.

The Board had discussion about concerns for traffic control, particularly in residential areas and concerns were also raised about the ineffectiveness of certain traffic calming measures, such as stop signs, which can often lead to driver impatience and even more dangerous behaviors like speeding or unsafe passing. Further, the Board had discussion about utilizing cameras as a potential deterrent; however, there was skepticism about the long-term impact once drivers realize that the cameras aren't used for enforcement. The Board acknowledged the complexity of these issues and noted that they have been a recurring topic in their discussions

### **C. Legislative Update**

First Selectman Couture reported that the State budget has not yet been finalized, though the Governor's office remains optimistic about reaching an agreement soon. Couture also provided updates on legislation, including House Bill 5002 and a proposal to eliminate parking minimums for smaller apartment buildings. This proposal would prevent municipalities from requiring a fixed number of parking spaces for certain residential developments.

First Selectman Couture addressed concerns about the delayed State budget and its potential impact on local fiscal planning, noting that while the Town Charter requires State and federal funding projections to be considered, those estimates have remained stable since mid-April following special legislation related to education costs. Couture also provided updates on additional bills: one allowing municipalities to adjust motor vehicle assessment rates, and another focused on aquaculture regulations, including a notable reference to illegal oystering. Additionally, Couture reported that the Southwest Connecticut Council of Governments (COG) issued an open letter to the legislature urging a moratorium on unfunded mandates, such as requiring towns to fund veterans' tax exemptions. The COG recommended shifting such responsibilities to the state income tax system to alleviate pressure on local budgets, though doing so would require a two-thirds legislative majority.

### **New Business:**

#### **A. Neighborhood Assistance Act - Public Hearing Date - June 23rd**

First Selectman Couture reported that the Neighborhood Assistance Act last year was scheduled for the first meeting in June; however this year it will likely take place during the second Board of Selectmen meeting. Couture noted that these applications can be submitted by various town departments or local nonprofit organizations for capital-related projects with past applicants including the Library and the Land Trust.

Motion #4 - First Selectman Couture *Moved* and Selectman D'Angelo *Seconded* a motion to hold a Public Hearing to consider Neighborhood Assistance Act Applications at Town Hall on Monday, June 23, 2025 at 6:45 p.m.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

#### **B. Committee on Aging**

First Selectman Couture updated the Board on the future direction of the Committee on Aging, prompted by recent research and increasing concern about senior housing in the community. With Chair Joan Gay having recently resigned, the Committee on Aging is currently seeking new leadership. Couture asked the Board to consider whether the Committee should narrow its focus to senior housing, either by renaming it to the "Senior Housing Committee" or by simply directing its attention to that issue for now, with the option to return to broader aging-related work or evolve into a Commission later. Selectman D'Angelo recommended keeping the current name to maintain flexibility and avoid limiting the Committee's scope, noting that members can set their own agenda. The Board agreed to keep the Committee on Aging's title unchanged and allow members to focus on senior housing if they see fit. Couture noted that the upcoming Committee on Aging meeting would be canceled due to the absence of posting an agenda. The Board encouraged interested residents to consider joining the Committee on Aging or other Town committees.

#### **C. Regulations and Ordinances - Preliminary Discussion**

First Selectman Couture initiated a preliminary discussion regarding updates and additions to the Town's regulations and ordinances. Couture discussed with the Board a proposal from the Town's Zoning Enforcement Officer and Land Use Attorneys, suggesting that the Town consider adopting an 81C Processing Fee Ordinance for land use applications.

Couture reported that when a property owner submits a project that requires significant legal or engineering review, the Town incurs those costs. The proposed ordinance would enable the Town to charge a reasonable fee to recover such expenses, especially in cases where applicants revise their plans multiple times, triggering repeated technical evaluations. Couture noted that the Town of Old Saybrook has a model ordinance the Town could use as a reference and recommended the Board review CGS §181 C. First Selectman Couture addressed concerns about the delayed State budget and its potential impact on local fiscal planning, noting that while the Town Charter requires State and federal funding projections to be considered, those estimates have remained stable since mid-April following special legislation related to education costs. Couture further reported on two additional bills: one allowing municipalities to adjust motor vehicle assessment rates, and another focused on aquaculture regulations, including a notable reference to illegal oystering. Additionally, Couture reported that the Southwest Connecticut Council of Governments (COG) issued an open letter to the legislature urging a moratorium on unfunded mandates, such as requiring towns to fund veterans' tax exemptions. The COG recommended shifting such responsibilities to the state income tax system to alleviate pressure on local budgets, though doing so would require a two-thirds legislative majority.

Elizabeth Disbrow provided a brief update to the Board on the Town's Demolition Delay Ordinance, which currently applies to structures over 75 years old, now including many 1950s homes that may lack historical or architectural significance. The Board is considering revising the ordinance to apply only to buildings constructed before 1900, aligning it with the Town's inventory of truly historic properties. The Board expressed concern about the ordinance's complexity, length, and internal inconsistencies, with general agreement that it needs a more streamlined and clearly defined process. First Selectman Couture emphasized that this review is part of a broader initiative to clarify outdated ordinances and propose new ones as needed.

First Selectman Couture updated the Board on the possibility of adopting a Blight Ordinance, a regulation commonly found in many towns and typically enforced by a zoning officer. While such ordinances are often requested by residents, Couture expressed ambivalence, highlighting concerns over potential misuse or abuse. Couture gave examples of neighbors reporting issues based on personal preferences, such as objections to a horse paddock or prolonged vehicle repairs. Couture noted a challenge which was the subjective nature of defining "blight," especially in a rural community like Killingworth, where practices like storing equipment outdoors, maintaining older sheds, or parking campers and boats in front yards are common and generally accepted. The Board recognized that standards suitable for suburban areas may not be applicable in Killingworth's rural context. Couture also mentioned that similar proposals have likely been considered and rejected previously.

The Board revisited the ongoing issue of speeding, acknowledging the limited capacity of the Town's Resident State Trooper, despite his commendable efforts. First Selectman Couture noted a recent change in state law that allows towns to adopt automated speed enforcement and encouraged broader discussion of its potential use. The Board weighed concerns about privacy and surveillance against the need for public safety, emphasizing the importance of preventing accidents, especially in high-risk areas like Green Hill Road and Roast Meat Hill Road. Automated enforcement was viewed as a potentially cost-effective way to reduce excessive speeding, provided it is implemented with clear and fair guidelines.

Couture noted that the Town's building permit fee schedule has not been updated since 2006, suggesting it may be time to revisit and revise it. Couture plans to coordinate with the Building Department and compare rates with surrounding towns, most of which post their fee schedules online to determine an appropriate update. As part of administrative improvements, Couture proposed the Town implement a formal refund policy for building permits, particularly as it transitions to OpenGov. Research by RiverCOG revealed that nearby towns have widely varied refund policies, ranging from no refunds to full or partial refunds within certain timeframes. Couture expressed support for a 30-day refund window, arguing that applicants should make a final decision early, especially as staff resources begin to be expended once a permit is submitted.

Attorney Dave Tycz is continuing work on a proposed Community Septic Setback Regulation, which would be particularly relevant to age-restricted or senior housing projects. Couture noted the importance of finalizing such a regulation before future projects raise zoning or health concerns. Additionally, Couture mentioned a recent conversation with Durham's Economic Development Coordinator, who highlighted that spot-set sewer systems are now being implemented in some areas, suggesting this could be a possible future solution or alternative for Killingworth's development planning.

Couture further reported about the growing presence of food trucks in the Community noting that there is currently no ordinance regulating food trucks, which has prompted interest and concern as their popularity increases. At present, food trucks are only permitted at specific events, however, there's growing demand for more flexible and consistent use, particularly from local businesses like the James Madison House, which has purchased the old Cooking Company and is renting two spaces within that area. Couture noted that the JMH inquired about using a food truck on-site while renovations take place and during future events.

Couture reported that they will look into ordinances from nearby towns, like Clinton, which regulate both fixed and mobile food service operations. The Planning & Zoning Commission already reviewed the Town's regulations, and they've encountered numerous gray areas and inconsistencies. The Board emphasized the importance of clarifying the rules so that residents, the Commission and Board have a clear understanding of what's allowed and expected.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Selectmen's Comments:**

Eric Nunes -

- Nunes reflected on upcoming developments and expressed interest in how the discussion will evolve going forward.
- Nunes thanked Alli Benhke of HKYFS, for presenting the Quarterly Report noting he is glad that students are getting what they need.

Joel D'Angelo -

- D'Angelo had no specific comments on the Agenda but noted there's a significant amount of work and research ahead, with several new topics raised that warrant

further investigation.

**First Selectman's Comments:**

Eric Couture -

- Couture acknowledged that summer is typically a slower period but expressed a desire to stay engaged and proactive, encouraging continued thought and progress on the topics discussed.
- Couture commented about the Resident State Trooper's Contract which will need to be discussed at the next meeting. Couture noted that while they don't anticipate rejecting it, they have two follow-up questions.
- Couture recommended the Community attend an upcoming fundraiser concert this Friday at Parmelee Farm in support of HKYFS, highlighting Scott Struzinski, the organizer, noting his musical talent.
- Couture expressed gratitude to everyone involved in the Memorial Day Parade, especially those who helped organize and participate in the main event, specifically Lou Annino, Charlie Smith, Matt Albrecht, Dick Mason, both Reverns Young and Hammett. Couture also gave Special recognition to Emma Castiglione for her outstanding singing and Taylor Murlaski for her heartfelt poem. Lastly, Couture also gave thanks to the Resident State Troopers and Troop F for providing road security, emphasizing their crucial role in keeping the event safe.

**Adjournment:** First Selectman Couture *Moved* to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Sciascia  
Clerk