

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Monday, July 28, 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

**Staff in Attendance:** Dawn Mooney (Town Clerk), Regina Regolo (Director of Finance/Via Remote), and Jamie Sciascia (Via Remote)

**Visitors:** Eileen Blewett (Via Remote), Richard Pleines (Via Remote), and Laurel Poletti

**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.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Motion #1 - Selectman D’Angelo *Moved* and Selectman Nunes *Seconded* a motion to approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Board of the Selectmen that was held on Monday, July 14, 2025 as presented.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

**Refunds, Abatements, Transfers:**

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. Coon, Daniel	16 Old Stagecoach	\$26.25	Over payment COC#1302
2. Skowronski, Robert	18 Bethke Rd	\$51.97	Overpayment COC#6336
3. Smith, Kevin	188 Green Hill Rd	\$12.11	Overpayment COC#6391
4. Walsh, Kevin	77 Cow Pen Hill Rd	\$238.50	Overpayment COC#7138
5. Montagnon, Charles	196 Reservoir	\$57.21	Overpayment COC#4627

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

**Department Reports:**

First Selectman Couture reported that there were no substantial department reports to review, as the meeting fell in the middle of the month.

**Appointments:**

First Selectman Couture reported that there were no Appointments, however, he noted that there are still a few vacancies on some of the committees and commissions.

**Budget Report:**

First Selectman Couture reported that Director of Finance Regolo has returned to the office and is currently focused on closing out the previous fiscal year. Couture noted that it is still too early to assess the current fiscal year, as only one month has passed and no major expenses have been reported thus far.

**Old Business:**

**A. Traffic Safety**

First Selectman Couture shared traffic data collected through the State of Connecticut's UConn T2 Traffic Training Program, noting that while he has not yet reviewed how far back the data extends, it serves as a valuable tool for analyzing actual traffic behavior in town. He emphasized that the data provides an objective way to assess whether perceived speeding concerns are supported by measurable evidence. Couture observed that residents often perceive cars to be traveling faster than they are, particularly when standing near the roadside, since people generally have difficulty accurately judging vehicle speed. Couture stressed that even if the data ultimately reveals that speeding is not a significant issue in certain areas, that conclusion still holds value for town planning and in communicating transparently with residents. The Board discussed recurring anecdotal concerns about speeding on Route 81 and Green Hill Road, and agreed that this data may help determine whether such concerns reflect consistent patterns. Couture specifically noted that particularly excessive speeds were recorded on Parker Hill Extension, drawing attention to it as an area of concern.

The Board agreed that access to this traffic data could help close the loop on previous discussions, enabling more informed decision-making. Additionally, Couture reported that the final report from the Town's Safe Streets Initiative is expected in the middle or end of next month, and will likely include more definitive findings and actionable recommendations.

Lastly, Couture briefly spoke about how the paving project is mostly complete, but noted that some touch-up work remains along Route 81, including driveway aprons, work around Parmelee Farm, final sideline finishing, and the possible addition of a centerline rumble strip.

**New Business:**

**A. Call to Town Meeting**

First Selectman Couture announced that Nelson Rivera officially resigned from the Regional School District #17 Board of Education last week. Selectman D’Angelo read and made a motion to accept the Legal Call into the record.

Motion #3 - Selectman D’Angelo *Moved* and Selectman Nunes *Seconded* a motion to approve the Legal Call as presented.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

**LEGAL NOTICE  
TOWN OF KILLINGWORTH  
NOTICE OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**

The Electors of the Town of Killingworth are hereby notified and warned that a Special Town Meeting will be held at Killingworth Elementary School, 340 Route 81 Killingworth, CT on Monday, August 18, 2025 at 7 p.m. to consider and act upon the following items of business:

To elect one Killingworth Elector to serve as a member of the Regional School District 17 Board of Education for a term to expire on December 1, 2025.

Dated at Killingworth, Connecticut this 28th day of July 2025.

Eric Donavon Couture  
First Selectman

Joel A. D’Angelo  
Selectman

Eric J. Nunes  
Selectman

Discussion - Town Clerk Dawn Mooney was in attendance to provide a detailed explanation of the process that follows Nelson Rivera’s resignation from the Regional District #17 Board of Education, emphasizing that the timing of the resignation created a uniquely complicated situation due to overlapping State election deadlines and Town Charter requirements. Town Clerk Mooney stated that because Mr. Nelson’s resignation occurred after the list of offices for the November election had already been certified with the Secretary of the State, Town Clerk Mooney was required to amend that filing to add a new ballot line for “Regional Board of Education, to fill vacancy for two years (vote for one).” This vacancy reflects the remainder of Mr. Rivera’s unexpired term, which runs from December 1, 2025 through December 1, 2027. The person elected in November will assume office in December, following the normal post-election transition.

Town Clerk Mooney further explained that since the resignation came after the endorsement period for major political parties, no candidates had originally been nominated for this new

vacancy and as a result, both the Democratic and Republican Town Committees have been granted an extension and now have until September 23, 2025 at 4:00 PM to submit their endorsements to the Town Clerk's office. Town Clerk Mooney noted that this only applies to the vacancy created by Mr. Rivera's resignation, and that there will be no primary process for this specific race further explaining that endorsed candidates will go directly onto the ballot, along with any petitioning candidates who meet State criteria.

Town Clerk Mooney further explained that the Town Charter mandates that a Special Town Meeting be held within thirty (30) days of the resignation to fill the seat on an interim basis. During that meeting, nominations will be taken from the floor, and the appointee will serve until the winner of the November election takes office in December. This interim appointment does not involve political party endorsements, and it is possible, but not required, that the person appointed at the Town Meeting could also be the candidate elected in November. Town Clerk Mooney also stated that if Mr. Rivera's resignation occurred slightly earlier, it would have fallen within the standard endorsement window; had it happened later, the position could have been filled solely through interim appointment. However, Town Clerk Mooney explained that its timing triggered a combination of legal steps involving both a special town meeting and a special election on the November ballot.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Motion #4 - First Selectman Couture *Moved* and Selectman Nunes *Seconded* a motion to amend Agenda Item B, Under New Business to: Open Space and Historic Preservation.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

### **B. Open Space and Historic Preservation:**

First Selectman Couture provided an update on Open Space and Historic Preservation, highlighting the town's continued commitment to conservation. Couture noted that the town maintains a dedicated budget line for open space preservation, historically used to support land acquisitions either initiated by the town or in partnership with the Land Trust. Couture explained that this funding is typically activated only when opportunities align with the town's long-term conservation goals.

The Board also discussed two residential structures that had been demolished in recent years, clarifying that the decisions were based not on budget constraints but rather on the buildings' deteriorated and diminished functional value. This led to a broader conversation about improving coordination around historic preservation efforts. In addition, the Board further discussed the importance of reconnecting with the Historic Review Committee before making any future preservation decisions. They acknowledged that Elizabeth Disbrow had first raised this issue in August of the previous year, and although she was not present at the meeting, her early initiative and outreach were recognized and appreciated. The Board expressed interest in understanding how other municipalities, particularly Middletown, approach tax abatements for historic properties. The Board emphasized the importance of conducting comprehensive research before making any decisions, underscoring their commitment to transparency, fairness, and responsible financial stewardship.

Couture will speak with Elizabeth Disbrow, Chair of the Historic Review Committee, to share the Board's conversation and next steps. The Historic Review Committee's next meeting is scheduled for August 8th at 11:00 a.m. The Board expressed interest in learning whether the Committee had reviewed preservation practices in other towns and what preliminary research or "homework" had already been done.

Ms. Laurel Poletti reported on her outreach to all 169 Connecticut towns in search of tax abatements for privately owned historic homes, finding no ordinances aside from two limited nonprofit-related cases in Middletown and Stonington. She noted that the Connecticut Historic Preservation Office became less responsive once they learned she was not affiliated with a nonprofit, underscoring the systemic lack of support for individual property owners. Ms. Poletti spoke about her own challenges maintaining Country Square under high property taxes, she explained that the recent demolition of a historic home on Parker Hill prompted broader concern. Ms. Poletti plans to reconnect with Elizabeth Disbrow and attend the next Historic Review Committee meeting scheduled the first week of August.

**Public Comment:**

- Eileen Blewett requested clarification regarding the nomination process for filling the Board of Education vacancy created by Mr. Rivera's resignation. Specifically, she asked whether candidates must be party-endorsed by the September deadline or if nominations can also be made at the upcoming town meeting. Town Clerk Mooney confirmed that while political parties must submit endorsements to the Town Clerk by the September 23rd deadline, the Special Town Meeting is open to nominations from the floor. Any resident, regardless of party affiliation, may nominate or second a candidate, and multiple nominations are allowed. Candidates may be formally endorsed by a party or simply nominated by fellow residents at the meeting.

**Board of Selectmen's Comments:**

**Joel D'Angelo -**

- Selectman D'Angelo commented that it was a good initial conversation regarding the tax payments and expressed that he looks forward to continuing the discussion in the future.
- Selectman D'Angelo thanked Nelson Rivera, noting that he was surprised to see the announcement of his resignation. He expressed sincere appreciation for Rivera's time and service, recalling their experience serving together on the Board of Education. D'Angelo described him as an objective and thoughtful colleague, and concluded by thanking Mr. Nelson for his dedicated contributions to the Town of Killingworth.

**Eric Nunes -**

- Nunes expressed gratitude to Town Clerk Mooney for consistently providing valuable insight and clarification, noting that each meeting brings new understanding about the town.
- Nunes thanked First Selectman Couture for presenting the traffic study data, expressing a personal appreciation for data analysis and its role in fostering informed discussions. Nunes stated that while voicing caution about forming new committees due to concerns about expanding government and the ongoing challenge of recruiting volunteers, he acknowledged that access to meaningful data can lead to actionable

insights, even if the findings reveal no significant issues, such as minimal speeding. With the new data now available, Nunes suggested that it may be worth revisiting the idea of forming a committee at a later time.

**First Selectman's Comments:**

**Eric Couture -**

- Couture commented about how the Parks & Recreation Commission is still reviewing the mowing contracts discussed at the last meeting. Couture stated that alternatives were considered, and the matter is expected to return to the Board for further discussion, which will also involve Chris from Public Works.
- Couture commented that the paving projects around town are mostly complete, with some minor edge work remaining on Route 81. This remaining work should be far less disruptive than the earlier paving efforts.
- Couture advised residents to stay cool during the ongoing heatwave and noted that the Cooling Centers are available at the Town Hall, hours are from 8:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m. and the Library (hours available on its website).

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

**Adjournment:** First Selectman Couture adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Sciascia  
Clerk