

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Monday, September 22, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.
Killingworth Town Hall/Remote Access Available**

BOS Members in Attendance: First Selectman Eric Couture and Selectman Eric Nunes

BOS Members Absent: Selectman Joel D'Angelo

Staff in Attendance: Regina Regolo (Director of Finance), Elizabeth Disbrow (Executive Assistant to First Selectman), and Jamie Sciascia (Clerk/Via Remote)

Visitors: Laurel Poletti, Richard Pleines, Annie Stirna (Via Remote), Bill Kosturko (Via Remote), Eileen Unger-Pleines (Via Remote), Eileen Blewett (Via Remote), and Resident State Trooper Rich Mulhall

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 Nunes ***Moved*** and First Selectman Couture ***Seconded*** a motion to approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Board of the Selectmen that was held on Monday, September 8, 2025 as presented.

Motion unanimously passed [2-0-0].

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. Robert Abrams	28 Beaver Dam Road	\$388.45	COC#12240M
2. Joseph Bradley	42 Fawn Hill Road	\$7.42	COC#12230M
3. CCAP Auto Lease LTD	1601 Elm St. Suite 800 Dallas, TX 75201	\$125.07	COC#12062M
4. CCAP Auto Lease LTD	1601 Elm St. Suite 800 Dallas, TX 75201	\$150.50	COC#12085M

5. Beverly Gawrych	295 Roast Meat Hill Road	\$5.85	COC#12244M
6. Sarah Johnson	11 Green Hill Road	\$33.70	COC#12223M
7. Niralee Patel-Lye	71 Emanuel Church Road	\$467.24	Online Overpayment
8. Jason Weinstein	175 Ferry Road Unit 24 Old Saybrook, CT 06475	\$320.62	COC#12225M

Motion unanimously passed [2-0-0].

Laurel Poletti addressed the Board regarding her Application for Property Tax Abatement for 243 Route 80, known as the Country Squire. She emphasized that the property has been recognized by the Historic Review Committee as architecturally and historically significant but is currently in decline, and without support could face structural loss.

Ms. Poletti noted the uniqueness of the property, explaining that it contains more antique square footage than any other property in town and includes three original period structures, making its preservation particularly complex and costly. Ms. Poletti requested that the three buildings be considered together as one entity for abatement purposes, so that expenses on any individual structure would apply to the whole.

Lastly, Ms. Poletti spoke about how the visibility and landmark quality of the property benefits the town as a whole and that the ordinance allows the Board of Selectmen broad latitude in granting abatements. Further, because of the property’s construction details including the 18th Century roof and gables, original windows and floors, plaster walls, and multiple utilities she maintained that expenses will always be ongoing. Ms. Poletti formally requested a permanent abatement to ensure preservation of all three structures in perpetuity. Ms. Poletti expressed her personal commitment to preserving the Country Squire but stressed the importance of tax relief to secure its future beyond her stewardship.

Department Reports: No Reports.

Appointments: None.

Budget Report: No Updated Report.

Old Business:

A. Traffic Safety

First Selectman Couture reported that the draft Safe Streets for All Report from RiverCOG is expected within the next few weeks. The report, which focuses heavily on Route 81, is currently under review by the Connecticut Department of Transportation. The consultant, FHI, has proposed holding a public meeting in late October or early November, and Couture suggested scheduling it an hour before a regular Board of Selectmen’s meeting so the details can be presented.

Couture also noted that the speed feedback signs are in place, one located on lower Roast Meat Hill Road and another on Green Hill by the cemetery and that data collection is ongoing with the town continuing to analyze this information. Couture further reported that discussions are

underway with the State DOT about installing safety measures similar to those used at the Route 81/Stevens Road and Roast Meat Hill/Route 80 intersections, which remain problem areas. Selectman Nunes inquired about the possible value of re-establishing a Traffic Safety Committee, even on a limited basis, depending on the volume of data and issues that emerge. Couture noted in the interim Chris Mello, Resident State Trooper Mulhall and himself will continue to meet to determine where to best focus their efforts based on the data presented.

B. KES Update

First Selectman Couture reported that the new water system at KES has been fully installed. A temporary water tanker remains onsite while additional water testing is completed, but noted that there has been no danger to students during this period. Couture further reported that the Department of Public Health is expected to approve operation of the system this week or next, at which point the tanker will be removed.

Couture further reported that the system itself is functioning properly; the delay has been due to required testing of the wells. The project should be fully wrapped up in the near future.

New Business:

A. IT Update:

First Selectman Couture reported that Director of Finance Regolo has been working with CT Comp and Information Specialist Larry Seidel on cybersecurity and disaster planning. The project is now in its final stages noting that the purpose of the plan is to ensure the town is prepared for emergencies; whether from events like lightning strikes that could disrupt Town Hall operations or cybersecurity threats such as website hacking. Couture advised that having this plan in place will also make the town eligible for cyber insurance at discounted rates, helping to save money while strengthening preparedness. Couture noted that final edits are being completed, and more staff will soon be included in the planning process so they are aware of their responsibilities in the event of an emergency.

Couture also reported that the new permit software is scheduled for in house testing on October 16th and 17th.

Motion #3 - Selectman Nunes *Moved* and First Selectman Couture *Seconded* a motion to move up on the Agenda, Item 9C, IFO Resolution - PFAS above Item 9B, Call to Town Meeting.

Motion unanimously passed [2-0-0].

C. IFO Resolution - PFAS

Motion #4 - First Selectman Couture *Moved* and Selectman Nunes *Seconded* a motion to approve the following IFO Resolution as presented:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen hereby approves and recommends to the Board of Finance and the electors and persons qualified to vote at Town Meetings that

(i) the Town of Killingworth (the "Town") appropriate the sum of \$388,000 (the "Appropriation") for the cost of the Killingworth Elementary School Well PFAS Treatment System project such costs to include, but not limited to, the installation of a granulated activated carbon filtration point of entry treatment system in the Killingworth Elementary School to provide water treatment for a PFAS/PFOS contamination, the purchase and installation of the treatment units and piping to connect the existent wells and water storage tank to said treatment units, and all alterations, repairs an

d improvements in connection therewith, as well as engineering, architectural and temporary and permanent financing costs (the "Project"); said Appropriation being inclusive of any and all State of Connecticut (the "State") and Federal grants-in-aid; and

(ii) to meet said Appropriation and in lieu of a tax therefor, bonds of the Town (the "Bonds") and project loan obligations ("PLO") are hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to Chapter 109 and Section 22a-475 through Section 22a-483 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, the Charter of the Town or any other provision of law thereto enabling, in the maximum principal amount of both the Bonds and PLOs of \$388,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary after deducting grants or other sources of funds available therefor (the "Bond/PLO Authorization," together with the Appropriation, the "Actions"). The Bonds and the PLOS shall be general obligations of the Town and the full faith and credit of the Town shall be pledged to the payment thereof.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that should the Actions be approved by the Board of Finance and the electors and persons qualified to vote at Town Meeting,

(i) that the First Selectman and the Treasurer be authorized to issue and sell temporary notes of the Town or interim funding obligations ("IFO") to the State in an amount not to exceed \$388,000 in anticipation of the receipt of proceeds from the sale of the Bonds or PLOs authorized above and to determine the amount, date, date of maturity, interest rate, form and other details of such notes and Bonds, pursuant to Chapter 109 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, or IFOs and PLOS pursuant to Section 22a-475 through Section 22a-483 inclusive of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended or any other provision of law thereto enabling, provided that the proceeds from the sale of such notes or IFOs shall be used for said purpose

(ii) The First Selectman and the Treasurer shall sign the Bonds, notes, PLOS and IFOS by either manual or facsimile signatures and that the law firm of Pullman & Comley, LLC is designated as bond counsel to approve the legality of the Bonds, notes, PLOS and IFOS.

(iii) that the First Selectman and the Treasurer, or either of them, be authorized to designate a bank or trust company to be the certifying bank, registrar, transfer agent and paying agent for the Bonds, PLOS, notes or IFOs; to sell the Bonds, PLOS, notes or IFOs at public or private sale or by direct placement; to deliver the Bonds, PLOS, notes or IFOs; and to perform all other acts which are necessary to appropriate to issue the Bonds, PLOS, notes or IFO's. If the Bonds, PLOS, notes or IFOs authorized by this resolution are issued on a tax-exempt basis, the First Selectman and the Treasurer, or either of them, are authorized to bind the Town pursuant to such representations and covenants as they deem necessary or advisable in order to maintain the continued exemption from federal income taxation of interest on the Bonds, PLOS, notes or IFOs, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years.

(iv) The First Selectman or other proper officer of the Town, on behalf of the Town, is hereby authorized to apply for and accept state grants to defray the Appropriation for the Project and state loans to finance the Project, and to enter into any grant or loan agreement prescribed by the State, and the First Selectman and Treasurer are hereby authorized to take any other actions necessary to obtain or secure such grants or loans pursuant to Section 22a-475 to 22a-483 inclusive of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, and any other provision of law thereto enabling or to implement such grant or loan agreements.

(v) The First Selectman and the Treasurer and other proper officers of the Town are hereby authorized to take all other action which is necessary or desirable to plan, design, construct and complete the Project and to issue and secure Bonds, PLOS, notes and IFOs to defray the aforesaid Appropriation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, provided the Board of Finance approves the Actions, the Town convene a Special Town Meeting to be held on October 14, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at Killingworth Elementary School, 340 Route 81, Killingworth, Connecticut to vote upon the resolution authorizing the appropriation and financing for the Project referenced above.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town reasonably expects to incur expenditures (the "Expenditures") in connection with the capital project for which a general functional description is provided in the resolution above. The Town reasonably expects to reimburse itself for the cost of the Expenditures and the proceeds of general obligation bonds and notes of the Town described above. The maximum principal amount of such debt (both bonds and notes) is not expected to exceed \$388,000. This declaration of official intent is a declaration of official intent made pursuant to Treasury Regulation Section 1.150-2.

Discussion - First Selectman Couture explained that the town must bond for the full project cost, but about 50% reimbursement from the State is expected once the application is completed, similar to past school projects where about 40% was reimbursed. Couture noted the Resolution

language was prepared by Bond Counsel, is standard, and allows the town to pay expenses now and reimburse itself later with State funds.

Motion unanimously passed [2-0-0].

B. Call to Town Meeting

Motion #4 - First Selectman Couture *Moved* and Selectman Nunes *Seconded* a motion to send the following Resolution to Town Meeting on October 14, 2025 at Killingworth Elementary School:

All electors and persons qualified to vote in town meetings of the Town of Killingworth, Connecticut (the “Town”), are hereby notified that the Board of Selectmen of the Town are convening a Special Town Meeting to be held at Killingworth Elementary School, 340 Route 81, Killingworth, Connecticut at 7 o’clock p.m. on October 14, 2025 for the following purposes:

(i) Item 1. To consider, discuss, and vote upon: i) an appropriation in the amount of \$388,000 (the “Appropriation”) for the cost of the Killingworth Elementary School Well PFAS Treatment System project such costs to include, but not limited to, the installation of a granulated activated carbon filtration point of entry treatment system in the Killingworth Elementary School to provide water treatment for a PFAS/PFOS contamination, the purchase and installation of the treatment units and piping to connect the existent wells and water storage tank to said treatment units, and all alterations, repairs and improvements in connection therewith, as well as engineering, architectural and temporary and permanent financing costs (the “Project”), and ii) to meet said Appropriation and in lieu of a tax therefor, bonds of the Town (the “Bonds”) and project loan obligations (“PLO”) are hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to Chapter 109 and Section 22a-475 through Section 22a-483 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, the Charter of the Town or any other provision of law thereto enabling, in the maximum principal amount of both Bonds and PLOs of \$388,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary after deducting grants or other sources of funds available therefor. The Bonds and the PLOs shall be general obligations of the Town and the full faith and credit of the Town shall be pledged to the payment thereof.

The full text of the authorizing resolutions for the Project is on file and open to inspection at the office of the Town Clerk, Town Hall, Route 81, Killingworth, Connecticut for the use of any interested person.

Dated at Killingworth, Connecticut this 22nd day of September, 2025.

Eric Donavon Couture
First Selectman

Eric J. Nunes
Selectman

Discussion - First Selectman Couture reported that the Board of Finance has been discussing the use of bonds as a way to smooth out capital investments, and this project represents an appropriate first step. Director of Finance Regolo noted that the town has little recent debt history; the last major debt was refinanced at a very low interest rate and will be fully paid off in two years. The Town of Killingworth would rely on the State of Connecticut's bond rating, which was recently upgraded. Couture further explained that the next major project expected to involve bonding is the Fire Truck, which will cost three to four times more than the current project, with possible future bonding needs for a new or renovated Fire Station. Selectman Nunes inquired about interest rates and a brief discussion took place thereafter.

Motion unanimously passed [2-0-0].

Public Comment: None.

Selectmen's Comments:

Eric Nunes - No Comments.

First Selectman's Comments:

Eric Couture -

- Couture urged residents to slow down while driving, noting the Resident State Trooper would agree.
- Couture commented that he sent out an email that the Connecticut River Area Health District will be holding immunization clinics across the region over the next couple of months. Couture encouraged everyone to get up to date on their vaccinations.

Adjournment: First Selectman Couture adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Sciascia
Clerk