

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Monday, October 27, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.
Killingworth Town Hall/Remote Access Available**

BOS Members in Attendance: First Selectman Eric Couture, Selectmen Eric Nunes and Joel D'Angelo

BOS Members Absent: None.

Staff in Attendance: Regina Regolo (Director of Finance), Elizabeth Disbrow (Executive Assistant to First Selectman), Annie Stirna (Chair, Board of Finance/Via Remote), Shauna Ham (Assessor/Via Remote), and Jamie Sciascia (Clerk/Via Remote)

Visitors: Eileen Blewett (Via Remote), Nancy Gorski (Via Remote), and Richard Pleines (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.

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 Tuesday, October 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. Enterprise FM Trust	2281 Ball Drive Saint Louis, MO 63146	\$324.79	COC#12268M
2. Michael Epright	P.O. Box 248 Haddam, CT 06438	\$29.00	COC#12271M

3. Constantinos Mantopoulos 105 Hemlock Drive \$44.45 COC#12273M

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Department Reports:

First Selectman Couture reviewed the status of the Opioid Settlement Funds with the Board. Haddam-Killingworth Youth and Family Services (HKYFS) requested just over \$10,000 to continue prevention and harm reduction initiatives, including recent programming such as speaker Stephen Hill's presentations at the Middle and High School. The Board reviewed funds received, what was spent to date and the balance. Expenditures have supported prevention programs consistent with state guidelines for prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and recovery support.

Couture noted that there were no additional Department Reports this month, as most are expected to present at the next meeting in November.

Motion #3 - Selectman D'Angelo *Moved* and Selectman Nunes *Seconded* a motion to approve the \$10,743.32 from the Opiate Settlement Fund be expended to Haddam-Killingworth Youth & Family Services.

Discussion - Selectman D'Angelo noted that the proposed allocation falls in line with the eligible expenditure categories for the Opiate Settlement Fund and is considered an appropriate use of those funds. Selectman Nunes noted that the proposed expenditures align with eligible program categories which includes support for the "LIFTED & EmpowHERed" initiative, continuation of social-emotional and evidence-based programs, a Naloxone Campaign, and the Stephen Hill Youth Presentation.

Selectman Nunes inquired whether the Town anticipates receiving additional Opiate Settlement funds in the next fiscal year. Director of Finance Regolo responded that additional disbursements are expected, though the timing is irregular, as the funds are distributed through a broader settlement process not directly managed by the state. Regolo also confirmed that the funds do not expire, are held in a designated line item within the General Fund, and remain available until expended, with basic reporting required to document their use.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Appointments: None.

Budget Report: FY26/27 kickoff

First Selectman Couture reported that the new budget process is beginning and will run using both the current system and the new ClearGov software. ClearGov will be used internally this year to produce a digital budget book. The first step will be collecting Multi-Year Capital Requests from departments, including the Volunteer Fire Company, Public Works Department, and Parks & Recreation. Couture also noted the process will follow Charter deadlines.

Old Business:

A. Enforcement Ordinance

First Selectman Couture revisited discussion from the summer regarding the lack of an enforcement mechanism for zoning regulations. Couture reported that a neighboring town recently adopted an ordinance providing a middle ground between issuing warning letters and pursuing court action. Couture shared a copy of that ordinance with the town’s Zoning Enforcement Officer for review, noting that local references would need to be modified. Couture also noted that the proposal would likely require Town Meeting approval.

B. Award Bids: Reval

First Selectman Couture reported that Assessor Shauna Ham recommended the award of the 2026 Reappraisal and Revaluation Contract to Equality Valuation Services, LLC. Two bids were received, with Equality being both the lower bidder and the firm with the most experience working with the Town.

Assessor Ham noted that informal hearing notices will be sent by January 6th and the 2026 Grand List will be signed by January 31, 2027. The updated assessments will appear on the July 2027 tax bills for the 2027–2028 fiscal year. Selectman Nunes inquired about the purpose of the informal hearings. Assessor Ham explained that they provide property owners an opportunity to review and discuss their proposed assessments before filing a formal appeal with the Board of Assessment Appeals.

Motion #4 - First Selectman Couture *Moved* and Selectman D’Angelo *Seconded* a motion to award the Reappraisal and Evaluation Contract for the 2026 Grand List to E Quality Valuation Services in the amount of \$62,500.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

C. 2026 Schedule of Meetings

First Selectman Couture reviewed the draft 2026 Meeting Schedule, noting there was no action required at this time. Couture highlighted three dates marked in red for clarification which the Board discussed options for rescheduling those dates.

New Business:

A. Traffic Safety

First Selectman Couture reported that FHI presented the Safe Streets for All study earlier in the evening; the presentation will be posted on YouTube via the Town’s website, with a regional session scheduled for November 12th. Couture reported that materials highlighted low-cost safety improvements, like trimming vegetation to improve sight lines, which could be implemented locally with Chris Mello. The Board discussed pedestrian and bicycle activity, noting usage often increases once infrastructure is built, ongoing speeding concerns, and the need for better connectivity between side roads, particularly for safer Route 148 crossings. The Board discussed collaboration with the Conservation Land Trust to create connected walkable spaces, along with ensuring recreational projects, like pickleball courts, align with traffic and

mobility planning. Route 148 near Kroopa Pond is scheduled for DOT improvements, while Route 81 remains a focus due to prior accidents. Residents are encouraged to review the plan on the RiverCOG website and provide feedback.

B. Multi-Year Capital Improvement Plan

The Board discussed the Multi-Year Capital Improvement Plan, noting that future purchases, such as vehicle replacements, are projected in the plan but only impact the Operating Budget once they reach Year 1, when debt service is included. First Selectman Couture explained that borrowing costs are reflected as operating expenses, with Bond Counsel ensuring compliance, and that bonding spreads large costs over time. The Board further discussed that future boards must ensure that the new apparatus for the Volunteer Fire Truck fit existing facilities, and agreed that careful planning is essential for managing capital projects and debt service.

Public Comment:

- Nancy Gorski of 18 Wolf Hollow Lane inquired about the current status of the ARPA Funds. Director of Finance Regolo responded that all ARPA funds have been fully committed, as required by the end of calendar year 2024. Only one project remains unfinished, the Fire Department's Water Hole Project, noting approximately \$12,000 remains to be expended, but all funds have been allocated.

Selectmen's Comments:

Joel D'Angelo - No Comments.

Eric Nunes -

- Nunes expressed his appreciation to the Board, noting that it has been a pleasure working together over the past two years. Nunes thanked his colleagues for their collaboration and dedication, as the town moves toward offering residents another choice in who will be serving on the Board in the November elections next month. Nunes wished his colleagues good luck and remains hopeful they'll have the opportunity to work together again in the future.

First Selectman's Comments:

Eric Couture -

- Couture echoed Nunes' sentiments;
- Couture commented that both ClearGov and OpenGov initiatives are moving forward, thanks to the significant progress made with Katie Black's assistance. Couture expressed thanks to Amy Roberts-Perry for helping the Town advance these projects. Couture mentioned there is still some work to be done but emphasized that steady progress is being made.

- Couture extended thanks to the Historical Society for providing the photographs currently displayed on the walls depicting the Town's old one room schoolhouses and their classes. Couture noted that the addition of these photos brings a sense of history to the room.

Adjournment: First Selectman Couture adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Sciascia
Clerk