

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Monday, November 10, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.  
Killingworth Town Hall/Remote Access Available**

**BOS Members in Attendance:** First Selectman Eric Couture, and Selectman Joel D’Angelo

**BOS Members Absent:** Selectman Eric Nunes

**Staff in Attendance:** Regina Regolo (Director of Finance), Annie Stirna (Chair, Board of Finance/Via Remote), and Jamie Sciascia (Clerk/Via Remote)

**Visitors:** Eileen Blewett (Via Remote), Lisa Connelly (RSD17 Board of Education), Nancy Gorski, Jackie Vece (Via Remote)

**Called to Order:** First Selectman Couture called this meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Motion #1 - Selectman D’Angelo *Moved* and Selectman 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, October 27, 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. First Class Hardscape	117 River Rd	\$99.78	Overpayment COC#52175
2. First Class Hardscape	117 River Rd	\$146.07	Overpayment COC#52181
3. First Class Hardscape	117 River Rd	\$65.15	Overpayment COC#52178
4. Chase Pendleton	117 River Road	\$61.81	Overpayment COC#55261
5. Ally Financial	PO Box 71119	\$331.18	Overpayment COC#56977
6. Melanie Balisano	PO Box 912	\$170.80	Overpayment COC #50402
7. Stephanie Venuti	47 Roberts Ln	\$380.45	Overpayment COC#52640

8. Stephanie Venuti	HTFD 47 Roberts Ln HTFD	\$349.74	Overpayment COC#57034
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Motion unanimously passed [2-0-0].

**Department Reports:**

Lisa Connelly from RSD17 Board of Education presented the Summary for the month of October to the Board. Lisa Connelly presented the following information: 1) Cougar Pride & HKIS Level 1, Marzano High Reliability School Certification Program; 2) Recognition of High School Principal Donna Hayward for election to the National Association of Secondary School Principals Board of Directors with a Certificate of Excellence; 3) Student Representatives Reports; 4) Athletic Update; 5) Technology Update; 6) Enrollment & ADM Reports; 7) Finance & Operations Updates; 8) Capital Projects: (High School Project); 9) Leadership Appointments.

**Appointments:**

First Selectman Couture reported most members with their terms expiring next year have agreed to continue serving, and noted that their commitment was appreciated. Couture also noted that a few members have chosen to step down due to other time commitments. An updated list of appointments will be provided at the next meeting.

**Budget Report:**

First Selectman Couture reported that the monthly Budget Report was provided in the Board's packet. The Board raised no questions.

**Old Business:**

**A. Turf Maintenance at Eric Auer Park Rebid**

First Selectman Couture reported that the Parks and Recreation Commission reviewed recent bids and recommended awarding the turf and landscaping maintenance contract to Drainscapes, LLC for fiscal years 2025–2026 and 2026–2027, with the contract term beginning January 1, 2026, as stated in the RFP. Couture noted that this bid was a complex one.

The Parks and Recreation Commission, along with Chris Mello, and the Public Works Department, met to discuss future capital needs that might allow some maintenance work to be done in-house, though budget limits make such changes unlikely in the current or next fiscal year.

Motion #3 - First Selectman Couture ***Moved*** to award Drainscapes, LLC the contract for the Eric Auer Park Turf Maintenance Contract for both 2025-26 and the 2026-27 fiscal year.

*Motion **Withdrawn** by First Selectman Couture before it was seconded.*

Motion #4 - First Selectman Couture ***Moved*** and Selectman D'Angelo ***Seconded*** a motion to award Drainscapes, LLC the contract for their bid on the Turf Maintenance at Eric Auer Park, opened on October 14, 2025.

Motion unanimously passed [2-0-0].

### **B. Multi-Year Capital Improvement Plan**

The Board reviewed the Multi-Year Capital Plan and agreed to keep it a top priority. Following the closure of several capital projects at the recent Special Town Meeting, the Board discussed reinstating approximately \$400,000 from the former Fire Company renovation project to fund an architectural study and form a Building Committee within the next year.

Departments will begin submitting capital requests through the new ClearGov software to improve consistency and transparency. The Public Works Department is piloting the process with full submissions, including documentation and images, followed by the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Fire Company. The Board recognized the efforts of the Director of Public Works, Chris Mello, and Tax Clerk Brian Windchell, for their work in implementing the system and strengthening financial coordination.

Selectman D'Angelo noted that departmental "wants and needs" submissions vary widely in format and suggested using a standardized form to make reviews easier. Board of Finance Director Regolo responded that the new software will standardize submissions by allowing departments to upload their materials while displaying the data in a consistent, easy-to-read format.

### **C. 2026 Budget**

First Selectman Couture stated that the next Board will review the 2026 Meeting Calendar and determine the preferred budget meeting format. The Board spoke about how the Multi-Year Plan must guide all capital and budget discussions moving forward. Couture noted that the Fire Company expects lighter capital needs this year but will develop a ten-year plan. Couture also reiterated the need to clearly distinguish operating, maintenance, and capital expenses, as maintenance issues can evolve into capital needs if not properly planned.

**New Business:** None.

### **Public Comment:**

- Nancy Gorski congratulated Couture and D'Angelo and expressed enthusiasm about working with them. Gorski stated that the paperwork for bank signing privileges would need to be completed and that an email account is being set up.

**Selectmen's Comments:**

**Joel D'Angelo -**

- D'Angelo acknowledged the absence of Eric Nunes and thanked him for his thoughtful service over the past two years.
- D'Angelo congratulated Nancy Gorski on a well-run election and expressed enthusiasm about working with her.

**First Selectman's Comments:**

**Eric Couture -**

- Couture echoed comments that Selectman D'Angelo said about Selectman Nunes and thanked him for his service.
- Couture welcomed Nancy Gorski and said he looks forward to working with her.
- Couture provided an update on a special legislative session called by the Governor. The new language for the HP 5002 aims for a more cooperative approach, with greater involvement from COGs, CCM, and COST, benefiting municipalities.
- Legislature plans to temporarily raise the Rainy Day Fund Cap by \$500 million to offset federal cuts.

**Adjournment:** First Selectman Couture adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Sciascia  
Clerk