

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Monday, November 24, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.
Killingworth Town Hall/Remote Access Available**

BOS Members in Attendance: First Selectman Eric Couture, Selectmen Nancy Gorski 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) and Jamie Sciascia (Clerk/Via Remote)

Visitors: Alli Behnke (HKYFS), Jackie Vece (Via Remote)

Called to Order: First Selectman Couture called this meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion #1 - Selectman D’Angelo *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, November 10, 2025 as presented.

Couture/D’Angelo - Yes
Gorski - Abstained

Motion passed [2-0-1].

Refunds, Abatements, Transfers:

Motion #2 - First Selectman Couture *Moved* and Selectman Gorski *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. Cote, William	5 Boulder Trl	\$252.72	COC#02824
2. Nissan Motor	PO Box 22059	\$182.91	COC#54881
3. Nissan Motor	PO Box 22059	\$303.04	COC#54883

4. Toyota Lease 525 Fellowship \$337.06 COC#56833

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Department Reports:

HKYFS -

Alli Behnke presented the HKYFS Report. Ms. Behnke reported about the following:

- Holiday Giving Program is underway;
- Stuff-A-Cruiser events: one of them is at New Image Auto on November 30th from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. and the second at Christmas at Parmelee Farm from 3:00-5:00 p.m.;
- 37th Annual Holiday Craft Fair on December 6th from 9:00 a.m-3:00 p.m. at the Middle School;
- Fall Festival and Pumpkin Run were both a huge success;
- Grants and Prevention Work Update;
- Programs include Empowered programs and new opioid-prevention initiatives;
- A survey, administered every two years to assess risk and behavior among youth, will be given this year to 7th and 12th Grade students on December 18th and 19th which collects data on mental health, substance use, bullying, gambling, and other risky behaviors.
- Program Activity that was held from July 1st–30th: 27 programs/events, 1,152 total attendees, 20 agency partnerships;
- 414 volunteer hours 5 mental health programs with 20+ hours of programming for the year.

Selectman Gorski inquired whether the opioid prevention funds could support a full time position. It was noted that the funding cannot support such a position because it is small, inconsistent, and received in irregular installments of roughly \$7,000 rather than as a stable annual allocation. First Selectman Couture stated that the remaining balance is approximately \$70,000 and that distributions vary by town, Haddam receives less, making the funding unreliable for any staffing commitment.

First Selectman Couture noted that there are no other Department Reports.

Appointments:

First Selectman Couture reported that a vacancy exists on the Zoning Board of Appeals, and with only one alternate currently serving, Canny MacGonagale has offered to move from alternate to full member. This would leave the board without alternates, but there has been discussion with Bruce Dodson about returning to serve as an alternate. Couture noted this will be revisited at their next ZBA meeting.

Couture reported that the Board is still awaiting responses from several individuals regarding other appointed positions and may proceed with appointments if no replies are received.

Budget Report:

Director of Finance Regolo reported that monthly budget reports continue to be released at the

start of each month. First Selectman Couture noted that they are watching the repair line closely with additional work needed on the ramp because a section was left unfinished during the initial repair, and the boiler unexpectedly failed two weeks earlier, requiring about \$1,500 in repairs.

Old Business:

A. PFAS Update

First Selectman Couture reported that the PFAS filtration system at KES has been fully activated, allowing students to use all faucets. Couture noted that the water tanker has been removed and the drinking fountains are not yet in use because the district plans to replace them and reduce their number. Couture further reported that the recent water tests show all results below action levels. Five faucets still showed PFAS presence, but all were below the drinking water threshold, and the issue is believed to be leftover residue in the fixtures rather than a system problem. Couture noted that those faucets will continue to be retested until clean results are consistent. Lastly, Couture reported that a previous concern that the school's main fiberglass water storage tank might have absorbed PFAS appears to be unfounded, which avoids a potentially major expense. The project team is finalizing remaining change order costs and will present the final change order soon.

Selectman Gorski inquired if GZA will assist with the next DWSRF funding application, and Couture noted that the town has been in ongoing communication with DPH and Connecticut Water about possible alternatives to installing an additional filtration system. Couture reported that some of these options involve sensitive/preliminary information, so they will need to be discussed in a future executive session.

First Selectman Couture reported that the federal government recently scaled back enforcement of stricter PFAS standards. He noted that the KES system is designed to meet the highest achievable testing thresholds, so it should remain compliant even if future standards become more stringent. Selectman Gorski suggested informing the community of the current status and holding a meeting with the Department of Public Health (DPH), Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), and the Public Works Department to explain next steps. Couture and D'Angelo agreed with this approach.

B. 2026 Schedule of Meetings

First Selectman Couture presented the draft 2026 Selectmen's Meeting Schedule, noting it uses the usual 2nd and 4th Tuesday format, with the only adjustment needed in October due to the holiday. Couture asked the Board to choose between holding that meeting on Monday, October 12th or Tuesday, October 13th, which the Board preferred Tuesday.

Motion #3 - Selectman Gorski *Moved* and Selectman D'Angelo *Seconded* a motion to approve the Board of Selectmen's 2026 Meeting Schedule as presented.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

C. 2026 Budget Calendar

First Selectman Couture introduced the 2025–2026 Budget Calendar, noting most deadlines are dictated by the town charter. He asked the Board how they preferred to handle budget season

meetings and recommended holding special meetings, explaining that they keep discussion focused and avoid the distractions of regular meeting agendas. The Board concurred.

Couture confirmed the budget must be submitted by the third Monday in March and emphasized that boards, commissions, and departments need to begin their work early, especially with capital and multi-year planning. Couture noted that he and Director of Finance Regolo have been emphasizing this to key groups, including the Parks & Recreation Commission and the Fire Company, as some items on their multi-year plans still lack detail. The Public Works Department is being used as the test case for fully entering its budget into the new ClearGov software, and Couture expressed interest in seeing how that standardized reporting will look once complete.

New Business:

A. Legislative Update

First Selectman Couture reported that the Special Session Housing Bill, passed on the 12th and 13th, incorporated input from CCM, COST, and regional COGs. While some definitions, such as for the Town of Naugatuck, were initially omitted, the bill provides increased infrastructure funding and promotes regional planning for housing. Couture further reported that the Town of Killingworth is ahead in new housing development, and local Planning and Zoning retains control, though the bill allows some flexibility, including residential as-of-right in commercial zones. ADU rules now reference state building codes rather than specifying sizes, streamlining local regulations.

B. Regional Update

First Selectman Couture reported on the RiverCOG update, including ongoing studies and local development issues. RiverCOG hosted a presentation from LISC, which supports affordable housing and small scale developers, and is assessing regional housing interest. The Safe Streets for All study is in a 30 day public comment period; recommendations for Killingworth include adjusting the rotary, improving traffic flow, adding sidewalks along Route 81 (east side), and enhancing crosswalks near the churches. Materials are on the RiverCOG website. Couture was appointed to the RiverCOG Executive Committee and may become Treasurer of the Middlesex Chamber Revitalization Commission, following retiring member Bob's McGarry recommendation.

The Connecticut River Area Health District plans a small per capita rate increase due to reduced state funding; current rates are \$11.20 per person, with an estimated \$6,000 impact for Killingworth. Couture noted that Scott Martinson remains active in securing grants.

Couture reported that the town is still awaiting clarity on the stalled redevelopment of the Westbrook Outlets, reportedly held up by DEEP over community septic issues, though the proposal includes a significant housing component near transit. Local commercial updates included: the James Madison House project is still progressing after additional cleanup; the planned Ziggy's café fell through due to disagreements over required aesthetic changes; the former June's property is still under cleanup; Subway has reopened under new management; and one cleared residential lot near the Post Office is for sale after plans to build a house were abandoned.

Public Comment: None.

Selectmen's Comments:

Joel D'Angelo -

- D'Angelo offered Thanksgiving well-wishes to the community.
- D'Angelo expressed appreciation for Youth and Family Services. He noted he is consistently impressed by the number and quality of programs they provide and recognized how important these services are to many residents.

Nancy Gorski -

- Gorski thanked Youth and Family Services for their work, noting how much the organization has grown in impact over recent years.
- Gorski raised concerns from Parker Hill Extension residents about changes at Turnbridge, specifically the shift from an all female to a mixed gender population and suggested that Turnbridge should notify nearby residents about the change.
- Gorski said he also mentioned that Beachwood may require reactivating the Fair Rent Commission due to concerns about rising rates and referenced Southington's review of similar issues.
- Gorski asked for an update on the Ethics Committee's progress and expressed interest in forming a committee to study alternative forms of government, following earlier charter recommendations.
- Gorski noted that she looks forward to working with the Board of Education, particularly regarding budget planning and ensuring school plans remain within what the town can afford.

First Selectman's Comments:

Eric Couture -

- Couture confirmed that the Ethics Committee is nearly finished with its draft and explained why they briefly revisited one issue, an ethics complaint he observed at a nearby town's hearing that highlighted how partisan dynamics can complicate ethics decisions. He noted the committee expects to present its final work in December or January, after which a new Ethics Commission will need to be formally established.
- Couture provided an update on the school facilities feasibility work, explaining that he and Lisa Connelly are serving on the committee along with several experienced members from the region. The group is moving on a fast schedule to produce recommendations by

March, likely leading to a referendum soon after. Given large projected long-term costs, (around \$100 million), he suggested that a comprehensive, bonded project may ultimately be more cost effective.

- Couture acknowledged residents' concerns about Turnbridge's change to a mixed-gender facility and agreed more communication from Turnbridge would be helpful.
- Couture also noted that the Fair Rent Commission may need to be reactivated due to statewide scrutiny of rising rents in manufactured housing communities, with anticipated support from the Attorney General's office.
- Couture stated how he looks forward to working with the Board of Selectmen over the next two years and feels confident the group can handle whatever challenges arise.

Adjournment: First Selectman Couture adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Sciascia

Clerk