

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Monday, January 26, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.
Via Remote Only - Teams**

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), and Jamie Sciascia (Clerk/Via Remote)

Visitors: None.

Called to Order: First Selectman Couture called this meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: Since the Board meeting was conducted remotely and the Flag was not present, First Selectman Couture noted the absence of the Flag and asked whether the Board was agreeable to forgo the Pledge of Allegiance and proceed to the next item of business on the agenda, which they did.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion #1 - Selectman Gorski *Moved* and Selectman D'Angelo *Seconded* a motion to approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Board of the Selectmen that was held on Monday, January 12, 2026 as presented.

Discussion - First Selectman Couture noted that Transfers do not need to be included in the minutes.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Refunds and Abatements:

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. Susan Adinolfo	84 Chittenden Rd	\$33.01	COC#50080
2. Nissan Motors	PO Box 22059	\$455.07	COC#54882

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Department Reports: First Selectman Couture reported that there were no Department Reports for this month.

Appointments:

Motion #3 - First Selectman Couture *Moved* and Selectman D'Angelo *Seconded* a Motion to appoint Brian F. Walsh (U) to Emergency Management for a term beginning 01/01/2026 and ending on 12/31/2026.

Discussion - Couture noted that Brian Walsh had to step back from his prior level of commitment but remains willing to serve.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Budget Report:

First Selectman Couture reported that the snow budget was the primary concern and requested an update. Director of Finance Regolo stated that, as of the most recent review, approximately 63% of the current year's snow budget had been expended. She noted that this figure does not yet include costs from the most recent storm, including overtime and outside contractor invoices, which are not yet available. Selectman Gorski added that ongoing freeze/thaw conditions will require continued treatment, resulting in additional costs. Regolo noted that the last comparable heavy snow year was 2018, when total snow expenditures reached approximately \$312,000, and stated that a similar season today would be significantly more expensive due to higher contractor rates and the use of larger plowing equipment. She advised that, if current conditions continue, total snow-related costs could increase substantially, though final figures remain uncertain.

Couture reported that municipalities statewide are experiencing a salt shortage due to supply and distribution constraints and reported that they are exploring alternative sources to secure additional salt in anticipation of upcoming storms.

Couture noted that a potential new firehouse is included in Year 6 of the Multi-Year Plan and that the timing may be adjusted. Selectman Gorski asked how costs would be appropriated. Couture explained that such projects typically begin with short term notes and later convert to long-term bonding. Regolo clarified that the town would not see the impact until debt service is passed through in a future budget request, and that the timing remains uncertain.

Old Business:

A. MYCIP

First Selectman Couture suggested returning to the Multi-Year Capital Plan, noting that as budget season begins it makes more sense to fit the current year's budget into a ten year framework rather than compressing ten years into a single budget. Couture explained that the purpose of the plan is to provide a general view of upcoming projects, not a final list. He noted that in Year 6, Station 1 renovations are included, but additional requests and changes are expected in the coming weeks, including the possible reintroduction of architectural design funding for a new fire station to better define costs. He referenced Middlefield's recent

experience, where a project initially estimated at a similar level ultimately cost approximately \$11–12 million, while noting the estimate for Killingworth could be significantly lower based on that precedent. Couture acknowledged this observation and stated that, while the current estimate may be conservative, he is comfortable leaving it in place for planning purposes. Gorski asked about the total MYCIP amount, and Couture confirmed it at approximately \$23.9 million.

Couture further discussed with the Board improving exterior signage and completing painting and carpeting in Town Hall. He stated that since the roof was installed on the portables and major leaks have been resolved, it would be appropriate to consider a modest refresh, particularly as the Town has deferred an architectural study for replacement of the portables.

Couture requested that the Board review the plan and identify any items that may need to be removed, added, or amended before the next Board of Selectmen’s meeting. Selectmen D’Angelo and Gorski agreed this review should be part of the upcoming budget planning and special meetings to clarify priorities. Couture noted that February would include multiple special budget meetings and suggested beginning the review with the Public Works Department and the Fire Company, followed by the Parks and Recreation Commission. Director of Finance Regolo asked when the Fire Company’s Multi-Year Budget would be available, and Couture indicated it would likely be received the following week. The Board agreed this approach would be followed moving forward.

B. KAA and KVFC Active Members Rosters

First Selectman Couture noted receipt of both the Killingworth Ambulance Association Roster and the Killingworth Volunteer Fire Company Roster and a motion was brought forth to accept them both as presented.

Motion #4 - Selectman D’Angelo *Moved* and Selectman Gorski *Seconded* a Motion to approve the Active Members Rosters for the Killingworth Ambulance Association and the Killingworth Volunteer Fire Company as presented.

Discussion - Selectman Gorski inquired whether the roster format was consistent, citing past challenges with maintaining historical records. Director of Finance Regolo stated that she had reviewed the Ambulance Association roster but had not yet compared the Fire Company roster to the prior year. She explained that her review is limited to verifying administrative details such as dates of birth, name spellings, addresses, and identifying new members for proper setup, and does not address eligibility. Regolo advised that there was no need to delay action.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

New Business:

A. Ordinance discussion: Blight and Automated Speed Enforcement

First Selectman Couture introduced a discussion regarding potential ordinances, including a Blight Ordinance, and Automated Speed Enforcement, noting that these topics had arisen several times in recent weeks and that this early-year conversation was intended to explore options.

Selectman Gorski requested that the Blight Ordinance be tabled, and D'Angelo agreed. Couture noted that this was intended only as a topic of discussion and no motion was being requested. D'Angelo added that if the issue continues to arise, it may be helpful to review how other communities have successfully implemented similar ordinances.

The Board discussed Automated Speed Enforcement, raising concerns about privacy, community sensitivity to cameras, and the town's limited ability to control speed. Selectman D'Angelo noted that addressing the issue would be challenging and questioned whether implementing additional measures would be practical or effective, with Gorski concurring. Couture acknowledged their points and explained that he raised the topic to allow early discussion, particularly in light of ongoing efforts to add another state trooper to support potential future automated speed enforcement. The Board agreed to defer further action at this time, noting that alternative approaches, such as coordination with state troopers, remain available.

Public Comment: None.

Selectmen's Comments:

Nancy Gorski -

- Gorski commented about an article in The Source that was recently published referencing her as the Killingworth Selectman. She requested that, in the future, board members be given the chance to review any materials in which they are mentioned prior to publication. First Selectman Couture apologized and explained that the article was intended as a draft discussion of priorities and was not meant to be published. He noted that he had not reviewed the article beforehand, as it had not been sent to him, and acknowledged that he had not read it himself. Gorski further noted that upcoming discussions with the Board of Finance in early February, as well as the budget season, may affect the board's priorities.
- Gorski inquired whether First Selectman Couture had been able to schedule a meeting with the Board of Education Chair and Vice Chair to review their budget priorities. Couture stated that he has not yet been able to confirm a date and will reach out to them again to schedule the meeting.
- Gorski raised the issue of PFAS testing for commercial properties within the investigation area, asking whether the town could provide cost-effective options or incentives to encourage businesses to test. She cited examples, including the Killingworth Inn, Shell Station, Crossroads, and Shipwreck Tavern, noting some had already installed filtration systems to proceed with commercial plans. Couture responded that he would contact DPH and DEEP to explore options.

Joel D'Angelo -

- D'Angelo inquired about the timeline for the KES Water Change Order. First Selectman Couture confirmed that the work had already been completed and the change order signed off on.
- D'Angelo reminded everyone to be careful outdoors, noting that while roads may appear

thawed in the morning, they could still be icy and hazardous. D'Angelo emphasized caution for all residents during the cold conditions.

First Selectman's Comments:

Eric Couture -

- Couture commended Public Works for their efforts over the past two days, noting that staff were exhausted but the town received few complaints. He acknowledged that some mailboxes were damaged due to snow, which can occur during large storms, and expressed regret for those affected. Couture noted that additional snow was forecasted for Sunday and emphasized that while the town would prepare as best as possible, outcomes depend on factors such as salt availability.
- Couture commented about the Fuel Assistance Program and how the state appears to have increased funding for it. Couture noted it would have been helpful for this to have been announced earlier, he was pleased that residents are now receiving the support they need.

Adjournment: First Selectman Couture adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Sciascia
Clerk