

BOARD OF FINANCE
TOWN OF KILLINGWORTH
323 ROUTE 81
KILLINGWORTH, CONNECTICUT 06419
MINUTES

Public Budget Hearing and Regular BoF Meeting
April 27, 2026

Chairman Annie Stirna called the April 27, 2026 Public Budget Hearing of the Town of Killingworth to order at 7:02 P.M. in the Killingworth Elementary School multipurpose room.

Members present: Chairman Annie Stirna, Vice-Chairman Marcel Couture, Clerk William Kosturko, Michael Kovacs, Stephen Reeps, and John Mancini.

Visitors: Public Hearing

Also Present: First Selectman Eric Couture, Selectman Nancy Gorski and Selectman Joel D'Angelo, Mr. Barry Bernabe, Phoenix Capital Advisors

Budget Presentation

The Board of Finance members presented a budget overview, including a budget comparison, anticipated revenue, explanation of the general fund balance and funding policy, and the capital budget proposal for FY 2026-27. In addition, the members described a proposed bonding to fund discrete capital projects and equipment acquisitions. Mr. Bernabe made a brief presentation regarding the mechanics and potential benefits of issuing municipal bonds.

Public Comment

Killingworth residents asked clarifying questions and provided input on the Board of Finance proposed budget for FY 2026-27.

Public meeting closed at approximately 9:15 P.M.

Chairman Annie Stirna called the April 27, 2026 Regular meeting of the Board of Finance of the Town of Killingworth to order at 9:20 P.M. in the Killingworth Elementary School multipurpose room.

Members present: Chairman Annie Stirna, Vice-Chairman Marcel Couture, Clerk William Kosturko, Michael Kovacs, Stephen Reeps, and John Mancini.

Visitors: Peg Schofield, Richard Pleines (Board Chair PFC), Eileen Blewett, Karen Milano, Linda Dudeck, and other committee members of PFC

Budget Deliberations

Kosturko moved to maintain the transfer to capital at \$450,000. The motion was not seconded and consequently failed.

Mancini moved to increase the transfer to capital by \$225,000 for a total transfer to capital of \$675,000.

Kovacs seconded the motion.

Vote: Couture – yes, Kosturko-yes, Reeps – yes, Kovacs-yes, Mancini -yes, Stirna-yes

Motion passed 6-0-0

Mancini moved to allow representatives of the Parmelee Farm Committee to discuss the operating and capital budget proposals submitted to the Board of Finance previously at this meeting. Reeps seconded the motion.

Vote: Couture-yes, Kosturko - yes, Reeps-yes, Kovacs -yes, Mancini -yes, Stirna- yes.

Motion passed 6-0-0

Following the passage of the motion, representatives of the Parmelee Farm Committee, a committee of the Town, Peg Schofield and Eileen Blewett, engaged in a discussion with the Board of Finance regarding the operating and capital budget requests provided that evening, with participation from Board members. The Board engaged in a detailed discussion with the Committee regarding both the substance of the requests and the appropriate budget process. During this discussion, the Board clarified that all revenues generated by the Parmelee Farm Committee, including donations and proceeds from events held at the town-owned property, are municipal revenues and must be deposited into the Town's general fund. The Board further clarified that all expenditures must be authorized through the Town's annual budget approval process and may not be expended directly by the Committee in the year received. It was acknowledged that, historically, the

Committee had operated under a different understanding whereby such revenues were expended on a rolling basis; however, the Board established that this practice can no longer continue per the advice of Town legal counsel.

The Board further stated that the Town will maintain formal accounting and tracking of all incoming revenue associated with Parmelee Farm activities in order to establish a reliable and transparent baseline for use in subsequent budget development. The Board emphasized that revenues generated through the efforts of the Parmelee Farm Committee are intended to support the continued development, programming, and improvement of Parmelee Farm in future budget cycles. The Board further clarified that this approach is intended to create a structured and predictable planning model whereby revenue generated in one year is considered and aligned with funding for discretionary programmatic and event-related activities in the following budget cycle.

The Board distinguished between essential operating expenses necessary to maintain the property as a Town asset (including, but not limited to, utilities and general maintenance), which will continue to be funded as a specific line in the annual operating budget, as required, and discretionary programmatic or event-related operating expenses, which will be considered during the subsequent budget cycle and funded as a line item in the annual operating budget in alignment with the prior year's revenue. It was further expressed that, while all appropriations remain subject to the Town's formal budget approval process, it is the intent of the Board to align future funding for such discretionary activities with the level of revenue generated through Parmelee Farm efforts, thereby reinforcing and supporting the Committee's ongoing fundraising initiatives and ensuring that funds raised for Parmelee Farm are considered for reinvestment in future programming and improvements.

The Board expressed its commitment to ensuring that the Parmelee Farm Committee can continue its important work in developing and maintaining a valued Town asset and hosting community events, while also adhering to statutory requirements governing the appropriation and expenditure of Town funds, and further acknowledged and appreciated the efforts of the Committee and its volunteers in support of these activities.

Kosturko moved to maintain 1618310 Parmelee Farm Committee at \$12,000; to create and add a new Parmelee Farm Expense line (line number to be determined) in the amount of \$14,600 with subline items as follows:

Artisan Fair Expenses	\$4000	
Pumpkin Carving Event	\$1600	
Christmas at the Farm	\$2000	
Shared Harvest Garden	\$1000	(includes community garden)
Supplies for Sugar House	\$2000	

Concert Series	\$2000
Food/Drinks/Mowers	\$250
Signage	\$500
Restroom Cleaning	\$850 (for events)
General Supplies	\$400 (garbage bags, paper goods)

and to add the following items to the 2026 -27 capital budget:

Parmelee Farm Sugar House Equipment	\$5,000
Parmelee Farm Picnic Tables	\$8,000
Parmelee Farm Shared Harvest Items	\$1,000

Mancini seconded the motion.

Vote: Couture-yes, Kosturko-yes, Reeps-yes, Kovacs-yes, Mancini-yes; Stirna-yes

Motion passed 6-0-0

Stirna moved that the Board of Finance approve the proposed operating and capital budgets for FY2026-27, as amended by the actions taken by the votes recorded above, and to move those budgets to the Board of Selectmen and for consideration at the Town Meeting scheduled for May 18, 2026.

Reeps seconded the motion.

Vote: Couture-yes, Kosturko-yes, Reeps-yes, Kovacs-yes, Mancini-yes; Stirna-yes

Motion passed 6-0-0

Chairman Stirna adjourned the meeting at 10:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
William Kosturko, Clerk

E-mailed: Town Clerk
Board of Selectmen
Board of Finance
Abigail Albrecht, Tax Collector
Donna Dupuis, Town Treasurer
Elizabeth Disbrow, Administrative Assistant
Regina Regolo, Director of Finance