

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Monday, May 11, 2026 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/Via Remote/Joined 7:03 p.m.), and Jamie Sciascia (Clerk/Via Remote)

Visitors: Eileen Blewett (Via Remote), Jackie Vece (Via Remote) and Kathy Amoia

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 Gorski *Seconded* a motion to approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen that was held on Tuesday, April 28, 2026 as presented.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Motion #2 - Selectman Gorski *Moved* and Selectman D'Angelo *Seconded* a motion to approve the Minutes from the Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen that was held on Thursday, April 30, 2026 as presented.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Refunds and Abatements:

Motion #3 - 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. Marie-Louise Burkle | 257 Green Hill Road | \$64.32 | Sec. 12-129 |
| 2. Michael Terrio | 537 N. Roast Meat Hill Road | \$21.63 | COC# 12398S |
| 3. Tesla Lease Trust | 12832 S. Frontrunner Blvd Ste 100, Draper, UT 84020 | \$172.45 | COC# 12403M |

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

Department Reports:

First Selectman Couture gave an update on Department Reports, noting strong permit activity, including multiple property transfers and ongoing home sales. He provided a public safety update on behalf of the new State Trooper, who has been actively conducting speed enforcement on Green Hill Road and other local roads. He also reported that the Fair Rent Commission will meet Wednesday to formalize the written order from its recent hearing, with a written decision expected shortly thereafter and the possibility of an appeal following issuance.

RSD17 Board of Education Report -

The RSD17 Board of Education Summary for April was received; however, Lisa Connelly was not in attendance to present it. The April summary noted the following:

- Cougar Pride Student Presentations
- Student Representative Updates
- Superintendent's Report (including White Barn Demolition Planning)
- Finance and Facilities Subcommittee Updates
- Curriculum Subcommittee Updates
- Policy Subcommittee Updates
- Quarterly Financial Reporting
- Approval of June 18, 2026 Graduation Date
- Establishment of an Ad Hoc Naming Committee (Baseball Field)
- Reserve Fund Discussion for Educational Expenditures (FF&E)
- Annual Budget Referendum Update (Failed vote; Rescheduled)

Board of Education information and past updates are available at:

<https://www.rsd17.org/board-of-education>

Information about the 2026-27 Annual Budget is available at:

<https://www.rsd17.org/board-of-education/boe-budget-and-updates>

Information about the HKHS Project and Facility Study Team is available at:

<https://sites.google.com/view/hkhsproject>

25/26 Budget Report:

Director of Finance Regolo reported that the budget is currently tracking as expected, with a potentially slightly smaller shortfall than originally projected; however, she cautioned that this is not yet final due to pending year-end expenses, including Parks and Recreation seasonal costs, Highway Department invoices (such as sweeping and striping), and other remaining fiscal-year charges. Regolo also noted that higher than expected snow removal costs and PFAS related expenses have contributed to aligning the year-end position with prior expectations, and confirmed PFAS costs were not specifically budgeted and are being tracked against a minimal or placeholder amount.

Old Business:

A. Multi-Year Capital Improvement Plan:

The Board reviewed the most recent version of the Multi-Year Capital Improvement Plan, with revisions primarily focused on later-year road projects. Discussion referenced the Parmelee Farms project, noting that the figures reflected what had previously been provided to the Board of Finance following the public hearing. Concerns were raised regarding the clarity and consistency of the multi-year presentation, with discussion emphasizing the need to improve accuracy and public understanding ahead of budget season, and noting that the plan is not a binding commitment beyond Year 1. Director of Finance Regolo further referenced a procedural matter raised by Eileen Blewett regarding the release of encumbered funds for a curtain project, noting that such action requires Town Meeting approval, and suggested combining the two items for efficiency.

The Board discussed timing and process for bringing items forward, including the importance of public review of drafts, and general agreement that while additional time is preferable, a minimum review period is typically sufficient if materials are available. It was agreed that both the Multi-Year Capital Improvement Plan and the curtain fund release will be scheduled for a future Town Meeting.

It was further agreed that Couture will follow up with Richard Pleines to obtain a clearer explanation of the Parmelee Farms submission, particularly regarding how certain figures were populated across multiple years, prior to finalizing the document for approval.

B. Ordinance Update

First Selectman Couture reported that the Ethics Ordinance is under review by the Ethics Committee, with the next meeting scheduled for May 20th. Discussion also included a potential "Finding Ordinance" to create an intermediate enforcement option between notices and court action, using Inland Wetlands as an example. Couture notes that the Lighting Ordinance remains on hold due to complexity, though it is periodically revisited when raised.

C. Legislative Session Update:

First Selectman Couture reported on recent state funding updates, noting uncertainty in total revenues estimated between approximately \$108,000 and \$119,000. He indicated this includes about \$80,000 in ECS funding along with supplemental revenue through the Mohegan-Pequot Fund, which may be limited to a single year despite generally being intended as recurring support. Because municipal and school budgets have not yet been finalized, these funds are expected to be treated as anticipated revenue and applied as offsets in the upcoming budget cycle.

Couture noted that the legislature approved certain education related items in the budget implementer and referenced ongoing review of broader municipal labor rule changes by CCM. Couture added that funding is expected to be received by October 1st. He also highlighted that a proposal allowing municipalities to post legal notices online instead of in newspapers passed the House but ultimately failed, resulting in continued reliance on paid newspaper notices.

D. Memorial Day:

First Selectman Couture provided an update on Memorial Day planning, noting that coordination with the Town is ongoing. The event flyer has been posted at Town Hall, on the Town website, and through other

common channels, and initial responses have been received. Attendees were asked to continue monitoring participation as planning continues.

New Business:

A. Citizen of the Year

First Selectman Couture introduced the Citizen of the Year item and made a motion to approve the presented proclamation, asking that the recipient's name not be read aloud. Couture noted that the proclamation will be framed, and the presentation is scheduled for Wednesday, May 20th.

Motion #4 - First Selectman Couture *Moved* and Selectman D'Angelo *Seconded* a motion to approve the Citizen of the Year Proclamation as presented.

Motion unanimously passed [3-0-0].

B. Vacancies on Committees

The Board reviewed the Vacancies on Town Committees which were included in the Board's packet for consideration. Discussion focused on several committees, including the Open Space Committee, which has struggled to meet and was questioned despite being required under the Charter. Similar discussion was held regarding the Public Health Committee, which may be largely redundant given the Town's participation in CRAHD and overlap with responsibilities of the Conservation Commission, which also maintains connections to the land trust.

Couture also reported that a candidate has been identified for Inland Wetlands. The appointment process for Planning and Zoning Commission vacancies was briefly discussed, including clarification that appointments are governed by Charter provisions, with timing and appointing authority depending on whether the Commission acts within the prescribed period.

The resignation of Thomas Hogarty from the Planning and Zoning Commission was noted, and the Board expressed their appreciation for his long-standing service and contributions to the Commission.

C. School Budget: Process

First Selectman Couture reported on the school budget process, noting that a meeting date is being identified, likely in early June. Selectman D'Angelo inquired about the opportunity to meet with the Board of Education during the budget process, similar to a prior year's special meeting format involving a broader discussion of budget strategy and philosophy. It was agreed that such a meeting could be beneficial, depending on where the Board of Education is in its budget timeline. It was also noted that the Board recently received additional ECS funding. Selectman Gorski inquired how the additional ECS funding would be applied against the budget, noting that the district did receive an increase in ECS funds. She emphasized the importance of understanding how the additional revenue would be allocated within the overall budget framework.

Public Comment:

- Kathy Amaio commented on reassessments and valuation practices affecting Beechwood residents who lease land. She requested consideration of the community's unique structure, noting that annual land rent increases and short-term lease terms create financial strain and limit stability.

She expressed concern about affordability and the combined impact of property taxes and land rent, and how continued increases may affect long-term value and marketability of homes in the community. Ms. Amaio also referenced prior involvement with the Fair Rent Commission and recent changes in community communications and events, which she viewed as a reduction in engagement. She urged that the RIA consider a different approach to evaluating these properties and take residents' concerns into account going forward.

- Eileen Blewett provided a follow-up regarding a formal request to unencumber funds for curtains, noting that she had anticipated the attendance of Richard Pleines based on prior discussions with him and the Director of Finance, Regolo, but that he was unable to be present. She requested that the Board follow up with him on the matter, adding that she could facilitate contact with another committee member if necessary.
- Ms. Blewett raised concerns regarding apparent inconsistencies in the multi-year budget documentation, noting that year one appeared accurate while subsequent years seemed unclear or potentially incorrect, and requested that the matter be reviewed and rectified in a timely manner.

Selectmen's Comments:

Nancy Gorski -

- Gorski commented in recognition of the Beachwood Community's participation in the Fair Rent Commission hearing, praising Jackie Vece, Kathy Amaio, Bill Joyce, and others for their preparation and compelling presentation. She noted that the turnout was significant and stated that the community's efforts contributed to securing a temporary stay on rent/lot lease increases for the year, characterizing it as a positive outcome. Gorski encouraged continued dialogue with Sun Communities to work through the matter, and referenced the importance of understanding the legal framework involved. Lastly, she raised the issue of potential adverse action, suggesting it may warrant further review by the Fair Rent Commission.

Joel D'Angelo:

- Selectman D'Angelo echoed the comments of Gorski regarding the Beechwood Community, stating that he appreciated the information shared and regretted hearing about the apparent petty behavior in response to actions concerning matters the parties had every legal and lawful right to pursue.
- D'Angelo thanked Couture for scheduling the Board of Education meeting and stated that he believes it will be a useful discussion. He expressed that he looks forward to the conversation.
- D'Angelo commented on consistently low public turnout at meetings, noting that attendance levels remain relatively unchanged year to year, and supported exploring the use of a highly visible electronic roadside message sign near the circle to improve public awareness and engagement. He stated that the sign does not need to be visually polished to be effective, emphasizing that its visibility is the primary purpose, and suggested it could serve as a practical outreach tool alongside existing communication methods such as notices and email alerts.

First Selectman's Comments:

Eric Couture -

- Couture noted that Greg Alfiero retired several weeks ago and the Town is actively working to fill the position, with the vacancy posted through multiple outlets including print, online platforms, T2, and the UConn LIST Service, with discussion that additional outreach such as the Hartford Courant may have limited reach. He expressed appreciation for Mr. Alfiero's service, noted he has recently visited and emphasized the need to fill the position quickly to avoid operational strain and prior staffing challenges.
- Couture provided a Public Works update noting a busy upcoming construction season south of the circle, including Route 81 paving work scheduled for later this year, with the exact start date still to be determined and hopes that the project proceeds more smoothly than the prior year. He also referenced the presence of CTDOT signage in the area and noted ongoing state DOT activity at the local traffic light, clarifying that it is part of routine statewide upgrades rather than a full redesign.
- Couture noted that Route 80 and Roast Meat Hill Road will be studied by the DOT following recognition of multiple accidents in the area over the past five years. He stated that he had worked to bring attention to the safety concerns, referenced that a "no parking" improvement could help, and emphasized that the stretch is considered one of the more dangerous sections of road in town. He expressed hope that the study and resulting improvements move forward promptly.

Adjournment: First Selectman Couture adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Sciascia

Jamie Sciascia
Clerk