

**BOARD OF FINANCE
TOWN OFFICE BUILDING
40 OLD FARMS ROAD
WILLINGTON, CT 06279**

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, November 29, 2018
7:00 PM

**Minutes are not official until approved at the next regular meeting*

Members Present:

Jim Bulick, Chairman
Peter Tanaka
Barry Wallett
Bill Rankin – Alternate
Fred Schoen
Laurie Semprebon
Mike Makuch, Vice Chairman

Members Absent:

Randy Belair

Also Present:

Erika Wiecewski, First Selectwoman
Donna Latincsics, Business Manager
Tish Ignatowicz, Treasurer,
Phil Stevens, Superintendent

Chairman Jim Bulick called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.

SEATING OF ALTERNATES:

Peter Tanaka moved to seat Bill Rankin in place of Randy Belair. Laurie Semprebon seconded the motion. Vote: Yes (J. Bulick, P. Tanaka, B. Wallett, L.Semprebon, F. Schoen, M. Makuch, B. Rankin) 0 No.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mike Makuch moved to have the minutes of our September 20,2018 regular meeting, approved at the next regular meeting. Peter Tanaka seconded the motion. Vote: Yes (J. Bulick, P. Tanaka, B. Wallett, F. Schoen, M. Makuch, B. Rankin), L.Semprebon abstained, 0 No.

PRESENT TO SPEAK:

No one present to speak

NEW BUSINESS:

Willington Education Association (WEA) Contract Negotiation Update

Superintendent Stevens shared an executive summary with the board, the details are available to the public. A 2.75 annual raise was negotiated for each of 3 years starting the fiscal year 2019/2020. Insurance continues to be a cost challenge. Roughly \$8,000 is the estimated annual savings for each year, based on the current level of teacher participation in group medical insurance. The teachers share 19% of the health care costs.

Caderlock Property Update

Peter Tanaka attended the stakeholder meeting on November 13, 2018 in Ashford. He briefly explained that there was a collection of 12 properties. Caderlock bought the properties and were going to develop it. 1 of the properties was classified as a brown field by the U.S. DEP. Because 1 of the 12 were polluted, the DEP came in and said that because they are combining them they can't develop any of the properties because it's all polluted (the DEP encumbered all 12 parcels). This put them in a hole where they had to pay taxes on it but they couldn't develop it, so they stopped paying taxes. So after 20 years of not paying taxes, a whole lot of taxes have accumulated and they can't develop it. Now that they've done that, the DEP changed their mind and said that they can develop the other 11 just not the 12th (the one that is polluted). There are 350 acres involved, only 50 of them are in Willington the rest are located in Ashford. These 50 of course happen to be the most polluted of the 350 acres. The DEP went and cleaned up much of the property and placed a lien on the parcels. A grant was secured to research and summarize earlier studies, to drill test wells and test pits to confirm environmental status, and to determine town liability with the eventual goal of freeing up the environmental liens so that the land can be sold/developed and put back on the tax rolls. For more information, please see summary here: https://www.willingtonct.org/sites/willingtonct/files/news/ashford_willington_cadlerock_factsheet_rev111318.pdf

Budget Calendar Review

A proposed budget calendar for 2019 was presented by the business manager, Donna Latincsics. Discussion followed.

Laurie Semprebon moved to accept the budget calendar as proposed. Mike Makuch seconded the motion. Vote: Yes (J. Bulick, P. Tanaka, B. Walleth, L.Semprebon, F. Schoen, M. Makuch, B. Rankin) 0 No.

December Meeting

Next regular meeting will be held on December 20, 2018 as scheduled. The board needs to finalize the 2019 meeting calendar and give budget guidance in the annual budget letter.

OLD BUSINESS:

New Permit Fees go into effect on November 1, 2018

EO Smith Budget Meeting of December 11, 2018, 6 P.M. (Bill Rankin Attending)

Bill Rankin will communicate to the EO Smith BOE (Board of Education) how Willington has been fiscally prudent lately and encourages the Region 19 BOE to do the same when preparing for their 2019-2020 budget. Laurie Semprebon states that the budget was tight last year and that it will probably be tight again this year. She says they should do whatever they can to keep the cost down.

Town Office Building repairs update (front entrance, basement floor pillars)

Selectwoman Erika Wieceński said that the basement pillars project is complete. For the front entrance ramp they are just waiting on the railings as of now because the cement stairway and ramp part is completed. It took longer than anticipated for the project to be finished because of inclement weather. The mold in the basement has been cleaned up and a new dehumidifier has been set up. The insurance did not cover the mold remediation on the old books, but a grant was found and applied for to cover the cost. Otherwise the project is nearly finished and expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Annual Reports for the Fiscal Year ending in June 30, 2018 were due September 30, 2018

Reports are not yet submitted as of Tuesday, November 27, 2018. The Economic Development Commission was notified of the need for an annual report. Selectwoman Erika Wieceński will

reach out to them and see if they have any questions as to what they need to do.

CORRESPONDENCE:

An email was received on November 27, 2018 regarding an unemployment insurance claim. Selectwoman Erika Wiecewski at this point, her and Donna Latinsticks believe that the claim that they have to pay can be handled within their budget. This claim unfortunately has not been budgeted therefore they might have to bring the insurance claim to the Board of Finance for approval.

Another email was received on November 27, 2018 from CIP Chair Cobb regarding status update of approved projects.

GOOD AND WELFARE:

EO Smith Debate

Laurie Semprebon addressed that she attended the EO Smith debate between Dan Champagne John Perrier for State Senate. She said she was impressed with how the students ran the debate and were the moderators, how they provided the questions as well as timed it. It was really well done, she exclaims and that it must've been a great experience for the kids to participate in something having to do with the political process. The students represented the education system and themselves very well.

Lights at River Road

Bill Rankin commented that the lights at the field at River Road are very nice.

Hand count of every Ballot for the last Election

Peter Tanaka commented that the registrars did a fine job, they were randomly selected to be audited to do a hand count of every ballot from the last election. It took them about 5 hours and it went very smoothly. Their accuracy rate was off by one ballot but the tabulator didn't accept one of the ballots therefore they counted the number originally recorded.

Peter Tanaka moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m. Bill Rankin seconded the motion.

Vote: Yes (J. Bulick, P. Tanaka, B. Walleth, L.Semprebon, F. Schoen, M. Makuch, B. Rankin) 0 No.

Respectfully submitted,

Guinnevere Almquist, Recording Secretary