

Town of Willington

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BOARD OF FINANCE

Regular Meeting Minutes
Virtual Meeting via ZOOM

March 24, 2022
7:00 PM

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

Members Present (a quorum of 4 members is required to conduct business):

Mike Makuch – Chairman
Geoff Prusak – Vice Chairman
Peter Tanaka– Secretary – *Joined at 7:07pm*
Christina Mailhos
Stephanie Summers
Joseph Sherrell
Jim Gilligan – Alternate

Members Absent:

Lisa Woolf – Alternate

Also Present:

First Selectwoman Erika Wiecewski
Department of Public Works Director Troy Sposato
Revenue Collector Janice Clauson
Registrar Suzanne Chapman
Superintendent Phil Stevens
Town Clerk Robin Campbell
Members of the Public

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Makuch called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

SEATING OF ALTERNATES

G. Prusak made a motion to seat Jim Gilligan for Pete Tanaka.

C. Mailhos seconded.

5 Yes (C. Mailhos, M. Makuch, G. Prusak, J. Sherrell, S. Summers), 0 No. Motion carried.

PRESENT TO SPEAK

Suzanne Chapman: Good evening. My name is Suzanne Chapman. I've been a resident of Willington since 1987 and have worked for the town and the Board of Education, both as an employee and elected official. I currently serve as Registrar of Voters. I am commenting tonight solely as an individual, not as a member of any group or political party. I have a fairly clear understanding of how the town operates financially. Every year the Board of Finance requests that department heads submit budget proposals outlining what they need to efficiently and responsibly operate. Departments comply. They attend meetings, defend their budgets, explain their requests and outline the importance of what they're asking for. Then we start to hear the same old things;

the faces at the tables change, but the words never do. They're the same; keep spending flat, we can't afford it. Put it in CIP, keep the mill rate flat, residents on fixed incomes can't pay, we can't raise taxes this year because there's a pandemic, the economy is bad, inflation, more, pick a reason. There's always something. This town does not value its assets. There isn't a town owned building that is not in need of repair; I know, I've worked in them. A short time ago we held a meeting of the Tolland County Registrar of Voters in the Town Office Building. I was embarrassed by our facility. Its condition clearly shows our lack of interest in taking care of what we have. From the dirty floors to the warped and chipped tables, it's obvious we don't care. The town's biggest and most undervalued asset is its employees. This becomes glaringly obvious every budget season when experienced, qualified people are asked for what they need and are slapped down time and time again. Always trying to find a cheap way out, a band-aid to fix things for now. A prime example is the difficulty that we have had finding and keeping a qualified Assessor. Without a strong and well functioning Assessors and Revenue Collector's office, what do we have? No taxes assessed equals no taxes collected. I urge you to properly fund these offices. Our largest block of voters at elections and referendums are 50 to 80 years old. They vote for us and they vote for our budgets. Our budgets pass two to one. Our collection rate on taxes levied versus revenue collected is consistently in the high 90th percentile. Consistently. Even in years where there's a mill rate increase. I believe in fiscal responsibility and a conservative approach to spending. I tend to approach things from a logical point of view. Cutting budgets based on a dollar amount or percentage without examining the detail presented in each line item in my opinion is not logical. I want Willington to prosper and thrive. I implore you to listen to the people that work for you. This town cannot continue to function and thrive unless it is properly funded. Value your assets, value your staff. Submit a budget that is what we need to thrive and let the voters decide. Thank you.

Peter Latincsics, 97 Trask Road: Good evening. I have been a resident of Willington for 30 plus years. I've served on the Board of Finance, the Board of Education, Planning & Zoning, Capital Improvement Committee and various other committees. I want to comment tonight even before the public hearing, which is coming, that I was pleased to see the Board of Finance recognize that this two mill increase that we see currently in the budget as it stands, a 10% increase in spending, not a cut at all, but in fact a substantial increase over even the inflationary increases that we're seeing that are buffering the nation and our state and town. I attended the Selectmen's meeting and I was pleased to see Selectman Bulick attempt to respond to your direction from the last Board of Finance meeting. Unfortunately the majority on the Board of Selectmen did not agree and essentially are saying that these are the services they feel should be funded and there will be no effort to work in any way to find a common middle ground. I don't agree with that. I don't agree with what I'm hearing as a very shrill and consistent message from many corners that our town is underfunded, that past administrations didn't fund the town properly. Somehow as a community we were derelict for decades. This is not true. Our town has done an outstanding job of meeting our obligations and providing people with a reasonable tax bill and I encourage you to do that tonight. Thank you very much.

Robin Campbell, 33 Spak Road: I am also an employee of the Town of Willington. I serve the town as the Town Clerk and I am very honored to serve our town. I wanted to touch base on the current budget that has been submitted by the Board of Selectmen. I truly believe that the selectmen have put much thought into putting forth a good and true budget for this year. Selectman Boritz said it best at their meeting this past Monday; that there really isn't much that they can cut. And she also said that they've cut so many necessary expenses over the years based on the recommendations of the Board of Finance, where those cuts have ended up costing us more in the end. Suzanne Chapman also said it very well just a few minutes ago that our employees are our biggest asset and we sometimes do not feel valued in this situation. All of us that work in town office building, our jobs are set by statute and it seems as though every year the state adds more and more unplanned and unfunded mandates in which we have to put into our budgets and we have to cut and somehow work among it and it's very difficult. Lastly, I just want to say I do appreciate all of the work that the Board of Finance and all of our other boards and commissions do. I respect everything that you do and I know you all put hard work into every decision that you make. But I respectfully request that you put forth the budget that has been submitted and let the residents decide. Thank you.

Janice Clauson: Revenue Collector for the Town of Willington. I understand that a lot of members have an issue with the requested budget increase for the position of revenue collector. Part of it was a contracted raise that was in my contract when I was hired that I get a 2% increase when I complete my certification courses which I've done and when I'm actually sworn in with that certification, that 2% should come into play. I believe that is part of what has been included. The other portion of that is what was a placeholder for what the union contract was going to do... What my department head is earning should be rectified. What I'm asking for and what I would ask for any person in this position is that they are paid a fair wage compared to other like towns. Some towns like ours or that are smaller than Willington could be \$65,000/\$70,000.00 but the point is that this position has been underfunded for many years and something needs to be done about it. Thank you.

OLD BUSINESS

1) ARPA Process

On Monday the first set of projects to be considered for funding were presented at the public hearing. The Commission voted to approve the 6 projects presented. At the next meeting on April 4th, additional projects will be discussed. A second public hearing will be held at the end of April. Roughly \$1 million has been approved for projects. Project submissions are still being accepted at this time.

2) Moose Meadow Road repairs

First Selectwoman Wiczenski stated that the Board of Selectmen would like to request the Board of Finance appropriate funding for the Moose Meadow Road repair project. This work is estimated at \$298,000.00. With a 15% contingency for materials, etc, this estimates the project to cost roughly \$343,000.00. This work includes the cost of paving, stone, catch basins, piping, guardrail replacement, and the rental of an excavator to perform the work. The Board has not yet selected a vendor and is awaiting a third quote for the project. DPW Director Sposato stated that the culverts will be excavated, 500-feet of underdrain will be added, 9 catch basin tops will be installed, 387-feet of guard rail will be replaced, 3,900 feet of road will be reclaimed, and 1,400 feet of the road will have a 1 ½-inch overlay.

M. Makuch made a motion to that the Board of Finance moves to recommend the Board of Selectmen call a town meeting to appropriate \$350,000.00 from the capital reserve for the purpose of repairs to Moose Meadow Road.

S. Summers seconded.

Discussion: Discussion followed on where the money should be allocated from for the project. On the recommendation of the Business Manager, the funding should come from the capital reserve.

6 Yes (C. Mailhos, M. Makuch, G. Prusak, J. Sherrell, S. Summers, P. Tanaka), 0 No. Motion carried.

3) Budget Discussion (continued)

a) Review of questions sent to departments and answers from those departments

Budget discussions continued on the questions that were sent to each department. The questions for the Library included information on the position of both directors and if the minimum wage increases for library personnel had been included in the budget. The questions for Willington Fire Department #1 included the department's IRS status, the cell phone tower revenue, and that public funding is specifically used for emergency services. The Town of Union funding is to be used for payroll for the paid staff. The questions for the Parks & Rec Department were if the budget allows for the expected union raises, as well as the minimum wage increases that are to come. The questions for DPW included the increase in salt pricing, the excavator that is planned for in CIP and if the rental cost has been removed from the budget, and the position of laborer that was upgraded to driver.

4) Budget Allocations (tabled at last meeting)

P. Tanaka made a motion to accept the budget request for 0121 Probate Court for \$3,810.00.

M. Makuch seconded.

6 Yes (C. Mailhos, M. Makuch, G. Prusak, J. Sherrell, S. Summers, P. Tanaka), 0 No. Motion carried.

P. Tanaka made a motion to accept the budget request for line item 0126 Election Officials for \$47,426.00.

S. Summers seconded.

6 Yes (C. Mailhos, M. Makuch, G. Prusak, J. Sherrell, S. Summers, P. Tanaka), 0 No. Motion carried.

P. Tanaka made a motion to accept the budget request for line item 0131 Board of Finance for \$5,018.00.

G. Prusak seconded.

6 Yes (C. Mailhos, M. Makuch, G. Prusak, J. Sherrell, S. Summers, P. Tanaka), 0 No. Motion carried.

P. Tanaka made a motion to accept the budget request for line item 0132 Treasurer for \$7,358.00.

G. Prusak seconded.

6 Yes (C. Mailhos, M. Makuch, G. Prusak, J. Sherrell, S. Summers, P. Tanaka), 0 No. Motion carried.

P. Tanaka made a motion to accept the budget request for line item 0133 Auditor for \$42,000.00.

G. Prusak seconded.

Discussion: S. Summers inquired about the increase in the budget and Chairman Makuch stated that there is additional work the auditors have agreed to with ARPA funding, etc.

6 Yes (C. Mailhos, M. Makuch, G. Prusak, J. Sherrell, S. Summers, P. Tanaka), 0 No. Motion carried.

P. Tanaka made a motion to accept the budget request for line item 0135 Board of Assessment Appeals for \$1,407.00.

G. Prusak seconded.

6 Yes (C. Mailhos, M. Makuch, G. Prusak, J. Sherrell, S. Summers, P. Tanaka), 0 No. Motion carried.

P. Tanaka made a motion to accept the budget request for line item 0161 Conservation Commission for \$1,500.00.

G. Prusak seconded.

6 Yes (C. Mailhos, M. Makuch, G. Prusak, J. Sherrell, S. Summers, P. Tanaka), 0 No. Motion carried.

P. Tanaka made a motion to accept the budget request for line item 0171 Planning and Zoning for \$135,884.00.

M. Makuch seconded.

6 Yes (C. Mailhos, M. Makuch, G. Prusak, J. Sherrell, S. Summers, P. Tanaka), 0 No. Motion carried.

P. Tanaka made a motion to accept the budget request for line item 0172 Zoning Board of Appeals for \$5,041.00.

G. Prusak seconded.

6 Yes (C. Mailhos, M. Makuch, G. Prusak, J. Sherrell, S. Summers, P. Tanaka), 0 No. Motion carried.

P. Tanaka made a motion to accept the budget request for line item 0175 Economic Development for \$23,000.00.

G. Prusak seconded.

6 Yes (C. Mailhos, M. Makuch, G. Prusak, J. Sherrell, S. Summers, P. Tanaka), 0 No. Motion carried.

P. Tanaka made a motion to accept the budget request for line item 0176 Inland/Wetlands for \$2,000.00.

G. Prusak seconded.

6 Yes (C. Mailhos, M. Makuch, G. Prusak, J. Sherrell, S. Summers, P. Tanaka), 0 No. Motion carried.

Discussion followed in regards to the cell tower revenue for Willington #1 and the ambulance payroll account, as well as the funding from the Town of Union.

Under Emergency Services, P. Tanaka made a motion to accept the budget request for line item 0221 Ambulance Grant for \$528,525.00 (motion amended from \$528,535.00).

M. Makuch seconded.

Discussion: G. Prusak questioned in the excel sheet should be changed on the screen.

6 Yes (C. Mailhos, M. Makuch, G. Prusak, J. Sherrell, S. Summers, P. Tanaka), 0 No. Motion carried.

P. Tanaka made a motion to accept the budget request for line item 0231 Fire Marshal for \$26,515.00.

G. Prusak seconded.

6 Yes (C. Mailhos, M. Makuch, G. Prusak, J. Sherrell, S. Summers, P. Tanaka), 0 No. Motion carried.

P. Tanaka made a motion to accept the budget request for line item 0232 Fire Protection for \$318,870.00.

G. Prusak seconded.

Discussion: S. Summers inquired about the increase in this budget and Chairman Makuch stated that it's the two fire departments budgets and the increase in the heating fuel and dispatch fees.

6 Yes (C. Mailhos, M. Makuch, G. Prusak, J. Sherrell, S. Summers, P. Tanaka), 0 No. Motion carried.

P. Tanaka made a motion to accept the budget request for line item 0234 Emergency Management Director for \$7,047.00.

G. Prusak seconded.

6 Yes (C. Mailhos, M. Makuch, G. Prusak, J. Sherrell, S. Summers, P. Tanaka), 0 No. Motion carried.

P. Tanaka made a motion to accept the budget request for line item 0512 Parks & Rec for \$96,522.00.

G. Prusak seconded.

5 Yes (C. Mailhos, M. Makuch, G. Prusak, J. Sherrell, S. Summers), 1 No (P. Tanaka). Motion carried.

P. Tanaka made a motion to accept the budget request for line item 0517 Library for \$241,875.00. (Motion amended from \$244,594.00).

G. Prusak seconded.

Discussion: Discussion was held on the increase of the Library budget on a percentage basis. An amendment to the motion occurred for a decrease of \$2,719.00 in the suggested budget to be \$241,875.00.

6 Yes (C. Mailhos, M. Makuch, G. Prusak, J. Sherrell, S. Summers, P. Tanaka), 0 No. Motion carried.

P. Tanaka made a motion to accept the budget request for line item 0111 Selectmen for \$159,976.00.

C. Mailhos seconded.

6 Yes (C. Mailhos, M. Makuch, G. Prusak, J. Sherrell, S. Summers, P. Tanaka), 0 No. Motion carried.

P. Tanaka made a motion to accept the budget request for line item 0130 Accounting Services for \$274,127.00.

C. Mailhos seconded.

6 Yes (C. Mailhos, M. Makuch, G. Prusak, J. Sherrell, S. Summers, P. Tanaka), 0 No. Motion carried.

P. Tanaka made a motion to accept the budget request for line item 0134 Assessor for \$134,994.00.

G. Prusak seconded.

Discussion: Chairman Makuch stated that he discussed this line with First Selectwoman Wiecewski and the increase with the shared services of this position.

6 Yes (C. Mailhos, M. Makuch, G. Prusak, J. Sherrell, S. Summers, P. Tanaka), 0 No. Motion carried.

P. Tanaka made a motion to accept the budget request for line item 0137 Revenue Collector for \$89,608.00.

C. Mailhos seconded.

Discussion: S. Summers inquired about the pay increase adjustment. Discussion followed on the percentage increase for the salary.

6 Yes (C. Mailhos, M. Makuch, G. Prusak, J. Sherrell, S. Summers, P. Tanaka), 0 No. Motion carried.

P. Tanaka made a motion to accept the budget request for line item 0141 Town Council for \$32,000.00.

G. Prusak seconded.

6 Yes (C. Mailhos, M. Makuch, G. Prusak, J. Sherrell, S. Summers, P. Tanaka), 0 No. Motion carried.

P. Tanaka made a motion to accept the budget request for line item 0151 Town Clerk for \$112,611.00.

G. Prusak seconded.

6 Yes (C. Mailhos, M. Makuch, G. Prusak, J. Sherrell, S. Summers, P. Tanaka), 0 No. Motion carried.

P. Tanaka made a motion to accept the budget request for line item 0181 Town Office Operations for \$262,703.00.

M. Makuch seconded.

6 Yes (C. Mailhos, M. Makuch, G. Prusak, J. Sherrell, S. Summers, P. Tanaka), 0 No. Motion carried.

P. Tanaka made a motion to accept the budget request for line item 0182 Town Hall Operations for \$7,978.00.

G. Prusak seconded.

6 Yes (C. Mailhos, M. Makuch, G. Prusak, J. Sherrell, S. Summers, P. Tanaka), 0 No. Motion carried.

P. Tanaka made a motion to accept the budget request for line item 0183 Consulting Engineers for \$20,000.00.

G. Prusak seconded.

6 Yes (C. Mailhos, M. Makuch, G. Prusak, J. Sherrell, S. Summers, P. Tanaka), 0 No. Motion carried.

P. Tanaka made a motion to accept the budget request for line item 0185 Senior Center Operations for \$39,714.00.

M. Makuch seconded.

Discussion: P. Tanaka inquired about the parking lot repair. S. Summers stated there was funding for the parking lot repair and the increase in heating oil costs.

6 Yes (C. Mailhos, M. Makuch, G. Prusak, J. Sherrell, S. Summers, P. Tanaka), 0 No. Motion carried.

P. Tanaka made a motion to accept the budget request for line item 0233 Health District for \$32,573.00.

M. Makuch seconded.

6 Yes (C. Mailhos, M. Makuch, G. Prusak, J. Sherrell, S. Summers, P. Tanaka), 0 No. Motion carried.

P. Tanaka made a motion to accept the budget request for line item 0235 Fire Main & Hydrants for \$8,626.00.

M. Makuch seconded.

Discussion: S. Summers inquired where fire protection funding was provided.

4 Yes (C. Mailhos, M. Makuch, J. Sherrell, S. Summers), 2 No (G. Prusak, P. Tanaka). Motion carried.

P. Tanaka made a motion to accept the budget request for line item 0241 Building Official for \$51,553.00.

M. Makuch seconded.

6 Yes (C. Mailhos, M. Makuch, G. Prusak, J. Sherrell, S. Summers, P. Tanaka), 0 No. Motion carried.

P. Tanaka made a motion to accept the budget request for line item 0311 Public Works for \$1,342,057.00.

G. Prusak seconded.

Discussion: S. Summers inquired about the change in the budget. The fuel increase in the budget is for all DPW vehicles and fire department apparatus, etc.

6 Yes (C. Mailhos, M. Makuch, G. Prusak, J. Sherrell, S. Summers, P. Tanaka), 0 No. Motion carried.

P. Tanaka made a motion to accept the budget request for line item 0342 Cemetery for \$2,000.00.

G. Prusak seconded.

6 Yes (C. Mailhos, M. Makuch, G. Prusak, J. Sherrell, S. Summers, P. Tanaka), 0 No. Motion carried.

P. Tanaka made a motion to accept the budget request for line item 0351 Transfer Station for \$290,055.00.

M. Makuch seconded.

6 Yes (C. Mailhos, M. Makuch, G. Prusak, J. Sherrell, S. Summers, P. Tanaka), 0 No. Motion carried.

P. Tanaka made a motion to accept the budget request for line item 0503 Capital Projects for \$1,000.00.

M. Makuch seconded.

Discussion: S. Summers inquired about this line item.

6 Yes (C. Mailhos, M. Makuch, G. Prusak, J. Sherrell, S. Summers, P. Tanaka), 0 No. Motion carried.

P. Tanaka made a motion to accept the budget request for line item 0504 Capital Reserve for \$245,923.00.

J. Sherrell seconded.

6 Yes (C. Mailhos, M. Makuch, G. Prusak, J. Sherrell, S. Summers, P. Tanaka), 0 No. Motion carried.

P. Tanaka made a motion to accept the budget request for line item 0507 Housing Authority for \$2,182.00.

G. Prusak seconded.

6 Yes (C. Mailhos, M. Makuch, G. Prusak, J. Sherrell, S. Summers, P. Tanaka), 0 No. Motion carried.

P. Tanaka made a motion to accept the budget request for line item 0510 Accrued Sick Days for \$0.00.

G. Prusak seconded.

6 Yes (C. Mailhos, M. Makuch, G. Prusak, J. Sherrell, S. Summers, P. Tanaka), 0 No. Motion carried.

P. Tanaka made a motion to accept the budget request for line item 0511 Dog Fund for \$26,835.00.

G. Prusak seconded.

6 Yes (C. Mailhos, M. Makuch, G. Prusak, J. Sherrell, S. Summers, P. Tanaka), 0 No. Motion carried.

P. Tanaka made a motion to accept the budget request for line item 0513 Human Services for \$54,927.00.

G. Prusak seconded.

6 Yes (C. Mailhos, M. Makuch, G. Prusak, J. Sherrell, S. Summers, P. Tanaka), 0 No. Motion carried.

P. Tanaka made a motion to accept the budget request for line item 0515 Open Space for \$0.00.

G. Prusak seconded.

6 Yes (C. Mailhos, M. Makuch, G. Prusak, J. Sherrell, S. Summers, P. Tanaka), 0 No. Motion carried.

P. Tanaka made a motion to accept the budget request for line item 0518 Emergency Preparedness for \$0.00.

G. Prusak seconded.

6 Yes (C. Mailhos, M. Makuch, G. Prusak, J. Sherrell, S. Summers, P. Tanaka), 0 No. Motion carried.

P. Tanaka made a motion to accept the budget request for line item 0811 Social Security for \$88,552.00.

G. Prusak seconded.

6 Yes (C. Mailhos, M. Makuch, G. Prusak, J. Sherrell, S. Summers, P. Tanaka), 0 No. Motion carried.

P. Tanaka made a motion to accept the budget request for line item 0821 Unemployment for \$1,000.00.

G. Prusak seconded.

6 Yes (C. Mailhos, M. Makuch, G. Prusak, J. Sherrell, S. Summers, P. Tanaka), 0 No. Motion carried.

P. Tanaka made a motion to accept the budget request for line item 0831 Employee Insurances for \$273,191.00.

G. Prusak seconded.

6 Yes (C. Mailhos, M. Makuch, G. Prusak, J. Sherrell, S. Summers, P. Tanaka), 0 No. Motion carried.

P. Tanaka made a motion to accept the budget request for line item 0841 Pension for \$43,559.00.

M. Makuch seconded.

Discussion: This is a decrease in this line item.

6 Yes (C. Mailhos, M. Makuch, G. Prusak, J. Sherrell, S. Summers, P. Tanaka), 0 No. Motion carried.

P. Tanaka made a motion to accept the budget request for line item 0851 Insurances for \$92,330.

G. Prusak seconded.

Discussion: This line item has also decreased.

6 Yes (C. Mailhos, M. Makuch, G. Prusak, J. Sherrell, S. Summers, P. Tanaka), 0 No. Motion carried.

P. Tanaka made a motion to accept the budget request for line item 0871 Miscellaneous for \$2,000.00.

G. Prusak seconded.

6 Yes (C. Mailhos, M. Makuch, G. Prusak, J. Sherrell, S. Summers, P. Tanaka), 0 No. Motion carried.

P. Tanaka made a motion to accept the budget request for line item 0910 Debt Services for \$198,408.00.

G. Prusak seconded.

Discussion: C. Mailhos asked to confirm that this is the correct figure.

6 Yes (C. Mailhos, M. Makuch, G. Prusak, J. Sherrell, S. Summers, P. Tanaka), 0 No. Motion carried.

P. Tanaka made a motion to accept the budget request for line item 0930 Capital Expenditures for \$80,000.00.

G. Prusak seconded.

6 Yes (C. Mailhos, M. Makuch, G. Prusak, J. Sherrell, S. Summers, P. Tanaka), 0 No. Motion carried.

P. Tanaka made a motion to accept the budget request for line item 0861 Board of Finance Contingency for \$0.00.

G. Prusak seconded.

6 Yes (C. Mailhos, M. Makuch, G. Prusak, J. Sherrell, S. Summers, P. Tanaka), 0 No. Motion carried.

P. Tanaka made a motion to accept the budget request for the Board of Education for \$9,074,681.00.

S. Summers seconded.

Discussion: Discussion followed on the non-lapsing fund and the increase in the fuel costs for the school once the contract was locked in at the set rate. Superintendent Stevens provided a summary of the cost increases and decreases that were presented in the budget.

4 Yes (C. Mailhos, M. Makuch, J. Sherrell, S. Summers), 2 No (G. Prusak, P. Tanaka). Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence has been forwarded.

PRESENT TO SPEAK

Laurie Semprebon: First I want to thank everyone for all of their time and effort. I have a couple of comments about the budget. That small amount that you wanted to reduce and have them take out of the non-lapsing funds, the budget is going to increase next year with the salaries and everything else. It's not going to be exactly the same. That small amount would not have made that much difference. And I'm really frustrated, although I also don't want to see my taxes go up, but I'm really frustrated with some of the salary issues. I think that was a factor losing public works. I think it's been a factor in the past when we've lost other people. I know we're a small town but I believe that that's one of the major issues of why we're losing good people. And if we don't give increases to those who are doing a really good job, just to keep it fair. When they put in a large increase and they give you legitimate reasons, I think we have to consider that. And again, I know we all don't want to see taxes go up, but I think one of the reasons we have or one of the primary reasons we have turnover in people. People like working in the Town Office Building, they have good experiences, they have friends there, but I think they just can't justify staying when they know they can make a lot more money going elsewhere, across the town line to the next town and I know it's hard because we're a small town and it's frustrating. But thank you for your time.

GOOD & WELFARE

Reminder the budget hearing is April 5th, it will be a hybrid meeting.

The recent news in the last few days is that Troy, our public works director is leaving for another job in another town, but we have appreciated working with him and he has been an asset to the town.

The Board will need to discuss the meeting style moving forward whether it'll be in person, via Zoom or hybrid.

P. Tanaka made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:06 pm.

M. Makuch seconded the motion.

All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelsey Allard
Interim Recording Secretary

RECEIVED
WILLINGTON, CT.

2022 JUL 12 P 3:32


TOWN CLERK