

Town of Willington

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BOARD OF FINANCE

Regular Meeting Minutes
Via Public Online Video Conference

June 17, 2021
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
Stephanie Summers
Matt Clark
Christina Mailhos

Members Absent:

Lisa Woolf – Alternate
Brenda Abrams – Alternate

Also Present:

Erika Wiczenski – First Selectwoman
Donna Latinsics – Business Manager
Pete Andersen – Chair, Conservation Commission
Kathy Demers – Vice-Chair, Conservation Commission
Alex Moore – Chief, Willington Fire Department #1
Ron Gantick – President, Willington Fire Department #1
Tyler Millix – Vice President, Willington Fire Department #1
Troy Sposato – Director of Public Works
Jennie Arpin – Director of Human Services
Tom Snyder – Chief, Willington Hill Fire Department
Members of the Public

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

SEATING OF ALTERNATES

No alternates present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mike Makuch made a motion to approve the special meeting minutes of June 8, 2021.
Stef Summers seconded the motion.

Vote: 3 Yes (P. Tanaka, S. Summers, M. Makuch), 0 No, 2 Abstain (G. Prusak, M. Clark)
Motion passes.

**Mike Makuch made a motion to table the regular meeting minutes of May 20, 2021.
Pete Tanaka seconded the motion.**

**Vote: 5 Yes (M. Clark, G. Prusak, P. Tanaka, S. Summers, M. Makuch), 0 No
Motion passes.**

Christina Mailhos arrived at the meeting.

PRESENT TO SPEAK

Laurie Semprebon of 271 Turnpike Rd. stated: I would like to thank the BOF for all of the time you've put in in getting to this budget. I know the last year and a half has been brutal with extra meetings and not knowing what's happening, and you folks have put in a lot of time. Mike, I really appreciate your leadership, I think you are a calm, reasoned chair and I think that makes these meetings go much more smoothly. Thank you to all of you.

Chairman Makuch responded that Laurie is part of that effort.

OLD BUSINESS

1) Public Health Crisis Update-

a) Update on federal funding (American Rescue Plan)

Selectwoman Wiczenski provided the update that they have applied for the first round of federal funding, which is anticipated before July 1, in the amount of \$867,727.11. They are setting up an accounting process for those funds to make reporting easy and transparent. The second round of funding can be applied for one year from now. Our total funds from non-entitlement and county funds will be \$1,735,424.24.

Chairman Makuch asked clarifying questions about use of the funds. Selectwoman Wiczenski replied that the funds are accessed the same as any other federal or state grant funds; rather than reimbursing money already spent, she anticipates a process where projects are identified at the BOS level following the released guidelines, funding is asked for at the BOF level, and a Town Meeting is called. She believes it will make the most sense to go into a Town Meeting with a plan for the funds, rather than to call meetings on a project by project basis. There will be more information forthcoming about what reporting will look like. The town has until December 31, 2024 to encumber the funds, and until 2026 to spend them. If at that point, all of the funds have not been spent, they are returned.

Chairman Makuch asked what the most recent unemployment numbers are. Selectwoman Wiczenski replied that in April, the unemployed number was 200 individuals, or 6.0% of Willington's assumed 3,347 workforce. When compared to pre-pandemic, the numbers are fairly comparable.

The closing of the River and Rail Café was discussed; closing is partially due to the pandemic, but also because a member of the family earned a professorship out of state. Stef suggested some of the rescue money be used to encourage another restaurant or business to open in that commercial area of town.

2) Motion to affirm transfer from Fund Balance

Mike Makuch made a motion to affirm application of fund balance to the fiscal year 2022 budget by applying \$1,055,230 from the fund balance to the Fiscal Year 21-22 budget.

Stef Summers seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 Yes (G. Prusak, M. Makuch, M. Clark, P. Tanaka, C. Mailhos, S. Summers), 0 No Motion passes.

3) Talmadge Property:

a) Grant update

Kathy Demers gave the update that the grant round opened on June 3 and the CC (Conservation Commission) is starting to work on it. The application is due by Sept. 30 to DEEP. They take 6 months to review, then applications with the highest ranking are funded. DEEP isn't able to tell how much money is in the pot, but they have asked for \$5,000,000 from the bond commission. After the 6-month review, it could take additional months to go through the DEEP Commissioner's office and the Governor's office before awards are announced, so it could be as late as summer or fall of 2022.

Kathy continued that the CC is predicating going forward with the purchase on getting some type of grant award; they are hoping for 50%, but in the last grant round DEEP only funded 30-40%. If the grant is awarded, the CC will go forward with A2 survey, then there is paperwork to submit to the State before they release the funds, so it is possible the release of funds may not happen until spring of 2023. The CC have come back before the BOF now because the grant round is open and they would like to move forward on a purchase and sales agreement with the family, including a document and title search, as those documents are all required for the grant application.

Kathy continued; DEEP has said that once the application process has closed on Sept 30, towns or land trusts can close on the property if they wish to do that before grant awards are announced, or they can wait. Traditionally, Willington has done that with the other purchases.

Peter Andersen stated that the CC will apprise the Talmadge family/estate of the timeline, and, though it's a little more extended than previously discussed, the hope is that they are still in agreement with the town purchasing that property. The purchase and sales agreement will require attorney's and other fees, so they need some funds to move forward, though they won't have the survey done until they know whether they've received a grant.

Kathy elaborated that there is \$60,000 in Open Space funds in the CIP plan to use toward the purchase.

b) Request to move to a Town Meeting

Stef Summers made a motion to request the Board of Selectmen call a Town Meeting to appropriate \$60,000 from the Open Space fund to use for the costs associated with the

purchase of the Talmadge Estate property on Mason Rd., including the survey and legal fees.

Christina Mailhos seconded the motion.

Matt asked a clarifying question about the percent of projects approved for funding each year. Kathy replied that all of the grant applications received money last year, totaling 30-40% of their application, but prior to that year, just the ones that ranked the highest received funds for 50% of the property price. Where funds are coming from determines how much is in the pot, which affects how they decide to fund projects.

Pete explained that he would be abstaining from the vote because he feels it would be very much in his advantage for this to pass and therefore could be a conflict of interest.

Vote: 5 Yes (G. Prusak, C. Mailhos, M. Clark, S. Summers, M. Makuch), 0 No, 1 Abstain (P. Tanaka)

Motion passes.

Selectwoman Wiecenski referenced an email in which the rest of the funds, \$101,000, that would come from CIP were mentioned, and asked if the CC needs to show town approval of those funds as part of the grant application. Kathy replied that showing the town has made a commitment toward those funds would help to gain extra points on the application, and that it might make sense to do both in the same Town Meeting, even though the other funds wouldn't be used right away.

Language of the motion was discussed. Selectwoman Wiecenski clarified that the purchase and sales agreement is with the town, who will make sure to include language detailing that the purchase of the property is dependent upon receipt of a grant, as was always the intention of the CC.

Stef Summers made a motion that Board of Finance recommends that the Board of Selectmen call a Town Meeting to approve an appropriation of \$101,000 from the Reserve Fund to be used for the purchase of the Talmadge Estate property on Mason Rd.

Mike Makuch seconded the motion.

Vote: 5 Yes (S. Summers, G. Prusak, C. Mailhos, M. Clark, M. Makuch), 0 No, 1 Abstain (P. Tanaka)

Motion passes.

4) Ambulance Service to the Town of Union

a) Letter from WFD1 (Willington Fire Department #1)

Discussion was held regarding the BOF's history of conversations and questions regarding Willington ambulance funding and the Primary Service Agreement (PSA) for the Town of Union; the circumstances which led to a series of correspondence started by First Selectwoman Wiecenski with the First Selectman of Union and later including the BOF and WFD1.

Tyler Millix provided history on the PSA, which is an agreement between Union, WFD1, and OEMS (Office of Emergency Medical Services) to establish a permanent ambulance response in an area, and was established with the state in 2008. At the time, AMR (American Medical Response, Inc.), which is a private ambulance company, had the PSA for Union, which they inherited from Superior Ambulance when AMR bought them out. AMR continually failed in providing coverage to Union; when that happens, mutual aid gets called, so Willington was running all of the EMS calls in Union anyway. There started to be friction between AMR, OEMS, and WFD1. AMR wanted to get out of the PSA, and CT was eager to have WFD1 take it because they do not allow a PSA to remain open. At the time, WFD1 discussed the pros and cons of taking on the Union PSA and the potential income stream from running calls there, especially if the insurance industry transport rates increased. Any income that comes in goes into Fund 17 which indirectly assists both fire departments in purchasing capital assets. Tyler concluded that WFD1 holding the PSA, in his opinion, is a non-issue and just solidified the presence there because the ambulance was already traveling there through mutual aid coverage.

Chairman Makuch asked if one of the advantages of holding the PSA is that emergency calls come right to them instead of dispatch calling AMR first to discover they can't cover the call, reducing the amount of wait time in an emergency. Tyler confirmed.

Tyler spoke about the fact that Union is a small town with a small amount of manpower but a large chunk of interstate, which WFD1 has direct access to service due to its location on rt. 32. This makes theirs the closest ambulance, even over other neighboring towns, and would mean their ambulance would be called for emergencies in Union via mutual aid even if they didn't hold the PSA.

Regarding number of calls, Tyler explained that of approximately 800 total calls, 80 came from Union last year; 41 from residents and 39 from the interstate or state parks. Matt stated that 10% of their calls were to Union last year.

Regarding mutual aid, Tyler provided the information that Willington received mutual aid 92 times and provided it 94 times last year. Received mutual aid were situations such as 2nd and 3rd ambulance on site or the Willington ambulance being out of service at the time of the call. The largest mutual aid provider to Willington is UConn, who makes approximately 50 mutual aid calls to Willington per year, while Willington provides mutual aid to UConn 3 to 4 times per year. That is how the mutual aid system works though, and Willington doesn't pay UConn for that coverage. At those times when Willington is providing mutual aid to other towns, our stations are unmanned.

Tyler continued that the ambulance billing took in \$22,000 last year, with remaining outstanding balances of \$7,000 to \$8,000 due to insurance companies moving slowly, so approximately \$30,000 for the year. The average collection per transport is about \$471.

Matt asked about WFD1's experience with not being paid for calls. Chief Moore replied that the ambulance averages 87-89% collection rate between Willington and Union. There are always some, whether motor vehicle or deaths that can't be collected, and they never send anyone to collections.

Pete Tanaka asked whether there is an advantage to holding a PSA, and if the PSA is a contract, what does it require of both parties? Tyler replied that the PSA requires and solidifies that Willington's ambulance is the primary there and collects most of the revenue from those calls.

Eastford's contract with KB ambulance was brought up. Tyler did not know the terms, but he said that call volume plays a role in the cost and that situation is slightly different because KB is a for-profit EMS service.

Pete summarized that Willington taxpayers are paying a lot of money for an ambulance in town for two reasons; first for coverage in Willington and second to have first responders on the scene quickly since there is always someone on duty. If first responders are out of the precinct they're not available to respond to calls in Willington, which is a separate kind of cost unrelated to revenue. Tyler replied that they do watch those statistics and that, generally speaking, only 3-4 times per year the ambulance is in Union or in another town on mutual aid when a call comes in from Willington.

Pete stated that in his opinion, the PSA and mutual aid are not the same thing; mutual aid is something that's totally necessary because nobody can cover all of the calls all of the time in their town even with multiple full time departments. To say that we're taking over the responsibility for another town because we're expecting the insurance revenue means the other town is expecting an awful lot because we're still funding the ambulance. Fund 17 does not fully fund our ambulance service and was never designed to, so we're paying more than what is being returned and adding on service to another town who is only paying their insurance.

Tyler replied that if you take the PSA out of the equation, the ambulance would still go there the same number of times every year. Pete asked if Tolland and Woodstock would pick up any of the calls. Tyler answered that when AMR wanted out of the contract, no-one else wanted the contract and because Willington is closest, they would be going whether they had the PSA or not.

Christina Mailhos asked if the amount of money that comes in from trips to Union correlates to the call volume. Tyler replied that he hadn't looked at that breakdown.

Pete suggested that if the PSA was dissolved, the Willington ambulance may not be the first ambulance called every time. Tyler replied that it would be, as it was for 10 years before the PSA.

Chairman Makuch asked; if Ashford is between Willington and Union, Sturbridge has ambulances geographically close to Union, and other towns are geographically close as well, why Willington would always get called to cover Union for mutual aid. Tyler replied that when ambulance service crosses state lines, there are reciprocity issues. Second, the Ashford ambulance is stationed at the intersection of Routes 89 & 44, which is not near the highway.

Tyler continued that when a required ambulance mutual aid plan is developed by a fire department to submit to the dispatch center, geography and response time is a large factor, and the ambulance can take the highway right there. For example, Staffordville is next to Union, but does not have a direct route and has to take back roads to get to Union. Staffing comes into play as well, as surrounding towns such as Stafford, Tolland, and Ashford all have paid staffing, unlike Union whose firefighters have to travel from where they are to the fire house to get a truck in order to respond to a fire. He mentioned that Willington is first to provide mutual aid to Union for fires too because of proximity and the fact that staff are already there.

Pete stated his thinking that the basis of mutual aid is mutual, and mutuality with Union for medical response seems to be lacking. He asked if Union are our first responders for fire mutual aid. Tyler replied that they are not, because surrounding paid departments such as Tolland, UConn, Mansfield, etc. can get there quicker.

Tyler mentioned that for UConn, for example, responding to Willington is expensive for them because they engage a callback system where they backfill the staffing at the department for people out on calls, so they end up paying overtime. Willington doesn't do callbacks because it's not financially feasible.

Stef reviewed the numbers presented and that the total cost of the ambulance is around \$482,000. She stated that 10% of that, in accordance with the fact that about 10% of the ambulance's calls are to Union, would be \$48,000, which seems like a fair share for Union to pay for emergency coverage of their citizens since they can't provide mutual aid back. She recognized that that may not be the final number, but is the reason for having this discussion with Union. Stef stated that the BOF's role is as elected officials to look out for the concerns of the taxpayers of Willington, who are paying the whole bill right now. She understands the desire to help a town that doesn't have the same resources, and would never suggest not helping, but that it's reasonable for Willington taxpayers to ask the question of Union to kick in a proportional share.

Tyler responded that since 2008, the administration of the fire department has been comfortable that the insurance benefit the ambulance brings in is an adequate tradeoff.

Stef replied that Willington taxpayers also pay the user copay for the ambulance as well as paying for the rest in their taxes.

Tyler responded that this is a slippery slope to talk about asking Union to pay a "retainer fee" because if Willington starts charging Union for mutual aid, how would the town feel if UConn, for example, started charging for the 55 times they provided mutual aid last year? Impacting the entire mutual aid system that's been in place should be a consideration in this discussion. Stef disagreed that the two situations can be compared, because of the size of the departments and the commitment of the PSA.

Tyler provided information that the ambulance transports to Johnson Hospital 54% of the time, Rockville Hospital 18%, Harrington 9%, Hartford 9%, Manchester 4%, and others 7%. Of the 80 calls in Union, there were 46 transports to hospital.

Chairman Makuch asked if there are expenses that are unique to the trip to Union that aren't incurred by trips within Willington and summarized that he thinks he's hearing that the distance isn't greatly larger and transports go to the same hospitals, so it's only expenses like wear and tear on the ambulance and medical supplies that would be incurred on any call. Tyler confirmed and stated that, geographically, some calls on the highway in Union are closer than calls in Willington.

Pete asked if there is insurance collection on a call where there is no transport. Chief Moore stated that as of June 1, they can start billing people for calls where they go to help with lift assists and accidents with transport refusals, provided the person gives their insurance information. The fee is less; \$200.

Tyler clarified that Union does have Emergency Medical Responders who respond to scenes, they just don't have a transport ambulance.

Matt asked if there are other towns in Connecticut that do not provide any ambulance service to their residents. Tyler mentioned Eastford, Hampton/Chaplin utilize Willimantic, and that he believes there are other small towns in the Litchfield County area. Matt asked if those towns pay anything for ambulance services. Tyler responded that he wasn't sure, but could get more information.

Chairman Makuch addressed the letter from Mr. Gantick; he believes the letter was based on misunderstandings and that it is clear from this conversation that the BOF just wants to understand the issue and discuss the finances. The conversation has been ongoing in BOF meetings for two budget seasons and has involved members of WFD1 throughout and included them on emails. It is within the BOF's role to look at the best way to fund things in town and the way that tax dollars are spent.

Tyler expressed that Willington Fire Department #1's main concern is that the correspondence was sent to the Town of Union without their input, Selectwoman Wicinski had a conversation in which they indicated they did not want to pay, and that the BOF continues to pursue the issue. He stated that there may be a disagreement on whether the BOF has the right to make decisions about operational issues. The language of the contract between the fire departments and the Town of Willington establishes them as independent contractors whose operations and agreements are between the private corporation and whomever they choose to work with, though he understands there are financial considerations.

Wording of correspondences and timelines were discussed. Chairman Makuch explained that the BOF is continuing the issue because it didn't have the opportunity to be involved in the conversation with Union either. Chairman Makuch noted that the contract only states that Willington is paying WFD1 for services to Willington, not Union, and that by taking the PSA, the fire department has committed Willington taxpayer dollars to serve Union.

Tyler requested that further matters regarding the fire department be done as partners, leaving no room for the perception that anything is an end-run around them. He agreed to continued dialogue, if the BOF feels it's necessary, and hopes that information provided tonight was helpful.

b) Response from Town of Union

Chairman Makuch stated that the fire department and BOF members have seen the response from Union and asked what direction the Board would like to go.

Pete commented that he would like to see the statistics that Matt asked for regarding every town in Connecticut that does not have an ambulance and what they're paying for their coverage. If every other town that does not have an ambulance is paying nothing, the issue is at a standstill. If Union is the only town that is paying nothing, then he thinks the board should move forward.

Mike Makuch made a motion to table Item 4, Ambulance Service to the Town of Union. Pete Tanaka seconded the motion.

Selectwoman Wiecenski, as an impartial party, will request the information.

Vote: 6 Yes (S. Summers, M. Clark, P. Tanaka, C. Mailhos, G. Prusak, M. Makuch), 0 No Motion passes.

Chairman Makuch apologized for causing distress, as that was never his intent. His intent was to try to do a good job with minding the taxpayer's dollars, not to offend anybody.

NEW BUSINESS

1) Senior Center A/C

Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that the senior center currently has 4 Air Conditioning (A/C) units which are all housed underneath the deck, 2 of which have failed. 2 have been repaired to limp along to provide A/C in the senior center. It has been stated by multiple vendors that the placement should not continue to be under the deck, as that is causing some of the issues. 2 units need to be replaced and the 2 that are limping will need to be. The original intent when this was added to the agenda was to find dollars left in the fiscal year budget to replace them, but she and Donna believe this project is directly related to one of the uses for American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds which speaks about ventilation improvements for senior population.

Selectwoman Wiecenski continued that she wanted to make the BOF aware of the project in the event that they discover it does not fall there, as there is no budget for it and they would have to come back to ask for funds. Estimates for the project are upwards of \$30,000 to replace all 4 units and move them out from under the deck to either their own pad or cement pad.

Director of Public Works Troy Sposato explained that the four units include a 3-ton unit, a 3.5-ton unit, and two 5-ton units which are 16 years old. He was there with EMCOR the other day; the piping needs to be replaced as well. The units need to move out from under the deck because

the rising heat comes back down on them causing them to work twice as hard. In the basement, water is leaking out from the air handlers when they run constantly on hot days.

Selectwoman Wiecenski added that it was planned to put the project in year 5 of the CIP plan and progress them into replacement, but they failed long before anticipated, likely due to their placement. They hope that the two functioning units can make it through to when those funds become available.

Director of Human Services Jennie Arpin stressed the urgency of this project, as they need those units to be working in order to use the senior center.

Selectwoman Wiecenski recognized the range in the quotes they received is due to the type of ductwork necessary.

2) FY 21 transfers

Selectwoman Wiecenski explained that one department that is overspent is the transfer station due to the uptick in trash and bulky with people working from home; it is not an issue local to Willington. These are not contractual issues, it's just a much larger volume of trash.

Mike Makuch made a motion to transfer \$10,000 from Line 0111 Selectmen to Line 0351 Transfer Station.

Stef Summers seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 Yes (C. Mailhos, M. Clark, G. Prusak, S. Summers, P. Tanaka, M. Makuch), 0 No Motion passes.

Chairman Makuch explained that the second transfer is for the purpose of clearing up error made at the last meeting. The board made a motion to appropriate \$10,000 but did not specify where it was coming from.

Mike Makuch made a motion that the previously approved motion from the May 20, 2021 meeting to appropriate money for WFD#1 be amended to include transferring \$10,000 from Line 0831 Employee Insurances to Line 0004 WFD#1.

Stef Summers seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 Yes (M. Clark, C. Mailhos, P. Tanaka, S. Summers, G. Prusak, M. Makuch), 0 No Motion passes.

CORRESPONDENCE

Board members received all correspondence.

1) Letter from Mr. Woodworth

Chairman Makuch stated that, due to the nature of specific comments regarding himself and his position in this letter, he feels it's important he briefly address it. He continued that nothing in the letter is true. He wishes Mr. Woodworth had asked him when they see each other regularly. He assured the BOF that his involvement with the fire department is kept on an appropriate length leash when he is doing his job on the board. The idea of him as a board member being

involved in the fire department has been discussed in the past and was vetted through the town attorney and his private attorney to determine conflicts of interest; board members in town boards often have specific experience as they understand the workings of complicated or long-running issues or organizations. One of the reasons Mike was recruited to run for the BOF was because people felt he would understand things like the fire and emergency services in town due to his involvement in them. Because there is the potential of a conflict, he stays away when Willington Hill Fire Department (WHFD) makes the budget and he makes sure that he uses the information and the history he has only for making what he feels are good decisions about the use of the money.

Chairman Makuch continued that the letter from the town attorney specifically commented that a conflict comes in when a board member 1) comes to a board meeting as a representative of the other organization, or 2) votes on decisions being made by the board that would bring him personal pecuniary (financial) interest. None of those situations exist; he receives no compensation and purposely and intentionally asks each year that he not be considered for the town's tax abatement available through involvement in the fire department, as it seems to him that could be seen in conflict of his role on the board. He believes he has always made sure to act with integrity.

Chairman Makuch stated that, regarding the specific accusations in the letter, that he has somehow engineered favors for his girlfriend, none of that is true. The person who has worked with WHFD to arrange to use the house has gotten no special deals and is not yet living in the house. The last person to live and sleep in that house is Fire Chief Alex Moore from WFD1 who was there due to COVID isolation.

Chairman Makuch asked Chief Tom Snyder of WHFD if there was anything he'd like to address.

Chief Snyder echoed that he wished Mr. Woodworth had come to him directly with questions that involve him and the fire department. Like Chairman Makuch was saying, they had predetermined a rental amount in anticipation of trying to rent the house across the street. In doing that, they talked to a couple different realtors, and that's how they set the number for the agreement. There is an agreement in place, but no-one living in the house. They are hoping it goes forward because renting the house would be a great revenue source to offset the budget, which is the only intention for any money coming in from that.

Chief Snyder continued that as far as other questions; regarding tax exempt status, it is in their tax-exempt application that they can use the house temporarily for people in need, so it doesn't violate the tax-exempt status at all. The agreement also doesn't affect zoning status because they aren't using the property for dual use. If someone was living there, the fire department doesn't have a permit to use the church and isn't using it anyway. WHFD puts everything through the town so that it's transparent.

Pete asked if meetings are open to the public or still closed due to COVID. Chief Snyder replied that meetings are always open to the public, and they just started meeting in person. Meetings have never been closed, but they didn't have a lot when they couldn't meet in person. Meetings

are on the 4th Tuesday of the month and the hall is open to the public, who are welcome to come in and ask any questions.

Stef stated that the letter implies that the town should be in line for any income that comes off that property. She asked for confirmation that the property is owned free and clear by WHFD without ownership by the town. Chief Snyder confirmed, and elaborated that that was the understanding when the taxpayers voted at Town Meeting to chip in a small portion to purchase the property. It's now one property and revenue is treated the same as revenue from the chicken barbecue or any other revenue they generate; it doesn't need to be turned over to anyone and can be used for any of their expenses.

Christina suggested that now may be a good time for board members to look at and familiarize themselves with the fire department contract. Selectwoman Wicinski agreed to send a copy to board members.

PRESENT TO SPEAK

Michelle Doucette Cunningham stated: I wanted to say thank you, Mr. Makuch, for handling the last issue with such transparency and tact. I've always found you to be very fair-minded. Transparency is the only way to handle these types of issues when they come up. There is no way to ever prevent unwarranted gossip from transferring into the public sphere, but we all have to take a deep breath and think twice about taking something to the next level until we've had a chance to actually find some of the answers. We should just start first with the question and speak to the people who are involved and ask them. I appreciate the fact that you handled that with such transparency tonight.

GOOD & WELFARE

Chairman Makuch stated: this has not been the easiest meeting; I've found myself in a couple situations I didn't expect and they're good learning lessons for me. Hopefully this board gets something good out of all of this. Thank you all for grinding through it.

Pete Tanaka made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:10pm.

Matt Clark seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 Yes (P. Tanaka, M. Clark, S. Summers, C. Mailhos, G. Prusak, M. Makuch), 0 No Motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,
Marysa Semperebon
Recording Secretary

RECEIVED
WILLINGTON, CT.
2021 JUL 14 P 2:37

TOWN CLERK