

Town of Willington

Board of Selectmen
40 Old Farms Road
Willington, CT 06279
(860) 487-3100
(860) 487-3103 Fax
www.willingtonct.gov

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Regular Meeting Minutes
Hybrid; TOB, Downstairs Conference Room & Virtual Meeting

November 20, 2023
6:30 PM

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

First Selectwoman Wiczenski called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM with the following in attendance: Selectman Bulick, Selectman Makuch in person, and residents in person and via Zoom.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes

Selectman Makuch moved to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2023, regular meeting.

Seconded by Selectman Bulick

3Yes (Bulick, Makuch & Wiczenski) 0 No. Motion carried.

Present To Speak

Stephanie Summers – wanted to thank all the Selectman and spoke regarding how the town exemplified how a community can come together and organize itself for something like a pandemic. Stephanie felt that things ran smoothly, and people felt good about what they were doing. There were problems with logistics, but it all worked out. Stephanie felt they were a strong board of selectman and thanked them again.

Correspondence

No Correspondence.

First Selectwoman's Status Report

A. STEAP Grant for OTH Septic: No new update

B. SBC: The SBC report, what they believe to be the final report was sent to the Board of Selectman and the Board of Education. As a courtesy, for review to make sure nothing was missing. The SBC meeting will be Tuesday November 21, 2023, and will presumably approve all the minutes from past meetings. Once the report of the SBC is completed so will the charge of the SBC.

C. LOTCIP: No new update.

D. ARPA: No new updates.

E. STAFF UPDATE: Public Works Administrative Assistant which is a 15 hours per week position and is still vacant. The Public Works Director is reviewing applications but may possibly need to repost the job opening. The Administrative Assistant to the First Selectman position has been posted and closed last week, the committee has met and are reviewing applications and set to schedule interviews.

Public Works

Things done at Public Works:

Blow Leaves

Cleaned out water ways around Town.

Installed new Catch basin and Pipe on Spak Rd

Picked wood up around Town.

Patched holes around Town

Prepared trucks for any upcoming weather

Roadside mowing is still continuing around Town.

Picked up a new freezer for Human Services

Trimming site lines around Town

New Business

A. Appointments

- a. Chief Building Official, Rich McKinnon

First Selectwoman Wiecewski moved to appoint Rich McKinnon as the chief building official beginning 11/20/2023 and expiring 6/30/2025.

Seconded by Selectman Makuch

3Yes (Makuch & Wiecewski, Bulick) No. Motion carried.

- b. Willington Capital Improvement Plan Committee (CIP) – James Marshall.

First Selectwoman Wiecewski moved to re-appoint James Marshall as a regular member to the CIP Capital Improvement Plan Committee beginning 12/1/2023 and expiring 12/2/2026.

Seconded by Selectman Makuch

Selectman Bulick made a motion to table the decision for the next Board of Selectman to appoint James Marshall to CIP.

2Yes (Makuch & Wiecenski, (Bulick-No) 1 No.

Roll Call Vote:

2Yes (Makuch & Wiecenski, (Bulick-No) 1 No. Motion carried.

a. Willington Capital Improvement Plan Committee (CIP) – Karen Ann Caldwell.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to re-appoint Karen Ann Caldwell as a regular member to the CIP Capital Improvement Plan Committee beginning 12/9/2023 and expiring 12/8/2026.

Seconded by Selectman Makuch

Selectman Bulick made a motion to table the decision for the next Board of Selectman to appoint James Marshall to CIP.

2Yes (Makuch & Wiecenski, (Bulick-No) 1 No.

Roll Call Vote:

2Yes (Makuch & Wiecenski, (Bulick-No) 1 No. Motion carried.

a. Willington Capital Improvement Plan Committee (CIP) – Jim Bulick.

Selectwoman Makuch moved to appoint Jim Bulick as a regular member to the CIP Capital Improvement Plan Committee beginning 12/2/2023 and expiring 12/3/2026.

Seconded by First Selectman Wiecenski

Roll Call Vote:

3Yes (Bulick, Makuch & Wiecenski) 0 No. Motion carried.

B. Tax Refunds

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund James T. Linares, for an overpayment in the amount of \$110.07.

Selectman Bulick seconded.

3 Yes (Bulick, Makuch & Wiecenski) 0 No. Motion carried.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund CCAP Auto Lease LTD, for an overpayment in the amount of \$235.25.

Selectman Makuch seconded.

3 Yes (Bulick, Makuch & Wiecenski) 0 No. Motion carried.

C. SBC Final Report

The Report was given to the Board of Selectman and Board of Education to review and give any feedback. After reading the report, First Selectwoman Wiecenski has no feedback.

Old Business

A. Volunteer Firefighter Dept. Personnel Tax Abatement Ordinance Amendment

First Selectwoman Wiecenski asked the Board how they would like to proceed with the tax abatement. Selectman Makuch stated he believes that this should be the decision of the new Board of Selectman as the version they received needed some explanation and no one was present to give that information. First Selectwoman Wiecenski agreed and stated that both fire departments were at the table when this abatement was created, and they should both be at the table now.

B. Approve Vendor Street Sweeper

Action was taken on approving a new street sweeper, which went to the Board of Finance they recommended that the Board of Selectman call a town meeting. This is something the new Board will inherit, so they do have an item ready for a town meeting.

Present to Speak

Good & Welfare

- A. Mobile Food Share will be here at the TOB next, Wednesday, November 22nd from 9 am - 9:30am. Residents will need to park and bring their own bags. **The next Food Share is on November 22nd at 9:00 am. Because it is the day before Thanksgiving.**
ACCESS Agency has a mobile food pantry that is at Willington Woods, senior center complex, which is once a month, the first Thursday of the month so December 7, 2023, 12:00 to 1:00pm it is open to all.
- B. Please continue to support our small businesses and restaurants if you can.
- C. If anyone is looking to make charitable contributions the **Willington Fuel bank** is in serious need of funds in order to be able to assist our residents outside of any federal or state funding. Donations can be sent to the Town Office Building marked Fuel Bank. NOTE: We are accepting applications through the Human Services department for the energy assistance program, we start with federal programs which are open and accepting applications.
- D. There is a run-off election for two races, one for the Board of Education and one for region 19 Board of Education. The election will take place on Tuesday November 28th, at the Town Office Building from 6:00am to 8:00pm. Absentee ballots are available in the Town Clerks office, they will not be mailed.
- E. Town offices will be close this Thursday November 23, 2023, and Friday November 24, 2023, to observe the Thanksgiving holiday. First Selectwoman Wiecenski would like to wish everyone a wonderful Holiday Season and a Happy Thanksgiving!

F. First Selectwoman Wiecenski would like to wish all the newly elected and appointed board and commission members the best in their new term. Selectman Bulick also congratulates the new board and wishes them the best of luck. Selectman Makuch also wishes the new board the best of luck and also thanked the board members for the collaboration as well as the town for their support.

G. First Selectwoman Wiecenski's last order of business I just have a few things I want to share,

I would like to thank Mike and Liza, & Jim for their leadership to Willington, your time and dedication is something to applaud. I have no doubt that in some way you will continue serving the people of the town in the future and I wish you well.

It was my honor and privilege to have been your first selectwoman for the last six years. I learned a lot about myself and our community through this process. there were ups and downs and a worldwide pandemic that changed so much about the way we respond and do business.

There are plenty of moments that we the board of selectman can be proud of and things we wish we had done different. We did not always get it right, but we always did what we believed was the best for all of Willington I would never change that.

I want to wish the incoming first selectman Peter Tanaka and selectman Andy Marco and Matt Clark the best. Your success is Willington's success and that is something we should all want.

14 years ago, longtime resident David Tharp returned from serving in Iraq and presented our new first select woman with a gavel and she graciously passed it on to me six years ago. It has been a constant reminder to me of the democracy we are blessed to have, and we should never take that for granted. Mr. Tharp passed away last year, and I have no doubt he would want to see this symbol remain with this office so Mr. Tanaka I gladly leave this gavel for you and the Willington first selectman's office.

Willington is my home, where I was born and raised most of my life and chose to raise my family here. I love this town and will always find a way to serve and hopefully make a difference.

I will forever be grateful for the opportunity to have served Willington as your First Selectwoman.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to adjourn the meeting for the last time at 7:05 PM.

Selectman Makuch seconded the motion.

3 Yes (Bulick, Makuch & Wiecenski) 0 No. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Côté
Recording Secretary
Town of Willington

TOWN OF WILLINGTON, CT
Received for record November 21, 2023
At 3:44 pm ATC