

Town of Willington

Board of Selectmen
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BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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

October 2, 2023
6:30 PM

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski called the meeting to order at 6:30 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 September 5th regular meeting.

Seconded by Selectman Bulick

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

Selectman Bulick moved to approve the minutes of the September 18th informational regular meeting.

Seconded by Selectman Makuch

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

Present To Speak

Correspondence

List of Correspondence is available in the Selectman's office.

First Selectwoman's Status Report

A. STEAP Grant for OTH Septic: No new update

B. SBC: Final report is very far along in draft and is continuing to be worked on. SBC is not meeting this Wednesday but is meeting at the next regularly scheduled meeting in which they may finalize the report at that meeting. They are also working on minutes and the final financial report and hoping to wrap all that up at the next meeting. First Selectwoman Wiecenski asked that the SBC present the final report with the Board of Selectman.

C. LOTCIP: No new update.

- D. ARPA:** Met today and Closed 6 Projects. All were under budget and returned a total of \$54,840.45 to Fund 19 (ARPA). The committee discussed the two projects they have not taken action on and decided to wait until after RFPs were back for other projects to determine if additional funding of those may be necessary. Specifically, the drainage/lights project at RRAC may need additional funds. We have until December 31, 2024, to encumber the funds and December 31, 2026, to spend the funds.
- E. TOB AC Common Room:** Meetings have been moved back downstairs to get back to our pre-covid normal. Second, there is no more air conditioning upstairs as the old units have stopped working. We did start pricing to put new units in the common room which we are looking at about \$22,000 to put in new mini split units. First Selectwoman Wiecenski will be putting this in CIP, at this point we cannot say if we will have the funds in our budget as it is too soon to tell.
- F. STAFF UPDATE:** Director of Humans Services position is still vacant, and interviews are being scheduled. We still need recording secretaries for CIP and BOF, it pays \$20.00 per hour, if anyone is interested, please reach out to the Selectman's office.

Public Works

Things done at Public Works:

- Roadside mowing is continuing throughout town.
- Cleaning catch basins off
- Tree removal in the back of Center School
- Chipseal has been completed and will be swept up within the upcoming weeks.
- Worked at Station 13 Fire Dept looking for curtain and gutter drains.
- Serviced some vehicles/equipment.
- Installed new park bench at RRAP.
- Moved desks and furniture at TOB.
- Still backfilling edges from washouts around town
- Moved a pile of stone at Mason Road Park
- Put new lightbulbs up at a few different offices at TOB.
- Graded some of the dirt roads, weather permitting.
- Update on Polster Road: They will be out there regrading tomorrow and install ¾ in process, they should be paving Wednesday & Thursday weather permitting.

With all the rain and leaves, DPW is asking anyone with a catch basin in front of their house that is blocked with leaves, to remove if they can. Your help to keep the water flowing where it needs to go is appreciated.

New Business

A. Appointment

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to appoint William Bunnell as a regular member of the Willington Sustainable & Energy Committee effective September 18, 2023, expiring 11/4/2026.

Selectman Makuch seconded.

Discussion: Mr. Bunnell felt this committee sounded interesting and he would like to pursue being a part of it so he may contribute to the process of Willington Sustainable & Energy Committee, adding to our resources and reduce costs. First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated she appreciated Bill wanting to serve in this capacity.

Selectman Bulick spoke about his concerns of establishing a committee and appointing members for another group of Selectmen. First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated we did not establish the committee it has been long established but there were openings on the committee. This committee has been dormant since covid. Selectman Bulick would like more information on the charge of the committee.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski called for a roll call vote.

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

B. FD Analysis (item from the Emergency Services Efficiency Committee)

The Board of Selectman discussed a Fire Station Location Analysis which was presented by the Emergency Efficiency Committee. Peter Tanaka spoke about a new study outline from the federal government given us to know where the calls are in town and what kind of calls, they are as well as where to best locate our fire departments and a percentage of where we are from optimal. This could slow us down from projects that we already need. Mr. Tanaka stated this is a different kind of study than the previous ones and he believes it would be valuable to the town.

Chief Moore stated that they are not opposed to the study. However, the departments fear is that it will cause a delay in trying to fix the issues that currently exist at Willington FD #1.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski has many concerns about conducting a study as she has many previous studies where tens of thousands of dollars were spent on prior studies (not just the fire department) sitting on a shelf and nothing was done with them.

Selectman Makuch stated that while there were previous studies, they were not at the scope of this current perspective study. He feels that by doing this study and asking taxpayers for the funds to do the study it will in the end better serve the public.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski does not see the need to rush this study through and feels it should be put through the regular process. The people that are losing here are our residents, the end user of our services. First Selectwoman Wiecenski tips her hat to all of those who work in the fire service as she knows how hard they all work and the time that they dedicate.

Selectman Bulick stated the emergency is to get the heat turned on for the fire station at Willington FD#1 and he also believes that the study should run through the CIP process. Selectman Makuch wanted to clarify what Mr. Tanaka mentioned about the ISO changing people's homeowners' insurance as he does not believe that is likely to happen as there was a long period of time that there was no firetruck in the village, and no one had their insurance go up. Chief Moore asked if he produced heat maps for each station with the times of where the ambulances are and response time help?

C. WFD #1 Temp Housing

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated the Chief Moore & WFD #1 went before the Board of Finance asking for funding for temporary housing at station 13 to be able to move one of the two overnight staff members. The Fire Marshall and the Building Official stated that the temporary situation must end. The BOF approved \$15,000.00 for a one-time transfer from the general fund to the Selectmen's budget so that it is a town purchase. Chief Moore presented a quote from Longview RV. The cost of the trailer after the fees and dealer prep would be \$13,663.00. They still need the propane hook-up, septic and 30-

amp service. The fire department put a \$1,000.00 down to hold this trailer out of their own funds. There were 2 other quotes but by today they were sold and no longer available.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to award Longview RV a purchase of a used 2011 Crossroad RV Cruiser in an amount not to exceed \$14,000.00.

Seconded by Selectman Makuch

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

D. Tax Refunds

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund Yu Song, for an overpayment in the amount of \$13.96.

Selectman Bulick seconded.

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund Travis G. Hall, for an overpayment in the amount of \$94.65.

Selectman Makuch seconded.

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund Sally J. McAllister, for an overpayment in the amount of \$10.00.

Selectman Bulick seconded.

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund Beyor Living Trust, for an overpayment in the amount of \$48.24.

Selectman Makuch seconded.

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund Beyor Living Trust, for an overpayment in the amount of \$46.90.

Selectman Bulick seconded.

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund Beyor Living Trust, for an overpayment in the amount of \$44.98.

Selectman Makuch seconded.

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund Ricky L. Beyor & Shirley A. Beyor Trustees, for an overpayment in the amount of \$44.98.

Selectman Bulick seconded.

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund Ricky L. Beyor & Shirley A. Beyor Trustees, for an overpayment in the amount of \$45.12.

Selectman Makuch seconded.

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund Ricky L. Beyor & Shirley A. Beyor, for an overpayment in the amount of \$45.12.

Selectman Bulick seconded.

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund Nissan Infiniti LT LLC, for an overpayment in the amount of \$46.86.

Selectman Makuch seconded.

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund CAB EAST LLC, for an overpayment in the amount of \$322.02.

Selectman Bulick seconded.

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund CAB EAST LLC, for an overpayment in the amount of \$238.74.

Selectman Makuch seconded.

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund JP MORGAN Chase Bank NA, for an overpayment in the amount of \$343.97.

Selectman Bulick seconded.

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund JP MORGAN Chase Bank NA, for an overpayment in the amount of \$557.42.

Selectman Makuch seconded.

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund Nissan Infiniti LT LLC, for an overpayment in the amount of \$349.28.

Selectman Makuch seconded.

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund Nissan Infiniti LT LLC, for an overpayment in the amount of \$90.74.

Selectman Bulick seconded.

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund Nissan Infiniti LT LLC, for an overpayment in the amount of \$512.42.

Selectman Makuch seconded.

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund Vault Trust, for an overpayment in the amount of \$476.21.

Selectman Bulick seconded.

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund Mark O. Mosher, for an overpayment in the amount of \$225.76.

Selectman Makuch seconded.

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund Douglas J. Roberts, for an overpayment in the amount of \$52.42.

Selectman Bulick seconded.

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund Douglas J. Roberts and Margaret M. Roberts, for an overpayment in the amount of \$122.85.

Selectman Makuch seconded.

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund Jaclyn M. Roberts, for an overpayment in the amount of \$135.07.

Selectman Bulick seconded.

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund Susan & Mark Walsh, for an overpayment in the amount of \$94.28.

Selectman Bulick seconded.

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

Old Business

A. Everbridge Emergency Notification

First Selectwoman Wiecenski made some minor edits as she did not hear back from either selectman. Discussion was had on how the policy can be amended moving forward if need be.

Selectman Makuch moved to approve the mass notification policy as presented.

Selectman Bulick seconded.

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

Present to Speak

Ralph Tulis – Spoke about his concerns about homeowners' insurance policy and location of firehouse and Willington being classified as an 8 on a rating scale of 1 to 10, 1- being great and 10 being bad. He believes the study should be done.

Good & Welfare

- A. Mobile Food Share will be here at the TOB next, Wednesday, October 11th from 11am - 11:30am. As of Wednesday August 30, 2023, they will be moving from the drive-thru model back to the **walk-up model**. Residents will need to park and bring their own bags.
- B. Please continue to support our small businesses and restaurants if you can.
- C. Town Offices will be closed Monday 10/9 For Columbus Day
- D. 10/22 Willington Public Library will hold 100-year Celebration at WPL in the community room downstairs from 2-4pm.
- E. Rain did not stop the Annual Car Show, First Selectwoman Wiecenski thanked Joe Philippi for his works on this event that raised a little over \$500.00. Hats off to Joe for all his hard work and those folks that came out. Joe is looking to retire and there was a discussion about the possibility of the town could taking over the event. First Selectwoman Wiecenski spoke with Parks & Rec about this possibility.
- F. September Monthly Report from Troop C: *287 calls to Troop C for service included 12 accidents, 13 criminal investigations, 0 burglaries, 3 larceny, 173 non-reportable matters and 10 arrest. Motor vehicle enforcement included 82 total traffic stops, 5 onsite DUI's, 5 arrest, 3 misdemeanor summons, 48 infractions, 10 written warnings, 19 verbal warnings.*
- G. First Selectwoman Wiecenski thanked Willington Hill Fire Department for the wonderful Chicken BBQ. First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated the FD does a great job with the drive thru model, but it would be nice to go back to in-person.

- H. Selectman Makuch shared his concern that the fire department rating Mr. Tulis mentioned that is likely inaccurate. He believes the information is outdated and Willington is a 5.5 rating. Chief Moore concurred.
- I. Chief Moore stated that Tuesday October 3, 2023, starts CIP tours of the public buildings, if you are interested, please attend.
- J. Friday October 27th is the PTA Trunk or Treat at River Road Athletics Complex. Reach out to the PTA if you are interested in providing a trunk.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 PM.

Selectwoman Makuch seconded the motion.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Côté
Recording Secretary
Town of Willington

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WILLINGTON, CT.

2023 OCT 10 P 2:50


TOWN CLERK