

# Town of Willington

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Board of Selectmen  
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[www.willingtonct.gov](http://www.willingtonct.gov)

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Regular Meeting Minutes  
Hybrid; TOB, Common Room

November 21st, 2022  
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: Selectwoman Boritz, Selectman Bulick and residents in person and via Zoom.

### Pledge of Allegiance

### Approval of Minutes

Selectman Bulick moved to approve the meeting minutes of the November 7th, 2022 meeting. Selectwoman Boritz seconded.

**Discussion:** Selectman Bulick requested that the minutes reflect that Peter Tanaka spoke out against the process of checking driver's licenses at the Transfer Station.

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

### Present To Speak

None.

### Executive Session

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of potential litigation/legal exposure related to a pending Freedom of Information request and invite our Town Attorney Ryan O'Donnell.

Selectwoman Boritz.

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

Executive Session began at 6:33PM.

Executive Session ended at 6:40PM.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved a vote of confidence in the work of Mike D'Amato, our Zoning Agent.

Selectwoman Boritz seconded.

**Discussion:** After discussions with legal counsel, the Selectmen have determined that the work that Mr. D'Amato has performed for the town is under the normal course of doing business. Selectman Bulick stated that there is nothing in the FOIA request that seems anomalous.

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

Selectman Bulick inquired if the FOIA results will be shared with the requesting parties.

### Correspondence

Correspondence list presented to the BOS; all correspondence is on file in the First Selectwoman's Office.

Selectwoman Boritz stated that effective, December 1st, she will step down in her role as Second Selectwoman for the town as she has received a new position at the University of Connecticut. First Selectwoman Wiecenski thanked Selectwoman Boritz for all of her hard work in the last five years.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that there is a process for the replacement of a Selectman by state statute.

Selectman Bulick congratulated Selectwoman Boritz on her new position.

### **First Selectwoman's Status Report**

- A. STEAP Grant for OTH Septic:** The appropriation of the funding was approved at the Town Meeting last week. The RFP process for this project will now continue to move forward.
- B. School Building Committee:** Meetings are currently held hybrid via Zoom & the TOB upstairs meeting room. On November 9th, the Committee held a Community Engagement Event and shared a presentation regarding consolidating the schools; with the two options of alteration extension or to build a new school. Additional community engagement events will be held in the upcoming months. At the November 16th meeting, the committee reviewed the public presentation that was held, as well as reviewed the updated timeline for referendum. The RFP for the architectural design services was posted to the town's website last Friday. The next School Building Committee meeting will be Wednesday, December 7th.
- C. LOTCIP:** Currently no change; still in the design process and waiting for CRCOG for their review.
- D. Truck Lease:** Still expecting the truck December 2022/January 2023.
- E. ARPA:** The ARPA Commission met today and discussed the two library submissions. The Employee Retention ARPA submission was also discussed. The Commission is tentatively planning a public hearing for January 9th. The next ARPA meeting will be Monday, December 5th at 1:30pm.
- F. Town Staffing Update:** The new Senior Center Coordinator position should be filled by the end of this week and we are still searching for a successful candidate for the Assistant Revenue Collector position.

### **Public Works**

First Selectwoman Wiecenski reported a list of the items performed at Public Works recently:

- Cleaning leaves off of town roads;
- Multiple deer have been removed from roads that were hit by vehicles;
- The trucks are still being worked on and prepared for Winter;
- The brush pile at the Transfer Station was recently burned with a brush permit from CT DEEP;
- Trees around town are still being trimmed;
- Brush is being removed from the retention ponds;
- The steps at Hall School were recently repaired;

- Tires have been removed from multiple locations around town; and,
- Village Hill Road was paved recently.

A big thank you to the Town of Putnam for bringing their crew, their trucks, and their equipment to help pave Village Hill Road as we had issues with equipment.

The reclaiming and paving of Moose Meadow Road will start on Monday, November 28th. It will last all week, weather permitting. Please expect the road to be closed from the intersection of Moose Meadow and Turnpike Road through the intersection of Moose Meadow Road and Tinkerville Road/Jared Sparks. Please expect delays. Local traffic is being asked to please use caution during this time.

### **Old Business**

#### **A. Potential ARPA project – Employee Retention**

The staff survey was recently completed and a staff meeting was held today. The results of the staff meeting were discussed at the ARPA Commission meeting today and First Selectwoman Wiecenski asked the Commission to reconsider the submission for a vote. At the next ARPA meeting, the Commission will discuss the project and consider the possibility of taking it to a public hearing. Discussion continued on the possibility of sending this to Town meeting or asking the ARPA Commission to make a decision. Selectman Bulick agreed that he would move this project to town meeting.

### **New Business**

#### **A. Appointments**

##### **a. Conservation Commission – P. Phillips**

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to re-appoint Patricia Phillips as a regular member of the Willington Conservation Commission; effective December 2, 2022; expiring December 1, 2025. Selectwoman Boritz seconded.

**Discussion:** First Selectwoman Wiecenski thanked Patty for her willingness to serve.

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

##### **b. Conservation Commission Alternate Member – N. Jones**

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to re-appoint Nora Jones as an alternate member of the Willington Conservation Commission; effective December 2, 2022; expiring December 1, 2025. Selectman Bulick seconded.

**Discussion:** First Selectwoman Wiecenski thanked Nora for her willingness to serve.

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

Selectman Bulick inquired if there were any open positions on the Conservation Commission. First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated there was one regular member position open.

#### **B. Complaint Procedures**

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that recently a letter was received with a complaint about the EDC. The Town does not have an ethics commission and the Board of Selectmen does not have direct authority over other boards and commissions. A research request was submitted to CCM and they have forwarded documents for review from other towns who have an ethics policy for their boards and commissions. This will need to be discussed further in a future meeting

#### **C. Tax Refunds**

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund Gregory Carver an overpayment in the amount of \$17.63.

Selectman Bulick seconded.

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that there will be a special Selectmen's meeting on Tuesday, December 6th in conjunction with the Planning & Zoning Commission for potentially opting out of the provisions of Public Act 21-29 that pertain to Accessory Dwelling Units.

**D. Call Town Meeting**

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved

**TOWN OF WILLINGTON  
NOTICE AND WARNING  
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**

The electors of the Town of Willington and all persons who are entitled to vote in Town Meeting on the matters mentioned in the following warning are hereby warned and notified to meet in Town Meeting at the Old Town Hall; 11 Common Road, Willington, at 7:00 P.M. on Monday, December 12, 2022, for the following purpose:

**ITEM I**

To see if the townspeople, on the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen, will defer the revaluation of real property for the assessment year commencing October 1, 2023, until the assessment year commencing October 1, 2024.

**ITEM II**

To see if the townspeople, on the recommendation of the Board of Finance, will authorize the appropriation of \$16,500.00 from the Capital Projects Fund – LOCIP – Schofield Road Drainage Phase I for engineering to, to contract with BETA Group, Inc. to provide a concept plan and opinion of cost development, which will be reimbursed by the State of Connecticut Local Capital Improvement Program.

**ITEM III**

To see if the townspeople, on the recommendation of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Commission, will authorize the appropriation of \$32,250.00 from the American Rescue Plan Act Funds to provide for retention bonuses for town employees.

**ITEM IV**

To see if the townspeople, on the recommendation of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Commission, will authorize the appropriation of \$17,000.00 from the American Rescue Plan Act Funds to provide for retention bonuses for fire department employees.

Dated at Willington,

This 21<sup>st</sup> day of November, 2022.

Willington Board of Selectmen:

Erika G. Wiecenski

Liza Boritz

James Bulick

Selectman Bulick seconded.

**Discussion:** First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that she would have waited to call a town meeting but the revaluation assessment question needs to be decided upon as soon as possible.

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

**Present to Speak**

Ralph Tulis, 47 Village Hill Road: Mr. Tulis spoke about the School Building Committee page on the town website and mentioned that a contact email address is not listed. He asked that an informational block be

added to the website so that town residents can email the Committee. Mr. Tulis also spoke about the bonuses that state employees were to receive.

Nicholas Tella, 49 Mirtl Road: Mr. Tella spoke about the possibility of 24-hour voting because some people cannot make the typical hours. Mr. Tella inquired about the state statute for the replacement of a Selectman and he also stated he would not be in favor of government workers receiving a bonus.

Stef Summers, 4 Y Road: Ms. Summers thanked Selectwoman Boritz for her service to the town. Ms. Summers also stated that the public does not have access to the survey the staff took and that it would be valuable for the public to be able to review it. Ms. Summers voiced her concerns on the potential conflict between town employees and town residents if there is distrust. Ms. Summers mentioned that perfect should get in the way of the good so she is in support of town employees receiving bonuses, but she wanted to note she is distressed about the biggest group of employees, the teachers, not also receiving bonuses.

### **Good & Welfare**

Mobile FoodShare will be at the TOB this Wednesday, November 23rd from 11:00am to 11:30am as a drive through model. As a reminder, this is open to all Willington residents, as well as residents from other towns in Connecticut.

The ARPA Commission has authorized \$230,000.00 in ARPA funds to various businesses in town through business grants ranging from \$5,000.00 to \$15,000.00.

As a reminder, please continue to support our small businesses and restaurants in town.

Thank you to the Willington Veterans Memorial Foundation for hosting a special Veteran's Day ceremony last Saturday. Thank you for all that you do and all that you have given to us as a community and to our country. As a note, both schools had classes and events in honor of Veteran's Day.

The annual Tree Lighting is Friday, December 9th at 7:00pm on the Town Green.

Thank you to Selectwoman Boritz for her five years of service to the town.

Selectman Bulick stated that Parks & Rec is selling Christmas Trees and will be having a tree decorating as well.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski congratulated Representative Nuccio and incoming State Senator Jeff Gordon on their recent wins. First Selectwoman Wiecenski also thanked Representative Nuccio for the town office building's replacement flag that will soon be put up. The flag was flown over the Capitol Building on Friday November 11th in honor of Herb Arico.

**First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 PM.**

**Selectwoman Boritz seconded the motion.**

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Kelsey Allard  
Recording Secretary  
Town of Willington

RECEIVED  
WILLINGTON, CT.

2022 NOV 30 P 3:29

  
TOWN CLERK