

# 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

January 3rd, 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, and residents in person and via Zoom.

### Pledge of Allegiance

### Old Business

#### **A. Board of Selectmen – Vacancy**

The BOS had 30 days to fill the Selectmen vacancy. The Board failed to do so therefore by state statute, the elective town officers were notified today by the Town Clerk as to our responsibility to fill the vacancy within 60 days of the December 1, 2022 resignation of Selectwoman Boritz. The elective town officers of the same party as Ms. Boritz are First Selectwoman Wiecenski and Christine Psathas, Democratic Registrar of Voters. This is a critical role and the BOS has a responsibility to continue duties so it was important to not delay the appointment. Today C. Psathas and First Selectwoman Wiecenski informed the Town Clerk of their decision of appointment. Mike Makuch was appointed to fill the vacancy of Selectman effective January 3, 2023 until November 21, 2023. Mr. Makuch appeared before the Town Clerk and resigned his position on the Board of Finance, as well as the Capital Improvement Program Committee and the School Building Committee where his appointments were as a result of his seat on the Board of Finance. He was then sworn in as a newly appointed Selectman and is now seated for tonight's meeting. Thank you to Mike for his willingness to serve in this capacity and we welcome his voice at the table.

### Approval of Minutes

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to approve the minutes of December 19th, as presented.

Selectman Bulick seconded.

2 Yes (Bulick & Wiecenski) 0 No 1 Abstain (Makuch) Motion carried.

### Present To Speak

None.

### Correspondence

No correspondence received as of last Friday.

### First Selectwoman's Status Report

- A. **STEAP Grant for OTH Septic:** The topographic study occurred last week; the next step is to prepare the RFP.
- B. **School Building Committee:** The School Building Committee has continued to hold public outreach sessions. The next one is January 5th at the Town Office Building. A mailer went to all Willington

households to share information on the committee's work as well as meeting dates. There is also a link to the survey on the flier. If anyone needs a paper flier, they are available here at the Town Office Building. There are also collection boxes available. The committee is still working on the mill rate impact of a 20-year bond which is expected to be discussed at their next meeting on January 4th.

**C. LOTCIP:** The Town is still awaiting CRCOG's review.

**D. Truck Lease:** This item is on tonight's agenda for discussion.

**E. ARPA:** The ARPA Commission will hold a public hearing on Monday, January 9th at 6:30pm. There will be eleven items to be discussed including requests from the Library, BOE, EDC, and Senior Center.

**F. Town Staffing Update:** The Assistant Revenue Collector position remains open.

### Public Works

DPW Director Sposato reported a list of the items performed at Public Works recently:

- Tree cleanup from the recent storm;
- Roadside mowing is still occurring around town;
- Cleaned the garage;
- Washed the trucks;
- Finished loaming the edges of Moose Meadow Road;
- Fueled the generators at the Senior Center & Hall School;
- Cleaned catch basins off;
- Patched holes around town;
- Spot sanded icy spots around the town; and,
- Put gravel on the dirt roads that had major potholes.

### **A. Status of Public Works Director Vehicle**

As a review, the 2022 F350 truck with a plow was canceled from Ford. After further talks with the town business manager, information from the leasing company needed to be reviewed. Today the town was informed we do have options on adjusting the lease. If the equipment choice is to change, the town will need to go back and get bank approval based on new specs for the new vehicle. Typically there is a penalty for not taking the principal as originally agreed to but the leasing contacts suggest the town asks the bank for a waiver based on the unusual circumstances of the truck cancellation. The CIP plan had a purchase of a vehicle, specifically a truck with a plow and this was eventually voted on at town meeting. Any change made should go through the same process of BOS approval & recommendation to the Board of Finance, then a BOF appropriation and then a Town Meeting for final approval. At the time all of those have been completed, the town can move forward with the new purchase.

**First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to replace the current Public Works Director's vehicle with a new 2023 Chevy Tahoe SSV 4x4 from Sullivan's Northwest Hills in the amount of \$39,571.60. Selectman Makuch seconded.**

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

### New Business

#### **A. Tax Refunds**

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund Jaclyn M. Roberts an overpayment in the amount of \$167.92.

Selectman Bulick seconded.

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund Margaret S. Eichhorn or Alvin A. Eichhorn an overpayment in the amount of \$229.21.

Selectman Makuch seconded.

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund David J. Meredith or Barbara J. Meredith an overpayment in the amount of \$652.35.

Selectman Bulick seconded.

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

#### **B. Appointments**

##### **a. Appoint School Building Committee – First Selectman Designee**

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated she was appointed to the School Building Committee filling the First Selectman (or his/her designee) seat. As of this afternoon she has resigned from the SBC as a regular member. The work of the SBC is very important to the town as we work to address a matter that has been in discussions for over a decade. First Selectwoman Wiecenski has heard the concern of conflict with the potential purchase of property and it's important to her that she removes herself from any decision involving such an option. Up to this point she has been silent on the property and abstained from any votes involving its potential use. Per state statute the First Selectman is a member ex-officio of all boards and commissions which will mean she can have a voice but no longer have a vote on matters before the SBC. This leaves a vacancy that now needs to be filled.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to appoint Mike Makuch as the First Selectman's designee as a regular member of the School Building Committee; effective immediately; expiring once the charge of the committee has been completed.

**Discussion:** M. Makuch's voice and input on the School Building Committee has been integral in getting the Committee to the point that they are at today and this is important for the future work.

2 Yes (Makuch & Wiecenski) 0 No 1 Abstain (Bulick). Motion carried.

#### **C. Award Vendor for WFD#1 Propane Supplier – CIP (Replace Oil Tank in Station 13)**

Willington Fire Department #1 is replacing their underground fuel storage tank with an above ground propane tank as a past approved CIP project. Their current supplier is Amerigas who did not submit a bid for the tank replacement. High Grade Gas bid \$7,167.00 for the propane tank replacement and does not include a contract for the propane. Superior Gas bid \$6,900.00 for the propane tank replacement and includes a locked-in one-year contract. The Town currently has a propane bid that is locked in until June 2023 and will go out to bid in the Spring for the next fiscal year. The Fire Department will be added to this bid starting July 1, 2023.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to approve the vendor for the Willington Fire Department #1 propane tank replacement to High Grade Gas out of Stafford in the amount of \$7,167.00. Selectman Bulick seconded.

**Discussion:** First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that it is not typical to not take the recommendation of the fire department but for this bid, it's financially best to go this route at this time.

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

**Present to Speak**

Mr. Tella stated his concerns.

**Good & Welfare**

- A. Mobile Food Share will be here this Wednesday, January 4th from 11am - 11:30am. As a reminder, this is open to all Willington residents, as well as residents from other towns in Connecticut.
- B. Please continue to support our small businesses and restaurants, if you can.
- C. The School Building Committee will be holding the next Committee Engagement Event on Thursday, January 5th here at the Town Office Building at 5:30pm..
- D. December Troop C Report: *349 calls to Troop C for service included 12 accidents, 13 criminal investigations, 0 burglaries, 1 larceny, 218 non-reportable matters, and 9 arrests; there have been 103 total traffic stops, 3 onsite DUI's, 3 arrests, 0 misdemeanor summons, 51 infractions, 19 written warnings, and 33 verbal warnings.*
- E. As a reminder, the second installment of real estate property taxes, personal property taxes, and the supplemental motor vehicle taxes are coming due. The supplemental motor vehicle taxes will be mailed out shortly. The final day to pay without interest is Wednesday, February 1st, 2023.
- F. Welcome to Selectman Makuch and thank you for your willingness to serve the Town of Willington.

First Selectwoman thanked all of the first responders in town.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 PM.

Selectman Bulick seconded the motion.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Kelsey Allard  
Recording Secretary  
Town of Willington

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WILLINGTON, CT.

2023 JAN 13 P 12:56

  
TOWN CLERK