

Town of Willington

Board of Selectmen
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BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Regular Meeting Minutes
Hybrid; TOB, Common Room

January 17th, 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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that on January 3, 2023 the Board approved the meeting minutes from the December 19, 2022 meeting but let the record show there was an error not caught in those minutes. In the minutes under Old Business, Item A, there were two motions made that say motion carried, but those motions both failed. The votes were correctly noted but the motions were misidentified as carried and not failed.

Selectman Bulick moved to approve the minutes of the January 3rd regular meeting, January 4th special meeting, and January 9th budget as presented.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski seconded.

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

Present To Speak

James Marshall, 46 Fisher Hill Road: Mr. Marshall welcomed Mike to the Board. Mr. Marshall also wanted to inquire about the complaint procedure process that was previously mentioned in a prior meeting.

Nick Tella, 49 Mirtl Road: Mr. Tella inquired about who vetted and approved the selection of the Selectman position. Mr. Tella stated that he attended the Library meeting and the town is telling them what they can and cannot do, particularly with their garbage.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski asked that the record show that the Board of Selectmen have given no such mandate to the Library in regards to garbage.

Correspondence

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

First Selectwoman's Status Report

A. **STEAP Grant for OTH Septic:** Nothing new to report.

B. **School Building Committee:** The SBC held several community engagement events in January. The Committee met January 4th and was presented the architectural concept plan; two for Hall School and two for a new school. Mike Makuch was selected as Chairman of the committee and Ralph Tulis was selected as Vice Chair of the Committee. Superintendent Stevens discussed the survey results to date and that the FAQ document was recently updated (please check the SBC website for this). Discussion was held on the referendum process and timeline that will be necessary. The next School Building Committee

meeting will be this Wednesday, January 18th. On January 26th, there will be a community forum at Hall School at 6:30pm. Selectman Makuch reported that Ann Grosjean was named as Secretary of the committee and would like to reinforce the importance of the community's input as the Committee moves forward with a decision for referendum. There will be a Finance Subcommittee meeting on Wednesday, January 18th at 5:30pm.

- C. LOTCIP:** The design plan should be completed by the end of the month and then will be submitted to CRCOG for review and comment and then sent to CT DOT for review.
- D. Truck Lease:** This item is on tonight's agenda for further discussion.
- E. ARPA:** A Public Hearing was held Monday, January 9th and the projects before the commission were discussed. None of the projects were moved to a vote after the public hearing. The ARPA Commission will meet again for a SPECIAL meeting on Monday, January 23rd at 1:30pm and there will be discussion and possible action taken on the projects discussed at the public hearing.
- F. Town Staffing Update:** Kelsey Allard resigned from the Administrative Assistant position. Kelsey has been with the Town for 18 months and has been an asset to the Town. Her position will be posted as soon as possible as her last day is February 17th.

Selectman Makuch stated that he is interested in getting the emergency communications plan going.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that the draft of the ethics document is being worked on.

Public Works

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

- Roadside mowing is still occurring around town;
- Installed a new gas trench and pad at Willington Fire Department #1;
- Installed new stop signs around town;
- Washed trucks;
- Cleaned & organized the shop and inventoried signs;
- Chipped and picked up trees around town; and,
- Worked on maintaining the fleet.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that on January 3rd the vendor for the fire department propane tank installation was chosen; the next day the DPW needed to pour the pad as the old furnace was being removed and nobody here was notified. Chief Moore did reach out to praise the DPW on the wonderful job they did there.

A. Status of Public Works Director Vehicle – Possible Action

At the last meeting, the BOS approved the vendor for the change in the DPW vehicle. Discussion was held on the additional approved funding in the lease and how that funding should be utilized or if it should be returned to the lease company and the penalty given. The Selectmen agreed to spend funds on lights and radios as needed within the budgeted amount.

Old Business

None.

New Business

A. Tax Refunds

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund Keith R. Palmer Sr. an overpayment in the amount of \$303.22.

Selectman Bulick seconded.

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund Leo A. Passardi Jr. an overpayment in the amount of \$7.51.

Selectman Makuch seconded.

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund Frank W. Malack or Kathryn D. Malack an overpayment in the amount of \$14.69.

Selectman Bulick seconded.

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

B. Communication from Treasurer

Treasurer L. Semprebbon has submitted communication previously in regard to her position and the pay; she is asking the Board to consider making the position an hourly position and not a stipend. The Treasurer's salary goes through the Board of Finance as they have oversight on this. The BOS voice is welcome in this discussion, but is not the ultimate authority. The First Selectman, Selectman, Treasurer and Registrar of Voters are paid a set stipend each pay period and are not based on an hourly figure. Discussion was held on the treasurer position and the duties and the hours that have been worked recently versus the stipend received. The timekeeping process for elected officials was also discussed. No decision was made on any changes at this time.

C. School Building project bonding

Currently the School Building Committee is reviewing two projects: an alteration/extension at Hall School or a new school on a new site. On February 1st, the SBC members will vote to move a project forward to referendum. This will be a Selectmen initiated referendum and the BOS plays a role in it. The process is as follows: the SBC will select a project on February 1st; the BOS refers the appropriation and borrowing authorization to the Board of Finance and to Planning & Zoning for an 8-24 review/recommendation; the BOF then recommends the appropriation and bond and note authorization; the BOS receives the recommendation, sets the date for a town meeting and approves the forms of bond resolution and a legal warning and notice of town meeting and referendum and forwards to the Town Clerk. At the town meeting, the resolution is read and discussed, the ballot question(s) would be announced and the meeting is then adjourned to referendum and would be between 7 and 14 days of the town meeting. The BOS referral and the recommendation to move forward to town meeting can be a single meeting, subject to BOF approvals. There could also be two separate meetings where the Board refers those items to BOF and PZC and then BOS and BOF could have a joint meeting with a single presentation of the project from SBC and then making their resolutions forward. That language will all be provided and is very specific information that will come from Bond Counsel and then will be vetted by a town attorney. There is a blackout period for the ability to spend town funding on the project; a mailer could go out only if it was the appropriate explanatory text that comes from the Town Clerk. Discussion continued on the referendum process. Selectman Bulick stated that Representative Nuccio is a member of the Appropriations Committee and the town can reach out to her office for efforts on our part.

D. Ordinance for past due taxes

Revenue Collector J. Clauson has brought forward an ordinance for past due taxes involving building permits that was previously discussed and defeated in 2013. One reason given for the past defeat was due to it being another possible issue for Land Use to handle. Revenue Collector Clauson stated that this is another collection tool to help with getting taxes paid in full. The second part of the ordinance would be that any company that does business with the town, would have to have their taxes paid in full prior to releasing payment. Former Selectman Blessington gave a review of why the ordinance did not pass in 2013. This will be reviewed at a future meeting.

Present to Speak

Nick Tella, 49 Mirl: Mr. Tella believes this ordinance would be the government overstepping its powers. Mr. Tella also spoke of the recent library meeting again.

First Selectwoman Wiccenski clarified that the town has an active contract for propane that includes the library for supply.

Good & Welfare

- A. Mobile Food Share will be here this Wednesday, January 18th 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 a Committee Forum on Thursday, January 26th at the Hall Memorial School Gym and via hybrid at 6:30pm. This is an opportunity for community members to share their feedback on the two school building options prior to the SBC identifying one project for referendum at their February 1st, 2023 meeting.
- D. 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.
- E. Seven of the eight counties in Connecticut are in the high transmission rate for COVID-19. Flu and RSV are also prevalent. If you are sick, please stay home.

First Selectwoman Wiccenski moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 PM.

Selectman Makuch seconded the motion.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kelsey Allard

Recording Secretary

Town of Willington

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WILLINGTON, CT.

2023 JAN 25 A 10:07


TOWN CLERK