

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, Common Room & Virtual Meeting

March 6th, 2023
6:30 PM

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM with the following in attendance: Selectman Bulick, Selectman Makuch in person, and residents in person and via Zoom.

Pledge of Allegiance

Selectman Bulick motioned to add item under New Business as SBC Legal. Selectman Makuch seconded.
3 Yes (Bulick, Makuch & Wiecenski) 0 No. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Selectman Makuch moved to approve the minutes of the February 21st regular meeting.
Selectman Bulick seconded.
3 Yes (Bulick, Makuch & Wiecenski) 0 No. Motion carried.

Discussion

Selectman Bulick voted no on the CIP Plan and wanted to clarify why he voted no because the plan fell apart in the out years.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to approve the minutes of the February 27th special meeting.
Selectman Bulick seconded.
3 Yes (Bulick, Makuch & Wiecenski) 0 No. Motion carried.

Present To Speak

Nick Tella – 49 Mirtl Road – Wanted a status update on Foya request, also submitted a request to the town lawyer. Have not received any response regarding that yet. Letter of intent was received and stamped dated on the 17th but does not indicate when it was signed.

Correspondence

*No Correspondence

First Selectwoman's Status Report

A. STEAP Grant for OTH Septic: Still awaiting the engineering and RFP to be complete

B. LOTCIP: Nothing new to report.

- C. ARPA:** The ARPA Commission met on March 6th for the facilities study discussion. Closed on project for second ambulance at Willington number one which returned about \$3,200.00 back into the fund. We are still about \$2,800.00 short, if all projects were funded. There are a few projects still pending. There was a public hearing in which selectman CIP items were discussed which was a facilities study for town facilities, maintenance, structural as well as meeting the needs of the services in the town. ARPA voted to approve funds which will be used for the library, school, senior center, town of office building and potentially both fire departments.
- D. GRAND LIST UPDATE:** Final number from 2022 Grand list is \$483,751.710.00 and is an increase of \$18,552.110.00 from 2021 which equated to approx. \$500,000.00 in additional tax revenue. Love's preliminarily added 5,547,000 to real estate and 2,076,220 to personal property, a total of 7,623,220. First Selectwoman Wiecenski commended the Assessor's office and the great job that Kara and Nicole are doing to get things cleaned up. Also, Selectman Bulick would like to know how the residential side is doing as there are many crumbling foundations that are being worked on. First Selectwoman Wiecenski will work on getting comparison numbers together.
- E. TRIP Grant:** Nothing new to Update
- F. FOIA** We did receive a FOIA request, and we are working on gathering the data with assistance from IT.

Public Works

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

- Chipped brush around town
- Wash trucks
- Dug out waterways around Town
- Plow/sanding roads
- Working to keep the fleet running
- Trimmed around guardrails
- Cleaning up at the Pit

New Business

A. Resolution – Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Agreement

We had a Grant application before DEEP for the Talmadge property, we were awarded the grant last June, and they are finalizing the process and preparing to release the funds.

Fist Selectwoman Wiecenski moved the following resolution,

Whereas, the Town of Willington has applied for and received a grant, for financial assistance under the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program (OSWA), established and administered by the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection ("DEEP") pursuant to Section 7-131d of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Resolved, that Erika G. Wiczenski as First Selectman of the Town of Willington is hereby authorized to execute on behalf of the Town of Willington an Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Agreement and a Conservation and Public Recreation Easement and Agreement for property known as Talmadge Estate (OSWA#624) with the DEEP, and to manage said land as open space land pursuant to Section 7-131d of the Connecticut General Statutes.

BE IT FURTHER KNOWN that Erika G. Wiczenski was elected as First Selectman on November 7, 2017, and her term of office began on November 21, 2017, and will continue until November 21, 2023. As the First Selectman, Erika G. Wiczenski serves as the Chief Executive Officer for the Town of Willington and is duly authorized to enter into agreements and contracts on behalf of the Town of Willington.

Selectman Makuch seconded.

Discussion:

Kathy Demers spoke via zoom and stated that this is the usual boiler plate type of grant agreement and conservation easement paperwork that the state requires when we receive open space money from them. Kathy also stated that the town attorney has looked through all the contracts and the still making adjustments to them before they will be signed. The grant is about \$81,000.00 in which the final piece of the property will be purchased. A 16-acre parcel on Mason Road which abuts the other Talmadge conservation as well as Knowlton track.

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

B. Tax Refunds

First Selectwoman Wiczenski moved to refund Justin Niderno a Certificate of Correction in the amount of \$401.82.

Selectman Bulick seconded.

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

First Selectwoman Wiczenski moved to refund Acar Leasing LTD an overpayment in the amount of \$245.84.

Selectman Makuch seconded.

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

C. Vault Heating/ Cooling System Replacement-Vendor Selection

First Selectwoman Wiczenski presented three proposals for Vault/AC Heating Replacement Project

Stafford Mechanical Services coming in at \$10,518.76, EMCOR Services at \$7,250.00 and Energy Unlimited coming in at \$7,400.00. Public Works Director Troy Sposato recommended using EMCOR Services. The Town does currently have a contract with EMCOR services right now.

First Selectwoman Wiccenski moved to award the Vault Heating/ Cooling System Replacement to EMCOR Services in the amount of \$72,250.00.

Selectman Bulick seconded.

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

D. Call Town Meeting

First Selectwoman Wiccenski 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 Town Office Building; 40 Old Farms Road, Willington, immediately following the Board of Selectmen Regular meeting at 6:30 P.M. on Monday, March 20, 2023, for the following purpose:

ITEM I

To see if the townspeople, on the recommendation of the Board of Finance, will change the vehicle referenced in the approved CIP Plan from a Ford F350 to a Chevy Tahoe SSV 4x4, as well as the accessories needed to outfit the vehicle.

Selectman Makuch seconded.

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

E. SBC Legal

Selectman Bulick stated he has been getting phone calls regarding a letter of intent (a non-binding agreement to enter into a purchase and sales agreement) that Liza signed. First Selectwoman Wiccenski would not sign the document as it could be a conflict of interested and the town attorneys agree. The matter is being reviewed as a matter of course.

Old Business

A. FY 23-24 Budget Update

First Selectwoman Wiccenski share that she was able to reduce the approved budget by \$6,518.00 for a new total of \$4,295,028.00 or 8.17% was 4,301,546.00 or 8.34%. Fuel prices were locked in with a significant reduction, based on Quantities of fuel that we purchase. Additionally, we lowered the overall Revenue Department budget by \$950 as a proposed fee increased will now remain flat. She shared those savings with the BOF at the budget presentation last week.

B. Ethics Policy Discussion

Will discuss this at a future date.

Present to Speak

Nick Tella – 49 Mirtl Road. Spoke about his concerns of the letter intent and potential purchase of the proposed property for the new school.

John Blessington – 29 Mason Road. Spoke about his concerns of the letter intent and potential purchase of the proposed property for the new school.

Peter Latincsis – 97 Trask Road. Via zoom. Voiced his concerns about potential purchase of the proposed property for the new school.

Good & Welfare

- A. First Selectwoman Wiecenski had the opportunity to attend the First Annual Winter Wonderland Family Formal Event hosted by the PTA it was their first post covid event. It was a great event and thankful for the PTA and the families that did attend. Hopefully more families will come out next year.
- B. Mobile Food Share will be here next Wednesday, March 15th from 11am - 11:30am. As a reminder, this is open to all Willington residents, as well as residents from other towns in Connecticut.
- C. Please continue to support our small businesses and restaurants if you can.
- D. Town meeting on March 14th at 7:00 p.m. in the gym at Hall School regarding the school building project as well as the Referendum on March 28th from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.
- E. Troop C February Report

Total Calls for service: 323; Accidents: 14; Criminal Investigation: 13; Burglaries: 0; Larcenies: 0; Non-reportable matters: 182; Total arrests: 6; Calls for service: 323; Total traffic stops: 119; On-site DUI's: 0; Arrests: 1; Misdemeanor Summons: 0; Infractions: 48; Written warnings: 20; Verbal Warnings: 50.

Selectman Bulick moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 PM.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski seconded the motion.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Côté
Recording Secretary
Town of Willington

RECEIVED
WILLINGTON, CT.

2023 MAR -8 A 11: 25


TOWN CLERK