

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 20, 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

Executive Session - Personnel Matter – Grievance (Re-Schedule)

Approval of Minutes

Selectman Bulick moved to approve the minutes of the March 6th regular meeting.
Selectman Makuch seconded.

Noted: 2 Corrections; misspelling of FOIA, Page 4 SBC Legal – All Selectpersons made a specific point.

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

Discussion

Present To Speak

Nick Tella – 49 Mirtl Road – Raised his concerns about FOIA requests taking up to 3 weeks and that, that is not a reasonable time frame. He would also like to see added to the agenda, the purchase/sale agreement when that comes to the town does the board need to sign off on it? Who advised Liza to sign the Letter of Intent?

Peter Latincsics – 97 Trask Road – Expressed his concern regarding not having a public hearing before the town meeting, regarding the school and how frustrating this was for the Town's people and only having 2 minutes to speak while the public officials have unlimited time. He voiced his concerns about not having a selectman directed town meeting.

John Blessington – 29 Mason Road – He seconded what Peter Latincsics spoke about.

Selectwoman Wiecenski stated, let the record show it was a Selectman Initiated Referendum and not town meeting.

Correspondence

*No Correspondence

First Selectwoman's Status Report

- A. STEAP Grant for OTH Septic:** Still awaiting the engineering and RFP to be complete. Our hope is to have this done by the summer.
- B. SBC: Selectman Makuch gave the following update:** Not a lot to report right now partially due to the blackout period. Awaiting the determination by the towns people at the referendum. Managing administrative business right now. In the process of some RFP's which would only go into effect pending on the results of the vote. Note: Explanatory text, that meets both Town Ordinance and State Statute, and was reviewed by legal, on the project is available at the Town Clerk's office. Absentee Ballot Applications are available in the Town Clerks Office
- C. LOTCIP:** CRCOG (Capital Region Counsel of Government) reviewed 75% plans. Comments came back and the next step is to update plans then submit 90% drawing to DOT for review. Mike D'Amato is overseeing this project; we are hoping it will be this construction season but that is dependent on DOT getting things back to us.
- D. TRUCK LEASE:** Town Meeting right after this meeting
- E. ARPA:** Facilities Study was approved at the last meeting. First Selectwoman Wiczenski is developing a draft RFP for this project and will share with the Board at our next meeting. Facilities study is for Space needs assessment and Physical needs assessment.
- F. TRIP Grant:** We applied for a new grant with CDOT/CRCOG for drainage and paving of Village Hill Rd for \$565,000. Our project was not selected by CRCOG to be submitted to DOT for approval. This was a competitive grant and there were seven projects submitted and the top four scored projects will move forward. We came in fifth. We will continue to explore grant options for this project.
- G. Staff Update:** Last week our Parks and Rec director resigned suddenly for personal reasons. We will be seeking an interim director giving us time to do a full search for a permanent director. **ALL PROGRAMS ARE STILL RUNNING.** Phone will be the best way to communicate, leave a message if no one answers. Today, Chris Roberts Asst PZW Agent gave his notice. Chris is leaving us to take a position at CTDOT. We wish him well.

Public Works

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

- Roadside mowing is continuing throughout town
- Assisted with removal and backfill of the oil tank at the Fire Department
- Replaced catch basin top at the library
- Picked up wood from the contractors that are removing dead ash trees from town
- Ready for storm
- Wash trucks

- Pick up trash at park
- Replaced water pump on Director's truck
- Currently getting equipment ready for sweeping season which will start in a few weeks, weather permitting.
- Made a ramp in the back of the garage to clean out the retention pond

New Business

A. Emergency Communication Notification Policy

We are all set with Everbridge for Willington Communications. We need to create a policy for the system and get residents to enroll. A draft policy is needed, and we should send a town wide postcard with instructions to enroll. We should have the information available at Willington Day, on the website, as well as any other public event in town. This Emergency Communication would be used for essential information such as large-scale events i.e., town offices are closed, transfer station would be closed, town voting event, weather event, etc. You would opt in or out on your own and what method you would like to be notified, text message, e-mail, or a phone call or all the above. Selectman Makuch agreed to take this task on and bring draft policies to the Board.

B. Willington 300th Anniversary Committee

2027 will be Willington's 300th Anniversary. Selectwoman Wieceński would like to have an ad hoc Committee to organize and celebrate this milestone. The last formal committee was in 2002 for the 275th. Great work was done in a short time, and I would like to see us have plenty of time to make the 300th a special time. Communication will be put out on our website and social media as we will be looking for about 7-10 people to be on the committee.

Selectwoman Wieceński made a motion to formally form an ADHOC committee for Willington's 300th Anniversary.

Selectman Bulick seconded the motion.

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

C. Tax Refunds

First Selectwoman Wieceński moved to refund Sharon J. Miville & Sheila Walton for an overpayment in the amount of \$131.64.

Selectman Bulick seconded.

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

Old Business

None

Present to Speak

Chief Alex Moore – Spoke about significant issues with the fire station, staff has been moved out of the fire station due to the presence of mold due to water coming from the ground up. They have been moved to 143 River Road Station. Working with Insurance company and they are sending an engineer to come out and look at the building. Collaborative efforts from the town to ensure that services are not delayed or

stopped. Selectwoman Wiecenski has offered office space within the town office building for staff to keep the cost at a minimum during this time.

Peter Tanaka – 125 Mason Road. Spoke about Everbridge user. Would like to know if there is a policy on open fires at the trail head on Mason Road has become a recent issue. He has put a fire out the next morning which was still smoldering.

Nick Tella – 49 Mirtl Road. Voiced his concerns about the fire department, the purchase of a vehicle for public works and if sidewalks were installed would grant money would pay for that?

Good & Welfare

- A. Mobile Food Share will be here at the TOB next, Wednesday, March 22nd 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. Referendum for School Building Project next Tuesday 3/28 6am-8pm at TOB explanatory text is available in the Town Clerk's office as well as absentee ballot applications
- D. Willington Day is Saturday May 27th at RRAC. Melissa McKinnon is the Chair, anyone interested in participating in the event or being on the committee can contact her directly.
- E. PTA Fun Run will also be Sat 5/27. Further details will be shared as we receive them.
- F. Budget Hearing April 4th at 7pm & Annual Town meeting April 18th both will be at the Old Town Hall. Budget Referendum will be Tuesday May 2 at the TOB

Selectman Bulick moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 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 22 P 2:02


TOWN CLERK