

Town of Willington

Board of Selectmen
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BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Regular Meeting Minutes
Hybrid; TOB, Common Room & Virtual Meeting

April 3, 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

Selectman Makuch moved to approve the minutes of the March 20th regular meeting.
Selectman Bulick seconded.

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

Selectman Bulick made a motion to add two items to the agenda.

- 1) Referendum Results under first item of new business.
- 2) Present to Speak before Good & Welfare

Selectman Bulick moved to add the two items.
Selectman Makuch seconded.

Discussion

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated there is no business to conduct regarding the referendum other than to state the results. Selectman Makuch stated based on feedback they would like to make present to speak more effective. Present to speak is one way as we don't engage, it does not become an effective question and answer for people. First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated the meeting is a meeting of the Board of Selectman, it is a public meeting and does support present to speak but it has not been an effective tool. However, there are other ways to reach out and voice one's concerns.

Selectman Bulick would like to briefly review the SBC charge and would like to make some sort of order to make a determination of an orderly closure of SBC.

Selectwoman Wiecenski asked for a roll call vote:
2 Yes (Bulick & Makuch) 1 No (& Wiecenski). Motion carried.

Present To Speak

Ralph Tulis – Voiced his concerns about disbanding the SBC and how we will move forward and keeping the second present to speak.

Nick Tella– voiced his concerns about present to speak, ethics policy, the town attorney, dissolving the SBC.

Samantha Sperry – Voiced concerns about a dialog back and forth that you cannot get in the present to speak but does like having two present to speaks.

David Krivanec– Would like to know the status on the 350 truck that was voted on and what dealership it is coming from.

James Marshall – Concerns about facility study, and what the needs are and do not put the schools in that study

John Blessington –Voiced concerns about present to speak not being a question and answer.

Peter Latincsics –Voiced his concerns about how meetings are conducted.

Matt Clark – Voiced his concerns about not discussing the referendum vote and adding a better balance to the SBC.

Peter Tanaka – Voiced his concerns about dissolving the SBC. They need to refocus on what to do about our schools.

Correspondence

*No Correspondence

First Selectwoman's Status Report

- A. **STEAP Grant for OTH Septic:** Town engineer is completing engineering plan and then will release the RFP for work to be completed.
- B. **LOTICIP:** No new update
- C. **ARPA:** Today's meeting was canceled; next meeting Monday 4/17 @ 1:30pm
- D. **Staff Update:** Welcome Colleen Peck, who began today as an Assistant in the Human Services Dept.
- E. **SBC:** Selectman Makuch stated that the referendum was a strong message in the no. On the agenda for the SBC will be a lengthy discussion about the referendum and that cost could have been a major factor. Need to examine if there is a path forward for the SBC and what that path is. What can we learn from the towns people, how to best get information from the public on what they did not like about the proposal and what they might like going forward. If we should re-make or eliminate the committee.

Public Works

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

- Roadside Mowing is continuing around Town
- Installed water tank on the Truck
- Serviced Sweeper
- Fixed up batting cages at TOB
- Patched Holes around Town
- Cut brush
- Put vote signs out /picked up vote signs
- Set up Old Town Hall for Town Meeting
- Trash at Park
- We Officially started sweeping

New Business

A. Referendum

First Selectman Wiecenski stated no action can be taken regarding the referendum. The SBC has a lot to discuss before we can move forward, even possibly re-submitting the roof project. Possible standing building committee could be considered. Selectman Bulick feels that SBC completed their charge and should be eliminated.

**Selectman Bulick made a motion to disband the SBC in 30 days.
Selectman Makuch seconded for discussion.**

Selectman Bulick feels strongly about disbanding the SBC. Selectman Makuch stated that there is a value to moving forward. The SBC needs to meet to see what it can do for the town and how we can best use what has already been invested. Selectwoman Wiecenski stated we need to act right and not fast and let the SBC meet to have discussions.

**Selectwoman Wiecenski asked for a roll call vote:
1 Yes (Bulick) 2 No(Makuch & Wiecenski). Motion fail.**

B. Willington Municipal Facility Study Draft – RFP

This project is an ARPA project. Several other RFPs including the last FD study RFP were used to draft this version. Selectwoman Wiecenski asked that the other Selectman review and share their feedback by next Wednesday 4/12.

C. Tax Refunds

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund Kenneth Andrew for an overpayment in the amount of \$13.48

Selectman Makuch seconded.

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund Hyundai Lease Titling Trust for an overpayment in the amount of \$663.83.

Selectman Bulick seconded.

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund Nissan Infiniti LT, LLC for an overpayment in the amount of \$202.85

Selectman Makuch seconded.

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

Old Business

A. FY 23-24 Budget Update – CIP Committee Adjusted Plans

Board of finance and their appropriations cut a total of \$16,000 from the Selectman's budget. The money was cut from a project for the Senior center but does not affect any of the services.

Suggested change to the CIP plan, Chair of the CIP, Christina Mailhos said they would like to add a million dollars to the Reserve fund four. It would be putting a million dollars a year into the fund over the next five years.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved make a motion to approve the amended CIP plan for 2024-2028.

Selectman Makuch seconded for discussion.

Discussion

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated this would be a note or bond payment which would increase year one which falls within the Selectman budget from 200,000.00 to a million dollars. If they were to act tonight it would make the one-year percentage change, just over 27%. This was discussed at the Board of Finance meeting when they were making appropriations and the money could be drawn on for the SBC or the school project. Selectwoman Wiecenski said depending on the outcome of the discussions of the SBC could then go through a process of allocating those funds, and that process being it would need to go from either those boards, BOE or SBC depending on movement then to the BOF who would then call on the Selectman to call a town meeting or potential referendum for a larger sum of money and bonding.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved make a motion to approve the amended CIP plan for 2024-2028.

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

B. Ethics Policy Discussion

Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that she gave both the Selectman a draft policy in the beginning of February and have heard no feedback and looking for input as to how to proceed. Both Selectman agree their needs to be a policy but are not sure how to proceed. They will provide feedback.

C. Emergency Communication Policy

Selectman Makuch presented a few sample emergency procedures and policies from other towns and documents from the State of Connecticut Emergency Management. People would need to manually opt in or opt out in order to participate in the emergency communication. You could choose the method in which you receive messages, phone call, text or email.

Present to Speak

Nick Tella — Voiced his thoughts on the emergency communication policy, railroad, ethics committee and papers taped on mailbox, ash trees and draft of RFP.

Peter Tanaka – 125 Mason Road. – Voiced his concerns about where the million dollars should go to instead of just the schools, fire departments and roads have issues too.

Rob Tulis – Spoke about Mr. Kucko the 100 year old resident that passed away.

Matt Clark – Voiced his concerns about SBC.

Linda Hothan – Voiced concerns about the emergency communication policy

James Marshall – Voiced his concerns about the RFP

David Krivanec – Voiced his concerns about the SBC and one of the firehouses.

Peter Latincsics – Voiced his concerns about the SBC

Good & Welfare

- A. Mobile Food Share will be here at the TOB next, Wednesday, April 12th 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. 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.
- D. PTA Fun Run will also be Sat 5/27. Further details will be shared as we receive them.
- E. 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
- F. Annual Joe Green Egg Hunt Saturday April 8, 2023, at 12:00 on the Town Green.
- G. Selectwoman Wiczenski noted that Passover begins on Wednesday April 5, 2023, and Easter is Sunday April 9, 2023. She wished a happy Passover and Easter to all who celebrate those.

H. Selectwoman Wiecenski wished good luck to the men's UCONN basketball players tonight as they take on San Diego State in the National Championship.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 PM.

Selectwoman Makuch 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 APR -6 P 2:28


TOWN CLERK