

# Town of Willington

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Board of Selectmen  
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## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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

June 5, 2023  
6:30 PM

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM with the following in attendance: Selectman Bulick, Selectman Makuch in person, and residents in person and via Zoom.

### Pledge of Allegiance

### Executive Session – Pending Legal Matters

First Selectwoman Wiecenski made a motion to enter into an executive session to discuss pending legal matters in which she invited Kara Fishman and Attorney Ryan O'Donnell.

Selectman Makuch seconded.

Discussion: Selectman Bulick stated that there are many issues before the town and wanted to know if this executive session has anything to do with employee grievances. First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated this is not a personnel matter as that would be clearly identified.

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

Executive session ended and the Board of Selectman re-entered the common room at 7:14 p.m.

### Approval of Minutes

Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to approve the minutes of the May 15th regular meeting.

Selectman Bulick was concerned about Mr. Tella's comments about the school as he was speaking about the school policy.

Selectman Makuch seconded.

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

Selectman Wiecenski moved to approve the minutes of the May 19th special meeting.

Selectman Bulick seconded.

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

## Present To Speak

Stephanie Summers – Spoke in favor of the pride month proclamation that was on the agenda, she sang at a concert and there was a song called a beautiful noise that was appropriate for pride month, she shared a few lines of the lyric.

Shannon Bourbeau – Spoke in support of item 9B proclamation for pride month. She voiced her concerns over the last few years about a lack of acceptance from a small but very vocal group. She believes the community can do better. Shannon read a statement on behalf of 36 other residence that also feel the same way. Supporting pride month does nothing more than support the fundamental human right to exist as to who you are.

Nick Tella – Voiced his concerns about the FOIA request process and waivers for a FOIA request.

## Correspondence

List of Correspondence

## First Selectwoman's Status Report

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

**B. LOTCIP:** Mike D'Amato is managing the project. (Sidewalk project, Hall school to the Mills) Mike D'Amato has a meeting on Wed 6/7 is onboard design mtg w/CRCOG to update design & cost estimates then work on a DOT permit. After this meeting we will begin outreach w/ prop owners in the area where the sidewalks will be repaired. They are also preparing the package for the RFP as the process goes along.

**C. ARPA –** No new update although we have been moving forward with projects. Next meeting, we are wanting to hear from EDC regarding the loans that we gave out. We have given out about 12 grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$15,000 and we would like to hear how people have used them and have them update us on that.

**D. STAFF UPDATE –** Happy to announce James Callaghan has been hired as new Rec Director. He will begin on 6/20/2023

**E. SBC –** First Selectwoman Wiczenski wanted to update Selectman Bulick regarding the Explanatory Text as he had questions about the Attorney that worked with the Town Clerk. The Attorney stated that the document needed to be neutral.

## Public Works

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

- Finished Grading the dirt roads
- Trash at park
- Regrade and installed new millines for parking lot at the park

- Roadside mowing around Town
- Installed new trash can at Park
- Moved air compressor for Fire dept
- Mowed transfer station
- Installed new catch basin and 140 feet of drainage pipe on St Moritz Circle
- Patched holes around Town

### New Business

#### A. Proclamation; Lawrence Becker 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday

**First Selectwoman Wiecewski moved the following Proclamation:**

### **100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Birth of Lawrence Becker Proclamation**

**WHEREAS**, Lawrence Becker was born on June 16, 1923, and has been a lifelong resident of Willington and will celebrate his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday this year; and,

**WHEREAS**, Lawrence Becker enlisted at the age of 19 and served the Army Air Corps as a pilot in the United States Army during World War II; and,

**WHEREAS**, Lawrence Becker served as Selectman from 1949-1953 First Selectman of Willington from 1953-1963; and,

**WHEREAS**, Lawrence Becker began Becker Construction Company in 1948 and Ace Equipment Sales, Inc in 1973 both based in Willington; and,

**WHEREAS**, Lawrence Becker has served on numerous professional and community boards and generously made significant donations to Willington groups and organization; and,

**WHEREAS**, Lawrence Becker and his wife generously donated land that became the home of the Willington Public Library; and allowed the Town to use the beach at Hall's Pond for summer recreation and,

**WHEREAS**, Lawrence Becker is commended for his hard work, strong work ethic, continued efforts to help preserve the rural character of Willington and contributions to the Willington Community; and,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Willington Board of Selectmen and residents in the Town of Willington proclaim June 16, 2023, to be Lawrence Becker Day.

FURTHERMORE, I do hereby encourage all fellow residents, family, and friends to pay tribute to Lawrence Becker on his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday and wish him health and happiness in all his days to come.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the Town of Willington this 5th Day of June 2023.

### **Discussion**

Mr. Becker and his family were invited to attend the meeting but there was a conflict, so he was unable to attend. The proclamation will be presented in another manner at the request of the family. Selectman Bulick asked if it is our intention to celebrate such a big milestone. First Selectwoman Wieceński stated that she would love to be able to help celebrate these milestones and encouraged residents to come forward and let us know if they know of anyone hitting this type of milestone so we may properly honor those individuals. Selectman Makuch stated that 100 years is worth noting and as well as the amount they contributed to the town of Willington within those 100 years.

Selectman Makuch seconded.

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

### **B. Proclamation; Pride Month Proclamation**

First Selectwoman Wieceński stated, In our continued efforts to remain a diverse and inclusive community and show our support to our LGBTQ+ citizens. The town of Willington recognizes the LGBTQ+ pride month.

**First Selectwoman Wieceński move the Proclamation:**

**TOWN OF WILLINGTON**

**Board of Selectman**

**PROCLAMATION**

**BE IT HEREBY KNOWN TO ALL THAT:**

**The Town of Willington hereby recognizes  
LGBTQ+ Pride Month**

The Town of Willington recognizes that June is celebrated nationwide as LGBTQ+ Pride Month and that our great nation was founded on the principal of equal rights for all. As a community, Willington is inclusive and strives for diversity. We welcome all people and believe everyone should be able to live without fear of prejudice, discrimination, violence, or hatred based on gender identity or sexual orientation.

The Town of Willington does hereby proclaim June 2023 as Pride Month to honor and celebrate our LGBTQ+ citizens. Let us as a community continue to build a culture of inclusiveness and acceptance for all.

Dated this 5<sup>th</sup> day of June 2023 at Willington, Connecticut.

Selectman Makuch seconded.

## **Discussion**

Selectman Makuch commented when he was young, that these things were not discussed but as he grew up, he realized that things like this were part of our lives. There are a lot of things to accept in our lives and it takes nothing from us to be decent people. Selectman Bulick reiterated that it takes nothing to be kind and show respect. First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that this was a long overdue statement to be made by the town and would like to see moving forward made annually. There is always more we can do. We need to let people know that we respect them, and that Willington is a safe place for them.

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

### **C. Award Vendor – Codification Project Contract**

This is an ARPA Project, Mike D'Amato and Robin Campbell worked together on this project. Mike D'Amato stated that ARPA approved this project several months ago. This is for a review of all the towns ordinances and regulation language. The bid came in within the budget. This will help identify gaps in ordinances and regulations and get everything up to date.

**First Selectwoman Wiecenski made a motion for general code contract for codification services in the amount of \$9,995.00.**

**Seconded by Selectman Bulick**

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

### **D. Award Vendor – Land Use Scan Document**

Storage of documents in the basement was not efficient and there was problem with mold. The purpose is to index and scan all these documents so they would readily be available to the towns people upon request. Once the scanning is complete, we will have a database of what everything is and where everything is.

**First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to award Ricoh a contract for the land use document scan project in the amount not to exceed of \$50,000.00.**

**Seconded by Selectman Bulick**

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

### **E. Award Propane Bid**

We solicited 6 propane bids for the cleaning and received 4 back. This is a 1-year bid and is for, 7/1/2023 to 6/30/2024, Bids were due by 1:30 P.M. on Friday, June 2, 2023.

**First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to award the 2023-2024 propane Contract to High Grade as per their bid of \$1.335 per gallon, Labor Rate Regular \$109.00, Labor Rate after hours \$109.00, Labor Rate holidays/weekends \$109.00 beginning 7/1/2023 to 6/30/2024.**

**Seconded by Selectman Makuch**

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

## F. Tax Refunds

First Selectwoman Wiczenski moved to refund Jenna M. Eldredge for an overpayment in the amount of \$159.68.

Selectman Bulick seconded.

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

## Old Business

- A. **Emergency Notification System Use Policy** – Selectman Makuch stated that he has reached out to our vendor once again to get the training videos with no response. We will continue to work on this.

## Present to Speak

Nick Tella – commented that Mike D’Amato is doing a good job. Mr. Tella voiced his concerns about town meetings and voting.

## Good & Welfare

- A. Mobile Food Share will be here at the TOB next, Wednesday, June 7th from 11am - 11:30am. As a reminder, this is open to all Willington residents, as well as residents from other towns in Connecticut. The Seniors have a bread distribution on Wednesdays, you may go to the senior center to get bread.
- B. Please continue to support our small businesses and restaurants if you can.
- C. Reminder – the tax office will be closed to the public on June 30<sup>th</sup> to close out the end of the year and begin the next fiscal year.
- D. Last day of school in Willington is Thursday June 15, 2023. First Selectwoman Wiczenski would like to congratulate on the eighth graders and wish them luck whether they attend E.O. Smith, Windham Tech, or another school of their choosing. Congratulations to our seniors that graduating on various days next week from E.O. Smith, Windham Tech or any other private or magnet school. We wish them well, we are incredibly proud of the work that they have done and hope to hear how they do in their next chapter whether that be college, military service, trade school or general work force.
- E. Concerts in the park begin next Wednesday June 14, 2023, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at River Road Athletic Center. Grab dinner and some friends and come listen to some great music.
- F. May Monthly Report from Troop C: *311 calls to Troop C for service included 12 accidents, 12 criminal investigations, 0 burglaries, 1 larceny, 196 non-reportable matters and 5 arrest. Motor vehicle enforcement included 85 total traffic stops, 2 onsite DUI's, 2 arrest, 1 misdemeanor summons, 32 infractions, 25 written warnings, 26 verbal warnings*

- G. Selectman Makuch added he would like to congratulate the 4<sup>th</sup> graders that are moving up. He added that he marched in the parade and found a new sense of pride for Willington and what it is, he thanked everyone that participated in the event. Selectman Makuch also stated that there are about 10 jr. firefighters between the departments which is very encouraging as some older firefighters are aging out. It is important to have those people coming in behind us.
- H. First Selectwoman Wiecenski added that there is also a resurgence of cub scouts in Willington, so we are hoping to see this grow in the future. We have 16 girl scouts, if you are interested, please come out and sign up. Proud to have signed a proclamation for pride month and will proudly hang in the town hall. If anyone needs to know they have a place here and do not doubt that.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM.

Selectwoman Makuch seconded the motion.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Côté  
Recording Secretary  
Town of Willington

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WILLINGTON, CT.

2023 JUN -9 A 10: 22

  
TOWN CLERK