

Town of Willington

Board of Selectmen
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BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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

June 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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to add an item to old business – Item B: DPW propane tank replacement

Selectman Makuch seconded.

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

Approval of Minutes

Selectman Bulick moved to approve the minutes of the June 5th regular meeting.

Discussion

Page 5 was noted an error for the propane bid, it should have read contract and not cleaning.

Selectman Makuch seconded.

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

Present To Speak

Alice Cassells – Spoke for Willington Congregational Ecclesiastical Society, regarding the Old Town Hall Bell in need of some help. The wood harness that holds the bell needs some sort of sealer or a cover to be built over it to help preserve the historic structure.

Peter Tanaka – Stated he is in support of the revision of the abatement for the volunteer firefighters.

Nick Tella – Stated that the town is in violation of Chapter 14 section 1-212 and they have not taken action to correct itself. He was supposed to have a January 21st hearing, the town lawyer failed to prepare to have representation for the town. He has also Reached out to Senator Jeff Gordon's office and there is no state statute on voting on an issue and leaving. He would like to see increased voting.

Christine Psathas – Registrar of Voters, on June 9th the Secretary of States office and the Registrar of Voters held a poll worker appreciation event. Secretary Thomas recognized three of our workers and honored them with certificates, two of our workers have helped us out for 10 years and one has helped us out for 20 years. Christine and Suzanne would like to thank all our poll workers again who have served Willington for many, many, years and to paraphrase Secretary Thomas as she feels that poll-workers are unsung heroes.

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)

Mr. D'Amato shared we are at 90% plan, we have 90% plans prepared onboard design mtg w/CRCOG because every step of the revision process, they are required to be provided the opportunity to review and comment and they are happy with the plans we have thus far, they will be starting the encroach interview process with DOT. Hoping that process is quick as they have been a part of the whole process.

C. SBC – Met with BOE and BOS and had a great conversation of what was done, what needs to be done and how to move forward. The SBC will be meeting on Wednesday 6-21-2023 and will be discussing the action that the Board of Education has taken. The result of the next meeting will be the result of the letter the SBC received from the BOE in which they have asked the SBC to consider wrapping up.

D. ARPA – We will hold a special meeting on Monday 6/26

E. STAFF UPDATE – We are moving forward with interviews for Public Works Administrative Assistant and Assistant Land Use agent.

James Callaghan our new Parks & Rec Director started today. We are excited to see what he brings to the table. With concerts in the park and summer camp beginning, he has a lot on his plate to start.

Public Works

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

- Roadside mowing is still going on around Town
- Trash pickup at Park
- Installed a new basin Top on Schofield Rd

- Cleaned shop
- Serviced the Old F450
- Installed new sand at Halls Pond and helped install the dock and the buoy lines
- Picked up two truckloads of debris that was dumped illegally on the side of the road

First Selectwoman Wiecenski acknowledged the collaboration between Public Works and the Fire Department to prepare Halls Pond and would like to give Kudos to both of those groups and to Chris Kelly the Parks and Rec Assistant who has been working in the absence of a director to ensure the Pond is ready for its opening next week.

New Business

A. Appointments

a. Certify Town Clerk-Robin Campbell

Ms. Campbell was appointed 9/1/2020 with the expectation of obtaining her CCTC (Ct Certified Town Clerk) Certification in a 3-year period.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to appoint Robin Campbell, CCTC effective 6/12/2023 until the remainder of her term 8/31/2024

Discussion: Robin has been incredibly effective, in her time as TC. She works collaboratively with all departments to provide quality service to all who she encounters. Congratulations Robin on the culmination of your hard work and dedication as Willington's Town Clerk.

Seconded by Selectman Bulick

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

b. Representative Trinity Health EMS Advisory Board- Tyler Millix

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to appoint Tyler Millix to the Trinity Health EMS Advisory Board as Willington BOS designee

Seconded by Selectman Makuch

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

B. Award Chip Seal Contract

We received one bid for the Chip Seal Contract.

Gorman Group in the amount of \$129,453.84

First Selectwoman Wiecenski made a motion to award the 2023-2024 Chip Seal Contract to The Gorman Group in the amount of \$129,453.84.

Seconded by Selectman Bulick

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

C. Award Crack Seal Contract

We received 2 bids for the Crack Seal Contract.

Gorman Group sealcoating for \$18,700

Connecticut sealcoating for \$33,996.00

First Selectwoman Wiecenski made a motion to award the 2023-2024 Crack Seal Contract to The Gorman Group in the amount of \$18,700.00.

Seconded by Selectman Makuch

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

D. Award Catch Basin Cleaning Contract

We received 2 bids for the Catch Basin Cleaning Contract.

Kropp environment per day \$ 1900.00

Clean Harbors per day \$2950.00

Selectman Makuch made a motion to award the 2023-2024 Catch Basin Cleaning Contract to Kropp Environmental Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$1,900.00 per day.

Seconded by First Selectwoman Wiecenski

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

E. Award Vendor DPW Street Sweeper (CIP) The proposed vendor withdrew so no action to be taken on this item.

F. Approve Vendor DPW Paving Project - Polster Rd

We received 3 bids for the Polster Road Paving Project.

Connecticut sealcoating-\$195,750.00

Charles Pasteryak -\$224,250.00

Allstate asphalt--- \$197,559.05

Selectman Makuch made a motion to award the 2023-2024 DPW Paving Project Contract to Connecticut Seal Coating in the amount of \$195,750.00.

Seconded by Selectwoman Bulick

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

G. Approve Vendor Change WHFD 1st Response Vehicle (CIP)

First Selectwoman Wiecenski made a motion to change the Vendor for the Willington Hill Fire Department first response vehicle to McGovern Municipal Headquarters in the amount of \$43,800.00.

Seconded by Selectman Makuch

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

H. Award Vendor WFD #1 Mold Remediation Project

First Selectwoman Wiecenski made a motion to award the vendor contract to ServePro of Bloomfield in the amount of \$25,132.23.

Seconded by Selectman Bulick

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

I. Award Vendor WFD #1 Hydraulic Rescue Equipment (CIP)

First Selectwoman Wiecenski made a motion to award the vendor contract to FIREMATIC, Supply Co. Inc. in the amount of \$53,086.00.

Seconded by Selectman Bulick

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

J. Discussion — Change in Town Office Building hours

Town staff would like to see the Town Office Building hours changed to a 4-day work week. Much of the town staff would like to increase the public hours to better serve our residents. Changing to a 4-day work week and extending the hours from 27 hours per week to 34 public access hours would allow residents time before work or after to take care of their business needs. The staff also believes this could help with moral and employee retention.

Many of the surrounding towns have adopted a 4-day work week and have had much success.

Discussion was held on the potential benefits. The Selectmen discussed the steps needed to consider moving forward, including a trial period.

Old Business

A. Firefighter Abatement Ordinance Discuss Revision to increase abatement

Proposed increase is from \$1,000.00 to \$2,000.00 which all departments are in favor of the increase and nothing else will change within the draft. Once the Board of Selectman has reviewed the draft, they will bring it to the next meeting. The Fire Department would like this change for recruitment and retention.

B. Propane Tank Replacement

Back in October it was discussed that the Propane tank would be need replaced at the dog pound and the DPW as they are out of compliance and could no longer be filled. The dog pound project was completed but due to cost and the amount of propane in the tank the DPW tank was not replaced. With funds remaining within the current FY budget and a new generator being installed this summer its important that this work be completed.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski made a motion to award the DPW Propane tank to High Grade Gas Service, Inc. in the amount of \$8,980.00.

Seconded by Selectman Makuch

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

Present to Speak

Colleen Quinn – Commented on the proposed change in town hours as she feels it is a great idea. To get any of your things done at the town you either have to take a day off from work or leave early. Colleen stated that she feels the staff cared about the people that they work for with the new proposed hours.

Nick Tella – Voiced his concerns about the sanding of the roads vs. using salt as he believes it is contaminating some wells in Tolland and Willington. He also believed changing the town hours is a great idea but has concerns about being closed for 1 day.

Elaine Newcomb – voiced her concerns about the meeting schedule if the town hall hours change and how does that work for holidays.

Suzanne Chapman – Spoke in favor of the purposed hour changes for the town office building. Suzanne stated that many complaints that she has heard are that our business hours are not conducive to business hours. This is a benefit to the staff and the towns people.

Melissa McKinnon – Spoke in favor of the purposed change in town hours, she believes that this would be great for the staff and more importantly the towns people.

Good & Welfare

- A. Mobile Food Share will be here at the TOB next, Wednesday, June 21st 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 every Wednesday at the Senior Center
- 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 30th to close out the end of the year and begin the next fiscal year.
- D. Concerts in the park begin next Wednesday June 21, 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.
- E. Special Thank you to the Willington Garden Club with generous donations from Select Seed out of Union and Knight construction here in Willington. They have been sharing their time and talent to beautify our gardens around the town office building and the old town hall. Every year they work tirelessly to plant, water, and mulch to maintain the gardens at no additional costs to taxpayers. Thank you for all you do!
- F. Summer camp begins the week after the 4th of July running into the first full week of August. It runs for 5 weeks and there are still some spots open if anyone is interested can contact the Parks & Rec Department.

G. First Selectwoman Wiecenski wants to shout out to three staff members, Chris Kelly, Nan King, and Colleen Peck as they have really stepped up to make sure that all our residents are being serviced through our Human Services and Parks & Rec Department as we transition Directors in those departments. Kudos to all of them and two of them are very part-time 8-10 hours per week. They really have gone above and beyond. Thank you for all that they do.

H. Halls Pond is opening, and Passes are available in the Parks & Rec Office.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 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 27 A 11:42


TOWN CLERK