

TOWN OF WILLINGTON

Board of Selectmen
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BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Meeting Minutes
Lower Level Conference Room

April 16, 2018
6:30 P.M.

**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: Selectmen Makuch & Blessington and residents. She then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to add an executive session regarding the Cadlerock contract to the agenda between items A and B under New Business.

Selectwoman Makuch seconded the motion.

Vote: 3 Yes (Wiecenski, Makuch & Blessington) 0 No.

Approval of Minutes:

Selectman Blessington moved to approve the minutes of April 2, 2018 with the following edit: under First Selectman's Status Report Tinkerville Road is one word.

Selectwoman Makuch seconded the motion.

Vote: 3 Yes (Wiecenski, Makuch & Blessington) 0 No.

Selectman Blessington moved to approve the minutes of April 6, 2018 as submitted.

Selectwoman Wiecenski seconded the motion.

Vote: 2 Yes (Wiecenski & Blessington) 0 No 1 Abstain (Makuch)

Present to Speak:

No one was present to speak.

Correspondence:

A list of correspondence was available at the meeting and in the Selectman's office.

First Selectman Status Report

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that a lot of things have been moving. Items that have come off the list are the Assessor's position and the Account Associate position. The approval for the appropriation of money for the lights at River Road Athletic Complex (RRAC) is going to a Town Meeting on Wednesday. The Willington Hill Fire Department (WHFD) parking lot replacement was taken off the agenda for this meeting as some approvals from Susan Yorgensen are needed before they can go any further with it and they have been directed to do so. The door to the lower level of the Town Office Building (TOB) was approved. The Cadlerock discussion is on the agenda tonight. The Land Use position has been re-advertised as there weren't any applicants from the first advertisement. This time they also used an online source and not just the newspaper and have received some applications. The interviews are on April 19, 2018. Regarding Susan Yorgensen's position when she retires, First Selectwoman Wiecenski has reached out to the Planning and Zoning and Inlands

and Wetlands Chairs to suggest a timeline that they could get someone in to replace Susan. Susan hasn't given an official letter of retirement; however, in discussions with her she is planning on leaving sometime in August. First Selectwoman Wiecenski would like her replacement in place in July so they may train with Susan.

Public Works:

First Selectwoman Wiecenski reported that the crew has been busy with the following:

- Plow/sand roads, municipal lots and clear sidewalks
- Make sand/salt mix
- Adding material to gravel roads (muddy/rutted out areas)
- Vehicle/equipment repair
- Picking up broken curbing in various locations
- Sign repair
- Moving furniture
- Grading gravel roads
- Limb and tree removal along roadside from the Nor'easters
- Repairing the playscape at River Road Athletic Complex (RRAC)

A. Approve Tinkerville Road Paving project

Derek Dimmock, Public Works' Director was present to answer questions regarding the Tinkerville Road paving project.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that this project does not have to go to a Town meeting as it will come out of the Public Work's budget; therefore, they would just be awarding the project to the vendor. The bid is from All States Materials Group. There is only one bid as it came from the State bid list. Mr. Dimmock stated that the total project would be around \$92,000.00 with flagging and includes a small cushion because of the tire ruts. Mr. Dimmock stated that they would be able to start the project in the middle to the end of May and it would take a couple of days.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to award the Tinkerville Road Paving Project to All States Materials Group as per their bid of \$67.00 per ton off of the State bid list.

Selectman Blessington seconded the motion.

Vote: 3 Yes (Wiecenski, Makuch & Blessington) 0 No.

New Business

A. Discussion – Speeding Concerns:

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that Sabrina and Jason Wentworth are here tonight to discuss the speeding problems on Cisar Road. She stated that the Wentworth's have been in contact with both the State Police and the Town for several years regarding this problem. First Selectwoman Wiecenski mentioned that she has also received correspondence in the past week from residents in the Latham Road and Burt Latham Road area.

At this time Ms. Wentworth addressed the Board with her concerns of speeding on Cisar Road. Ms. Wentworth stated that they have been living on Cisar Road since 2005 and shortly after moving in they discovered there was a speeding problem on that road. Over the years, she and her husband have written to the First Selectman, Troop C, met with the Town of Mansfield regarding their speeding issues and how they were resolved on their end, they have called Troop C to report speeding on their road, flagged down drivers who were speeding pulled cars over reminding them of the speed limit and sent vehicle information to Troop C on vehicles that were

speeding. She stated in both of those cases they were putting themselves in harm's way and it is unfair for them to have to do that. The reason they are doing that is because they have children and a dog that play in the front yard and isn't safe for them to be in their front yard. Ms. Wentworth handed out a packet of information to the Selectmen which on the cover has a summary of what she just spoke on and inside there is the most recent letter regarding this issue that they sent to both the Town and Troop C asking for help. Also included in the packet is an email thread (referencing the speed trailer data among other things) sent to everyone on the Board, pictures of the two most recent accidents on Cisar Road, the results of the speed trailer that was placed on Cisar Road in 2015 (recording some speeds in excess of 60 mph) and a map of suggested speed bump locations on Cisar Road. When they contacted the Selectman's office in 2017, they were told that with the change in elected officials at the Selectman's Office they should be able to help them; however, they are still waiting for help. They are here today to see what help they can get from the Town so their children and dog can enjoy their front lawn (they can't now due to the speeding cars).

First Selectwoman Wicenski presented the Wentworth's a letter of apology from Robin Campbell.

First Selectwoman Wicenski stated she would speak to two issues, the first being that the speed trailer that was placed on Cisar Road in the fall of 2017 (referenced in the email thread) has no information to extract as it doesn't hold data. Mr. Dimmock clarified that the data extracted in 2015 wasn't from the speed trailer; it was a traffic counter that he was able to have placed on the road, and that the speed trailer doesn't have any data to extract. The speed trailer is just used as a deterrent with no information stored in it.

The second issue First Selectwoman Wicenski addressed was the fact that Willington doesn't have a police force or a Resident State Trooper. The Town can ask for help from Troop C, but Cisar Road isn't the only road in Willington where people speed.

First Selectwoman Wicenski stated that they secured some data from the Town of Mansfield on the speed bumps in their town, and that they have actually stopped using speed bumps because they don't work (people are still speeding). Mr. Dimmock reported on the data from the Town of Mansfield after they installed the speed bumps on Meadow Brook Lane which is a 25 mph zone. The results from one day of data were: 118 cars traveled 25-29 mph, 94 cars traveled 30-34 mph, 24 cars traveled 35-39 mph, 12 cars traveled 40-44, 7 cars traveled 45-49 mph and 1 car traveled in excess of 75 mph. The Town of Mansfield did not have any data prior to installing the speed bumps. Mr. Dimmock stated that Meadow Brook Road is not a cut through road as Cisar Road is and the volume of traffic isn't as high. The Wentworth's stated that they still feel speed humps would be effective on Cisar Road.

First Selectwoman Wicenski stated that back in 2005 when the Wentworth's first contacted the town about speeding on Cisar Road, then First Selectman Mike Eldredge determined that they would install stop signs which were installed; therefore, the Town has taken a step since then. First Selectman Wicenski stated that the Town needs to come up with a solution; however, she doesn't believe anything will be decided at this meeting.

First Selectman Wicenski asked for Mr. Dimmock's opinion on speed bumps/humps, and he stated that they don't work. He has sat on Meadow Brook Lane in Mansfield where the speed bumps were installed, and the cars were traveling there like there weren't any speed bumps there at all. In 2013 the Select board had brought up to a Town Meeting a vote for a Resident State Trooper because of the issues of speeding and it was voted down. Mr. Wentworth questioned Mr. Dimmock's opinion on speed bumps, and Mr. Dimmock stated that he could reach out to the T2 Center for their traffic data and get some of their traffic studies to show that speed bumps don't work. Selectwoman Makuch stated that she has seen mixed reviews regarding speed bumps and that they are a problem for fire departments and emergency personnel when responding to an emergency. She believes in investigating what the effectiveness speed bumps would have on a road such as Cisar Road. She stated that anything done on Cisar Road would have an impact on Rt. 320. She stated that what they need to think about is a big picture issue and a big picture solution. They should maybe take into consideration the traffic experts and see if there is anything they can do in a big picture situation.

A discussion was had on the fact that speeding occurs not only on Cisar Road, but several other roads in town. First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that its' difficult without a local police force or a Resident State Trooper in town to enforce radar on a regular basis. Ms. Wentworth asked if there would be any consideration to add a speed hump (which could inflict damage to a vehicle if the vehicle was traveling at a high rate of speed) right where the stop signs are to slow down the cars coming off Rt. 320. First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that she doesn't know the answer to that question, which would be a question for an engineer in traffic control to answer. Selectman Blessington noted that the Wentworth's are only advocating for speed bumps on Cisar Road and not the surrounding roads and that the Town has to consider all roads in town before installing any speed bumps. First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that if 5 speed bumps were put on Cisar Road then townspeople on other roads would be asking why they can't have speed bumps on their roads also, so they have to consider all of this before deciding what to do about the problem.

After more discussion on speeding, speed bumps, living in a small town where money to fund some of the Wentworth's suggestions isn't available and that a town meeting would be needed to decide on some of these items, etc., First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that the Board would all research solutions to this problem and discuss it at another Selectman's meeting.

Sarah Smith mentioned that there are speed humps on Daleville Road in the town of Mansfield, and they are so high no car could speed over them without causing damage to their vehicle. She thought that maybe a study could be done on speed humps and how effective they are. First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that in the research the Board will be doing, they will be reaching to out places like the Town of Mansfield to see what their data shows. She stated that the only real way to do a thorough study of all of Willington (not just Cisar Road) would cost money which at this point no funds are set aside for. The budget has been set and there is a Town meeting tomorrow night to set the date for the referendum on the budget which would be in two weeks. She is not saying they couldn't come up with money for the study, but she couldn't promise that they could.

First Selectman Wiecenski voted to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing negotiations on a RFP on the Cadlerock contract award at 7:09 p.m.

Selectman Blessington seconded the motion

Vote: 3 yes (Wiecenski, Makuch & Blessington) 0 No.

Selectman Blessington moved to come out of executive session at 7:15 p.m.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski seconded the motion

Vote: 3 yes (Wiecenski, Makuch & Blessington) 0 No.

B. Recommendation to the Town of Ashford – Cadlerock Brownfields Phase I and II Environmental Site Assessment Contract Award

First Selectman Wiecenski moved to recommend the Town of Ashford Board of Selectmen award the Cadlerock Brownfields Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessment to BL Companies, based their bid and recommendation of the review committee from their meeting and interviews held on April 10, 2018.

Selectwoman Makuch seconded the motion.

Vote: 3 yes (Wiecenski, Makuch & Blessington) 0 No.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski clarified that the vote they just took was to recommend that the Town of Ashford award the bid to BL Companies. Ashford Board of Selectmen will meet on Wednesday night at which time she anticipates they will vote to award the bid to BL Companies. Ashford is handling the contract and they have the funding from the grant that was received, which is why Willington is not awarding the contract, but recommending the bid to BL Companies.

C. Tax Refunds

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund \$98.33 to Honda Lease Trust on a Certificate of Correction.

Selectwoman Makuch seconded the motion.

Vote: 3 Yes (Wiecenski, Makuch & Blessington) 0 No.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund \$423.34 to Vault Trust/Ally Financial on a Certificate of Correction.

Selectman Blessington seconded the motion.

Vote: 3 Yes (Wiecenski, Makuch & Blessington) 0 No.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund \$486.56 to Louis Priola; 12 Senior Way on a Certificate of Correction.

Selectwoman Makuch seconded the motion.

Vote: 3 Yes (Wiecenski, Makuch & Blessington) 0 No.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund \$110.89 to Vault Trust/Ally Financial on a Certificate of Correction.

Selectman Blessington seconded the motion.

Vote: 3 Yes (Wiecenski, Makuch & Blessington) 0 No.

D. Appointments

1. Laurel Millix – Housing Authority

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to re-appoint Laurel Millix as a regular member of the Willington Housing Authority; effective retro-active to August 2, 2017; expiring August 1, 2022.

Selectman Blessington seconded the motion.

Selectwoman Makuch asked why it was retroactive to August 2, 2017. First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated there were recent resignations on that board and it was overlooked for reappointment.

Vote: 3 Yes (Wiecenski, Makuch & Blessington) 0 No.

Old Business

A. Discussion – Video Taping Policy

First Selectwoman Wiecenski had some questions on the policy draft that Selectman Blessington and Mr. Schoen had worked on. She wanted to know why they omitted some of the items in the list that Selectwoman Makuch had given them, the first being “2. No recording shall be allowed unless the person seeking to record a public meeting notifies the meeting chairperson of his/her intention to record said meeting prior to the meeting” and this part was left on the policy “further any requests for special accommodations be made at least two business days before the meeting”. Selectman Blessington agreed that the omitted part should be left in as it refers to a third party recording.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski then asked why some information on the policy was omitted and others not and she referred to certain sections of the policy and stated that some people might want to speak at a meeting, but not be recorded, to which Selectman Blessington responded that it would be a public meeting and they are expecting to be seen at a public meeting. First Selectwoman asked what if someone is at a public meeting but isn't speaking and doesn't want to be on camera, they may not come to a meeting because they may be on camera and on YouTube. Selectman Blessington stated that they had a problem with the word “witness” in the

policy as if someone was testifying. First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that there could be a minor in attendance that the parents don't want on camera and the camera could be panning the audience and the minor could end up on camera and the parents didn't want them to be. She stated those are some of the things that she thinks people could come forward with.

She stated for the most part, she would like to think that if you came to a public meeting you understand that it is in public, but she feels not everyone understands that or they are not used to the meetings being recorded and broadcast on the internet which is a big source of concern for people these days. Selectman Blessington stated that any news media could come in and start recording and you couldn't stop them. First Selectman Wiecenski understands that; however, she feels if you asked them to blur a face or not record a certain person, they would oblige.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that its minors she is concerned with being on camera. She stated you could have young children here presenting something maybe from a school project and their parents aren't expecting them to end up broadcast on the internet; which is why she believes some of those statements should still be in this policy. Selectman Blessington stated that if someone was speaking from the audience and a minor was in the background and it was on YouTube, he believes that it might be carrying this issue a little too far as no one is giving out the name and/or address of the minor. Selectwoman Makuch stated that having it in the policy would just make it possible for someone to say that they prefer not to be on camera and she doesn't understand why they wouldn't respect someone's decision if they wanted to come speak, but didn't necessarily want to be on camera. Selectman Blessington stated that especially if they want to come speak they should be recorded because then they are going on record. First Selectwoman Wiecenski understands that yes they should expect to be recorded and that would be spelled out in the policy. She is talking about someone who just came to listen to the meeting. She made the point that the schools have a policy that if the teacher takes a picture of a child they can't put it on the website or a Facebook page if the child's parent(s) don't want their child's likeness shared. Why can't this Board offer the same kind of anonymity? Selectman Blessington asked how you would control that, would you shut the camera off if a minor was in the background when someone was speaking. First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that they would have to adjust their process of recording the meetings i.e. the speaker goes to a certain place where they can be seen by a camera. She stated that in some towns that videotape, the speaker comes up to a podium to speak.

Selectwoman Makuch stated she doesn't want to discourage anyone from speaking. She stated that when she did the initial draft, one consistent bullet point across the board in all policies she saw that people coming to public meetings had the right to ask that they not be on video camera. She stated that it doesn't mean that we don't record what they say or that they don't appear in the minutes. The camera could be pointed only at the Board or they could pause the videotape for that person to speak. Selectman Blessington doesn't think its good policy especially when people are speaking. He does see a valid argument for someone just sitting in the audience that doesn't want to be seen, but if you are going to speak in public you should be willing to own it. He doesn't get the point that if he's sitting here he can watch someone speak, but if he was sitting at home watching it he couldn't see the person speak and especially pausing the video. First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that at a meeting five people may see you speak, but if you put it out on the internet, a million plus people can see someone who didn't want to be seen on camera, that's the difference. She doesn't know that they would very often have anyone who didn't want to be on camera, but she doesn't see why they wouldn't afford the person the opportunity to opt out of being on camera and say they don't want their likeness shown. First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated it makes her wonder why something like this is consistent in policies across the board. She anticipates when the videotaping policy is complete it will be run by the town counsel and they may say that that is one of the policies you have to put in there. First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that when they have all of their suggestions together, she will share them with the town counsel. Selectwoman Makuch wanted to add that what they have been discussing is specifically in the part of the policy about a third party coming in and recording meetings, it's not necessarily about our official recording. It's not mentioned in the official recording, but it is mentioned in the third party recording. She believes that if for example someone came in to record the meeting for a school project, she absolutely thinks that the people in the audience have a right to opt out of

being a part of that school project. Selectwoman Makuch clarified those are in the third party recording policies vs. the official recording policies. First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that they will continue to look at the videotaping policy.

Good & Welfare

First Selectwoman Wiecenski mentioned that there were two resignations from the Willington Housing Authority and they are Wilbur Gangaway (Vice Chair) effective May 1, 2018 and Robert Campbell (Chair) effective July 1, 2018. She stated that will leave some openings in the Housing Authority and hopefully there will be some new participation there.

First Selectman Wiecenski stated that we have received the monthly report from the Connecticut State Police for the month of March:

- 12 Accidents
- 12 Criminal investigations
- 0 Burglaries
- 0 Larcenies
- 587 Non-reportable matters
- 2 D.U.I's
- 286 Traffic citations
- 52 Written warnings

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that in May of 2016 the Town had requested the State DOT to approve a through truck prohibition on Polster Road, Fenton Road and Rockwell Road in Willington and Stafford. She received a report last week from State DOT that after their investigation they agree; therefore, it is recommended that a no through truck designation be established at the intersection of Polster Road and Mihaliak Road in Willington and at the intersection of Rockwell Road and Rt. 190 in Stafford. This does not apply to local trucks and destinations but to deter the trailer trucks from the highway.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski announced that Wednesday, April 18, 2018 is the town meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the Old Town Hall. That town meeting should adjourn to referendum which would be Wednesday, May 2, 2018. The times of the referendum will be determined at the town meeting but most likely will be from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that Willington Day will be held at the River Road Athletic Complex this year. If anyone wants to join the Willington Day Committee they are welcome. She also mentioned that Robin Campbell has confirmation that Congressman Courtney will be our speaker this year on Memorial Day.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that Andy Marco, the tree warden has reported that the four trees that had to be cut down at Hall School have been taken down. He is working with the schools and Eversource planning an Arbor Day (April 27) event so they can plant some new trees. He is going with a recommendation from Eversource on what kind of trees to put there so they won't interfere with the wires. This will be a school event, not a public event.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that the last day of school in Willington is June 21, 2018, Windham Tech is June 22, 2018 and E. O. Smith High School is June 25, 2018 as of today.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski thanked the Wentworth's for coming in as they have written many letters over the years and she encouraged them to come here to speak with everyone. She can hear their concerns, but she doesn't have the authority to do the all the things they would like to be done. She is sympathetic to their plight as difficult as it is.

Selectman Blessington asked about the public hearing for Love's Truck stop and First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that the public hearing April 24, 2018 at the Library, doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the hearing begins at 6:00 p.m. and then an evidentiary hearing will be held on April 26, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. in Hartford at DEEP Headquarters

First Selectwoman Wiecenski wished Willington Little League good luck as that will have started playing before the next meeting.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Selectman Blessington seconded the motion.

Vote: 3 Yes (Wiecenski, Makuch & Blessington)

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Smith

Recording Secretary

TOWN OF WILLINGTON, CT

Received for record April 23, 2018

At 1:10 PM Maweeda ganley