

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

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

April 27, 2023
5:30 PM

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski called the meeting to order at 5:30PM with the following in attendance: Selectman Bulick, Selectman Makuch in person, and residents in person and via Zoom.

Pledge of Allegiance

First Selectwoman Wiecenski asked for a moment of silence to acknowledge the passing of one of Willington's finest. Mr. Herb Arico who passed away on April 26th, 2023, at the age of 100 years old, just shy of his 101st birthday. Mr. Arico served his country and his community until the very end. He served and participated in the April meetings for both the Willington and Region 19 Boards of Education, what he brought to those meetings will live on for generations. First Selectwoman Wiecenski asked that everyone keep his family in their thoughts.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated the next item was an executive session and due to a scheduling error, it will be postponed and hopes to have it on the next regular meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Selectman Makuch moved to approve the minutes of the April 3rd regular meeting.

Selectman Bulick seconded.

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

Approval of Minutes

Selectman Makuch moved to approve the minutes of the April 6th special meeting.

Selectman Wiecenski seconded.

2 Yes (Bulick abstained (as he was not present), Makuch & Wiecenski) 0 No. Motion carried.

Present To Speak

Peter Latincsics – Expressed his concerns about what seems to be an excessive use of special meetings. Mr. Latincsics stated that this seemed like a regular meeting and that people need to be able to attend them as he had difficulty attending the special meeting due to conflicts.

Nick Tella – Expressed his concerns about the special meeting.

Correspondence

List of Correspondence.

First Selectwoman's Status Report

- A. **STEAP Grant for OTH Septic:** Still awaiting the engineering and RFP to be complete
- B. **SBC -** First Selectwoman Wiecenski received a communication from the SBC chair looking for direction regarding the SBC. First Selectwoman Wiecenski believes that a joint meeting between all stakeholders, BOE, BOS, and the SBC would be beneficial in determining the future of the SBC and to look into repairs, grants, reimbursement grants through the state. Also, to look at a possible change in charge of the SBC if need be. Selectman Makuch agreed that the SBC needs some guidance as to what direction the SBC needs to go in. Selectman Bulick agreed that is worth taking a look at taxes and structure and reminded everyone that there was a decisive referendum vote, so it is important to discuss the future of the SBC.
- C. **LOT/CIP:** Nothing new to report.
- D. **ARPA –** Working on the annual reporting that is due April 30th, 2023. ARPA funds that are being used for meeting room and equipment, Electrical outlets are being installed in the floor and the base of the columns of the common room to get rid of the tripping hazard the electrical cords present to people.
- E. **STAFF UPDATE –** Katie Duval the DPW Administrative Asst. has left. Katie was offered a position that would allow her to work one job instead of multiple jobs. We wish Katie well. Katie's position has been posted internally.

The Parks and Rec Director position, as well as the Assistant Land Use Agent positions have closed, we are currently working on reviewing the applications.
- F. **GRAND LIST UPDATE:** The Assessors is working on an easy to digest memo, so it is more understandable.
- G. **WFD #1 -** First Selectwoman Wiecenski shared an email from Chief Moore at Willington Fire Dept. #1. Mold was discovered in the Fire station located at 426 River Road. After a strange odor was noticed, the investigation resulted in the fire department having to vacate the premises. All staff was moved out of the building and into the South station at 143 River Road, as well as utilizing office space at the TOB to help keep cost down. After working with the Insurance company, they were told the claim would not be covered as it was an unspecified cause of loss and there was an exclusion for ground water in their policy and that is where the water is coming from. They do have a quote for mitigation at \$32,000.00 but that does not include all that needs to be done nor does it include repairs after the sheetrock/insulation has been removed to mitigate the mold. Does not include plumbing, electrical, and minor HVAC that will need to be done.

Chief Moore stated that the quote does not include replacing anything. The quote is to open the walls mitigate the mold and take out the insulation. Chief Moore also added if any walls or studs need to be removed it would be an extra cost. First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated, it is important to know that services to the town have not been impacted. There may be a longer response time from the south station, but the department has maintained service levels that fulfill their contract requirements. Chief Moore has been in constant communication with our office throughout the process. The fire department will be looking for financial support from the Town. The request

will go before the Board of Finance and most likely a town meeting. No action can be taken at this point, we are just sharing it as an update and Chief Moore can address any questions. Selectman Bulick asked how did they determine that it was ground water that was the issue? Chief Moore stated, they did have an engineer and an adjustor to help determine the cause and it appeared that the water is coming up.

H. June 30, 2023 – The Tax office will once again close to the public which will allow the office to close the current fiscal year and reopen Monday July 3, 2023, for the beginning of the 2024 fiscal year.

Public Works

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

- Grading dirt roads
- Sweeping is still going on around Town
- Loamed edges and seeded Moose Meadow Rd
- Picked up wood from contractor that has been removing hazardous trees around Town
- Trash at Park
- The crew went to a Flagging class to be recertified
- Two crew members went to a green snowplow class
- Patched Holes around Town
- Cleaned out water ways and Catch basins around Town
- Currently working on a broken Sewer line at the Dog Pound
- Put out vote signs for the referendum

First Selectwoman Wiczenski spoke about the snow budget and what was left in the budget as the Director of DPW would like use some of those funds for some other projects. There will be a discussion at the next regular BOS meeting regarding those funds.

New Business

A. Referendum Explanatory Text

Selectman Bulick had some concerns about the explanatory text and the process. First Selectwoman Wiczenski stated that there was an ordinance and based on legal advice it was prepared accurately. The language in the document was created by the town clerk and the information that was gathered from the SBC documents. The town clerk worked directly with the attorney in preparing the documents. A new manor of voting would work better moving forward. First Selectwoman Wiczenski will pull the minutes for review.

B. Award Haying Bid

We sought 5 bids for the haying contract for the Fenton-Ruby Park and received 2 back. Effective dates are July 15, 2023 - January 1, 2026, Bids were due by 2:00 P.M. on Thursday, April 6, 2023

First Selectwoman Wiecenski noted the two bids received were from Brenda Wilde in the amount of \$510 per year to hay the fields. Ms. Wilde noted in her remarks that she will fertilize and lime to reduce invasive weeds that are encroaching the property. Two cuttings during the course of the year. She plans on soil sampling each of the fields to see what the ground soil is lacking. The second bid was from Vincent Sinosky for \$150.00 per year in which he would fertilize the fields after the first cut and will cut the fields twice a year.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to award the 2023-2026 Fenton Ruby Haying Contract to Brenda Wilde as per her bid of \$ 510.00 per year.

Selectman Makuch seconded.

Vote: 3 Yes (Bulick, Makuch & Wiecenski) 0 No. Motion Carried

C. Award Snowplowing Bid

We solicited 6 bids for the snowplowing and received 1 back. This is a 2-year bid and is for, 2023 – 2025 season, Bids were due by 4:00 P.M. on Monday, April 24, 2023. The one bid was from Larry Kucko for \$172.50 an hour. Mr. Kucko indicated on his bid that he would like to do it for only one year which would be the 2023-2024 season.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to award the 2023-2024 plowing contract to Larry Kucko as per his bid of \$172.50 per hour based on the recommendation of the Public Works Director.

Selectman Makuch seconded the motion

Vote: 3 Yes (Bulick, Makuch & Wiecenski) 0 No. Motion Carried

D. Award Field Maintenance Bid

We solicited 5 bids for the Field Maintenance and received 1 back from David Roy's Landscape Design, LLC at \$30,000.00 per year. This is a 2-year bid and is for, July of 2023 – June of 2025, Bids were due by 4:00 P.M. on Monday, April 24, 2023.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to award the bid from Roy's Landscape Design, LLC for the Field Maintenance from 7-1-23 through 6-30-25 for the total amount of \$30,000.00 based on the recommendation of the Public Works Director.

Selectman Bulick seconded the motion

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

E. Award Tree Removal Bid

We solicited 11 bids for the Tree Removal and received 1 back from Lindon Tree Service Inc. at \$300.00 per hour/ \$2,000.00 per day. This is a 2-year bid and is for, 2023 –2025 season, Bids were due by 4:00 P.M. on Monday, April 24, 2023.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to award the bid from Lindon Tree Service Inc. for Tree removal services from 7-1-23 through 6-30-25. based on the recommendation of the Public Works Director.

Selectman Makuch seconded.

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

F. Tax Refunds

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund Patricia M. Amidon for an overpayment in the amount of \$26.27.

Selectman Bulick seconded.

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund Wang Tianbao for an overpayment in the amount of \$418.80.

Selectman Makuch seconded.

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund Toyota Lease Trust for an overpayment in the amount of \$561.08.

Selectman Bulick seconded.

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund Song Haining for an overpayment in the amount of \$192.24.

Selectman Makuch seconded.

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

Old Business

A. Ethics Policy Discussion

B. Discussion

Selectman Makuch voiced his concerns regarding who could be part of an Ethics Policy board, different party association, people are already serving on a board or commission. First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that it is written so there are no board or commission member that can participate so they are not weighing in on themselves or a fellow committee or board members. There does need to be equal representation. First Selectwoman Wiecenski asked the Selectman to send feedback to move forward.

Good & Welfare

A. Mobile Food Share will be here at the TOB next, Wednesday, May 10th 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. Friday May 12, 2023, Hall Memorial School Centennial Celebration 5-7pm in the Gymnasium.
- 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 at Center School. Further details will be shared as we receive them.
- F. Memorial Day Ceremony & Parade is Monday 5/29 and begins at 8:30 a.m.
- G. Budget Referendum will be Tuesday May 2 at the TOB

March Monthly Report from Troop C: *313 calls to Troop C for service included 8 accidents, 8 criminal investigations, 0 burglaries, 0 larcenies, 209 non-reportable matters and 7 arrests. Motor vehicle enforcement included 82 total traffic stops, 1 onsite DUI's, 1 arrest, 2 misdemeanor summons, 38 infractions, 15 written warnings, 27 verbal warnings*

First Selectwoman Wiecenski asked once again for thoughts and prayers for the Arico Family as Mr. Arico passed away on April 26th, 2023, at the age of 100 years old. First Selectwoman Wiecenski was very thankful for the time she was able to serve alongside him on the Willington Board of Education and was proud to receive her 8th grade certificate from him. Although it is a sad time his life is worth celebrating.


Selectman Makuch is still working with Everbridge to get set-up.

First Selectman Wiecenski moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:33 PM.

Selectman Bulick 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 MAY -4 P 1:12

TOWN CLERK