

TOWN OF WILLINGTON

Board of Selectmen
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BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Meeting Minutes
Common Conference Room

September 4, 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 noted that the agenda had listed the incorrect location, (should have been Common Room; not lower level). A sign was placed on the door to the lower level to inform residents of the location change. She then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes:

Selectman Blessington moved to approve the minutes of August 20, 2018 as written.

Selectwoman Makuch seconded the motion.

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

Present to Speak:

James Makuch of 34 Old Farms Road, had inquired about connecting to the water main that runs along Old Farms Road. He was told that he was not allowed to connect to it because the line is to only service the Senior Center, Town Offices, Center School and possibly Fire Department. He stated that he then decided to drill another well on his property, but was told by the Sanitarian that she had to deny his request because he is less than 200 feet from a public water source.

Mr. Makuch stated that he is now in a situation where he is being told two different things and is eager to get another water source on his property. He added that he does not have a problem with covering the costs associated with this, but cannot understand that two different departments are giving him conflicting information. He added that he would like to move forward with this, but is unsure of how to proceed.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that she will look further into the situation and will also speak with the Sanitarian. She added that she will get clarification and get back to Mr. Makuch as soon as she can.

Correspondence:

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

First Selectman Status Report

*PZC Zoning Enforcement Agent – we resubmitted the help wanted ad in several places (Zip Recruiter, Indeed, CCM, CAZEO, Facebook and the website. We have received several submissions and will be holding interviews in the next couple of weeks.

Public Works

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that the Public Works' Director continues his leave and is expected to return on September 17th. In the meantime, the crew has been working on chip sealing roads and the Town Office Building parking lot as well as roadside mowing and repairing Michalec Road, which had several potholes.

New Business

A. Appointments

First Selectwoman Wiecenski noted that the Selectmen received a nomination for Joy Wrona to fill a vacancy on the Library Board.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to appoint Joy Wrona as a regular member of the Willington Library Board of Directors; filling a vacancy effective September 4, 2018; expiring November 19, 2019 (next election). Selectman Blessington seconded the motion.

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

We also received an inquiry to fill a vacancy on the Recreation Commission from Katie St. Germain. Ms. St. Germain was in attendance and stated that she grew up here and would like to become more involved as she has a young family. First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that she is excited to see someone interested in serving on this Commission as they are very active.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to appoint Katherine St. Germain as a regular member of the Willington Parks and Recreation Commission filling a vacancy; effective September 4, 2018, expiring December 1, 2018.

Selectwoman Makuch seconded the motion.

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski thanked both Ms. Wrona and Ms. St. Germain for their willingness to serve our community.

B. Upcoming projects at TOB

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that we have a few projects coming up that were on the approved CIP Plan; replacing the front ramp and adding additional support pillars under the Town Clerk and Assessor's office at the TOB. The ramp project is expected to cause major disruption for the upper level, as the front entrance will not be accessible during construction and they anticipate 2 full days of jackhammering for demolition. The contractor told us that the project could take 2 weeks to 2 months; depending on the fabrication of the railing. The front entrance will not be accessible at all during construction. A temporary ramp will be installed on the side of the building and the public will enter through the common room.

A memo has been submitted to the Board of Finance to inform them of the project and request appropriations at their next meeting on September 20th and then a Town Meeting is anticipated for October 2, 2018 at which point (if approved), the contractor should be able to begin the following week (because we are using a CRCOG-approved contractor, there is no need to award the contract). We did receive other bids, however the temporary access to the building was not factored in when scoping out the project. Also, when the contractor had come out to scope the work, they noticed that they would need to remove the bollards (at the front of the steps) and the flag pole, and then putting them back in place afterwards. It was also found that the railing will not be able to be re-used because it is no longer to code compliance. The pillar project was anticipated to come in higher than it actually did (the same company will be doing that project and they will coincide with each other). The funding for both projects comes in at \$66,000, which is just under what was approved in the CIP, however some of the money for the pillars will be moved to the ramp project to offset the increased cost due to the additional work and railings.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski warned that the date is very close to and could impact the upcoming Election and she held a detailed logistic discussion with the Registrars. State Statute requires that all polling rooms have a separate entrance, and after discussing different options (such as moving the polling place, which was not favorable) it was decided that the best option would be to close the TOB to the public on that day. The employees would still report to work, but they would not be able to serve the public for that one day. We will play it by ear to see how construction moves along and will keep the residents posted. First Selectwoman Wiecenski warned that even if the ramp has been poured and steps are done, we will not be allowed to use the front entrance until it is complete with railing (that is a state mandated requirement). In the meantime, we will hope that the construction moves quickly and will be completed before the election.

C. Discussion – New Year’s Eve TOB Office Hours

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that it has come to her attention that New Year’s Eve falls on a Monday this year. The Monday prior is Christmas Eve, which we are closed for Selectmen’s day. She stated that she would like to propose closing early on that night, as she suspects it will not be busy in the evening. Selectman Blessington suggested moving the hours up; opening earlier and closing earlier, so the employees will not have to worry about using vacation or personal time. He then stated that some people do like to come in and pay their taxes on that date to get the tax credit. First Selectman Wiecenski stated that 10AM – 5PM seems fair and will notify the employees. A public notice will be sent out closer to the time to notify residents as well.

D. Discussion- Food Pantry Freezer

Human Services Director, Jennie Arpin was present. She stated that the Senior Center currently has two freezers (they both work) but only need one. They are willing to donate it to the Food Pantry. She added that Human Services receives items that need to be kept frozen and was using a loaner freezer in years past to store turkeys during the holidays. She has since learned that the freezer on loan has since stopped working. The holidays are around the corner and Ms. Arpin needs to begin planning on storage of turkeys. She added that she is asking permission, because the freezer will take up some space (she has planned to put the freezer inside the food pantry, so it does not take up extra space in the common room). The only issue would be that the freezer would increase energy usage, but is not expected to be a large amount.

The Selectmen were in favor of the freezer coming to the Food Pantry.

E. Tax Refunds

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund \$55.27 to Thomas Schirmer on a Certificate of Correction. Selectman Blessington seconded the motion.
Vote: 3 Yes (Wiecenski, Makuch & Blessington) 0 No.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund \$52.60 to Clarence or Sheila Sherman on a Certificate of Correction. Selectwoman Makuch seconded the motion.
Vote: 3 Yes (Wiecenski, Makuch & Blessington) 0 No.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund \$22.87 to Daniel or Karen Donaghy on a Certificate of Correction. Selectman Blessington seconded the motion.
Vote: 3 Yes (Wiecenski, Makuch & Blessington) 0 No.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund \$51.76 to Bruce Malloy on a Certificate of Correction. Selectman Blessington seconded the motion.
Vote: 3 Yes (Wiecenski, Makuch & Blessington) 0 No.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund \$165.05 to Steven or Barbara King on a Certificate of Correction.

Selectwoman Makuch seconded the motion.

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund \$5,304.28 to Polly Reynolds Allen Trust for an overpayment.

Selectwoman Makuch seconded the motion.

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

Old Business

A. Noise* Ordinance

Selectwoman Makuch stated that the item should be changed to Noise* Ordinance (Nuisance is a totally different topic). She added that she has been researching this topic of noise ordinances in communities that do not have established law enforcement and found that mostly all of them abandoned the idea because of the lack of enforcement. She stated that it is not that we cannot do it, but we need to figure out a craftier way to go about it. She added that she feels this is something that we need to further the conversation with the State police and Town Attorney to continue the process. First Selectwoman Wiecenski noted if we bring the Town Attorney into the conversation, it is going to come at a cost; but we could probably have a Trooper attend a meeting to discuss at no charge to the town.

Selectman Blessington suggested having a trooper attend one of the next meetings to discuss our options.

Good & Welfare

First Selectwoman Wiecenski sadly announced that the Willington Nursery Co Op will be closing its doors for good this year, due to low enrollment. The organization ran for over 50 years and was a wonderful program. She stated that she was sad to have learned this.

Congratulations were sent to both schools for a successful start to the school year, despite the record heat.

The Public Works Crew will be at a training session on September 13th. All routine calls will be handled the next business day.

The Planning and Zoning Commission is holding a meeting at 7:30 this evening in the lower level. The display televisions in the Town Office Building have been updated to show all upcoming meetings for the month – one more way to get the word out.

Selectman Blessington reminded everyone of the Flea Market which will be this coming Saturday, September 8th from 9AM – 3PM. First Selectwoman Wiecenski noted that the two trees (that were marked to be removed) on the green have been cut down and stumps removed as well. Many thanks to the Tree Warden (Andy Marco) and Public Works for taking care of them.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Campbell
Administrative Assistant

TOWN OF WILLINGTON, CT
Received for record Sept 6, 2018
At 11:20 AM Maura agent