

**TOWN OF WILLINGTON  
NOTICE AND WARNING  
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**

First Selectwoman Erika Wiecenski called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM and read the call of the meeting:

The electors of the Town of Willington and all persons who are entitled to vote in Town Meeting on the matters mentioned in the following warning are hereby warned and notified to meet in Town Meeting at the Old Town Hall; 11 Common Road, Willington, at 7:00 P.M. on Monday, November 14, 2022, for the following purpose:

**ITEM I**

To see if the townspeople, on the recommendation of the Board of Finance, will appropriate up to \$160,946.00 from the Capital Reserve Fund for a down-payment of \$140,050.00 and a first-year lease payment of up to \$20,896.00 for a new Freightliner 114SD Single Axle Plow Truck.

**ITEM II**

To see if the townspeople, on the recommendation of the Board of Finance, will authorize the appropriation of \$100,000.00 from the Reserve Fund to Project No. 04-4041 for school building committee consultants as previously approved by the voters at the annual town meeting for 2022-2023. The funds will be utilized to hire consultants to assist the School Building Committee with the review of options including but not limited to renovation, addition or a new school, and other items to assist the School Building Committee in fulfilling their charge.

**ITEM III**

To see if the townspeople, on the recommendation of the Board of Finance, will appropriate \$128,205.00 from the STEAP Grant, Contract number 2022-0109 for the construction of a new sewage disposal system and renovations to the Old Town Hall building.

Dated at Willington,  
This 2<sup>nd</sup> day of November, 2022.

Willington Board of Selectmen: Erika G. Wiecenski   Liza Boritz   &   James Bulick

First Selectwoman Wiecenski then asked for nominations for a moderator.

**Peter Latincsics nominated Peter Tanaka as moderator.**

**Matt Clark seconded the motion.**

**All in favor.**

**Motion passes.**

Moderator then asked to forego the reading of the call. Matt Clark then asked to read item II again.

Moderator then read Item II again:

To see if the townspeople, on the recommendation of the Board of Finance, will authorize the appropriation of \$100,000.00 from the Reserve Fund to Project No. 04-4041 for school building committee consultants as previously approved by the voters at the annual town meeting for 2022-2023. The funds will be utilized to hire consultants to assist the School Building Committee with the review of options including but not limited to renovation, addition or a new school, and other items to assist the School Building Committee in fulfilling their charge.

**Ralph Tulis moved to vote by paper ballot on all three items.**

**Mike Makuch seconded the motion.**

**All in favor. 0 No. 0 Abstains.**

**Motion Carries.**

Moderator then read Item I:

To see if the townspeople, on the recommendation of the Board of Finance, will appropriate up to \$160,946.00 from the Capital Reserve Fund for a down-payment of \$140,050.00 and a first-year lease payment of up to \$20,896.00 for a new Freightliner 114SD Single Axle Plow Truck.

**Item I was moved by Laurie Semprebon.**

**Jenn Tehan seconded the motion.**

Moderator opened the floor for discussion.

Discussion was held including a review of the equipment and if it was in the budget. The truck will be replacing an existing truck which will either be traded in (once the new one comes in) or sold outright; depending on how much we can get for it. The cost of the truck was increased by \$20,000 back in July and the increase was brought to the Board of Finance. The new truck also will be equipped with a plow. We are trying to avoid lumping all of the leases together and hopefully we will get away from that once this truck is purchased; as it will be the last one in the refresh cycle.

**Laurie Semprebon moved to vote on the question.**

**Mike Makuch seconded the motion.**

**All in favor. 0 No. 0 Abstains.**

**Total votes:**

**Yes: 42**

**No: 20**

**Motion Passes.**

Moderator then read Item II:

To see if the townspeople, on the recommendation of the Board of Finance, will authorize the appropriation of \$100,000.00 from the Reserve Fund to Project No. 04-4041 for school building committee consultants as previously approved by the voters at the annual town meeting for 2022-2023. The funds will be utilized to hire consultants to assist the School Building Committee with the review of options including but not limited to renovation, addition or a new school, and other items to assist the School Building Committee in fulfilling their charge.



**Item II was moved by Laurie Semprebon.  
Katherine Viveiros seconded the motion.**

Moderator opened the floor for discussion. He then asked the School Building Committee Chairperson to answer questions.

Discussion was held including a review of the process as to why this has been brought to Town Meeting again. The School Building Committee sought legal advice; noting that they need the funding to continue with the charge they have been tasked with and there were unanswered questions of what was spent in the first place. A report was handed out by the School Building Committee Chairperson; which shows in detail what the last round of funding was spent on and also shows there is a remaining amount of \$12,411.90. The Committee will need the additional funding to cover the cost of additional appraisals, legal support and will also have additional architectural and engineering fees. They will also use the funding to cover traffic and environmental studies.

Additional discussion involved how the schools are over 100 and 70 years old, the projection of students are declining and we should look at the infrastructure – we haven't always invested in them as we should have over the years. It is also our responsibility to provide quality education to our children.

The School Building Committee have met in public. They are involved in a complicated process and must complete their due diligence to complete coming up with the most cost effective plan of a K-8 school; whether it be to build a new one or upgrade an existing but they should receive the support to move forward without obstruction.

**Laurie Semprebon moved to vote on the question.**

**Jenn Tehan seconded the motion.**

**All in favor with the exception of: 1 No (P. Latincsics) & 1 Abstention (N. Tella)**

**Total votes:**

**Yes: 39**

**No: 20**

**Motion Passes.**

Moderator then Read Item III.

To see if the townspeople, on the recommendation of the Board of Finance, will appropriate \$128,205.00 from the STEAP Grant, Contract number 2022-0109 for the construction of a new sewage disposal system and renovations to the Old Town Hall building.

**Item III was moved by Mike Makuch.**

**Laurie Semprebon seconded the motion.**

Moderator opened the floor for discussion.

A question was asked what STEAP funding is. STEAP stands for: Small Town Economic Assistance Program. The funding was granted to Willington in 2020 and is reimbursable by the State. The renovations are for the Old Town Hall that will include a new septic system that will be installed across the street on the green as well as reglazing of the windows and painting the ceiling. It was noted if the ceilings are painted perhaps they could look into an acoustical friendly material.

**Laurie Sempredon moved to vote on the question.**

**John Tehan seconded the motion.**

**All in favor.**

**Total votes:**

**Yes: 51**

**No: 5**

**Motion Passes.**

**Ralph Tulis moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 PM. All in favor**

Respectfully submitted,



Robin Campbell  
Town Clerk

RECEIVED  
WILLINGTON, CT.

2022 NOV 15 P 1:42

  
TOWN CLERK