

TOWN OF WILLINGTON

Board of Selectmen
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BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Meeting Minutes
Lower Level Conference Room

July 1, 2019
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: Selectmen Boritz & Blessington and residents. First Selectwoman Wiecenski then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes:

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to approve the minutes of June 17, 2019 as submitted. Selectman Blessington seconded the motion.
Vote: 3 Yes (Wiecenski, Boritz & Blessington) 0 No.

Selectman Blessington moved to approve the minutes of June 21, 2019 as submitted. First Selectwoman Wiecenski seconded the motion.
Vote: 2 Yes (Wiecenski & Blessington) 0 No 1 Abstain (Boritz)

Present to Speak

Jennie Arpin, Director of Human Services and the Municipal Agent for the Elderly for the town was present. She noted recently, the ASHOW board held their annual meeting; where she, Don Berg and Wilbur Gangaway (all who have sat on the ASHOW (Access Senior Housing of Willington) Board for several years) were suddenly removed without just cause. She then noted that there are also new members who were voted on to the Access Board of Directors in their place. There was no indication leading up to the meeting that they would be removed.

Don Berg; stated that he attended the meeting and was told that he, Ms. Arpin and Mr. Gangaway would not be reappointed; noting that this is normal policy at their annual meeting. Mr. Berg then stated that there are only two Willington residents left on this board. He had served as president of this board until that point and noted that it could have been because he annoyed Peter DeBiasi over the past few months (such as questioning how Button Hill has been managed, for example). After Mr. Berg asked Mr. DeBiasi why he was not re-appointed, Mr. DeBiasi told him the board wanted to go in another direction. Mr. Berg then added that the new people that had been appointed to the board were supposedly Willington residents; but he had never heard of them before; and after the meeting; was confirmed that the appointees were indeed not residents.

Mr. Berg stated that it appears (and stated that it was only an assumption) as though ACCESS Agency and Mr. DeBiasi (who is the CEO of ACCESS Agency) pretty much control the charge and decide who is going to be on these committees. They held several meetings one after another. First was the ACCESS Board meeting; the ACCESS Senior Housing of Franklin meeting; ACCESS Senior Housing of Willington, etc. where they appointed new members of these boards and it seems as though they already know who is going to be appointed

When Mr. Berg had asked Dave Berto (The Housing Authority's Consultant); he stated it is common in HUD 202 projects the sponsor (ACCESS) elects the directors (in the case, ASHOW). Access does not run ASHOW; but the ASHOW Board of Directors runs ASHOW. ACCESS controls it by appointing ASHOW board members. Mr. Berg stated that this is not illegal; but is disconcerting to say the least.

Ms. Arpin added that she finds this troubling because they were given 6 hours' notice of the meeting and the three of them (She, Mr. Berg and Mr. Gangaway) were the ones on the board who asked the most questions out of concern of the residents at Willington Woods. Ms. Arpin then clarified that there is probably nothing the Selectmen can do about this; but wanted to make them aware that it has happened.

Wilbur Gangaway noted that when he came on board (back when Robert Campbell was the president); there were 5 people from ASHOW and 4 from Willington on the original Board. Since then, they have increased the number to 11. He then noted that he made mention a while back that he wouldn't be surprised if he got kicked off of the board as he was questioning the well-being of one of their employees, the budget, as well as outlining issues that were going on at the complex.

Selectman Blessington asked who puts names in for nominations on the board? Mr. Gangaway noted several years ago, a few people from the Housing Authority had volunteered to serve to carry over onto the ASHOW board. At the time, it was himself, Robert Campbell and Don Berg. Ms. Arpin noted that she came on in 2015 and she was approached by the Property Manager at the time.

First Selectwoman Wiczenski then stated she is curious to see how many members of the ASHOW board are also Access Board members. She then asked them if they were asked to put their names up for re-election? Mr. Berg and Ms. Arpin stated they never had done so before; and neither of them had said they would not want to be re-appointed.

First Selectwoman Wiczenski thanked them for sharing the information. She will do some research and background investigation on this and perhaps shed some light on how or why this has happened. She added that it is interesting to see that they added 3 seats and decreased the number of Willington residents on this board -- that is concerning to her.

Mr. Gangaway then clarified that a previous Selectman was also on the Board of Directors of Access at the time; and suggested to use Access. Because they were hard pressed to find a management company back then, the chairman of the Housing Authority decided that was who they were going to go with; although Mr. Gangaway noted he voted against it. First Selectwoman Wiczenski then asked who decides on the management company - 'The ASHOW Board? There have been discussions questioning if there is another/better agency to use at past meetings. First Selectwoman Wiczenski thanked them for the information and said she will look into it.

Next to speak was Matthew Clark; who asked the Selectmen to consider adopting a Resolution brought forth by the Willington Republicans in regards to a gas tax. He then asked it to be incorporated into the minutes. First Selectwoman Wiczenski clarified that the Selectmen received correspondence over the weekend regarding a Resolution on tolls, if that is what he meant. She then cautioned that no business can be conducted under Present to Speak. Because the Selectmen received the email after the Agenda was posted, it is not a regular item on the meeting agenda and the Selectmen are unable to vote on anything at this point.

Selectman Blessington moved to amend the agenda to add an item B under new business called; Resolution concerning highway tolls.

Selectwoman Boritz seconded the motion.

Selectwoman Boritz then asked when this was sent to them? First Selectwoman Wiczenski said it was sent at some point over the weekend. Selectman Blessington stated that it came in on Friday. Selectwoman Boritz asked if this is something that needs to happen tonight or can it be added to a regular agenda in the future?

Selectman Blessington said it depends on how much time we have – if we adopt it we can send it on to the state, the Governor and legislature. He added that we can act on it tonight or wait until the next meeting. Mr. Clark noted that the Resolution is simple and straight forward. Selectwoman Boritz clarified that we have a procedure; and the Selectmen get things sent to them over the weekend; which do not make it onto the agenda. Selectman Blessington stated it came to us on Friday with the expectation that it would be in on time but the agenda was posted on Thursday last week. First Selectwoman Wiecenski clarified that the agenda was not posted until Friday and the communication was not received at that point.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski reminded the Selectmen that there is a motion on the floor to discuss this.

Vote: 1 Yes (Blessington) 2 No (Wiecenski & Boritz) Motion fails.

Selectman Blessington stated that it will be on the next regular meeting agenda. First Selectwoman Wiecenski then cautioned that this is something that should really be warned to notify residents if they are interested to discuss. She then told Mr. Clark that he is welcome to speak to what he is looking for the Board to do.

Mr. Clark stated that he agrees that the people of Willington should be informed and asked to move that the Resolution be included into the minutes. Mr. Clark then read the proposed Resolution. *A copy of the Resolution is attached to the minutes. This item will be discussed at the next regular meeting: July 15, 2019.

Mr. Clark then stated that it is a simple Resolution and two of Willington's largest employers; the truck stop and Fed Ex are both here because of the highway and if highway usage decreases because traffic is diverted elsewhere, it would be bad for them.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski clarified that the letter to the Selectmen was dated June 29th, but the email in which it was attached was received on Sunday, June 30th at 6:07 PM. Jim Bulick (who sent the email) confirmed that he sent the email after the Friday deadline for the agenda. Selectwoman Boritz also did not get the original email, as her email is not set up for her name change (which is in process of being fixed). Selectwoman Boritz then clarified that the reason for having items on the agenda is important is because people come to the meetings based on what is listed on the agenda and if people want to hear or speak on this; we haven't given them the opportunity to do so by not having it put on our agenda. This is why we are careful about what we add to the agenda the moment of the meeting. Mr. Clark stated that it is really simple.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski said to Selectman Blessington that he feels strongly about adding items to an agenda and she tries really hard not to add things on the agenda unless it is time sensitive. She added that she respects that they feel strongly about it, but wants to have time to look it over and give the residents an opportunity to speak if interested.

Correspondence

A list of Correspondence was available for the Selectmen.

First Selectman's Status Report

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that we are in the new 19-20 fiscal year. She anticipates a healthy surplus and should see the number mid August. She noted that she believes the surplus is due to insurance – favorable mostly due to census change.

Our new IT company began today and has started to implement their software. We look forward to a healthy relationship with Novus Insight.

With the new fiscal year; brings CIP projects:

*new phone system for TOB/HMS/CES – Town meeting will be held on July 9th

*new mower is slated for public hearing on July 9th – the next step will be to get an RFP for a lease. Delivery will be expected at the end of July.

*lights at the basketball at River Road Athletic Complex (Maureen Parsell will begin to move forward in the future)

*Concrete evaluations for municipal buildings – An RFP will be drawn up for visual testing

*Radio repeater for Public Works apparatus – Troy would like to put this on hold and go with another system that is slightly more money; but more efficient.

Public Works

Public Work's Director, Troy Sposato had sent a list of items the crew has been busy with:

- Tree trimming around town; by borrowing Putnam's bucket truck
- Mowed Halls Pond, Senior Center, Pump House, PW Garage and Transfer Station
- Weed wacked site lines
- Checked and cleaned basin tops around town
- Sprayed guardrails with weed killer
- Fixed a washout at Hall School
- Moved the Treasurer from the lower level to the upper level

Latest update on the mower: Dan from Big Boys Toys stated that the mower is on schedule for delivery for the end of July/early August.

Troy added that he received three quotes for chip sealing from the State Bid List:

The Gorman Group- \$138,722

New England Asphalt Services-\$145,307

Comer Construction-\$157,675

Troy recommends going with Gorman Group. Roads that will be chip sealed this year as follows Potter School Rd, Balzas Rd, Glass Factory Rd, Daleville Rd, Y Rd, Old Farms Rd, Fenton Bluffs Rd, Lindsey La, Fermier Rd.

More discussion is expected be held on chip sealing at the next meeting.

New Business

A. Appointments

The Board of Finance has been without a secretary for a few weeks. BOF Chairman Bulick has recommended that Marysa Semprebon be appointed to fill the vacancy.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to appoint Marysa Semprebon as the recording secretary for the Board of Finance; effective July 1, 2019; expiring June 30, 2020.

Selectwoman Boritz seconded the motion.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski thanked Ms. Semprebon for stepping forward to record the minutes.

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

Old Business

There were no items under old business.

Good & Welfare

The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Committee is in need of a recording secretary. The Committee begins meeting in the late fall through the winter. If anyone is interested, please contact Robin Campbell in the Selectmen's office (Rcampbell@willingtonct.org) The position is appointed by the Selectmen and is very important one.

We received our monthly service call from Troop C for the month of May, 2019:

Accidents:	9	Criminal Investigations:	14
DUPs:	3	Burglaries:	0
Traffic Citations:	256	Larcenies:	0
Non Reportable matters:	527	Written Warnings:	38

We have a new liaison; Lieutenant Palmer; who came to meet with First Selectwoman Wiecenski last week. They had a lengthy discussion about issues around town.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski reminded everyone that there will be a Public Hearing and Town Meeting next week; July 9th at 7PM at the Old Town Hall. The mower will be discussed at the public hearing and the new phone system will be voted on at the town meeting.

Tax Season is upon us. The tax bills were successfully sent out last week and there was a healthy influx of residents in to pay today. First Selectwoman Wiecenski noted that residents have until August 1st to pay on time.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski wished everyone a happy Fourth of July. The Town Office Building will be closed on Thursday in observance of Independence Day and Friday, July 5th in observance of Selectmen's Day.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 PM
Selectman Blessington seconded the motion.
Vote: 3 Yes (Wiecenski, Makuch & Blessington) 0 No.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Campbell
Administrative Assistant

Willington Republican Town Committee

P.O. Box 11

Willington, CT 06279

June 29, 2018

TO: Erika Wiecenski – First Selectwoman

Aliza Boritz – Selectwoman

John Blessington – Selectman

CC: Robin Campbell – Office Manager

RE: Request for the Selectmen to Adopt a Resolution in Opposition of Tolls in Willington

Dear Board of Selectmen:

Given Willington is primarily a “bedroom” community where many of our townspeople commute outside of Willington to work, it is not surprising that our Town Committee has been approached by a number of residents asking what can we do as a community to show our opposition to Governor Lamont’s tolling plan. Since this opposition has been bi-partisan in nature, I have sought out the guidance of the non-partisan NoTollsCT.org on an appropriate response.

One strategy we can employ is the Board of Selectmen can adopt a Resolution opposing tolls in Willington, and then sharing this with the Governor and our elected representatives in Hartford. A sample resolution is attached for your consideration.

I am looking forward to coming together with you and fighting for the taxpayers of Willington!

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Bulick".

James Bulick

Chairman, Willington Republican Town Committee

(860) 716-4482

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION FROM THE TOWN OF WILLINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN IN OPPOSITION TO THE INSTALLATION OF TOLLS ON LOCAL AND STATE ROADS

WHEREAS, the Selectpersons believe the increased traffic on our secondary roads would affect the rural quality of life of Willington residents in numerous ways including but not limited to:

1. A dramatic increase of heavy-duty commercial vehicles and tractor trailer truck traffic encroaching on our scenic community, negatively impacting the Town's character and charm;
2. A dramatic increase of heavy-duty commercial vehicles and tractor trailer truck traffic subjecting roads to increased damage, maintenance, and repair costs resulting in an increased tax burden;
3. Crowding of secondary roads, an increase in traffic accidents, and disruption of the pedestrian enjoyment on and adjacent to the main roads affected;
4. Traffic congestion from increased vehicles and accidents delaying response time for local emergency services personnel, causing significant safety concerns and compromising the standard of safety to the residents of the Town of Willington;
5. Further discouraging local businesses and retail establishments, increasing costs and decreasing convenience to residents.
6. The subjection of our residents to a new estimated tax of \$700-\$900 per year for commuters traveling from Willington to Hartford for work (per commuter); the regressive nature of the proposal failing to take into account the income level of working resident's.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Willington Board of Selectmen does hereby declare its opposition to the implementation of tolls on state highways leading to the aforementioned negative effects to the Town of Willington; and

BE IT FURTHERED RESOLVED, that the Willington Board of Selectmen does hereby submit this resolution to the Governor of the State of Connecticut and to the Connecticut State Legislature this _____ day of July, 2019.