

TOWN OF WILLINGTON

Board of Selectmen
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BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Meeting Minutes
Lower Level Conference Room

July 15, 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:

Selectwoman Boritz moved to approve the minutes of July 1, 2019 as presented.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski seconded the motion.

Selectman Blessington noted that a correction:

Page 4 regarding the radio repeater the word "slightly" should be stricken from the minutes.

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

Present to Speak

Jim Makuch of 34 Old Farms Road was present. He wanted to know what the status is on his approval to connect to the community water system. First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that they have not moved forward yet, they are still waiting for information from DPH. She was hoping to hear from them before the July 4th holiday, she didn't and isn't sure when she will hear from them. Jim stated that DPH sent First Selectwoman Wiecenski a letter on July 5th asking to meet with her, and he wanted to know if that meeting happened. First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that the meeting did not happen; it was originally scheduled for Friday, July 12th, DPH asked to reschedule and that hasn't happened yet. Jim stated that when he was talking with DPH and Eastern Highlands, none of them could confirm but also won't deny what First Selectwoman Wiecenski had told him on January 9th that as a Board of Selectmen, you have the authorization to grant or not grant this request. Eastern Highlands just wrote to Jim and said they have no role in the issue of connecting to a public water system. He would like to know who told First Selectwoman Wiecenski that the BOS (Board of Selectmen) have the authority on whether to grant the request or not. First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that she spoke with a gentleman named Mike Haige at DPH.

Jim stated that it's clear that this is going nowhere and it is just being blocked endlessly, so he will be going to a new stage starting tomorrow. He then proceeded to ask each Selectman as an individual and as a representative of the Town of Willington if they support the further delay in his connection to the water system. Selectman Blessington stated that he's not sure if he can speak as a representative of the Town, but as an individual he thought Jim should have had one way or the other either tapping into the system or drilling a well. Selectman Blessington stated that he was the one that made the motion to allow Jim to tap into the system in January which was passed. He then asked Selectwoman Boritz the same question. Selectwoman Boritz stated that the Board voted to move forward and allow him in connecting with the water process as long as the process is completed with the appropriate assurances to the Town and to him as the homeowner. The BOS is moving forward as they voted. Jim stated that the vote was in January and it's now July. As of now he is still blocked and the Board isn't doing anything about it. After more discussion on this subject, First Selectwoman Wiecenski reminded everyone that this is present to speak and business isn't conducted during this part of the meeting and this subject isn't on

the agenda tonight. She encouraged everyone to hear Mr. Makuch's comments and then move forward with the agenda of the meeting. If one of the Selectman feels this item should be on the agenda, then they can make a motion to do so, otherwise they should move forward with the posted agenda.

Selectman Blessington moved to add under Old Business C. Water to 34 Old Farms Road.

Selectwoman Boritz seconded the motion.

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

Correspondence

A list of Correspondence was available for the Selectmen.

First Selectman's Status Report

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that the only thing different than the items they were prepared to speak on tonight is the project for a new fuel tank at Public Works which was approved through CIP. She may actually have approvals to use the STEAP money they have been discussing since 2017 which then First Selectwoman Christina Mailhos had asked to be made available to the Town. They are making some movement with having someone at OPM respond to them and that change from what it was originally slated for to be able to include the salt shed potentially. She will keep the other Selectman posted on this.

Public Works

Public Work's Director, Troy Sposato was present. Troy stated that they have been busy with the following:

- The crew went to a chainsaw and after the storm cleanup in Putnam
- Turnpike Extension was fixed (the gravel road)
- Fixed a catch basin on Laurel Drive
- Mowed where they will be chip sealing
- Chip sealing will be taking place within the next couple of weeks
- Dug out some retention ponds
- Worked on some costs for the new fuel tank and salt shed
- Tomorrow they will be working on overlay on a portion of Potter School Rd.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that Troy received a quote on a trade-in of the roadside mower to offset the cost of the new mower. That brings the dollar amount budgeted from \$154,000.00 to \$116,913.00. She hopes that when Donna Latinsics returns from vacation next week, they should be ready to go out to bid on that and it brings another \$7,500.00 off the quote Troy was seeking, kudos to Troy.

A. Traffic Control Update.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that there have been several requests from different residents to help with speeding concerns. The issue has always been that we don't have our own police force and that Troop C will help us when they can. It has been less than what the Selectman would like to see. First Selectwoman Wiecenski has continued to ask them to monitor particular areas.

The BOS did put in the budget a new budget line item for \$10,000.00 and named it traffic control. Troy has looked at some radar signs one of which has been shared with the BOS and First Selectwoman Wiecenski shared one with Troy which was the first one they had looked at. Troy explained that the one he has looked at is a 30" sign which runs off a battery or solar. He was advised to buy the battery operated one which lasts about 2 weeks and can be recharged. Solar would be good if you were going to leave it in one place. This sign can be put just

about anywhere and moved around when needed. It records the information, so it can be left in one location for 2 weeks and then the data can be read to see if there is a problem there. The sign can be moved around to wherever there may be a citizen's complaint on speeding. The cost would be \$2,950.00 for the sign with batteries or \$3,250.00 with a solar panel. The bracket is sold separately for \$195.00 per bracket. The Bluetooth data package is sold separately for \$550.00. Troy stated that if you had a couple of trouble areas, the brackets could be mounted and the sign moved around or just take the bracket or the pole it's on and move it around. First Selectwoman Wicinski stated that two battery operated ones could be purchased with the money set aside for it.

First Selectwoman Wicinski asked Troy his opinion on speed bumps, another option that had been discussed to slow people down on the roads. Troy stated that speed bumps are meant for going in to a place like a campground, they are not meant to be put on the road. They can be put in temporarily, but they still cause a hazard. If someone was to speed down the road at 30 to 40 miles an hour, they could damage their car and the Town would be liable. There is also a concern for emergency vehicles. Stuart Cobb mentioned that Cedar Swamp Road in Mansfield has several speed bumps and it slows Willington down to go to a call in Mansfield and likewise slows Mansfield down going to a call in Willington.

Sabrina Wentworth asked specifically on Cisar Road if the emergency vehicles were to take Rt. 320 to Pinney Hill Road instead of Cisar Road wouldn't they get to the same place at the same time instead of using Cisar Road as a cutover. First Selectwoman Wicinski stated that isn't necessarily true, but they have to look at this as an overall picture, not necessarily one road and what they would do with this one area. There would also be a problem with people trying to drive around them and driving over residents yards as not all of the roads are curbed.

Sabrina Wentworth then asked what would be done with the data after it was collected, and Troy stated that they would contact Troop C and let them know when people are speeding and ask them to target those speeding problem areas during the specific speeding times. First Selectwoman Wicinski stated that when the Town borrowed signs from other towns to slow speeders down before, the data didn't show that there was a speeding problem. She believes the signs did what they were meant to do, which was slow people down. She also stated that having a movable sign is good because you can move it to different places and people don't get used to it being in just one place. Ms. Wentworth stated that there have been 3 serious accidents on Cisar Road in the last 18 months and she hopes that once the sign is in place that there will be a diligent effort on Troop C's part to really monitor what is happening on our roads before someone gets killed. First Selectwoman Wicinski stated that she hopes Ms. Wentworth has seen where they have gone with this as there have been repeated requests for Troop C to pay attention to these areas. She just met with the new Commanding Officer at Troop C and reiterated the same concerns that they have heard from the residents. She stated that if the Town had a police force, they would put them in the areas that they are hearing from the residents, but there isn't a police force. If the Town has data that shows there are speeding problems, First Selectwoman Wicinski was assured by Troop C that they would go out, and she has to believe that they would. The Town's intent is to use the data they collect from these signs to help mitigate the speeding.

Selectwoman Boritz shared visual speed bumps that she had researched. She stated that through her research, these are just as effective as all the other visual means and are much less expensive because you just need paint and someone to apply it. She would like the Town to look into getting some of the visual speed bumps especially by entrances to apartments and anytime there is a stop sign. There is one that is shaped like a pyramid which is really effective because it looks like there is an obstruction in the road. Selectwoman Boritz's hope is that all of these combined efforts which are fairly cost effective to reduce speeding will make an overall impact in accomplishing that goal.

First Selectwoman Wicinski stated that the money in this line item is just for this fiscal year and more money could possibly be put in next year to further this cause.

Ms. Wentworth explained a flyer that she shared with the BOS of a camera that takes a picture of the license plate and monitors the speed of vehicles. This is used mostly in managed communities and condo associations

on their roads. First Selectwoman Wiczenski said they would take that under consideration along with what Mr. Sposito and Selectwoman Boritz presented. She stated that now that they have a budget for traffic control and a new Public Works Director they will be able to move forward with trying to lessen the speeding problem.

New Business

A. Request to adopt a Resolution in opposition of tolls in Willington

First Selectwoman Wiczenski stated that the BOS received a communication on June 30th from Jim Bulick, Chairman of the Republican Town Committee asking the BOS to adopt a resolution in opposition of tolls in Willington. They proposed specific language to such. It was read into the minutes at the last BOS meeting (July 1st). She has received one communication (a letter) from a resident and registered voter to voice their opposition to the proposal which she read.

Selectman Blessington moved that the BOS adopt the resolution which he then read. Resolution is attached.

Selectwoman Boritz seconded the motion.

Jim Bulick stated that he submitted this resolution at the last BOS meeting and he had to run off to another meeting which he apologized for. He stated that Willington wouldn't be unique in adopting this type of resolution. He stated that there is about 18 other towns that have passed similar resolutions according to notollset.org. Jim mentioned that Willington is a bedroom community; there are a whole bunch of issues that haven't been considered when tolls have been passed and they want to get that out there. Jim stated that this is another point of view that hasn't been heard, Willington is a rural community and that rural community is valued. Jim spoke of tolls in surrounding states and heavy traffic on state roads to avoid those tolls. Peter Tanaka spoke in favor of the resolution; he met with the Governor's Chief of Staff on this subject who told him all the money from the tolls would be going to fix the interstates alone. Peter feels that all the money will go to the fixing the interstates in the western part of the state. First Selectwoman Wiczenski stated that she had to opportunity to twice sit through a presentation given by DOT on what tolls would be. She stated that the proposed tolls are on four highways, I-84 being one of them. The money collected on each highway (of which 40% would come from out of state drivers) can only be used on those highways first and then on the secondary state roads off of the interstates second. Peter thinks that it would be very important to influence Willington's State Representative as she hasn't yet decided where she sits on this topic. Selectwoman Boritz stated that money needed to fix the roads will be found either through the tolls or an increase in taxes to all taxpayers, but at least getting the money through the tolls spreads amongst more people who are traveling through the state and getting it through taxes just impacts Connecticut residents. She has a disagreement on whether the tolls are a better option or increasing state taxes is a better option.

Her second concern is this isn't our decision to make. She thinks it's hard for the BOS to make a resolution that is supposed to be representing the entire town when she thinks it's not their decision to make and she doesn't think they have a consensus on the entire town about what the appropriate answer would be to this specific resolution. She stated that this isn't the BOS's decision to make and it's an exercise in futility because the decision will be made regardless of what the BOS says, and if townspeople have strong feelings about tolls, they should connect with the State Representative for Willington who actually makes that decision.

Carl Pierson stated that he feels all of the money collected for I-84 will be used for the Danbury area and not out here.

Christine Psathas stated that she is neutral on the tolls topic at the moment, and she wants to keep an open mind and see what the State is going to come up with. She would like to see this resolution not pass, as the BOS is speaking for the Town of Willington, 6,000 residents and they have only heard from a few.

Bob Wiczenski stated that he doesn't believe that tractor trailers, etc. will be going on town roads to avoid the tolls. He wanted to know who came up with this resolution, just a few people. He is for the tolls and the state

needs the revenue these tolls would generate for the roads. He believes this resolution will not help the Town of Willington whatsoever.

Jeremy Chartier stated that he believes tolls do affect the flow of traffic within towns that have tolls on their interstates as he experienced recently on a trip to Pennsylvania.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that at the last meeting, the BOS had just received this resolution the evening before along with an email where it was asked to have the resolution added to the agenda. At that time, she opposed it because she thought it was important that the residents see something this important the BOS was taking a stand on their behalf. She heard from one resident, a letter which she read earlier and hasn't heard from any other resident on the topic and she doesn't feel it's the BOS's place to speak on behalf of all of the residents on this particular issue.

Selectwoman Boritz stated that we would be better served holding a forum with open conversation with the State Legislators who would make this decision than to pass a resolution that is essentially meaningless to the State of Connecticut. First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that the BOS could set up that type of forum for the residents so their legislators could know how the residents feel. First Selectwoman Wiecenski disagrees with the part of the resolution that states that there would be an increase of heavy truck traffic impacting the roads because that is already there.

Selectman Blessington mentioned that we can't always count on the money going where the State says it will go because they can always direct it somewhere else. He feels this is a truly regressive tax as a lot of people in town travel to the larger cities in Connecticut and these tolls would impact them. Selectman Blessington stated that the BOS speaks for the town all the time and that's why they were elected. He stated that 18 other towns have already passed a resolution similar to this one. He feels that this resolution will let the Governor and the legislators know how Willington feels regarding the tolls.

Ralph Tulis stated that he doesn't think the resolution will make a bit of difference; however, his problem with the toll issue is who establishes the rates once this does get enacted it's out of the hands of the legislature. He stated that there are enough members of this toll commission to overrule any elected official. They don't have to answer to voters as to what happens with tolls.

Selectwoman Boritz feels getting residents to call their legislators to let them know how they feel about the tolls would be more impactful than this resolution.

Gerard Chartier is in favor of the resolution as he feels it is one of many steps the Town can take to "keep the camel's nose out of the tent".

Carl Pierson has a problem with the privacy issue as they will be photographing license plates.

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

First Selectwoman reiterated that she is willing to reach out to Willington's representatives and set up a time for them to come out and hear the townspeople concerns. If anything is needed after that, action can be taken then.

B. Culvert / drainage/flooding issue at 130 Turnpike Road

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that there is a request from Jacob and Brittany Kowalyshyn stating their concerns and asked Mr. Kowalyshyn to speak to his issue. Jacob Kowalyshyn stated that they just bought their house last year. This spring for their front yard was flooded for about two full months due to a culvert that comes under the road (16" culvert that goes into a 4" pipe). They had contacted the Town once before and they were told it wasn't a Town problem and funding was an issue, etc. Contamination is an issue for them due to

several hundred feet of road runoff that comes all the way down the road, crosses over to the field next to them and onto their property. They have a shallow well on the same side of the yard and the runoff flows on into the ground right there. It also results in a 6" to 8" pond about a 1½' to 2' deep water, which could become a liability issue if a child was to wander in there and drown. They are looking for the Town to do something to help resolve this problem because it's not going anywhere and they have a river in their front yard. They feel this is the next step in getting the problem resolved.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that she spoke to Public Works Director Troy Sposito and met with Town Engineer Karl Acimovic to help understand how they got to this point, especially in light of the fact that in 2016 this road was repaved and drainage was redone. The Town had obtained a STEAP grant to do drainage and repave Turnpike Road prior to the Kowalyshyn's purchasing the property. This piece already existed, but there was work done on the opposite side of the road.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski asked Town Engineer Karl Acimovic to speak about the 2016 repaving and drainage. Karl stated that as they looked at the maps, up until now in the reconstruction and prior to the reconstruction there was no indication that there had been any issues here. What they showed on the plans was for the line to be cleaned out and for a paved swale to replace an erosion area directly adjacent to the inlet to the pipe. That was the reason for the big swale, it wasn't that it added or changed anything; it was an area that was eroding and producing some issues with erosion filling in portions of the cross culvert pipe. This is something new that came up now that there are issues with it.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that this is an unusual year with water and she thinks everyone can agree with that. She asked Jacob if prior to this year (they purchased the property last year) did they notice as much water or did it seem to be draining. Jacob stated that it drained pretty well until this spring. He understands that in the spring there is more water and snow melt, but they had two months of a pond/river in their front yard and he couldn't mow his lawn for at least 2½ months. He stated that there are about three or four swales up the road that divert water into that pipe which then runs down the side of the road, under their neighbor's driveway and onto the road on to their property. He understands that there is erosion and it needs to be prevented, but it's also allowing water to flow more freely which ends up on his property. He is fine with that, but now that it's not draining appropriately, everything from the road (cars driving by, plows dropping on the road, etc.) ends up on their property and sinking into the ground into their shallow well and drinking water. He is testing his drinking water frequently and so far it is ok.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that the Kowalyshyn's are requesting that the Town install underground 18" pipe. The estimates that Karl Acimovic has provided to fix this problem are in the nature of \$30,000.00 to \$40,000.00. Karl then explained what would be needed to repair this problem and the biggest part of the cost would be diverting the water to the back of the property so it wouldn't flow onto their lawn. Karl stated that if the Town were to decide to do this, a right of way would be needed through the property so everything could be maintained in the future. They would need 25' width for the right of way.

Selectwoman Boritz asked if there were any way to keep the 4" pipe clean so it could flow properly. Troy Sposito stated that they can dig it out; however that 4" pipe has outlived its life expectancy and there are tree roots, etc. growing in it and clogging it. Public Works can take a look at it and see if they can clean it out.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that this is not something the BOS can make a decision on tonight because of the scope of the project and the money needed for it; however, she would like to see a short term solution until this project goes through the proper channels. They will be having more discussions on this and look at a realistic plan they can then present and communicate with the Kowalyshyn's.

Selectman Blessington seemed to remember similar problems on other roads and asked Karl if that was the case. Karl stated that there are several of these same situations in other parts of the town (Village Hill Road where it intersects with Schofield Road in particular) that have been here since Elwood Jones was Public Works Director.

It's not a unique situation and he understands that all of them should be addressed, but there is a cost to each one of them. Selectman Blessington asked what Karl's recommendation would be. Karl stated that depending on the stability of the pipe, you could get someone to clean out the pipe but that wouldn't be a guarantee that it would help and it would only drain after the storm has passed. The cost of that would be between \$2,000.00 and \$4,000.00.

Kim Kowalyshyn asked how does water flowing from an 18" pipe to a 4" pipe and drain properly. Karl stated that there hadn't been a problem with it before, and if there had been, they would have addressed it when they did the drainage and repaved in 2016.

A discussion was had on the solutions to the problem that were discussed before. Karl Acimovic stated there was one more option that hadn't been discussed. He stated that the 4" pipe could be dug out and create an open swale to go all the way down to the back of the property. He said that the contours speak to the fact that there is a shallow area that the flowing could be concentrated in an open swale to get it out to the back. Karl stated that the three solutions are an open swale, clean out the 4" pipe or reconstruct the entire discharge area.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that they will have some more conversation now that there is a third option, although it might not be the final solution and see where that fits in to the other options to find a solution.

C. Discussion – policy for educational funding for town employees

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that there is a request from a Town employee (Robin Campbell) who has decided to further her education in pursuing a degree. Time and cost is an issue for anyone advancing their education. First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that Robin did take a course this summer and is now asking the BOS to consider a policy on investing in the Town staff. Robin shared with the BOS a policy from the BOE (Board of Education). First Selectwoman Wiecenski found information on eight towns that have policies in place this subject. The money offered in the policies from those eight towns range from \$0.00 (policy but no money) to \$3,000.00 per employee. She stated that this would be a budget increase for the BOS, but it is something for the BOS to consider. To date, the Town covers certifications for certain employees (tax collector, assessor, town clerk, zoning agent). The discussion was that this was another way to further education in a different direction and would the BOS consider absorbing some of the costs of the classes. First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that it could benefit everyone.

Selectwoman Boritz stated that it is a fine idea and figuring out if it is feasible is a good first step. All the different organizations she has worked for have all offered some sort of incentive to further education. She thinks it would be good if they can find a place for it in the budget even if the amount changes every year. She feels it's a good incentive for hiring also.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that Robin took a course this summer and has already employed some of the things she has learned in what she is doing now. They are benefiting now from the furthering education she is getting without investing in it. She thinks it is something they should look into. They should first assess if there is interest in this by the Board, and then she will go to the other towns and peruse their policies (if they allow her). The BOE policy offers \$500.00 or 50% of the cost with a maximum of \$1,000.00 per year. \$200.00 per course is budgeted for the Tax Collector to become certified and she doesn't see this as much different investing in the other employees for similar education. More discussion was had on this subject including that the courses would have to be in line with the job they do, developing a policy, etc.

Peter Tanaka stated that the BOS is 100% correct in believing that education is good for your employees and that it helps maintain them. Most of the organizations Peter has been involved in, this policy is done through collective bargaining and not a policy set by the town. First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that not all of the employees are in a union, just a portion of them. This would instead be part of the personnel policy.

D. Appointments

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that the BOS received a communication from Rich Mindek, Chair of EDC. They have moved from an intern to a recording secretary.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to appoint Mary Vertefeuille as the Recording Secretary for Economic Development Commission; effective (retroactive) July 1, 2019; expiring June 30, 2020. Selectwoman Boritz seconded the motion.

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that next are a group of appointments to the Emergency Services Efficiency Committee. She stated that when this committee was discussed, they had agreed that there would be three members and one alternate, (which WFD #1 did) and a member of the BOF. WHFD is asking for two alternates. She is not opposed to it as long as WFD #1 agrees and that they are allowed to put up another alternate. WHFD Fire Chief Tom Snyder stated that the reason for the change is because of the schedules they keep at work, they want to keep the committee rolling and not hold up any meetings; therefore, with the extra alternate they should be all set. Both the BOS and WFD #1 did not have a problem with it, and they will also be able to put forth another alternate if they wish to. First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that she did ask what the position in the department the members of the committee held and she would like to know what positions Mike Makuch and Tom Smith hold. Chief Snyder stated that Tom Smith is a member and Mike Makuch is a Lieutenant. WFD #1 Chief Alex Moore mentioned in the original agreement they only agreed on Chief Officers, President and/or Vice President that would be appointed to the committee (people with decision making abilities). Chief Moore doesn't have a problem with who is on the committee; however, he picked his committee members according to the original agreement. After a discussion on this, First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that she supports the members that were put forth for this committee. Selectman Blessington stated that he feels decision making people should be on the committee.

Mike Makuch stated that his name is one of the names that are subject of the discussion here. He stated he would hope to offer for consideration that he was a member of the previous efficiency committee. He has been Fire Chief and President of WHFD and he understands the issues. He has been involved in a lot of the previous negotiating groups, the previous study, the Facilities Study Committee which he chaired for a while. There was a Chief's core for a while that worked with both departments. The actual plan that the departments work on right now where both departments respond to all calls together was the first time when the departments really worked together actively to build a joint operations plan and he was integral in that negotiation. He hopes that his resume including being a retired Fire Chief from a career department would be a benefit to the committee. He believes his relationship with WFD#1 is good which would benefit the committee, and that he will be able to put his almost 40 years of service to WHFD to support what the Chief says to the membership so they can vote on it. Neither department has a problem with the names put forth for the committee.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to appoint Tom Snyder to the Emergency Services Efficiency Committee effective July 15, 2019; expiring once the charge of the committee has been completed. Selectman Blessington seconded the motion.

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to reappoint Mike Makuch as a member of the Emergency Services Efficiency Committee effective July 15, 2019; expiring once the charge of the committee has been completed.

Selectwoman Boritz seconded the motion.

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to appoint Bobby Knight to the Emergency Services Efficiency Committee effective July 15, 2019; expiring once the charge of the committee has been completed.

Selectman Blessington seconded the motion.
First Selectman amended the motion to say Robert Knight.
Vote: 3 Yes (Wiecenski, Boritz & Blessington) 0 No.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to appoint Tom Smith as an alternate member of the Emergency Services Efficiency Committee effective July 15, 2019; expiring once the charge of the committee has been completed.

Selectman Blessington seconded the motion.
Vote: 3 Yes (Wiecenski, Boritz & Blessington) 0 No.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to appoint James Knight as an alternate of the Emergency Services Efficiency Committee effective July 15, 2019; expiring once the charge of the committee has been completed.

Selectwoman Boritz seconded the motion.
Vote: 3 Yes (Wiecenski, Boritz & Blessington) 0 No.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski thanked everyone for agreeing to be on this committee. At the next BOS meeting they can approve WFD#1's second alternate. She hopes that now that there are members from both sides and a member from the BOF (Board of Finance), maybe meetings will begin and a list of the meetings would be helpful. The BOS looks forward to forward progress.

Old Business

A. WHFD Property Purchase Request

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that since the BOS last met and this item was on the agenda, they did receive some information and she thanks WHFD for the information the BOS had requested. She stated that it is believed that the church was built in 1971 even though the property card says 1980, Mike Makuch concurred with that stating he checked records on it. First Selectwoman stated that the visual inspection report shows that no effects of crumbling of the slab under the church or the foundation of the rectory.

The BOS was also waiting to see a more detailed report on how the potential \$10,000.00 added to their yearly budget would be spent. They are asking for \$9,676.00 (\$1,000.00 building maintenance, \$3,194.00 for electricity, \$2,232.00 heating and propane approx. 1,900 gal., \$3,250.00 insurance). Chief Snyder stated that those estimates are based on what they have used in the past and their best guess as to how much would be used on the property, vendors, etc.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that she met with a member of WHFD, USDA and two members of the BOF, and there are no grant opportunities (there is very little grant money for the whole state). They potentially could look at a loan from the USDA if there were to be a fire house constructed on that property the Town would have to own the property outright. Currently the agreement that is put forward is that WHFD would retain ownership of the property. If the Town was to agree to this and then later down the road something was to happen, they would have to look at the agreement again.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that they next have to decide if they want an agreement that's been fully negotiated before they move forward with any said recommendations or not. A discussion was had on the agreement that WHFD and the Town's investment in the property and if nothing was to be done with the property and WHFD decided to sell it what would the Town get back on their investment.

A discussion was had on the \$10,000.00 they are requesting for their budget and how much they might request in future years (more money or less money).

Mike Makuch gave a brief history on WHFD and how they have been raising money to help pay for what they needed for 67 years and how they have been saving money for this purpose if needed. He stated that this purchase of the land isn't an investment to be sold later to return money; it's intended to be a furtherance of providing services to the Town. Mike made it clear that the Town would just be investing in the property but would not be held liable as the land would be owned by WHFD. A discussion was had on what would go on the property and how WHFD would have to come back to the Town in the future for money for what they might want to put on that land, i.e. a fire house. First Selectwoman Wiecenski wanted it made clear that the townspeople would decide that. First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that she feels the townspeople should know if the land was to be sold and a windfall occur that the Town should be reimbursed appropriately for their investment. More discussion was had on the agreement and if an investment return should be put in the agreement. Selectman Blessington asked about taxes on the property. A discussion was had on whether the property is taxed or not. A discussion was had on WHFD's agreement and a counter offer of an agreement from the Town. First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that she had hoped to have an agreement that the BOS could send to WHFD but it wasn't ready. She stated that it is a negotiation on an agreement between them and negotiations take time. When they had entered into the agreement with the sellers, she had hoped that WHFD was ready to purchase the property whether the Town said yes or no.

Selectwoman Boritz stated that if the use of the property is not realized and the property is sold she would like to see the Town get back proportionate to what was put in. First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that as soon as she gets the edits back from the Town Attorney on the agreement she will get them to WHFD to look at.

Ralph Tulis stated that he has mixed feelings about this issue. He stated that as far as a fire safety complex, that is a perfect piece of property and location. As a taxpayer, if he is going to invest 1/7th in this property and nothing happens within a reasonable time, then he expects his investment of 1/7th to be returned to him. He stated as far as taxes on that property, until that property is providing an adequate improvement in fire services to the Town of Willington; it is property that is taxable. Fire Chief Snyder stated that they will be providing that immediately in terms of training, grounds, the yard, storage, garage space, etc. Ralph stated that if this house is split off from the rest of the property and rented, it is taxable. Fire Chief Snyder agreed with that. First Selectwoman Wiecenski asked if they didn't rent the house, would they allow the Town to use that as a facility and Mike Makuch stated they were open to that conversation. Mike stated that they have discussed various different scenarios for the house. A discussion was had on what is considered tax exempt property.

A discussion was had on the BOF and the financial analysis, if and when this could be brought to a town meeting and more discussion on the agreement.

Stephanie Summers stated that whether or not they are a 501C, the WHFD is nonprofit. As far as talking about taxable land and as far as talking return on investment is out of context because this is a group that gives of itself and has for almost 70 years contributing labor and time and not getting a dime back for it. This is not like the Town is doing a deal with a private entity that should be taxed in the future. She stated that there has to be some good faith here, you're talking about \$50,000.00. She stated that residents earlier had talked about water on their property that could cost almost that much to fix. She noted that you are talking about the fire service here, and she doesn't know anyone to one degree or another hasn't had a positive experience with WHFD. She stated that you have to look at the context here, its \$50,000.00 and what WHFD has already accomplished in putting money together for a key property in town. Their intent is to improve fire services for the town. Go from there and let the voters have this discussion in front of them after all these months.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that the next step will be to take any new language that they have shared tonight to the Town Attorney because he has the agreement with what they want in the first place and have a counter for WHFD which they will share with their attorney and come back to the BOS and the BOS will see where they go from there.

B. Emergency Vehicle Pre-emption system

First Selectwoman Wiecenski mentioned that Fire Marshal Dick Palmer came to the BOS at an earlier time about the changes that are being made to the signal lights at Rt. 74 and Rt. 32 by DOT and the ability to put in this preemption system equipment. If this is done, the Town would then own it and be responsible for any maintenance. An agreement from DOT has finally been sent to the Town and First Selectwoman Wiecenski read through the details in the agreement. A short discussion was had on this, the fact that it will only be for three directions (eastbound on Rt. 74 will not have the ability to change the light) and the signal lights at Rt. 74 and Old Farms and Jared Sparks roads.

Selectman Blessington moved that the First Selectman be authorized to sign the agreement with the Department of Transportation for State Project #0172-0471.

Selectwoman Boritz seconded the motion.

Selectwoman Boritz asked if there is a good reason not to put the Rt. 74 eastbound side in so that all four ways work. Stuart Cobb stated that mutual aid is delayed about 10 to 15 minutes and it rarely comes from that direction.

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

C. Water to Old Farms Road

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that Mr. Makuch has written to DPH and Eastern Highlands Health District. No one has told him what the BOS has said is not correct. She understands that there was going to be a letter from DPH to Mr. Makuch and the BOS was waiting to see what that said. She has not received that yet. DPH did ask for a meeting, cancelled the meeting and they are working on setting up a new meeting. She stated in January when she made the motion, that there had to be a process in place, because there isn't a process in place to connect residents to a water system. She still believes that the Town can decide if a resident can connect to the Town's water source. She did have questions on whether or not to get involved. She disagrees that the agreement that Mr. Makuch sent the BOS from Connecticut Water is an agreement that in the vested interest of the Town of Willington and any potential connection for any already set up water company, the Town of Willington is not the water company, not set to be a water company and there would have to be an agreement and procedures which could take time.

Selectman Blessington stated that he made the motion because Mr. Makuch was caught between the Health Department saying he can't drill a well because he is within so many feet of a water line and the Town says he can't tap into the water line and he has to drill a well. First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that she heard from DPH two weeks ago that he could drill a well.

Selectman Blessington stated that how he remembers the timeline going is Mr. Makuch had applied to DPH and they rejected his application and then they sent an email to Stavens that he could drill a well. Stavens either never saw the email or never communicated it to him. He came to the BOS in December and First Selectwoman Wiecenski was going to check with the Town Attorney and see what he could do. In January, Mr. Makuch came to another BOS meeting and First Selectwoman Wiecenski said he could tap into the water or drill a well. At that time Selectman Blessington made a motion that he be allowed to tap into the line which was approved. Now he is ready to tap into the line and something has to be done. January 9th Mr. Makuch let the BOS know that he is capable of tapping into the line. May came along and nothing had been heard from Mr. Makuch and then he came in and asked what was going on. He had done everything he was supposed to up to that point and he was ready to move forward and First Selectwoman Wiecenski wanted to make sure everything was legal and check with the assessor to see if it is legal. First Selectwoman Wiecenski asked if Selectman Blessington had tasked her with coming up with a procedure to make this happen, and he stated he did. First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that's what she has been and is still doing. She stated Mr. Makuch wants her to

make it happen today whether the accurate pieces are in place or not and whether there's no risk to the Town and whether it is being done legally or not. Selectman Blessington wanted to know what the Assessor has to do with drilling a well. Selectwoman Boritz stated that because the property card is so outdated that there are pieces of property listed on the property card that don't exist.

Selectman Blessington stated that it's been 7 months and they are still at step one. Selectwoman Boritz stated that there was information that came to the Town that the BOS didn't have before, and there were no applications filed to make this happen so Mr. Makuch wasn't ready to go. Selectman Blessington suggested that First Selectwoman Wiecenski call Mr. Makuch and get together with him and work the problem out. First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that she sent Mr. Makuch a communication so that he didn't move forward in a process the Town wasn't ready to move forward in which resulted in him coming here, not liking that they stopped the process and threatening to sue the Town the next day. She stated if he had things in place, the Town is unaware of that. She tried to mitigate any of that by sending him a communication and his response was to threaten to sue the Town the next day instead of communicating back to her. Selectman Blessington feels if First Selectwoman Wiecenski had communicated with Mr. Makuch, they might have worked something out and he wouldn't be talking about suing the Town. She doesn't think at this point anything the BOS says Mr. Makuch would agree to except there's the line tap into it tomorrow to which Selectman Blessington agreed. Her argument is still that the Town decides who can tap into the line and they have to be prepared for more people to tap in, and they need a plan in place. She stated that the Town is not Connecticut Water and they were not prepared to do that when the motion was made. First Selectwoman Wiecenski believes when they started this discussion, Selectwoman Boritz's original question to the BOS was do they have the ability to make this call. It is much more complicated than saying go ahead and connect. Selectwoman Boritz stated that since that motion was made, residents have come in and voiced their displeasure about the decision the BOS made because of the ramifications on the Town should anything happen with the water line because of the hook up; that it's then a Town problem that the taxpayers have to pay for to fix. Selectman Blessington stated that that sounds like too much delaying.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that Stavens Brothers applied for a well permit, and they were given information on how to go about that because of the water line. Stavens Brothers did not communicate that with their client. The Town and the State did not delay that. The information was sent to Stavens Brothers on August 27, 2018, First Selectwoman Wiecenski signed the Town's portion saying he could have an exemption and be able to put in a second well. Mr. Makuch didn't agree with that and that's when he came back to the BOS in January. Ten days before that meeting First Selectwoman Wiecenski signed another exemption that was then signed by everyone else including Joel Stavens who applied for a well permit on that piece of property. Mr. Makuch has not been denied a second source of water and First Selectwoman Wiecenski feels it's important to note that he is not without water at this point. He is looking for a second source of water. If he taps into the Town line, he cannot use it as a second source of water.

Stuart Cobb stated that the water main that comes from Tolland and eventually ends up at Hall School was paid primarily from a State grant and over \$100,000.00 of Town money. When it was completed, the Town of Willington gave the water system to Connecticut Water Company and they are now responsible for the water main, hooking customers up and almost every house along that line including High Chase and the fire house is tied into that. They take care of billing and collecting the money. He suggests if the Town isn't interested in keeping this water system as an asset other than supplying water to the Senior Housing, the Town Office Building and perhaps WHFD, let it be Connecticut Water's headache.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that part of Mr. Makuch's argument is that the Town should be making money off of it, but that comes with other costs in order to "potentially" bring in revenue. She stated that their other option is what do they want to do with the water line. If Mr. Makuch wants to tap into it and the Town doesn't feel they are adequately prepared to serve as a public water supply, they could sell it and then they would beholden to PURA (Public Utilities Regulatory Authority). The mechanisms are not in place right now for the Town to be a water company. Right now it is one resident, but they have to have plans in place that if it is more

than one resident. It could be a great cost to the townspeople for one or two residents. More discussion was had on the well drilling and the January meeting and what was said.

First Selectwoman Wiczenski stated that the BOS is moving in a forward direction, she doesn't know what stand Mr. Makuch plans to take from here forward, but she is still doing the task with which she was given.

Good & Welfare

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

Accidents:	9	Criminal Investigations:	10
DUP's:	1	Burglaries:	1
Traffic Citations:	163	Larcenies:	1
Non Reportable matters:	446	Written Warnings:	40

The Public Hearing held on July 9, 2019 and Town Meeting resulted in a favorable vote for the new phone system purchase that was in CIP, and they are moving forward with that and will have a new phone system by the middle of August.

The Town is fully staffed as they recently hired an Assistant Revenue Collector, welcome Michelle Cyr.

Tax bills are due by August 1, 2019 without a late fee and that office is very busy.

The tax bills were stuffed by QVS and they were supposed to put tax bills together, but it didn't happen and people got tax bills in multiple envelopes. It was by design to help that process with short staff and a new staff person in the office at that time.

The new IT software company has begun. So far it has been a positive experience.

First Selectwoman Wiczenski moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:29 PM

Selectwoman Boritz seconded the motion.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Smith

Recording Secretary

