

TOWN OF WILLINGTON

Board of Selectmen
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BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Regular Meeting Minutes
Via web interaction (via Zoom platform)

September 21, 2020
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 notes an error on the agenda in that the meeting was marked as a special meeting but is a regular meeting and should be treated as one, but will not make any additions to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to approve the minutes of August 25, 2020 as revised. Selectman Blessington seconded the motion.

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to approve the minutes of September 8, 2020 as revised. Selectman Blessington seconded the motion.

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

Present to Speak

No one was present to speak.

Correspondence

There is no reported correspondence at this time.

First Selectman's Status Report

Fuel Tank- First Selectwoman Wiecenski states that the fuel tank installation at the DPW garage should be finished sometime this week (Wednesday or Thursday). There is still some electrical and paving work to be done.

2020 Election- First Selectwoman Wiecenski reminds the public about the change in polling place. It is now being held at HMS instead of the TOB. She also mentions her and the Town Clerk, Mrs. Robin Campbell, will be doing a video and/or Facebook live explaining the absentee ballot process. That is scheduled hopefully for later this week. She also informed residents that ballots went out from the Secretary of the State (SOTS) office to all registered voters, and should have been received over the

weekend. Selectman Blessington noted that he is concerned that residents are still not aware of the polling place change. First Selectwoman reiterated what had been said earlier about the change of location, and noted that ROV has created a postcard noting the change. That postcard will be sent out at the beginning of October, and will be going to every registered voter household. First Selectwoman Wiecenski also followed up with the Administrative Assistant to the First Selectman position saying applications were received up until September 15, 2020 and the hiring committee will be meeting tomorrow to discuss (September 22, 2020).

Assistant Town Clerk Position- First Selectwoman Wiecenski states that the position was filled internally by Assistant Assessor Mrs. Rachel Pierce. She notes that Mrs. Pierce is an asset to the town whichever department she is in. Mrs. Pierce will be giving her 2 week notice to the assessor's office and will start as the Assistant Town Clerk as of October 5, 2020. First Selectwoman Wiecenski then notes that with this change there will be an opening in the assessor's office.

Emergency Communication Task Force- First Selectwoman noted that their first meeting was last week, several members were absent. Charges and goals for the committee were discussed. Alex Moore, of WFD #1, volunteered to be the chair of the committee and set the next meeting for Wednesday, October 7, 2020. At that time he hopes to have demonstrations from both software programs (Code Red vs. Ever Bridge).

Budget- First Selectwoman Wiecenski states that at this time the 2019 budget is closed. She notes that the town government returned \$121,813.31 to the General Fund, part of this being due to the budget freeze to accommodate COVID-19. She also mentions that we are needing additional funds for the current fiscal year due to COVID-19 and elections. SOTS will be helping with this need for additional money, but they may come up short. The town will look into additional resources before asking the BOF to transfer money. First Selectwoman Wiecenski states there is a surge of absentee ballots being returned and the clerk's office had a total of roughly 100 for today alone.

STEAP Grant- First Selectwoman Wiecenski notes a 2 week delay in the applications due to the tropical storm. The announcement for the grant will now be held on October 1, 2020.

Public Works

First Selectwoman Wiecenski notes DPW head Mr. Troy Sposato was unable to attend the meeting followed by reported the following that has been done by Public Works:

- Continued roadside mowing around town
- Chip seal is complete and sweeping of the stone will begin next week
- Catch basin cleaning
- Bench installed at the RRRC
- Trash pickup at RRRC
- Paving around the new fuel tank at DPW
- Fixed guardrail on Pinney Hill Rd
- Mowed & weed wacked around DPW
- Fuel tank installation is complete and fuel was delivered. Tank should be running this week.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski reminds residents that new transfer station stickers will be handed out this weekend, September 26 & 27, as well as Wednesday September 30. She also asks that

residents have a valid registration ready to present so that the process can be sped up. Delays are possible and this will be done every few years as it has been done in the past.

New Business

A. Preservation Grant Request (Town Clerk)-

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moves to authorize Town Clerk, Robin Campbell, to designate for the State Historic Preservation Program.

Selectman John Blessington seconded the motion.

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

Mrs. Robin Campbell discussed the grant that is provided yearly from the SOTS office. Mrs. Campbell notes that \$5,500 is available to make alterations to the TOB vault. Mrs. Campbell states the following as ideas for the grant money:

1. Filling Cabinets
2. Record preservation
3. New lock on the vault door (digital vs. dial)

Mrs. Campbell notes the application deadline being September 30, 2020.

First Selectwoman asks if there is further discussion, no further discussion was made.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to end Grant Request discussion.

Selectman John Blessington seconded the motion

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

B. Call of Town Meeting-

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moves to notice and warn the public of a town meeting to be held on: Thursday, October 1, 2020 at RRRC at 7:00 pm. The following items will be presented:

- 1. To see if the townspeople, on the recommendation of the BOF, will authorize the appropriation of \$45,000 from the Capital Projects Fund (LoCIP), River Road Athletic Complex Basketball Court Lighting, to be reimbursed by the State of CT Local Capital Improvement Program.**

Selectman John Blessington seconded the motion.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski states the process for this lighting was being moved forward by Mrs. Maureen Parsell of Parks & Rec, in March of 2020, but due to COVID-19 we were unable to have a public meeting. First Selectwoman Wiecenski also notes that BOF made the motion last week to appropriate the funds. Selectman Blessington shares concerns about a backup plan if the weather would be inclement. First Selectwoman Wiecenski replied with the meeting would be canceled and rescheduled if something like that were to happen. She also states that she has discussed this with the town attorney.

First Selectwoman requests a roll call vote. All in favor:

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

C. Tax Refunds

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund \$34.67 to Elizabeth Corrado on a certificate of correction.

Selectman Blessington seconded the motion.

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund \$31.76 to Wayne or Kathleen Mora on a certificate of correction.

Selectwoman Boritz seconded the motion.

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund \$31.76 to Wayne or Kathleen Mora on a certificate of correction.

Selectman Blessington seconded the motion.

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund \$159.52 to Honda Lease Trust on a certificate of correction.

Selectwoman Boritz seconded the motion.

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund \$147.76 to Enterprise FM Trust on a certificate of correction.

Selectman Blessington seconded the motion.

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

Old Business

- A. COVID-19 Update-First Selectwoman Wiecenski states that since the last meeting our numbers have increased from 16 to 22. She also notes that she has had a conversation with Rob Miller in regards to active cases and he replied with the state does not track active cases. First Selectwoman Wiecenski then states with that being said the 22 cases are accumulative since March, it is unknown exactly how many are currently ill. First Selectwoman then reminded everyone that the TOB is still operating by appointment only, with the only change being we are back to working Monday nights. She then noted that the unemployment rates in town have decreased to 5.9% from 8%. Purchasing Zoom for meetings was then discussed. First Selectwoman Wiecenski states we will look into cost coverage for the service from FEMA and/or the State. She also states that there has been positive feedback from residents with using Zoom for meetings vs. meeting at the TOB.

Present to Speak

No one was present to speak.

Good & Welfare

First Selectwoman Wiecenski presented the Troop C monthly report for August:

Service calls total: 417

Accidents: 7
Burglary: 0
Reportable Matters: 359
Traffic Stops: 29
Infractions: 14
Verbal Warnings: 12

Criminal Investigations: 10
Larceny: 3
Arrests: 2
DUI: 0
Written Warning: 1

First Selectwoman Wiecenski reminds residents to report all issues to Troop C so that we can keep accurate data. She also reminds everyone to lock their cars at night. She mentions again the change in polling place location, and that it's at HMS not TOB. She reminds residents of the October 1, 2020 due date for taxes, and warns residents if they are late the interest rate goes back to July making it 6%. First Selectwoman Wiecenski then follows up on current tax collection totals, and they are as follows:

Real Estate: 49%
Motor Vehicle: 69%
Personal Property: 60%

First Selectwoman says she is hopeful that our numbers will be in good standing for the October 1, 2020 deadline. She also mentions having a more accurate total for taxes at the next meeting on October 5, 2020.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Michele Cyr

