

TOWN OF WILLINGTON

Board of Selectmen
40 Old Farms Road
Willington, CT 06279
(860) 487-3100
(860) 487-3103 Fax
www.willingtonct.org

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Regular Meeting Minutes
Via web interaction (via Zoom platform)

December 7, 2020
6:30 PM

**Minutes are not official until approved at the next regular meeting*

First Selectwoman Wiczenski called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM with the following in attendance; Selectmen Boritz & Blessington and residents.

Approval of Minutes

Selectman Blessington moved to approve the minutes of November 2, 2020 as written.

Selectman Boritz seconded the motion.

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

Motion Carries

Present To Speak

Jim Bulick from Laurel Drive wanted to comment on the appointments. He wanted to commend everyone who has volunteered for their service. He wanted to endorse Matthew Clark for the Economic Development Commission. He also wanted to endorse Peter Latinsics for the Capital Improvement Program Committee. They both have extensive experience and the Town will benefit from their service. Mr. Bulick commented additionally on the revival of the School Building Committee. He believes this is an important topic to be brought to the Town, and he believes that we need as many stake holders as possible. With that said he expressed disappointment that this is being brought forth at a time where only ZOOM meetings can be held. It is his belief that it would be better to wait for the ability to have in person meetings. It's very difficult to have discussions with architects and such to go over plans etc. through a ZOOM meeting. He wanted to delay meetings until all members of the community can fully participate.

Correspondence

A list of Correspondence was available for the Selectmen to view.

First Selectwoman Wiczenski spoke about the Tolland County Mutual Aid Fire Service (TN), they currently monitor our Burglar and fire systems for the Town buildings, Schools and Fire Departments. In August 2020 we were notified that they will no longer offer this service and set dates to discontinue services for specific site areas within the Town of Willington. Most of the service agreements go through June 30th 2021 however two expire sooner. First Selectwoman Wiczenski reached out to TN to see if they would be willing to extend our contract on all site areas under prorated terms to assist us in investigating and implementing a new security monitoring service. TN agreed to extend the contract to 6-30-21. The agreement and prorated itemized statement will be forthcoming.

First Selectman's Status Report

First Selectwoman Wiczenski provided an update on the 2020 Presidential Election. She expressed this Election was unlike any other. The Town of Willington had an 85.96% voter turnout, 1030 of those voted by absentee ballots. She wanted to thank all who made this election a safe and fair election in Willington: Registrars of Voters, their Deputies, Poll Workers at Hall Memorial School and the Town Office Building Town Clerks, Public Works crew, Hall Memorial School Custodial staff and lastly to our Residents. Thank you all for doing your part to ensure everyone was given a chance to vote in these unprecedented times.

First Selectwoman Wiczenski noted that she received a resignation on November 30th 2020 from Maureen Parsell the Parks and Recreation Director. The job was posted externally on December 1st 2020 and will close on December 16th 2020. First Selectwoman Wiczenski wanted to thank Maureen for all of her dedication and wishes her well in her future endeavors.

The Emergency Communications Task Force will meet again on Wednesday December 9th 2020 at 6:30. At the last meeting a demonstration was provided related to the Everbridge application currently being used in Tolland. A discussion continued regarding a survey to be disseminated out to the residents. The survey should be ready to be distributed out to residents on emergency communications after our next meeting.

On November 9th 2020, we were awarded a STEAP Grant in the amount of \$128,205 for renovations to the Old Town Hall – Septic, windows and painting. We are working with DEEP to get a contract signed and will begin the process. This item will be removed from the CIP submission.

Public Works

The Director of Public Works Troy Sposato reported the following that has been done by Public Works

- Grading dirt roads
- Chipped brush
- Servicing vehicles
- Catch basin cleaning is almost complete
- Road side mowing is still continuing around Town
- Cleaning trucks from the storm over the weekend
- Public Works crew has been installing the mask break shelters at the schools
- Trash pickup at the parks
- Public Works crew getting ready for snow/rain events

First Selectwoman Wiczenski noted that when Troy mentions servicing vehicles, we do not currently have a full time mechanic. Some vehicle issues can be resolved internally but many need to be sent out for service. Prior to the storm one of our regular plow trucks had some issues and needed to be sent out for repairs. The plow truck was not repaired in time for the last snow storm therefore we had to utilize the older plow truck. If you recall we held a Town Meeting last year to replace the older plow truck due to the consistent breakdowns and costly repairs. The old plow truck barely made it through the storm. There were many instances where the driver had to pull over to let the truck cool down.

New Business

A. Tax Refund

First Selectwoman Wiecenski Moved to refund \$61.06 to Peter and Margo Nielson on a Certificate of Correction.

Selectman Blessington Seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried.

B. Boiler Replacement – Approve Vendor

First Selectwoman Wiecenski noted the boiler replacement heats the upstairs portion of the TOB.

The Public Works Director Troy Sposato received 3 quotes for the Town Office Building boiler replacement.

- Williams Oil - \$16,500
- Energy Unlimited - \$9,800
- Emcor - \$14,380

Mr. Sposato recommended; based on past experience that we use Energy Unlimited to replace the boiler at the Town Office Building. Energy Unlimited facilitated replacing the oil tank at the Old Town Hall and they did a wonderful clean job.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski Moved to award the Town Office Building Boiler replacement to Energy Unlimited for \$9,800 based on the recommendation of Troy Sposato, Public Works Director.

Selectman Boritz Seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried.

C. Appointments

Selectman Blessington Moved to re-appoint Robert Shabot as a regular member of the Conservation Commission effective December 2, 2020; expiring December 1, 2023.

Selectman Boritz Seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried

Selectman Blessington Moved to re-appoint Marilyn Schreiber as a regular member of the Conservation Commission; effective December 2, 2020; expiring December 1, 2023.

Selectman Boritz Seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried

First Selectwoman Wiecenski Moved to re-appoint Kathleen Demers as a regular member of the Conservation Commission; effective December 2, 2020; expiring December 1, 2023.

Selectman Blessington Seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried

First Selectwoman Wiecenski Moved to re-appoint Laurie Semprebon as an Alternate member of the Willington Planning and Zoning Commission; effective December 4, 2020; expiring December 3, 2023.

Selectman Boritz Seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried

First Selectwoman Wiecenski Moved to re-appoint Mark Masinda as a regular member of the Willington Zoning Board of Appeals; effective January 1, 2021; expiring December 31, 2024.

Selectman Blessington Seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried

First Selectwoman Wiecenski opened the discussion to the Capital Improvement Program Committee. She noted 3 appointments have expired on 11-30-20. We received 4 interested candidates for 3 open seats on CIP. Orlando Rodriguez, Cari Donaldson & Peter Latincsics expressed interest on joining the CIP Committee. Stephanie Summers would like to be re-appointed. First Selectwoman Wiecenski wanted to thank Peter Tanaka and Rick Maloney for their years with CIP and wished them well.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski Move to re-appoint Stephanie Summers to fill a vacancy as a regular member of the Willington Capital Improvement Program Committee; effective December 8, 2020; expiring December 1, 2023.

Selectman Boritz Seconded the motion.

Selectwoman Boritz wanted to clarify that Stephanie Summers is a re-appointment.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski responded by saying that is correct, she would be re-appointed.

Selectman Blessington also wanted to clarify that we have three open seats on CIP.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski clarified there are three open seats. This re-appointment would occupy one of the three open seats.

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

Motion carried.

Selectman Blessington Moved to appoint Peter Latincsics to fill a vacancy as a regular member of the Willington Capital Improvement Program Committee; effective December 2, 2020; expiring December 1, 2023.

Selectman Boritz Seconded the motion.

Selectwoman Boritz was interested to hear from new interested members looking to be appointed. It was noted that only Peter Latincsics was currently in the meeting.

Peter Latincsics was present to speak 97 Trask Rd. He advised that he previously served on CIP for 2 decades and served up to the Mailhos administration. He has a fair amount of experience with United Technologies and now with Otis elevators. He has extensive experience in Capital Projects Management. He has served on several committees over the years; BOF, BOE, PZC & CIP. He believes he can bring a contribution to the CIP Committee. Mr. Latincsics expressed concerns that CIP has strayed away from its original purpose. Mr. Latincsics believes he can bring merit back to the Committee

Selectwoman Boritz requested an expansion of why Mr. Latincsics believes he should be appointed to the CIP Committee.

Mr. Latincsics responded by saying that he doesn't believe the CIP Committee is following the process that was established when the CIP Committee was formed. In the early years of the CIP Committee the

charge was to rank each project, a vetting process and a threshold of accepted projects. It seems that in recent years every project has become a CIP project. Mr. Latincsics believes it would be useful to the town to evaluate projects and only approve projects that meet the initial intention of the Committee and that make sense for our community.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski commented that having sat on the CIP Committee and additionally as the First Selectwoman for the Town of Willington; not all projects presented are approved. Comparatively that had been the case with the Mailhos Administration as well. The pattern over the last several years has been that less CIP requests submitted therefore there was an ability to accommodate some projects however not all requests are approved on the five year plan.

Selectman Blessington clarified that Mr. Latincsics did not indicate that every project was approved. Mr. Latincsics does not feel that some of the projects presented should have been approved. That is part of the decisions that are required to be made by members of the Committee.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski responded by saying that she understood Mr. Latincsics to say that every project submitted was on the five year plan and that is not the case.

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

Selectman Blessington wanted it put on record that he believes this is a nasty trick. If the members of the public could see the appointments as written as a reference for this meeting. The appointments state I move to re-appoint Kathleen Demers to the Conservation Commission. Move to re-appoint Laurie Semprebon then as we come down to the Capital Improvement Program Committee and it states Move to appoint with a blank space consecutively three times. There were no names indicated even though Ms. Summers had indicated that she wanted to be re-appointed. In past practice it's a given that anyone who wants to be re-appointed to a position gets that re-appointment. Based on that past practice Ms. Summers name should have been filled in as any other re-appointment indicated above. With that said if that re-appointment was reflected as all the others have then I would have had a better understanding that only two positions were available for new members coupled with three potential candidates that had expressed interest.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski rebutted by saying the accusation that there is a dirty trick to be had is ridiculous. We have four candidates who put their name forward and three open seats. I did not give instruction to put any individual names in as there were more individuals asking to be on a committee than there are open spots. If we were to pre-fill names in, it is her belief that would have been inappropriate. It is not a given that all Board Members would vote yes. The appointments provided are suggested motions, if there is one seat and one name then the names are filled in on the appointment guide. The Appointment sheet that is provided has the intent to make it easy on the Board of Selectmen to read with the specific dates. Subsequently we received interest from four candidates with only three seats to fill. One candidate happened to be a re-appointment, I did not want to assume the votes of the other Selectmen.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski Moved to appoint Cari Donaldson to fill a vacancy as a regular member of the Willington Capital Improvement Program Committee; effective December 8, 2020; expiring December 1, 2023.

Selectman Boritz Seconded the motion.

Selectman Blessington wanted to ask Ms. Donaldson some questions.

It was noted that Ms. Donaldson was not present on the meeting to speak.

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

Motion carries

First Selectwoman Wiecenski Move to appoint Orlando Rodriguez to fill a vacancy as a regular member of the Willington Capital Improvement Program Committee; effective December 8, 2020; expiring December 1, 2023.

Selectman Boritz Seconded the motion.

Selectman Blessington wanted to ask Mr. Rodriguez some questions.

It was noted that Mr. Rodriguez was not present on the meeting to speak.

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

Motion carries.

Selectman Blessington Moved to appoint Matthew Clark to fill a vacancy as a regular member of the Willington Economic Development Commission; to fill a vacancy effective December 8, 2020; expiring December 1, 2023.

Selectman Boritz Seconded the motion.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski noted that Mr. Clark was not present on the call to speak however advised that a candidates presence is not a requirement.

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

Motion carries.

D. Approve BOS Budget workshop Schedule

First Selectwoman Wiecenski noted the dates proposed are dates prior to regular Board of Selectmen meetings or the Monday we do not have a Selectmen Meeting scheduled.

- Monday January 4, 2021 @ 5:30
- Monday January 11, 2021 @ 6:30
- Tuesday January 19, 2021 @ 5:30
- Monday January 25, 2021 @ 6:30
- Monday February 1, 2021 @ 5:30
- Monday February 8, 2021 @ 6:30

First Selectwoman Wiecenski Move to adopt the BOS Budget Workshop Schedule as written.

Selectman Blessington Seconded the motion.

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

Motion carries.

Old Business

A. COVID-19 Update

First Selectwoman Wiecenski updated the Board by saying Willington has had 83 cumulative cases with 4 probable cases. It was noted that this is an increase of 51 cases reported since our last meeting on November 2, 2020 of 32 cumulative cases. Sadly Willington had its first COVID-19 related death last month and a second death reported today. Our thoughts and prayers are extended to the impacted families. The Selectmen's office is not privy to the specific individuals as this falls under HIPAA protected medical information.

1. Vaccines: The vaccine is anticipated to be approved and potentially available in Connecticut next Monday December 14, 2020. The governor outlined the distribution process late last week:
 - As soon as the vaccine is received: health care worker; long-term care facility residents; medical first responders
 - January-May 2021: critical workforce; other congregate settings; adults over 65; high risk individuals under 65
 - June-December 2021: those under 18; remaining people over 18The Governor's office does not have plans to make vaccines mandatory.

Selectwoman Boritz directed a question to Superintendent Stevens as it relates to the School District. Several years ago with H1N1, she recalls that there was a mandate that anyone who was in attendance in a Public School or a day care environment were required to receive the H1N1 Vaccine. Is there going to be any such requirements through the Willington School District to require COVID vaccinations?

Superintendent Stevens responded by saying this has been a topic of discussion. The questions were posed to the Department of Public Health and at our Superintendent Meetings. The information is still fluid and a decision has not been made however with that said, it does not look as though the State will make a mandate on this topic as they have in the past. When the information becomes available to us we will disseminate that information.

First Selectwoman Wicinski added the question that was posed recently at the Municipal call was; will teachers be mandated to be vaccinated. The answer seemed to be a hard no.

Superintendent Stevens noted that we are seeing that the mitigation factors that we are implementing in our schools is successful. In discussion with other Superintendents who have over 100 COVID cases between their students and their staff. They are not seeing transmission in the school, they are seeing spikes in the community and with gatherings. The mitigation factors of masks and social distancing and cohorting appear to be working. It is the hope that this continue, coupled with the mitigation factors he believes that may be the reason the State is not pushing for a vaccine mandate.

2. The Town Office Building is still open by appointment only for any business that cannot be facilitated by phone, online or e-mail. Masks are required by visitors at all times in the TOB and the Transfer Station.
3. Travel Ban is currently up to 48 States/territories. We are encouraging residents to be mindful of non-essential travel and to be aware of the Executive Order for mandatory self-Quarantine.

B. School Building Committee Members Discussion & Appointment

First Selectwoman Wicinski opened the discussion by stating it has been quite a while since we discussed the School Building Committee (SBC). A recap was provided on how we got to this point. The BOE asked the BOS to consider forming a School Building Committee. On January 30, 2020, in a Town Meeting a vote had taken place in favor of establishing a SBC. Due to the absence of Selectman Blessington the decision was made to table the discussion until his return. Once all the Selectmen were back at the table we were faced with COVID and all in person meetings halted. Although we resumed regular meetings with this virtual format we made the decision to hold off on the SBC discussion as other pressing issues had diverted our attention. It has been 10 months since the Town Meeting and we have an obligation to the electors who voted in Town Meeting to move this process forward. Our role is to fill the seats of the SBC as we had previously determined

to be an 11 member School Building Committee to explore the building of a new Pre K-8 School on a new site for an indefinite term. The Committee will include 1 Member of the BOE, 1 Member of the BOF, 1 Member of the BOE Staff, 1 Member with experience in the Construction Industry, First Selectman or his/her designee, 5 Members from the community at large and the Superintendent as a member ex-officio.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski wanted the Board to take a look at the candidates and appoint members. A request was re-sent to candidates in February 2020 after the January, 30 2020 Town Meeting to verify they still have interest to serve on the Committee. The process needs to be to form the Committee and then letting the Committee perform that work.

Selectman Blessington interjected by saying that he believes the charge was to form an exploratory Committee. The original charge did not read that way however from his understanding from the Town Meeting that he was unable to attend, it was designated as an exploratory Committee. What we have here tonight is here this is how we are going to build the School. There isn't anything listed about making a decision on whether or not we are going to build a new school?

First Selectwoman Wiecenski responded by saying the item we are specifically speaking of is appointing members to the Committee. The original charge was to see if the Towns People based on the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen will establish a School Building Committee for a school project of a Pre K-8 School. That was the question asked and we had voted as a Board to be an 11 member Committee. That would include 1 Member of the BOE, 1 Member of the BOF, 1 Member of the BOE Staff, 1 Member with experience in the Construction Industry which is a requirement by State Statue, First Selectman or his/her designee, 5 Members from the community at large as well as the Superintendent as a member ex-officio.

Selectman Blessington responded by saying that this is a bad time to establish the School Building Committee discussion and should be tabled. It was expressed that Connecticut is in a depression. Building a new school now would be a hardship for the residents of Willington. A year ago the economy was fine. Now were in a depression. The proposed members of this Committee are mostly in the education business and are not facing same hardships as resident's who work in a restaurant, digging ditches or owns a small business.

Selectman Boritz interjected by saying I apologize for interrupting you however I need to stop you there. The question of whether or not to form the Committee is no longer on the table. The discussion continued for months, we went to a Town Meeting. It's been voted and it's been approved by the Willington residents. We can discuss the charge; however we are past the discussion on whether or not we form the Committee. Any further delay of not filling the vacancies will be a disservice to the residents and directly goes against the will of the voter's. We now have an obligation as the Board of Selectmen to see this through. At this point in time we have mechanisms in place to hold meetings, we are all well-seasoned in meeting virtually. There is no hardship to moving forward by filling the Committee vacancies.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski responded by saying we may find that the Committee does not feel the project is appropriate or they find a project that is appropriate. The Committee is not determining whether or not the Town moves forward with a project. They are proposing options and the Town's people which allows for residents to vote.

Selectman Blessington directed his answer to Selectman Boritz. He wanted to remind the group that additionally around the same time the Towns people voted to replace the roofs on our two current schools. This project has not been completed, it was expressed that nobody had the time to do it. Yet we have time to form the School Building Committee when we don't have time to

perform needed repairs and or replacements. When the roof discussion was brought to the Selectmen meetings the comments were made that referenced the roof projects don't have anything to do with the BOS.

Selectman Boritz responded to Selectman Blessington to say that this is a gross mischaracterization of the conversation that has been held a month ago.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved the discussion forward to look at the committee members. Some obvious choices based on the required participation from specific committees and expertise.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski Moved to appoint Phil Stevens; Superintendent as a member Ex-Officio of the School Building Committee; effective immediately; expiring once the charge of the committee has been completed.

Selectman Boritz Seconded the motion.

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

Motion carries.

Selectwoman Boritz Moved to appoint Erika Wiecenski; as representative from the Selectmen's office as a regular member of the School Building Committee; effective immediately; expiring once the charge of the committee has been completed.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski Seconded the motion.

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

Motion carries.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski Moved to appoint Mike Makuch as representative from the Board of Finance as a regular member of the School Building Committee; effective immediately; expiring once the charge of the committee has been completed.

Selectman Boritz Seconded the motion.

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

Motion carries.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski Moved to appoint Niko Semerzakis as representative from the Board of Education Staff as a regular member of the School Building Committee; effective immediately; expiring once the charge of the committee has been completed.

Selectman Boritz Seconded the motion.

Selectman Blessington requested additional information for this proposed candidate

First Selectwoman Wiecenski clarified and stated this required seat is to fill a BOE Staff member.

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

Motion carries.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski Moved to appoint Ann Grosjean as representative from the Board of Education as a regular member of the School Building Committee; effective immediately; expiring once the charge of the committee has been completed.

Selectman Boritz Seconded the motion.

Selectman Blessington inquired why Herb Arico was not listed, it was his understanding there was interest.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski clarified and stated that an interest inquiry was sent out to everyone in February 2020 from the SBC interest letters received from October 2019 to determine the candidates still

had interest in participating in the Committee. The Selectmen's office did not receive a response from that candidate.

Selectman Blessington interjected and stated that this is becoming a very stacked Committee. There are a lot of teachers on here and it's his belief it's a conflict of interest.

Selectwoman Boritz responded by saying these are specific spots that we as the Board of Selectmen identified as required positions to be filled on the Committee.

Selectman Blessington wants to see Republican's on the Committee and he cannot understand why Herb Arico is not listed.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski responded to Selectmen Blessington advising he will have to discuss that with Mr. Arico. Notice was sent out to the community and if a resident is interested in participating on a Committee they are required to respond to the inquiry communication with in the specified deadlines.

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

Motion carries

First Selectwoman Wiecenski continued the discussion by stating that leaves us with 6 seats left to fill, one for Construction experience and 5 members at large. It was suggested to review the packets, there are submission's from David Eichorn & David Jordan who have withdrawn their interest in participating on the School Building Committee.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski Moved to appoint Kathy Viveiros as representative for Construction experience as a regular member of the School Building Committee; effective immediately; expiring once the charge of the committee has been completed.
Selectman Boritz Seconded the motion.

Selectman Blessington wanted clarification that the above motion is in addition to the 5 members at large?

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that is correct, Construction experience is a required seat by state Statue and it is her belief that based on Kathy Viveiros experience she would be a good fit for this seat.

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

Motion carries.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski noted that leaves us with 5 seats to fill. Below is a summary of the candidates and their skill set. The Committee should be made up for people who are interested in bringing forth to the Towns people the potential for a project. The BOE researched this project for years, a study was facilitated that brought us cost estimates in 2017 to renovate and consolidate our buildings. The charge of this Committee is to determine the cost of a new building and bring that back to the voters. It was noted that just because a Committee is formed does not mean a project will be brought forth.

1. David Medeiros is a Manager at Facility Operations and Planning at United Technologies Research Center. He has experience in converting old buildings into new ones,
2. Nancy Baily has experience and was involved with the building of the Willington Library with 30 years in the construction industry,
3. Briana Ross Belair, Willington resident and teacher from another district.
4. Gary Anderson, Director of Planning and Development with the Town of Manchester, he has extensive experience with planning and has a Master's Degree in Urban Environment and Planning

5. Peter Latincsics, spoke of his experience served on various committees with 30 years of project and construction experience with United Technologies and Otis Elevator.
6. Lauri Sempredon is a retired teacher and brings the expertise in that area.
7. Justin Niderno Willington resident and holds a valid E2 Electrical License and currently works for Ever source.

Selectmen Blessington commented that we have not gotten to the charge as of yet. We are discussing whether or not the Committee will be building a new school or renovating what we currently have. We have several people that have made it clear on their resumes that they want a new school. I would like to have someone on the Committee who is more skeptical. Since we did not get Mr. Latincsics on the CIP Committee I would like to see him appointed.

First Selectwoman Wiczenski responded by saying I'm not seeing what your referencing in the candidates submissions of interest. I don't see anywhere that individuals are advising they want a new school built? It's an assumption on your part that has been made perfectly clear.

Selectwoman Boritz chimed in and stated that it is unclear to her as to why we keep having the same conversation. There has been nearly a decade's worth of work in this phase. The goal of this School Building Committee is to determine the feasibility and to put together a proposal for IF we build a new School Building. The goal of the School Building Committee is to investigate options for land, to investigate options for possible grants and to come up with IF we do move forward, this is the plan and this is what it would look like. The role of this Committee is to put that plan forth to the Town and for the Towns people to determine if they want that option or not.

First Selectwoman Wiczenski commented that this originated from the BOE where the discussion narrowed down the choices to curb costs, the choices are to renovate or to build new. These factors were due to declining enrollment and cost increases for School maintenance. We currently have less than 450 students in two aging facilities. The ideal number of students to fund a school is 450 per facility. The costs are increasing while enrollment is declining.

First Selectwoman Wiczenski Moved to appoint Gary Anderson as representative as a regular member of the School Building Committee; effective immediately; expiring once the charge of the committee has been completed.

Selectman Boritz Seconded the motion.

Selectmen Blessington responded by saying if you read his letter you will pretty much know that he wants to build a new school other than that I have nothing further to say.

First Selectwoman Wiczenski responded by saying she believes they read and interpret very differently.

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

Motion carries

Selectman Blessington Moved to appoint Peter Latincsics as representative as a regular member of the School Building Committee; effective immediately; expiring once the charge of the committee has been completed.

Selectman Boritz Seconded the motion.

Selectmen Blessington believes we need at least one nay-sayer on the Committee.

Selectwoman Boritz responded by saying that she doesn't agree with the terminology used of a nay-sayer while she agrees we need a diverse perspective. There is concerns having a nay-sayer appointed to a Committee where there is conversations, discussions, debate and dialogue. We need individuals who have the ability to come to consensus and contribute to the conversation.

Selectmen Blessington responded by saying he will change his wording to diverse perspective. He believes that is what Mr. Latincsics would produce, he doesn't see any other candidate on the list that would give a diverse perspective.

First Selectwoman Wiczenski commented that there is nothing in Mr. Latincsics letter opposed to any other that tells me exactly how they are going to vote in their discussion. It's clear that an assumption has been made on every other individual that put their name forth. This should not be a political stance, this is moving forward with a project of options for the Towns people to vote on.

Vote: 2 Yes (Blessington, Boritz) 1 No (& Wiczenski).
Motion carries.

First Selectwoman Wiczenski Moved to appoint Justin Niderno as representative as a regular member of the School Building Committee; effective immediately; expiring once the charge of the committee has been completed.

Selectman Blessington Seconded the motion.

Vote: 3 Yes (Blessington, Boritz & Wiczenski) 0 No.
Motion carries.

First Selectwoman Wiczenski Moved to appoint Briana Ross Belair as representative as a regular member of the School Building Committee; effective immediately; expiring once the charge of the committee has been completed.

Selectman Boritz Seconded the motion.

Vote: 3 Yes (Blessington, Boritz & Wiczenski) 0 No.
Motion carries.

First Selectwoman Wiczenski Moved to appoint Nancy Bailey as representative as a regular member of the School Building Committee; effective immediately; expiring once the charge of the committee has been completed.

Selectman Blessington Seconded the motion.

Vote: 3 Yes (Blessington, Boritz & Wiczenski) 0 No.
Motion carries.

C. School Building Committee Charge

First Selectwoman Wiczenski started the discussion; the School Building Committee charge was brought up in our meeting back in February 2020. Corrections were made based on the discussion held in February with Selectmen Boritz and First Selectwoman Wiczenski. Item # 5 added if necessary finding and recommending a site to meet the school's construction and Town's needs. Item # 10 added the words if necessary, identify the potential future uses of the two current school buildings, if necessary.

First Selectwoman Wiczenski Moved to approve the SBC Charge as presented
Selectman Boritz Seconded the motion.

Selectwoman Boritz commented that the Charge is straight forward as discussed

Selectmen Blessington commented on item #2 he believes it should read constructing or renovating.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski responded by saying the word constructing is the adequate term for either renovating and or building new. The language used comes directly from the State of Connecticut, Department of Administrative Services. The word constructing is simply the process of.

Selectmen Blessington responded that he doesn't agree, if a resident is reading this they misconstrue the word and interpret as building new and not renovating.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski responded by saying even in a renovation, building and constructing would still occur.

Selectmen Blessington wants to change the wording to state constructing or renovating, furnishing, and equipping the school.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski finds it redundant.

Selectmen Blessington does not believe it is redundant.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski directed the discussion to Superintendent Stevens. Part of the grant application from the State of Connecticut- Department of Administrative Services (DAS), the verbiage used comes directly from DAS as it relates to renovation and or new construction.

Superintendent Stevens confirmed that in fact the verbiage used was taken directly from language used at DAS. The question was specifically asked about the usage of the word "constructing", it was determined to be appropriate a term for either renovating and or building new.

Vote: 2 Yes (Boritz & Wiecenski) 0 No 1 Abstain (Blessington).

Motion carries

First Selectwoman Wiecenski wanted to thank everyone who submitted their names whether it be the School Building Committee or any of our other appointments.

Present to Speak

David Medeiros spoke that he had submitted intent to participate in the School Building Committee and was not selected. He wanted to know how many people were not selected. He believes his experience is very extensive in this area with converting old buildings into new ones and is perplexed as to why he was not selected.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski responded by saying considering the withdrawals there were 2 candidates not selected to be appointed to the SBC Committee. It was expressed that the Board appreciates everyone's willingness to serve as we are looking for a diverse perspective. Just because someone wasn't selected it does not mean we don't value your expertise. These will be public meetings and all residents can be part of the process.

Good & Welfare

- Police report for October 2020- Total calls for service was 526, that included 8 accidents, 7 criminal investigations, 1 burglary, 6 arrests and 483 non reportable matters.

- Motor Vehicle enforcement- 21 total traffic stops, 4 onsite DUI's, 1 arrest, 3 misdemeanor summons, 8 infractions, 4 written warnings & 9 verbal warnings.
- Find COVID testing site information from 2-1-1 or <https://portal.ct.gov/coronavirus>
- Mobile Food Share will be here at the TOB Wednesday December 9, 2020 from 11 A.M. to 11:30 A.M. and again Wednesday December 12, 2020. Please contact Human Services with any questions. The move was made from the Senior Housing Complex to the TOB with a new drive through model due to the rise in infections in Willington.
- Please if you can support our small business and restaurants please do. These businesses are often the backbone of our community and need our support.

Selectman Blessington wanted to comment that after the Election he hopes that we can continue to use Hall School for our voting, the process was smooth and was far superior than utilizing the TOB.

Selectwoman Boritz wanted to thank Superintendent Stevens and all of his staff for all of the planning and support provided when the district went to full remote learning. The process was well executed, initially there was concerns however that was mitigated with how well and seamless the process flowed.

First Selectwoman Wicinski moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 PM

Selectwoman Blessington seconded the motion.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Sharpley
Administrative Assistant
Town of Willington