

TOWN OF WILLINGTON

Board of Selectmen
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BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Regular Meeting Minutes
Via web interaction (via Zoom platform)

February 1, 2021
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; Selectman Boritz, Selectman Blessington and residents.

Approval of Minutes

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to approve the BOS Budget workshop minutes of January 19, 2021 as written.

Selectman Blessington seconded the motion.

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

Motion Carried.

Selectman Blessington moved to approve the BOS Regular minutes of January 19, 2021 as written.

Selectwoman Boritz seconded the motion.

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

Motion Carried.

Present To Speak

Correspondence

No Correspondence To Report.

First Selectman's Status Report

First Selectwoman Wiecenski provided an update on the 2020 Grand List totals from the Assessor Walter Topliff. The 2020 Grand List had an overall increase of \$1,010,112.00 which is an increase of 0.22% over the 2019 Grand List. This would produce additional tax revenue of \$30,293.00 at the current mill rate of 29.99. The Real Estate component of the Grand List experienced a decrease of \$4,068,573.00 or 1.08% less than the 2019 Grand List. The decrease can be attributed to the stipulated agreement with the Willington Oaks apartments, the additional properties added to the defective concrete list and the tax exemption of 25 Old Farms Rd. Crumbling foundations there were ten new properties and one property that reported a more severe crumbling foundation issue. This resulted in an assessment decrease of \$1,428,520.00 for the current year. The cumulative total assessment reduction for crumbling foundations is \$10,546,795.00 this total includes 7 foundations that were repaired. The total estimated tax loss due to crumbling foundations for the 2020 Grand List is \$316,298.00 at the current mill rate of 29.99. The Personal property component of the Grand List experienced an overall increase of \$3,655,115.00 or

15.52% over the 2019 Grand List. This information will be forwarded to the Treasurer and the BOF for revenue projections.

The Town of Willington was awarded a STEAP Grant for the Old Town Hall for septic, window replacements and painting. We are working with DEEP financial staff in developing the contract.

The Emergency Communications Task Force Committee met on January 28th and finalized the survey to be disseminated out to residents. They will reconvene in a couple of weeks.

The School Building Committee met on January 26th, introductions were done and the charge was discussed on how we got to this point and will be gathering information on land and facilities in town.

Mold in the basement at the TOB, we are still waiting the official notice but we have been told initial indications are the claim for document preservation will be denied. We are still waiting the final determination on the mitigation of mold in that room at the TOB.

Public Works

- Continuation of Trash pickup at park.
- Roadside mowing is still continuing
- Prepared for snow storm.
- Washed trucks.
- Fixed mail boxes
- Met with CIP Committee on Saturday to go over aging fleet of trucks and equipment
- Finished Installation of concrete bases for lighting at the RRAC

New Business

A. Tax Refund

First Selectwoman Wiczenski Moved to refund \$593.50 to Matthew Pelletier on a Certificate of Correction.

Selectman Blessington Seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried.

B. LOTCIP Grant Award

We have been awarded a LOTCIP Grant for South Willington for just under 1 million. Zoning Agent Mr. D'amato has been instrumental in facilitating this Grant. Mr. D'amato spoke about the project, the bulk of the work will be in the installation of sidewalks, a pedestrian island and flashing beacons. Additionally there will be crossing in front of the Church and Hall School that will be ADA accessible by way of sidewalk ramps. The Grant does not require matching funds however the Town is responsible for the design costs which is \$22,000. We need to show CRCOG that we are committed to the design by procuring the survey work and provide deliverables to secure the Grant funds. A discussion was held regarding the parking lot crossing in front of the mill. This project scope starts at Hall School and ends at Village St. The front of the Mill is not inclusive in the scope of this LOTCIP Grant project. First Selectwoman Wiczenski stated that the Insurance line item in the budget can be utilized for this project. It was recommended that we move forward and ask the BOF for a transfer of funds to start the design work.

C. Furnace Replacement – Finance Office

First Selectwoman Wiecenski noted the boiler replacement heats the downstairs Finance, Human Services & Parks & Recreation Offices.

The Public Works Director Troy Sposato received 3 quotes for the Town Office Building boiler replacement. 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 with the boiler replacement for the upstairs portion of the TOB. They did a wonderful clean job.

- Emcor - \$10,650.00
- Energy Unlimited - \$7,200.00
- Williams's oil – Was unable to provide a proposal to replace heating system at this time.

Selectman Blessington moved to award the Town Office Building Boiler replacement to Energy Unlimited LLC for \$7,200.00 based on the recommendation of Troy Sposato, Public Works Director.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski Seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried.

Old Business

A. COVID-19 Update

First Selectwoman Wiecenski provided an update Willington has had cumulative 195 COVID cases with 13 probable cases which is an increase of 33 cases since our last meeting on January 19, 2021.

Vaccines; we are still in phase 1B which includes individuals 75 years of age and older. DPH shared data on vaccines thus far of our total population. Phase 1A included medical staff, first responders. Phase 1B includes individuals 75 years of age and older. 289 individual have received their first dose.

Human Services has been assisting our seniors that need help navigating the vaccine scheduling system. Ms. Arpin the Human Services Director created a video on how to schedule an appointment. Additionally they have directly assisted 12 seniors so far in scheduling their vaccine appointments. If anyone needs assistance with this please contact Human Services at 860-487-3118.

Present to Speak

No one was present to speak

Good & Welfare

First Selectwoman Wiecenski provided some updates.

You can find COVID information from <https://portal.ct.gov/coronavirus>

Mobile Food Share will be here at the TOB this Wednesday February 3, 2021 from 11AM to 11:30 AM. Contact Human Services with any questions.

Please if you can support our small businesses and restaurants.

Reminder that all of the Towns Meetings are still being held virtually and can be viewed live or on the Towns YouTube page. There is a link on the Town Website on the left hand that states Online Boards and Commissions Meetings. Inside that page will be a link to the Willington You Tube channel.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to go into Executive Session at 7:12 PM inviting Public Works Director Troy Sposato to stay.

Selectmen Blessington seconded the motion.

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to leave Executive Session at 7:30 PM

Selectmen Blessington seconded the motion.

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 PM

Selectmen Blessington seconded the motion.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Sharpley

Administrative Assistant

Town of Willington