

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

In person & via web interaction (via Zoom platform)

December 6, 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 in person: Selectwoman Boritz and Selectman Bulick and residents in person and via Zoom.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski welcomed our newest Selectman, Jim Bulick. She stated she is looking forward to working alongside him for all of Willington.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to approve the minutes of November 15, 2021, with one correction: (Under Approval of Minutes, it should read Selectman Blessington and not Selectwoman Blessington).

Selectwoman Boritz seconded the motion.

2 Yes (Boritz & Wiecenski) 1 Abstain (Bulick) 0 No. Motion carried.

Present to Speak

Peter Latincsics, 97 Trask Road: I want to extend my warm wishes and welcome to the new Board of Selectmen. Thank you for your service.

Mike Makuch, Clover Springs Drive: I wanted to make a couple of quick comments on the outgoing and incoming Board. While I may not agree with every decision made by the previous Board, I believe the majority members have shown care and leadership. And the majority of decisions have been made with care for the Town of Willington. Unfortunately something ugly happened over the last few months, healthy debate and exploration of alternative views has become something of name calling and rhetoric. Outside of this Board, sometimes in comments to Present to Speak, our new Selectman Mr. Bulick, in his previous role, had gone deeper. At the same time, he was asking for votes to be elected to the position he has now. I am not sure he was understanding the trust he was asking for. We are asking the voters to trust you with their vote so that you can make critical decisions for them. When a member of our Town's Board of Education made statements and intended to make decisions based on the application of religion in our Schools, many in our community were hurt. The reaction was strong. Mr. Bulick released a statement as Chairman of the Republican Town Committee and chose to skip leadership and instead, not only supported the statements but double-downed by going into accusations and name-calling. It was felt by the community as choosing some of us over all of us. That's not leadership or caring for the whole community. On Election Day, Mr. Bulick decided to vote without a mask and despite being very clear on the public health requirement, at the end of the night he came to watch the vote count and again chose to be the only one in the room not wearing a mask. No one wanted to wear a mask but everyone else

understood the need whether by science or policy. Again, choosing some of us over all of us. His actions in front of the very voters he was asking to trust him, were not leadership or caring. On Election Day, our community spoke loud and clear about leadership and caring. Only 1 Republican was elected to a contested position. Many Republicans have said to me in Town since then, that they know their losses were influenced by the Board of Ed comments and the some of us over all of us reaction by Mr. Bulick. I'll conclude this by saying that I know Jim Bulick and that I have often said to him that I wished he had not been voted off of the Board of Finance two years ago as I trusted his judgment and learned from his leadership as Chairman of the Board of Finance and I learned from his sometimes opposing views. I like Jim Bulick. Regardless of the lapse of judgment over the last few months, I sincerely hope that the new Selectman regains that composure and shows the leadership and care that he sold me on years ago. I hope that he realizes that some of us don't need him as much as all of us in this new role. Thank you.

Correspondence

Correspondence list presented to the BOS; all correspondence is on file in the First Selectwoman's Office.

First Selectwoman's Status Report

- A. STEAP Grant:** No new update. A few items that we are still working on; one is the Easement for Town Meeting.
- B. School Building Committee:** No new update. The Committee has not met since our last meeting.
- C. LOTCIP:** No new update.
- D. Union Negotiations:** First meeting was held prior to Thanksgiving. The Negotiations team will meet again this Wednesday at 4:30pm.
- E. COVID-19 Update:** As of 12/02/2021, the Town has a 59.50% fully vaccinated rate; that represents 43 new fully vaccinated individuals (including children age 5 and up). Since the last meeting, there have been 23 new positive COVID cases and 35 probable cases. Willington is 1 of the 134 towns in Connecticut in the Red Alert Category. Willington is currently at 19.5 cases per 100,000 as of last Thursday. Face masks are still required in Town buildings. The data is showing an increase across the State. I want to urge all residents that are eligible, ages 5 and up, to get vaccinated. If you have questions, please consult with your physician. There will be a vaccine clinic this Wednesday at the Hall Memorial School.
- F. Update on the Break-In at the TOB from October:** 2 juveniles were identified in connection with the matter and a legal process is unfolding. The Selectman's office will provide additional information if and when it becomes necessary.

Public Works

Public Works Director Troy Sposato reported a list of the items performed at Public Works recently:

- Changed the trash at River Road Park.
- Picked up (2) dryers and (1) washing machines on the side of Depot Road.
- Removed 8 hazardous trees on Common Road with Lindon Tree.
- Fixed the turn around on Baxter Road.

- Fixed the turn around on Blair Road.
- Assisted with traffic control on Old Farms Road when a tractor trailer truck got stuck in the entrance of the Center School parking lot.
- Chipped brush in a few spots around Town.
- Working on the trucks constantly and fixing lights, etc.
- Trucks ready for the upcoming snow storm.
- Picked up dead deer that were on the side of the road.
- Worked today to install 2 traffic signs that were received from the State of CT DOT on Pinney Hill & Cisar Road. Speed control signs that will then send back data to DOT with speed limit data. CT DOT will then send a quarterly report to the Town.

Old Business

A. ARPA Ordinance

The BOS approved the ordinance last meeting and had planned to move it to Town meeting. The Town Attorney made a few slight edits and there were a few issues with documents after a network changeover so to ensure the document the Board saw had the most recent edits, First Selectwoman Wiecenski asked for a revised approval.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to approve the edited ordinance to establish the American Rescue Plan Act Commission.

Selectwoman Boritz seconded.

Discussion was held on the ARPA Ordinance. Selectman Bulick stated that he would like to see the ARPA funds follow a similar process as CIP and to flow through the normal financial process. First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that there are parameters to the fund, there would be select members on the Commission (an 11-member panel), all meetings will be in public and allow for transparency, and the commission shall encourage, facilitate, and solicit input from the community as well as the public via a hosted presentation and provide ARPA fund updates. Selectwoman Boritz stated that part of the challenge is to expedite funds in a quicker process, such as utilizing the money for grants to town businesses. She stated that the goal of this money is rapid relief funds and having the flexibility to release funds in a rapid relief kind of way.

2 Yes (Boritz & Wiecenski) 1 No (Bulick). Motion carried.

New Business

A. Award the A-2 Survey RFP for the Talmadge Property

The Town is applying for a grant to purchase the last piece of property on Mason Road (part of the Talmadge Property). The Conservation Commission submitted a grant to CT DEEP and a requirement of the grant is an A-2 Survey of the property. There were 6 invitations to bid that were sent out and only 1 response was received from Gardner & Peterson Associates, LLC. Zoning Agent Mike D'Amato has reviewed the bid that was submitted.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to award the RFP for the Land Surveying Services for the Talmadge Estate Property in Willington, Connecticut in the amount of \$12,800.00 to Gardner & Peterson Associates, LLC.

Selectman Bulick seconded.

3 Yes (Boritz, Bulick & Wiecenski) 0 No. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Award the Truck Leasing RFP

Bid Results	Rate	Fees
Municipal Leasing Consultants	1.65%	\$795.00
Signature Public Funding Corp	1.80%	\$0.00
American Capital Financial Services, Inc.	2.69%	\$0.00

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to award the 7-year lease in the amount of \$335,170.31 for the 2022 Freightliner, the 2022 Ford F450, and the 2022 Ford F350 to Municipal Lease Consultants for 1.65%.

Selectwoman Boritz seconded.

3 Yes (Boritz, Bulick & Wiecenski) 0 No. Motion carried unanimously.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved:

A Resolution Of THE Town OF Willington Authorizing The Execution And Delivery Of A MASTER Equipment Lease Purchase Agreement with Respect To The Acquisition, Purchase, Financing and Leasing Of Certain Equipment Or Capital Items For The Public Benefit; Authorizing The Execution And Delivery Of Documents Required In Connection Therewith; And Authorizing All Other Actions Necessary To The Consummation Of The Transactions Contemplated By This Resolution

Whereas, the Town of Willington, a body politic and corporate duly organized and existing as a political subdivision of the Town of Willington (the "Lessee"), is authorized by the laws of the State of Connecticut to purchase, acquire and lease personal property for the benefit of the Lessee and its inhabitants and to enter into contracts with respect thereto; and

WHEREAS, the Lessee desires to purchase, acquire, finance and lease certain equipment with a cost not to exceed \$335,170.31 constituting personal property necessary for the Lessee to perform essential governmental functions (the "Equipment"); and

WHEREAS, the Lessee proposes to enter into that certain Master Lease Purchase Agreement and Schedule No. 1 thereto (the "Lease"), with Municipal Leasing Consultants, LLC and/or its assigns (or one of its affiliates) (the "Lessor"), the form of which has been available for review by the governing body of the Lessee prior to this meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Equipment is essential for the Lessee to perform its governmental functions; and

WHEREAS, the funds made available under the Lease will be deposited with pursuant to the terms of that certain Escrow Agreement, among the Lessee, the Lessor and an escrow agent satisfactory to the Lessor and the Lessee (the "Escrow Agreement"; and together with the Lease, the "Financing

Documents”) and will be applied to the acquisition of the Equipment in accordance with said Escrow Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Lessee has taken the necessary steps, including those relating to any applicable legal bidding requirements, to arrange for the acquisition of the Equipment; and

WHEREAS, the governing body of the Lessee deems it for the benefit of the Lessee and for the efficient and effective administration thereof to enter into the Financing Documents and any other documentation necessary, convenient or appropriate for the purpose of the financing the Equipment on the terms and conditions described therein;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN OF THE TOWN OF WILLINGTON, CT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Lessee is hereby authorized to execute and deliver the Financing Documents with principal components of rental payments in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$335,170.31.

Section 2. The Financing Documents and the acquisition and financing of the Equipment under the terms and conditions as described in the Financing Documents are hereby approved. The First Selectman, Erika Wiczenski, of the Lessee and any other officer of the Lessee with the power to execute contracts on behalf of the Lessee be, and each of them hereby is, authorized to execute, acknowledge and deliver the Financing Documents and any and all instruments, documents and certificates which may be required by or provided for in the Financing Documents or as may otherwise be required for or necessary, convenient or appropriate to the financing described in this resolution together with any changes, insertions and omissions therein as may be approved by the officers who execute the Financing Documents, such approval to be conclusively evidenced by such execution and delivery of the Financing Documents. The Town Clerk of the Lessee and any other officer of the Lessee with the power to do so be, and each of them hereby is, authorized to affix the official seal of the Lessee to the Financing Documents and attest the same.

Section 3. The proper officers of the Lessee be, and each of them hereby is, authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all papers, instruments, opinions, certificates, affidavits and other documents and to do or cause to be done any and all other acts and things necessary or proper for carrying out this resolution and the Financing Documents.

Section 4. Pursuant to Section 265(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”), the Lessee hereby specifically designates the Lease as a “qualified tax-exempt obligation” for purposes of Section 265(b)(3) of the Code.

Section 5. Nothing contained in this resolution, the Lease nor any other instrument shall be construed with respect to the Lessee as incurring a pecuniary liability or charge upon the general credit of the Lessee or against its taxing power, nor shall the breach of any agreement contained in this resolution, the Lease or any other instrument or document executed in connection therewith impose any pecuniary liability upon the Lessee or any charge upon its general credit or against its taxing power, except to the extent that the rental payments payable under the Lease are special limited obligations of the Lessee as provided in the Lease.

Section 6. If any section, paragraph, clause or provision of this Resolution shall for any reason be held to be invalid or unenforceable, the invalidity or unenforceability of such section, paragraph, clause or provision shall not affect any of the remaining provisions of this Resolution.

Section 7. All bylaws, orders and resolutions or parts thereof, inconsistent herewith, are hereby repealed to the extent only of such inconsistency. This repealer shall not be construed as reviving any bylaw, order, resolution or ordinance or part thereof.

Section 8. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

The foregoing Resolution was duly passed and adopted at a meeting of the Board of Selectmen ("the Governing Body") of Town of Willington, CT held on December 6, 2021, by the following vote:

AYES: NOES: ABSENT: ABSTAIN:

[Seal]

Attest:
By: _____
Name: _____
Title: _____

TOWN OF WILLINGTON, CT:
By: _____
Name: Erika Wiecenski
Title: First Selectman

Selectwoman Boritz seconded.

3 Yes (Boritz, Bulick & Wiecenski) 0 No. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Award the contracts for the TOB Basement Project

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to award the cleaning of the Town Office Building basement in the amount of \$16,894.56 to Servicemaster by RRT.

Selectman Bulick seconded.

3 Yes (Boritz, Bulick & Wiecenski) 0 No. Motion carried unanimously.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to award the concrete block and restoration of the Town Office Building basement in the amount of \$21,500.00 to Jake's Foundation, Inc.

Selectwoman Boritz seconded.

DPW Director Sposato stated that the project was originally sent to 8 contractors to do a site walk and bid on the project. One contractor did not want to do the crawl space area because it was too small; the other contractors did not show interest in the project. Jake's Foundation was the only contractor to come out to view the site area.

3 Yes (Boritz, Bulick & Wiecenski) 0 No. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Tax Refunds

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund Juliette Stecenko a Certificate of Correction in the amount of \$51.74.

Selectman Bulick seconded.

3 Yes (Boritz, Bulick & Wiecenski) 0 No. Motion carried unanimously.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund VW Credit Leasing LTD a Certificate of Correction in the amount of \$76.48.

Selectwoman Boritz seconded.

3 Yes (Boritz, Bulick & Wiecenski) 0 No. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Appointments

First Selectwoman Wiecenski thanked all who have stepped forward to serve on the boards and commissions for the Town.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to re-appoint Tina Binheimer as a Willington Animal Control Officer; effective January 1, 2022; expiring December 31, 2022.

Selectwoman Boritz seconded.

3 Yes (Boritz, Bulick & Wiecenski) 0 No. Motion carried unanimously.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that Tina does a fantastic job and we are lucky to have her!

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to appoint Samantha Fegan as a Willington Assistant Animal Control Officer; effective January 1, 2022; expiring December 31, 2022.

Selectman Bulick seconded.

3 Yes (Boritz, Bulick & Wiecenski) 0 No. Motion carried unanimously.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to appoint Jennifer Miller as a Willington Assistant Animal Control Officer; effective January 1, 2022; expiring December 31, 2022.

Selectwoman Boritz seconded.

3 Yes (Boritz, Bulick & Wiecenski) 0 No. Motion carried unanimously.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to appoint Stuart Fisher as a regular member of the Parks & Recreation Commission; effective December 7, 2021; expiring December 14, 2024.

Selectman Bulick seconded.

3 Yes (Boritz, Bulick & Wiecenski) 0 No. Motion carried unanimously.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to re-appoint Ginger Halle as a consumer service representative member of the Youth Services Advisory Board; effective December 7, 2021; expiring November 30, 2023.

Selectwoman Boritz seconded.

3 Yes (Boritz, Bulick & Wiecenski) 0 No. Motion carried unanimously.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to appoint Kristina Parent as Member at Large of the Youth Services Advisory Board; effective December 7, 2021; expiring December 6, 2023.

Selectman Bulick seconded.

3 Yes (Boritz, Bulick & Wiecenski) 0 No. Motion carried unanimously.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to re-appoint William Bland as a regular member of the Zoning Board of Appeals; effective December 31, 2021; expiring December 30, 2023.

Selectwoman Boritz seconded.

3 Yes (Boritz, Bulick & Wiecenski) 0 No. Motion carried unanimously.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to appoint Robert Jellen as a Regular Member of the Region 19 Reapportionment Committee; effective immediately – expiring once the charge of the Committee has completed.

Selectwoman Boritz seconded.

3 Yes (Boritz, Bulick & Wiecenski) 0 No. Motion carried unanimously.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to appoint Sarah Smith as a Regular Member of the Region 19 Reapportionment Committee; effective immediately – expiring once the charge of the Committee has completed.

Selectman Bulick seconded.

3 Yes (Boritz, Bulick & Wiecenski) 0 No. Motion carried unanimously.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to appoint Christine Psathas as a Regular Member of the Region 19 Reapportionment Committee; effective immediately – expiring once the charge of the Committee has completed.

Selectman Bulick seconded.

3 Yes (Boritz, Bulick & Wiecenski) 0 No. Motion carried unanimously.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to appoint Erika Wiecenski as a Regular Member of the Region 19 Reapportionment Committee; effective immediately – expiring once the charge of the Committee has completed.

Selectwoman Boritz seconded.

3 Yes (Boritz, Bulick & Wiecenski) 0 No. Motion carried unanimously.

First Selectwoman mentioned the Reapportionment Committee needs 1 more member; she asked the Selectman if either would be willing to serve.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to appoint Liza Boritz as a Regular Member of the Region 19 Reapportionment Committee; effective immediately – expiring once the charge of the Committee has completed.

Selectman Bulick seconded.

3 Yes (Boritz, Bulick & Wiecenski) 0 No. Motion carried unanimously.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski thanked all of those newly appointed and re-appointed for service to our community.

F. TOB Employee Holiday Party -- 12/17/2021

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to close the Town Office Building at 12PM on Friday, December 17th, 2021 for a holiday party.

Selectwoman Boritz seconded.

3 Yes (Boritz, Bulick & Wiecenski) 0 No. Motion carried unanimously.

G. Call Town Meeting

TOWN OF WILLINGTON

NOTICE AND WARNING

PUBLIC HEARING & SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

The electors of the Town of Willington and all persons who are entitled to vote in Town Meeting on the matters mentioned in the following warning are hereby warned and notified to meet in Public Hearing/Town Meeting (face masks required) at the Willington Old Town Hall; 11 Common Road, Willington, CT at 7:00 P.M. on Wednesday, December 15, 2021 for the following purposes:

ITEM I (Public Hearing Item)

Presentation and discussion of a 7 year Lease/Purchase Agreement for a 2022 Freightliner 114SD Conventional Chassis TENC0 12M-10-SS-SSCONV All Season Body, a 2022 Ford F450 XL 4X4Chas/C 145" Wheelbase Duramag Heavy Duty Dump Body Model #DB0969514SS All Aluminum

Additional for color green, and a 2022 Ford F350 XL 4X4 S/C 148" Wheelbase for the Willington Public Works' Department. – No vote on this item.

ITEM II

To see if the townspeople, on the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen, will adopt the septic system easement and maintenance agreement for the Willington Old Town Hall located at 11 Common Road in Willington, CT.

ITEM III

To see if the townspeople, on the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen, will adopt an ordinance to establish an American Rescue Plan Act Commission.

Dated at Willington,

This 6th day of December, 2021.

Willington Board of Selectmen:

Erika G. Wieceński Liza Boritz Jim Bulick

Selectwoman Boritz seconded.

3 Yes (Boritz, Bulick & Wieceński) 0 No. Motion carried unanimously.

Present to Speak

Peter Latincsics, 97 Trask Road: Two issues. The first is the discussion this evening about going to Town Meeting creating this commission. I am strongly opposed to not the commission and focusing on worthwhile projects for the American Rescue Act fund, which I think everyone in Willington supports. I am appalled and dismayed that the Board of Selectmen would recommend to the Town that this commission circumvent the Board of Finance, the CIP Committee, our Board of Selectmen, and approval by Townspeople. We have a Legislative form of government; it's fundamental to our process that townspeople should approve all funding. This should be no different but apparently the majority of the board believes that it is. Secondly, I would respectfully ask that in future meetings, the Board allow all members of the Board to speak without being spoken over, which happened repeatedly tonight. Contrary to the terrible comments made earlier to the Present to Speak, the minority has every right to express his opinion as does the majority. I ask that we all be allowed to hear from all of our Selectmen. Thank you very much.

Good & Welfare

Mobile Food Share will continue at the TOB this Wednesday from 11:00am to 11:30am as a drive through model.

October Monthly Report from Troop C: *277 calls to Troop C for service included 12 accidents, 12 criminal investigations, 0 burglary, 2 larceny, 193 non-reportable matters and 2 arrests. For motor vehicle enforcement: 60 traffic stops; 1 DUI, 0 arrests, 0 misdemeanor summons, 18 infractions, 17 written warnings and 21 verbal warnings.*

This Friday, 12/10 is PJ Day for the Kids. This is the 11th year of this mission to not only raise money, but to honor the brave kids fighting cancer at Connecticut Children's Medical Center. Town staff will be participating.

Please continue to support our small businesses and restaurants, as they need our support, if you are able.

CIP request forms have been sent to all budget writers. That process will begin in January.

The Annual Tree lighting is back! Tonight families are decorating trees at the Old Town Hall that they have sponsored. The tree lighting will be held on Friday, December 10th at 7:00PM. The Parks & Rec Department has partnered with the Human Services Department to decorate and donate trees to families in need. Thank you to everyone who has supported them! There is a Gingerbread House Competition being sponsored by Parks & Rec and they will be on display on Friday night.

A reminder that masks are required in all Town Buildings regardless of vaccination status. Help us keep our staff and visitors safe.

With COVID-19 cases once again rising across the State, please be reminded that if you are sick, please stay home and get tested. If we all do our part together, we can get through this.

Thank you to Willington Fire Department #1 for their holiday spirit and participating in out of town holiday events.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 PM.

Selectman Boritz seconded the motion.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Kelsey Allard
Recording Secretary
Town of Willington

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WILLINGTON, CT.
2021 DEC 10 A 9:12

TOWN CLERK