

# Town of Willington

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Board of Selectmen  
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## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Regular Meeting Minutes  
Via web interaction (via Zoom platform)

January 18, 2022  
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: Selectwoman Boritz and Selectman Bulick and residents via Zoom.

### Pledge of Allegiance

### Approval of Minutes

Selectwoman Boritz moved to approve the minutes of December 20, 2021, as written.

Selectman Bulick seconded the motion.

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

### Present to Speak

Kathy Demers, Conservation Commission: I want to thank Troy and the Public Works Staff for opening up the parking lot on Mason Road that is adjacent to the trails. They did a great job; and now they can continue to plow them through the winter. I encourage residents to get out and get on the trails through the winter. Thank you!

### Correspondence

Correspondence list presented to the BOS; all correspondence is on file in the First Selectwoman's Office. A letter was received from Troop C with the new commanding officer's information (Lieutenant Begley). We met earlier this month and welcomed him. We look forward to working with him and continuing our lines of communication.

### First Selectwoman's Status Report

- A. **STEAP Grant:** No new update.
- B. **School Building Committee:** The Committee is meeting tomorrow night and there will be an enrollment study presentation from Dr. Peter Prowda. The RFP for the OPM closed on Friday, January 14th and the Committee will be moving on that in an upcoming meeting.
- C. **LOT/CIP:** Received the commitment to fund from CRCOG. We will be going out to bid on the design phase soon as money was previously appropriated.
- D. **TOB Basement Project:** ServiceMaster will be in next week for cleaning of the basement and then in early February the concrete pour will occur. Public Works removed the debris and items/documents in the basement that needed to be either salvaged or disposed of. There is a storage container in the parking lot that is currently housing these items until Staff can sort through everything that was in the basement.

- E. Truck Lease:** The dump truck was delivered on January 3rd and was used for the first big snowstorm this year. The F450 is at Hartford Truck waiting for the body to be completed – Expected to come in anytime now. Still awaiting the F350 from Ford. The expected date was pushed back to February/March for delivery. Thank you to Donna for all of her work on completing the lease agreement and getting the leasing finalized.
- F. ARPA:** The Ordinance went into effect on January 4th, 2022. Appointments to the Commission are on the Agenda for tonight. The first meeting will be held on January 24th, 2022.
- G. Union Negotiations:** Waiting for the language in writing from both parties and then will move to ratify. Hopefully at the next meeting, the ratification can occur.
- H. COVID-19 Update:** As of 01/12/2021, the Town has a 61.0% fully vaccinated rate; that is an additional 42 fully vaccinated residents. Since the last meeting, there have been 143 new positive COVID cases; cumulatively that is 549 cases and 64 probable cases total. Willington is still in the Red Alert Category. Willington is currently at a rate of 123 cases per 100,000 as of last Thursday. This data is showing an increase across the State. There has been a direct impact on the Town Office Building staff in the last month. At this point almost every department has had staff out due to COVID-19 and exposures. There has not been transmission within staff. Selectwoman Wiecenski wants to urge all residents that are eligible, ages 5 and up, to get vaccinated. The Town has held two distributions of at home test kits and N-95 masks (Sunday, January 2nd and Sunday, January 9th). The state made available to Willington a total of 766 test kits. Prior to public distribution, there were test kits set aside for First Responders, local Daycares, schools, Town Staff and our senior population. The remainder of the test kits were given out to the public. Thank you to our EMD and partners at Willington Fire #1 and Willington Hill Fire Department for their assistance in this process. Late this afternoon, we received communications that the Town could request additional test kits. We submitted our request (and it may not be fully fulfilled) but if we receive additional supplies, we will plan for distribution.
- I. Center Elementary School:** On Sunday, Center Elementary School had a pipe burst and a unit ventilator that was damaged that led to flooding in the lower level of CES, impacting 6 classrooms and the hallway. Additionally, there was a leak in the Gym area. The Superintendent's Office immediately reached out to CIRMA and continued to work with them to mitigate the damage and any claim. As of now, it appears that the tile in 3 classrooms will need to be replaced.

### **Public Works**

First Selectwoman Wiecenski reported a list of the items performed at Public Works recently:

- Roadside mowing.
- Changed the trash at River Road Park.
- Washed/waxed the dump trucks.
- Patched holes throughout the town.
- Fixed dirt roads.
- Back bladed and cleared trees on Mason Road (parking lot for trail).
- Plowed/shoveled/salt and sanded after the most recent storms.

- Cleaned out the basement at the TOB to prepare for mold mitigation and concrete pouring.
- Fixed the broom on the M&B mower.

Received the new dump truck (it's been lettered and prepped for use)

- Collected water samples for the MS4 permit at the Transfer Station and the DPW garage.
- Continuously working & repairing the current fleet of vehicles.
- As an update, town facilities (Senior Center, Senior Housing, and the Town Office Building) have had their septic tanks pumped out and are empty at this time.

Selectman Bulick asked if there have been any issues with salt delivery and First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that a delivery was to occur today and as of now, we have not heard of any issues.

### **Old Business**

None.

### **New Business**

#### **A. Tax Refunds**

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund Corelogic an overpayment in the amount of \$2,502.97.

Selectman Bulick seconded.

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

#### **B. Appointments**

The Board of Finance and Parks & Recreation Commission will be submitting their nominations by the end of the month. These members are encouraged to attend the meetings, but cannot participate until they are appointed by the Board of Selectmen at the February 7th BOS meeting.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to appoint Robin Campbell, Town Clerk, as a Regular Member of the Town of Willington American Rescue Plan Act Commission; 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 Stuart Cobb, Emergency Management Director, as a Regular Member of the Town of Willington American Rescue Plan Act Commission; 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 Donna Latincsics, Business Manager, as a Regular Member of the Town of Willington American Rescue Plan Act Commission; 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 Troy Sposato, Director of Public Works, as a Regular Member of the Town of Willington American Rescue Plan Act Commission; 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 Jennie Arpin, Human Services Director, as a Regular Member of the Town of Willington American Rescue Plan Act Commission; 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 Mike D'Amato, Zoning Agent, as a Regular Member of the Town of Willington American Rescue Plan Act Commission; 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 Samantha Hills, a current member of the Willington Economic Development Commission, as a Regular Member of the Town of Willington American Rescue Plan Act Commission; effective immediately – expiring once the charge of the Committee has completed.

Selectwoman Boritz seconded.

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

Selectwoman Boritz moved to appoint Erika Wiecenski, First Selectwoman, as a Regular Member of the Town of Willington American Rescue Plan Act Commission; 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 Tom Smith, a current member of the Willington Public Health Community, as a Regular Member of the Town of Willington American Rescue Plan Act Commission; effective immediately – expiring once the charge of the Committee has completed.

Selectwoman Boritz seconded.

**Discussion:** The two town Fire Chiefs had a discussion and have worked together to bring forward this member to represent the Willington Public Health Community.

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

The final rule has been released and is effective April 2022, but there is guidance that the Town can follow the final rule now. This information will be shared amongst all of the Selectmen and the ARPA Commission members for review.

Discussion was held in regards to the ARPA Commission members and the importance of getting access to the funds to businesses and individuals in town. Many of the ARPA Commission members are residents in Town and those who are not, still have the best interest of the Town as they are municipal employees as well. The Town Staff is incredibly committed to making sure the needs of the residents in Willington are met.

### Present to Speak

None.

### Good & Welfare

December Monthly Report from Troop C: 310 calls to Troop C for service included 12 accidents, 4 DWIs, 230 non-reportable matters and 5 arrests.

Mobile Food Share will continue at the TOB this Wednesday, January 19th & Wednesday, February 2nd from 11:00am to 11:30am as a drive through model. This is open to all residents. On Wednesday mornings, there is a group of seniors that volunteer to provide Bread each week. Thank you to this committed group of volunteers that are out there each week, no matter the weather or temperature.

Please continue to support our small businesses and restaurants, as they need our support.

CIP and BOF are still in need of a recording secretary. Please contact the Selectman's Office if interested.

The 2nd installment of real estate property taxes, personal property taxes, and supplemental motor vehicle taxes are due by the end of the business day on Tuesday, February 1st without penalty. Payments by mail must be postmarked on or before February 1st.

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

Congratulations to the awardees of the Cultural Fund Operating Support Grants:

- Willington Eastern Connecticut Center for History Art and Performance (EC-CHAP) (\$6,800.00)
- Willington Historical Society (\$5,400.00)

Selectman Bulick stated that he received communication from Representative Nuccio; she extended an offer to help with anybody who is having difficulty working with the State or if anyone is having trouble with the grant application or if the State is not being responsive. She is willing to help anyone who is having difficulty with day to day business, whether a resident or a business.

First Selectwoman Wiczenski reported that there has been an additional covid related death in Willington recently. She wishes to send her sympathies to the family that was affected as well as any of the Willington residents that the Town has lost in this past year. Our hearts and thoughts go out to all of those who have lost a loved one (Covid or not).

Wishing everyone warmth as we are in the heart of the winter currently.

**First Selectwoman Wiczenski moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 PM.**

**Selectman Bulick seconded the motion.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

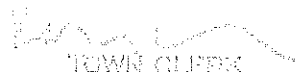
Kelsey Allard

Recording Secretary

Town of Willington

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TOWN CLERK