

# Town of Willington

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Board of Selectmen  
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[www.willingtonct.org](http://www.willingtonct.org)

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Regular Meeting Minutes  
Via web interaction (via Zoom platform)

February 7, 2022  
6:30 PM

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM with the following in attendance: Selectwoman Boritz and Selectman Bulick and residents via Zoom.

### Pledge of Allegiance

### Approval of Minutes

Selectman Bulick moved to approve the minutes of January 18th, 2022 as written.  
Selectwoman Boritz seconded the motion.  
3 Yes (Boritz, Bulick & Wiecenski) 0 No. Motion carried.

Selectwoman Boritz moved to approve the minutes of January 24, 2022 as written.  
Selectman Bulick seconded the motion.  
3 Yes (Boritz, Bulick & Wiecenski) 0 No. Motion carried.

### Present to Speak

None.

### 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.
- B. **School Building Committee:** The Committee met on February 2nd and Colliers was chosen as the Owner's Project Manager for the School Building Committee. The Committee took a vote to determine the OPM but has not discussed any of the next steps. I look forward to working with them and having a robust conversation on the next steps at the February 16th meeting.
- C. **LOT/CIP:** Commitment to fund but no new update.
- D. **TOB Basement Project:** January 28th the basement cleaning was completed and last week the concrete was poured. ServiceMaster will be back tomorrow to conduct a walkthrough and if anything was missed, they will come in to do another cleaning again. Thank you to Troy for leading this very important project and thank you to the Town Office Staff for enduring this project.

- E. **Truck Lease:** Two out of the three vehicles have arrived. The F450 was delivered last week prior to the last storm. The F350 is still coming from Ford but is delayed. As of now, it looks like it may be closer to summer before it is ready.
- F. **ARPA:** The Commission met again today. Will have a full commission at the next meeting, appointing the last member officially tonight. In the meeting, discussed how to solicit, approve, and prioritize submissions for ARPA projects. This Commission will meet every other Monday at 1:30pm. Monday, February 21st is a holiday so the Commission will meet again on the 28th.
- G. **Union Negotiations:** Still awaiting the language and then the contract will go to the union to ratify.
- H. **TOB Staff:** Welcomed a new staff member last week; Michael Fitzcordoba was hired as the Account Analyst in the Finance Office. Michael had a great first week with us and we look forward to working with him.
- I. **COVID-19 Update:** Numbers are going down in the State. Some of that may be less transmission, some of that may be the home test availability. As of 02/03/2022, the Town has a 63.0% fully vaccinated rate; that is an additional 82 fully vaccinated residents. Since the last meeting, there have been 67 new positive COVID cases. Willington is still in the Red Alert Category. Willington is currently at a rate of 65.8 cases per 100,000 as of last Thursday. At the last BOS meeting, that was a 123% case rate. There was a press conference this afternoon and the Governor announced that the statewide mask mandate will end on February 28th. Towns and schools will need to make that decision moving forward. The Town does not have a townwide mask mandate policy but masks are required in all town buildings. This will need to be discussed in an upcoming meeting. Encouraging those 5 years old and older to get vaccinated. The Town has a supply of N95 masks for the general public as well as test kits for the senior and vulnerable population, first responders, and front facing municipal staff. N95 masks and test kits are available for any Willington resident that is homebound, cannot drive, has a disability and requires reasonable accommodation. Jennie Arpin, Human Services, has test kits available on a 24-hour basis. I want to thank Jennie and our EMD, as well as our partners at Willington Fire Department #1 for assisting in this process and having the test kits available 24 hours a day. Hybrid meetings are still an option until April 30th and a discussion will need to be had to decide how meetings will be held moving forward. This will be the last week for that State test kit distribution and then DPH will handle the needs for the vulnerable populations going forward. .

### **Public Works**

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

- Roadside mowing.
- Emptied and changed the trash at River Road Park.
- Washing the dump trucks after each snowstorm.
- Made minor repairs to the fleet including hydraulic hoses, windshield wipers cutting edges, etc.
- Cleaned up site lines and intersections after the weekend snowstorm.
- Changed light bulbs
- Caulked the stairs at the Town Office Building

- Changed air filters at the Town Office Building
- Repaired holes around town
- Cleaned up catch basins due to the storm and rain coming
- Chipping brush that has come down after storms.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that this list may seem small, there is an incredible amount of work happening right now and it's the job our public works crew signed up for but to say we appreciate the 24 hours they put in during the last big storm is an understatement. Kudos Troy, to you and your staff that the roads were in great shape. I felt confident that everyone could go back out on the roads last Sunday morning and we could open the transfer station and residents were safe so thank you to them. It makes for some really long days but they work hard, so thank you!

### **Old Business**

None.

### **New Business**

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund Corelogic an overpayment in the amount of \$2,620.23.

Selectwoman Boritz seconded.

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund JP Morgan Chase a Certificate of Correction in the amount of \$365.76.

Selectman Bulick seconded.

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund Toyota Lease Trust a Certificate of Correction in the amount of \$421.06.

Selectwoman Boritz seconded.

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

#### **B. Appointments**

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to appoint Stuart Fisher, a current member of the Willington Parks and Recreation Commission, as a 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 Patricia Phillips, as a Regular Member of the Conservation Commission effective February 8, 2022 to fill a vacancy expiring December 1, 2022.

Selectman Bulick seconded.

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

### **C. Budget Discussion**

In the last meeting, the budget was still at a \$653,000.00 increase; have since proposed a few adjustments. In the last meeting, it was discussed the increase in salary for the Human Services Director's salary and the assistant salary for the senior center. These are two areas that may be able to have ARPA funding coverage. It may be possible to ask for three-quarters of the funding from ARPA and one-quarter from the town operating budget for this year and then next year ask for half of the funding from ARPA and half of the funding from the town operating budget for these two positions. Selectman Bulick asked if there are seniors who would volunteer at the Senior Center going forward and Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that some of the seniors have come forward asking for this position. This is a dedicated group of seniors who make up the executive committee for Willington Seniors, Inc., and they are active volunteers who regularly volunteer in our Human Services Department; every Wednesday they're at the TOB handing out bread or standing out for the Foodshare events, rain, sleet, snow. This Assistant would be responsible to the Human Services Department and to the town.

There is an increase in the Grand List for the upcoming fiscal year due to crumbling foundation remediation being added back to the tax roll and increase of motor vehicle assessments. Currently the mill rate in Willington is 29.99 mills, but the governor is proposing cutting all town Motor Vehicle mill rates to 29 mills only. If the State isn't going to reimburse that money, this would be significant to the Town of Willington. First Selectwoman Wiecenski is reaching out to the Town's local representatives to discuss this.

Selectman Bulick asked DPW Director Sposato about the conex box / shipping container request in the DPW budget. First Selectwoman Wiecenski responded that Parks & Recreation has one container that is being lent to the Town Office Building for the items that were being stored from the basement. Typically, Parks & Rec keeps their Hall Pond lifeguarding equipment in this container. DPW Director Sposato stated that the DPW is asking for a second box because right now the lawn mowers, paving equipment, snow plowing equipment, etc is stored in the one that is currently at the DPW garage. When there is an eviction, the DPW typically needs to store the personal items that are recovered for fifteen days prior to auction. These personal items are placed into the conex box for safe storage until the auction date where the items are either sold, returned, or disposed of. When this occurs, the equipment that is in the current conex box is moved outside into the elements. Discussion was held on the cost of the conex box and the availability of one for the DPW to purchase.

This budget is scheduled to be presented to the Board of Finance on Thursday, March 3rd. Typically, the budget would be voted on at the Board of Selectmen meeting on February 22nd. Next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, February 16th at 5:00pm.

#### **Present to Speak**

None.

#### **Good & Welfare**

Selectman Bulick stated that Mr. Tulis provided an engineering report for the library for various issues. First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that this has not come up in CIP requests but this did come up at the Board of Finance meeting last week.

Mobile FoodShare will continue at the TOB next Wednesday, February 16th 11:00am to 11:30am as a drive through model. This is open to all residents.

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 were due last week on Tuesday, February 1st without penalty. As of last Thursday, 96.48% of expected taxes have been collected; should meet the 99% budgeted amount.

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

If anyone in Willington has a disability, is homebound and needs reasonable accommodation and is in need of a COVID test or masks, please feel free to reach out to Human Services at 860-429-8321.

Selectman Bulick thanked Kelsey for doing all of the meeting minutes for BOS, BOF, and CIP.

First Selectwomen Wiecenski encouraged residents to follow the budget process through the upcoming meetings in the next few months, as well as the progress of the ARPA Commission.

**First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:21 PM.**

**Selectman Bulick seconded the motion.**

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Kelsey Allard  
Recording Secretary  
Town of Willington

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WILLINGTON, CT.

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TOWN CLERK