

Town of Willington

Board of Selectmen
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BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Regular Meeting Minutes

In person; TOB, Downstairs Room & Virtual Meeting via Zoom

March 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 6:30 PM with the following in attendance: Selectwoman Boritz and Selectman Bulick and residents in person and via Zoom.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes

Selectman Bulick moved to approve the budget meeting minutes of February 16, 2022, as written. Selectwoman Boritz 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. There was communication recently with a resident; First Selectwoman Wiecenski met with this resident to discuss their concerns last week. If any members receive correspondence from a resident, the expectation should be that the email is at least acknowledged and confirmed that the email has been received and will be reviewed.

First Selectwoman's Status Report

- A. **STEAP Grant:** Beginning to work with a Contracts' Specialist at the Department of Public Health.
- B. **School Building Committee:** At the March 2nd meeting, the Committee was presented with a sample timeline from the OPM. This timeline showed a referendum in the Fall of 2022 for grant submission on a project by June 2023. There has not been a decision on a defined project as of yet (whether that is renovate to new at Hall School or new building, new site). The Committee did rule out Center School as there is not enough footprint on that property. First Selectwoman Wiecenski did inquire with the OPM that a new build on the Hall School site would not occur so that the Hall School would not be torn down. The next meeting for the SBC will be next Wednesday, March 16th at 6:30pm.
- C. **LOT/CIP:** The RFP is being finalized to go out to bid on the design work.
- D. **Truck Lease:** Still awaiting the F-350. No new information available.

- E. ARPA:** The Commission met February 28th and began soliciting projects from Town Departments and other budget writers. The Commission is using the Viewpoint permitting software system for project requests. These can be viewed by anyone who utilizes the system. Public notice was posted to the town website for the submission of additional ARPA projects. At today's meeting, the commission started to review all of the submissions to date. A special meeting to present projects to the Public will be held next Monday, March 14th at 6:30pm. The next regular meeting will be Monday, March 21st at 1:30pm. The Selectman's Office has submitted the Human Services Assistant increase and the Director's salary increase (75% ARPA and 25% included in the budget this year) as well as a computer project for the Town Office Building for staff device replacements, a Wi-Fi upgrade in the building and server cabinet upgrades.
- F. Microsoft 365 Project:** The final cutover occurred last week (this started with remote users and has continued last with TOB staff). This has included moving to a Cloud based server for our documents, Microsoft licenses, and a new Willingtonct.gov domain from the original .org website. Emails will be auto forwarded, and staff will be directed to begin communicating the new email address. The website will be changing to willingtonct.gov in the next few weeks. The new site for the email access login is for Town staff only, not Board of Education staff. There have been several hiccups, but our IT is working hard to mitigate any issues.
- G. Union Negotiations:** Waiting for the language in writing from the Union and then will move to ratify.
- H. COVID-19 Update:** As of 03/03/2022, the Town still has a 63.0% fully vaccinated rate; that is an additional 11 fully vaccinated residents. Since the last meeting, there have been 2 new positive COVID cases; cumulatively that is 625 cases and 70 probable cases total. Willington is now in the Gray Category as the case rates decline. Willington is currently at a case rate of 6 cases per 100,000 as of last Thursday. With the decrease in cases, I would recommend we go back to in person meetings and continue with the hybrid model until April 30th, which is the current deadline set by the state, unless the state extends it.

Public Works

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

- Multiple plowing and sanding trips due to the weather;
- Repaired minor issues on the plows;
- Washing the plow trucks continuously;
- Insulated pipes in the basement of the TOB;
- Emptied trash weekly at the RRAC;
- Installed a new AED box in the Land Use Office;
- Patched potholes around town;
- Cut down trees behind the Senior Center for new monitoring wells;
- Cleaned catch basins today prior the heavy rain that is expected tonight; and,
- Used the mower for some additional roadside clearing.

DPW Director Sposato reported that there was a catch basin that collapsed on Mirtl Road early Monday morning on the dirt section of the road. One of the residents called and reported a hole by the catch basin. The pipe needs to be replaced, as well as 60 feet of under drain and a new catch basin. The sides of the catch basin were completely gone when inspected Monday morning. Notified Call Before You Dig on Monday; and will start the repair work on Tuesday. First Selectwoman Wiecenski reported that there will be an update on the current DPW budget at the next Board of Selectmen meeting.

Old Business

None.

New Business

A. Discussion on masks in town buildings.

Currently there is a mask mandate in town buildings (not town businesses). The school has been following a mask mandate from the State which expired February 28th but the Board of Education had extended their mask mandate for students until this Friday, March 11th and will continue their discussion on this separately tomorrow night at their meeting.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that based upon the data and the staff meeting that she held with all Town Office Building staff last week to discuss the mask mandate and how the employees felt, the consensus among all staff was to move to mask optional; individuals can still wear their masks if desired. Selectman Bulick stated he was in agreement with ending the mask mandate as well. First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that there are interventions in place to keep distance from the public (such as plexiglass, partitions, etc.) which will still remain in place to continue keeping staff safe. Selectwoman Boritz agreed with moving towards masks optional.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved that effective immediately the mask mandate for mask wearing in town buildings will be removed.

Selectman Bulick seconded the motion.

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

B. Moose Meadow Road damage/repair

First Selectwoman Wiecenski reported that there was recent damage to Moose Meadow Road. The Town does not have a weight limit on roads in town and this is not the fault of any one vendor using the road. The Love's truck stop construction hired a contractor to remove debris from their site; there was nothing stating that they could not travel down the town roads, and the responsibility falls to the Town to make sure that the roads are maintained and passable. DPW Director Sposato has received two quotes from two state approved vendors. At the last meeting, it was stated that the first estimate was around \$400,000.00. The work to be completed is for the repair of 3,900 feet from Moose Meadow Road at Turnpike Road heading down Moose Meadow, around the sharp curve to where the other sharp turn is at the log cabin which would be completely reclaimed; from that log cabin to the cross over guard rails, there would be an inch and a half overlay, and then from the culvert it would be reclaimed 900 feet to the top of the hill. Then from Turnpike Road to the farm, there would be 500 feet of under drain, as well as installing three new catch basins and then tie into catch basins at the bottom of the hill and re-do the culvert at the bottom of the hill, and then fix the remaining deteriorating catch basin. This would include eight driveway aprons in that stretch of roadway. The first bid was from Pasteryak Asphalt, LLC for \$256,1456.00 and the second quote was from All States Materials Group for \$247,000.00 which is an estimate and is based off materials per ton that are used (the daily slips that are received). There is an additional cost of an estimated \$27,000.00 for drainage work for the catch basins that need to be replaced.

Discussion was held on the possible funding source and whether the Board should request funding from the Board of Finance, utilize ARPA funding, or re-configure the Capital Improvement Program plan for this year. DPW Director Sposato stated that this is an oil based product and if gas/oil prices continue to keep increasing, then the price of the project may also increase over time, if the project is delayed. The asphalt factories should be reopening in early April. The Board agreed to start with the Board of Finance for funding of this project and reviewed the current pricing bid/quotes available.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved that the Board of Selectmen request \$256,145.00 as the amount of funding needed from the Board of Finance.

Selectman Bulick seconded the motion.

Discussion: Discussion continued the vendors and pricing presented. The Town policy is to gather either three vendor quotes or to utilize a state approved vendor. DPW Director Sposato stated that the third vendor that is going to quote the project is a non-state approved vendor. First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that DPW Director Sposato agrees with the quote from Pasteryak, which is a fixed price and she mentioned that Pasteryak is a Connecticut based business whereas All States Materials is a Massachusetts based business.

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

Present to Speak

Peter Latincsics: Good evening, Peter Latincsics, 97 Trask Road. I just wanted to thank the Board of Selectmen for adopting a very sensible mask policy and returning to in-person town meetings. I think that everyone welcomes that. Thank you so much.

Good & Welfare

First Selectwoman Wiecenski received an update from the Assistant Assessor and the former Assistant Assessor (Rachel Pierce) (who has been helping out in the absence of an Assessor) are preparing to get the Town ready for the upcoming tax season. They are working on task, but there is certainly a lot of work to be done. In the upcoming weeks, they will be working on reviewing all survey maps, supporting documentation which should be reviewed annually and filed with the Town Clerk from July 2020 to the current date. The last time that these changes appear to be reported is July 2020, which is the last time that R. Pierce was in that office. There have been significant things that have not been completed in the last 18 months and there are questions of how accurate the Grand List is.

There is a BAA (Board of Assessment Appeals) meeting tonight upstairs as well.

February Monthly Report from Troop C: *321 calls to Troop C for service included 9 accidents, 8 criminal investigations, 0 burglaries, 1 larceny, 219 non-reportable matters, and 8 arrests; there have been 73 total traffic stops, 3 onsite DUI's, 2 arrests, 3 misdemeanor summons, 16 infractions, 19 written warnings, and 35 verbal warnings.*

There have been various speeding complaints submitted recently; and there was a horrible accident today on Village Hill Road. Selectman Bulick inquired about the traffic speeding signs that were to be moved around town; First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that as soon as the DPW can move the signs after Winter, this will be done again. First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that we need to look to find the funding to increase the patrols in the areas and try to request some overtime specific speed control in certain areas. There was an accident today on Village Hill Road and there was recently a fatal accident on Willington Hill Road that involved a pedestrian crossing the road to their mailbox. This issue will be discussed again at the next meeting and the Selectman's Office will work to reach out to Troop C.

Mobile FoodShare 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.

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

The Board of Education will discuss the mask mandate at their meeting tomorrow night.

Selectman Bulick mentioned that he had received communications from a few constituents and that there has been an uptick in the homelessness rates. He inquired about how this is affecting the town currently. First Selectwoman stated that if anyone has any of these concerns of homelessness, to reach out to the Human Services Department to see if there is anything specific that each individual can be helped with. First Selectwoman Wiecenski will inquire with Human Services Director Arpin for an overall reporting of the uptick in clientele.

Selectwoman Boritz moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 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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2022 MAR 15 A 10:35


TOWN CLERK