

# TOWN OF WILLINGTON

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Board of Selectmen  
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## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Meeting Minutes  
Lower Level Conference Room

June 17, 2019  
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:  
Selectmen Boritz & Blessington and residents. First Selectwoman Wiecenski then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski noted that the Animal Control Officer, who is here to discuss the animal control building sign, has a conflict and has to be at a meeting in Tolland for 7; therefore asked the Selectmen if they would be willing to discuss that particular item now. There were no objections.

**First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to push New Business Item A first on the Agenda.**  
**Selectman Blessington seconded the motion.**  
**Vote: 3 Yes (Wiecenski, Boritz & Blessington) 0 No.**

### A. Eagle Scout Project Request – Animal Control Sign Approval

First Selectwoman Wiecenski noted that we received a request from an Eagle Scout who is interested in putting up an Animal Control sign. Because of our regulations, the sign needs approval from the Selectmen.

Matt Eastman, who is an Eagle Scout, in the Town of Tolland presented plans to the Selectmen. His plans are for two locations; the Animal Control facility in Tolland as well as Willington. Mr. Eastman stated that he plans to put a sign along the road that will make the space more visible to those traveling on the road. He noted that it currently is not visible the way it sits and blends in with the Public Works garage.

The proposed sign will be approximately 1' in with and 4' in length; mounted on posts outside the guardrail. Mr. Eastman stated that he plans to finish the sign with a mulched area.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski noted that Mr. Eastman has been working with our Zoning Agent as well as our Animal Control Officer on the specifications of the sign. Our Zoning regulations specify that signs of a non-commercial nature must be approved by order of a public official; that is why he has come before our Board. She added that Mr. Eastman has also altered the design of his sign so it falls within the regulations.

**First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to approve a public sign to be erected at the Willington Animal Control Facility by Matt Eastman per sign regulation 19.04.01 of the Willington Zoning Regulations.**  
**Selectman Blessington seconded the motion.**

First Selectwoman Wiecenski noted that the original sign that Mr. Eastman had planned to erect was identical to what is being put in Tolland, however he had to adjust the Willington sign to fit within our regulations.

Mr. Eastman stated that he will be working on this project over the summer.

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

The Selectmen thanked Mr. Eastman and stated they look forward to seeing the new sign.

#### Approval of Minutes:

Selectman Blessington moved to approve the minutes of June 3, 2019 as submitted.

Selectwoman Boritz seconded the motion.

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

#### Present to Speak

Christine McCloskey of St. Moritz Circle stated that she has had ongoing issues with a neighbor that has been brought to Planning and Zoning. The neighbor has cleared the entire property; put several sheds on the property as well as a circular driveway which is a violation. The issue that Ms. McCloskey has come forth about is a shed/structure that the neighbor has constructed; noting that it should be at least 25' from the property line. She complained to the Land Use Department, but was told that the neighbor is in compliance as the item is no longer considered a structure because he had taken the roof off of it – there is nothing they can do and referred her to the Selectmen.

Ms. McCloskey then stated that the issue she has is that the shed that has now been turned into a wood crib is on her property line. She is having difficulty understanding why her request of complaint is not being considered simply because the roof had been removed; it should still be considered a structure.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that she had spoken with the Assistant Zoning Agent and there have been several complaints filed against 29 Lucerne Drive. The structure at the time was made up of pallets on the bottom, which makes it non-permanent and it did have a roof. The resident was issued a violation for the structure, in which he then removed the roof; and the circular driveway was also removed; therefore the property was found to be in compliance at a drive-by inspection on June 12<sup>th</sup>. She then told Ms. McCloskey that if the decision made on June 12 were to be appealed, it would have to be done by the homeowner at 29 Lucerne Drive to the Zoning Agent. Any further appeals must go before the Planning and Zoning Commission as that is the authority at which those determinations are made. Ms. McCloskey stated that she had already been to the Planning and Zoning Commissions and was told to go to the Selectmen because she was unhappy with their determination. First Selectwoman Wiecenski clarified that the PZC probably told her she would be able to speak her concerns to the Selectmen; however the Selectmen do not have the authority to make Zoning Regulation changes. Ms. McCloskey stated that there is discrepancy in the regulations as how she is reading it. She added that it is not right that she has no say and the neighbor continue to have privileges. First Selectwoman Wiecenski then encouraged Ms. McCloskey to bring her concerns to a PZC meeting.

Todd Bissonnette of Cosgrove Road stated that he has been having an ongoing issue with a neighbor and their barking dogs. He stated that he planned an event this past weekend at his home which was disrupted by two neighboring dogs who bark constantly. The owner neglects to secure the dogs properly when they go away for a weekend or even for an evening. Mr. Bissonnette then stated that our Animal Control Office has done an outstanding job with answering to his complaints. He added that the barking is against the law and referenced CGS (Connecticut General Statute) 22-363; Nuisance; *No person shall own or harbor a dog or dogs which is or are a nuisance by reason of vicious disposition or excessive barking or other disturbance or, by such barking or other disturbance.* Mr. Bissonnette then stated that he has been disrupted at midnight or even 3AM for hours. He then clarified if it is that time of night, he calls the State Police directly and they refer him back to the ACO. He then said that he is talking non-stop barking and howling for 4-5 hours and it is not acceptable. The ACO has addressed the issues and have sent the violators tickets and gone to court – only to be thrown out or dismissed.

Earlier today, Mr. Bisonnete filed a FOIA request for documentation for the complaints against these dogs and will be going to the State Attorney's office to see why there is a law that states that no dog should be disrupting

anyone's livelihood; but nothing is being done about it. He then added that he should not have to move his guests from one end of his house to another because he does not want to hear a barking dog. He then added that he is disappointed with the State Trooper that was at his home this past weekend who suggested that he move. Mr. Bisonette stated that he is a retired senior citizen who has worked all of his life and deserves to live in quiet.

Mr. Bisonette then handed out copies of the Connecticut General Statutes; 22363 as well as an outline of the Animal Control Officer's responsibilities; noting that the Officer enforces all Connecticut laws pertaining to animals.

Selectwoman Boritz then asked Mr. Bissonette for clarification if the Animal Control Officer has been upholding the duties? Mr. Bissonette said yes, she is phenomenal but her hands are tied – she is laughed at by the homeowners and the citations keep getting kicked out of court. Mr. Bissonette then played an audio clip of the barking.

He then thanked the Selectmen for their time.

### Correspondence

A list of Correspondence was available for the Selectmen.

### First Selectman's Status Report

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that she will cover the items on the agenda.

### Public Works

Troy Sposato, who was present, reported that the crew has been busy with the following:

- Sweeping has been completed.
- The Transfer Station has been mowed.
- New wood chips in the playground area at the River Road Athletic Complex have been installed.
- The Hall's Pond parking lot and road have been graded and the back lot has been mowed and weed wacked.
- The Senior Center has been mowed.
- Installed a section of pipe across a driveway on Old Town Road.

Mr. Sposato stated that he counted the catch basins in town over the past few weeks and found that there are 756 single basins, 39 double basins and 36 open basins; totaling 838 in all. He then noted to clean them at \$60 per basin comes out to \$50,000. First Selectwoman Wiecenski then stated even though the clam-shell method is not ideal; if the budget is what is holding us it is best to do that instead of nothing. She added that we will plan better for next year as we know we should be looking anywhere between \$50,000 to \$75,000 and we only have a budget of \$18,000 this year.

Lastly, Mr. Sposato noted although some road side mowing has been done, the drive motor on the small tractor has blown; therefore we are currently without a mower at all. He found that a new drive motor will cost approximately \$3,000 and take about 16 weeks to get the part from the manufacturer. Mr. Sposato then noted that he had called to see if he could expedite the new mower (that will be on order) and the dealer said that they have a left over mower (a 2018 model) that would be available by the end of July – even quicker than the 2019 model. The cost of that new mower is \$2,000 less than the one the Selectmen had decided on at the last meeting.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski noted that quote that we voted on last week specifically noted it was for a 2019 model. She thought it would be best to go before the board before deciding to get a different model. She added it is identical to the first quote with the exception of the year / model (it is brand new – no miles) and it is \$2,000 cheaper. She then clarified that we are without a mower and we still need to fix the other one that is down. Troy said that he has been looking into a rental; and it will cost approximately \$3,500 per month; noting that we mow at least 3 months out of the year. First Selectwoman Wiecenski added that Troy had asked a few towns if they would be willing to loan us a mower, but no one was able to. She then added that we can change the motion from what was made at the last meeting and change the cost as it will be \$2,000 less – at \$122,413 – the original budget amount was \$159,000. Troy added that we will also get trade in money for the old mower so that will also bring the cost down.. Selectman Blessington noted that it is probably a good idea to change the motion so there is no question at the public hearing.

**First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to make a change in the award of the roadside mower vendor to Big Boys Toys, LLC for a 2017-18 new left over tractor at a price of at \$122,433.**

**Selectwoman Boritz seconded the motion.**

First Selectwoman Wiecenski clarified that we will be getting a new mower and getting the other fixed. Troy Sposato added that there will be no roadside mowing until at least the end of July. Selectwoman Boritz then asked what they will do with public safety issues and site lines? Mr. Sposato stated that the crew will be weed-wacking those areas and they have an older model – there are other options that they can work with in the interim. Selectwoman Boritz then stated that a public notice should be sent out to notify residents as well.

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

#### New Business

##### B. Appointments

**First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to appoint Bill Rankin as a regular member of the Willington Economic Development Commission filling a vacancy effective June 17, 2019;; expiring on November 20, 2021.**

First Selectwoman Wiecenski noted that Mr. Rankin was not able to be here tonight as he is out of town. Selectman Blessington stated that Mr. Rankin is a smart guy who knows what he is doing. We are lucky to have him serve on this commission. First Selectwoman Wiecenski agreed. Although we will miss him on the BOF; as he decided not to run for another term, but looks forward to what he can bring to the EDC.

**Selectman Blessington seconded the motion.**

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

**First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to appoint Laurie Semprebon as an alternate member of the Willington Planning & Zoning Commission; filling a vacancy effective June 17, 2019; expiring December 3, 2020.**

**Selectwoman Boritz seconded the motion.**

Selectman Blessington stated that he was hopeful that Ms. Semprebon would be here tonight. He added he is inquisitive as to why she wants to sit on this board. First Selectwoman Wiecenski noted that she believes Ms. Semprebon is not planning to run for Board of Finance again; but will serve the rest of her term; she wants to continue to serve the Town.

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski noted at the last meeting, we discussed reigniting the Emergency Services Efficiency Commission and discussed potential consolidations of the two departments. We had asked both departments to come up with potential members to be appointed based on the discussions held at that meeting. Willington Fire Department #1 put forth their nominations.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to re-appoint Ron Gantick as a member of the Emergency Services Efficiency Committee; effective June 17, 2019; expiring when the charge of the committee has been completed.

Selectwoman Boritz seconded the motion.

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to re-appoint Tyler Millix as a member of the Emergency Services Efficiency Committee; effective June 17, 2019; expiring when the charge of the committee has been completed.

Selectwoman Boritz seconded the motion.

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to appoint Alex Moore as a member to the Emergency Services Efficiency Committee; effective June 17, 2019; expiring when the charge of the committee has been completed.

Selectman Blessington seconded the motion.

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to appoint Stuart Cobb as an alternate member of the Emergency Services Efficiency Committee; effective June 17, 2019; expiring when the charge of the committee has been completed.

Selectwoman Boritz seconded the motion.

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to appoint Peter Tanaka as a member representing the Board of Finance member to the Emergency Services Efficiency Committee; effective June 17, 2019; expiring when the charge of the committee has been completed.

Selectman Blessington seconded the motion.

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski noted that we have not received any nominations from Willington Hill Fire Department. WHFD Chief Snyder stated that he is finalizing with the officers to make sure the choices are what they all agree on. He added that he has been working with Chief Moore on correspondence list. Chief Moore asked to clarify whether the nominees were to be the Chief, Officer, President and/or Vice President as what was agreed upon? Chief Snyder stated yes – the decision makers in each department. First Selectwoman Wiecenski then reminded them that they must have a clear agenda set with direction. She then stated that they will need to appoint a recording secretary. WFD#1 President Gantick noted that they would be willing to split the cost of the secretary if need be.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that she looks forward to appointing the remaining members of this Committee soon.

### C. Approve Phone Vendor

First Selectwoman Wiecenski has been working with Superintendent Stevens on a new phone system; which has been on the CIP for a number of years. The system that we have now does not have caller ID and the voice mail is starting to fail. The item made it through referendum and meetings have started with a phone vendor who is off of the State Bid List. We have chosen to go with Connecticut Communications after receiving quotes that are significantly higher.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to approve the phone system contract for town and schools to Connecticut Communications from the state bid list. The contract is not to exceed \$69,100

**Selectman Blessington seconded the motion.**

First Selectwoman Wiecenski noted that the Board of Education voted on this at their last meeting as well. The appropriation will need to be made by the Board of Finance to move forward. We are hopeful to get the system in over the summer while school is out. We are expecting to save \$266 per month on the phone service between the town and schools.

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

**D. Adoption of Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) Proper Access, Use & Dissemination Procedures for processing pistol permits**

Robin Campbell stated that she received an email on June 5<sup>th</sup> from the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection notifying us that the town is under full suspension of processing pistol permits until they receive the proper documentation. Ms. Campbell stated that she was unaware of the changes and found out later that an original email was sent back in January of 2016; but was most likely never received because it was too large. The State confirmed that a handful of emails were kicked back because of size and they were not able to resend.

To become compliant, the town needs to do several things, such as fill out a questionnaire; adopt the mentioned policy and sign an agreement. Robin Campbell stated that she has been working on this since she received the email on the 5<sup>th</sup>. So far several things have been completed and we are hopeful to be back in compliance by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski noted that the Town Attorney has reviewed the Agreement. There are some items under the requirements that might come at a cost to us; luckily one of the items was a cross-cut shredder, which was purchased last year; to assist with compliance.

**First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to adopt the Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) Proper Access, Use and Dissemination Procedures as presented.**

**Selectwoman Boritz seconded the motion.**

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

Old Business

**A. WHFD Property Purchase Request & BOF request to call a Town Meeting**

First Selectwoman Wiecenski noted that we received an update and potential agreement from Chief Snyder regarding the purchase on June 6<sup>th</sup>.

Selectman Blessington stated that he had a question regarding the contribution – which he believed to be \$60,000; \$50,000 of which was to assist for the purchase of the property and the remaining \$10,000 for maintenance. At the Board of Finance meeting it was mentioned that the \$10,000 maintenance cost would be recurring each year. he stated that we are looking at least 8 or 9 years before we are able to build a new fire house and at \$10,000 per year will add up. He added that he thought this was supposed to be a “win-win” situation – the fire department will own the building and we will put the \$50,000 plus \$10,000; adding up over 9 years is an additional \$90,000. If the Fire Department ends up not building a fire house and sells the property, they would pay us back our \$50,000 but what about the other \$10,000 - \$90,000 that we have paid to maintain it over the years? He added that he has a worse and worse feeling about this as time goes on.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski agreed, and stated that she has asked several times for more specific information about how that \$10,000 will be spent. She added per the Fire Services Agreement, that information is to be shared at budget time with the Selectmen and Board of Finance. During the course of the budget, we see all line item detail as presented to the Board of Finance. She added that this is no different; it is just at a different time. She was hopeful that she would see the breakdown of that \$10,000. She clarified that 9 years from now, she thinks it would probably be more than \$10k at that point; realistically thinking.

Chief Snyder clarified that the \$10,000 is for the first year because they do not know exactly what the upkeep of the property will cost. First Selectwoman Wiecenski then clarified that she is looking for detail and breakdown of how the funds will be spent. Chief Snyder warned that he is unable to tell her that with the current firehouse, so he is unsure of how he can for a property they do not own yet – he can't foresee if something is going to break. First Selectwoman Wiecenski disagreed – stating that all of us have budgets for line items; such as insurance, mowing, electricity, etc. She was hoping that the department would be able to use that as an exercise to see if the \$10,000 is an adequate number; too low or too high. She explained that the Selectmen are asking to see how much they plan to spend for lawn maintenance, electricity, heat, insurance etc. and so far they have not seen that and they should be able to see the information based on the previous owners. She then asked if they even know what the insurance is going to be? Chief Snyder stated that they received a verbal but cannot remember what the number is and added that there are a lot of variables – as they cannot foresee the future.

Selectwoman Boritz clarified that all of the budgets we do in municipal government is based on averages. It should not be a hard number to estimate for these line items but are important for us to see. Chief Snyder said he can try to work on that but some numbers might be a shot in the dark. First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that is what she would like to see. She clarified that none of us would go to the Board of Finance with no numbers in our budget – that would never fly. She added in order for the Selectmen to approve your budgets per the Services Agreement – that is something that has to be done.

Chief Snyder added that part of the reason the department is looking to rent out the house is because they are hoping the income will offset some of those costs. First Selectwoman Wiecenski warned that the property would have to be split for that to even be an option. Chief Snyder said that they are still looking at that.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski asked Chief Snyder if they had the foundations on the buildings inspected? Chief Snyder stated that both buildings have been checked out and are fine. He added that he has a report but did not bring that with him. First Selectwoman Wiecenski noted that is something we need to require so that we can attest that we are purchasing a structure without a potential hazard.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that she does not want to move forward with anything until she is able to see the budget detail. She added that she has shared the proposed agreement with the Town Attorney.

Selectwoman Boritz stated that she wonders if there is a way we can write the agreement up regarding the reimbursement to the Fire Department to a maximum amount of \$10,000 for expense incurred for maintenance; so it is based on a reimbursement process. First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that is similar to what we do now. The departments receive funding in their account and they are not able to exceed their grant. She added that there should be two different agreements a separate agreement for the increase in budget funds and a separate agreement for the \$50,000 towards the purchase of the property – which is all contingent upon Town approval.

Selectwoman Boritz then asked if there have been any conversations with the Town Attorney? First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that she has had minimal conversations with him so far. Selectwoman Boritz then added that if it comes to it, we should be looking at this as a co-investment. If the town is assisting with the purchase of a property and it ends up being sold, it should be added somewhere in the language that the town should be reimbursed the \$50K plus whatever has been invested per year as well. That is a question for the legal team but she would like that to be considered. First Selectwoman Wiecenski added that she was also contemplating added a timeline or deadline as well – for example if the land sits vacant for over 10 years and nothing is done, then the town should be reimbursed for the funds that have been expended over that period of

time. She added that we are at the beginning of reviewing contracts and there are several things to consider. She clarified that the town is not in this for nothing at this point. Selectwoman Boritz agreed noting that is why we are beginning to have the Town Attorney look into it.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski then asked Chief Snyder if the department is ok with their timeline and asked if they are still willing to make the purchase? She clarified that this sort of thing is a lengthy process and takes time to work through. – Especially if it doesn't happen in the time they need it to be done or if the town votes down the request? Regardless of what happens, is the Department prepared, whatever the outcome? Chief Snyder said they would have to go back to the membership and discuss where they are financially and make a final decision.

Dr. Samuel Wheeler, who is a member of WHFD stated that if we need \$60,000 on the 25<sup>th</sup> of July, he will write a check and he is not alone – he and another person will do it if need be. He added if he had to replace his pickup truck it would be close to \$60,000 and his truck is fine. We will do it and hope for the best. When the department wanted to build a bay, they raised almost the entire amount. Back in the day both departments got by with donations.

#### Good & Welfare

First Selectwoman Wiecenski congratulated the 8<sup>th</sup> graders who were promoted last Wednesday and will now be moving on to high school in the fall. Willington residents of Windham Tech graduated last Thursday and E.O. Smith students are graduating tonight. She expressed congratulations and wished them all well.

The tax bills will be sent out on schedule. After a short time without a tax collector, the Revenue Collection Department is running smoothly with Janice Clausen and thanks to Beth Jacobs and Kelsey Allard who have helped out along the way.

The next Selectmen's meeting will be held on July 1<sup>st</sup> and we will have a shortened week due to the holiday and Selectmen's day.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski noted that the Selectmen will be asking for an appropriation from the Board of Finance for the phone system to go to Town Meeting.

Selectman Blessington noted that he had wondered how the flag project was going to look once Mr. Monty had placed them on the poles. Now that they are up, Selectman Blessington stated that he absolutely loves it. It makes him feel American all around. He stated that sometimes he drives up the road just to look at them. He thanked Phil Monty for doing that.

**First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 PM**

**Selectwoman Boritz seconded the motion.**

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Robin Campbell  
Administrative Assistant