

Town of Willington

Board of Selectmen
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BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Regular Meeting Minutes
In person; TOB, Downstairs Room

July 5, 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: Selectman Bulick and residents in person and Selectwoman Boritz and residents in person and via Zoom.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes

Selectwoman Boritz moved to approve the meeting minutes of the June 21st regular meeting, as written.

Selectman Bulick seconded.

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

Present To Speak

Sarah Reis, 15 Pinecrest Road: It's no secret that many people in town are frustrated due to the lack of follow-up by our leaders in regard to someone using unethical practices of gaining information on those with dissenting voices and showing up unannounced, uninvited on private property. As stated before, I am sure there are certain steps and protocols one must take due to legal reasons that I am compassionate to. I hope that this matter is not just acknowledged, but also addressed and our leaders set a precedent that intimidation tactics have no place in Willington. 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:** The town has a signed contract with DPH and will be moving forward to release an RFP for this project.
- B. **School Building Committee:** The next SBC meeting is Wednesday, July 6th at 6:30pm. Meetings are hybrid at the Town Office Building as well as via Zoom.
- C. **LOTICIP:** This will be discussed under New Business.
- D. **Truck Lease:** There is no new information available for a build date from Ford.
- E. **ARPA:** At the meeting last week, the Commission closed the application process; currently the projects submitted exceed the available funding. Once the public hearing occurs and any approvals or denials occur, the Commission will re-evaluate the ability to accept new projects based on available funding. The second tranche of funding has not yet been received by the town. The next public

hearing is scheduled for July 11th at 6:30pm with a possible continuation to July 14th, if needed, as there are many items on the agenda. These hearings will be a hybrid meeting, both at the TOB and via Zoom.

F. Talmadge Estate Parcel: The Town officially closed on the Talmadge parcel on June 28th. The Town and Conservation Commission are working with the State to finalize the payment on the grant that was received, which will reimburse some of the funds of the land purchase. An official event on site will be held later this year.

G. COVID-19 Update: As of 07/05/2022, there have been 13 new positive COVID cases; cumulatively that is 822 cases total.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski addressed the recent concerns of the individual who was door-knocking on several residents' homes a few weeks ago. First Selectwoman Wiecenski investigated the matter and anticipated that it would be addressed at the last P&Z meeting; the public hearing was not opened therefore the applicant could not speak on the issue. The individual had knocked on three doors and had tried to communicate with several other residents. This individual was a member of a public relations firm that had been hired by the developer that's looking to build in Willington. This individual took it upon himself to use this method to contact people who had written on social media. The developer stated that they did not authorize this and they have since cut ties with this firm and that they would be addressing this at the public hearing.

Public Works

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

- Continuing roadside mowing;
- Removed the brush in front of the building at Center Elementary School and this will be paved tomorrow;
- Installed a new stop sign on Laurel Drive;
- Repaired/installed curb around town that was damaged by water on residents' property; and,
- The catch basin truck is in town cleaning out the catch basins.

As a Moose Meadow Road update, the DPW crew installed the catch basins. Some of the underdrain pipe is on back order and won't be delivered until August and then the paving will commence.

Old Business

A. Job Description for Senior Center Coordinator – Possible Action

The job description for the senior center coordinator was discussed. The Willington Seniors, Inc. will discuss this at their next meeting. Human Services Director J. Arpin inquired if the new position will be required to obtain the CHOICES certification to be able to navigate Medicare. This will be tabled until the next meeting for approval, after the seniors' meeting.

New Business

A. Award Contract – Survey & Site Plan Services for Route 32 Sidewalk Replacement

The RFP for the survey and site plan services for the Route 32 sidewalk replacement was released and there were no bids received; most of the feedback received was that this was too small of a project with all of the

federal funding available. A direct solicitation occurred with CHA for this project and their response is for review. Discussion of the sidewalk replacement project occurred.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to award the Town of Willington, engineering and design services for the South Willington Village pedestrian and streetscape improvements to CHA. Selectwoman Boritz seconded.

Discussion: Selectman Bulick inquired about the cost of this and where the funding would come from and First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that it is \$28,500.00 and that this should come from the capital reserve and it was approved previously at town meeting last year.

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

B. Award Vendor for Public Works Excavator – 22/23 CIP Project

In this year's CIP plan, there was funding included for the purchase of an excavator for the Public Works Department. This will then be moved to the Board of Finance for approval. W.I. Clark is a state approved vendor.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to award the vendor and specifications for the 2022 John Deere 60G Compact Excavator to The W.I. Clark Company in the amount of \$75,306.00.

Selectman Bulick seconded.

Discussion: This price does include a trade-in of the JCB Backhoe.

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

C. Award Vendor for Public Works Road Management Software – 22/23 CIP Project

This is another CIP project from this year's CIP plan.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to award the vendor and specifications for the pavement management services to BETA Group, Inc. in the amount of \$20,350.00.

Selectwoman Boritz seconded.

Discussion: This will give the Town data analysis for all of the town roads. BETA is a state approved vendor. A town meeting will not be required for this because it will be funded from the 930 account.

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

DPW Director Sposato stated that the data analysis should take a few months to be able to present a plan of their findings.

Present to Speak

Ralph Tulis, 47 Village Hill Road: A couple of things... primarily the audio quality when you have a hybrid meeting is kind of horrible from this side. Ms. Wiecenski, you come through pretty good, Liza, not so good and Jim, about 50% of what he says, I can understand but the rest is mumbling. It's either the microphone on the equipment you have or it's the fact that people aren't speaking directly to the mic. I'm not sure what it is. In essence, I hate hybrid meetings, I would rather have 100% in person or 100% in Zoom. Then there is no issue with hearing people. As far as other stuff, I think at 7:30 we'll have a more interesting meeting. That's all I have to say for now.

Arthur Christensen, 14 Birch Meadow Lane: I personally find the response to the gentleman who was going around to residents of the town, the public relations person that you just addressed earlier. I find your response completely unacceptable because the last Planning & Zoning meeting was exactly two weeks ago and by your own admission in this meeting, you knew exactly what was going on and who this person was and you waited for it to be addressed on Planning & Zoning while citizens of this town were still concerned about this person. After the agenda item was continued, I don't understand why you couldn't have jumped on Facebook and explained what was going on and at least put some minds at ease instead of waiting two weeks for this to be addressed at the Board of Selectmen meeting, not even on the Planning & Zoning meeting. And I wonder if Ms. Reis didn't bring this up earlier, if this would have been addressed at the

Selectmen's meeting or we would have had to wait until July 19th for the Planning & Zoning meeting. Thank you.

First Selectwoman Wiczenski added that the three resident homes that the individual visited, were spoken to by the company and we knew that there was no danger to the town. There was always an expectation that this would be addressed at Planning & Zoning but when it was not, my intention was to speak here.

Good & Welfare

As always, please support our small businesses and restaurants in town, if you are able.

Mobile FoodShare will be at the TOB this Wednesday, July 5th from 11:00am to 11:30am as a drive through model. This is open to all residents.

Summer camp begins on Monday and will be for six weeks. With ARPA funding, the Town was able to sponsor 50 kids to attend. This is a great opportunity to utilize ARPA funding for camp and to help revive the program again.

Next Wednesday, July 13th the summer concert series at River Road Athletic Complex will begin, from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. The first concert will be Bruce John. Thank you to all who sponsored the summer concerts this year.

Selectwoman Boritz stated that as a reminder, official town business will happen in official town meetings and that is the place to come to get answers. As we have done in years' past, a reminder to be aware of information that is shared back and forth on social media. As one of the elected officials of the town, I am here to answer questions any time. For anyone that has concerns or would like to know what we are doing, contact me and I am willing to have those conversations and can clarify anything as needed. As a reminder, official conversations will happen in official capacities, rather than informal social networking conversations.

First Selectwoman Wiczenski stated that it was addressed in the first place because it was unknown and there was enough of a concern. First Selectwoman Wiczenski does not condone the methods that were used and plans to speak to this in the proper forum at the applicant hearing.

Selectman Bulick stated that some residents have reached out to him about the topics at Planning & Zoning and he encourages them to attend the public hearing to speak.

First Selectwoman Wiczenski stated that Present to Speak is on most of the commission agendas for each meeting and that Planning & Zoning is a different platform and needs to be within their policies. At the last Planning & Zoning meeting, the application could not be addressed or spoken about.

Please take a moment to think about those in Illinois who were affected by the most recent mass shooting and keep them in your thoughts.

First Selectwoman Wiczenski moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 PM.

Selectwoman Boritz seconded the motion.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kelsey Allard

Recording Secretary

Town of Willington

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WILLINGTON, CT.

2022 JUL -7 A 11:45


TOWN CLERK