

Town of Willington

Board of Selectmen
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BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Regular Meeting Minutes
In person; TOB, Common Room

July 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, Selectman Bulick and residents in person and residents via Zoom.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes

Selectwoman Boritz moved to approve the meeting minutes of the July 5th regular meeting, as written.

Selectman Bulick seconded.

Discussion: The location of the meeting place needs to be changed from downstairs to upstairs at the TOB in the Common Room.

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

Present To Speak

Ed Taiman, Lisa Lane: I am here as a member of the Parks & Rec Commission. So I understand there is a complaint about the poster down there at River Road. We work very hard to make sure that any of the advertising down there is not political. And that's what that ad is. It simply says "Jeff Gordon wishes Willington a wonderful Summer". There's nothing political about that, there is nothing red, white, blue in the background, there is nothing about voting... I don't even know what party he's from. So if there's a complaint, that somehow got forwarded to Alan Humphrey, whose our Rec Director, who I think is doing a great job by the way, he had a tough act to follow, and he's doing a wonderful job. We are all very supportive of him. We would like some support from you as well. Erika, I'm speaking specifically. Because there needs to be some pushback against some of the residents if they think that's a political ad, which it's not.

Rosa Chinchilla, 5 Common Road: I am here about two things. One is the light that beams down onto the Old Town Hall is so bright that it lights up the night sky all day. I was recently reading an article in the New York Times that said that lights that are on day and night don't really frighten thieves. That it would be so much better if there was a light that was a motion sensor. I kindly request that you would do that. I know that my neighbors, the Nunns, also feel strongly about this because there is light in their house all night. So that's one of my issues. For the second issue, the meeting that is happening tomorrow, we don't know what the outcome is going to be. But I was very surprised to find out from Robin that we as citizens of this town have no other recourse, we cannot petition for a referendum, and we can't go to the Selectmen. And I really feel that an issue as important as that one, although I hopefully do trust in the PZC Committee... Ms. Chinchilla asked if there was a form of the regulations wherein they could, as citizens, do a petition for a referendum, or ask the Board of Selectmen to review the decision that could affect everyone so much.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski added a point of clarification that R. Chinchilla was speaking about the meeting occurring tomorrow, Tuesday, at 7:30pm at Hall School for Planning & Zoning.

Selectman Bulick inquired with R. Chinchilla about the light at the Old Town Hall.

David Krivanec, 22 Willington Hill Road (RT 320): I saw a while back that you were going to talk to the State Police Commander about doing patrols in this town. It hasn't slowed anyone down on my road. People fly. Motorcycles, cars, trucks, everything. I have been known to step out into the middle of the road to slow them down. I'm getting tired of it. I've only been home for a year, as I've been on the road so this is the first time that I've had a chance to really voice my opinion on it.

Herb Klei, 76 Turnpike Road: I am still trying to find an Assessor, somebody that will address my assessment problem on my property. In fact, I was here at the last meeting, and you said it would be resolved, we would have an Assessor by July 1. I went there today and found that we still don't have one, an assessor. Not only that, I keep getting these tax bills that I am supposed to pay by August 1 with the wrong numbers on them. Everybody that has looked at them, says that I am correct. But I can't find anybody in town who has a responsibility to change the numbers. So I say okay, my son gets a bill on the property next to him and the assessment was raised. And I'm saying well okay, if they can raise it, maybe they can lower it too. So I go to the Town Office and see the Assessor today, and say, okay, where is it, where is this? Well, that Committee doesn't meet again until next March. And I'm saying, what is going on here. When a town member cannot get someone in authority to look at his numbers and make a change. What do we do?

First Selectwoman Wiecenski informed H. Klei that the Board of Assessment Appeals meets in September for motor vehicles and then again in March for real estate. She will contact him this week to discuss the assessment issue.

Nicholas Tella, 49 Mirtl: I just wanted to read off something on cga.ct.gov in regards to revaluation. It says here the phase in law allows municipalities to phase in some of the entire dollar amount or percentage increase in a property's assessed value over 5 years. It also allows them to divide the property into classes and phase in a percent, age increase for each class, and then it goes into a hyperlink that gives more detail. It also says that the state has authorized several methods to reduce the aftershocks of residential property. Mr. Tella referenced a public act that he believes allows municipalities to grant tax credits to residential property owners while imposing a surcharge on nonresidential owners. There's also more in that sentence that I can pass along to you later on. It's just concerning. JP Morgan came out today and said hey we might be looking at \$380.00 a barrel. We've got a lot of those financial things on the horizon at a macro level and I think the town needs to try to do what they can to help with revaluations coming up. That's all I have. Actually, the crime on cannabis, I would like to make sure that we take a good look at that before we start allowing the stuff in here. Thank you.

James Marshall, 46 Fisher Hill Road: I just wanted to come here to follow up to address an application that I had submitted related to an alternate position on the Planning & Zoning Commission. I've introduced myself, I've spoken at a couple of these meetings now. I am interested in the position; I know that it was received by the Town Clerk and forwarded along to the Chair of the Planning & Zoning Commission, who I believe gave a favorable recommendation. I was surprised not to see it on the agenda today, just any discussion about it. I just wanted to follow up and say hi and that I remain interested in the position and hope to be able to serve the Town of Willington in that capacity, as an alternate. I am hoping to run next year to serve in a full capacity, as a regular member of the Planning & Zoning Commission. And the alternate role would give a lot of insight and input as to how that procedural process goes on that Board. My experience as an architect has only really given me the opportunity to present before Boards, as an applicant or in support of an applicant. In any rate, just reiterating my interest and inquiring as to where that may be. And I hope to hear further, and discuss this with you guys. So thank you.

Donna Cook, 77 Common Road: I just wanted to speak out about a couple of things. One is when I looked at our town website today, we describe ourselves as a small rural town. And I actually looked at the information to support that, that's on the website from the Connecticut magazine, and I was really

encouraged to see that for a town our size, we were rated number 7 out of 25 towns. Even when I look at some of the other ranges of towns, we have a pretty good rating. I believe that the people who move to Willington are here because they like the ruralness and the low crime. And so, I am in opposition of having any cannabis facilities in town. I believe it will increase the crime. I don't believe that there is a reasonable way to monitor those things. I have had Planning and Zoning minutes in the past, where there was always a problem and they brought it to whoever it was and they have no power of enforcement. So I'm really concerned about the safety of the community. I'd also like to request that in order to keep our town a small rural town and preserve the quality of life that we have and the low noise level, that the Board of Selectmen request that Planning & Zoning put in a maximum building square footage of something like, 250,000 square feet. That would be a little bit bigger than FedEx, but much smaller than the 1.5 million square foot facility that we're being proposed that I believe will have a significant negative impact on everybody who lives here. So, thank you very much for your time.

Arthur Christensen, 14 Birch Meadow Lane: First off, I would just like to reiterate my disdain for the Present to Speak format, particularly when members of the Board break their own rules and respond to the comments that are made. It's unfair to the citizens speaking when the Board has the last word and there can be no additional response. If you wish to have a dialogue with the townspeople, by all means, please do and make this time for discussion. With that being said, I want to go back to last week's comments from the Board during Good & Welfare. Selectwoman Boritz says at 35:36 of the YouTube video of the 07-05-2022 Board of Selectmen's meeting, Begin quote, "Once again, as we have done in years passed, just caution about the amount of information that does get shared back and forth on social media platforms, that unless it's coming from the official town page, it's not official information." End quote 35:54. This is a very interesting thing to say because the issue was posted on the official town Facebook page on June 9th and there was community interaction. In fact, there were updates as to when this would be addressed on that same thread. Once the item in question was continued, that was when the communication from the town stopped, despite further questions from the townspeople. My issue was and continues to be the lack of response after the continuation. I still cannot understand why the issue cannot have been explained to the town on the town page after it was evident it would not be able to be addressed on Planning & Zoning, especially considering there were town responses until that point. The Board of Selectmen Zoom that day had eleven people on it, so nine besides the Board and public works and has received a whopping thirty-three views to date and has a whole one hundred twenty-two subscribers. Contrast that with the 1,900 plus followers on the town's Facebook page and it's pretty clear which method reaches more people and should be utilized more. Thank you.

First Selectwoman's Status Report

- A. School Building Committee:** The School Building Committee met last Wednesday, July 6th at 6:30pm. Erica Bushior resigned from the Committee which opened a spot for a staff member from the Willington Board of Education. They have sent forth a name, but the Town Clerk needs a different response to fill that. The Committee has been working towards finding an appraiser for one private owned parcel. Discussion was held on hosting a public feedback session and survey; it was decided to create a Youtube presentation of information, but to hold off on the survey at this time. A motion was made to request the Board of Finance ask the Board of Selectmen to hold a town meeting to appropriate \$100,000.00 from the reserve fund for the school building consultant. The next meeting for the SBC is this Wednesday, July 20th at 6:30pm. These meetings are currently hybrid here at the TOB and on Zoom.
- B. ARPA:** A hybrid public hearing was held on Monday, July 11th. Numerous projects were discussed for consideration, including walking track improvements at River Road, technology upgrades at the Senior Center, an employee retention bonus plan for both town office building staff and Willington #1 Fire Department paid staff, and the installation of perimeter/key location traffic cameras. A Commission meeting was held today; the camera project proposed was voted to not move forward

as it received no public support and there is still additional information needed. I would suggest that if we wish to further consider this request, that this Board have additional discussions regarding the scope and potential funding. At today's meeting, it was moved to take no further action on current spending projects until we seek legal advice on a matter that was raised by a resident. The next scheduled meeting is Monday, August 1st at 1:30pm.

C. COVID-19 Update: As of 07/15/2022, the town is still at 69% fully vaccinated and there have been 12 new positive COVID cases; cumulatively that is 834 cases total.

Correspondence

Correspondence list presented to the BOS; all correspondence is on file in the First Selectwoman's Office. One of those was a concern that was raised in Present to Speak, regarding a donation that was made to the Summer Concert Series. Initially the donation was made by a candidate for public office; at that time, we were advised by the town attorney that our past practice has not been to have such advertising and have the town appear to take a political stance in any way for any political candidate, which I shared with the Rec Commission. The Rec Commission chose to allow that person to make a donation with just their name and no political affiliation. The level of donation allows for a banner. The Selectman's Office has received several phone calls and one written communication so that is being shared with this Board and the Rec Commission.

Selectman Bulick stated that he is very grateful that Mr. Gordon donated at a platinum level, as it certainly helps the concert series. First Selectwoman Wicewski stated that the town attorney weighed in about this not being advised and not moving forward with this and the Rec Commission took a different stance.

Public Works

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

- Continuing roadside mowing;
- Installed new street signs around the Town;
- Re-graded Kucko Road;
- Mowed around Public Works and the Dog Pound;
- Cleaned off catch basins around the Town;
- Mowed Halls Pond and other spots around Town with sightlines; and,
- Started to sweep for chip sealing that will start in a few weeks.

As a Moose Meadow Road update, the new guard rail has been installed.

Discussion occurred on an issue with the propane tanks at the DPW Garage and the dog pound. The new vendor for propane, High Grade Gas Service, inspected the tanks recently, which occurs prior to filling them, and the tanks have been taken out of service. The tanks can no longer be serviced or filled due to their condition. HGGs recommends the tanks both be replaced. Funding will need to be made available in the budget for this replacement, as this could cost approximately \$18,000.00.

Old Business

A. Job Description for Senior Center Coordinator – Possible Action

The Willington Seniors, Inc. held a meeting last week and they have some items that they will forward on

for consideration for the job description. That has not been received as of yet. Until there is someone hired for this position, the Seniors need to make sure that they fill the void at the Senior Center. The job description will be tabled until the next meeting for approval.

New Business

A. Tax Refunds

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund Gail LeBlanc a Certificate of Correction in the amount of \$220.45.

Selectman Bulick seconded.

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

B. Award Contract – Chip Sealing

DPW Director Sposato has forwarded a list of roads to be chip sealed this year that did not occur last year due to the rain and damage. The Center School parking lot will come from a different fund.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to award the Town of Willington annual chip sealing services to Gorman Group in the amount of \$141,064.95.

Selectwoman Boritz seconded.

Discussion: The Gorman Group is a state approved vendor. This vendor has been used in the past and is also the recommendation of DPW Director Sposato.

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

C. Award Contract – Crack Sealing

DPW Director Sposato has forwarded a list of roads to be crack sealed this year, to help preserve some of the town roads.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to award the Town of Willington annual crack sealing services to A&A Asphalt in the amount of \$29,715.00.

Selectman Bulick seconded.

Discussion: A&A Asphalt is a state approved vendor. This vendor has also been used in the past and is also a recommendation of DPW Director Sposato.

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

D. Award Vendor for Public Works Single Axle Plow Truck – 22/23 CIP Project

The cost of vehicles has continued to increase greatly, post the end of the CIP/budget planning season. It was estimated that \$225,000.00 would be needed for a new truck; as the process was finishing, it was stated that there would be an increase, but it was unknown at that time how much of an increase was estimated. It was planned that \$125,000.00 would come from a lease payment and \$100,000.00 would come from the Reserve Fund. This would include the trade-in of a current vehicle. All of that is still planned to happen, but the cost has now increased to \$265,050.00. These prices do not hold and the town has to go through the appropriate steps (Board of Finance, town meeting) to move forward with the purchase of the truck. The current time frame for this vehicle is April 2023 and the vehicle would be a 2024 chassis. The Business Manager's recommendation was to seek funding for the total amount. The current quote will be valid only until August 7th. It was suggested to include a 10% contingency.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to award the vendor and specifications for the 2024 Freightliner 114SD Single Axle Plow Truck to Freightliner of Hartford in the amount of \$291,050.00. Selectwoman Boritz seconded.

Discussion: Selectwoman Boritz inquired if it would be of any benefit to look for a used truck instead.

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

E. Revaluation Process Discussion – Possible Action

The Town is due for a reval in 2023; the last reval was in 2018. The State is allowing some towns to opt in to defer the revaluation until the next assessment year. Willington was listed in the current regulation of Substitute House Bill #5167, which would allow particular municipalities (Willington listed specifically) to

defer the reval one year to commence October 1, 2024. In order to do that, this would have to go to the legislative body (a town meeting). It's important to discuss this as there is still not an Assessor in the office, although there is an active job posting for an Assessor. This is a shortage area across the State. In the current financial times, it would be prudent to have a discussion on what a reval would mean for residents and the town; there are benefits and drawbacks to both. Deferring the revaluation process does not change the five year cycle; it just means there would be one less year and the reval would need to occur again in four years. Discussion continued on the revaluation process and the mill rate adjustment that typically occurs. This next revaluation is not a physical evaluation year, that occurs each ten years. This item will be tabled until the next meeting for discussion.

F. Cannabis Retail Establishment Discussion

There was discussion at the last Planning & Zoning meeting to get input from the Board of Selectmen. This issue had not been taken up for discussion by this Board, as of yet. PZC members wanted to know what the Board's thoughts were as they weighed their discussion. There is a potential tax implication as the law provides that 3% of sales revenue from the retail establishment would be provided to the Town and the law requires that the tax monies received "shall be used for one of the following": Streetscape improvements and other neighborhood developments in and within the community; to fund education programs or youth employment and training programs in such municipality; to fund services for individuals released from the custody of the Commissioner of Correction, probation or parole and residing in such community; to fund mental health or addiction services, Fund youth service bureaus established pursuant to Section 10-19m of the CT General Statutes and to Municipal Juvenile Review Boards; to fund efforts to promote civic engagement in and within the community. From the town side, there could be some added language to disallow cannabis use on town owned properties and buildings. Discussion followed on the issue of public safety (emergency services, medical services, police services, etc.) and the need to re-engage in conversation about security and police force; which is not for crimes in the retail establishment, but in the community. The one other thing to consider is Willington does not have the power to make it illegal. The impact to Willington will come regardless, as there will be members of the community who can access it more easily. This discussion is specifically about retail establishments, not growing establishments. There is no action to be taken on this; the discussion can be summarized for Planning & Zoning.

Present to Speak

Peter Tanaka, 125 Mason Road: I would like to speak on the retail cannabis. I think that what I've heard from people who have done a lot of traveling to states where recreational marijuana is legal, is that the number one complaint is not the retail establishment but the overwhelming smell of marijuana that is being burnt around them etc., etc. That becomes an annoyance. I think that that would have to be regulated. I would also like to say that from a health standpoint, which was mentioned, when I was working at the hospital, it was the unregulated, illegal marijuana and marijuana synthetics that I saw some horrific aftereffects of and that's what brought me around to believing legal marijuana may be a better answer and that we should probably learn the lessons of the 18th amendment. I thank you very much for your time.

Ralph Tullis: I actually have a few topics I can touch on but I am going to go with the hot topic of the night, which seems to be cannabis. A little brief history real quick, back on September 21st, PZC established a moratorium on cannabis so that they could study the issue and formulate some regulations. That moratorium expired March 21st of this year. They had done nothing. I reminded them of that fact. So, rather than extend the moratorium, they decided that they would ponder the issue and try to establish some sensible regulations, which they've done but have gotten nowhere with that. A couple of things that were not spelled out to Planning & Zoning and that everyone at this meeting should be aware of: There's two sections of the statutes 21a-422f, which allows the municipality either by zoning or by ordinance to prohibit the establishment of a cannabis establishment. That is one. Secondly, the planning and zoning can go a variety of different routes. They cannot allow cannabis establishments at all, they could do selective, they could allow micro growers and not retail, or not allow anything. But more importantly, section 21a-422g, the electors of the Town of Willington can make this decision by petition; not less than 10% of the electors of any municipality, lodged

with the Town Clerk at least 60 days before the date of any regular election, the Selectmen of the municipality shall warn the electors of such municipality that at such regular election a vote shall be taken to determine whether or not the recreational sale of marijuana shall be permitted in such municipality. So in other words, no matter what Planning & Zoning does, the residents /the electors can decide what we're going to do. Now they give some examples of multiple questions that should be asked in that referendum and it's all done by license type so this is something that the members of this community could decide to do. My position, personally, I'm neutral. I'd like to see what Mansfield's going to do because of the college campus. They still, as far as I know, have a moratorium in place. If they were to legalize retail sales, Vernon is gung-ho retail sales, what's that going to leave? What is our 3% of Willington sales? Probably minuscule. Now if Mansfield does not allow that, well we're going to get a lot of traffic from UConn perhaps, or maybe Windham will or maybe Ashford, or Chaplin. I don't know but a lot of things to ponder and I'm gonna stay neutral at this point. I just wanted to offer these little tidbits of information. If anyone wants copies of those sections of the statutes I'd be happy to share them and real quick on reveal, a huge delay just delays the inevitable so I don't know whether or not it's a good idea to delay that. Let's just get it done, and then we'll have five years until the next time we have to worry about it. That's all I've got to say for now.

Rosa Chinchilla, 5 Common Road: I just wanted to say a few things about the cannabis. I thought that one of the most important points that was made in the June meeting was the traffic. And if you even heard anything about what happened in North Hampton last year, it was horrendous. There was a horrendous traffic jam at the North Hampton exit. there were cars piling all the way back to the highway. So I don't think that we should take this decision so lightly because the revenue is going to be so meaningless. I mean it's not even a third of the truck that you want and so is that worth all of this horrible hassle, not to mention the recent articles that appeared in the New York Times with the effects of marijuana on adolescents with marijuana. So I also want to say that I thought what PZC was doing was creating regulations for the creation of the establishments and I thought from the last conversation that it was going to be at least 1,500 yards perimeter, and I forgot the gentleman's name that was the contact. I think it's D'Amato. He made a circle and really there would be one establishment, at most, in the Phelps Way area unless there was a PZC hearing to change the zone. And that is worrisome, I think, to a lot of people in the town. But I do worry about the consequences in the town, we are already, as you said, so close to the universities (I wouldn't discount EastConn and Manchester Community College). So I don't think that we should rush to not regulate because I think this is an important issue. And I think that it could affect the small town character of our town. Thank you.

Nichols Tella, 49 Mirtl: I understand the boards have their own rules and such they govern by. I'm unsure if the state dictates that the school board committee must have all school employees or if that's driven by the town. If it is a Willington school board committee rule, then hopefully you guys can maybe give a recommendation to open up maybe a number of seats to the townspeople, just so there's proper representation, also that is coming from the people/the taxpayers and not just the workers there. Safety concerns: at the end of Mirtl Road, if you take a left onto Willington Hill Road, you're kind of blindsided by a stone wall there and a little bit of a hill. I don't know if there is consideration of maybe putting a mirror up on South Willington Hill so those coming out of Mirtl can at least view those coming from the left side. Just wanted to make a point that the state has marijuana legal but the federal government has a schedule one drug with high potential for abuse and that's according to the DEA. Maybe we should be giving a little bit of consideration to what the federal government's saying too. I know we pick and choose when we're gonna listen to them but I personally don't care if people want to smoke weed in their home. It's none of my business, I just don't want to see the selling of it in our town due to crime. Not budgeting for the tanks, I don't know if I heard \$18,000.00 or \$1,800.00, sounded like \$18,000.00 which would make sense, that's pretty concerning that the town didn't have that on their radar. I heard on the library committee the other day that they're not even paying attention to the HVAC system and now they just have repairs that popped up. As a concern going into potentially building basically a new building for the school, I'm worried we will be basically building a new school, and maintaining it properly. Here we are just spending like we can, and just spending the money and just raising the mill rate like it's no big deal. I love the idea of looking at used

vehicles. I think we should actually give a little bit more consideration to that in the meantime. Maybe we shouldn't be building new schools and buying brand new vehicles if we can't afford it with some dark clouds on the horizon economically. Thank you.

Alicia Corsini, 732 River Road: I want to thank you for thinking about not doing the reval right now. With Covid and the interest and everything that is going through the roof, oil is going through the roof too, to heat the house is going to be horrendous this year. To put it off for a year, I think it's going to be a big help to a lot of the elderly people even. Our population in the town is mostly elderly. When I graduated from the 8th grade in 1978, there was a lot more kids than there is now. There was almost a hundred kids in my 8th grade class. There's what, 300 kids, in all, K through 8th right now. That's a big deal. We're spending a lot of money on the schools, but he's right. We don't take care of what we have. Nothing is maintained properly. I get that it's the money end of it, but it's got to be put in the budget and we have to try to forward think.

James Marshall, 46 Fisher Hill Road: I just wanted to speak briefly at the end of this regarding the Planning & Zoning Commission meeting tomorrow night. I did just get word, so tomorrow night's meeting is a hybrid meeting. It's both in person at Hall School and remote, being the Zoom link. I did just receive word from Mr. D'Amato, our zoning agent, that the setup tomorrow night is not going to be able to accommodate members of the public sharing any visual information or talking to any visual information during the meeting live. It will be able to be viewed by the public or people attending remotely. Apparently there is no ability to share screens set up in the room. It's disappointing knowing that people do have a lot to say, and as I'm an architect, I like visual stuff, you know I speak through pictures. It's disappointing in this day and age we can't set up a projector and a screen and have the ability to share, have the ability to have somebody share screens so that people in attendance can see what's being shared and so that people at home can also see the presentation or any material. We can submit documentation ahead to the Zoning Agent but that's not as effective, and quite frankly not as beneficial to those attending the meeting either live or remote to have an understanding of some of the material being presented or hoping to be presented. So I'd ask, I know that we have members of the Planning & Zoning Commission in attendance here and I request that this board, you know, while there is opportunity to do so, since there is still 24 hours to perhaps consider looking at opportunities to correct the situation and allow the people to have the most voice that they possibly can tomorrow night. Thank you.

Melissa Miller, 55 Mihaliak Road: I just have a couple of comments. I'm pretty neutral about marijuana. I just wanted to share a couple of concerns. I know that prime studies go back and forth about the impact of marijuana. But as stated, it is still against federal law and we should take that into consideration, especially when we're thinking about how close it can be to places like schools, churches, and things like that. Even with regular class drugs, it's still within 1,500 feet of a school if you have possession. I really think that we should really take our kids into consideration. I don't have any children in this town, but I do have a granddaughter and these proposals are going through the states one after another, and I do see the potential revenue but also, a lot of other towns are planning on doing this. I don't know how many people smoke recreational marijuana, it's none of my business. I think we really should make sure that we take our kids into consideration when it comes to that because the impacts of marijuana, especially on young people, we don't really know the major side effects, the long-term side effects, and there's been a lot of recent studies, especially with young people smoking marijuana, with psychosis and the state of the world, and a lot of young people having a lot of serious issues with violence. I see it every day, I work in the system. I just wanted to voice my opinion on that. In addition, I know there wasn't a lot of talk about the recent truck stop that was being built, Love's. I noticed that they put a stop sign in for the local traffic, which I understand because I understand that there's a hill there but there has been a lot of stuff going on. There's been tractor trailers coming up and down a quiet, private road that's a town owned road. They don't know where they're going, somebody basically mowed over my neighbor's mailbox and a tree. The State Police were out, from people just not knowing what to do. I understand that they want people to realize that Love's is coming soon but there is absolutely no place for them to turn around. I just want to make sure that the impact to the people in this area that have to deal with the traffic 24/7, are gonna actually have their voices still heard,

even though this truck stop is in. There are still a lot of people that live on this side of Willington that are being impacted by the trucks and this is one of things that is going to get discussed tomorrow night with truck traffic and all that and I'm not going to get into what tomorrow's night meeting is but we should really start thinking about the impact of this many trucks, and then possibly a lot more trucks running on our small roads. It is a nuisance and I get it and I live by the highway and I don't have an issue. What I have an issue with is people turning around in my driveway 24/7 and my property that's going to possibly get damaged because people can't read that one small sign that says no services. And I think the town should start considering, especially if we are going to have a lot more truck traffic, to maybe figure out what we need to do to work with the state, whatever the regulations may be, to start limiting the amount of truck use, tractor trailers especially, on our small local roads, 320, 44, 74.

David Krivanec, 22 Willington Hill Road: I want to address two issues. In reference to the town truck and how you are saying it's going up, I have spent all summer with a friend of mine who wants to buy a new truck and trailer. I called all over the country and the truck he wants is not available because all of the factories were shut down because of the virus. Now they're opening up. He had to put a \$2,500.00 deposit on the truck to hold it for him. So that might be something you might want to look at. The other issue I have is about the Love's... and it's not the truck drivers. It's Showcase... I was up there the other day, it was raining, there were three trailer trucks. The people inside that building were telling them to go up Mihalik Road and go down the dirt road. Being an ex-truck driver, well still a truck driver, I know what the roads can be driven on, as such 320. I've driven across 320 with firetrucks and with 18-wheelers with no issues so. The problem is people in their cars need to learn to pay attention.

Arthur Christensen, 14 Birch Meadow Lane: I just want to make a quick comment on the cannabis issue. I mean personally, I am against the distribution in the town but I just want to ask anybody who might be on the fence of the issue or doing their homework on the issue and researching these studies, I would just urge everybody to look past headlines in the articles that you find and click into the actual studies. They're not that difficult to read and sometimes they paint a different picture. My quick example is I found a study that said crime went down 50% in a town that had a marijuana dispensary but the only two crimes they studied when I went into the actual study were illegal marijuana distribution and illegal marijuana possession so that was a fairly obvious conclusion that really solved nothing so headlines can be very deceiving and I urge anybody whose doing their homework to go in and read the studies as they are. Thank you.

Mr. Tullis: One point that I forgot to mention earlier, because of Planning & Zoning's inaction on any kind of regulations for cannabis, right now if an application were to come in for a retail establishment selling cannabis, we have no choice but to accept that application and treat it no differently than we would treat it no differently than we would treat a package store, and that's just the way it is because we don't have any regulations in place that influence where these operations can be, so hopefully that won't be the case but once the licenses start getting issued by the State of Connecticut, someone could land one in Willington right now and there's not a thing we could do about it other than follow regulations for a package store, a comparable retail establishment. So it's something that Planning & Zoning needs to keep in mind and get off their butts and get some regulations in place if we're going to allow it or not allow it. Thank you.

Rosa Chinchilla, 5 Common Road: I just wanted to say two things. One, I agree with Mr. Tullis that the regulations are necessary and important and they should pass them. That's different from whether you would like to make this a no zone. I think that's two different issues. I also think that the best solution or the only solution I could see, for the Love's problem is to create a circle there. Because we don't want people to go either way. And I know that you have previously told my husband that we cannot place signs prohibiting trucks over 300 tons to go over a certain road but I have seen those signs in the Town of Pomfret in two or three places. So I don't understand why the Town of Pomfret can place those signs and Town of Willington cannot. Thank you.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski thanked everyone for their comments.

Good & Welfare

June Troop C Report: 333 calls for service; 14 accidents, 17 criminal investigations, 1 burglary, 2 larcenies, 211 non-reportable matters and 12 arrests. 75 total traffic stops. 3 onsite DUP's, 3 arrests, 3 misdemeanor summons, 30 infractions, 14 written warnings, 27 verbal warnings.

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 in the State.

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

The Summer Concert Series began last week. I encourage you to head down to River Road Athletic Complex between 6:30 and 8:30 each Wednesday night for wonderful, live music. Thank you to all who sponsored the concerts and to the Parks & Rec Department and Director Alan Humphrey.

Summer camp, that was 100% funded by ARPA dollars for this year, began last week and what a wonderful week they had. Without a doubt, the 50 campers and the multiple camp staff were having a great time. Thank you to the ARPA Commission for allowing those funds.

Please keep Former Selectman James Makuch (also our neighbor here at the Town Office Building) in your thoughts and prayers as he has been hospitalized with very serious health issues.

Selectwoman Boritz moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 PM.

Selectman Bulick seconded the motion.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kelsey Allard

Recording Secretary

Town of Willington

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TOWN CLERK