

Town of Willington

Board of Selectmen
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BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Regular Meeting Minutes
In person; TOB, Common Room

August 15, 2022
6:30 PM

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

Selectwoman Boritz 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. First Selectwoman Wiczenski joined the meeting at 7:00pm via Zoom.

Selectwoman Boritz mentioned that First Selectwoman Wiczenski would not be with us tonight in person due to a loss in the family; please send her your condolences.

Pledge of Allegiance

Joint Discussion with Ashford Board of Selectmen: Discussion regarding possible uses and call for public hearing to gather information regarding the Cadlerock Property

Town of Ashford First Selectmen Bill Falletti and Selectman Roger Phillips joined the meeting at 6:30pm. Ashford Selectwoman Cathryn Silver-Smith joined the meeting at 6:35pm.

The Cadlerock property has been on the radar for many years; most of the land is in Ashford but a portion of it is in Willington; this is a Brownfields property. Recently the First Selectman of Ashford (William Falletti), his admin assistant C. Abikoff, the environmental attorney Ann Catino (of Halloran and Sage) and First Selectwoman Wiczenski and Admin. Assistant K. Allard met to review the status of the EPA lien on the Cadlerock property and to plan the submission of an application to remediate the property. The Brownfields grant application is due September 15th and this will be a dual submission between Ashford and Willington. Attorney Catino stated the inclusion of a use plan (a category in the application) and the inclusion of a remedial action plan (which has already been prepared by BL Companies and submitted for review to DECD) will gain the application points necessary to compete. The Board would like to call a joint hybrid public hearing for both towns on September 8th at 6:30pm and invite the town boards and commissions (BOF, EDC, PZC, IWWC) for a general discussion of uses for the property. Ashford First Selectman W. Falletti stated that he would like to have it in Ashford at Knowlton Hall, if possible, as the majority of the property is in Ashford. Ashford Selectwoman C. Silver-Smith stated that it would be nice to get the property usage determined. Selectwoman Boritz stated that the property has been mostly remediated and the discussion is for the usage of the property for the Brownfields remediation grant.

Selectwoman Boritz moved to hold a joint public hearing with the Town of Ashford on September 8th at 6:30pm to discuss the potential uses of the Cadlerock Property.

Selectman Bulick seconded.

Discussion: This public hearing is to collect ideas for the potential uses of the Cadlerock Property. Attorney Catino stated that she is with Halloran & Sage and represents both towns on this property. Need to move this process forward as it is significant for purposes of the DECD application. There is a lot of competition for the Brownfields funding currently. The towns are at the stage where the towns own the properties now which is a big difference from the last submittal of the grant. This will also help in

discussions with DEEP because DEEP has liens/orders on all of the properties and those will need to be released. Attorney Catino is also working with EPA on the release of the liens that EPA has on the properties as well. The towns will need to figure out if the land is going to go for public use or private use.
2 Yes (Boritz & Bulick) 0 No. Motion carried

The location of the meeting is to be determined and the legal notice will be published with the site location details as soon as it's available.

Approval of Minutes

Selectman Bulick moved to approve the meeting minutes of the August 1, 2022 regular meeting, as written.

Selectwoman Boritz seconded.

2 Yes (Boritz & Bulick) 0 No. Motion carried.

Selectwoman Boritz moved to approve the meeting minutes of the August 3, 2022 special meeting, as written.

Selectman Bulick seconded.

Discussion: Selectman Bulick was not at the meeting.

Selectman Bulick made a motion to table the minutes of August 3rd until the next meeting.

Selectwoman Boritz seconded.

2 Yes (Boritz & Bulick) 0 No. Motion carried.

Present To Speak

Nicholas Tella, 49 Mirtl Road: Just want to start off by saying sorry about the loss in Erika's family. For tax abatements, I was curious. I understand right now there is not back and forth but maybe tonight, at some point, saying your opinions on tax abatements, and how you guys would feel if that somehow came across your table, if this warehouse was to go through. Would you guys support tax abatements from your positions, your board? Did anyone look into the license or insurance on the contracted tree work, just to verify? On July 20th, I submitted a FOIA. There was worry that there was not much known about this project but yet I can't get this FOIA request fulfilled and it's 26/27 days in on a FOIA request that really probably doesn't have much information, if there was no knowledge going on between the town hall. So yeah, kind of suspicious. Recession last time, 2007/2009; right out of the gate we're spending like crazy. \$75,000.00 on this toy, \$250,000.00 truck down the road. What are we doing to be prepared if this recession does go long term from the Board of Selectmen's point of view. What are your plans to implement to protect whatever it may be. Any update on ARPA with the bonus situation? I know there's the central investigations office. With the stuff that just came up now, would we be paying some EPA or some three letter agency fees that hang over this property? What expenses has Willington done on this property already with people having to go out there and walk it? It just kind of worried me hearing about solar fields/solar panels. That's it.

David Krivanec, 22 Willington Hill Road: I am not familiar with that piece of property. Can you give me an idea of where that is?

Selectwoman Boritz stated that it's a small parcel in Willington with a larger piece in Ashford. It was used as an auto repair shop a long time ago and there were barrels of oil on the property. Both Ashford & Willington have received funding from the State for the cleanup. Selectman Bulick stated that it's mostly been cleaned up, but the Town needs the last grant to finish the last piece of remediation

Peter Latincsics, 97 Trask Road: My condolences to Erika and her family from myself and Donna. I want to comment tonight on the topic that the Board of Selectmen has taken up with expanding accessibility to town meetings. I think this is an outstanding initiative and I want to applaud your effort. The more accessible our

town meetings, the more inclusive they are, the more access the townspeople have to them, the better our town will be. Thank you and I look forward to your progress on this important topic. Thank you very much.

Matt Clark, 42 Burt Latham Road: I would like to echo the rest of the people here in attendance. Give my condolences to Erika and her family. I also would like to support the tabled motion to have all public meetings in Willington after 5:30pm. I looked it up and more than 75% of American workers work during the day, so they can't attend board and commissions in Willington that are held during the day. To me, this is just good government. It's simple, no problem, not complex. You can have an emergency meeting any time and you can meet during the day for any kind of emergencies or special contingencies or anything like that. Another benefit of having these transparent government ordinances, like this one, is that people are more likely to volunteer their time and volunteer for boards and commissions if they know that those things are happening in the evening when they're not at work. Separately, I would like to communicate or ask that the Board of Selectmen communicate the subjects on its agenda with more specificity. Tonight's agenda includes something called social media concerns. I have no idea what that means. You need to be more specific and tell us so we know what's coming up. I attended this meeting partially because of that. I'm like what does that mean? If we can be more specific like concerned about something... Threats? I don't know, I don't know what it is. So that's my comment; thank you very much.

Correspondence

Correspondence list presented to the BOS; all correspondence is on file in the First Selectwoman's Office. Several emails were received from residents regarding social media concerns. This will be addressed later in the meeting as an agenda item. Selectman Bulick said he was disappointed to see the Animal Control Officer is resigning.

First Selectwoman's Status Report

- A. School Building Committee:** The last SBC Meeting was Wednesday, August 1st at 6:30pm. Chris Tillona, the staff member from the Willington Board of Education has filled the open spot on the Committee. The Committee is going to proceed with a legal opinion to review and interpret the existing Hall Memorial School deed to determine a legal opinion of the deed content, as suggested by the State. At last week's town meeting, the vote to appropriate \$100,000.00 from the reserve fund for the school building consultant was voted down. The next meeting of the SBC is this Wednesday, August 17th at 6:30pm. These meetings are currently remote on Zoom.
- B. LOTCIP:** The Town is now under contract and moving forward with the survey and design work which will be completed by the end of October. Once the final plans have been prepared, they will be submitted to CRCOG and DOT for final review. Following that process, once the plans are approved by DOT, the Town will receive the final award letter with access to the grant funds. The hope is that we will be able to go out to bid for construction (hopefully this Winter) for construction this Spring. The total grant award is \$1.1 million dollars. The Town has previously allocated \$27,000.00 for the survey/design work and there is no Town match required for the \$1.1 million dollar award.
- C. Truck Lease:** Still expecting the truck December 2022/January 2023 as of now.
- D. ARPA:** The next ARPA meeting will be Monday, August 29th at 1:30pm. The Town has not yet received the second tranche of funding from the State as of yet, but it is expected sometime this month. Due to this, the funding application process is currently paused until further notice. The current approved projects can be found on the Town website under the ARPA Commission tab.

- E. Flooring in the Land Use Department – CIP Project:** The flooring has been completed and the offices have been moved back into their space at this time.
- F. COVID-19 Update:** As of 08/11/2022, there has been no change in the vaccination rate. There have been 12 new positive COVID cases since the last meeting; cumulatively that is 858 cases total.
- G. Town Staffing Update:** Animal Control Officer Tina Binheimer has given her resignation. Tina has been with the Town for 10 years and we thank her very much for her dedication and tremendous work in those 10 years. We wish her the best of luck in her new position. The Assistant ACO, Samantha Fegan is currently filling in as the ACO but she has also given her notice and her last day will be August 26th. We also thank Samantha for her work. The search process has begun for a new ACO. Interviews have been conducted for the shared Assessor position with Bolton and the expectation is to have that position filled by the end of this month.

Selectman Bulick inquired if Willington shares an ACO with the town of Tolland and if that position was also currently open. He mentioned possibly being able to work with them to fill the position.

Public Works

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

- Continuing roadside mowing around town;
- Moved the desks back into the Land Use Office;
- Chipped brush around town as there was a few trees that came down recently;
- Fixed a few washouts at the edges of the roads;
- The chip sealing has been finished and sweeping will commence soon;
- Finished the drainage on Moose Meadow Road and are now waiting on the paving contractor;
- Put out the Vote signs; and,
- Tree removal is still going on around town.

New Business

A. Tax Refunds

Selectwoman Boritz moved to refund Yetzaveli Cervantes Almonte a Certificate of Correction in the amount of \$155.91.

Selectman Bulick seconded.

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

Selectwoman Boritz moved to refund Sharon Proctor a Certificate of Correction in the amount of \$253.11.

Selectman Bulick seconded.

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

Selectwoman Boritz moved to refund Jeong Himchan a Certificate of Correction in the amount of \$120.41.

Selectman Bulick seconded.

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

B. Social Media Concerns

Selectwoman Boritz shared recently, there have been a few threats posted on Facebook and other social media sites. The First Selectman's Office received several communications from concerned residents about the threats on Facebook and a potential viable threat to those who are in attendance at the meeting on Tuesday night for Planning & Zoning. Troop C was contacted and the State Police and other agencies have actively investigated the posts that had been made and at this time, they believe there was no imminent danger. However a trooper has been requested for tomorrow night's meeting and will be present at Hall School. Some of the ongoing threats have stemmed from inaccurate statements that have been made that have been shared online and in these meetings during Public to Speak regarding Mr. D'Amato's work and the Town of Willington. CME Associates was originally contracted by the Town of Willington in November of 2018. The Town had previously performed two separate searches in an attempt to fill the position, which were unsuccessful. The contract and the Town's consideration to hire Mr. D'Amato was also presented to the Board of Selectmen. In January 2020, CME was acquired by CHA and the contract was transferred from CME to CHA. In January 2021, Tyche was formed and CHA transferred the contract to Tyche with no change in rates, scope or services. The initial contract and scope signed in 2018 in its' entirety, has remained the same. The town's contract is paid directly to the firm. There is a lot of concern about the remarks that are being made about Mr. D'Amato and his affiliation with Tyche. The statements being made are inaccurate regarding Mr. D'Amato. It is currently creating a hostile and potentially dangerous situation for staff, both regular staff and contracted staff by the Town of Willington. Mr. D'Amato is not a member of any board or commission in the Town of Willington; he is a staff member that consults with our boards and commissions. It is important for our residents to know this accurate information. While we may disagree on potential projects in Willington, we cannot stand for any threatening behavior in any manner against any resident, employee, or citizen within the Town of Willington.

First Selectwoman Wiccenski stated that she took the concerns that came into the office, as the Town does not monitor social media. They were reviewed in their entirety and immediately moved forward to begin work with Troop C. The Troop worked with multiple agencies and did not believe one of the instances was a threat with imminent danger. For this particular meeting tomorrow night, the Selectman's Office has requested a Trooper. When we request this, there is a cost associated with the Trooper. It was necessary to assume the cost of a trooper for Tuesday night to ensure the residents feel safe about speaking out on any side of the issue. There was not just one incident, but several, specifically about Mr. D'Amato. He is a duly employed contractor by the town. The town hires contracted staff in a number of areas and he is not required to be a Willington resident. Any comments to the opposite are making things concerning and are encouraging additional residents to make threatening comments. There has been some unrest and unease amongst the town employees as they are all aware of the comments that have been made online. It's important that they feel safe when they come to work at the TOB in Willington; just as important as residents who feel as though their safety may be compromised at a meeting. Mr. D'Amato's work with the Town of Willington is that of a contracted entity. He does not act as a member of any board and he holds no individual interest. His only interest when he is working in the Town of Willington is on behalf of the Town of Willington. His work in the LOTCIP grant was an example of his important work for Willington. It's important as Selectmen when errors have been made that we need to correct them in public meetings. We have heard too many inaccuracies during meetings.

C. Award Contract – Stormwater Management & System Mapping - CIP Project

This is another project from this year's CIP plan but is being funded through LOCIP funds.

Selectwoman Boritz moved to award the vendor and specifications for the stormwater management and system mapping to BETA Group, Inc. in the amount of \$45,000.00.

Selectman Bulick seconded.

Discussion: This software will be to help the Town with the inventory and map of the stormwater infrastructure (such as catch basins, manholes, pipes, outfalls, culverts, swales, interconnects, etc.) in a format that complies with the requirements put forth by the MSA 4 permit. Selectman Bulick inquired if DPW Director Sposato has had experience with this company before. DPW Director Sposato said this was the same company that will be doing the road management software, other towns have used their services, and they are on the CRCOG bid list. The Town was designated as a "city" a few years ago and the town has to complete the MSA 4 permit. Concentrated line by UConn at the apartments. Funding is from two previous years in CIP and is LOCIP funding that has been put aside over two fiscal years.

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

D. Award Contract – ARPA-37 2022 John Deere Skid Steer

ARPA approved \$68,000.00 for the purchase of a 2022 John Deere Skid Steer for the Public Works

Department at their August 1st, 2022 ARPA Commission Meeting. W.I Clark is a state approved vendor.

Selectwoman Boritz moved to award the vendor and specifications for the 2022 John Deere Skid Steer to The W.I. Clark Company in the amount of \$68,000.00.

Selectman Bulick seconded.

Discussion: Selectman Bulick inquired with DPW Director Sposato about the plan to use the skid steer. DPW Director Sposato stated there are multiple attachments that come with it; but it will come with a bucket on it. It can be used during the winter season for the plowing of snow during storms in the town parking lots; attachments to use it for certain projects. Can use the mower head to mow around the transfer station and the ponds. Have some pipe jobs where it will be versatile in the roadway and can push the gravel back. Selectman Bulick inquired if this was an outright purchase and DPW Director Sposato said it was. First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that the life span of the machine should be 15-20 years and with funding in his budget, he should be able to add a few of the attachments or he can rent them for use, as needed over the years. Selectwoman Boritz stated that this was approved by the ARPA Commission on August 1st. Selectman Bulick inquired about the maintenance of the machine; DPW Director Sposato stated that it will come with rubber tracks and there is a maintenance warranty. It comes with a 2,000-hour, 2-year warranty.

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

Old Business

A. Public Meeting Ordinance – Discussion

Tabled motion from August 1, 2022: Selectman Bulick made a motion for the following ordinance: All public meetings of town boards, commissions, and committees shall be conducted no earlier than 5:30pm, Monday through Friday.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski reached out to CCM to see if other towns in Connecticut have mandated restricted times for public meetings. CCM responded that they had contacted fifteen towns in Willington's population range in Connecticut, and none of the eleven respondents have any such restrictions on timing of meetings, as previously discussed at the last BOS meeting. In addition, CCM is not aware of any town ordinances across the State that set such meeting limitations for times. The original ordinance proposal was that all board and commission meetings shouldn't be conducted before 5:30pm Monday through Friday. Selectman Bulick stated that he does not believe that having meetings after 5:30 is a hindrance or restriction of meetings; he thinks that it will increase participation and that's why he's made this proposal.

Selectwoman Boritz stated that the vast majority of the town's meetings take place during the typical times and she questions what is it that spurred this particular issue right now? The times of meeting have been common practice. Selectman Bulick stated that he wished the ARPA meetings were during times that he could attend. First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that she listened to the statistics and she is not in favor of an ordinance that may make it impossible for even 16% of workers in the community to attend. This is a completely political issue with the ARPA meetings. Meetings are held based on the availability of the board or commission that needs to do the work. The public meeting charge is that it's held in public and always available to the public. The ARPA Commission could take the meeting time discussion up again. This ordinance would limit public meetings and limit the public's access to the meeting. There are ample times that special meetings need to be held; in order to move town process and town business forward.

1 Yes (Bulick) 2 No (Boritz & Wiecenski). Motion fails.

Present to Speak

Ralph Tullis, 47 Village Hill Road: Good evening everyone. A classic example would be last Monday; there were three meetings scheduled for 7:00pm. The typical town meeting night seems to be Tuesday and more often than not, it always coincides with the Planning & Zoning meeting which created a problem for members of that commission being able to attend both. As far as the time of day, I'm not going to touch on that issue. You've already decided that, but as far as the day of the week that meetings are scheduled, all boards and commissions are supposed to establish their meeting schedules at the beginning of the year. And I can't understand why when the Board of Selectmen calls a town meeting, they can't be aware of the meeting schedules and avoid conflicts with other meetings. I just think it benefits the townspeople to be able to attend a town meeting without having to decide which meeting they go to. I would hope in the future you will be more cognizant of other meetings that are scheduled when a town meeting call comes about. Thanks.

Matt Clark, 42 Burt Latham Road: I was not familiar with any of the threatening comments that were made on social media, primarily because I don't subscribe to social media. I am sad this behavior has made its way to our small town. That's very unfortunate. As a Republican candidate for the first selectman position in the last election, I'd like to ask all town residents, Republicans, Democrats, Unaffiliated, whatever you are it really doesn't matter, there's others too, the Green party and stuff, we should all respect the opinions of others and we should respect the hard work of our town employees and the volunteers on our boards and commissions. So let's not let this kind of behavior come to our town, but stop that. I am disappointed that the Board of Selectmen wants to restrict important decisions about our town for when and by having decisions about important issues being made when the vast majority of the townspeople can't attend because they're working. What other towns do when regarding when they hold their meetings is not germane and doesn't have anything to do with it to deliver to the citizens of Willington. Did the other towns that were contacted have meetings scheduled for 1:30 in the afternoon? We don't know. I would say probably not. I mean we are making the decisions about millions of dollars in funding and we're holding votes when townspeople cannot participate. I'm disappointed, that's too bad. Thank you.

Peter Latincsics, 97 Trask Road: I'm obviously disappointed by the majority of the board deciding tonight not to increase access to our public meetings. I think this goes far and beyond just the ARPA meetings which have been a source of frustration to the community. We have in recent years have had a high preponderance of special meetings by the Board of Selectmen that is not characteristic of our town history and in these special meetings that are frequently 9 o'clock in the morning, the call to the meeting for a town meeting is set. Often not even all of our selectmen cannot be there, let alone townspeople. I never thought we would need an ordinance like this. I'm not sure we need one now. I think things should be decided in the regular meeting. And with all do respect Liza, moving the town process forward should not be the highest priority, the highest priority should be that the townspeople be involved in that process. And you regrettably have voted otherwise tonight. And I think the townspeople will continue to seek ways to participate in what I

think is a wonderful town meeting form of government that you apparently don't think we should have access to. Thank you.

Nicholas Tella, 49 Mirtl Road: I want to start off that I find it comical that no one is being denied access to meetings when we have multiple boards across this town that go only remote and we know that people throughout this town have bad bandwidth and such like that so I find it interesting the statement that we're closing out access and we have this compassion about letting everybody come. The minority of people is total BS. Also, another thing about it is including people in the town. I know you want to make everybody come, you know the 14% of the people show up or something here, yet we are rushing votes at the last meeting. Why don't we extend the voting time for the people of the town to come 24 hours instead of just 30 minutes to make a vote on \$100,000.00 or \$75,000.00 and whatever the town fee was for. If we really care about including the people in the town, actually take action to show that you care. And when it comes to voting, you know, one person said that they can't make it if you made this. There's examples across the board that you can always find. I mean today I couldn't get to the Housing Authority because I was busy doing work. I'm an example on the other side obviously. There's going to be examples, the numbers don't lie but we're going to cater to the minority like our country always does. I've heard that the engine for that equipment is poor. I'm not up to date on that equipment, just something that I heard from somebody that's in that world. In regards to, I won't name the person in particular, the threat that this person made to our community that many people can see. We, I'm not going to mention other people that worked on it, I specifically worked on it along with many other people in a group chat. We reached out to the State Police, basically they go interview this kid, 30 minutes, oh he's fine, he's not a threat. We find out his mom's potentially a lawyer, who knows what the connections are. So I got upset. I called the FBI, the A.G., Chris Murphy's office, numerous other 3 letter agencies, because the state police coming back saying oh this kid's not an eminent threat, whatever. I don't know if you've seen the memes and the screenshots of what this kid is putting out there. This kid is clearly beyond the first amendment protected act. I do appreciate Erika reaching out and getting the state trooper there tomorrow. But let it be known it was the people in this town that actually got that done. So I just wanted to point that out. The Mike situation... Clearly, I'm one that speaks out against him. Very vocal. Things that I put out on Facebook.. He's a contractor, I didn't lie about that. She even said it too. He has Tyche working for this, he's grabbing tax money from this town along with 6 or 7 other towns. He's just raking in money from the taxpayers; that's what he's doing for his company. He's a co-founder and you cannot deny that because it's on his profile that he owns it so to say that he has no part or acts like he has no part in Tyche is completely misleading the people. Because he is a co-founder along with John Gruskowski. They both sit on the Economic Development Board and say if something comes to the Economic Development Board, granted he can't make final decisions; but he's giving guidance, he has information that he can manipulate. He can manipulate anything being displayed to the EDC and planning & zoning. All of a sudden he had SDZ come in under his watch and now we've got a \$1.5 million project. So things I've said about you, anybody who wants to sit down, I will show you the proof that this guy, in my opinion does it based on things that we have seen out there. Oh and then "I'm coming after you" was not said by me, said somebody on Facebook, but anyone with common sense who have seen that that statement was not him, that that person that made that comment was not physically coming after him. He made that as like I'm going to expose you. People want to blow up things and you know, it is what it is, but that's all I have.

Janice Clauson, Revenue Collector for the Town of Willington: I do want to preface this by saying I am speaking for myself and not any other employee here. Regarding the threat that was made, you might not think it was a threat, however I have to come to work in this building. "I'm coming after you" can mean many different things. Again, we can agree to disagree. This is my feeling, not yours. Also a comment was made by the same person that the Town of Willington is full of corruption. Offensive? Yes. I am not corrupt. Insulting? Yes. There's no reason people have to cram everybody under one umbrella when you have a beef with one person. I am not trying to silence anyone, I am not trying to get anyone's freedom of speech taken away from them. I understand that you are shaking your head like you think I want to. Moving forward, I respectfully ask that if people are going to say these comments involving me, come to me first, and if you

can't, you get to the right person you want. Use your words carefully because they can be very destructive to other people. Thank you.

David Krivanec, 22 Willington Hill Road: I have noticed that since we've gotten this zone change coming in that people have already condemned it before the zoning board has even had a chance to look at it. Mike, being the zoning agent, has no vote on the board. He doesn't. I use to sit on this Board years ago, before you were even in this town. I was the Assistant Chief in this town. People have got to calm down. Just because it was proposed, you gotta open up the door for these people, otherwise you open up the town for lawsuits. The other thing is, you have 900 people signing a petition. How many of them are actually Willington residents? I've seen people on the Facebook page from Ashford wanting to know what's going on. It's not an Ashford problem because it does not affect their property in Ashford. We don't have to notify you. That's the way Planning & Zoning works. You have a commissioner and you have people on there that have the say so over this project. The people on Facebook and with all of these big signs up around town, they don't know what they're talking about, because wait a minute... They have overstated the amount of traffic that will be going in and out of there. People gotta calm down. I sit there on Facebook at home, I'm retired, and I laugh at them. They're showing pictures that don't even have anything to do with that building. It's 80 feet above the tree line. The trees are 80 feet, the buildings already 80 feet above. Most of your commercial buildings are between 50 and 60 feet tall for a warehouse. They're not 80 feet or better. People just need to calm down. I've been in town all my life and I've never seen this town act like this for a zone change.

Selectwoman Boritz reiterated what was previously discussed under the Social Media Topic. It does extend beyond social media; it extends to in person communications as well. Everybody on every side needs to remember that there's more than two sides to every issue. They are representing an opinion of theirs. One person's opinion does not supersede another person's opinion. There are things that we can agree upon as fact and those things are evident and will come to light. I agree with the need for civility amongst our community members. There is a significant amount of tension and everyone needs to be more civil and understanding that the vast majority of people are volunteering their time and are not getting money kickbacks from anybody. We are a little town.

Good & Welfare

Mobile FoodShare will be at the TOB this Wednesday, August 17th 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 if you can.

This is the last Wednesday for the Summer Concert Series at the River Road Complex from 6:30pm-8:30pm. Thank you again to all of the sponsors that have helped this Summer.

Congressman Courtney visited the Town of Willington on Tuesday, August 2nd to discuss how the ARPA funding has been spent to date. Congressman Courtney and town representatives visited the Town Office Building and discussed the basement project, as well as the air purifiers and devices for town staff that have been added. Then we toured Hall Memorial School and discussed the Band Room AC project, as well as visited with the Summer Camp staff and campers and discussed how Summer Camp was funded by ARPA money this year. Then there was a tour of Willington Fire Department #1 to see the new ambulance, discuss the new radios that the Fire Departments are in the process of receiving and also to discuss how a portion of the second tranche of funding will be utilized to replace the SCBA packs that the firefighters use when needed. There was a tour of the River Road Athletic Complex and discussion of the drainage and lighting improvements that will be conducted and how this will help to improve the park. Finally, the tour visited the DPW Garage and discussed the new radios for DPW, the generator that will be

utilized at the DPW when there are power outages and how that will benefit not just the DPW but the school buses and emergency vehicles, as well as the upcoming purchase of the 2022 John Deere skid steer and an additional storage box for use with evictions.

Selectman Bulick would also like to offer his condolences to the Wiecenski family, he served with Bob on the Board of Finance during the term of chair. He was very active there, particularly with the fire hydrant testing... Selectman Bulick would like to also echo to please attend the last concert on Wednesday. I know Jen and the Social Services group are trying to raise money for good causes. And I hear the weather is not going to rain, what more can you ask for. Also, social media... everyone has an opinion and is entitled to it but it doesn't mean you have the right to go off the deep end. Listen sometimes and hear what people have to say and formulate your own thoughts.

Selectwoman Boritz stated that you have to be careful, don't take anything too seriously that you see on social media.

Selectman Bulick moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 PM.

Selectwoman Boritz 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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