

# Town of Willington

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Board of Selectmen  
40 Old Farms Road  
Willington, CT 06279  
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[www.willingtonct.gov](http://www.willingtonct.gov)

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Regular Meeting Minutes  
In person; TOB, Common Room

October 3, 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 via Zoom.

### Pledge of Allegiance

### Approval of Minutes

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

Selectman Bulick seconded.

2 Yes (Boritz & Wiecenski) 0 No 1 Abstain (Bulick). Motion carried.

Selectman Bulick moved to approve the meeting minutes of the September 19th, 2022 regular meeting minutes.

Selectwoman Boritz seconded.

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

### Present To Speak

Nick Tella, 49 Mirtl Road: Mr. Tella spoke about his recent meeting with First Selectwoman Wiecenski, Zoning Agent M. D'Amato, and the town attorney regarding his FOIA request.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski clarified for the record that the FOIA request was completed in full and provided to him.

### 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 for OTH Septic:** A town meeting needs to be held to appropriate the funding for the project. The request will go to the Board of Finance first.
- B. **School Building Committee:** The last SBC Meeting was Wednesday, September 21st at 6:30pm. The Phase 1 environmental work was completed; although they are awaiting the formal report. The contractor is recommending a Phase 2 on both the HMS site and the private site. The committee is preparing for community meetings to be held in the near future. The next meeting for the SBC is this Wednesday, October 5th at 6:30pm and these meetings are currently remote on Zoom.

- C. LOTCIP:** Currently in the survey & design phase. The survey is complete & are currently working on the design phase; this is expected by the end of October.
- D. Truck Lease:** Nothing new to report; Still expecting the truck December 2022.
- E. ARPA:** The ARPA Commission met today and discussed expenditures to date. There are several projects that are still in progress; an example is the summer camp funding. The Business Office received notice of the second tranche of funding being deposited tomorrow, October 4, 2022. Due to this, the funding application process will reopen to further allocate remaining funds. The next ARPA meeting will be Monday, October 17th at 1:30pm.
- F. COVID-19 Update:** The weekly vaccine information is no longer included in our weekly updates from Eastern Highland Health District. As of 09/30/2022 the current COVID case rate is 894, which is an increase of 14 cases since our last meeting in August. The new Bivalent Booster is available at all Eastern Highlands Health District clinics. Check their website at [www.ehhd.org](http://www.ehhd.org) for clinic times and locations. The board discussed future COVID updates. Unless otherwise requested, the board will discontinue these regular updates and report out on significant changes moving forward.
- G. Town Staffing Update:** There is a vacancy in the Finance office; the Payroll/Personnel Coordinator left last Friday. The position was posted internally and will be posted externally, if necessary.
- H. STEAP Funding:** The Town received funding in 2016 for the last phase of the Turnpike Road project and former First Selectwoman C. Mailhos asked to have the leftover funding reallocated towards a different project (the DPW salt shed). Discussion with CT DOT has occurred repeatedly over the last several years since 2016 on following up with the project and the reallocation of those funds. Discussion will soon need to occur on the salt shed project for the DPW and how the town will move forward with it.

### **Public Works**

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

- Finished Kucko Road drainage;
- Picked up trash on Pinney Hill Road;
- Roadside mowing is still occurring around town;
- Dirt roads were graded around town again;
- Pipe was replaced across the road on Old South Willington Road;
- A catch basin on St. Moritz Circle was fixed;
- A catch basin on Cisar Road was fixed;
- The ramp at Hall School was paved and a few spots in the parking lot were fixed;
- Paved washouts on the edges of roads around Town;
- Chipped brush and trimmed trees at Village Hill Park; and,
- Installed new door locksets and light bulbs in the TOB.

## **Old Business**

### **A. Award Contract – Propane Tank Replacement**

At the last BOS meeting the Board approved and awarded a vendor for the propane tank replacement and Amerigas was the low bidder. Once the award letter was finalized, Amerigas then stated that without a contract for propane delivery with the town, they would be unable to do the job. DPW Director Sposato reached out to multiple other vendors and was told the same by all companies. Since the town has a service contract with High Grade Gas, none of the other companies will do the work despite bidding on the project. DPW Director Sposato's recommendation is that the town move forward with awarding the contract to High Grade Gas for the Dog Pound and then wait until the next bid cycle for propane and include the replacement of the tank at the DPW in that scope.

**First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to award the vendor and specifications for the propane tank replacement at the Town of Willington dog pound to High Grade Gas Service, Inc. in the amount of \$5,490.00.**

**Selectwoman Boritz seconded.**

**Discussion:** The board discussed replacement of the two propane tanks and if waiting until the next bid cycle to replace the tank was necessary. Selectman Bulick inquired about who owns the tanks and DPW Director Sposato stated that the town does.

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

### **B. ARPA Region 19 Funding Discussion**

At the last BOS meeting, there was discussion in regards to moving forward only if we considered such a program for our school staff as well. After discussions with Superintendent Stevens, we determined that it would be better to ask for ARPA funding to hold several events that would encompass the entire staff from town; including a holiday gathering and a Spring/Summer celebration. This discussion does tie into Item C on the agenda as well.

### **C. Potential ARPA project – Employee Retention**

The ARPA Commission decided to ask for this project (employee retention bonuses) to go to a Town Meeting instead of the Commission voting due to potential conflicts with members of staff on the Commission. First Selectwoman Wiecenski still supports the original request that this Board voted to move to ARPA, but in light of the situation with the school or Region 19 staff bonuses, she would like to suggest a revised project instead. The project request would be revised to \$20,000.00 instead of the original \$32,500.00 request and would allow for the flexibility to plan for multiple staff events for both the town and the Board of Education. If the Fire Department chooses to move towards this idea, it would include their membership as well. This would affect the Region 19 ARPA funding decision; their proposal was limited in some capacities and did not include the department heads and administrative staff. Discussion continued on the idea of having sent this project to town meeting for discussion and creating an uncomfortable situation for staff, as it could turn into a potential job review by residents. Discussion continued on how this would be different from an employee bonus and would still acknowledge the staff for all of their hard work throughout COVID for the town and town residents. Selectwoman Boritz asked for the staff's input and to discuss this again at the next BOS meeting.

## **New Business**

### **A. Call Town Meeting**

TOWN OF WILLINGTON

## NOTICE AND WARNING

### SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

The electors of the Town of Willington and all persons who are entitled to vote in Town Meeting on the matters mentioned in the following warning are hereby warned and notified to meet in Town Meeting at the Old Town Hall; 11 Common Road, Willington, at 7:00 P.M. on Monday, October 17, 2022, for the following purpose:

ITEM I: Willington electors to nominate and vote for Willington electors to fill a vacancy on the Regional 19 Board of Education. Registered voters attending shall cast a certified paper ballot on the nominated names.

ITEM II: To see if the townspeople, on the recommendation of the Board of Finance, will authorize the appropriation of \$40,000.00 from LoCip, to contract with BETA Group, Inc. to provide Stormwater Management and GIS Mapping services which are needed as part of the MS4 permitting process.

Dated at Willington,

This 3<sup>rd</sup> day of October, 2022.

Willington Board of Selectmen:

Erika G. Wiecenski    Liza Boritz    James Bulick

#### **Selectman Bulick seconded.**

**Discussion:** Selectman Bulick inquired about the date of October 17th and First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that the BOS meeting would need to be canceled that night and that the calendar was reviewed for meetings throughout the month. First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that various recommendations have been received for Region 19 nominations but that the nominations occur at the Town Meeting. Selectman Bulick inquired about LoCip and First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that LoCIP is a Local Capital Improvement Plan grant.

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

#### **Present to Speak**

Nick Tella, 49 Mirtl Road: Mr. Tella stated that he does not agree with bonuses or parties for government workers and that the private sector had to go through the same difficulties. He believes all ARPA funding should be given to town residents or used for town improvements as needed and not to give to government workers. Mr. Tella stated that he believed his FOIA request was not filled and gave a brief summary of how he interpreted the FOIA discussion meeting.

James Marshall, 46 Fisher Hill Road: Mr. Marshall discussed his EDC complaint and stated that he was disappointed that it was not discussed. He asked for the Board to provide guidance on the proper conduct to address complaints, as well as correspondence and outreach from the commission.

Ralph Tulis, 47 Village Hill Road: Mr. Tulis mentioned that there are EDC minutes from 2021 that included sending a draft of the SDZ changes to a few developers. He stated this is concerning regarding the evolution of the SDZ regulations.

#### **Good & Welfare**

Mobile FoodShare will be at the TOB next Wednesday, September 28th from 11:00am to 11:30am as a drive through model. This is open to all residents, as well as any residents in surrounding towns.

Please continue to support our small businesses and restaurants in town, if you can.

The Parks & Recreation Department and the Human Services Department will be hosting a Halloween party at the River Road Complex on Monday, October 31st from 4:00pm to 6:00pm.

The PTA Trunk or Treat is Friday, October 28th at the River Road Complex from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. Contact the PTA for more information.

Absentee ballot applications for the November 8th election are now being accepted in the Town Clerk's office. Per statute, the ballots will become available on October 7th.

DPW will be doing drainage work on Hockla Farms Road on Thursday, October 6th. The road will be closed from 7:30am to 2:30pm.

The next Board of Selectmen meeting is October 17th; but will be most likely canceled due to the town meeting.

Selectman Bulick stated that Mr. Marshall presented an application before Planning & Zoning and he believes it should not have been discussed before other entities. First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that the EDC is a non-regulatory board and if they chose to take a position before the public hearing, the appropriate time for that board to discuss it would be in their meeting. This Board should not micromanage their discussion or what that Board may or may not discuss. Recently, multiple boards and commissions took up a discussion that was going before a public hearing and decided as a commission or board to speak out on that. The EDC had the same opportunity with that application as well. Selectwoman Boritz asked to add the clarification of the Board's roles and responsibilities with commissions and other boards and clarification for the recourse for residents with concerns to be addressed to the next agenda.

**First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 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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WILLINGTON, CT

2022 OCT -6 P 1:29

  
TOWN CLERK