

TOWN OF WILLINGTON

Board of Selectmen
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BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Meeting Minutes
Lower Level Conference Room

September 17, 2018
6:30 P.M.

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM with the following in attendance: Selectmen Makuch & Blessington and residents. She then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes:

Selectman Blessington moved to approve the minutes of September 4, 2018 as written.

Selectwoman Makuch seconded the motion.

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

Present to Speak:

Robert Shabot stated that he noticed a speed trailer from the Town of Stafford had been placed on Route 320 and asked if it would be possible to place one on Route 74 in front of the Tavern as well? First Selectwoman Wiecenski noted that she believes the trailer was placed there as a result of a petition. We have requested some information from Troop C regarding it but we can ask them if it would be possible to borrow it for Route 74 in the future. She noted that Routes 320 and 74 are State roads and we usually do not have jurisdiction on those roads. We are waiting to hear back from Troop C to get further information – whether it collects data and what they are going to do next, once the trailer has been pulled.

Jason Wentworth of Cisar Road stated that he was here back in April to ask the Selectmen to look into speeding issues on his road and asked the status of his request from 6 months ago. First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that she has since met with the new Commanding Officer at Troop C and stated that they would be stepping up with the monitoring of those roads. She noted that she has held many discussions with him since then but is not sure whether they have been present or not. In addition the Public Works Director has just returned today from leave and as a result, does not have any other updates at this time. Mr. Wentworth stated that they have been dealing with the same issue for over 13 years and nothing has changed and we still have no answers. First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that she cannot control Troop C but she will check with them to see if they can give any updates.

Todd Bissonnette noted that the traffic around the TA truck stop remains the same and sometimes worse as tractor trailers park along the road near the entrance; sometimes backing up all the way the the exit off of the highway. He stated that is causes confusion for others who are just trying to get by or to the truck stop. He added if additional signs were put up, it might alleviate some of the congestion.

Mr. Bissonnette added that his neighborhood has been quiet as of late, but would like to follow up on the Noise Ordinance. He commended Selectwoman Makuch for trying to preserve the quietness of the town and added that he has researched the Statutes and would like to share them with the Selectmen when they discuss under old business.

Correspondence:

A list of correspondence was available at the meeting and in the Selectman's office.

First Selectman Status Report

First Selectwoman Wiecenski went over the updates:

- The chip sealing routes will be swept this week (weather permitting) and the TOB parking lot has been swept today.
- The Zoning Enforcement Officer position remains open. The panel will hold interviews this week.
- The Pillars and ramp project will be brought to the BOF and discussed at their meeting on Thursday night. The Selectmen will call a Town Meeting on Friday.

Public Works

Our Public Works Director returned to work this morning. A meeting was held to bring him up to speed with things that have been done in his absence.

New Business

A. Willington Day Discussion – future members

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that we are looking for new members as well as a Chairperson for Willington Day. The former Chairperson, Melissa McKinnon has resigned as a result of her moving out of state. Several years ago, Willington Day was put on by members of the community, but when they stepped down, the responsibilities transitioned over to Town employees. Currently, all of the members of the Willington Day Committee are TOB employees, with the exception of the Chair.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski noted resident, Sarah Reis has offered to take over as Chairperson for the event. We would like to see some community members join the committee as well, as some employees are looking to step down. Planning Willington Day is a lot of work, and especially when it falls back to back with the Memorial Day parade, which also is planned by the Selectmen's office.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that she is going to try to get the word out that we are looking for people to help with the planning and have it go back within the community; noting that the Selectmen's office will still help with some of the planning. First Selectwoman Wiecenski added that she will be attending the PTA meeting later this week to ask for their support as well.

The Selectmen thanked Ms. Reis for coming forward and taking it on. First Selectwoman Wiecenski noted that Ms. Reis also started the newly formed group in town, "It Takes A Village Hill" that helps out wherever there is a need in town. In addition, Ms. Reis has begun planning an appreciation day for our first responders where a breakfast will be held. She is looking for volunteers to help plan the event.

B. Discussion TOB Holiday Party

First Selectwoman Wiecenski noted that last year, the Board allowed the TOB employees to close the office at noon on a Friday afternoon so they could hold a holiday party. She is looking for the same this year; to close the

TOB at noon on December 14, 2018. The Selectmen were in agreement and said it worked out well last year and were not objective.

C. Discussion – TOB Basement

On September 7th, a few employees had gone down to the basement (which is located under the Assessor's and Town Clerks wing) to look for some documents and noticed that the dehumidifier was no longer working and as a result, had grown mold in areas. The area under the Town Clerk's office has a concrete floor and behind the fire door, (assessor's area) is a dirt floor. There are several Grand List books that are down there that have developed mold as well.

The Building Inspector was notified and the area has been closed off to all employees. We called ServPro to come out and give us a quote and in the meantime, rented a commercial dehumidifier to dry the area (noting that the dirt area did not dry completely). We have since returned the rental and purchased a new unit for the vault area and will be looking for a large commercial unit to put on the other side, where the floor is dirt, but need to figure out how to pipe the water out. The contractor who will be doing the work to add the pillars in that area has been contacted to give us a quote to pour a concrete floor in the area that is dirt as we feel if it has a concrete floor, it will not retain as much moisture as it does now. First Selectwoman Wiecenski noted that she believes former First Selectman Mailhos had put a CIP request for concrete to be poured in that area several years ago, but the request was denied. First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that she believes that a lot of the moisture issues can be mitigated if we pour a concrete floor (with sump pump piping) and add a sufficient dehumidifier down there.

There are several pallets of documents that are being stored in the dirt floor area, and we believe that all of them have been scanned; so they can be destroyed (once properly documented on the retention schedule) but the Grand List Books must be cleaned and preserved per State Statute. ServPro gave us a name and number to call to have the books cleaned and we are waiting to get that quote back. The books will be cleaned and then freeze dried to preserve them. Once they have been cleaned, they will have to be stored in the vault once we get them back.

In addition to the mold in the basement we were also notified that the attic has areas of mold as well as a section over the copier in the Selectmen's wing. ServPro has given us a quote to clean the mold for all of the areas (with the exception of the books) of \$3,006.12 and we are still waiting for the quote to come back on the books and we might be able to apply for a grant to offset the cost of restoring the books. Selectwoman Makuch stated that we need to come up with a plan to fix it properly so we do not go through this again.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that we haven't budgeted for any of this, but has spoken with the Business Manager, who thinks we should have the funds to cover the cost. She will keep the Selectmen informed as we get more info. First Selectwoman Wiecenski added that we need to fix this and make sure we have a dehumidifier that is working in the basement and also need one that is adequate for the larger dirt area as well. We are working on a quote and are looking into splitting the cost with the BOE as they use portions of the basement for storage as well. The Board of Ed has a contract with EMCOR and First Selectwoman Wiecenski thinks it might be a good idea to have them do an assessment of this building in the near future.

Selectman Blessington stated that we could be looking at a larger cost if we don't keep up with the maintenance.

Todd Bissonnette stated that you can purchase a device with a sensor on it, install it in Robin's office and it will alert her when something is not working or moisture rises to a certain level. First Selectwoman Wiecenski agreed, but it comes with a cost and who is going to be the person to monitor it as we do not have a maintenance person. She added that she is looking into adding a maintenance person, who will also do custodial work here and at the school with the new budget season.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski thanked Matt Jensen who is the CES Custodian as he was a huge help to us throughout this situation.

Selectwoman Makuch stated that we are severely under-resourced and we need to address these things or things are always going to cost us more in the long run.

D. Tax Refunds

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund \$141.94 to FM Enterprise Trust on a Certificate of Correction.

Selectwoman Makuch seconded the motion.

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund \$5104.53 to JP Morgan Chase Bank on a Certificate of Correction.

Selectman Blessington seconded the motion.

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

Old Business

A. Nuisance Ordinance

First Selectwoman Wiecenski noted that this topic will be changed to "Noise Ordinance" for the next Agenda. She then noted that we did not have a chance to reach out to the State Police to see if they would be able to attend this meeting (due to the issue in the basement). Robin Campbell emailed them earlier today, and gave them the dates of the future BOS meetings. We will add the discussion to the agenda when they are able to come. Selectwoman Makuch asked for the Police to be able to discuss the speeding issues when they come as well, as this too has become an ongoing issue.

Todd Bissonnette submitted handouts to the Selectmen regarding State Statutes noting that he is just trying to make people aware that there are laws and rules that must be followed. The paperwork states that 81 towns are under State Police jurisdiction either because they do not have their own organized police department or have agreed to let the State Police supervise their police or constables. The State Police provide law enforcement services in these towns through 12 Troop locations. First Selectwoman Wiecenski agreed with Mr. Bissonnette, noting that Willington is one of those towns, but everyone's perception on how the State Police should respond to their situation is different. In some cases, the State Police cannot enforce whatever the situation is because they are not breaking any other law, therefore there is nothing for them to enforce. She clarified that there is a possibility that even if we pass an ordinance, it might not fix the problem that you are dealing with because it is not all encompassing. Mr. Bissonnette agreed and said that there are certain things that are allowed and certain things that are not; such as 110dB outside of his bedroom window. He added that we are talking about a small percentile who ruin it for the rest of us. He then added that just because there is no ordinance means it is lawful to do it; but he then said that State law overrides municipality law.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski clarified if there was a law that was being broken when the State Police responded, and then they would enforce it. she added that we would set something that is in addition to; and she then clarified that the noise ordinance that he is talking about only pertains to certain hours of the evening; not daytime.

Mr. Bissonnette then said that he researched and found 3 towns who have a noise ordinance in place and rely solely on the State Police; Union, Voluntown and Windham. The Selectmen clarified that Windham falls under the Willimantic Police Department. Selectwoman Makuch added that you would have to look at when the noise ordinances were passed in Union and Voluntown; where they were passed in the 1980s so they are very old and

could possibly be a different situation to what we have today. She added that she will follow up with the two towns to see how they manage them. She added that we can create the ordinance; but the complication is without a state trooper or dedicated police force, we do not have anyone to enforce this with us. She reiterated that we are a severely understaffed town and we need to have police that are available and dedicated to us.

Selectwoman Makuch thanked Mr. Bissonette for the information and stated that she would follow up with those two towns and report back. First Selectwoman Wiczenski added that she hopes that a trooper will be able to attend the next meeting to offer input as well.

Good & Welfare

First Selectwoman Wiczenski reminded the Selectmen that they will be calling a Town Meeting on Friday. The meeting will be held at 9AM on Friday, September 21, 2018 (agenda forthcoming). The Town Meeting is slated to be held October 2nd.

The Selectmen have submitted their Annual Report as requested by the Board of Finance. First Selectwoman Wiczenski reminded all Boards and Commissions that their Annual Reports are due by September 30th.

The annual Flea Market, which was held on Saturday, September 8th was a success.

Mark your calendars for the annual Town of Willington Car Show, which will be held on October 6th with rain date of October 7th. Proceeds benefit the Marine Corps Law Enforcement Foundation. Let's hope for good weather! Many thanks to Joe Phillipi for organizing the event!

First Selectwoman Wiczenski moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 P.M.

Selectman Blessington seconded the motion.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Campbell
Administrative Assistant