

TOWN OF WILLINGTON

Board of Selectmen
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BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Meeting Minutes
Lower Level Conference Room

June 18, 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 6:31 PM with the following in attendance: Selectmen Makuch & Blessington and residents. She then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes:

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to approve the minutes of June 4, 2018 with the following edit: under Good and Welfare (page 5 second paragraph) add thank you to Tish Ignatowicz who always puts the booklet together and does a fantastic job.

Selectman Blessington seconded the motion.

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

Present to Speak:

Pete and Sherry Lazzerini of 45 Luchon Road expressed their frustration in regards to noise from a neighbor who lives down the road from them. The noise is of multiple levels, ranging from loud music and his vehicles. They have approached the Town (employees at the Town Office Building) and the State Police to see if something can be done about it. They have researched this and found that it is not a new topic and are circulating a petition to generate an ordinance so the town can begin enforcing noise issues. Mr. Lazzerini stated while they are working on trying to get an ordinance in place, there are some things that the town should fall under regarding state laws.

Selectman Blessington said that the DEEP is charged with enforcing their own regulations and another alternative is to call the State police who enforce state law. We do not enforce either DEEP or State law – if there was an ordinance in place, then the Town would be able to enforce it. Mr. Lazzerini asked since there is no ordinance, why does that make it ok for someone to do whatever they want? First Selectwoman Wiecenski clarified that it doesn't necessarily make it ok for them to do what they want, but our jurisdiction does not allow us to enforce state law. If you contact the State Police and the resident is not doing anything that falls under the State Statutes, then there is no way to enforce or respond to. She added that we do not have a police force nor do we have a Resident State Trooper. Mr. Lazzerini stated that he understands and asked what their options are if the police are not responding or better yet, what can the Town do for them? This has been going on for over 6 years, it is affecting their health and they want something to be done.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski asked the Lazzerini's if they had talked with the neighbor that they are having issues with? Mr. Lazzerini stated he has twice and his wife had also, but as a result, ended up with retaliation – telling them he is going to do whatever he wants, but even louder than before; now they are at their wits end.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that the Board of Selectmen had received requests and held discussions regarding nuisance ordinances and are investigating and looking at options. She warned that this process takes time. If the Board believes that such an ordinance is in the best interest of the town, then they would put the

ordinance forth at a town meeting, at which time all of the townspeople will be able to vote on it. She clarified that the Board of Selectmen cannot put an ordinance in place without having the town vote on it. She added that we are at the point to see if this is something that we are going to move forward with. In the meantime, First Selectwoman Wiczenski said that she had met with our liaison at Troop C; Sergeant Jeff Duda to discuss the various issues (complaints) that she has received since taking office. The discussions were about the noise, ATV activity and speeding, to name a few. In regards to the Lazzerini's situation, it seemed as though the dispute is more of a retaliatory situation and they definitely should be calling the Troop and she will forward the Sergeant's contact information with them. She then reiterated that the Board of Selectmen have limited power.

Mr. Lazzerini asked what happens if the ordinance does not pass – why it would be ok for someone to ruin another person's livelihood. It seems as though they wouldn't have any rights at that point – they pay their taxes just like everyone else. Mrs. Lazzerini said it is so bad that they cannot even think when they are outside and they even hear it while inside their own home. First Selectwoman Wiczenski stated that she understands their frustration; however that particular resident might be thinking that they are being unreasonable, because everyone's thought processes are different. Mrs. Lazzerini stated that she has called the police to come out and they have never responded when she has called. She added that they should be called all of the time the way he acts. Mr. Lazzerini stated that he is sorry if he sounds harsh, but they have been dealing with this for over 6 years and they moved here because it is known as the quiet corner, but it is not the case.

Todd Bissonnette of 41 Cosgrove Road stated that currently the situation that he has been dealing with has seemed to resolve itself and his neighborhood is pleased. He clarified that there are things the town can do – it is not just DEEP; but the eRegulations should be followed – state statutes should also be followed and they are enforceable and whether it be music, cars or any other type of activity, it is not allowable any time of the day. He then asked why the town officials aren't sitting down with the troopers asking them to enforce this? First Selectwoman Wiczenski stated that she did meet with our liaison on June 6th and they discussed many things and it is not within her authority to tell the police what they should or should not be enforcing when they are called to a scene. Sergeant Duda said he was aware of all of the situations that have been brought to him from their meeting. She clarified that she was told when the troopers went out there was nothing that they could fine anyone on because there was no evidence that the issue was happening when they got there.

During the discussions on June 6th, Sergeant Duda had offered to have troopers run extra patrol through Willington, when they had the manpower to do so, but cautioned that Willington is part of a several town loop and if they have a serious situation going on, then that would take precedence. Mr. Bissonnette then asked what happens if the troopers don't respond after several phone calls – something could escalate. First Selectwoman Wiczenski clarified that the Board of Selectmen do not have authority and have no police power - they cannot force the Police to respond – especially if they are responding to something else that is more serious. She reiterated that she is speaking with them – they are aware of our issues and they will try to help as long as they have the manpower.

Mr. Lazzerini then asked why we don't have a resident state trooper. Robin Campbell stated that the discussion was brought up at a Selectmen's meeting (and a presentation was held) a few years ago. Several residents came to the meeting to have it thrown off of the agenda because they were against it.

Kelly Trueb of 55 Mihaliak Road said that she was at the meeting where the Resident State Trooper presentation was held and discussed a few years ago. She added that the thought of a resident trooper is much different than you might think it is and it's more than just a budgetary problem – the trooper would only be working from 9am – 5pm (Monday through Friday) and although there are many benefits to having a trooper, you are not going to be able to tell him/her that they need to be on your road for a designated time period. In addition the annual cost is well over \$100,000.

Jim Makuch who lives on 34 Old Farms Road has expressed interest in hooking up to the public water main that runs along Old Farms Road for his wife's business that is on their property; noting that there seems to be a hook

up in front of it. Mr. Makuch presented photos of the hook up that is directly in front of his barn, where the business is located. Robin Campbell stated that the water main was installed using STEAP grant funds and believes there was stipulations with the main, only being able to accommodate public entities, such as the school, Fire Department and Town Office Building. The hook up in front of his residence might be for service access - there are several of them in different locations along the road. Mr. Makuch stated that he would like to see the documentation regarding the water main when it was installed.

Correspondence:

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski noted that she received a ticket to Hall Memorial School's graduation (which will be Thursday, June 21st) but is unable to attend for the first time in many years.

First Selectman Status Report

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that she is happy to announce that the lights have been installed and are working at River Road Athletic Complex. The lights are currently on a timer – they go on at dusk and will go off at 11PM and will then be set to go off at 10PM in the fall when the weather turns. This item will be removed from the list.

Public Works:

Derek reported that the crew has been busy with the following:

- Sweeping
- Clean off catch basins
- Install light piers at RRAC
- Mow sight lines
- Vehicle maintenance
- Sign Repair
- Roadside mowing
- Grade gravel roads
- Tree removal (Small trees hanging in road from Nor Easter)
- Mow Senior Center Septic
- Mow detention basins

First Selectwoman Wiecenski noted that our Public Works Director will be out on an approved FMLA leave from June 25 through September 16, 2018. As of now, we have a plan in place to cover the responsibilities, which will be handled internally and there will be limited/no impact to the budget.

New Business

A. Appointments

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to re-appoint Brenda Sullivan as Housing Authority Recording Clerk; effective July 1, 2018; expiring June 30, 2019.

Selectman Blessington seconded the motion.

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved e to re-appoint Richard Kryzak as Assessor for the Town of Willington; effective July 1, 2018; expiring June 30, 2020.

Selectwoman Makuch seconded the motion.

Mr. Kryzak's new appointment will reflect more structured hours. His public hours will be Monday evenings from 5:15 PM-7:30 pm and Friday normal hours; 9am – 2pm. The Assistant is also here while the office is open (with the exception of training and or vacation dates, etc.)

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

The Board of Finance Recording Secretary position was then discussed. We received two applications and both candidates were in attendance. The applications were forwarded to the Selectmen and they also received a letter of recommendation from the Board of Finance Chairman who had met and interviewed the first applicant. We had received the second application after that. Selectman Blessington stated that he has known Ms. Almquist's family for a while and she is also a former employee of his farm. When the position became open, and no one was applying, he suggested that she apply for it (because she at that point was not able to work on the farm any longer due to an age rule) and thought it would be a good opportunity for her. In the meantime, the Chairman had met and interviewed her. The second application had come in 8 days after the recommendation had been made to the Selectmen. He added that he is hopeful that an end date would be added to the job openings in the future.

The Selectmen asked the candidates to speak and give some information about themselves.

Guinnevere Almquist stated that she is 17 years old and is looking for an opportunity. She currently holds a secretarial position for her venture crew in which she prepares agendas and minutes and communicates with the officers, such as the President, Treasurer and Vice President. She feels that she has experience to do this job. She plans to continue her schooling through college and aspires to become a chiropractor or a surgeon and is looking for a part time job while she attends school.

Todd Szabo stated that he has lived in town for approximately 3 years and recently worked at Stub Hub that has relocated to Utah. In the past, Mr. Szabo also worked for the Connecticut General Assembly New Britain Town Council reporting proceedings, taking minutes and using shorthand. He stated that he applauds Ms. Almquist's interest in the position as well – he thinks it is wonderful that our youth has an interest in becoming involved. He wishes her luck.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski asked both candidates if they are aware of the schedule with Board of Finance, who meets once per month during regular season, and they meet more regularly (weekly) during budget season.

Selectman Blessington said because of the timing of the receipt of applications and the recommendation of the Chairman of the Board of Finance, Ms. Almquist should be appointed.

Selectman Blessington moved to appoint Guinevere Almquist as Board of Finance Recording Secretary; effective June 21, 2018; expiring June 30, 2019.

Selectman Makuch seconded the motion.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski said that she is disappointed that BOF Chairman Bulick did not take the time to interview the second applicant or at least speak with him. She added that if we are taking applications, they at least need to be seen. She is not comfortable giving the job to someone just because they were told they have it. Selectman Blessington stated that he thinks part of the problem is that there was no end date, and the second application came in after the first applicant was told she was going to have the job.

Vote: 2 Yes (Makuch & Blessington) 0 No. 1 Abstain (Wiecenski)

Motion passes.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski thanked both candidates for their willingness to serve and encouraged Mr. Szabo to get involved in a board / commission as we are always looking for people to serve on these boards.

B. New map machine

Donna Latincsics, Business Manager presented the Selectmen with background on a purchase of a new map machine. The current map machine is over 13 years old and parts are no longer available. The Town Clerk, Assessor, Planning & Zoning and Historian all use this machine. The current machine was purchased for \$9,032 back in 2005. A new machine off of the State bid (from ACT Group) has been quoted at \$10,560 and we have overage from salary turnover in Assessor's budget as well as Planning and Zoning which will cover the cost of the new machine.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to approve the purchase of the digitized Ricoh MP6700 map machine from ACT Group at a cost of \$10,560.

Selectman Blessington seconded the motion.

Selectman Blessington asked if the maintenance plan is budgeted? First Selectwoman Wiecenski said she will check with Donna on that.

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

C. Discussion – St. Jude property on Old Farms Road

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that the St. Jude property sadly has been closed and is now for sale. She has received several suggestions about having the Town purchase the property. She had inquired with the realtor because the church was not listed on line and she could only find information on the house.

Interestingly, the parcels (church and home) are being sold separately; the church as commercial and home as residential, however the town lists as one parcel – both buildings are classified as residential with the church having a special use permit. She is not sure if the Real Estate Agent is aware of that. The asking price for both parcels: \$375,000 for the church and \$150,000 for the house (that is the price given to the Town) and they are willing to negotiate if the town were interested in purchasing both. She added that it might be a difficult sell, because of the way it is zoned and there is no driveway for the house, and that would need to be considered. First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that she is just sharing the information and it is something for us to think about.

Selectman Blessington suggested that the Real Estate Agent might want to talk to Susan in Land Use to make sure the listing matches what we have here in the town.

Kelly Trueb stated as a taxpayer, she is hopeful that the town would be keeping an eye on what could potentially go in there.

Old Business

Update – Nuisance & Speeding concerns

This item was discussed under present to speak.

Good & Welfare

Halls Pond's opening day is Friday, June 22nd with a kick off opening party from 2pm – 5pm. Admission is free with a non-perishable food item. The UCONN Dairy Bar will also be selling ice cream from 3pm-4pm. Pond

passes will be on sale with a \$5 discount at the party only. For more information, contact Willington Parks & Recreation at 860-487-3108.

We received the monthly report from CT State Police Troop C for the month of May:

8 Accidents	0 Burglaries
12 Criminal Investigations	1 Larceny
657 Non-reportable matters	2 DUI's
324 Traffic Citations	69 Written warnings

*First Selectwoman Wiecenski noted that most of the activity happens on Interstate 84.

On Wednesday, June 20, Willington will participate in the Annual State EPPI (Emergency Preparedness Planning Initiative). The Town's EOC will be open and active during the state exercise from 8AM – 12PM. Public Works, Fire Departments, Stuart Cobb, Willington Emergency Management Director, First Selectwoman Wiecenski and Robin Campbell will be involved in the exercise.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski congratulated Phil Stevens as incoming Superintendent, who will begin as Superintendent as of July 1, 2018. In addition, she thanked outgoing interim Superintendent, Dr. Jaqueline Jacoby for her dedication over the past two years. The Town will miss her.

Hall Memorial School graduation will be held on Thursday, June 21st at 7PM. First Selectwoman Wiecenski congratulated all of the 8th grade students heading on to high school. The 4th grade students will have a promotion ceremony on Wednesday, June 20th.

We have received a letter of retirement from Susan Yorgensen, who's last day will be Friday, August 10, 2018. The Planning and Zoning Commission and Inland Wetlands Commission members will be holding interviews this week.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski wished a belated happy father's day to all of the fathers; hoping they had a wonderful day.

Lastly, First Selectwoman Wiecenski expressed condolences to the family of Robert Macon, who lived across the street from the Town Office Building. Sadly, Mr. Macon passed away on Sunday.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 PM.

Selectman Blessington seconded the motion.

Vote: 3 Yes (Wiecenski, Makuch & Blessington)

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Campbell
Administrative Assistant