

TOWN OF WILLINGTON

Board of Selectmen
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BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Meeting Minutes
Lower Level Conference Room

March 19, 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. First Selectwoman Wiecenski led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes:

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to approve the minutes of February 20, 2018 with the edits made by Selectman Blessington at the March 5th meeting.

Selectwoman Makuch seconded the motion.

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to approve the minutes of March 5, 2018 with the following edit: Page 3; first paragraph; 4th sentence; original budgeted collection was \$13, 147, 178 (was missing the middle 7)

Selectwoman Makuch seconded the motion.

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to approve the minutes of March 9, 2018 with the following edit: time of meeting in header should be changed from 7:30 PM to 2:00 PM.

Selectman Blessington seconded the motion.

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

Present to Speak:

No one was present to speak.

Correspondence:

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

First Selectman Status Report

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that she moved the MS4 Ordinance and video recording policy to the status report. Selectman Blessington said he has been working with Mr. Schoen and Lauren (who has been videotaping the meetings of late) on the video recording policy. He also referenced an email received from Michael Harnad, who has some ideas on how to promote the videos. Selectman Blessington then suggested inviting Mr. Harnad to the next meeting on April 2nd. First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that we will add on to the next Agenda as a regular item for discussion.

The Land Use position closes on Friday, March 23rd.

The Assessor position will be discussed later.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski and Robin Campbell will meet with officials in the Town of Ashford to discuss the proposals that were received for the Cadlerock property remediation. The meeting will be on Thursday at 10AM.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski noted that the other projects have been on hold; waiting for warmer weather.

Public Works:

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

- Vehicle /equipment repair
- Make sand/salt mix
- Plow/sand roads, municipal lots and clear sidewalks
- Remove unwanted tables from Hall School
- Add material to gravel roads (Muddy/ rutted out areas)
- Tree removal during and after Nor' Easter
- Remove snow piles in municipal lots
- Pot hole repair

New Business

A. Appointments

First Selectwoman Wiecenski noted that we received a letter of interest from Rick Maloney to serve on the EDC. The EDC currently has two new members and they will hold their first meeting on Friday, March 23rd at 6:00 PM in the lower level conference room.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to appoint Richard Maloney as a Regular member of the Willington Economic Development Commission (filling a vacancy); effective March 19, 2018 expiring January 1, 2019.

Selectwoman Blessington enthusiastically seconded the motion.

Mr. Maloney, who was present, asked the Selectmen what they are looking for from the Commission. He noted that their first plan will be to look at some target points in the Plan of Conservation and Development and figure out how to implement them. They also want to look to see what is considered as the Town Center and perform an inventory of the businesses in town.

Selectman Blessington said he always hoped that we would have a "go to" person for any prospective business coming into town; noting that the EDC at one point was great at that.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski noted that we are in tough economic times and we need to find a way to bring businesses in, with keeping Willington the way we want it to look and at the same time, offset the loss of revenue. She added that she likes the idea of identifying the town center; but cautioned that they might end up with different answers, depending on who you ask.

Selectwoman Makuch suggested to have the Commission reference the Eastern Highlands Health District website, as they offer a lot of information on nurturing a small town while expanding potential businesses. As part of their focus on healthy lifestyles, they identify opportunities where a town center is accessible not only by car, but in a community where people can walk to.

Mr. Maloney stated that the Commission will also start to talk to the businesses in town as well to get input from them.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski thanked Mr. Maloney for stepping up to serve on the Commission.

Vote: 3 Yes (Wiecenski, Makuch & Blessington)

First Selectwoman Wiecenski noted that the Library Board of Directors has had a vacancy since December, 2017; but was unknown because the resignation letter was sent to the Library Board instead of the Town Clerk. Since then, the resignation has been forwarded on and acknowledged by the Town Clerk.

Mary Pat Maloney has sent a letter of interest to be appointed to the Board. Selectman Blessington noted that he has had a hard time trying to find the minutes and agendas from the Library Board meetings. He noted that some agendas are listed on the Town's website; but not the minutes. He noted that he would like to see more clarity. Robin Campbell clarified that the library has their own website; but it is linked to the Town's website. There was question whether the minutes have been issued to the Town Clerk. First Selectwoman Wiecenski noted that she will have the Town Clerk check with them.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to appoint Mary Pat Maloney as a regular member of the Library Board of Directors effective March 19, 2018; expiring November 16, 2021.

Selectman seconded the motion.

Vote: 3 Yes (Wiecenski, Makuch & Blessington)

B. State of Connecticut DOT land acquisition offer (Route 32)

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that we received a letter from the State notifying us that they would like to take ownership of a parcel along Route 32 for a construction project. The parcel abuts the River Road Athletic Complex. The State is looking to acquire the land for the purpose of sloping for the drainage of Route 32 and removal, use or retainage of excavated material. The acquired easement area they are looking to retain is 727 sq. ft. The construction easement area (in which they will surrender back to the town once construction has been completed) is 3,178 sq. ft.

The State has based the unit value of the property to \$.30 per sq ft; which calculates to \$351.45. The minimum they can offer any town is \$500; therefore the offer is set for that amount. First Selectwoman Wiecenski noted that we can always decline the offer, but warned that the state has also noted that they can move to acquire the property by eminent domain; and then we would receive nothing.

Discussion was held on the exact location of the property and the type of construction they are looking to perform; it is believed it is one of the bridges that is over Roaring Brook; which is in need of repair. Construction is slated to begin the spring of 2019.

Selectman Blessington asked what they are looking for. First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated they will accept a motion or a resolution.

Selectman Blessington moved to authorize the First Selectman to transfer property rights for the piece of land on project & serial number 160-147-001 in the amount of \$500.

Selectwoman Makuch seconded the motion.

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

C. Tax Refunds

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund \$46.43 to Nissan Infinity, LT; on a certificate of correction.

Selectman Blessington seconded the motion.

Vote: 3 Yes (Wieczenski, Makuch & Blessington)

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund \$164.36 to Kristina Parent; Willington, CT on a certificate of Correction.

Selectman Blessington seconded the motion.

Vote: 3 Yes (Wieczenski, Makuch & Blessington)

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to refund \$81.09 to Joseph Ferenc; Willington, CT on a certificate of Correction.

Selectwoman Makuch seconded the motion.

Vote: 3 Yes (Wieczenski, Makuch & Blessington)

D. Account Analyst Position

Selectwoman Makuch stated that the Selectmen made a motion to suspend the position at the last meeting until we had a chance to meet with the Town Attorney; which we have done. It will now be unsuspended.

Selectwoman Makuch moved to move forward with the Account Analyst search.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski seconded the motion.

Selectman Blessington said he has nothing more to say.

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

E. Discussion- upcoming legislation regarding recreational marijuana

Selectwoman Makuch stated by virtue of her profession (as a prevention specialist), she is made aware of upcoming legislation; in particular, the marijuana legislation; and has been reading up on it. She added it might be wise of the Selectmen to start thinking about what we want if the State passes the legalization of recreational marijuana. She then noted even if it did pass, it would not take effect until the year 2020; which would give time to figure out what to do and what our townspeople want. Legislation reads on that Towns will have the opportunity to regulate where it will be able to be used sold and grown.

She then noted that we might want to be ready to establish an Ordinance on how we want Willington to react. Selectman Blessington stated that he scrambled his brain trying to read the bill. The bill will allow towns to ordain the locations of sale, use and production of the product. Towns will also be able to ban the sale of product if they so choose.

Selectwoman Makuch stated that she is not coming today to say exactly what we should do, but rather start the discussions to figure out what the town wants so if the time comes to make a decision, the work will have been done; we will have heard the voice of the town and will be ready to act.

Selectman Blessington said it will be an interesting argument. Selectwoman Makuch then stated that we just want to figure out what steps we should be taking. Selectman Blessington stated he is sure they will let us know.

Selectman Blessington asked Selectwoman Makuch if she has any feeling whether the bill is going to pass? Selectwoman Makuch stated that the feeling / conversation has been that it might not pass this year, but you can never bet on that. She added it might be 3 years from now (which could be a different Board who will decide at that point) you never know.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that we will follow this closely.

Old Business

A. Assessor Position

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated since our last meeting, we discussed how we want to move forward with this position. Our options would be to go with a shared service, or put the Ad out in the paper to see if anyone would be interested. She noted that we do need a certified Assessor to sign off on the Grand List (as well as other changes from time to time) in which the Assistant Assessor is not authorized. First Selectwoman Wiecenski added that she has had several discussions with the Assistant Assessor, who is currently working on her certifications; but it takes at least three years to become officially certified. At this time, she is enjoying being the assistant; but anything can happen in a few years. In the meantime, we will need someone who is certified to serve as Assessor.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski noted that Assistant has been alone in that office for quite a few months and is doing a great job holding the department, but we owe it to her to find someone quickly.

Selectman Blessington asked if Ms. Totz would be interested in staying on with us part time? First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated no, that she has a full time job in East Windsor, and also works part time in Bolton. She had told First Selectwoman Wiecenski that she is not interested. Ms. Totz was a valuable asset to us, and she still continues to help the Assistant via telephone when needed.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that we have reached out to the Town of Bolton to see if they would be interested in shared services, but they will not be ready until June of 2019. We can look to share interim with an end date of June 30, 2019; or put the ad out to see what we get for a part time employee.

Selectwoman Makuch stated that our long term goal is to find a full time person (who would be shared between our town and another); which we might find more of a variety of people in that category; and it would also be in the Town's best interest as well and in the meantime, we should try to find someone temporarily. Selectman Blessington was in agreement.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski stated that she will start to reach out to other towns to see what they can offer.

B. Discussion – potential land for sale

First Selectwoman Wiecenski noted that a land owner had offered the town first rights of refusal to purchase 26 acres of land on Clint Eldredge Road back in November. Robin Campbell had sent his offer to the Conservation Commission, Housing Authority, Senior Center and Board of Education. The land was offered at \$5,000 per acre. Since then, there has been no interest and Ms. Campbell would like to respond to the property owner to inform him of that and close it out. First Selectwoman Wiecenski thanked Mr. Neumayer for his offer.

Good & Welfare

The Economic Development Commission will hold their first meeting in quite a while with their new board. The meeting will be held Friday, March 23rd at 6:00 PM in the lower level conference room at the Town Office building.

We received our monthly report from the Connecticut State Police for the month of February:

16 Accidents	14 Criminal Investigations
0 Burglaries	1 Larceny
479 Non Reportable matters	0 DUI's

First Selectwoman Wiecenski thanked our Public Works' crew, who has been working long tiring hours. She has had the opportunity to go out on two snow events; and she has now gotten a sense that is more than she had originally thought to be. She commended them on a job well done, especially handling two nor'easters back to back; and the last storm when they had cut trees; just so they could plow the snow.

Thursday, March 22nd, the Board of Finance will hold their last budget meeting. The meeting will be held in the upper level common room at 7PM at the Town Office Building. It is expected to be a long meeting as it will be their last one. Also, there is a change in the meeting dates for the budget hearings, town meeting and referendum; which will all be held on Wednesdays this year (they have traditionally been on Tuesdays). The dates are as follows: Public Hearing: Wednesday, April 4th at 7PM; Annual Town Meeting: Wednesday, April 18th at 7PM in the Old Town Hall and the Referendum will be held on Wednesday, May 2, 6am – 8pm in the Town Office Building poll room. First Selectwoman Wiecenski told people to spread the word about the changes.

The meeting was adjourned by Selectman Blessington at 7:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Campbell
Administrative Assistant