

TOWN OF WILLINGTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN Special Meeting Minutes

Board of Selectmen
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Town Office Building
Selectmen's Conference Room

January 23, 2018
6:00 P.M.

First Selectman Wiecenski called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM with the following in attendance: Selectman Blessington, Business Manager, Donna Latincsics, Animal Control Officer, Tina Bernheimer Selectman Makuch was absent.

Budget Workshop

Animal Control Officer Binheimer presented her budget. The Dog Fund is showing a decrease of \$802 (-3.51%). Gas and repairs have been decreased because the new truck is still under warranty and the pound repair line item was decreased by \$1,000. Ms. Binheimer stated that she increased the supply line to cover the cost of items that will be necessary in the upcoming year. To offset the expenses, Ms. Binheimer noted that the Dog Warden Fees have come in higher than anticipated the past few years, and that could increase the income.

Robin Campbell commended Ms. Binheimer for seeking and receiving donations when she has an animal in need of veterinary assistance. Selectman Blessington noted that he is appreciative of a job well done by Ms. Binheimer. First Selectman Wiecenski was in agreement.

The total funding request for the Dog Fund is \$22,245.08. Donna Latincsics noted that the Dog fund balance looks healthy.

The Selectmen thanked ACO Binheimer for her submission.

The Human Services budget was reviewed next. Ms. Arpin, who was not able to attend the meeting, submitted her budget via email for the Selectmen to review. The submission was updated with recent funding requests and a letter from the Board of Finance requesting for all departments to lower their budgets by 2.24%. In her email, Ms. Arpin noted that she has done the best that she could with both requests while trying to preserve and re-grow the fund balance.

Donna noted that the Selectmen could get a sense for the request when looking at the request of funding from the General Fund; which is an increase of \$5,000 more than last year. (\$48,579; 11.7%); noting it would be an impact to the Selectmen's total budget. The difficulty with this budget is that there is very little revenue coming in from State grants and very little program revenue and then the revenue from the town. Last year most of the fund balance was used to help offset the cost of the department's expenses. At this time, the fund balance is no longer able to sustain that kind of application.

The email stated that the new budget does, unfortunately, request more funding from the town while the department works on rebuilding the fund balance. This was concerning to the Selectmen because there were no clear indications as to how that would be done. Donna added that she does not think that amount can be achieved through fund raising. She then noted that Ms. Arpin may have to go back and look at the expenditures and see if anything can be decreased there. First Selectman Wiecenski stated that she will follow up with Ms. Arpin later this week. She explained that the Human Services Department's budget will be reviewed by the Board of Finance separately, and a \$5,079 increase might not be received well.

Donna then presented the budget, run #4 as it stands. The Town Clerk's budget has been incorporated into the Selectmen's budget and there are a few place holders in the budget that will be finalized shortly. The BOS budget total currently shows a decrease of \$81,037 (-2.41%) and this is due to large decreases in Public Works and the Transfer Station. First Selectman Wiecenski noted that the decrease is right in line with the request from the Board of Finance's request to reduce spending.

First Selectman Wiecenski stated that the Selectmen do not have any other budget meetings scheduled after tonight's meeting. The next regular meeting will be held on February 5th. Donna stated that she will have more numbers to incorporate from the Senior Center, Town Office Building operations, insurance and Health District coverage in a few weeks and suggested that the 5th might be a good date to have the numbers in by. The Selectmen will meet after the regular 6:30 scheduled meeting on February 5th.

First Selectman Wiecenski moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:45P.M.

Selectman Blessington seconded the motion.

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

Respectfully Submitted:

Robin Campbell

Recording Secretary

TOWN OF WILLINGTON, CT

Received for record January 25, 2018

At 11:25am Greg B. T.C.