

# TOWN OF WILLINGTON

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## BOARD OF SELECTMEN Special Meeting Minutes

Board of Selectmen  
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**Town Office Building  
Selectmen's Conference Room**

**January 21, 2020  
5:30 PM**

First Selectwoman Wiecenski called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM with the following in attendance: Selectwoman Boritz. Selectman Blessington was absent.

### **A. Budget Workshop**

First Selectwoman Wiecenski noted that Donna had emailed her notifying her she has a conflict with tonight's budget meeting. The email included the updates on the budget, noting she has a few more line items to look at, in addition to salaries and health insurance. The current budget submitted came in at a 31.3% decrease. The decrease is because the salaries have not been placed for now (with the exception of the few Departments that did request for their increases.

The Eastern Highlands Health District budget was discussed. First Selectwoman Wiecenski noted that she attended the last Board of Director's meeting where the budget was discussed. The budget for this year is coming in at \$33,470; compared to last year's which was \$32,090. (a 4.3% increase) due to health insurance.

The Finance Department budget was then discussed. Donna noted that she plans to reinstate the 20 hour per week accounting associate back into the budget. In the past, the Town Treasurer did a piece of the accounting, and now that has changed, so Donna is still figuring out how to adjust for those changes.

Training & Education and office supplies remain the same. Office Account support includes Infinite Visions, by Tyler Technologies at an increase over last year of \$24,446. Everything else remains flat.

Donna added that she still has to look at salaries and health insurance. First Selectwoman Wiecenski noted that she hopes to have more information next week.

The Selectmen's budget was then discussed. First Selectwoman Wiecenski noted that the advertising line was increased from \$1,900 to \$2,500 to cover the cost of advertised meetings. She stated that our policy is to warn the meetings in the newspaper, and it comes with a cost. CRCOG and CCM dues have increased slightly.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski noted that she is proposing that the Town cover the cost of a cellphone for the First Selectman (going forward), rather than a \$30 stipend each month. So far that is the only major increase in the Selectmen's budget; which is a 38.9% increase.

The newsletter events was then discussed. It was dropped down to 0 and remains the same, but First Selectwoman Wiecenski said she feels we should try to find a way to get information out to our residents; which is going to come at a cost. We need to do some sort of printing/mailing – whether it be monthly or quarterly (like the Willington Wire). She added that she does not have any concrete numbers and she did not feel comfortable adding an amount in there yet. Selectwoman Boritz said that she would like to have a bigger conversation on how we should be reaching the public; but she feels meh on the newsletter.

Nothing else in the budget has changed so far.

Christine Psathas, who was in attendance recommended adding a line item to cover a moderator who has been trained to serve at Town Meetings. Recently, the Selectmen and Town Clerk have approached the Registrars of Voters to see if they could provide someone to serve as moderator at Town Meetings. She noted that we have moderators who have been trained from the Secretary of State's Office (SOTS) to run the elections; but not they are not trained for Robert's Rules at meetings. Ms. Psathas noted that some Town Meetings can become contentious and it would be good to have someone who is properly trained and can conduct themselves while running a meeting. She then suggested offering a flat rate for whomever serves; noting that she has no idea what that would be. Lastly, Ms. Psathas noted that she also believes it is important to not have the Selectmen be the moderator at town meetings because they are usually the ones who are sharing the information and should be involved in the discussions.

First Selectwoman Wiczenski noted that next week the Selectmen will review the Town Hall Operation budget as well as Counsel, Engineering and Cemetery Association. Human Services will also present their budget; but for clarification, Jennie will submit her budget to the Board of Finance separately from the Selectmen's budget.

Lastly, First Selectwoman Wiczenski noted that the Board of Finance did not give a sense of direction at their last meeting but they did announce that they would like to see resourceful budgeting.

**First Selectwoman Wiczenski moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:46 PM**

**Selectwoman Boritz seconded the motion.**

**Vote: 2 Yes (Wiczenski & Boritz) 0 No.**

Respectfully Submitted:

Robin Campbell

Recording Secretary

TOWN OF WILLINGTON, CT  
Received for record January 23, 2020  
At 10:05 Am Mary W. Agan