

# TOWN OF WILLINGTON

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Board of Selectmen  
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[www.willingtonct.org](http://www.willingtonct.org)

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Regular Meeting Minutes  
Via web interaction (via Zoom platform)

June 7, 2021  
6:30 PM

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

First Selectwoman Wiecenski called the meeting to order at 6:30PM with the following in attendance; Selectman Boritz, Selectman Blessington and residents.

Pledge of Allegiance

### Approval of Minutes

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to approve the BOS Regular minutes of May 17, 2021 as written.

Selectman Blessington seconded the motion.

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

Motion Carried.

Selectman Blessington moved to approve the BOS Special minutes of May 24, 2021 as written.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski seconded the motion.

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

Motion Carried.

### Present To Speak

Cheryl Mitchell 61 Pinney Hill Rd wanted to let the Selectmen know of a public safety concern. There have been quads driving up and down residential streets with several passengers on the quads. This is a safety concern for the riders and residents who may not see them.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski requested that she call our office to give some more detail, we may reach out to our liaison at Troop C to investigate.

### Correspondence

A list of correspondence was provided to the Selectmen for their review.

### First Selectman's Status Report

First Selectwoman Wiecenski provided a few updates.

There are no new updates related to our STEAP Grant for the Old Town Hall septic. We are still waiting for the contract from DEEP.

The School Building Committee- the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday June 16, 2021. Kosta Diamantis, Deputy Secretary of Department of Administrative Services (DAS) toured our school facilities on Monday May 17, 2021. A discussion will be held at the next scheduled SBC meeting to include the public.

The LOTCIP Grant for the Route 32 project- There is no new update, Our Zoning Agent Mr. D'Amato is continuing to work with the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation.

Public Works, the Laborer position was filled by Jayson Righenzi who was formally the Assistant Transfer Station Operator who then moved to the Public Works Administrative Assistant. Michelle Cyr the Assistant Revenue Collector accepted the position of Public Works Administrative Assistant. She will now work as the Public Works Administrative Assistant in addition to her Assistant Revenue Collector duties.

The lights have been installed at the park and are now around the Basketball court. The WPRC is still working on the new on/off time for the lights.

### Public Works

Mr. Sposato reported the following that has been done by Public Works

- Sweeping in still going on around Town
- Roadside mowing is continuing
- Tree clean up from the storm
- Burnt brush pile at the Transfer Station
- Trash at the Park on Mondays and Thursdays
- Picked up 30 tires and a truck load of junk behind the bus lot that someone dropped off.
- Mowed at the Senior Center, pump house and site lines.

### New Business

#### A. Willington Hill Fire Department Resident Concern

First Selectwoman Wiecenski started the discussion stating that the Board of Selectman's Office received a letter from a citizen on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 with concerns regarding the property USE at 25 Old Farms Rd. I have yet to fully vet the issues raised. I would like a chance to fully look into the concerns and determine what, if any, role the BOS has in this matter. Selectman Blessington asked the item be placed on the agenda.

Selectman Blessington responded to say that he wants to ensure that the issue is investigated. It has only been several days since we received the letter, he would like to carry the conversation over to the next meeting once we have had the opportunity to fully review.

Selectwoman Boritz agreed that the items need to be vetted and it needs to be determined what if any belong to this Board

#### B. Tax Refund

**First Selectwoman Wiecenski Moved to refund \$108.72 to Michael A. Mitchell on a Certificate of Correction.**

**Selectman Blessington Seconded the motion.**

**Vote: 3 Yes (Blessington, Boritz & Wiecenski)**  
**Motion Carried.**

#### C. TOB Office Reconfiguration

First Selectwoman Wiecenski started the discussion. There has always been a lack of solid usable space in the TOB. For years there have been discussions on the best way to use the space we have. COVID has brought this discussion up once again. In many areas there is not enough physical space and certainly not enough to separate folks if we needed to because of COVID like concerns. Currently we are starting to rethink the space used by Human Services and Parks and Recreation. Each department has a Director and an Assistant, there isn't enough space for 4 individuals with or without COVID restrictions. In addition the need for assistance with our senior population is critical during times like these. We are looking at the possibility of moving Jennie's office to the Senior Center. Where the TOB lacks in storage the Senior Center meets the needs. It was expressed that she would like feedback on this topic from this Board. The seniors are in favor and we are looking at the phone and IT implications. This would necessitate a purchase of some new computers for Human Services. It was noted that the Food Pantry & Food Share distribution would remain at the TOB for ease of access.

A discussion was held on the ease of access for seniors and the ease to outreach to a larger population. With Button Hill and the new apartments there are more people that are looking for services. A lot of the folks don't have transportation or the mobility in some cases to get to the TOB, the ease of access would be instrumental. The discussion continued regarding the transition related to necessary IT hardware that will need to be purchased and additional utility costs to the Senior Center.

Selectman Blessington stated it may make more sense to have Jennie at the Senior Center and her assistant at the TOB during business hours.

Jennie responded to say that her assistant is only 8 hours per week. With that time constraint that wouldn't leave someone at the TOB during business hours.

Selectman Blessington stated that it is fine with him, he just has concerns that eventually the senior center may complain that there are too many people in the Senior Center.

#### D. EHHD Board of Directors Appointment

**Selectman Blessington motioned that the BOS re-appoint Erika Wiecenski to the Eastern Highland Health District retroactively from 5-30-21 to 5-29-24.**

**Selectwoman Boritz Seconded the motion.**

**Vote: 3 Yes (Blessington, Boritz & Wiecenski)**

#### Old Business

##### A. COVID-19 Update

First Selectwoman Wiecenski provided an update and noted that this will be her last COVID update. She will continue to share important information as it comes in; moving forward COVID will be added to the Selectmen's report.

Willington has had cumulative 259 COVID positive cases, 3 deaths and 22 probable cases. We are no longer in the increased alert levels.

The TOB officially reopened on Monday June 7, 2021. We are still encouraging residents to continue to conduct as much business online, via phone or e-mail. We are still requiring masks in person.

Residents 12+ are eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. Ages 12-17 may only receive the Pfizer vaccine. Willington's vaccine data as of June 2<sup>nd</sup> (53%) total first doses; (46.2%) are fully vaccinated. She encourages everyone 12+ to consider being vaccinated.

American Rescue Funds we received final and definitive ARPA funding numbers. Willington will receive a total of \$1,735,454.24 in 2 equal distributions of \$867,727.11. We applied for the 1<sup>st</sup> installment and as of this morning we were told it should be about 2 weeks but to expect it before July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. The money is only being passed through the State. The US Treasury will be the agency we report to and the interim Final Rule for ARPA fund is the guidance we will follow.

Legislation- there was language on the bill in the Legislative session that passed that will be in essence an unfunded mandate. We will be required to hold hybrid meetings, we are still subject to posting legal notices on our website and additionally in posting in a newspaper in print.

Additionally, there is a bill in the Legislative session requiring Town Clerks to be able to accept payments electronically.

#### B. Treasurer Discussion Continued

First Selectwoman Wiecenski requested that we table the Treasurers position to the next meeting as she is still working out the details with the Business Manager Donna Latincsics.

**First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to defer the Treasurers Position agenda item to the next scheduled meeting.**

**Selectman Blessington seconded the motion.**

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

#### Present to Speak

No one was present to speak

#### Good & Welfare

First Selectwoman Wiecenski provided some updates.

The Referendum is scheduled for Tuesday June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 from 6:00AM to 8:00PM here at the Town Office Building.

Mobile Food Share will be here at the TOB this Wednesday June 9, 2021 from 11AM to 11:30 AM. Contact Human Services with any questions.

Please if you can support our small businesses and restaurants.

Boards and Commission vacancies: CIP has one vacancy, the Conservation Commission has two alternate vacancies, EDS has three alternate vacancies, Historic District has one regular and two alternate vacancies,

IWWC has two regular and two alternate vacancies, Planning & Zoning has two alternate vacancies and lastly the Parks & Recreation Commission has one regular vacancy.

Congratulations to the 4<sup>th</sup> graders moving on to Hall School and to the 8<sup>th</sup> graders heading off to the high school of their choosing. Finally a big congratulations to our High School Seniors graduating. We are proud of all of our students. Happy father's day to all the dads.

Reminder that all of the Town's Meetings are still being held virtually and can be viewed live or on the Town's YouTube page. There is a link on the Town Website on the left hand that states Online Boards and Commissions Meetings. Inside that page will be a link to the Willington You Tube channel.

**First Selectwoman Wiccenski moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:13 PM**

**Selectman Blessington seconded the motion.**

**Vote: 3 Yes (Wiccenski, Boritz & Blessington) 0 No.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Heather Sharpley  
Administrative Assistant  
Town of Willington

RECEIVED  
WILLINGTON, CT.

2021 JUN 10 A 9:47

  
TOWN CLERK