

TOWN OF WILLINGTON

Board of Selectmen
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Emergency Communication Task Force

Special Meeting Minutes
Via web interaction (via Zoom platform)

January 28, 2021
5:00 PM

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

WFD#1 Chief Moore called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM with the following in attendance; First Selectwoman Erika Wiecenski, Lt Robert Palmer, Superintendent Phil Stevens, Mike Makuch, Stuart Cobb, Christina Mailhos, Sarah Worthens joined at 5:10 Members absent- Vincent Pagano,

Approval of Minutes

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to approve the minutes of December 9, 2020 with the following edits.

Page 1 bottom of page should say Superintendent Stevens sent a message out to parents.

Page 2 last paragraph the wording should read as, personnel and not personal.

Vote: 5 Yes (Wiecenski, Palmer, Makuch, Stevens, Moore) 0 No.

A. Approve Survey to be sent out to residents.

A discussion took place regarding the created survey. It was noted that in the setup of the survey there is a need to limit one submission per electronic device. The device limitation information should be included in the survey introduction. The importance of this is to limit the stacking of numbers based on one person's opinion. The one device submission limit will ensure a more accurate reflection of the data. The discussion continued to clearly define an emergency situation vs. a routine situation. Related to #5 on the survey it was discussed on whether there will be an automatic opt-in from the CT.GOV site or if we can import a premade list of subscribers from the Willington CT website. The comments made allude that some integration may be able to take place however we would still have to build that database. The discussion continued on to item # 5 "would you prefer to be automatically enrolled into a system with an "opt out" feature, or do you prefer to "opt in" at your discretion. # 6 would your "opt out" and "opt in" answers be different between emergency and general messaging? The discussion continued on if this would be confusing for residents. It was also noted, when the survey is complete, it's important to note that by completing the survey the resident will not be opting in to such notifications. It was noted that in the introduction it should include; that by taking this survey the Town will review the data to determine if the Town will purchase such a system. The group felt that feedback from residents would be helpful to assist in determining our next course of action. An e-mail was set up for the survey to be sent which is Survey@willingtonct.org. As the administrator the survey will allow log in and viewing of e-mail participation and the tool will self-tabulate the data. It was important to the group to determine a time frame for the survey to be open, additionally to send out the survey several times to ensure we are capturing as many residents as we can or to send reminder e-mails.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski added that we are at the heart of budget season. Ideally we had hoped that we would have this work completed and the data completed to present to the Board of Selectmen. If this is something we want to move forward with we need to start planning. The charge of the Committee was to go back to the Board of Selectman with guidance on how we move forward. Currently this is noted in

the Selectmen's budget but not defined, the discussion was held on whether this is premature. The group consensus was to move forward with the project by populating the line item in the budget.

The discussion continued to include residents in budget meetings to voice their concerns. Giving them an option to submit their e-mail address to be included in any future communications or Town meetings related to this topic.

Ms. Worthens will modify the survey with the discussion points and will e-mail the group for approval.

Mike Makuch moved to approve the survey as amended in the discussion today

First Selectwoman Wiecenski seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 Yes (Wiecenski, Palmer, Makuch, Worthen, Stevens, Moore) 0 No.

Motion amended to include 1 additional question Are you a resident of Willington, Do you work in the town of Willington or none of the above.

A discussion was held on a tentative date for the next meeting. If the survey goes out to residents on February 1, 2021 we can tentatively meet on February 18, 2021 @ 5:00. Additionally once the survey is complete the link to the survey will be included in an E-blast to residents.

Mr. Cobb mentioned the Facebook group Willington Crime and Safety group. There was a recent post that stated "there is some crazy guy on foot on Clint Eldredge Dr. threatening people. If you see him please call cops" There were 120 comments posted in there. Residents are asking why the Town of Willington didn't notify any of us about this. It was expressed that this is a good example that if a notification system was in place residents would be notified.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski spoke about this topic as she had discussion with Lt Palmer regarding this issue. The Town learned about this incident from residents who saw the Facebook posts. We were not aware prior as we are not watching comments on Facebook groups. If residents don't communicate with the police then the Town nor the police are notified. Submitting a face book comment is not notifying the police or the Town of such events.

A discussion was held by the group on this topic.

First Selectwoman Wiecenski moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:35 PM

Vote: 6 Yes (Wiecenski, Palmer, Makuch, Worthen, Stevens, Moore) 0 No.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Sharpley