

**TOWN OF WILLINGTON  
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 5, 2021**

First Selectwoman Wiczenski called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM with 60+ residents in attendance at Hall Memorial School on 111 River Road and then read the call of the meeting:

The electors of the Town of Willington and all persons who are entitled to vote in Town Meeting on the matters mentioned in the following warning are hereby warned and notified to meet in Town Meeting (face masks required) at Hall Memorial School; 111 River Road, Willington, at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, October 5, 2021 for the following purpose:

**ITEM I**

To see if the townspeople, on the recommendation of the Board of Finance, will authorize the appropriation of \$100,000 from the Reserve Fund to Project No. 04-4041 for school building committee consultants as previously approved by voters at the 2021-2022 annual town meeting. The funds will be utilized to hire consultants to assist the School Building Committee (SBC) with the review of multiple options, including but not limited to renovation/addition or new school, and any other items needed to assist the SBC in fulfilling the charge of the SBC committee.

Dated at Willington,  
This 20<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2021.

Willington Board of Selectmen; Erika G. Wiczenski, Liza Boritz & John Blessington.

First Selectwoman Wiczenski then asked for nominations for a moderator.

Laurie Semprebbon nominated Liza Boritz as moderator; seconded by Ann Grosjean.

**Motion called to a vote:**

**All in favor. 0 No. 0 Abstain.**

**Motion Carries.**

**Moderator then asked to forego a second reading of the call. There were no objections.**

Moderator then opened the floor for public comments; noting a 3 minute limit.

Laurie Semprebbon stated that she would like to see the money approved so the School Building Committee can move forward and do their work.

Peter Latincsics stated that he is a current member of the SBC and is pleased to be here. He is in support of the charge. More importantly, he is pleased that the Board of Finance recognized the checks and balances and have full involvement. The SBC needs community involvement and support to function. He looks forward to working with everyone.

Matthew Clark stated that when the school issue first came up in this town a few years ago, a survey was conducted and half of the community wanted to see Hall School rebuilt and the other half wanted to see a new school. The School Building Committee was supposed to look at all options but as far as he can tell they are only looking at building a new school. Mr. Clark then stated that second meeting held by the SBC was in executive session to look at a land acquisition – they did not even have a chairperson named and they were looking at land. At a meeting last month of the SBC, they voted down a sub-committee to refurbishing Hall

School. All he wants is a fair, un-biased look and analysis. He then reminded everyone that half of the people want to refurbish HMS and the other half want a new school. He ended by asking the SBC to adhere to the original charge that the town put the school building committee together.

Michael Makuch, Chairman of the Board of Finance stated that he would like to fix some mis-characterizations that were stated by Mr. Clark. Mr. Makuch told the residents to not believe everything that people tell you, but see for yourselves and be sure you understand what you are participating in and what your tax dollars are supporting. He then suggested for them to attend those meetings – even if the agenda does not have a “present to speak” segment, the public is still able to send in comments that will be addressed. Mr. Makuch then clarified that the SBC did not vote down a sub-committee to refurbish HMS; but rather said to hold off so they could narrow down and go one route as they received public feedback. The Committee slowed down the process and even slowed down the land acquisition to make sure they were on the correct path. He added that the SBC acknowledged that it is too early and want to keep their options broad and focus on all of the possibilities. The options brought forth to the public will come with support and good reason. He then asked the public to attend the meetings - we need you.

Jim Bulick stated that we are asking to approve \$100,000 for the School Building Committee, however they do not have any quotes, there are no Requests For Proposals. The First Selectwoman and Superintendent are aware of the process. When you are asking for large amounts of money, you bring supporting documentation to the Board of Finance. The BOF asks for a quote and details of the work that will be done; and how long it will take. He then asked – what are you doing with the \$100,000? He hopes before long that we will get the answers. The leaders on the SBC know better and they should have had this weeks ago.

Ann Grosjean clarified that the SBC needs the \$100,000 to hire a project manager and consultants. With the help of these people, we will then have a plan and know how long it will take and what path to take.

**Moderator then asked for Item 1 to be called to vote.**

**Sarah Anderson called ITEM I to a vote, seconded by Sarah Reis.**

**57 Yes; 2 No 1 Abstain**

**Motion Carries.**

**Kirstie Farrarr moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 PM; seconded by Matt Clark  
All in Favor.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin Campbell  
Town Clerk

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WILLINGTON, CT.

2021 OCT -6 P 1:06

  
TOWN CLERK