

**TOWN OF WILLINGTON
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 31, 2021 7:00 PM**

First Selectwoman Wiecenski called the meeting to order at 7:13 PM with 23 residents in attendance via zoom and 1 resident in person along with the Town Clerk, Assistant Town Clerk, Rachel Pierce, Registrar of Voters, Suzanne Chapman & Christine Psathas and lastly Superintendent Phil Stevens. She then read the call of the meeting and asked for nominations for a moderator.

Christine Psathas moved to nominate Erika Wiecenski as moderator; seconded by Suzanne Chapman.

Vote:

In person: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain

Zoom online poll: 22 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain

Motion passes

Phil Stevens opened the meeting with a brief statement:

Good evening, and thank you for attending tonight. I'm Phil Stevens, superintendent of schools. I have provided a link to explanatory text and project timeline in the chat.

The Board of Education has been moving these projects along since their submission to the Capital Improvement Projects Committee. The initial projects were passed with the budget referendum in May of 2019. The project could not have occurred that summer as the grant application takes months of preparation and approvals from the state to qualify for reimbursement. The roofs have not been leaking since our last patching was completed by Silktown Roofing, one of the most experienced roofing companies in the state. Both roofs have met their life expectancy and need to be replaced. We were on track for replacement during the summer of 2020, but the pandemic caused the state and businesses to shut down, and so did our progress.

We started working on the roofing projects again this fall and are on track for a summer, 2021 installation. Unfortunately, we learned recently that additional funding is needed to cover the cost of the projects as we have seen a spike in the cost of materials. Also, we need additional roof drains that are required by code, brick repointing, and potentially extensive deck repairs, especially at HMS. The cost estimate used for the March, 2020 town meeting was established by a licensed architect who has significant experience with school roofing projects and the Office of School Construction Grants and Review.

Scott Pellman from Colliers international is our acting project manager and Silver Petrucelli and Associates is the architectural firm. Both firms are very experienced completing school roofing projects and working with grant staff from the state. When Colliers was brought on board, they were concerned our budget was too low and gathered recent project data to determine the cost per square foot for recent roofing projects. Silver Petrucelli confirmed this concern after completing their onsite walkthrough earlier this month. The prior estimate for the cost per square foot at the time was approximately \$17 and now we are expecting the cost to be up around \$22 square foot for CES and \$23 square foot for HMS. We will do everything in our power to come in under budget, but the state grant process requires towns to cover the entire upfront cost to be able to apply for reimbursement.

ITEM I was then moved for a vote by John Blessington seconded by Laurie Semprebon:

To see if the townspeople, on the recommendation of the Board of Finance, will authorize the appropriation from the Capital Reserve Fund, for the Center School partial roof replacement project, which was approved on 3/11/2020, from \$448,350 to \$650,000, with any State reimbursement being returned to the Capital Reserve Fund.

Vote:

In person: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain

Zoom online poll: 22 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain

Motion passes

ITEM II was moved for a vote called by John Blessington; seconded by Stef Summers:

To see if the townspeople, on the recommendation of the Board of Finance, will authorize appropriation from the Capital Reserve Fund, for the Hall Memorial School roof replacement project, which was approved on 3/11/2020, from \$605,050 to \$945,000, with any State reimbursement being returned to the Capital Reserve Fund.

Vote:

In person: 5 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain

Zoom online poll: 23 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain

Motion passes

ITEM III was moved for a vote called by John Blessington, second by Chris Demers:

To see if the townspeople, on the recommendation of the Board of Finance, will authorize the appropriation of \$4500 from the Parks and Recreation Capital Fund for the Natural Resource Inventory and Forest Management Plan for Fenton Ruby Park

Peter Anderson, Co-Chairman of the Conservation Commission stated in 1996 the commission was given the responsibility to maintain the Fenton Ruby preserve and a management plan was created; including maintaining the woodlands and preserving wildlife habitat.

The Conservation Commission recently hired ConnWood Forestry to perform a ten-year management plan, in which the Commission has been following. The time has come to do another complete assessment of the land; noting that a timber harvest and wildlife habitat was done back in 2016.

The latest proposal includes a complete forest inventory, written plan, detailed forest maps and wildlife habitat and suggestions to enhance the forest.

Vote:

In person: 5 Yes

Zoom online Poll: 22 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain

Motion passes

Stef Summers moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 PM
Laurie Semprebon seconded the motion.

Respectfully Submitted:

Robin H. Campbell
Town Clerk

TOWN OF WILLINGTON, CT
Received for record Thurs. April 1, 2021
At 12:06 PM B.H.M.