

# TOWN OF WILLINGTON

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## BOARD OF FINANCE

Appropriations/Regular Meeting  
Hybrid — In Person and Online

March 21, 2024  
7:00 PM

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

**Members Present (a quorum of 4 members is required to conduct business):**

Bruce Lawler Chair	Geoffrey Prusak Vice Chairman	Christina Mailhos Secretary	Walter Parsell	Jason Ross	Stephanie Summers	Melissa Miller (ALT)	Britt Rothausen (ALT)
In Person	In Person	In Person	In Person	In Person	In Person	In Person	In Person

**Also Present:**

Donna Latincsics, Business Manager  
Phil Stevens, Superintendent of Schools  
Alex Moore, Chief WFD#1  
Mike Makuch, Lieutenant WHFD  
Residents in person and via Zoom

Chairman Bruce Lawler called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

**SEATING OF ALTERNATES:**

No alternates need to be seated.

**Approval of Minutes:** Stef Summers moved to approve the March 14, 2024 minutes with one amendment on the last page of the minutes under Good and Welfare, line 7 to change it from "it was noted that a sign with the limits is in the room" to "it was noted that a sign with the limits is in the room but not yet posted".

Stef stated that she was not there for the approval of the March 7, 2024 minutes and she would like to clarify the record that there were some numbers that were given out about ratios of fire and ambulance calls to other towns, and it should be clarified that those numbers were from years ago after a BOF analysis and not present day numbers (she had the context in the statement, but it did not make it into the minutes). She stated that the other correction to the March 7, 2024 minutes was on page 9 and stated, "Ms. Summers noted that the placeholder for ambulance/firefighter payroll for both departments is 3.8%" and it should say "the placeholder for ambulance/firefighter payroll for WFD#1 is 3.8%" as WFD#1 is the department with the payroll.

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Seconded by Jason Ross (March 14, 2024 minutes).

Motion passed (6-0)

**PRESENT TO SPEAK:**

Mike Makuch, 52 Clover Springs Dr. stated that having been intimately involved in this budget process on the BOF for 5 of the last 6 budget seasons, he is very aware that this is the tough time now pulling it together, and he just wanted to encourage the Board to remember that we have made it through including the Covid year doing this for the first time on Zoom, have faith in the process and do not look at anything in isolation. He stated you can't look at expenses or revenue or the general fund balance, anything in isolation. It all sort of boils together. He stated they spent a lot of time with Donna's magic spreadsheet moving things up and down to try to find the right balance, so he wishes the Board good luck.

First Selectman Peter Tanaka stated that last Monday at the BOS meeting they formed a committee to study fire department facilities, and they are going to be asking the BOF for a member to represent their board on that committee. He did not have time to get on the BOF agenda, so he will make sure he is on their next agenda. Chairman Lawler stated that they will vote on whether they can add it to their agenda tonight.

Jim Marshall, 46 Fisher Hill Rd. stated that he wanted to express his support for the BOE's proposed budget as presented. In addition, he would like to request the BOF's consideration of potential changes of year one of the CIP plan as approved. He stated regarding the BOE budget that having followed along closely over the past months with the BOE's deliberations, he wanted to express his appreciation for their efforts and careful and diligent consideration of what is clearly a very challenging budget season. While he recognizes their budget this year does represent a significant 8.76% increase over the last year, the vast majority of this increase is due to special education out placements that are legally required to be funded and are out of their control. Excluding this increase in the special education program budget, the proposed budget drops to a 2.07% increase. This he believes is far less than the increases proposed by just about every other major department here in town and aligns with the last four consecutive years of BOE's budgets coming in at less than a 2% increases year after year. He does not believe any of the other department budgets in town can come close to that record of responsibility. With that in mind, he stated to please beware that any significant cuts of the BOE's budget will result in a loss of necessary staffing services, this includes the request for funding to support the hiring of a Facilities Director to assist in the very complicated effort advancing the repairs to our schools in a cost-effective manner and in a way that will minimize impact to faculty and students. As a designer who works with school districts in his professional life every day to advance similar efforts, he can't possibly express any more strongly how critical that role is with the scope and scale of projects ahead of them for the schools. He urges the Board to consider that need carefully and advance their budget in full tonight as presented to them.

He stated that regarding the Capital Improvement Plan they have before them, he asks that they consider reducing or eliminating the \$200,000 dollar funding request for the Capital Reserve Fund for the soon to be established Emergency Services Building Committee, line 31 on the CIP spreadsheet. He does not make this request lightly as the suggestion to include funds for this committee came from himself on CIP originally, but in light of recent discussions that First Selectman Tanaka just made mention to at the BOS meeting this past Monday evening, he can no longer support it as it stands. He stated that the First Selectman and therefore by extension the full BOS made it very clear on Monday that he is unable or unwilling to advance a publicly led effort to the proposed replacement of the fire stations in town. He has shown through the entirety of the rollout of this new committee that he is simply too close to the

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departments and the issue personally and unable to put the taxpayer first. Jim therefore asks the BOF to be the necessary balance that is so desperately needed to ensure that taxpayer dollars are being utilized efficiently and effectively for this significant and costly endeavor. By eliminating these funds in year one of the plan that is required by the new committee to instead come before the BOF to request future funding hopefully with copies of the plan in place explaining how and when the funds are necessary as well as any anticipated future funding needs, and additionally it would have the added benefit of potentially reducing the burden on taxpayers while providing further buffer to what will be a largely depleted Capital Reserve Fund. Jim therefore proposed the following for the BOF's consideration: Eliminate the \$200,000 allocated from Fund 4, Capital Reserve for the Emergency Services Building Committee. These funds can remain as additional reserve in Fund 04 to be kept for any unexpected needs that may arise next year. He then suggested that the BOF eliminate the \$31,000 annual transfer to Fund 04 for year one (line 3 on the spreadsheet) and zero it out. He stated that this directly reduces the cost to taxpayers next year and brings the year one spending very close to the yearly target of a 7% increase. The \$110,000 in approved funding in the current year for WHFD's survey and engineering at 25 Old Farms Road (line 30 on the spreadsheet) has not yet been appropriated by the BOF and should remain that way. The BOF should take whatever required action is necessary to formally cancel that project. The \$110,000 of unspent funding for this year could then be put towards potential use by the new Emergency Services Building Committee next year without impacting the taxpayers or decreasing the Capital Reserve. He stated that additionally WFD#1 has somewhere between \$0 and \$80,000 from a prior year's budget that has not been spent towards the new Station 13 development. He stated that the BOF should ask WFD#1 for an accounting of the funds and/or formally request a stop to their use as soon as possible, so that any remaining funds can then also potentially be utilized in support of the new committee if necessary or as warranted as part of the comprehensive effort. He then thanked the BOF for consideration of the above, and he ended by saying thank you to the BOF for being willing to serve and for taking on the task of making many incredible difficult decisions before them this budget season. He stated that as he served on the BOF last year, he very much understands how challenging the role can be and he and he greatly respects and appreciates all that the BOF is doing.

Lisa Eaton, 38 Timber Ln. stated that she is speaking out tonight in strong support of the proposed BOE budget. She stated that for the past couple of decades, and perhaps even longer people in town have been working hard to secure a budget for the BOE that meets both the needs of the students and a budget that can address the dilapidated school buildings, but unfortunately in many ways these efforts have been repeatedly stymied by various town committees. She hopes tonight that the BOF supports the BOE budget and allows it to move forward to a Town vote. She thinks it is very clear from reviewing the presentations that Super. Stevens has put forward, and from her own personal experience with both schools, a budget that is very lean and certainly no one could reasonably argue that the steps towards addressing the school buildings aren't critical to support at this point. She hopes that the BOF advances the budget without delay. She asked if the BOF recalled that the Town Republican party heavily advocated for repairing our schools as opposed to replacing them as the approach was promoted as the more cost-effective option? She is assuming tonight that the budget will be supported by the BOF without descent as this was the scenario that the Republican party called for. She thinks it is important to highlight that the proposed BOE budget is unanimously supported by the BOE which includes participation across political parties. She hopes it moves forward and thanked the BOF for their time given all the challenges and she very much appreciates their participation.

Tracey Anderson, 151 Willington Hill Rd. thanks the BOF for their time and effort that they give to the Town in their roles on the BOF. She is speaking in support of the BOF accepting the BOE budget as

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presented by Super. Stevens. She stated that a lot of time and effort has gone into developing the budget to account for four additional outplacements while still maintaining the same quality of education for all students and providing funds to maintain and repair aging school buildings. She urged the BOF to accept the BOE budget and send it to referendum for the townspeople to vote on it.

JoAnn Taraskiewicz, 15 Liska Rd. stated that with all the meeting agendas with all the meetings coming up that there was nothing on the agenda for this meeting that she could find. She stated that it had the zoom information, but it didn't have the topics from what she saw online, unless there was a second agenda, or she missed something she didn't see it. First Selectman Tanaka explained how to get the agenda once she goes online by clicking on the PDF.

Brianna Ross, 170 Village Hill Rd. stated that she is the BOE Chair, and she thanked Jim Marshall, Lisa Eaton and Tracy Anderson for their comments tonight about the BOE budget. She agreed with all they said. She stated that the BOE proposed budget has been carefully crafted and unanimously approved by the BOE to best support Willington students. She knows the BOF deals a lot with numbers, but it's the students that everyone is supporting, so she hopes the BOE will remember that and think of the children as they go forward and look at the BOE budget because the children are not numbers, they are the towns people, citizens, legacy and future. She asked the BOF to please keep the children in mind as they look at the BOE budget, and good luck to the BOF as they navigate this difficult season. Chair Ross thanked the BOF and Chairman Lawler thanked Chair Ross.

Chairman Lawler read a letter that was emailed to him last night by a group of people. The context of the letter was for the BOF not to raise taxes, consider not funding the fire departments for their new buildings and to be fiscally conscious when considering the budget.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

None.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Chairman Lawler stated that under New Business there is discussion and then appropriations.

**Chairman Lawler moved to have First Selectman Tanaka speak to the Board about the fire department buildings.**

**Vice Chairman Prusak seconded the motion.**

**Motion passed (6-0).**

First Selectman Tanaka stated that on Monday, the BOS approved a committee to study the facilities both emergent and long term for the emergency services. It was mentioned that the fire departments had blocking that has been changed and they no longer have blocking. There are six members, 4 members of the community and 2 members of the elected bodies and only 4 members of the fire departments represented as voting members on the committee. He thinks that this committee is important and that they have the funding available to get the plans that they need. He does not believe that the Town can make good decisions without good data, and he thinks that is what the gist of this committee is, just to have good data and to be able to inform the Town what that data is and why these changes are needed.

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He stated that one of the problems they have run into with past committees was selling the Town the financial cost and that is going to be a part of this committee, and that is why he is requesting a BOF member be appointed to the committee.

Chairman Lawler asked if there were 4 firefighters on the committee, and First Selectman Tanaka stated that there are 4 firefighters on the committee with alternates. The reason he has that many firefighters on the committee is when it comes to firefighting, as it was with the school building committee, if you don't do that study on needs assessments and know what those needs are and have that expertise brought to the floor, then it just doesn't make sense. He stated that they can build buildings, but if the building doesn't fit their needs, it's not where the Town needs to be, the expertise is brought in by the people that do the job. Stef Summers wanted to clarify how many firefighters had voting privileges and First Selectman Tanaka stated that there would be 4 voting members and the alternates would only be seated if needed. Stef then asked if he is counting the BOF and BOS representatives as members of the community, and First Selectman Tanaka stated that he doesn't believe as an elected official you lose your status as a member of the community to which Stef stated she doesn't think the firefighters do either. She stated that she is distinguishing this because she was hoping to maximize the number of public members on the committee. She feels it is still an issue because there is not going to be direct coverage of the meeting that the public can watch. She feels like the more people you can get at the table, the more the public feels involved. She still thinks the committee is out of balance as far as that goes. First Selectman Tanaka stated that the meetings will be on zoom, there will be public minutes and agendas and they will report to the BOS once a month on their status and where they are going. Stef Summers asked if he was designating in the make up that all the public members need to have a construction or financial background. First Selectman Tanaka stated that he is not demanding that, he is asking that people who are volunteering for this committee provide the BOS with what the BOS feels is an appropriate background so they can decide on that. First Selectman Tanaka stated that Lt. Makuch from WHFD who is very interested in this committee was on the school building committee and First Selectman Tanaka thinks Lt. Makuch understands better than most the necessity of communicating with the Town during the process. Chairman Lawler asked how many voting members there would be on this committee to which First Selectman Tanaka responded 10. Chairman Lawler asked if all the members of the committee were also members of the community. First Selectman Tanaka stated that all the community members were, and he believed all the fire department members from one department are. Chief Moore stated that WFD#1 has not chosen their members yet. A discussion was had on the members of the fire department being members of the community or not as WFD#1 has members that are not residents of Willington. After further discussion on this subject Lt. Makuch stated that he is very interested in this committee and he is very anxious and eager to make sure it is an honest and open planning process, and he has been pushing forward the idea for an outside consultant to do benchmarking and data analysis and provide those kind of answers to look at what are the needs, where are the needs, what are the resources they have and how best do they take the resources they have and position them to meet the needs of the community including where is the fire service going, what are the needs in the future, etc.

Chairman Lawler asked First Selectman Tanaka when he planned on getting this committee started, and First Selectman Tanaka stated that after the next BOS meeting, they would like to have the committee start forming and start planning their path forward. Chairman Lawler asked if First Selectman Tanaka would check the legality of having nonmembers of the community on the committee having the right to vote and First Selectman Tanaka said he would investigate that.

**Chairman Lawler moved to table this discussion for now and discuss it later as it is a lot to take in.**

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**Stef Summers seconded the motion.**

**Motion passed (6-0).**

## **1) Discussion**

Chairman Lawler stated that the last time they met they got to everyone but the Library and Karen-Ann Caldwell from the Library Board is present to discuss the Library budget. Chairman Lawler stated that the questions he had were regarding the staffing as it was unclear on their original budget request. Karen-Ann Caldwell stated that 4½ years ago they lost their director, so in the interim they had an intern who was working on their master's degree in library science and someone who was with the Library who was very well trained, and because of the major issues they had with the loss of their director they decided to let the two of them stay as co-directors. She stated that there has been a lot of talk about going back to one director as opposed to two co-directors. She stated that the problem is that the State of Connecticut says that the minimum amount any library can pay for a director is \$56,000. She stated that there has been a lot of talk that the 2 co-directors are costing the Library a lot of money, but she stated that they really aren't. She stated that when the Library is fully staffed it has 2 full-time people and 7 part-timers for a total of 9 employees. They have removed 2 Page positions from this budget, so they now have 2 full-time positions and 5 part-time positions. She stated that the difference between the pay for the co-directors currently and the new director position is less than it would cost to replace the two Page positions. She stated that the difference is about \$12,000 and the two Pages would be about \$15,000 to \$17,000, so going with a director is a little bit cheaper. She stated that they have an Assistant Director position in, and according to the State the Assistant Director is the head of tech and patron services, so they do a very specific job within the library that is not the overall part of the Director's position. They currently have a programmer that is part-time, but they are expanding their programs. She stated that most of their programs right now are for young children, but they are working on a teen/young adult area, and they would like to start having more programs for that age group, which tends to be ignored by many libraries, so they increased the hours of the programmer from 12 to 18. She stated that everything else they put in the budget was basically attempting to put in cost-of-living increases. She stated that the minimum wage jobs went up. She stated that the biggest change in their budget is going from 2 Co-Directors to a Director and an Assistant Director and expanding the programmers hours. Christina Mailhos asked if there will be more hours worked with this new configuration regardless of who is working the hours. Karen-Ann stated that there wouldn't be extra hours, the only hours that would change would be the programmers and those would be hours that a Page would normally be working. Walter Parsell asked what they would be giving up by getting rid of the two Pages? Karen-Ann stated not really a lot as they do have Clerks that can cover for the Page jobs. The Page's job is primarily sitting at the front desk helping patrons or reshelving books. She stated that the Clerks that they have are able to do that as they also work at the front desk. She stated that the previous Director had said that they needed people with a Page title to get a grant, however, no one can figure out what that grant is and what he was applying for because they cannot find anything that says that. She stated that if you look at the State Library Annual Report, they do not even list Pages, they list Clerks. Chairman Lawler asked how many hours does the Director work? Karen-Ann stated that right now the Co-Directors are full-time with 35 hours a week and that would be the same for the Director and the Assistant Director as they move on. Chairman Lawler then asked what the hourly wage is for the Director and Karen-Ann stated that it is a salary which is a little under \$56,000 which according to her figures works out to about \$24 per hour when you include staff meetings of which they have about 18 a year and is above the 35-hour work week. She stated that \$24 is on the low side for a Director in a town the size of Willington. She stated that there are towns that pay less (Union which is a lot smaller town) and Mansfield pays \$50 an hour. Stef Summers asked if they have any grants on the horizon and Karen-Ann stated not right now, there are some proposals in but nothing

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they have heard about. Karen-Ann stated that one of the Co-Directors has been very good working for grants and trying to find things. Stef stated that she understands that there is an important Library employee that is injured and there are scheduling issues with that. Karen-Ann confirmed that, stating the employee is one of their full-time employees who has two weeks of sick leave, and they are hoping she recovers, and the other Co-Director is working hard to get people to cover for her. Chairman Lawler thanked Karen-Ann for her presentation.

## **2) Appropriations**

Chairman Lawler stated that they have the spreadsheet that was provided by Business Manager Donna Latincsics. Christina Mailhos asked about a discrepancy in the spreadsheet they got last week and the spreadsheet they received tonight regarding the BOE, which Super. Stevens cleared up, it was regarding special education and outplacements.

Chairman Lawler stated that they are moving on to appropriations and they will start with Probate Court and work their way down the line. He would like to start with a motion for discussion and once they go through discussion or if there is no discussion, a motion will be made to vote yes or no on the budget that is in front of them. He asked if there was a motion for discussion for Probate Court. Christina Mailhos asked if they could have a discussion in general about where they are trying to end up. She stated that she doesn't know how they can go line by line and does not know where they are going. She stated that right now they are looking at 3.57 mils if they don't make any cuts and asked where they are trying to get to? Stef Summers stated that she believes the budget gap between the 3.57 mils and where they want to get to represents about 1.8 million in the gap and that is a lot of cutting line by line.

At this time, members started discussing the BOE budget in length and what the original workshops budget was and what it is now and had more questions for Super. Stevens on the budget with a lot of discussion on the Facilities Director and the building maintenance.

Discussion was had on the budget in general and how much to cut it to make it work for the taxpayers. Discussion then centered on the fire departments and gear and then they discussed Public Works and sand, asphalt and salt.

The BOF went through the list of appropriations from all the departments discussing them and looked to see where they could make reductions in line items in those departments. These are the changes that were made from the original requests:

Selectman Admin fill in was reduced \$1,500 from \$2,500 to \$1,000.  
Selectman CIP Secretary was reduced \$2,000 from \$4,735 to \$2,735.  
Consulting Eng. Land Use was reduced \$2,500 from \$7,500 to \$5,000.  
Consulting Eng. DPW was reduced \$2,500 from \$7,500 to \$5,000.  
Senior Center Maintenance was reduced \$3,000 from \$15,000 to \$12,000.  
Senior Center Electricity was reduced \$2,000 from \$6,420 to \$4,420.  
PW Snow-Sand was reduced \$6,000 from \$6,000 to \$0.  
PW Snow-Salt was reduced \$20,000 from \$160,000 to \$140,000.  
PW Road Maintenance-Asphalt was reduced \$100,000 from \$325,000 to \$225,000.  
Transfer Station Bulk Waste was reduced \$15,000 from \$80,000 to \$65,000.  
40K sch plumbing & 24K sch carpet was reduced \$64,000 from \$129,000 to \$65,000.  
ARPA Offset Human Resources was reduced \$,11,207 from \$94,221 to \$83,014.

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Treasurer Bank Fees were reduced \$6,000 from \$6,000 to \$0.

Planning and Zoning was reduced \$2,000 from \$3,500 to \$1,500.

Economic Development was reduced \$5,000 from \$23,000 to \$18,000.

WFD#1 vehicle maintenance was reduced \$3,000 from \$184,300 to \$181,300.

WHFD 2 sets of gear originally in the CIP budget was transferred to the Town Budget and reduced from 2 sets of gear (\$22,800) to 1 set of gear (\$11,800) and the line item was increased \$11,800 from \$149,560 to \$161,360 due to this being transferred out of CIP to the Town budget.

Willington Public Library was reduced \$15,000 from \$278,962 to \$263,962.

Amb. PR (w/o admin.) was increased \$16,725 from \$606,313 to \$622,588 because 10K Fund 17 was 20K now 10K Town of Union was 15K, now 5K and reduced salary increase to \$3,725 (10K + 10K -\$3,725 = 16,275).

This adds up to a total budget decrease from \$7,434,440 to \$7,201,808 or a 4.4% decrease.

Further discussion was had on the BOE budget centering mostly around the special education increase and mandates.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

**PRESENT TO SPEAK:**

Arthur Christensen, 14 Birch Meadow Lane stated that he is a BOE member, but wanted to make it very clear that he is not speaking for the entire BOE. He stated that the BOF is asking the BOE to cut 1% out of their budget and he wanted to explain that the \$158,000 of their increase is outplacement (7 outplacements are almost 1 million dollars by themselves). He stated that leaves the BOE with the 4 things they asked for, which are the Staff Support Specialist at \$27,000 a .21% increase to their budget, building maintenance, which they give back to the BOF, \$35,000 for a part-time Special Ed reading teacher specialized in a reading technique that would help over 21% of the students, which is a .38% increase to their budget and the Facilities Director at \$81,553 which is .89% of their budget, which they wouldn't have to put in their budget if anyone else in the Town would put it in their budget or actually support it as all he hears from the Town is there are buildings to fix and things that have to be done. Why is it the BOE that takes the initiative to do it, and they get penalized for it. He stated that the BOF mentioned if there is someone they could write to about the outplacements, and he stated that they could write to Charlene M. Russell Tucker, Deputy Director of the State Board of Education because they are getting 70% back for their outplacements, and according to Connecticut State Statute 10-76G they should be getting 90% back because Willington is in the lower third of the Grand List of the State and that entitles Willington to 90% reimbursement. He stated if the BOF wants action there, there is 20% for 7 outplacements that will get the budget a lot closer to where it needs to be. Arthur does not appreciate the move to cut for arbitrary numbers. He stated that the BOF is \$22,000 away from another arbitrary number of 3 mils. He understands that they must set goals, but what difference does that make if they stop at \$22,000 now, 3.13 or 3.15 maybe? He stated that you find \$25,000 to cut now they are at 2.99, again all these things are just numbers, but when you look at the impact for what they are asking to cut, a Staff Support Specialist that bleeds into their substitute budget, that saves them money in another area. He stated that they wouldn't have asked for building maintenance except that they have drained their non-lapsing fund to not come back to the BOF to ask for more money this year to cover their additional outplacements. They felt they were more than responsible with the budget that they proposed, and what they are asking for is a 1.4% increase in things you could say would be nice, except that they are needed for the 21% if students that get special ed. To help with any kind of maintenance in the buildings and to get moving on the buildings that they need to repair is something that he ran on (politically) and something that he is



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going to continue to fight for this year, next year, the following year. He will be back here in front of everybody as loud as he is now to tell the BOF that they need the money to do this because he is tired of repairs being kicked down the road. They are running out of time for the HVAC grant because if they don't get that grant, they aren't getting new HVAC because it is ridiculously expensive. He understands it sucks to do it now, he understands the horrible economic climate, but they don't have a choice. Arthur thanked the BOF. and Chairman Lawler thanked Arthur for his insight.

Peter Latincsics, 97 Trask Rd. asked when the public hearing date is when all of this comes before the Town, and he also wanted to ask that when that public hearing is held that there is a detailed presentation of the Town's government budget, the BOE budget and most importantly the CIP budget, because he doesn't think most townspeople understand (with the exception of the BOF and the people in the room now) how the CIP budget affects everything particularly this year. Stef Summers stated that the public hearing is Wednesday, April 10, 2024. Peter summarized that the BOF has had a chance to immerse themselves in this budget, but it is probably the first opportunity for most townspeople to understand all of this. Peter stated that it would especially help if there was a screen so the budget could be seen if a person from town has a question about a particular area of the budget. He thinks that people always want to have a choice and want to act on how the Town should have done the budget. Peter thanked the BOF.

Jim Marshall, 46 Fisher Hill Rd. thanked Arthur Christensen for his comments tonight and stated that CIP is not increasing taxes this year it is everything else that is increasing the taxes. He stated that is very frustrating to hear that said repeatedly, and that CIP is really doing enough there. He thanked the BOF for the hard work tonight, it was a good discussion on tough decisions, and he appreciated it. Chairman Lawler thanked Jim.

Jon Mitchell, 64 Timber La. wanted to reiterate what Arthur Christensen said. Jon stated that Arthur is 100% correct and Jon backs him 110% that when they both ran for the BOE they were talking to the people of Willington saying that they were going to put forward a Facilities Director, so it shouldn't be a surprise to anyone on the left or the right, as he spoke to everyone about it. Jon stated that this is something the Town needs, it is what the students need. He is with Arthur, and they are going to fight to get this Facilities Director and make sure it is in the budget. Jon thanked the BOF and Chairman Lawler thanked Jon.

**GOOD AND WELFARE:** Vice Chairman Prusak stated speaking for those who went through the Willington school system Lenny Gerardi passed away, he was the gym teacher in Willington for about 35 years and he was a great guy.

Chairman Lawler thanked everyone for this evening.

## **ADJOURNMENT:**

**Stef Summers moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:37 pm.**

**Seconded by Walter Parsell.**

**Motion passed (6-0).**

Respectfully submitted,

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*Eileen Smith*

Eileen Smith  
Recording Secretary

RECEIVED  
WILLINGTON, CT.  
2024 APR -8 A 8:17

  
TOWN CLERK