

Town of Willington

Board of Selectmen
40 Old Farms Road
Willington, CT 06279
(860) 487-3100
(860) 487-3103 Fax
www.willingtonct.gov

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

**Regular Meeting Minutes
Hybrid; TOB, Common Room & Virtual Meeting**

**April 1, 2024
6:02 PM**

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

First Selectman Peter Tanaka called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM with the following in attendance:
Selectman Matt Clark, Selectman Andy Marco.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes

Selectman Marco moved to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2024, regular meeting.
3 Yes (Tanaka, Marco & Clark) 0 No. Motion carried.

Present To Speak

Public participation is encouraged. Speakers are limited by appropriateness, staying on topic, and maintaining decorum. Time may be limited to maintain progress. Please request to reserve time during the meeting if you wish to speak to a specific agenda item.

Ralph Tulis played an April Fools joke on the BOS with regard to a reactor purchase!

Correspondence

None to report

First Selectman's Status Report

Trask Road will be closed on 4/2 from 7-3 for culvert replacement.

Plumbing in the TOB kitchen was fixed.

CT Water- Had an issue with an overpressure valve Sunday morning on Depot Rd. Caused a high-pressure event in multiple buildings. Will be staying in touch with CT water to make sure the town is made whole.

Tomorrow (4/2) is the Presidential Preferential Primary from 6am-8pm at the TOB.

Pete Latincsics asked if the registrars have down time, can they update voter lists, First Selectman Tanaka stated that they can't because the system they use won't allow any other use when voting is happening.

BOF has done appropriations and will be going to town hearing on 4/10 and town meeting on 4/24. Overall budget up 6.3%

Public Works

First Selectman Tanaka read report from DPW Director Troy Sposato

Trailer rehab is officially complete: new decking, new lights, brake lines. Picture coming soon to website and new DPW Facebook page!

Installed new basin top on Marsh Rd

Patched holes around town

Picked up wood around town
Cut trees down at Hall School around baseball field and parking lot
Cleaned out a swale on Schofield Rd behind a residents home
Cleaned out items from eviction storage trailer.
Cleaned out waterways around town.
Installed water tank on truck.
Road Sweeping will officially begin this week, weather permitting.

New Business

First Selectman Tanaka made a motion to ask the ARPA Commission to increase the original ARPA-15 project appropriation of \$34,379 to \$49,241.47 with \$3,655.69 allocated for the current fiscal year and \$11,206.78 allocated for FY24-25 to keep in line with the original 100%/66%/33% step-down strategy.

Selectman Marco seconded.

3 yes (Tanaka, Marco, Clark) 0 no. Motion passed.

Old Business

Bolton Assessor Contract- Bolton is reviewing and resubmitting the contract to Willington due to some errors.

Assessment Contract- Lawyer sent the contract to First Selectman today with amendments, will continue to review with legal.

Tax Stabilization Ordinance- First Selectman Tanaka suggested we table the discussion until after the budget is complete and to gather information from other towns. Selectman Clark agrees that we should get more information as his concern over the time value of forgone revenue associated with tax stabilization.

Union Negotiations moved from June 3 to May 19.

Budget- Selectman's office was reminded by the tax collector today that the state has a mill rate cap of 32.46 and the projected mill rate is 34.67 so we will have to figure out how to make this work. Total Budget increases are as follows: General Government 4.4%; Regional School District 19 5.8%; K-8 Education 7.9%; and Total budget is 6.3%

State Police Report

Total Calls for Service- 313
Accidents-11
Criminal Investigation- 13
Burglaries- 0
Larcenies-0
Non-Reportable Matters- 176
Total Arrests-5

Total Traffic Stops-106
Onsite DUI's-2
Arrests- 1
Misdemeanor Summons-2
Infractions-73
Written Warnings-7
Verbal Warnings-24

Ralph Tulis suggested we request getting a separate report on local issues from I-84

Emergency Services Building Committee- First Selectman Tanaka nominated the following for the committee:

Andy Marco- BOS Representative- Matt Clark Seconded 3 yes (Tanaka, Clark, Marco) 0 no. Motion carried.

Ralph Tulis- Community Representative- Matt Clark Seconded 3 yes (Tanaka, Clark, Marco) 0 no. Motion carried.

Peter Latinsics- Community Representative- Matt Clark Seconded 3 yes (Tanaka, Clark, Marco) 0 no. Motion carried.

Mike Makuch-Willington Hill FD Representative- Matt Clark Seconded 3 yes (Tanaka, Clark, Marco) 0 no. Motion carried.

Ron Gantick- Willington 1 FD Representative- Matt Clark seconded 3 yes (Tanaka, Clark, Marco) 0 no. Motion carried.

Present to Speak

Stephanie Summers inquired about the FD Building Committee about the remaining committee openings. Also asked about the statement of interest letters.

Good & Welfare

Selectman Clark mentioned that any interested parties reach out to Shannon in the selectman's office if they are interested in joining any committees or events coming up.

Mike Makuch gave report on the Easter Egg Hunt and it was a huge success. Raffle tickets help fund next years event. Wellington Pizza was distributed for the first time.

Selectman Clark moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 PM.

Selectman Marco seconded the motion.

3 Yes (Tanaka, Marco & Clark) 0 No. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon Rittner
Recording Secretary
Town of Wellington

Dear Selectmen,

Following along through the budget process I was struck by the Capital Improvement Program Committee plan to add another five hundred thousand dollars to the one million of annual recurring revenue to the Board of Education. As you know Connecticut residents are the third highest taxed in the nation. The reason given for the increase was to complete the roofs and apply for the HVAC grant. With the one million currently in the BOE coffers the additional 1.5 million will not enable the BOE to complete the roofs and apply for the HVAC grant. It's not enough money to apply for the heating and cooling grant, it falls a few million short, pursuant to the BOE presentation attached.

As you know the Department of Administrative Services will offer towns the last grant for heating and cooling repairs and improvements. **The grant must be applied for by December 2024**, so a referendum with the appropriate funds must be approved at town meeting before 11/24. Then the work must begin summer of 2025.

The CIP solution is to raise taxes with an additional 500k, and not get the intended result. Please don't do that.

Instead, I recommend you bond eight million dollars. This number does not fund all of the BOE needs as presented at the CIP meeting of February 14th (minutes attached), but does much to improve the schools. Around three quarters of the bond funding will be reimbursable. By bonding the eight million in local funds you end up with around eleven million in value due to reimbursement. Willington's reimbursement rate is 63.93.

I suggest a bond of eight million dollars for repairs and improvements. The Town raised taxes last year to enact the one million in recurring revenue for the schools. Please use that recurring revenue to pay for the bond, don't increase taxes with the \$500,000 BOE request.

What this does is a 20 year bond at 5% (average longer term CT municipal bonds) give you a bond payment of \$640,000 annually. The payment is then paid for with the one million recurring revenue in the school repair account. You then free up the BOE to go ahead and construct the roofs, and HVAC repairs in 2025 in the appropriate and compliant time frame.

Also, this frees up an additional \$340,000 that could be allocated to other capital improvements. Please do not miss this opportunity to begin to do the necessary work that the Town voted for in 2023.

You clearly have enough information to allocate the money, we have had the Friar facilities study and the School Building Report, identifying tens of millions of dollars in improvements. If you wait BOE will not be able to apply for the HVAC grant, please do the right thing, you have enough information to act.

https://www.willingtonct.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf1456/f/minutes/cip_minutes_2-14-24.pdf

Thank you,

Richard Maloney
6 Marco Road
Willington, CT 06279
860-429-9662

Mr Tanaka:

I am writing to confirm my willingness to serve on this Committee. I believe that my experience and abilities can contribute to many of the items on the proposed ESBC Charge. Not every one of course, but I would expect that other members will contribute more in the areas outside of my expertise.

Some of my attributes:

- Life-long Willington resident, save for a few years chasing my BSCE. Never lost touch though.
- Attended local schools. Graduated from Windham Tech's Architectural Drafting program.
- Started working for a construction products & service company less that a year out of Windham Tech.
- After a few years of OJT* I enrolled at the University of Hartford, ultimately receiving my BSCE after 13 years of part-time classes.
- Became a CT licensed professional engineer (P.E.) about 2 years BEFORE completing my BSCE, ultimately expanded to being licensed in 10 states. I maintain my licenses in CT, RI, MA, NY & NJ. The others are in retirement status.
- In 2009 my position as a corporate engineer was eliminated, which forced me to start my own consulting business. My primary professional services involve design of temporary structures, forensic investigations, structure modifications, and much more.
- I have the mind of an engineer who has to examine the various options and then carefully scrutinize the details of those options. I do listen to those who have expertise in areas that I do not.
- I am rather familiar with how things are done in Willington, having served on the Conservation Commission in my youth, a short stint on the WHFD in the late 1960s, 15 years on PZC, appointed to the SBC on April 20, 2021, now on the IWWC. I do my best to stay involved in my Town.

The work of this Committee will involve some challenging hurdles to be overcome so that the impact on our Emergency Services, as well as on Willington taxpayers, will be clearly understood. The effects will linger on for a few decades - let's find the best solution(s) that truly fit our town.

Best regards,

Ralph H. Tulis, P.E.
47 Village Hill Road
860 684-6404

*- OJT = On the Job Training

Shannon -

I would like to be a member of the committee. I served in the U.S. Army National Guard for 21 years in the Corp of Engineers, reaching the rank of E-7 Construction supervisor. I oversaw multiple building and infrastructure projects both in the United States and Iraq. I have also worked as a civilian for construction companies, residential home builders and demolition contractors.

If you have further questions please let me know.

Andy

To: Willington Board of Selectman

From: Peter Latincsics

Date: March 31, 2024

Re: Fire Building Committee

I wish express my interest in serving on the proposed Willington Fire Station Building Committee. I believe my 35 years of professional experience in the construction industry with Otis Elevator Company and my current employment with Lerch Bates as a building consultant would be of value to this important new town committee. My previous experience on town committees & boards includes:

2021-2024 Willington School Building Committee.

1990 Willington School Building Committee

Willington Board of Finance 6 years.

Willington Board of Education 8 years.

Willington Capital Improvement Committee 18 years.

I have been a resident of Willington for 35 years and take an active interest in our community affairs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best Regards

Peter Latincsics
97 Trask Road
Willington, CT 06279

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WILLINGTON, CT.

2024 APR -4 P 2:37


TOWN CLERK