

Town of Willington

Board of Selectmen
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BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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

April 15, 2024
6:00 PM

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

First Selectman Peter Tanaka called the meeting to order at 6:00 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 April 1, 2024, regular meeting Selectman Clark seconded
3 Yes (Tanaka, Marco & Clark) 0 No. Motion carried.

First Selectman Tanaka moved to add agenda item Tax Refund New Business item part D Marco seconded. 3 yes
(Tanaka, Clark, Marco) 0 no. Motion carried.

Selectman Clark moved to add agenda item Budget to Old Business item part D Selectman Marco seconded. 3
yes (Tanaka, Clark, Marco) 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.

Christina Mailhos wanted to speak about the Emergency Services building facilities committee.
Erica Wiczenski- Fire dept building committee should be a diverse cross section of residents.

Correspondence

Emails regarding interest in the Emergency Services Facilities Building Committee, nominations for EDC Committee, and Municipal Veteran Representative positions.

First Selectman's Status Report

Stage removed in common room, big hole in the floor. Framed out and finished, the storage room for the registrar is built and will be finished soon.

Approached by CEN (CT Educational Network), they are willing to pay 100% of the cost to put fiber optics in the town office building eliminating the microwave connection. We are down to no spare hardware and will have to wait 3-5 weeks for replacements. Town is required to pay \$35 a month for the next 20 years.

Town Meeting on April 24. Call has gone out for that.

First Selectman Tanaka has met with the engineer for the septic of the Old Town Hall, and they have been given the go ahead to start work. Shouldn't interfere with events coming up.

FOI initiated by Nick Tella has concluded, FOI commission found that he was to be given all information at no cost. He has come in and looked at the file. Selectman Clark asked for clarification on what was included.

Public Works

First Selectman Tanaka read report from DPW Director Troy Sposato

- Road sweeping continues, weather permitting
- Replaced culvert on Trask Rd
- Removed the stage in Town Office Building common room
- Built a new storage room for registrars' office
- Cleaned up trees from last storm
- Chipped brush
- Started grading dirt roads, weather permitting
- Vehicle maintenance and repairs

New Business

First Selectman Tanaka made a motion to appoint Karen Cote as the Willington Municipal Veteran Representative. Selectman Clark seconded. 3 yes (Tanaka, Marco, Clark) 0 no. Motion carried.

First Selectman Tanaka made a motion to appoint Michael Johansen as a regular member of the Economic Development Commission (EDC) to fill a vacancy effective April 15, 2024 expiring January 1, 2029. Selectman Marco seconded 3 yes (Tanaka, Marco, Clark) 0 no. Motion carried.

First Selectman Tanaka made a motion to reappoint Cheryl Mitchell as a regular member of the EDC effective retro-active 3/3/24 expiring 3/2/29 Selectman Clark seconded 3 yes (Tanaka, Marco, Clark) 0 no. Motion carried.

First Selectman Tanaka made a motion to appoint Tom Snyder as a representative of the Willington Hill Fire Department to the Emergency Services Facilities Building Committee Selectman Clark seconded 3 yes (Tanaka, Marco, Clark). 0 no. Motion carried.

First Selectman Tanaka made a motion to appoint James Knight as an alternate of the Willington Hill Fire Department to the Emergency Services Facilities Building Committee Selectman Clark seconded 3 yes (Tanaka, Marco, Clark). 0 no. Motion carried.

First Selectman Tanaka made a motion to appoint Tyler Millix as a representative of the Willington Fire Department 1 to the Emergency Services Facilities Building Committee Selectman Clark seconded 3 yes (Tanaka, Marco, Clark). 0 no. Motion carried.

First Selectman Tanaka made a motion to appoint Alex Moore as an alternate of the Willington Fire Department 1 to the Emergency Services Facilities Building Committee Selectman Marco seconded 1 yes (Tanaka) 2 no (Marco, Clark). Motion failed.

First Selectman Tanaka made a motion to appoint Stuart Cobb as an alternate of the Willington Fire Department 1 to the Emergency Services Facilities Building Committee Selectman Marco seconded 3 yes (Tanaka, Marco, Clark). 0 no. Motion carried.

First Selectman Tanaka made a motion to appoint Brenna Kelleher as a member at large to the Emergency Services Facilities Building Committee Selectman Marco seconded 3 yes (Tanaka, Marco, Clark). 0 no. Motion carried.

First Selectman Tanaka made a motion to appoint David Gankofskie as a member at large to the Emergency Services Facilities Building Committee Selectman Clark seconded 3 yes (Tanaka, Marco, Clark). 0 no. Motion carried.

Selectman Clark made a motion to appoint Bruce Lawler as a representative of the Board of Finance to the Emergency Services Facilities Building Committee Selectman Marco seconded after some discussion the motion was withdrawn by First Selectman Clark. 3 yes (Tanaka, Clark, Marco). Motion Carried

First Selectman Tanaka made a motion to choose between the two members given by the Board of Finance (Bruce Lawler and Britt Rothauser) Selectman Marco seconded. Selectman Tanaka polled Selectman Clark to see who he would choose- he chose Bruce Lawler. First Selectman Tanaka polled Selectman Marco to see who he would choose, he stated he was against Bruce Lawler; therefore, he is for Britt. First Selectman Tanaka also cast his vote for Britt Rothauser. Given the 2/3 vote for Britt, motion carries, and Britt Rothauser is appointed as alternate member at large for the committee. Selectman Marco as coordinator of the committee stated that he is looking for a location for the meetings and will contact the members to put together the meetings.

Tax Refund- First Selectman Tanaka moved that we refund property taxes in the amount of \$280.27 to Warren Builders, LLC for overpayment in accordance with section 12-129. Seconded by Selectman Marco. 3 yes (Tanaka, Marco, Clark). 0 no. Motion carried.

Old Business

Bolton Assessor Contract- Contract is still valid for another year, will continue as is until 2025. The amount of the contract is still in question, business offices are working out details. The larger amount is counted in the budget.

Assessment Contract- Contract came in, changes were approved by the contractor, has been signed off and will have the hard copy by next BOS meeting.

Tax Stabilization Ordinance- First Selectman Tanaka moved we table the discussion until after the budget is complete and to gather information from other towns. Seconded by Selectman Clark. 3 yes (Tanaka, Marco, Clark) 0 no. Motion carried.

Budget- Selectman Clark voiced concerns about the amount of tax increase, would like to send out postcards to encourage townspeople to vote for budget. After a lengthy discussion, it was determined that postcards determining where, when and what is up for vote will go out next budget season as there is no time or budget for it this year. Mike Makuch mentioned a blackout period in which we need to make sure we are following the rules. Christina Mailhos discussed the financial and legal details of what needs to go on the postcard. John Blessington said that if we are going to send out postcards, it should be coming from the BOS.

Present to Speak

Mike Makuch thanked BOS for the speedy compilation of the Emergency Services Facilities Building Committee and looks forward to working with those on the committee. Also mentioned First Selectman Tanaka exercising leadership by voting for Britt.

Christina Mailhos mentioned that First Selectman did a good thing by voting for Britt.

Jen Goodale discussed comments made about the budget and spoke about how difficult deliberations are and how they're not made easily and how it shouldn't be said that we shouldn't raise taxes without a solution.

John Blessington discussed confusion about the FOI request mentioned earlier. Question how much he was being asked to pay for it.

Erica Wicewski stated that there was not a willingness to pay for the information and also spoke on the budget stating that the BOS should have worked harder on the budget so that there could have been a budget Selectman Clark was more comfortable with. Also mentioned that First Selectman Tanaka should be happy with his decision to nominate those he did for the building committee.

Selectman Clark spoke on comments made defending his position.

Good & Welfare

First Selectman Tanaka discussed the passing of the First Selectman of Woodstock.

Reminds those of the Town Meeting coming up, information on the website.

Willington Day looking for vendors- contact Melissa McKinnon

Everyone sign up for email notifications. Also Everbridge once it is up and running.

Mike Makuch mentioned Memorial Day Parade- encourages attendance.

Selectman Clark moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 PM.

Selectman Marco seconded the motion.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon Rittner
Recording Secretary
Town of Willington

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WILLINGTON, CT.

2024 APR 22 P 3:42


TOWN CLERK