

# **WOLCOTT TOWN COUNCIL**

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

Tyrrell Middle School Auditorium

500 Todd Road, Wolcott, CT

7:30 p.m.

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## **MINUTES**

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**Note: These are summary minutes;** a tape recording of this meeting is on file in Commission Secretary's Office in Wolcott Town Hall.

Chairman Santogatta called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance, and attendance was taken.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Michael Santogatta, Vice-Chairman Steven Olmstead, David Valletta, Michael Perrone, Randy Petroniro Sr., Gale Mastrofrancesco, Francis Masi, Charles Marsella, and Michael Bokon

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mayor Thomas Dunn; Linda Bruce, Municipal Finance Officer; Acting Police Chief Neil O'Leary; Deputy Chief Don Therkildsen; Attorney Brian Tynan, Town Attorney; Sergeant Christopher Wihbey, Sergeant Patrick Malloy, Sergeant Brian Boutote; et al.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- **Regular Meeting – February 16, 2010**

Upon **MOTION** by Francis Masi, seconded by David Valletta, it was unanimously voted to **approve** the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 16, 2010.

### **TAXPAYERS' TIME:** (Limited to Items on the Agenda)

No taxpayers came forward.

Mr. Masi stated that he would like to raise a question of personal privilege, at which time he congratulated Ann Wagner on her 30 years of service as Head Dispatcher at the Police Station; she will be retiring on March 5, 2010.

### **CORRESPONDENCE (on file):**

1. Notice to Town Clerk dated February 18<sup>th</sup> regarding the change in location of March 2<sup>nd</sup> Town Council Meeting
2. Letters received on February 22<sup>nd</sup> expressing interest in serving on the Charter Revision Commission from Andrea Lanese and John McCarthy
3. Proposed Resolution for Long Swamp Road-American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009
4. Proposed Resolution to Appoint Charter Revision Commission
5. Submitted at meeting, letter dated March 2<sup>nd</sup> from Attorney Brian Tynan regarding the Agreement between the State of Connecticut and the Town of Wolcott for the Construction, etc. of Long Swamp Road

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### **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Dunn came forward and reported the following:

- He contacted the City of Middletown and offered assistance from the Town of Wolcott with the explosion of the plant; Middletown's Mayor was very appreciative and responded with thanks, however, that situation is being handled;
- The bids were opened for the heating oil and the diesel fuel; he signed on with the Board of Education as he was authorized by the Town Council; heating oil came in at \$2.305 and diesel came in at \$2.5085; he also noted that this was the first regional bid that they have had; they went in with the Town of Plymouth;
- A meeting is being held at the Wolcott Sports Complex this evening with the Lacrosse Club, which will hopefully prove to be a solution with regard to issues at Frisbie Field with Lacrosse and the BAW;
- The Irish Mayor for the Day is Dan Driscoll; the ceremony will be held on Wednesday, March 17, 2010 at 11:00 a.m. at the Wolcott Town Hall;
- For the next agenda, he would like Mark Garrigus and a representative from the Acquired Facilities Commission to attend the meeting to give an update on the Scovill area

### **FINANCE OFFICER REPORT/TRANSFERS:**

Linda Bruce came forward and reported that they have posted the insurance agent of record for the workers' compensation and liability services; they are due March 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. The actuarial services for OPEB is due March 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. The RFP for the agent of record for health services is being refined at this time and will be posted next week.

Mrs. Bruce next reported that they received notification from the Connecticut State Department of Education that they have adjustments to the ECS revenue and the pupil transportation revenue for this current fiscal year. The ECS increased by approximately \$32,000 and the pupil transportation increased by about \$47,000; this will offset any of the shortfalls in revenues such as investment interest, Town Clerk fees, and ambulance fees.

Mrs. Bruce next reported that they have filed the appointment of auditor notification for the current fiscal year, which is required to be filed with the Office of Policy & Management.

Lastly, Mrs. Bruce advised that she does not have any transfers for approval.

### **SUB-COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS:**

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Mr. Petroniro reported that last night the Board of Education unanimously approved the budget for the Wolcott Public Schools; Superintendent Macary informed him that there is no increase in their proposed budget. This was achieved by reducing 10.6 teachers, 7 aides, and 1 secretary. Superintendent Macary assured him that this would not affect education as they have a decrease in enrollment. Mr. Petroniro added that also last night, the Board of Education unanimously voted to renew the Superintendent's contract dated March 2, 2010 and ending March 1, 2013, with a 0% salary increase the first year, and with years two and three to be negotiated at a later date.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no unfinished business.

### NEW BUSINESS:

- **Resolution for Long Swamp Road-American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009**

Upon **MOTION**, by Steven Olmstead, seconded by Francis Masi, it was unanimously voted to **adopt** the following resolution; RESOLVED, that, Thomas G, Dunn, Mayor, be, and hereby authorized to sign the agreement entitled: "Agreement between the State of Connecticut and the Town of Wolcott for the Construction, Inspection, and Maintenance of Long Swamp Road utilizing Federal Funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 Public Law 111-5 (hereinafter "Act") (**see attached**).

- **Resolution to Appoint Charter Revision Commission**

A **MOTION** was offered by Francis Masi, seconded by Charles Marsella, to **adopt** the following resolution; RESOLUTION TO APPOINT A CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION; BE IT RESOLVED, that the following individuals are hereby appointed to serve as members of the Wolcott Charter Revision Commission: George Babcock, David Fusco, Margaret Gugliotti, Rachel Wisler, Andrea Lanese, Arline Tansley, Roger Harbanuk, and William Brown; BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission, as duly appointed, shall proceed in accordance with the law to draft amendments to the existing Wolcott Charter as it determines to be necessary for the efficient, orderly, and appropriate operations of the Town Government, and to prepare and submit, in a timely manner, its draft report to the Town Clerk, but in no event later than sixteen (16) months from the date this resolution is adopted.

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Mr. Valletta inquired as to where the list of names came from on the resolution, at which time Chairman Santogatta replied that they came from the letters that were submitted and distributed to all Council members over the last two weeks. Mr. Valletta next stated that he heard from the Republican Town Committee that none of the individuals that they recommended are on the list. Chairman Santogatta advised that he received no contact or any type of correspondence from the Republican Town Committee and further noted that nothing was received from either Town Committee, only letters from individuals expressing interest.

Mr. Bokon expressed his dissatisfaction with how the names were chosen and inquired who decided which names were to be placed on the list, at which time Chairman Santogatta replied that they solicited letters and received a number of comments from people in putting together the list, and also requested that if any Council members had any comments or suggestions to let him know. He added that he did hear from about five or six Council members who called him directly. Debate followed as to the process of how names were chosen.

Mr. Petroniro next stated that he doesn't have a problem with any of the individuals on the list, but that he has a problem with the process. He commented that the updated list was only provided to the members about four days ago, and further commented that he was led to believe that the entire Council would have an input and that they would all be involved in the discussion.

Vice-Chairman Olmstead stated that he has been following this process very closely and reading the letters as he has received them. He noted that if anyone was concerned about this Commission then they should have followed it closely; this just didn't happen four days ago. He also noted that he made contact with various Council members as to who they thought would be good candidates.

Mr. Perrone commented that he was very impressed that sixteen people expressed their interest in serving on the Charter Revision Commission. He stated that he reviewed each letter that they received, and certainly gave his input as to who he felt would be strong candidates.

Debate continued during which Mr. Petroniro stated that this item should have been discussed in executive session and further stated that had a specific person that he asked to submit a letter. He advised that the individual did mail a letter that mysteriously disappeared and was never placed on the list. Chairman Santogatta advised that to speak about people who want to serve on boards and commissions in executive session would be a complete violation of the Freedom of Information Act, and that he should be ashamed if he is saying that a letter was received by the secretary and not distributed to the Council and placed on the list.

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A **MOTION** was offered by Charles Marsella, seconded by Michael Perrone to move the question.

**A roll call vote was taken and the above motion *carried* as indicated below:  
7-2**

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Francis Masi	X		
Charles Marsella	X		
Michael Perrone	X		
Steven Olmstead	X		
Michael Bokon		X	
Gale Mastrofrancesco	X		
Randy Petroniro		X	
David Valletta	X		
Michael Santogatta	X		

Chairman Santogatta next advised that they have a motion on the floor to approve the eight individuals to the Charter Revision Commission that were submitted in resolution and determined that he would call the roll for each person.

Chairman Santogatta asked for all in favor of appointing George Babcock to the Charter Revision Commission.

**A roll call vote was taken and the motion to appoint George Babcock to the Charter Revision Commission *carried* as indicated below: 5-4**

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Charles Marsella	X		
Michael Perrone	X		
Francis Masi	X		
Steven Olmstead	X		
Michael Bokon		X	
Gale Mastrofrancesco		X	
Randy Petroniro		X	
David Valletta		X	
Michael Santogatta	X		

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Chairman Santogatta asked for all in favor of appointing David Fusco to the Charter Revision Commission.

**A roll call vote was taken and the motion to appoint David Fusco to the Charter Revision Commission *carried* as indicated below: 7-1**

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Charles Marsella	X		
Michael Perrone	X		
Francis Masi	X		
Steven Olmstead	X		
Michael Bokon	X		
Gale Mastrofrancesco	X		
Randy Petroniro		X	
David Valletta	X		

Chairman Santogatta asked for all in favor of appointing Margaret Gugliotti to the Charter Revision Commission.

**A roll call vote was taken and the motion to appoint Margaret Gugliotti to the Charter Revision Commission *carried* as indicated below: 5-3**

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Charles Marsella	X		
Michael Perrone	X		
Francis Masi	X		
Steven Olmstead	X		
Michael Bokon		X	
Gale Mastrofrancesco		X	
Randy Petroniro		X	
David Valletta	X		

Chairman Santogatta asked for all in favor of appointing Rachel Wisler to the Charter Revision Commission.

**A roll call vote was taken and the motion to appoint Rachel Wisler to the Charter Revision Commission *carried* as indicated below: 8-0**

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Charles Marsella	X		
Michael Perrone	X		

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Francis Masi	X
Steven Olmstead	X
Michael Bokon	X
Gale Mastrofrancesco	X
Randy Petroniro	X
David Valletta	X

Chairman Santogatta asked for all in favor of appointing Andrea Lanese to the Charter Revision Commission.

**A roll call vote was taken and the motion to appoint Andrea Lanese to the Charter Revision Commission *carried* as indicated below: 9-0**

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Charles Marsella	X		
Michael Perrone	X		
Francis Masi	X		
Steven Olmstead	X		
Michael Bokon	X		
Gale Mastrofrancesco	X		
Randy Petroniro	X		
David Valletta	X		
Michael Santogatta	X		

Chairman Santogatta asked for all in favor of appointing Arline Tansley to the Charter Revision Commission.

**A roll call vote was taken and the motion to appoint Arline Tansley to the Charter Revision Commission *carried* as indicated below: 8-1**

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Charles Marsella	X		
Michael Perrone	X		
Francis Masi	X		
Steven Olmstead	X		
Michael Bokon		X	
Gale Mastrofrancesco	X		
Randy Petroniro	X		
David Valletta	X		
Michael Santogatta	X		

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Chairman Santogatta asked for all in favor of appointing Roger Harbanuk to the Charter Revision Commission.

**A roll call vote was taken and the motion to appoint Roger Harbanuk to the Charter Revision Commission *carried* as indicated below: 8-0**

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Charles Marsella	X		
Michael Perrone	X		
Francis Masi	X		
Steven Olmstead	X		
Michael Bokon	X		
Gale Mastrofrancesco	X		
Randy Petroniro	X		
David Valletta	X		

Chairman Santogatta asked for all in favor of appointing William Brown to the Charter Revision Commission.

**A roll call vote was taken and the motion to appoint William Brown to the Charter Revision Commission *carried* as indicated below: 9-0**

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Charles Marsella	X		
Michael Perrone	X		
Francis Masi	X		
Steven Olmstead	X		
Michael Bokon	X		
Gale Mastrofrancesco	X		
Randy Petroniro	X		
David Valletta	X		
Michael Santogatta	X		

A **MOTION** was offered by Steven Olmstead, seconded by Francis Masi, to **add** to the agenda, 'Appointment of James Paolino to the Charter Revision Commission'.

**A roll call vote was taken and the above motion *carried* as indicated below: 9-0**

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Charles Marsella	X		
Michael Perrone	X		

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Francis Masi	X
Steven Olmstead	X
Michael Bokon	X
Gale Mastrofrancesco	X
Randy Petroniro	X
David Valletta	X
Michael Santogatta	X

- **Appointment of James Paolino to the Charter Revision Commission**

A **MOTION** was offered by Gale Mastrofrancesco, seconded by Francis Masi, to **appoint** James Paolino to the Charter Revision Commission.

**A roll call vote was taken and the above motion to appoint *carried* as indicated below: 9-0**

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Charles Marsella	X		
Michael Perrone	X		
Francis Masi	X		
Steven Olmstead	X		
Michael Bokon	X		
Gale Mastrofrancesco	X		
Randy Petroniro	X		
David Valletta	X		
Michael Santogatta	X		

- **Swearing In Ceremony for Police Dept. Promotions**

At this time, the ceremony began for promotions to Sergeant of Christopher Wihbey, Patrick Malloy, and Brian Boutote.

Mayor Dunn thanked everyone who was present this evening for coming out. He thanked everyone for their patience and understanding during this past year with issues going on within the Wolcott Police Dept. Tonight, they are hoping that this step allows everyone to move forward; each and every person in the department was given the opportunity to be promoted. Mayor Dunn next introduced Acting Police Chief Neil O'Leary.

Acting Chief O'Leary came forward and thanked everyone for their support, and expressed how impressed he had been with the collaboration of the Wolcott Volunteer Fire Dept. with the Police Dept. Chief O'Leary stated that with the support of Mayor Dunn and the Wolcott Town Council they were able to institute the first

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open competitive exam in the department for the rank of Sergeant. He stated that these promotions to the rank of Sergeant will provide quality leadership and stability to the rank and file, and the department is moving forward with respect to technology updates, grant funding, staffing, equipment upgrades, training, and a realignment of management. He next proceeded to describe the difficulty level of the exam and its various parts, and gave a brief biography of each officer. Chief O'Leary next thanked all of the officers' families for their support and expressed that he is extremely proud of the three officers promoted this evening and of each and every member of the department. Mayor Dunn next proceeded to swear the officers in.

### **ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA:**

Chairman Santogatta indicated if anyone has any items for the next agenda to please contact himself or the Secretary.

### **TAXPAYERS' TIME:**

No taxpayers came forward.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

No Executive Session was held.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Upon **MOTION**, Michael Perrone, seconded by Francis Masi, it was unanimously voted to **adjourn** the regular meeting at 8:28 p.m.

### **APPROVED:**

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Elizabeth Gaudiosi, Secretary  
**WOLCOTT TOWN COUNCIL**

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Michael Santogatta, Chairman  
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State Project No. 166-101

Federal-Aid Project No. 1166 (001)

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLVED**, that, **Thomas G, Dunn**, Mayor, be, and hereby authorized to sign the agreement entitled:

“Agreement between the State of Connecticut and the Town of Wolcott for the Construction, Inspection, and Maintenance of Long Swamp Road utilizing Federal Funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 Public Law 111-5 (hereinafter “Act”)

**Adopted by the Wolcott Town Council of the Town of Wolcott, Connecticut this 2<sup>nd</sup> Day of March, 2010.**

**I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the resolution adopted by the Town Council at its meeting on March 2, 2010.**

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**Dolores C. Slater**  
**Town Clerk**

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**Date**

{Town Seal}

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**WOLCOTT TOWN COUNCIL**

**RESOLUTION TO APPOINT A CHARTER REVISION  
COMMISSION**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the following individuals are hereby appointed to serve as members of the Wolcott Charter Revision Commission:

**George Babcock  
David Fusco  
Margaret Gugliotti  
Rachel Wisler  
Andrea Lanese  
Arline Tansley  
Roger Harbanuk  
William Brown  
James Paolino**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Commission, as duly appointed, shall proceed in accordance with the law to draft amendments to the existing Wolcott Charter as it determines to be necessary for the efficient, orderly, and appropriate operations of the Town Government, and to prepare and submit, in a timely manner, its draft report to the Town Clerk, but in no event later than sixteen (16) months from the date this resolution is adopted.

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Michael J. Santogatta, Chairman

**WOLCOTT TOWN COUNCIL**

Dated at Wolcott, CT on March 2, 2010.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the resolution adopted by the Town Council at its meeting on March 2, 2010.

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Dolores C. Slater

Town Clerk

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Date

{Town Seal}