

WOLCOTT TOWN COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, April 20, 2010

Council Chambers, Wolcott Town Hall

7:30 p.m.

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MINUTES

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

Vice-Chairman Olmstead called the regular meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance, and attendance was taken.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Chairman Michael Santogatta

ALSO PRESENT: Linda Bruce, Municipal Finance Officer; Chet Sergey, LEPC Chairman; Frances Culver, Commission for the Handicapped Chairperson Darlene Tynan, Municipal Agent/Commission on Aging Chairperson; Ann Santogatta, Library Board of Directors Chairperson; Kathy Giotsas, Library Director; Ronald Cordeau, Acquired Facilities Commission Chairman; Russ Emons, Fire Marshal; Peter Parks, Building Inspector; Robert Larson, Farmingbury Hills Golf Commission Chairman; Robert Vitvitsky, Farmingbury Hills Golf Commission Vice-Chairman; et al.

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

No taxpayers came forward.

CORRESPONDENCE (on file):

1. Finance Office Transfers, submitted by Linda Bruce
2. Medical Funds Claims Incurred but not Recorded, dated 4-15-10
3. Letter received on April 14th from Harry Hart, of 47 Woodward drive, requesting assistance in a neighborhood blight issue (photos attached)
4. Board of Education Year to Date Budget Report dated 03-31-10
5. Town of Wolcott Expenditure Report, Revenue Report, & Trial Balance, and Medical Fund Cash Balance Analysis for month ending 03-31-10
6. Municipal Lease Schedule
7. Submitted by Linda Bruce at meeting, Cash Flow Report dated 4-20-10

With respect to correspondence item #3, Vice-Chairman Olmstead advised that several Council members visited the property in question, and noted that they will be looking into this issue to see what steps they can take to help the situation. Mr. Valletta noted that the Sub-Committee to Review Ordinances will be meeting soon to look into this matter.

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FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT/TRANSFERS:

Linda Bruce came forward and advised that she, the Mayor, Superintendent Macary, and Todd Bendtsen met with four agencies for health insurance benefits. They have all concurred, as far as a recommendation for the agency, and she would like to discuss it with the Town Council. She noted that she has requested, through the Chairman, that this item be placed on the next agenda.

Upon **MOTION**, by Michael Perrone, seconded by Francis Masi, it was unanimously voted to **approve** the following transfer; Police - 211; to 01-2-211-1-1400 Overtime \$10,000.00, and also to 01-2-211-4-4952 Vehicle Maintenance \$5,000.00, from 01-1-112-1-1200 Wages Part-Time \$2,500.00, also from 01-1-112-1-1250 Wages-Cleaning-P/T \$2,500.00, also from 01-2-211-4-4950 Operation Expense \$5,000.00, and also from 01-2-212-4-4950 Operation Expense \$5,000.00 (**see attached**).

Upon **MOTION**, by Michael Perrone, seconded by Michael Bokon, it was unanimously voted to **approve** the following transfer; Highway - 311; to 01-3-311-4-4400 Maintenance-Equipment \$3,000.00, and also to 01-3-311-7-7160 Town Aid Roads \$40,887.94, from 01-1-112-3-3700 Consulting Services \$2,247.11, also from 01-1-112-8-8998 Contingency \$19,000.00, also from 01-3-311-4-4900 Liability Insurance \$14,778.83, also from 01-3-311-4-4420 Maint. & Repair-Building \$3,000.00, and also from 01-3-311-5-5402 Road Salt/Eqmnt/Supplies \$4,862.00 (**see attached**).

With respect to the above transfer, Mrs. Bruce advised that at budget time last year, the State had provided them with a Town Aid Road figure of \$110,571.00; however, they received a check for \$151,000.00. Unfortunately, they had to use their entire contingency that remained in the Contingency line item and had to find other funds to transfers into Town Aid Roads. She pointed out that they have to use the Town Aid monies that they receive from the State. If they do not use it in the current fiscal year, they have to send it back to the State.

Upon **MOTION**, by Michael Perrone, seconded by Francis Masi, it was unanimously voted to **approve** the following transfer; FHCC – Fund 31, to 31-5-801-1-1400 Overtime \$6,300.00, from 31-5-801-1-1311 Rangers \$5,000.00, also from 31-5-801-3-3010 Legal/Public Notices \$500.00, also from 31-5-801-3-3200 Legal & Consulting \$500.00, and also from 31-5-801-3-3990 Conferences & Meetings \$300.00 (**see attached**).

SUB-COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS:

There were no reports.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Department Budget Presentations for Fiscal Year 2010-2011 (on file)**
 - **Local Emergency Planning Commission (LEPC) – Dept. 241**

Chet Sergey came forward and stated that he would like to give a brief overview of the Commission including its history and responsibilities.

- Established in the fall of 1987 by Federal mandate to assess the risks in the community for hazardous materials incidents;
- Six main duties; 1. assess the risks in the community; 2. develop a response plan to address those risks; 3. make preparations and inventory the resources for it; 4. exercise the plan twice a year and make changes to that plan based on what they learn from the exercises; 5. required to do a complete review of the plan annually and submit changes to the SERC (State Emergency Response Commission) and maintain their databases and files; 6. responsibility to keep the public informed of what the risks are and educate them on preparing for all types of emergencies.

The following line items were referenced and clarification was provided by Mr. Sergey:

Dept. 241 - #3850 \$1,800.00 increase; & #7311: \$1,800.00 decrease; same budget as last year, however, last year monies were inadvertently cut from line item #3850, Emergency Plan Revision, when the intention was to cut the Capital Equipment line item #7311. As a consequence, there was a transfer out of Cap Equip. into Plan Revision.

- **Commission for the Handicapped – Dept. 571**

Frances Culver came forward and spoke about the activities and programs the Commission provides for the town, including but not limited to the following:

- Sponsor a bowling league on Saturday mornings for six weeks;
- Provide Rainbow Day Camp at Woodtick Recreation Area for six weeks in the summer;
- Award two camperships to Camp Harkness at the shore every summer;
- For 21 years, they have sponsored the Wolcott Special Games;
- Have been able to provide this due to the generosity of businesses, organizations, and residents in the Town, as the monies in their budget are not enough to pay for everything they provide.

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There were no questions with respect to the budget. A brief question and answer period followed with regard to the general activities of the Commission.

- **Commission on Aging & Social Services – Dept. 168 & 169**

Darlene Tynan came forward and advised that her budget covers services for the Senior Center and the Recycling Center.

The following line item was referenced and clarification was provided by Mrs. Tynan:

Dept. 168 - #4400: \$500.00 decrease; they applied for a new bus through a grant and are hoping to receive it; also \$1,600.00 was spent on a bus on a major repair; therefore they reduced the line item to what it was a few years ago.

A brief question and answer period followed with respect to the senior buses. Discussion followed regarding protocol involved with what they need to do with the old bus if they receive a new one through the grant.

- **Library – Dept. 551**

Ann Santogatta and Kathy Giotsas came forward at which time Mrs. Santogatta indicated that the library has really moved forward in the past few years; they have new technology and books and the use of the library has increased.

The following line items were referenced and clarification was provided by Ms. Giotsas and Mrs. Santogatta:

Dept. 551 - #4420: \$13,000.00 increase; these monies are needed for catch basins, duct work, wiring that needs to be pulled off of floor, wiring that has gotten wet from leaks, repair to the loading dock that no longer exists, electrical work that needs to meet UL codes, and patch work on parking lot; next year they would like to pave the parking lot; they have postponed this as it will be very expensive.

Dept. 551 - #5900: \$5,000.00 increase; each year the book industry raises their prices about 4-5%; more than 75% of the children's collection is more than 15 years old and is outdated; they need new books.

A brief question and answer period followed. Discussion transpired with respect to the future paving project, their five year improvement plan, and the leakage that continues in the library from duct work and cracks in the building.

- **Acquired Facilities Commission – Dept. 30**

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Ronald Cordeau came forward at which time questions were asked about the Kiwanis Club. Mr. Cordeau explained that the Kiwanis leases part of the land from the Town; they are currently in negotiations for a new lease. They had a 25 year lease which expired this past April. The new proposed lease will be for a 10 year period with three five year renewal periods. Their building is on Town property and they use it for programs six weeks out of the year. They maintain the area, and the town does minor repairs from time to time. With respect to Woodtick Recreation Area, Mr. Cordeau noted that they will not be raising any fees this year.

The following line item was referenced and clarification was provided by Mr. Cordeau.

Dept. 30 - #5780: \$2,000.00 decrease; the State stocks the reservoirs; the town will not be stocking; keeping some monies in the line item in case the State doesn't do it next year.

A brief question and answer period followed with respect to new signs, the extensions of the walking trail, and maintenance of the trail; discussion followed.

- **Building Department – Dept. 161**

Peter Parks came forward and advised that his budget has decreased by over \$27,000. He noted that the secretary will be retiring at the end of the December; the \$15,000 decrease in the wages line item reflects that. His office is working with the Mayor's Office to decide on how they will do without the secretary; a decision has not yet been made. Mr. Parks also advised that he will be taking over the responsibilities of the electrical inspector which is a savings of about \$10,000 annually; he also took over the duties of the plumbing inspector this past year. Discussion followed with respect to the additional responsibilities of the Building Inspector.

- **Inland Wetlands Commission– Dept. 164**

It was noted that Marc Garrigus was not able to attend this evening. The Council agreed that it will not be necessary to reschedule.

Mrs. Bruce advised that the only change in the budget is an increase of \$4,000 in the Storm Water Management line item, which is mandatory.

- **Civil Preparedness – Dept. 231**

It was noted that Al Voghel was not able to attend this evening. The Council agreed that it will not be necessary to reschedule.

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Mrs. Bruce advised that this is another small department that is necessary and noted that Mr. Voghel works very hard; about five years ago, he was able to find the sirens for the town at no charge and install them at no charge. Mrs. Bruce next briefly reviewed and explained the line items.

▪ Farmingbury Hills Golf Commission – Dept. 31

Robert Larson and Robert Vitvitsky came forward; the following line items were referenced and clarification was provided:

Dept. 31 - Revenue Budget - #542: \$8,918.12 increase & #545: \$12,300.00 increase; the proposed revenue increases are the result of the increases approved by the Council last week; same number of rounds.

Dept. 31 – Expenditure Budget- #4400 \$4,000.00 increase; they plan on buying out the cart lease at the end of the year; they are getting out of the cart rental business; they had an opportunity to follow up with a balloon payment at the end of the year; therefore, they reduced \$4,000 in the Rangers line item and added into the Maintenance-Equipment line item for the carts.

Dept. 31 – Expenditure Budget- #8163 \$26,136.00 increase; they need these additional monies added to the line item to pay off/buy the golf carts. In turn, in the budgets for 2011-2012 and 2012-2013, that cart lease payment will be gone.

A question and answer period followed; discussion transpired with respect to the pros and cons of leasing golf carts versus purchasing them, if they will ever fill the Superintendent position again, and also regarding the restaurant lease which is currently in negotiations.

▪ Fire Marshal – Dept. 222

Russ Emons came forward and advised that his certification expires in September and with that, he will also be resigning as Fire Marshal; they are currently in transition and there are three Deputies to carry on. Mr. Emons next announced that this year an Alcott School child won the state fire prevention poster contest. As a result, next year 25,000 calendars will be circulated around the state with her name, school and town on it. Their proposed budget is pretty conservative, as they do have 24/7 coverage for Fire Marshal duties. He noted that there will be future changes in the state laws and regulations that will result in the need for new ordinances to be adopted.

The following line item was referenced and clarification was provided:

Dept. 222 - #7310: \$5,000.00 increase; to purchase specialized software to enable them to link to the State Fire Marshal's Office.

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ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA:

No news items for next agenda.

TAXPAYERS' TIME:

No taxpayers came forward.

ADJOURNMENT:

Upon **MOTION**, Michael Perrone, seconded by Charles Marsella, it was unanimously voted to **adjourn** the meeting at 8:52 p.m.

APPROVED:

Elizabeth Gaudiosi, Secretary
WOLCOTT TOWN COUNCIL

Michael J. Santogatta, Chairman
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