

WOLCOTT TOWN COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, December 7, 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.

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, Michael Bokon, David Valletta, Michael Perrone, Gale Mastrofrancesco, Francis Masi, Charles Marsella, and Rachel Wisler (sworn in at 8:20 p.m.)

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Thomas Dunn; Linda Bruce, Municipal Finance Officer; Brian Tynan, Town Attorney; Lorraine McQueen, Tax Collector; Cheryl Brundage, Assistant Tax Collector; et al.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

▪ Regular Meeting – November 16, 2010

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

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

No taxpayers came forward.

CORRESPONDENCE (on file):

1. Finance Office Transfer, submitted by Linda Bruce
2. Resolution: State of CT Department of Transportation Supplemental Agreement Regarding Long Swamp Road (agreement attached)
3. Letter dated November 17th to Cathe Sherman, Republican Town Committee Chairperson, regarding the Town Council Vacancy
4. Transfer Request from the Acquired Facilities Commission dated July 20, 2010 (previously denied)
5. Copy of letter received on December 1st to Mayor Dunn from Town Attorney Brian Tynan Regarding Back Tax Collection Matters
6. Copy of current Town Ordinance #66 Regarding Blight

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7. Copy of new Proposed Blight Ordinance (Amendment to #66)
8. Mayor's Recommendations for Company No. 2 Fire House Building Committee
9. Mayor's Recommendations for Police Civilian Review Board
10. Letter received December 3rd from the Republican Town Committee advising that they are submitting Rachel Wisler's name to fill the vacancy on the Town Council
11. Board of Education Budget Report dated 11-30-10 (separate email attachment)

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Dunn came forward and reported the following:

- Long Swamp Road reconstruction just about complete; the curbing is in; some mailboxes and driveways need to be finished;
- Town-wide Christmas Party is this Friday, December 10th from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

It was noted that there is a performance bond in place for the Long Swamp Road project, which is at least \$50,000.00.

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT/TRANSFERS:

Linda Bruce came forward and reported that the audited financial statements for June 30, 2010, have been filed with the following State & Federal agencies: the Federal Audit Clearing House, the Office of Policy & Management, Office of the State Comptroller, State Dept. of Education, CT State Library, the Dept. of Transportation, and the Dept. of Economic & Community Development.

She next stated that she submitted one transfer for approval this evening.

Upon **MOTION**, by Francis Masi, seconded by Michael Bokon, it was unanimously voted to **table** the following transfer; Police – 211, to 01-2-211-1-1100 Salary Administrative \$45,000.00, from 01-2-211-1-1140 Wages – Operations \$45,000.00.

SUB-COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS:

Wolcott Volunteer Ambulance: Mrs. Mastrofrancesco reported that the issue of revenues came up during the audit report. She advised that she met with Bill Barratt who explained to her how the billing is done; it is consistent with how it has always been done. They were audited in June and they are very organized.

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She explained that insurance companies have been paying slowly, and that there has been some struggle collecting monies from people who have used the service. They are doing the best they can with their collections and in trying to work with people.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Discussion & Possible Action Regarding Request for Transfer from the Acquired Facilities Commission

Chairman Santogatta advised that he received a request from Mr. Olmstead, who was on the prevailing side a few months back, to bring this request back for a vote.

A **MOTION** was offered by Steven Olmstead, seconded by David Valletta, to **approve** the following transfer; Acquired Facilities – 30, to 30-8-8001-1100 Salary Administrative \$2,000.00, from 30-8-800-1-1140 Wages – Operations \$2,000.00 (**see attached**).

Discussion was held with respect to why the motion to approve the transfer to give the Director of Woodtick Recreation Area a bonus, originally failed. It was noted that they did not have a full Council present, and that in addition, there were two abstentions. Overviews of their previous discussions were offered by various members. Mrs. Mastrofrancesco and Mr. Bokon noted that they would like to see the agreement or contract for the Director. Mr. Perrone noted that he doesn't believe there is a formal contract with the Director, at which time Attorney Tynan and Mayor Dunn concurred that there is not. Mr. Marsella stated that it is his understanding, from what the members of the Commission explained, that the Director had not received a raise for many years, and that this is how they have handled his compensation many times in the past. Mr. Perrone commented that the Acquired Facilities Commission voted to approve this item; those funds are separate from the Town funds and do not impact the taxpayers whatsoever.

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

(6 Yes, 1 No, 1 Abstain)

	<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		
David Valletta	X		
Michael Santogatta	X		

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NEW BUSINESS:

1. Resolution: State of CT Department of Transportation Supplemental Agreement Regarding Long Swamp Road

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: "First Supplemental Agreement to the Original Agreement Dated March 18, 2010 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**).

2. Discussion & Possible Action Regarding Delinquent Tax Properties

Lorraine McQueen, Cheryl Brundage, and Attorney Tynan came forward. Chairman Santogatta advised that they had a Back Tax Committee meeting some weeks back regarding two pieces of property that they were looking to approach neighbors on for the purpose of reaching some kind of agreement to sell to them, although for lower than the amount of delinquent taxes owed. Mrs. Brundage stated that the Town Attorney has advised that it would be more cost effective and an easier transaction if the letters sent to the abutting property owners were sent from the current property owners. The Town does not own the properties, so they cannot solicit bids on it. It was noted that these properties are not building lots and are not valuable to anyone except possibly to an abutting neighbor. Discussion transpired with respect to the specifics and unique circumstances of the Baldwin property located on Lyman Road, the Galvin property on Knollwood Drive, a passway on Averyll Avenue, and a pathway on Center Street. Mrs. Brundage pointed out that some of the properties have had their assessments reduced after going through the Board of Assessment Appeals process; discussion followed with respect to how that process works.

Attorney Tynan noted that the main issue is that the Town does not own the properties. The letters would have to be sent by the owners of the delinquent properties. If any bids were to come in less than the outstanding taxes, the matter would have to come before the Town Council for action. He added that these are not easy properties to resolve, but that they would like to attempt to get somewhere with them and further noted that their purpose here is to advise the Council as to how they would like to proceed, so that the Council is aware of the situation if and when they need to come before the Council for action.

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3. Discussion Regarding Proposed Blight Ordinance

Attorney Tynan suggested that the draft ordinance be tabled until he meets with the Ordinance Sub-Committee to review it and hopefully make it a little stronger.

4. Approval of Nomination to Fill Vacancy on Town Council

Upon **MOTION** by Francis Masi, seconded by David Valletta, it was unanimously voted to **approve** the appointment of Rachel Wisler to a seat on the Town Council, representing the second district.

At this time, Chairman Santogatta swore in Mrs. Wisler and asked her to join the Council for the remainder of the meeting.

5. Approve Appointments to Company No. 2 Fire House Building Committee as Recommended by the Mayor

Upon **MOTION** by Francis Masi, seconded by David Valletta, it was unanimously voted to **approve** the appointments to Company No. 2 Fire House Building Committee as recommended by the Mayor (**see attached**).

6. Approve Appointments to the Civilian Police Review Board as Recommended by the Mayor

Mayor Dunn noted that per the new charter revision, this new Board needs to be in place before January 1, 2011, not after.

Upon **MOTION** by Francis Masi, seconded by Gale Mastrofrancesco, it was unanimously voted to **approve** the following appointments to the Civilian Police Review Board, as recommended by the Mayor: Philip L. Allison (R), Fr. Ed Hyland (D), Richard S. Mansfield (D), John T. Wynne (R), and James Dolan (U).

7. Establishment of a Wolcott Food Bank

Vice-Chairman Olmstead noted that there a lot of people in Wolcott who are in need, and that he would like to have a committee formed to look into establishing a food bank. Discussion followed during which it was noted that various organizations and churches already give out a lot of food throughout the year; it's just not advertised. It was further noted by Mayor Dunn and Mr. Masi, that the WALC was approached by Helen Donovan who requested to establish one at that facility, and it was favorably voted on by that organization. Mr. Olmstead stated that he wants to make sure that this would be an every day thing and not just for holidays. It was determined that Mr. Masi and Vice-Chairman Olmstead can work with the other agencies involved.

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ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA:

Chairman Santogatta advised to contact himself or the Clerk if anyone has any items.

TAXPAYERS' TIME:

No Taxpayers came forward.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Upon **MOTION** by Gale Mastrofrancesco, seconded by Michael Bokon, it was unanimously voted to take a ten minute recess at 8:30 p.m. and then **enter** into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Security Matters, inviting Police Chief Neil O'Leary and Mayor Dunn.

Chairman Santogatta called the regular session back to order at 9:52 p.m.

Upon **MOTION** by Gale Mastrofrancesco, seconded by Charles Marsella, it was unanimously voted to **add** 'Transfer of Funds Request' to the agenda (Transfer for Police -Dept. 211).

8. Transfer of Funds Request (Police -Dept. 211)

Upon **MOTION** by Gale Mastrofrancesco, seconded by Charles Marsella, it was unanimously voted to **approve** the 'Transfer of Funds Request' for Police-Dept. 211 (**see attached**).

ADJOURNMENT:

Upon **MOTION**, Michael Bokon, seconded by Michael Perrone, it was unanimously voted to **adjourn** the regular meeting at 9:55 p.m.

APPROVED:

Elizabeth Gaudiosi, Secretary
WOLCOTT TOWN COUNCIL

Michael J. Santogatta, Chairman
WOLCOTT TOWN COUNCIL

**SCHEDULE A
TRANSFERS WITHIN / BETWEEN DEPARTMENTS - FUND 01
2010-2011 FISCAL YEAR - FOR REVIEW ON DECEMBER 7, 2010**

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>DEBIT</u>	<u>CREDIT</u>
POLICE - 211				
	TO 01-2-211-1-1100	SALARY / ADMINISTRATIVE	45,000.00	
	FROM 01-2-211-1-1140	WAGES - OPERATIONS		45,000.00

Reason: To fund the proposed position of Deputy Chief of the Department.

TOWN of WOLCOTT

REQUEST FOR TRANSFER

DATE: 12/2/10

REQUESTOR: Chief Neil O'Leary

DEPT 211

The following budget transfer(s) is requested:

	<u>ACCOUNT NUMBER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
TO	01-2-211-1-1100	SALARY / ADMINISTRATIVE	45,000.00
FROM	01-2-211-1-1140	WAGES - OPERATIONS	45,000.00

**ALL REQUESTS FOR TRANSFERS MUST BE PRESENTED TO THE
TOWN COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL - PLEASE ENSURE
THAT ALL INFORMATION IS COMPLETE & ACCURATE**

The reasons the "to" account(s) are exhausted:

The "To" account is not exhausted.

Transfer is needed for:

An assessment of Police Department operations indicates that a Deputy Chief is necessary.

The effect on the "from" account(s):

Adequate funds will remain in the "From" account to meet the current Fiscal Year's requirements.

APPROVAL *L. Bruce* FINANCE OFFICE USE DATE: 12/2/2010

SCHEDULE A
TRANSFERS WITHIN FUNDS 30
2010-2011 FISCAL YEAR - FOR REVIEW ON JULY 20, 2010

<u>FUND</u>	<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>DEBIT</u>	<u>CREDIT</u>
30 - ACQUIRED FACILITIES	TO 30-8-800-1-1100	SALARY / ADMINISTRATIVE	2,000.00	
	FROM 30-8-800-1-1140	WAGES - OPERATIONS		2,000.00

Reason: To fund a salary increase based on the Acquired Facilities Commission Chairperson's recommendation.

TOWN of WOLCOTT

REQUEST FOR TRANSFER

DATE: 7/6/10

REQUESTOR: L.R. BRUCE

FUND 30

The following budget transfer(s) is requested:

	<u>ACCOUNT NUMBER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
TO	<u>30-8-800-1-1100</u>	<u>SALARY / ADMINISTRATIVE</u>	<u>2,000.00</u>
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
FROM	<u>30-8-800-1-1140</u>	<u>WAGES - OPERATIONS</u>	<u>2,000.00</u>
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

**ALL REQUESTS FOR TRANSFERS MUST BE PRESENTED TO THE
TOWN COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL - PLEASE ENSURE
THAT ALL INFORMATION IS COMPLETE & ACCURATE**

The reasons the "to" account(s) are exhausted:

The "to" account is not exhausted. See below.

Transfer is needed for:

To fund a salary increase based on the Acquired Facilities Commission Chairperson's recommendation.

The effect on the "from" account(s):

Expenses in the "from" account will be adjusted in line with the transfer.

APPROVAL L.R. Bruce.....

FINANCE OFFICE USE

DATE: 7/15/2010.....

REPRODUCE THIS FORM AS NECESSARY

#330

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:

“First Supplemental Agreement to the Original Agreement Dated March 18, 2010 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”)

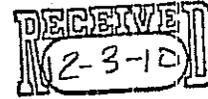
Adopted by the Wolcott Town Council of the Town of Wolcott, Connecticut this 7th Day of December, 2010.

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of resolution adopted by the Town Council at its regular meeting on December 7, 2010.

Dolores C. Slater
Dolores C. Slater
Town Clerk

12-8-2010
Date

{Town Seal}



December 2, 2010

The Wolcott Town Council
10 Kenea Avenue
Wolcott, CT 06716

Dear Town Council Chairman and Members,

The Wolcott Republican Town Committee would like to submit Rachel Wisler's name to fill the vacancy on the Wolcott Town Council, which was created by the resignation of Randy Petroniro.

She is a registered Republican and resides in District Two. During the last election she ran for the position, lost by less than 30 votes and was the candidate with next highest number of votes. At that time, she vowed her support for the citizens of our town.

She has resided in Wolcott for the past 39 years. Her family and business are located here and we feel she would be a good addition to the Wolcott Town Council..

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cathe B Sherman".

Cathe B Sherman
Chairman Wolcott Republican Town Committee

**Mayor's Recommendations for
Company No. 2 Fire House Building Committee**

William Tynan

Jack Viera

Steve Morrone

Larry Rossi

Joe DiDonato

**Mayor's Recommendations for
Civilian Police Review Board**

Philip L. Allison (R)

Fr. Ed Hyland (D)

Richard S. Mansfield (D)

John T. Wynne (R)

James Dolan (U)