

**WOLCOTT TOWN COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING
TUESDAY, MAY 15, 2012
TYRRELL MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
500 TODD ROAD, WOLCOTT, CT
7:00 P.M.
Page 1 of 6
MINUTES**

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

PUBLIC HEARING:

Town of Wolcott: FY 2012/2013 Proposed Budget

Chairman Valletta called the Public Hearing to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance, and attendance was taken.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman David Valletta, Vice-Chairman Gale Lanza Mastrofrancesco, Francis Masi, James Pape, Roger Picard, Jeffrey Slavin, Rachel Wisler, Charles Marsella, and Donald Charette Sr.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Thomas G. Dunn; Linda Bruce, Municipal Finance Officer; Taxpayers, et al.

CALL OF MEETING:

At this time, the Clerk read the following into the record:

**TOWN OF WOLCOTT
PUBLIC NOTICE**

Take notice that a Public Hearing of the Wolcott Town Council will be held at the Tyrrell Middle School Auditorium, 500 Todd Road, Wolcott, CT., on Tuesday evening, May 15, 2012, at 7:00 p.m., for the proposed Town of Wolcott Budget for Fiscal Year 2012-2013.

All interested citizens will have the opportunity to submit written & oral comments at the hearing.

The proposed budget may be examined & copies obtained from the Finance Office; Mon-Wed 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Thurs. 8:00 a.m. – 5:30

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p.m., Fri 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Wolcott Town Hall, 10 Kenea Ave.,
Wolcott, CT.

Dated Wolcott, CT
7th Day of May 2012
David Valletta, Chairman
Wolcott Town Council

Published one (1) time: Republican-American Newspaper on
Monday, May 7, 2012

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Email to the Town Council dated May 10th from Teresa Pineau expressing her support of the Proposed Budget for FY 2012-2013 presented by the Board of Education

PUBLIC COMMENT:

At this time, Chairman Valletta welcomed the public to come forward to address the Council. He added that anyone coming forward must sign in and state their name and address.

The following individuals came forward. A summary of their comments is listed below.

1. **Theresa Marin, of 486 Center Street** came forward and spoke about many of the brand new programs in the proposed Education budget that are exciting and worthwhile. She noted that although times are tough, she is willing to make sacrifices so that the kids get the education they need. She requested that the proposed budget presented by the Board of Education be approved as submitted.
2. **Amy Fillippone, of 5 Sunrise Road** came forward and expressed that she is in favor of the proposed budget presented by the Board of Education. She stated that she realizes that the budget has increased since last year, but noted that they need to stay competitive with salaries so that they can continue to have high quality educators in their schools. Every year test scores continue to rise and more of their graduates are continuing their education.

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- 3. Gale Audibert, of 387 Lyman Road** came forward and spoke about how competitive higher education is in the State of Connecticut. Investing in education is extraordinarily important so that their children can compete and succeed.
- 4. Tammy Melisky, of 46 Manor Lane** came forward and commented that she is in favor of the increase in the proposed Education budget. She noted that it is necessary to invest in technology in today's world.
- 5. Mike O'Connell, of 15 Chicory Drive** came forward and requested that the Town Council support the proposed Education budget as it stands, with no cuts made. He stated that Wolcott is currently number 167 out of 169 in spending in the State. The Board of Education has had a zero increase for the past two years and just a small increase for next year.
- 6. Tony Gugliotti, of 21 Colman Drive** came forward and expressed that he supports both the Education and General Government budgets as submitted. He stated that it is in the best interests of the Town to maintain services and to provide a quality education and any slight increase that might be required will actually help to protect property values.
- 7. Shirley Samy Childs, of 138 Knollwood Drive** came forward and stated that she has been following the CMT scores for years and noted that Wolcott had higher scores than many of the more affluent towns in the surrounding areas. She also commented that she was surprised when she learned that Wolcott had one of the least per capita expenditures for students which convinced her that the schools were being managed very well. She added that she is in favor of the proposed budget presented by the Board of Education.
- 8. Kati Ciarlo, of 1 Michael Terrace** came forward and stated that she is in full support of the proposed budget for 2012-2013 submitted by the Board of Education. She stated that in these economic times, it is commendable that the Board of Education and Superintendent Macary have been able to limit the budget increase by a mere 2.7%. She added that the main reason she moved to Wolcott was due to its school system.

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- 9. Dan Oliveira, of 14 Bilby Drive** came forward and expressed that he is particularly concerned with the economic environment that they are living in. The Grand List has recently decreased significantly due to the reassessment of properties. He noted that he is retired and his funds are somewhat limited. They have an attractive town, but it will not be if the mill rate gets out of hand. He requested that the Town Council keep all of these factors in mind when they vote on the budget.
- 10. Tracey Thibeau, of 14 Wilson Road** came forward and stated that she is in support of the proposed budget submitted by the Board of Education. She moved here about 17 years ago, and the reason why is that Wolcott public schools were recommended by the realtors. She stated that it is imperative that they start funding education even more, as they must stay competitive and keep up with technology.
- 11. Pat Najarian, of 43 Rocco Drive** came forward and stated that she is a member of the Board of Education and noted that they worked very hard on this budget. They were very conscious of the times and the spending but unfortunately, the federal government is taking away \$650,000 from their budget. It would be very detrimental to the students if any cuts were made to the budget; the small increase is probably only one half of a mill. She stated that she hopes the Town Council will support the Education budget.
- 12. Michelle Theise, of 43 Simon Drive** came forward and stated that she is a teacher in the Wolcott school system and noted that a 2.7% increase in the Education budget is not a lot. She stated that the Board of Education has already made serious cuts to it resulting in many lay-offs. She commented that Wolcott being 167 out of 169 in per pupil spending is not something that they should be proud of, it should be a source of embarrassment. She stated that she hopes the Town Council will support the small increase in the Education budget.
- 13. Kathy Cordone, of 80 Old Boundline Road** came forward and stated that she taught school in Wolcott for 37 years. She commented that even if they have a mill increase, most of the assessments in Wolcott are under \$200,000. It would only end up increasing taxes to between \$100.00 and \$200.00 per year. She commented that she hopes the Town Council will support the Education budget.

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14. Joseph Macary, of 30 Central Avenue came forward and referenced the Education budget. He pointed out that \$665,000 of the \$862,000 proposed increase is the federal grant monies that they lost, along with every other town in Connecticut and there is an increase of \$146,000 in ECS monies, which results in only a \$50,000 increase. He concurred that it is an embarrassment that Wolcott ranks 167 out of 169 in per pupil spending; they should be investing more money in education. He commented that there are two reasons that people move into towns; property taxes and education. He stated that as Superintendent he would like the Council to ask themselves how much they really value education.

15. Thomas Dunn, of 8 Pleasant Street stated that he has been the Mayor for the past 9 years, and would like to speak about the General Government side of the budget which is responsible for public safety, various services, and many other town departments. He pointed out that about \$1.1 million dollars in the General Government budget is expended for services provided to the Board of Education, which are called in-kind services. He noted that he fully understands the importance of education and further noted that he is also responsible to the senior population in town and watching how every tax dollar is spent. The Board of Education and General Government have been doing very well over the years; the mill rate has not increased in many years and taxes have remained flat. He is very proud of the proposed General Government budget which contains no increase at all. He next advised that due to the recent revaluation, the Grand List decreased which equals a loss of \$2.4 million dollars. The Town Council has a tough job ahead of them because the only place to get the money is from the taxpayers. He advised that right now, if the budgets are approved as presented and the back tax number stays the same, the mill rate will increase by between 2.50 and 2.59 mills. How this affects everyone will completely depend on whether their real estate assessment increased, decreased, or stayed the same. Some people will pay \$200 more in taxes, some may have no increase or see a decrease, and some will see a \$1,000 increase if not more. He added that the Town Council will be holding a Workshop next Tuesday where all of these issues will be discussed.

At this time, there were no further comments, at which time Chairman Valletta entertained a motion to adjourn.

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ADJOURNMENT:

Upon **MOTION** by Roger Picard, seconded by Rachel Wisler, it was unanimously voted to **adjourn** the Public Hearing at 7:40 p.m.

APPROVED:

**Elizabeth Gaudiosi
Commission Secretary**

**David Valletta, Chairman
WOLCOTT TOWN COUNCIL**

'Call of Meeting'

TOWN OF WOLCOTT PUBLIC NOTICE

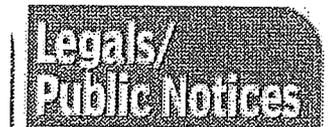
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Dated Wolcott, CT
7th Day of May 2012
David Valletta, Chairman
Wolcott Town Council
R-A May 7, 2012



Beth Gaudiosi

Subject: Hearing on Education Budget

From: Teresa Pineau [mailto:tpm09@comcast.net]

Sent: Thursday, May 10, 2012 10:10 PM

To: Beth Gaudiosi

Subject: Re: Hearing on Education Budget

To: The Wolcott Town Council

I am writing to express my support for the proposed budget presented to you by the Wolcott Board of Education.

I currently have 3 children in the school system. I also have a daughter who is a recent graduate of Wolcott HS.

Wolcott schools have always provided quality education in a safe environment. Over the years, the schools have continued to move forward and improve. Our administrators and teachers have continued to set the bar higher, to work harder to help our children achieve academic success.

The proof of this hard work is evident in the test scores . At the elementary school level, our children have exceeded state goals on the CMTs . Alcott 3rd graders achieved an impressive 100% mastery in writing on the CMTs, 8th graders reached 99% proficiency in mathematics. At the high school, all AP English, US History, Calculus, and Chemistry students passed the advance placement exams . These are just a few of the many academic achievements of our students. These accomplishments don't happen by accident and it doesn't come easily . Teachers need to work harder and smarter to make sure our children achieve these academic success. It can be a challenge. CMTs, mandates, budgets, all have an impact on teaching and learning.

Wolcott schools are great- but we need to continue to set higher goals to reach. Our children need to be ahead of the academic game. We need to approve this slight increase in the education budget. We need to improve and update technology, computers, high school college credit classes need to be expanded , uniforms for athletics at the Middle School.

In order to set the bar higher for our students, we need to provide our teachers with the tools and resources necessary to reach those goals.

Our administrators , Superintendent, and our BOE have worked tirelessly to ensure a great education to our children while keeping a budget in order. Approve the education budget and allow our children to continue to succeed .

Thank you,
Teresa Pineau
11 Barbara Drive, Wolcott.
Sent from my iPhone

WOLCOTT TOWN COUNCIL

SIGN-IN SHEET

PUBLIC HEARING

Tuesday, March 15, 2012

NAME (Please Print)

ADDRESS (Please Print)

1. Cherese Marin

684 Center St

2. Amy Filippou

5 Sunrise Rd

3. Mike O'Connell

15 Chicory Dr

4. Tony Gualotti

21 CORMAN DR.

5. Shirel Sany Childs

138 Knollwood.

6. Rose Alweira

14 Bilby Dr.

7. Tracey Thibeau

8. Pat Najarian

43 Rocca Dr

9. Michelle Thies

43 Simon Dr

10. Kelly Corcone

80 Old Roseline

11. ⁴ Tammi Melisky

46 Manor Lane

12.

13.

14.

15.