

WOLCOTT TOWN COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

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 Valletta called the meeting to order at 7:30 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, Rachel Wisler, Roger Picard, Charles Marsella, Jeffrey Slavin, and Donald Charette Sr.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Thomas G. Dunn; Linda Bruce, Municipal Finance Officer; Brian Tynan, Town Attorney; Police Chief Edward Stephens

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

▪ **Regular Meeting – August 20, 2013**

Upon **MOTION** by Rachel Wisler, seconded by Jeffrey Slavin, it was unanimously voted to **approve** the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on August 20, 2013, with two abstentions; one from Francis Masi and one from David Valletta.

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

No taxpayers came forward.

CORRESPONDENCE (on file):

1. Letter received on August 29th from Superintendent of Schools Joseph Macary regarding teacher negotiations {contract attached separately}
2. Notice to Town Clerk dated August 29th regarding the September 3rd Town Council meeting cancellation
3. Board of Education Year to Date Budget Report dated 08-31-13
4. Town of Wolcott Expenditure Report, Revenue Report, & Trial Balance, for month ending 08-31-13
5. Submitted by Police Chief Stephens, photos of Center Street Bridge Project

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MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Dunn and Chief Stephens came forward, at which time Mayor Dunn reported the following:

- He was invited over to Corporal Melvin Attenberg's house in Wolcott this weekend by an organization called House of Heroes; they are volunteers who help out veterans; there was a ceremony at noon and they do various types of clean-up and/or construction projects needed, e.g. wheelchair ramps; he noted that it was a wonderful event and it was great to see all of the volunteers doing so much work for a veteran
- He was not aware of this ahead of time, but told them that the Town of Wolcott would be happy to assist them in the future with volunteers, small equipment, etc. and hope that the Town Council would agree

At this time, Mayor Dunn indicated that Chief Stephens will update them on the status of the State bridge project on Center Street. Mayor Dunn advised that this has been an extremely frustrating process and he is very disappointed with its progress. Chief Stephens submitted four recent photos of the project and gave a detailed report on the status of the bridge project (**see attached**). Key points were as follows:

- The project was supposed to be finished by the start of school
- They had a meeting the Wednesday before school started with the contractor and a representative from the State; the project was behind, so it was agreed that they would open up one lane of alternating traffic to get the school buses through
- After the bus company went to the site they said they would not drive over it as the buses may bottom out; the road was shut back down for another week
- The following week none of the work was done that was supposed to be accomplished
- They had another heated discussion with the State and the contractor
- Evidently, the contractor underbid the job and is not paying any of his employees for overtime or weekend hours
- The State's contract does not contain deadlines or fines
- This Friday and Monday they are supposed to be doing the asphalt and by the middle of next week the bridge should be open

A question and answer period was held and discussion followed regarding the above.

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At this time, Mayor Dunn reported the following:

- On October 15th they will be going out for another Bond Anticipation Note (BAN)
- The roads are not finalized; he will give a final report on the status of the roads at another meeting
- Last year 22 roads, totaling approximately 6.18 miles were reconstructed; this year approximately 56 roads totaling 22 miles were repaired or reconstructed; 15 of the 56 roads were repaired with the crack seal method; the 'hot in place' method has been unbelievable and is one third of the cost; about 20 miles of the total were completely reconstructed including basins and sewers
- Roads that were repaired and reconstructed were chosen based on a computer study ranking their condition and with respect to the 'hot in place' method, only long, straight roads were chosen due to the type of machine used

A brief question and answer period was held regarding the roads.

At this time, there were inquiries regarding the following items:

- **Status of the waterline/gas line for the high school:**
 - Mayor Dunn advised that it is going very well with the waterline; everything from the inside of the school and out is done down to Minor Road; this Friday they should be completely hooked to the main; the next step in running pressure and bacteria tests; it will still be a few months before the water is all set at the high school
 - Mayor Dunn advised that he is not sure how the gas line will be done yet; he will update them as he becomes aware
- **The unsightly appearance of the chain and sign at the dead end on Stanley Street;** lengthy discussion was held regarding its appearance, dead-ending that area to begin with, and issues with emergency vehicles not being able to unhook the chain.
 - Mayor Dunn stated that he is not sure what they can place there instead, but he is welcome to any new ideas; the State held a Public Hearing and the neighbors that were present all stood up and voiced that the dead end should be at Stanley Street, instead of Clark Street which is where the State originally planned it
- **Status of property purchased adjacent to Frisbie School relating to parking:**

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- Mayor Dunn advised that he had a meeting with the Superintendent today and will be at the PTO meeting Thursday night
 - Mayor Dunn proceeded to explain the events from the beginning; there were initial discussions about knocking the house down and making it all parking; after they acquired the property, he, the Superintendent, former Vice-Chairman Steven Olmstead and former Chairman Michael Santogatta of the Town Council held a site-walk at the area; at that time it was observed by all that the house was in good shape; it was determined at that time to keep the house and make the property on the side a parking lot; the Food Pantry moved into the house
 - Bids came in and lowest was \$175,000 without drainage, etc.; some bids were \$250,000; the BOE ordered material; in the meantime, they realized that they could fit in about 40 spots at the bottom of the hill; Mr. Kalinowski noted that they could get 40 spots in quickly there, which was done
 - Additional work will be done above, but at this time there are 40 additional parking spots down below; lighting will be addressed at a later date

A brief question and answer period was held and discussion followed regarding the above.

Lastly, Mayor Dunn advised that he does not need to address the Council in Executive Session tonight.

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT/TRANSFERS:

Linda Bruce came forward and reported the following:

- The Finance Office continues to work with Blum, Shapiro to finalize the FY 2012-2013 audit report
- Information for the official statement for the upcoming Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) sale is due to First Southwest tomorrow, September 18th; they will meet the deadline; the final draft of that will return to the Town and Bond Counsel on September 20th; changes are due to First Southwest on October 1st; the official statement will be posted on October 3rd
- Potential bidders will review the official statement and submit questions, if any, to the Finance Officer; the note bid opening is scheduled for October 15th
- The notes for the total approved bond authorization of \$12,325,000.00 will be dated October 24, 2013, and it will come due on October 23, 2014; at

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that time, a decision will have to be made as to whether they go out for another BAN or go to permanent bonding

- The first amount they went out for after the bond authorization was approved at referendum was \$7,280,000.00 dated October 28, 2011, and became due on October 25, 2012; then they increased the BAN to \$9,780,000.00, which was last year; that is due October 24, 2013
- They will now be taking the remaining money for a total of \$12,325,000.00
- Each time they go out for a BAN or permanent bonding, they have to supply updated information for the official statement; it is similar to the information supplied in the Management Discussion & Analysis section in the audit report; First Southwest also includes the latest audit report information; then the Bond Counsel has to issue a document
- There are no transfers for approval

SUB-COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS:

WOLCOTT ACTIVITY & LEARNING CENTER: Mr. Masi reported that they are moving towards their third year of operation at the Youth Center. The Snack Shack is in full operation and open Wednesday-Friday 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., and soon to be open five days per week. Per Mayor Dunn's recommendation, this allows the facility to be open so that the parents who utilize Frisbie Field can come into the facility and purchase food or drink and bring any other children with them. They have had great feedback from both parents and coaches and this provides a vocational opportunity for many of the Wolcott youth in need of community service hours.

Mr. Masi next advised that the following organizations, programs, and events have been able to utilize the Youth Center: Crossroads, ADHD Support Group, SPP Vocals, Jane Doe No More, Narcan Training, Helen Donovan Food Pantry, After-Prom Parties, Fire Poster Awards and Judging, Young People's AA, Karate Classes, One Clean Day of Fun (this Saturday from Noon to 10:00 p.m.), Boy Scouts, Pinewood Derby, Girl Scouts, Rainbow Day Camp, L.I.S.A. Inc., Girls Inc., Exchange Club, Wellness Fairs, Open Mic Nites, Zumba, Battle of the Bands, Teen Leadership Meetings, Nutritional Classes, Handicapped Commission, Ice Cream Socials, Miss Wolcott Scholarship Program, Early Childhood Development Classes, Board of Education AP Testing, SAFE New Year's Parties, Holiday Dances, Private Rentals, & the Project Explorer Garden Project. Mr. Masi stated that if anyone is interested in volunteering at the center or hosting a class, to please contact him.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA:

Chairman Valletta advised that if anyone has any items that they should contact himself or the Clerk.

TAXPAYERS' TIME:

No taxpayers came forward.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

No Executive Session was held.

ADJOURNMENT:

Upon **MOTION**, by Roger Picard, seconded by Jeffrey Slavin, it was unanimously voted to **adjourn** the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

APPROVED:

Elizabeth Gaudiosi, Secretary
WOLCOTT TOWN COUNCIL

David Valletta, Chairman
WOLCOTT TOWN COUNCIL







