WOLCOTT TOWN COUNCIL

Regular Meeting
Tuesday, November 18, 2014
Council Chambers, Wolcott Town Hall
7:30 p.m.

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, Joseph Del Buono, Francis Masi, Rachel Wisler, Charles Marsella, Roger Picard, Jeffrey Slavin, and Donald Charette Sr.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Thomas G. Dunn; Linda Bruce, Municipal Finance Officer; Bruce Chudwick, Bond Counsel, Shipman & Goodwin, LLP; Attorney Michael Tansley, Cicchetti, Tansley & McGrath, LLP; Taxpayer: Chris O'Brien; et al.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- **Regular Meeting – October 21, 2014**

Upon **MOTION** by Roger Picard, seconded by Jeffrey Slavin, it was unanimously voted to **approve** the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on October 21, 2014.

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

No taxpayers came forward.

CORRESPONDENCE (on file):

1. **Proposed Resolution** (#393) **to Authorize, Issue & Sell Town of Wolcott General Obligation Funds**
2. **Board of Education Year to Date Budget Report dated 10-31-14** (separate email attachment)
3. **Town of Wolcott Expenditure Report, Revenue Report, & Trial Balance, for month ending 10-31-14** (emailed under separate cover by Susan Hale)
4. **Submitted at meeting, letter dated 11-18-14 from Taxpayer Christopher O'Brien**

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Dunn came forward and reported the following:

- With respect to the road projects, they are very close to the end; Spindle Hill Road is the only road left; Spindle Hill Road may only end up with one coat; it will depend on the weather

A brief question and answer period was held during which the following was noted by Mayor Dunn:

- With regard to equipment and road materials, the Town Crew is all ready to go for the winter
- There are many events coming up; Frisbie Circle of Lights, Tree Lighting on the Green, and the Caroling Event on December 13th, everyone must sign up by December 6th; there is a link on the website
- They will realize about $350,000 in savings on the bond refinance

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT/TRANSFERS:

Linda Bruce came forward and reported the following:

- The budget work papers for FY 2015-2016 were distributed to department heads and commissions yesterday, November 17th; the completed requests are to be returned to the Finance Office by Monday, December 22nd; departmental budget meetings will be scheduled during February of 2015
- Mahoney Sabol & Co. has completed the audit for FY 2013-2014; they received a clean audit; the partner and audit manager for Wolcott's audit will be attending the December 2nd Town Council meeting to present the final audited financial statements and state & federal single audit reports which report the grant activity
- They will discuss the new accounting standard for reporting the OPEB liability as it pertains to balance sheets for municipalities; the GASB 68 standard takes effect this current fiscal year, 2014-2015
- There are no transfers for approval

SUB-COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS:

There were no reports.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

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1. Resolution to Authorize, Issue & Sell Town of Wolcott General Obligation Refunding Bonds

Attorney Bruce Chudwick came forward and stated that he has been bond counsel for the Town of Wolcott for many years. They have prepared a refunding resolution for the Town Council this evening. The Town of Wolcott refunded bonds back in 2010 and also back in 2004. When you are close to your call date for your bonds, and interest rates remain low, plus the stronger credit rating, they have the ability to save some money by refinancing the debt. The resolution authorizes the refunding of bonds up to $4.5 million dollars which is the maximum amount they can do. It basically takes out all of the remaining 2006 maturities for the bonds. A lot of those are currently around 4 or 5 percent, so it could be significantly under that. Once the bonds are sold they go into an escrow account and will remain there until the first call date which is August of 2015. Under state law, the legislative body is authorized to do this.

A **MOTION** was offered by Gale Mastrofrancesco, seconded by Rachel Wisler, to **adopt** the following resolution: RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE, ISSUE AND SELL TOWN OF WOLCOTT GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING BONDS; Section 1.General Obligation Refunding Bonds of the Town in a principal amount not exceeding $4,500,000 (hereinafter, the "Bonds") are hereby authorized to be issued, and the proceeds thereof appropriated, in such amount or in such lesser amount as shall be necessary to refund all or any portion of the Town's outstanding general obligation bonds, including without limitation, the Town's outstanding General Obligation Bonds dated August 15, 2006 (the "Refunded Bonds") **{full text of resolution attached}.**

A brief question and answer period was held during which the following was noted by Attorney Chudwick and Linda Bruce:

- Total outstanding debt is approximately $21 to $23 million dollars
- $4.5 million is the maximum they can refund at this time; just the 2006 bonds; they are close enough to the call date; they are not going to try to refund candidates for refunding bonds that would not be appropriate to do at this time
- With regard to when savings will be realized, it will all depend on how it is structured; that will be determined by himself, Linda Bruce and Janette Marcoux
- The remaining outstanding bonds cannot be refunded until they become callable; bonds are not callable until 8-10 years after issuance

Chairman Valletta called for a vote on the above motion which ***carried*** unanimously by voice vote.

2. Discussion & Possible Action on Proposed Contract Between the Town of Wolcott and Public Works Department

Upon **MOTION** by Gale Mastrofrancesco, seconded by Rachel Wisler, it was unanimously voted to **move** 'Discussion & Possible Action on Proposed Contract between the Town of Wolcott and Public Works Department' to Executive Session.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA:

Chairman Valletta advised that the Registrars of Voters will be at the next meeting to give an update. If anyone has any items please contact the Chairman or the Secretary.

TAXPAYERS' TIME:

Christopher O'Brien of 7 Brookdale Street, Apt. 5 came forward and read the following statement into the record **(original letter submitted on file)**:

Chairman Valletta and Members of the Town Council,

Every year, residents of our great nation participate in the democratic process on Election Day. This year was no different when we had well publicized elections for Governor and Representatives to the United States Congress and State Legislature, as well as other important offices. Unfortunately, this year we have all learned that Wolcott was one of several towns in the state to be unprepared to allow residents to participate in their most basic right under our Constitution. It is the responsibility of town officials to execute the elections process at the local level just like we have for more than two hundred years. Voters have 14 hours to vote and they plan their schedules accordingly to put aside time to come out and vote. Unfortunately, several voters at Tyrrell School and Wolcott High School arrived and there were no ballots to process. Some of them didn't find this out until after their names were checked off of the voting rolls. Gratefully, as a testament to their faith in democracy and to have a voice in the process, many voters waited in line for several minutes until ballots were delivered. However, some also left the polling stations after their names were checked off. It is reasonable to believe that other voters perhaps left the polling after learning of the ballot problems. Some of the explanations in the newspaper are so far inadequate and prompt even some more questions if for nothing else so that we all learn what the voting process is, what checks & balances there are to ensure this right, and that it's done fairly and efficiently every year. Just as an example, Democratic Registrar of Voters, James Pape, is quoted in the Waterbury Republican-American as saying that 50 or 60 ballots were passed out in a matter of a few short minutes at Tyrrell School. It was reported that it was an unusually large rush this year. But, if 50 or 60 ballots were passed out in just a few minutes and they were out of ballots for 10, 20, or 30 minutes, this could affect

several hundred voters at one time. According to an NBC Connecticut news report, Republican Registrar of Voters said that polling places were resupplied when they got down to 100 ballots. In that report, she says that an additional 500 ballots were delivered to Tyrrell School. Both registrars tell the media that the shortage was brief, although I have heard reports that the shortage may have lasted as long as thirty minutes. If these explanations are true, I still don't understand why a polling place that has never had fewer than 2500 votes cast in any election in recent memory should only have 300 ballots on hand at the outset, running out in less than two hours and then only 800 ballots just a couple of hours in. These reports suggest that a polling place might have only 100 ballots on hand at any given time. Why so few? What if an accident occurs to whomever is delivering more ballots? Every election day, each of Wolcott's three polling places typically handles more than two or three thousand ballots. Are town employees constantly driving around town delivering small batches of ballots all day long? I don't know. Voters must have trust in our voting system and that it runs as efficiently as other services in this beautiful town. Some voters already question if their votes already count. How much more reassuring is it that there might not even be a ballot to count? I expect and I am requesting that the Town Council initiate a review or an investigation as to what happened. Other cities and towns around Connecticut are doing the same. I warn you, that failure to investigate this matter can lead to scandal. God forbid this were to take place in a very contested municipal election year or if the few missed voters could have made a difference in a recount. We only need to look at recount instances in 2010 down in Bridgeport which gave rise to many myths and speculation. After that election year, there were a lot of changes in state laws. As a concerned voter, I think we all want to ensure there is accountability and we can all have faith in this very important process. I am not suggesting that anyone did anything on purpose. I just think a review is in order and maybe changes need to be made in the future. Thank you for your time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Upon **MOTION** by Charles Marsella, seconded by Rachel Wisler, it was unanimously voted at 7:50 p.m. to take a five minute recess and **enter** into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a Collective Bargaining Matter and inviting Mayor Thomas Dunn, Linda Bruce, MFO, and Attorney Michael Tansley.

Chairman Valletta called the regular session back to order at 8:21 p.m.

A **MOTION** was offered by Gale Mastrofrancesco, seconded by Donald Charette, to **approve** the contract with Town Garage Workers **(on file).**

A roll call vote was taken and the above motion *carried* as indicated below: (9 Yes; 0 No)

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Gale Mastrofrancesco	X		
Rachel Wisler	X		
Roger Picard	X		
Jeffrey Slavin	X		
Donald Charette	X		
Francis Masi	X		
Charles Marsella	X		
Joseph Del Buono	X		
David Valletta	X		

ADJOURNMENT:

Upon **MOTION**, by Gale Mastrofrancesco, seconded by Roger Picard, it was unanimously voted to **adjourn** the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

APPROVED:

Elizabeth Gaudiosi, Secretary
WOLCOTT TOWN COUNCIL

David Valletta, Chairman
WOLCOTT TOWN COUNCIL

#393

WOLCOTT TOWN COUNCIL

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE, ISSUE AND SELL TOWN OF WOLCOTT GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING BONDS

Section 1. General Obligation Refunding Bonds of the Town in a principal amount not exceeding $4,500,000 (hereinafter, the "Bonds") are hereby authorized to be issued, and the proceeds thereof appropriated, in such amount or in such lesser amount as shall be necessary to refund all or any portion of the Town's outstanding general obligation bonds, including without limitation, the Town's outstanding General Obligation Bonds dated August 15, 2006 (the "Refunded Bonds").

Section 2. The Bonds shall be issued and sold in such principal amount and in such manner as shall be approved by the Mayor and Treasurer. The Mayor and Treasurer are authorized to determine the Refunded Bonds to be redeemed and the amount, date, interest rates, maturities (provided that no Bonds shall mature later than the final maturity date of the last maturity of the Refunded Bonds), redemption provisions, form and other details of the Bonds. The Bonds shall be sold on a competitive or negotiated basis and if sold on a negotiated basis, the Mayor and Treasurer are authorized to execute a bond purchase contract or similar agreement for the sale of the Bonds. The Bonds shall be executed in the name and on behalf of the Town by the manual or facsimile signatures of the Mayor and Treasurer, bear the Town seal or facsimile thereof, and be approved as to their legality by Shipman & Goodwin LLP, bond counsel to the Town. The Bonds shall be general obligations of the Town and each of the Bonds shall recite that every requirement of law relating to its issue has been duly complied with, that such bond is within every debt and other limit prescribed by law, and that the full faith and credit of the Town are pledged to the payment of the principal thereof and the interest thereon.

Section 3. The net proceeds from the sale of the Bonds, after payment of underwriter's discount and other costs of issuance, may be deposited in an irrevocable escrow account and invested in a portfolio of non-callable direct obligations of, or obligations guaranteed by, the United States of America, including United States Treasury State and Local Government Series ("SLGS") securities, Federal National Mortgage Association ("FNMA") securities and any other securities permitted by Section 7-400 of the Connecticut General Statutes all of which shall not be callable or prepayable at the option of the issuer thereof ("Government Obligations") in an amount sufficient to pay at maturity, or to redeem at the redemption price prior to maturity, the Refunded Bonds. The Mayor and Treasurer are authorized to appoint an escrow agent and a firm of certified public accountants to verify the sufficiency of the Government Obligations and to execute and deliver any and all escrow and related agreements necessary to provide for the payment when due of the principal of and interest on and the redemption premium, if any, on the Refunded Bonds.

Section 4. The Mayor and Treasurer are authorized to prepare and distribute a Preliminary Official Statement and a final Official Statement of the Town for use in connection with the offering and sale of the Bonds and are further authorized to execute and deliver a Continuing Disclosure Agreement in connection with the issuance and sale of the Bonds on behalf of the Town in such form as they shall deem necessary and appropriate.

Section 5. The Mayor and Treasurer are authorized to execute and deliver a Tax Certificate and a Tax Compliance Agreement for the Bonds on behalf of the Town in such form as they shall deem necessary and appropriate, and to rebate to the United States Treasury such amounts as may be required pursuant to the Tax Certificate and Tax Compliance Agreement for the purpose of complying with the requirements of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

Section 6. The Mayor and Treasurer are authorized to appoint a certifying, transfer and paying agent and a registrar for the Bonds and to execute and deliver any and all additional agreements, documents and certificates necessary to effect the issuance, sale and delivery of the Bonds and the refunding of the Refunded Bonds in accordance with the terms of this resolution.

Adopted at the **November 18, 2014** Wolcott Town Council Regular Meeting.

David Valetta, Chairman
Wolcott Town Council

Dated at Wolcott, CT this **18th day of November, 2014**.

CERTIFICATION

I, Dolores C. Slater, do hereby certify that I am the Clerk of the Town of Wolcott, a municipal corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Connecticut having its principal place of business at 10 Kenea Avenue, Wolcott, CT 06716, and that I am the keeper of the corporate records and seal. That the above is a true and correct copy of resolution duly adopted and ratified by the **Town Council of the Town of Wolcott on November 18, 2014** in accordance with the constituent charter of the Town of Wolcott; and that the same has not in any way been modified, repealed, or rescinded, but is in full force and effect.

Dolores C. Slater, Town Clerk

Date: 11-19-2014

{SEAL}