

# WOLCOTT TOWN COUNCIL

Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, January 6, 2026  
Town Council Chambers  
Wolcott Town Hall  
7:00 P.M.  
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**MINUTES**

 **DRAFT**

**RECEIVED**  
1-8-26  
11:55am  
*Karen Mowad*  
TOWN CLERK  
WOLCOTT, CONN.

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

Chairman Sean Hughes called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Hughes asked if we could all remain standing for a moment of silence for Roger Levesque and Louis Dubois. Attendance was taken; a quorum was present.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Sean Hughes, Vice-Chairman Joseph Skerritt, Charles Nappi, Cory Lagasse, Michael Macary, Rachel Wisler, Maggie Gugliotti & Terri Sheehan

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Anthony Guerrera

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mayor Thomas Dunn, Town Attorney Michael Tansley & Barry Bernabe from Phoenix Advisors

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- **Regular Meeting – December 16, 2025**

A **MOTION** was offered by Michael Macary, seconded by Maggie Gugliotti to **approve** the December 16, 2025, minutes. Chairman Hughes asked if there was any discussion and at this time Rachel Wisler indicated on the Minutes under New Business #5 under the motion Paul's last name was missing and needs to be corrected. A **MOTION** was offered by Rachel Wisler, seconded by Joseph Skerritt, It was unanimously voted to **approve** the amended minutes to the December 16, 2025, meeting.

## **TAXPAYER'S TIME:** (Limited to Items on the Agenda)

No taxpayers came forward.

## **CORRESPONDENCE (attached and/or on file):**

1. Letter dated December 18, 2025, from Shawn Simpson, Superintendent of Schools, regarding the approved Collective Bargaining Agreement between

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**the Wolcott Board of Education (BOE) and the Wolcott Education Association (WEA)** (separately attached)

2. **Letter dated December 31, 2025, from Mayor Thomas Dunn regarding the consideration for the Mayor's Proposed Bonding Projects 2026** (Attached list of the Proposed Bonding Projects Totaling \$10,000.000)
3. **Letter from Superintendent Shawn Simpson dated December 19, 2025, regarding the Proposed Capital Items for Bonding**
4. **Phoenix Advisors Debt Presentation by Barry Bernabe** (separately attached)

### **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Dunn came forward stating they are working on the Board and Commissions and is waiting for the letters from both parties. He advised a financial advisor Barry Bernabe will be giving a presentation tonight where we are on our debt and the new bond, hopefully it will pass at the next meeting, then we will set up other meetings for the taxpayers with the same presentation where they will have the opportunity to speak and ask questions.

### **FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT/TRANSFERS:**

No Finance Reports or Transfers

### **SUBCOMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS:**

Terri Sheehan reported she attended the Board of Education meeting on Monday January 5<sup>th</sup> they did a building walk-through at Frisbie School they also had a presentation by Frisbie elementary school students called Building Thinking Classrooms which is a collaboration in thinking; she was very impressed by the format in which they did it. While doing the building walk-through at the school there were leaks, some were recurring and some were new from recent storms.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

No unfinished business.

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### NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Discussion & Possible action on Proposed Professional Agreement Between the Wolcott Board of Education (BOE) & the Wolcott Education Association (WEA)**

A **MOTION** was offered by Joseph Skerritt, seconded by Michael Macary to **approve** the Discussion & Possible action on Proposed Professional Agreement Between the Wolcott Board of Education (BOE) & the Wolcott Education Association (WEA).

Chairman Hughes asked if there was any discussion and at this time Rachel Wisler expressed she was very disappointed that no one was there from the Board of Education because she has several questions on pages 6 & 7 and they needed an explanation of appendix 1, 2 & 3.

Terri Sheehan asked that they table the proposed professional agreement between the Wolcott Board of Education and the Wolcott Education Association

A **MOTION** was offered by Terri Sheehan and seconded by Rachel Wisler to **table** the agreement between the Wolcott Board of Education and the Wolcott Education Association

Chairman Hughes states from his understanding he believes it's from 30days from submitted they need to take action. He asked the secretary to invite the members of the Board of Education, he's not sure in terms of the choices made and why no one did come. He won't speak for them but he did want for them to come and participate and speak on this.

Chairman Hughes wanted a clarification from Attorney Tansley on tabling it when there is a motion already on the floor. There was a motion and a second that was done first before the motion and second for a table. Attorney Tansley recommends we withdraw the motion. At this time Rachel Wisler withdraws her initial motion. Terri Sheehan also withdraws her motion to table.

Chairman Hughes now asks the members who did make a motion and a second for the approval would you entertain removing your motion and second for tabling. Mr. Skerritt states he will do that as long as it doesn't affect the time frame with the negotiations and the contract. Chairman Hughes states the only

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thing that would put a concern potentially in is if we voted in the negative and they voted against the contract which then would bring it back. Mr. Macary states the submission is dated December 18<sup>th</sup> and asked if they have 30days. Attorney Tansley advised they have 30 calendar days from the date submitted to the Town Clerk and the Publication of Notice, he does not believe the formal submission to the Town Clerk has occurred. He states unofficially it has been sent to the Town Clerks office by his request which was done on December 23rd.

A **Motion** was offered by Terri Sheehan, seconded by Rachel Wisler to **table** the Proposed Professional Agreement Between the Wolcott Board of Education (BOE) & the Wolcott Education Association (WEA) A roll call was requested by Maggie Gugliotti.

**A roll call vote was taken, and the above motion passed as indicated below: {6-yes / 1-no / 1 abstained}**

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Rachel Wisler	X		
Maggie Gugliotti		X	
Sean Hughes	X		
Joseph Skerritt Jr.	X		
Charles Nappi	X		
Michael Macary			X
Terri Sheehan	X		
Cory Lagasse	X		

## 2. Presentation from Barry Bernabe, Managing Director, Phoenix Advisors, LLC

Barry Bernabe from Phoenix Advisors LLC. came forward and gave a presentation on Debt Analysis for the Proposed Bonding Projects, below are some summary points. **(full presentation attached)**

- Though interest rates are higher than during COVID, from a 55-year perspective, they are still relatively low.

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- The town has an above average bond rating of AA+ from Standard & Poor's (S&P). The higher the rating the lower the borrowing rate.
- The town's bonding rate is only one notch from the highest possible of AAA.
- The town's existing debt service is amortizing aggressively and can help mitigate any new debt service.
- The town can issue \$6 million with a relatively modest impact to the current debt budget, which has been relatively flat for several years.

### ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA:

Chairman Hughes advised that if anyone has any items, please contact himself or the Secretary.

### TAXPAYER'S TIME:

Resident Sarai Strickland at 33 Orchard Drive came forward and provided the council with an Executive Summary of Price Disparities regarding the school photography contract. **(summary attached)**

### EXECUTIVE SESSION:

No Executive Session was held.

### ADJOURNMENT:

Upon **MOTION** by Michael Macary, seconded by Maggie Gugliotti, it was unanimously voted to **adjourn** the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

### APPROVED:

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Cindy Amaral, Secretary  
WOLCOTT TOWN COUNCIL

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Sean Hughes, Chairman  
WOLCOTT TOWN COUNCIL