

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Town Hall Council Chambers**  
**April 30, 2007 – Monday**

Present: Michael Smart, President  
Paul J. Leary, Vice President  
Jack Carey  
Kenneth DiFazio  
Sue Kay  
T.J. Lacey  
Arthur Mathews  
Michael Molisse  
Patrick O'Connor  
Gregory Shanahan  
Kevin Whitaker

Also Present: Maureen Treacy-Duffy, Town Auditor Candidate  
Philip Wolters, Town Auditor Candidate

Recording Secretary: Julie Umamo

President Smart called the Town Council Meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

**MINUTES**

**Town Council Meeting - 3/19/07**

A MOTION was made by Councilor Leary to ACCEPT the minutes from 3/19/07 tabled from 4/17/07 and seconded by Councilor Kay and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

**Town Council Meeting – 4/2/07**

A MOTION was made by Councilor Leary to ACCEPT the minutes from 4/2/07 and seconded by Councilor Kay and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

**Auditor Selection Committee – 07-023 Selection of Town Auditor**

Chairman Leary announced that the two final candidates were present and that the full Council will have the opportunity to ask the candidates any further questions.

## **Maureen Treacy-Duffy**

Maureen Treacy-Duffy came forward and Chairman Leary asked her to give a brief overview of her background.

She stated she grew up in Weymouth and graduated from UMass Boston. She moved to Texas later in life to be with her children who were attending college there.

She stated she is currently employed as an auditor for the Texas school system. She acknowledged her lack of Massachusetts law experience, but noted her desire and quickness to learn, just like she did in Texas. She also noted her exceptional accounting and auditing skills, along with her good personality and rapport with people at all levels of the organization.

President Smart opened the meeting to questions for Ms. Duffy, especially for the Councilors not present at the Auditor Selection meetings.

Councilor O'Connor asked Ms. Duffy to describe her current job structure.

Ms. Duffy stated she works with a Director, four auditors, and one support person.

Councilor Molisse complimented Ms. Duffy on her impressive resume and asked when she would be available to start.

Ms. Duffy stated she would be available to start at the end of May, noting her daughter's upcoming college graduation.

Councilor DiFazio noted his prior request to have Ms. Duffy review Weymouth's Annual Report and Town Charter, and asked what she learned about the organization and what she could bring to the Town Council.

Ms. Duffy stated she thought the Annual Report to be most complimentary and quite impressive. She further cited the history of numerous issues which occurred in the 90's, noting it to be quite an honor that the organization is running as smoothly as it is.

Ms. Duffy also stated that she read through the town charter and said she was most impressed with the external audit. She noted she could bring a new set of eyes to the organization, explaining her hands on approach management style. She further stated she would ensure that internal controls are in place and that all funds be spent accordingly.

Councilor Whitaker asked Ms. Duffy what her experience was with performance audits.

Ms. Duffy stated she is experienced with all aspects of auditing functions, including departmental functions, ensuring strong internal controls. She stated she has conducted numerous investigations, working not just with schools, but with the IRS performing audits.

Councilor Lacey asked Ms. Duffy to discuss her people style i.e., working with different leaders and department heads within an organization.

Ms. Duffy stated she strives to treat everyone the same and noted her great success with people. She also noted her strengths in confidentiality, having had to work in the past with everyone from law enforcement to district attorneys on embezzlement cases.

Councilor Mathews made incidental note of the fact that the Auditor would be required to attend evening meetings two to three times a week.

Ms. Duffy indicated she would have no problem with that.

### **Philip Wolters**

Philip Wolters came forward and Chairman Leary asked him to give a brief overview of his background.

Mr. Wolters stated he was born and raised in New York City and graduated from St. John's University with a major in Accounting. He stated he has a corporate accounting background.

Mr. Wolters stated he had worked as a Corporate Controller in New York City, and also with companies in Massachusetts. He stated he also worked for the Town of Randolph and later had to leave, as the town could not afford to keep his position budgeted.

Councilor Lacey asked Mr. Wolters to describe his people style and his ability to work with a diverse group of people within an organization.

Mr. Wolters stated that his style is to get everyone involved, explaining that he would sit down with department heads, staff members, etc., and get a feel for weaknesses. He stated he would give recommendations where needed and report any findings to the Town Council.

Councilor Molisse asked Mr. Wolters if he was still working for the Town of Randolph.

Mr. Wolters indicated that he was not, stating the town could not afford to keep his position any longer.

Councilor Molisse asked Mr. Wolters when he would be available to start.

Mr. Wolters stated he could start immediately.

Councilor Whitaker asked Mr. Wolters how he would conduct a performance audit.

Mr. Wolters stated that performance audits are not that different from corporate audits. He stated the importance of having a good accounting system and determining where the weaknesses are.

Councilor DiFazio referred to Mr. Wolters' resume and inquired about the size of the companies he worked for from 1999 to 2006.

Mr. Wolters indicated that the companies he worked for generated anywhere between \$100,000 to \$2 million.

Chairman Leary thanked everyone involved on the Auditor Selection Committee, noting the selection was a daunting task. He suggested having a roll call so that each committee member could vote for either Ms. Duffy or Mr. Wolters.

A discussion ensued on whether or not the candidates should leave the room while the Council deliberates. The candidates were asked whether they would prefer to stay or leave and the candidates chose to stay.

Councilor Mathews questioned when Mr. Swanson's contract was up.

Councilor Smart indicated it was the end of June.

Councilor Kay made a MOTION to vote favorable action on hiring Ms. Duffy and SECONDED by Councilor Molisse.

Councilor Kay indicated that Maureen Treacy-Duffy would be her choice for the position of Auditor, stating her reasons to be Ms. Duffy's extensive resume which includes audit reporting, a fixed asset specialist, being an assistant controller for an \$800 million dollar budget, and overall expertise. Councilor Kay added that while she thought Mr. Wolters to be a fine man, she felt his area of expertise was more in the area of accounting as opposed to auditing.

Councilor Molisse was also impressed with Ms. Duffy's resume, and was also in favor of Ms. Duffy being hired.

Councilor Whitaker questioned the timing of the new auditor in relation to the expiration of Mr. Swanson's current contract and the three year term of appointment which is noted in the charter.

President Smart stated that Mr. Swanson would fulfill his contract term until June 30 and Ms. Duffy would be appointed to a three year term as the charter dictates.

Councilor DiFazio stated his choice to be Mr. Wolters, reminding the Council that he did in fact have auditing experience, as indicated on his resume, in the 1970s.

Councilor Shanahan stated he would vote against Councilor Kay's motion and vote in favor of Mr. Wolters, stating his reasons to be Mr. Wolters' experience in both private and public auditing.

Councilor Lacey stated that he thought both candidates very qualified, but stated his choice to be Mr. Wolters, noting his experience in the corporate world, coupled with his most recent town experience. Councilor Lacey made a SUBSTITUTE MOTION to vote in favor of hiring Mr. Wolters, motion SECONDED by Councilor Shanahan.

Councilor Whitaker stated that he would prefer to review the Auditor Selection Committee Meeting minutes-but cited that he cannot as they were conducted in executive session-prior to making a decision on a candidate.

A discussion was held regarding how the selection came down to the top 2 candidates and President Smart indicated there was a large gap between the top 2 and the remaining candidates. Councilor Smart noted to the Council that a scoring system was used to narrow down the candidates to the top 2.

Councilor Smart stated his choice to be Ms. Duffy, noting she had better experience with internal audits, performance audits, and overall better answers to the interview questions.

President Smart asked for a roll call to be taken on the substitute motion which is in favor of hiring Mr. Wolters as the Town Auditor.

Carey – No  
DiFazio – Yes  
Kay – No  
Lacey – Yes  
Mathews – Yes  
Molisse – No  
O'Connor – No  
Shanahan – Yes  
Whitaker - abstained  
Leary – No  
Smart – No

MOTION FAILS 6-4.

President Smart refers back to the main motion, which would be in favor of hiring Ms. Duffy as the Town Auditor, and asks for another roll call which would be in favor of hiring Ms. Duffy as the Town Auditor.

Carey – Yes  
DiFazio – No  
Kay – Yes  
Lacey – No

Mathews – No  
Molisse – Yes  
O’Connor – Yes  
Shanahan – No  
Whitaker - abstained  
Leary – Yes  
Smart – Yes

MOTION PASSES 6-4.

The Committee thanked both candidates and congratulated Ms. Duffy on her position as the newly hired town auditor.

**Adjournment**

At 8:35 p.m., there being no further business, a MOTION to ADJOURN was made by President Smart, seconded by Councilor Carey, and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Smart, President