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Special Budget Minutes

Vernon Town Council- Special Budget Meeting

Town Hall- 14 Park Place- 3rd Floor

Vernon, Connecticut

April 1, 2019- 7:00PM

Mayor Daniel A. Champagne called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

A) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

B) ROLL CALL:

Present: Council Members Steve Wakefield, Thomas DiDio, Julie Clay, Mike Wendus, Bill Campbell, Laura Bush, Ann Letendre, Pauline Schaefer, Steve Peterson, and Ralph Zahner

Absent: Council Member Jim Tedford

Entered During Meeting: Council Member Brian Motola

Also Present: Town Administrator Michael J. Purcaro, Recording Secretary Cassandra Minor

C) CITIZEN'S FORUM:

None.

D) PRESENTATION:

None.

E) MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNTS REQUIRING DISCUSSION OR ACTION

1. Revenue

Jeffrey O'Neill, Finance Officer spoke regarding Revenue. Discussion ensued.

2. Opportunity for Town Council Members to add or delete from the Mayor's proposed budget.

Arts Commission

Council Member Campbell, seconded by Council Member Wakefield made a motion to open tab 9 Page 66, Account Code 10562260 Arts Commission line object code 53420 limit that line item to \$3,900. Discussion ensued. Motion carried with 8 in favor and 2 opposed. Council Member DiDio and Letendre.

Senior Center

Council Member Zahner, seconded by Council Member Letendre made a motion to open Tab 8 Page 60 Senior Center 10457242 and reduce line 54390 by \$2,000. Motion carried with 5 in favor, 5 opposed, Mayor Daniel A. Champagne broke the tie. Discussion ensued.

7:08PM Council Member Motola entered the meeting.

Motion to deduct \$2,000 from line item 54390 from Senior Center Budget failed with 10 opposed and 1 in favor, Council Member Zahner.

Council Member Zahner, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to close Tab 8, Page 66 Senior Center 10457242 line 54390 in the amount of \$3,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Revenue

Discussion ensued. Jeffrey O'Neill, Finance Officer presented a revenue update and recommended the Council to increase Tab 2, Page 7 of 8 Line 47100 Revenue by \$45,000.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to increase Revenue Line 47100 to \$225,000.00 Motion carried unanimously.

Real Estate

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Clay made a motion to open Real Estate line item. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion ensued. Jeffrey O'Neill, Finance Officer presented an update and recommended to the Council to increase the collection rate of Real Estate from 98.4% to 98.6%.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to increase Real Estate collection rate to 98.6% from 98.4%. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to close Real Estate at 98.6% in the amount of \$60,853,510. Motion carried unanimously.

Motor Vehicle

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to open Motor Vehicle. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion ensued. Jeffrey O'Neill spoke and recommended the Council increase the Motor Vehicle collection rate from 92% to 93% to increase in the amount of \$6,822,807.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to increase the collection rate from 92% to 93%. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to close Motor Vehicle line at 93% in the amount of \$6,822,807. Motion carried unanimously.

7:32PM Recess; 7:48PM Reconvened.

F) FINALIZE BUDGET

Michael Purcaro, Town Administrator provided closing remarks and acknowledged the Mayor, Town Council and everyone involved on the completion of the 2019-2020 budget, resulting in a zero increase to the mill rate. Mr. Purcaro summarized the following eight key factors: History of Exceptional Stewardship by the Mayor and Town Council, Excellent Credit Rating, Strong Town-Wide Economic Growth and Development, Zero-Based Budgeting, Strategic Adjustments to the Proposed FY2020 Budget, Expanded Opportunities for Shared-Services, Rebalancing our Cash Investment Portfolio, Implementing New and Innovative Administrative and Financial Policies and Procedures.

Jeffrey O'Neill, Finance Officer summarized the final appropriations as proposed and that this has resulted in no increase to the mill rate this year.

APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE TOWN OF VERNON FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush the following motion:

THE TOWN COUNCIL DOES HEREBY APPROVE THE TOWN OF VERNON GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$30,930,304; THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND DEBT SERVICE APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8,620,012; AND

THE EDUCATION BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$53,870,594, FOR A TOTAL GENERAL FUND TOTAL OF \$93,420,910. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF BUDGET REVENUE ESTIMATES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020:

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made the following motion: THE TOWN COUNCIL DOES HEREBY APPROVE THE TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$93,420,910 TO COINCIDE WITH THE TOTAL RECOMMENDED APPROPRIATIONS OF \$93,420,910, AND TO AUTHORIZE THE FINANCE OFFICER TO ADJUST LINE ITEMS IN THE ESTIMATED REVENUE AS MAY BE DEEMED NECESSARY. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF TOWN OF VERNON BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 FOR PRESENTATION AT THE PUBLIC HEARING/TOWN MEETING:

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made the following motion: THE TOWN COUNCIL DOES HEREBY APPROVE AND PRESENT THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$93,420,910 TO THE ELECTORS AND QUALIFIED TAXPAYERS AT THE PUBLIC HEARING/ANNUAL TOWN MEETING SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2019 AT 7:00 PM IN THE AUDITORIUM OF ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL AT 70 LOVELAND HILL ROAD, VERNON, CONNECTICUT. THE TOWN CLERK IS AUTHORIZED AND DIRECTED TO PUBLISH A SUMMARY OF SAID PROPOSED BUDGET AND ENTERPRISE ACTIVITY ESTIMATES SHOWING ANTICIPATED REVENUES BY MAJOR SOURCES AND PROPOSED APPROPRIATIONS BY FUNCTION AND/OR DEPARTMENTS AND THE AMOUNTS TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION, AT LEAST FIVE DAYS BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEARING. Motion carried unanimously.

7:59PM Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to recess to the Annual Town Meeting on April 23, 2019. Motion carried unanimously.

Received:

Approved:

Respectfully submitted:

Cassandra Minor

Recording Secretary.