

March 19, 2019

Approved Minutes

Vernon Town Council- Regular Meeting

Town Hall- 14 Park Place- 3rd Floor

Vernon, Connecticut

March 19, 2019- 7:30PM

RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK

19 APR -9 PM 3:59

Mayor Daniel A. Champagne called the meeting to order at 7:30PM

A) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

B) ROLL CALL:

Present: Council Members Steve Wakefield, Thomas DiDio, Brian Motola, Julie Clay, Mike Wendus, Laura Bush, Bill Campbell, Ann Letendre, Jim Tedford and Pauline Schaefer

Absent: Council Members Steve Peterson and Ralph Zahner

Entered During Meeting: None.

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

C) CITIZENS FORUM

MaryAnn Levesque of 183 Bolton Road spoke to Mayor Daniel Champagne and the Town Council regarding the Towns proposed resolution on tolls and the Town of Vernon Budget.

D) EXECUTIVE SESSION:

7:38PM Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made the following motion to go into Executive Session #1. Motion carried unanimously.

THE TOWN COUNCIL PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GIVEN IN CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES 1-200 (6) (D) HEREBY MOVES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS POTENTIAL LAND ACQUISITION AND INVITES TOWN ADMINISTRATOR MICHAEL J. PURCARO TO ATTEND.

8:28PM Executive Session #1 ended. No action taken.

8:29PM Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made the following motion to go into Executive Session #2. Motion carried unanimously.

THE TOWN COUNCIL PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GIVEN IN CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES 1-200 (6) (D) HEREBY MOVES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS AND INVITES TOWN ADMINISTRATOR MICHAEL J. PURCARO TO ATTEND.

8:40PM Executive Session #2 ended. No action taken.

E) PUBLIC HEARING

None.

F) PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION

1. CRUMBLING FOUNDATION TESTING GRANT – The towns of Vernon, Ellington and Stafford have applied for and received a grant from the Connecticut Department of Housing in the amount of \$480,000 to assist residents

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with the testing of their crumbling foundations. The Town of Vernon has taken the lead on this grant and partnered with the Towns of Ellington and Stafford. This collaboration continues our efforts to assist local residents with this crisis. Thank you to First Selectman Mary Mitta and First Selectman Lori Spielman for their collaborative efforts during this process.

2. PROACT PROGRAM UPDATE – In May of 2013, the Town of Vernon began participating in the PROACT Prescription Drug Program sponsored by Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM). Since then the program has saved our residents that participate in the program over \$110,860.00. Anyone interested in participating in this program can stop by Town Hall and receive a free card. Most local pharmacies participate in the program. Thank you to CCM for their sponsorship of this very successful program.

3. Mark your calendars for the Police Annual Awards Night which is scheduled for Thursday, May 23, 2019 in the Town Council Chambers from 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM. All are welcome!

4. The Fire Department Annual Awards Night was held earlier this month to recognize and honor the many contributions of our volunteer members in 2018. The 2018 Firefighter of the Year was awarded to Engineer Bert Lessard. Engineer Lessard responded to 214 emergency calls and volunteered over 560 hours. He was also recognized for his work with the recruit training program and public education events. Congratulations to Engineer Lessard! The Junior Firefighter of the year was Junior Firefighter, Tyler Poulin. The department as a whole responded to over 5000 calls, making this the busiest year to date. The Town of Vernon thanks all the members of the department for their dedication to the safety of our residents.

5. The Town of Vernon was recently notified of two Last Will and Testament Bequeathals. Included in your packets this evening are the formal acceptance motions for your consideration.

The estate of Fay Dresner bequeathed \$60,000 dedicated to the maintenance and expansion of our swimming facilities.

The estate of Jean Bostrom bequeathed approximately \$230,000 for our Animal Control Facilities.

The Town of Vernon extends special thanks to the families of Fay Dresner and Jean Bostrom for their very generous gifts.

6. I offer the following reminders: There are two upcoming events for your calendars: Flyers were on the table with all the details last meeting. The first is a CPACE Event on March 28, 2019 from 6-8PM at the Rockville Public Library, and the second is a Sustainable Ct Event on April 25, 2019 at Camp Newhoca Lodge, from 6-8PM. All are welcome.

7. Reminder: Budget meetings begin on Thursday, March 21, 2019 at 7:00 PM. Your books and agendas were delivered on Friday. Please be sure to let us know if you are unable to attend so that we can ensure a quorum.

G) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA:

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to move the Consent Agenda. Motion to carry C-1 carried with 9 in favor and 1 abstention, Council Member Wendus.

- C 1. Request the Town Council approve Tax Refunds for Prior and Current Years.** (See copy of a memorandum from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue, to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator dated March 7, 2019 included in the Council packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES TWO (2) PRIOR YEAR TAX REFUNDS TOTALLING \$9,365.93 AND SEVENTEEN (17) CURRENT YEAR TAX REFUNDS TOTALLING \$16,795.93 AS REFERENCED IN THE LETTER FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED MARCH 7, 2019.

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H) **DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEMS**

None.

I) **PENDING BUSINESS**

None.

J) **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Request the Town Council approve the submission of the necessary paperwork to make application for renewal of contract with Capitol Workforce Partners to receive funding to provide the Summer Youth Employment and Learning Program.** (See memorandum from Michelle Hill, YSB Director for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

BE IT RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE TO EXECUTE THE NECESSARY PAPERWORK TO MAKE APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF THE CONTRACT WITH CAPITOL WORKFORCE PARTNERS TO RECEIVE FUNDING TO PROVIDE THE SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND LEARNING PROGRAM IN VERNON.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to authorize Mayor Daniel A. Champagne to execute the necessary paperwork to make application for renewal of the contract with Capitol Workforce Partners to receive funding to provide the Summer Youth Employment and Learning Program in Vernon. Discussion ensued. Michelle Hill, Director of Youth Services spoke and answered questions. Motion carried unanimously.

2. **Request the Town Council accept the donation of \$60,000 from the estate of Fay Dresner to be used for the maintenance and/or expansion of Town swimming facilities.** (See memorandum dated March 14, 2019 from Marty Sitler, Director of Parks and Recreation to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY GRATEFULLY ACCEPTS THE GIFT FROM THE ESTATE OF FAY DRESNER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$60,000.00 TO BE USED FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND/OR EXPANSION OF TOWN SWIMMING FACILITIES.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Tedford made a motion to gratefully accept the gift from the Estate of Fay Dresner in the amount of \$60,000.00 to be used for the maintenance and/or expansion of Town swimming facilities. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

3. **Request the Town Council accept the donation of \$230,000.00 from the estate of Jean A. Bostrom for the Animal Control Facility.** (See memorandum from James L. Kenny, Police Chief to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator dated March 13, 2019 relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY GRATEFULLY ACCEPTS THE GIFT FROM THE ESTATE OF JEAN A. BOSTROM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$230,000.00 FOR THE ANIMAL CONTROL FACILITY.

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Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Tedford made a motion to gratefully accept the gift from the Estate of Jean A. Bostrom in the amount of \$230,000.00 for the Animal Control Facility. Discussion ensued. James Kenny, Chief of Police spoke and answered questions. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Request the Town Council – approve the Water Pollution Control Authority resolution relative to the Clean Water Fund.** (See memorandum dated March 14, 2019 from Robert Grasis, Director of the WPCA to Daniel A. Champagne, Mayor relative to same.)

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING NOT TO EXCEED \$85,972,000.00 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TOWN OF VERNON WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITY UPGRADE, AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF VERNON TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF NOTES AND/OR BONDS TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a resolution to appropriate not to exceed \$85,973,000.00 for the construction of the Town of Vernon Water Pollution Control Facility Upgrade, authorizing the Town of Vernon to enter into an Agreement with the State of Connecticut; and authorizing the issuance of notes and/or bonds to finance the appropriation. Discussion ensued. Robert Grasis, Director of Water Pollution Control spoke and answered questions. Motion carried unanimously.

5. **Request the Town Council pass a resolution entitled “A Resolution From The Vernon Town Council In Opposition To The Installation of Tolls On Local and State Roads”.**

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION FROM THE VERNON TOWN COUNCIL IN OPPOSITION TO THE INSTALLATION OF TOLLS ON LOCAL AND STATE ROADS

WHEREAS, the Vernon Town Council believes that the implementation of tolls on Connecticut highways would result in increased traffic on secondary roads in the Town of Vernon with motorists attempting to bypass the tolls; and

WHEREAS, the Council further believes the increased traffic on secondary roads would affect the quality of life of Vernon residents in numerous ways including:

1. a dramatic increase of heavy-duty commercial vehicles and tractor trailer truck presence encroaching on our scenic New England community, negatively impacting the Town’s character and atmosphere;
2. a dramatic increase in traffic by heavy-duty commercial vehicles and tractor trailers subjecting streets to increased damage, maintenance and repair costs resulting in an increased tax burden;
3. crowding of secondary roads, an increase in traffic accidents, and disruption of the pedestrian enjoyment in and around the roads affected;
4. traffic congestion from increased vehicles and accidents delaying response time for emergency personnel, causing significant safety concerns and compromising the standard of safety care and increasing the cost of public safety to the taxpayers of the Town of Vernon;
5. discouraging retail establishments and shopping, putting our valued local businesses at a competitive disadvantage and increasing costs and convenience to residents.

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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Vernon Town Council does hereby declare its opposition to the implementation of tolls on state highways within the Town of Vernon's jurisdiction; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Vernon Town Council does hereby submit this resolution to the Governor of the State of Connecticut and the Connecticut State Legislature, this 19th day of March, 2019.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Wakefield made the above motion as written. Discussion ensued. Council Member Clay read and submitted Exhibit A into the record and Council Member Campbell read and submitted Exhibit B into the record- see attached. Motion carried with 7 in favor and 3 opposed Council Members Schaefer, DiDio and Letendre.

6. **Request the Town Council approve the disposal of fixed assets for the Vernon Public Schools as disclosed on the fixed asset disposal request forms.** (See the fixed asset forms in the Council packet for your review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE DISPOSAL OF FIXED ASSETS FOR THE VERNON PUBLIC SCHOOLS AS DISCLOSED ON THE FIXED ASSET DISPOSAL REQUEST FORMS.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to approve the disposal of fixed assets for the Vernon Public Schools as disclosed on the fixed asset disposal request forms. Motion carried unanimously.

7. **Request the Town Council authorize Mayor Daniel A. Champagne to execute a Memorandum of Agreement on behalf of the Town of Vernon with the State of Connecticut Homeland Security Department for the FFY2018 State Homeland Security Grant Program and further agrees to be custodial owners of the assets.** (See memorandum from Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne and the Vernon Town Council dated March 13, 2019 relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE TO EXECUTE A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF VERNON, WITH THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT HOMELAND SECURITY DEPARTMENT RELATIVE TO THE FFY2018 STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM AND FURTHER AGREES TO BE THE CUSTODIAL OWNER OF REGIONAL ASSETS.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to authorize Mayor Daniel A. Champagne to execute a Memorandum of Agreement on behalf of the Town of Vernon with the State of Connecticut Homeland Security Department of Relative to the FFY2018 State of Homeland Security Grant Program and further agrees to be the custodial owner of regional assets. Motion carried unanimously.

K) INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

None.

L) ACTION ON ORDINANCE(S) PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED:

None.

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M) **IDENTIFICATION/ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

N) **DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL ITEMS AND INFORMATION ITEMS**

None.

O) **ADOPTION OF MINUTES:**

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING ON MARCH 5, 2019 AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Wakefield seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes the regular Town Council Meeting of March 5, 2019. Motion carried unanimously.

P) **INFORMATION ITEMS, PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS, ETC, NOT REQUIRING ACTION.**

1. Monthly Report for the Office of the Town Clerk – February, 2019 as submitted by Karen C. Daigle, Town Clerk.
2. Monthly Report for the Vernon Police Department – February 2019 – as submitted by Captain John Kelley.

Q) **ADJOURNMENT (9:35pm):**

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Received: March 26, 2019
Approved: April 2, 2019

Respectfully submitted,



Cassandra Minor
Recording Secretary.