

MINUTES
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL
VIRTUAL REGULAR MEETING

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21 APR 15 PM 1:27

ZOOM TELECONFERENCE WEBLINK

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CALL IN NUMBER: 1-929-205-6099 (NY) 1-301-715-8592 (DC)

MEETING ID: 845 0100 3760 PASSWORD: 0406

TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 2021 - 7:30 PM

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

A.) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited

B.) ROLL CALL

Present: Council Members Laura Bush, Bill Campbell, Julie Clay, Thomas DiDio, Linda Gessay, Ann Letendre, Maryann Levesque, James Tedford, Michael Wendus

Absent: Pauline Schaefer

Entered During Virtual Regular Meeting: Brian Motola, Steve Wakefield

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

C.) CITIZENS FORUM

- Genaro Gonzalez, 59 High Street, spoke regarding law enforcement topics
- Thomas Didio, 112 Box Mountain Drive, spoke regarding the 2021-2022 budget
- William Campbell, 214 Tracy Drive, spoke regarding the 2021-2022 budget
- Brian Motola, 103 Vernwood Drive, spoke regarding the 2021-2022 budget
- Michael Wendus, 91 Village Street, spoke regarding the 2021-2022 budget

7:50PM – Citizens Forum ended

D.) EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Mayor Champagne announced that Executive Session has been cancelled.

E.) PUBLIC HEARING

None

F.) PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION

Mayor Champagne updated the Town Council on the following topics:

- “Getting “Vax” to Business” was rolled out last week to bring vaccination clinics to local work places
- The town is in the final stages of selecting the new Social Services Director
- An educational program on how to organize an effective and safe vaccination clinic was conducted by the Town of Vernon in partnership with CIRMA
- The “Vernon Voice” newsletter has gone to print and will be mailed soon.
- The Town of Vernon Budget recommendations were completed on April 5, 2021 with a proposed zero mil rate increase that will be voted on at the Annual Town Meeting scheduled for April 27, 2021.

G.) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made a motion to move the Consent Agenda. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

- 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 26, 2021 included in the Council packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES FOUR (4) TAX REFUNDS FOR PRIOR YEARS TOTALING \$1,570.20 AND TWENTY-TWO (22) CURRENT YEAR TAX REFUNDS TOTALING \$25,707.86 AS REFERENCED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED MARCH 26, 2021.

- C 2. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne’s appointment of Donald L. Bellingham, (R), 64 Gerald Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Hockanum River Linear Park Committee for a term to commence April 7, 2021 and continue indefinitely.** (A copy of Mr. Bellingham’s resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPOINTS DONALD L. BELLINGHAM, (R), 64 GERALD DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT TO THE HOCKANUM RIVER LINEAR PARK COMMITTEE FOR A TERM TO COMMENCE APRIL 7, 2021 AND CONTINUE INDEFINITELY.

H.) DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEM(S)

None

I.) PENDING BUSINESS

None

J.) NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Request the Town Council authorize the Youth Service Bureau to apply and operate the Summer Youth Employment and Learning Program offered by the State of Connecticut Department of Labor.** (See memorandum from Michelle Hill, Director of the Vernon Youth Services Bureau to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator, dated March 25, 2021 relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE VERNON TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS RELATIVE TO THE

APPLICATION AND OPERATION OF THE SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND LEARNING PROGRAM FOR SUMMER 2021.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to authorize Mayor Daniel A. Champagne to execute any and all documents relative to the application and operation of the Summer Youth Employment and Learning Program for Summer 2021. Michelle Hill, Youth Services Director spoke and answered questions. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

- 2. **Request the Town Council approve the asset disposal request from the Vernon Police Department and the Rockville Public Library** (See memorandum from Jeffrey A. O'Neill, Finance Officer and Treasurer to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator dated March 30, 2021 relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE DISPOSAL OF ASSETS FOR THE VERNON POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE ROCKVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY AS DISCLOSED ON THE FIXED ASSET INFORMATION FORMS.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made a motion to approve the disposal of assets for the Vernon Police Department and the Rockville Public Library. Discussion ensued. Council Member Motola asked what "Circ. Count" referred to on the documentation for the library. Mayor Champagne stated that he will have Jennifer Johnston respond. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

- 3. **Request the Town Council consider the request for an additional appropriation for the Center Road School Roof, from the Vernon Board of Education.** (See letter dated March 22, 2021 from Dr. Joseph Macary, Superintendent of Schools to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne and memorandum dated March 30, 2021 from Jeffrey A. O'Neill, Finance Officer and Treasurer to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne and Town Administrator Michael J. Purcaro relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

RESOLVED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 10-283(d) OF THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES, THE VERNON TOWN COUNCIL DOES HEREBY AUTHORIZE AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION NOT TO EXCEED \$50,000 TO BE PAID FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION CAPITAL NON-RECURRING ACCOUNT FOR THE FINANCING OF THE LOCAL SHARE OF THE CENTER ROAD SCHOOL ROOF REPLACEMENT PROJECT COST.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Gessay, made a motion to authorize additional appropriation not to exceed \$50,000 to be paid from the Board of Education capital non-recurring account for the financing of the local share of the Center Road School Roof Replacement Project cost. Superintendent Dr. Joseph Macary spoke and answered questions. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

- 4. **Request the Town Council consider the request from the Vernon Board of Education for funding assistance relative to the Rockville High School Track Project.** (See

memorandum from Dr. Joseph Macary, Superintendent of Schools to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne dated April 5, 2021 relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY SCHEDULES A VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING/SPECIAL TOWN MEETING TO TAKE PLACE AT 7:35 PM ON TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 2021 AT THE VERNON TOWN HALL VIA VIRTUAL MEANS WITH DRIVE THRU AND WALK UP VOTING; TO HEAR COMMENTS AND TAKE THE NECESSARY ACTION REGARDING THE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION OF \$419,709.00 TO FUND THE **ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL TRACK REPLACEMENT PROJECT**. SAID FUNDS TO COME FROM THE GENERAL FUND BALANCE. ALL ZOOM INFORMATION WILL BE ADVERTISED IN THE LEGAL NOTICE.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to schedule a virtual public hearing/special town meeting to take place at 7:35PM on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 to hear comments and take necessary action regarding the additional appropriation of \$419,709.00 to fund the Rockville High School Track Replacement Project. Discussion ensued. Karen Daigle, Town Clerk, made a ruling regarding the rules of discussion and determined that the discussion must stay within the agenda item. Superintendent Dr. Joseph Macary spoke and answered questions.

Mayor Champagne put meeting on a hold.

- 5. ~~**Town Budget Wrap-up. Should additional time be needed to complete budget deliberations this item will be used. If the budget is complete this item will be pulled.**~~

No discussion.

O.) ADOPTION OF MINUTES

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING ON **MARCH 16, 2021** AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to waive the reading of the minutes from the regular meeting on March 16, 2021 and approve as presented. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

J.) NEW BUSINESS, ITEM4 (continued)

8:38PM - Mayor Champagne called for a recess.

8:50PM – Regular meeting resumed

Council Member Wakefield withdrew the motion.

Council Member Bush withdrew the second for the motion.

Mayor Champagne explained the motions being added.

Council Member Bush, seconded by Council Member Campbell, made a motion to add two new proposed motions to the agenda. Discussion ensued. Motion carried with the required two thirds vote with 9 in favor and 2 opposed (Didio, Levesque).

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL DOES HEREBY AUTHORIZE THE TRANSFER OF \$352,849.00 OF AVAILABLE FUNDS FROM THE VERNON BOARD OF EDUCATION 2020-2021 BUDGET TO THE CAPITAL AND NON-RECURRING EDUCATION ACCOUNT AS APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AT THEIR MEETING ON APRIL 5, 2021.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to authorize the transfer of \$352,849.00 of available funds from the Vernon Board of Education 2020-2021 budget to the Capital and Non-Recurring Education account as approved by the Board of Education at their meeting on April 5, 2021. Superintendent Dr. Joseph Macary spoke and answered questions. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL DOES HEREBY SCHEDULE A VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING/SPECIAL TOWN MEETING TO TAKE PLACE AT 7:35 PM ON TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 2021 AT THE VERNON TOWN HALL VIA VIRTUAL MEANS WITH DRIVE THRU AND WALK UP VOTING; TO HEAR COMMENTS AND TAKE THE NECESSARY ACTION REGARDING THE CONSTRUCTION OF A TURF FIELD/TRACK AT ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$1,549,171.00 OF WHICH \$1,129,462.00 SHALL BE FUNDED FROM THE CAPITAL NON-RECURRING EDUCATION ACCOUNT AND \$419,709.00 WHICH SHALL BE FUNDED BY AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION FROM THE TOWN'S GENERAL FUND. ZOOM INFORMATION WILL BE ADVERTISED IN THE LEGAL NOTICE.

Council Member Wakefield seconded by Council Member Clay, made a motion to schedule a virtual Public Hearing/Special Town Meeting to take place on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 to hear comments and take the necessary action regarding the construction of a turf field/track at Rockville High School in the total amount of \$1,549,171.00 of which \$1,129,462.00 shall be funded from the Capital Non-Recurring Education account and \$419,709.00 which shall be funded by an additional appropriation from the town's general fund. Motion carried by roll call vote with 9 in favor and 2 opposed (Didio, Levesque)

K.) INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

None

L.) ACTION ON ORDINANCE(S) PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED

None

M.) IDENTIFICATION/ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

None

N.) DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL ITEMS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

None

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

Monthly Report – February, 2021 for the Vernon Police Department as submitted by Captain John Kelley.

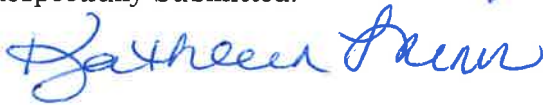
Q.) ADJOURN (9:29PM)

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Received:

Approved:

Respectfully Submitted.



Kathleen Minor
Recording Secretary