

MINUTES
PUBLIC HEARING AND SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN HALL - 14 PARK PLACE - 3RD Floor
VERNON, CONNECTICUT

RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK
19 OCT -7 PM 12:24

October 1, 2019 - 7:35 PM

1. **MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE CALLED THE PUBLIC HEARING AND SPECIAL TOWN MEETING TO ORDER**

2. **MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE CALLED FOR NOMINATIONS FOR MODERATOR**
Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to nominate John Leary as Moderator.

3. **MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE CLOSED NOMINATIONS FOR MODERATOR AND COMMENCED THE VOTE ON THE NOMINEE AND DECLARED THE MODERATOR**
No other nominations were presented. Motion carried.

4. **TOWN CLERK READ THE LEGAL NOTICE**

Mayor Champagne spoke and explained the history of this proposed project.

5. **MODERATOR EXPLAINED THE PURPOSE OF THE PUBLIC HEARING AND SPECIAL TOWN MEETING: TO HEAR COMMENTS AND TAKE THE NECESSARY ACTION RELATIVE TO "A RESOLUTION REGARDING AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION FOR GENERAL GOVERNMENT LAND ACQUISITION AND RELATED LAND IMPROVEMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,193,000.00".**

6. **FURTHER, THE MODERATOR EXPLAINED THE RULES OF VOTING ELIGIBILITY ON THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION.**
Moderator John Leary explained the requirements necessary to vote at a Special Town Meeting.

7. **MODERATOR SAUGHT COMMENTS ON THE PRESENTED PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

Claire Janowski, 63 Hany Lane, Vernon, spoke in favor of the project, encouraging the council to find another parcel if this one doesn't work out.

Maryann Levesque, 183 Bolton Road, Vernon, offered the 133 Tunnel Road property currently owned by the Town as an alternate parcel. Concerned with wetlands on proposed parcel; consider leasing property? Can't support this until it's fully vetted.

Ralph Zahner, 142 Vernon Avenue, Vernon, supports the soccer program and always has, but thought the Mayor's comments should have been posted for the public; concerned about the spending.

Parker, 82 Trout Stream Drive, Vernon, thanked coach Keith for being their coach and always helping.

Miller, 200 Lake Street, Vernon, thought it was a good idea to get the fields; there aren't enough fields in town.

Noah, 547 Bolton Road, Vernon, spoke that this is a good cause, to build soccer and lacrosse fields, possibly tennis courts.

Victoria Boyajian, 57 Pinnacle Road, Vernon, coaches 2 teams and sits on the Vernon Soccer Club board; she is showing support for Vernon's children and thanks everyone for the time and effort put into the project.

James Krupinski, 101 Trout Stream Drive, Vernon, spoke of the parcel being a Heritage Farm, along with numerous questions about the property-road, traffic, wetlands, lack of plan.

Jordan Scheff, 119 Trout Stream Drive, Vernon, reiterated Mayor's comments that if all doesn't pan out, the Town can back out of contract.

Ann Letendre, 29 Gottier Drive, Vernon, agrees there's a shortage of fields in town. Being involved in Inland and Wetlands on town and state level and the Hockanum River Linear Park commission, she questions whether permitting should be done first.

Phyllis Baker, Windermere Avenue, Vernon, believes there needs to be testing, and that many people living on the street are not aware of what's happening. Concerned with rain and water, no sidewalks, road not good. She's all for soccer but there are a lot of unknowns.

Lori Spielman, 179 Abbot Road, Ellington, and Ellington First Selectwoman, who stated she's been working with Vernon. Ellington is in need of fields, so there is a rental possibility. As a representative of Ellington, she is encouraged by this purchase.

Polly Schaefer, 1A Fox Hill Drive, Vernon, spoke that they have been a sports family for many years and would like to see this approved, but wants to be sure all i's are dotted and t's are crossed.

Carl Schaefer, 1A Fox Hill Drive, Vernon, has questions concerning taxes in Ellington, snack shack, wetlands.

Keith Hodson, 200 Lake Street, Vernon, spoke in favor of the parcel, thanking the mayor and council for recognizing the need and starting the process years ago. (Gave clerk letters of support.) Would ask all to consider voting yes.

Larry Rodriguez, 2 Valerie Drive, Vernon, and former director of soccer, questioned if this should have gone to referendum. He had questions about use during wet months, but was satisfied with Mayor's explanation and thanked the Town Council that they had done their homework.

Mike Wendus, 91 Village Street, Vernon, spoke that fields are desperately needed and is glad there are safety nets in place. He loves youth sports and is proud to be behind the purchase.

The Moderator read into the record a letter from Mr. Chafik Rebai, Chairman of the Connecticut Junior Soccer Association Northeast District and CJSA First Vice President.

Mayor Daniel A. Champagne spoke again stating that money is not to be spent until testing is complete, as the Agreement was written with stipulations. If this property doesn't work, all money would stay in the general fund. He is looking for support of this endeavor.

8. MODERATOR CLOSED THE PUBLIC HEARING AT 8:44 PM

9. MODERATOR ASKED FOR THE FOLLOWING MOTION TO BE PUT ON THE FLOOR

PROPOSED MOTION

MOVE TO HEREBY APPROVE THE RESOLUTION ENTITLED "A RESOLUTION REGARDING AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION FOR GENERAL GOVERNMENT LAND ACQUISITION AND RELATED LAND IMPROVEMENTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,193,000.00" AS PRESENTED.

Keith Hodson, seconded by Bob Hurd, so moved the above motion.

10. THE MODERATOR TOOK A VOTE OF ALL ELIGIBLE VOTERS

With 70 eligible voters in attendance, motion carried by show of paddles, with one vote against.

11. THE MODERATOR CLOSED THE PUBLIC HEARING/SPECIAL TOWN MEETING AND ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO ADJOURN.

8:44 PM Keith Hodson, seconded by Bob Hurd, made a motion to adjourn the Special Town Meeting. Motion carried.

TOWN COUNCIL RETURNED TO RECESSED OCTOBER 1, 2019 MEETING .

Received:

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen C. Daigle
Recording Secretary