

April 4, 2022

**APPROVED MINUTES**  
**VERNON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING**  
TOWN HALL – 14 PARK PLACE – 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
VERNON, CONNECTICUT  
**MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2022 7:00PM**

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

**A.) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Recited

**B.) ROLL CALL**

Present: Council Members Laura Bush, Bill Campbell, Julie Clay, Linda Gessay, Ann Letendre, Maryann Levesque, Brian Motola, Ariana Nieves-Matias, John O'Connell, Teri-Lynn Rogers, Jim Tedford and Michael Wendus

Absent:

Entered During Meeting:

Also Present: Town Administrator Michael J. Purcaro, Finance Officer and Treasurer Jeffrey O'Neill, Recording Secretary Karen Daigle

**C.) CITIZEN'S FORUM**

Council Member Levesque thanked the Department Heads on preparing a responsible budget.

**D.) PRESENTATION**

Mayor Daniel A. Champagne and Jeff O'Neill, Finance Officer and Treasurer presented updates since the March 31, 2022 meeting.

**E.) BUDGET REVIEW**

**Assessment – Tab 4, Page 113, Code 10114144, \$298,607**

David Wheeler, Assessor, presented budget summary and answered questions. Discussion ensued.

**Revaluation – Tab 4, Page 129, Code 10114147, \$18,000**

David Wheeler, Assessor presented budget summary. No discussion.

**Board of Assessment Appeals – Tab 4, Page 139, Code 10116155, \$2,500**

David Wheeler, Assessor, presented budget summary and answered questions. Discussion ensued.

**Collector of Revenue – Tab 4, Page 123, Code 10114146, \$182,606**

Terry Hjarne, Tax Collector, presented budget summary and answered questions. Discussion ensued.

**Refunds – Tax Adjustments – Tab 4, Page 119, Code 10114145, \$43,479**

Terry Hjarne, Tax Collector, presented budget summary and answered questions. Discussion ensued.

**Finance - Administration – Tab 4, Page 99, Code 10114140, \$514,692**

Jeffrey O'Neill, Finance Officer, presented budget summary and answered questions. Discussion ensued.

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**Finance – Independent Audit – Tab 4, Page 105, Code 10114141, \$83,431**

Jeffrey O'Neill, Finance Officer, presented budget summary and answered questions. Discussion ensued.

**Finance - Treasury – Tab 4, Page 109, Code 10114142, \$4,540**

Jeffrey O'Neill, Finance Officer, presented budget summary and answered questions. Discussion ensued.

**Social Security and Medicare – Tab 9, Page 386, Code 10670270, \$1,184,043**

Jeffrey O'Neill, Finance Officer, presented summary. No discussion.

**Pension – Tab 9, Page 390, Code 10670271, \$3,380,145**

Jeffrey O'Neill, Finance Officer, presented summary and answered questions. Discussion ensued.

**Group Insurance – Tab 9, Page 394, Code 10670272, \$2,724,701**

Jeffrey O'Neill, Finance Officer, presented summary. No discussion.

**Unemployment Insurance – Tab 9, Page 398, Code 10670273, \$21,400**

Jeffrey O'Neill, Finance Officer, presented summary. No discussion.

**Municipal Insurance – Tab 9, Page 402, Code 10671278, \$597,964**

Jeffrey O'Neill, Finance Officer, presented summary and answered questions. Discussion ensued.

**Contingency – Tab 9, Page 406, Code 10672280, \$387,975**

Jeffrey O'Neill, Finance Officer, presented summary and answered questions. Discussion ensued.

**Debt Service – Principal Payments – Tab 10, Page 431, Code 10883292, \$6,072,148**

and

**Debt Service – Interest Payments – Tab 10, Page 435, Code 10883294, \$1,584,883**

Jeffrey O'Neill, Finance Officer, presented summary. No discussion.

**D.) PRESENTATION (cont'd)**

Jeff O'Neill, Finance Officer and Treasurer, spoke on revenue and answered questions. Discussion ensued.

**F.) MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNTS REQUIRING DISCUSSION OR ACTION**

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

Council Member Clay, seconded by Council Member Motola made a motion to **Tab 6, Page 229, Account 56511, Tires**, to reduce the account by \$5,000. Discussion ensued. Dwight Ryniewicz, Director of Public Works, and Jeff O'Neill, Finance Officer, spoke. Council Member Clay, seconded by Council Member Motola, amended the motion to reduce the account by \$3,000 rather than \$5,000. Discussion ensued. Motion carried with 8 in favor and 4 opposed, Council Members Letendre, Levesque, Nieves-Matias and Rogers.

Council Member Motola asked questions on **Tab 10, Page 413, Account 57810, Office Furniture**. Finance Officer, Jeff O'Neill, answered questions.

8:24 PM Recess; 8:41 PM Reconvened

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Jeff O'Neill outlined the decrease in the Probate account of 1,367.00, decrease in the Vernon Cemetery Commission account of \$2,773.00 and decrease in the Equipment Maintenance, Tires account of \$3,000.00 for a total reduction of \$7,140.00.

**G.) FINALIZE BUDGET**

**APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE TOWN OF VERNON FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023**

THE TOWN COUNCIL DOES HEREBY APPROVE THE TOWN OF VERNON GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$31,547,645; THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND DEBT SERVICE APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$12,484,551; AND THE EDUCATION BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$55,775,479, FOR A TOTAL GENERAL FUND TOTAL OF \$99,807,675.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to approve the Town of Vernon General Government Appropriations in the amount of \$31,547,645; the Capital Improvements and Debt Service Appropriations in the amount of \$12,484,551; and the Education Budget in the amount of \$55,775,479, for a Total General Fund total of \$99,807,675. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF BUDGET REVENUE ESTIMATES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023:**

THE TOWN COUNCIL DOES HEREBY APPROVE THE TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$99,807,675 TO COINCIDE WITH THE TOTAL RECOMMENDED APPROPRIATIONS OF \$99,807,675, AND TO AUTHORIZE THE FINANCE OFFICER TO ADJUST LINE ITEMS IN THE ESTIMATED REVENUE AS MAY BE DEEMED NECESSARY.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made a motion to approve the total estimated revenue in the amount of \$99,807,675 to coincide with the total recommended appropriations of \$99,807,675, and to authorize the Finance Officer to adjust line items in the estimated revenue as may be deemed necessary.

**APPROVAL OF TOWN OF VERNON BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 FOR PRESENTATION AT THE PUBLIC HEARING/ANNUAL TOWN MEETING:**

THE TOWN COUNCIL DOES HEREBY APPROVE AND PRESENT THE BUDGET FOR **FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023** IN THE AMOUNT OF **\$99,807,675** TO THE ELECTORS AND QUALIFIED TAXPAYERS AT THE PUBLIC HEARING/ANNUAL TOWN MEETING SCHEDULED FOR **TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2022 AT 7:00 PM** TO BE HELD 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.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made a motion to approve and present the Budget for **Fiscal Year 2022-2023** in the amount of **\$99,807,675** to the electors and qualified taxpayers at the Public Hearing/Annual Town Meeting scheduled for **Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 7:00 pm** to be held in the auditorium of Rockville High School at 70 Loveland Hill Road, Vernon, Connecticut. Motion carried unanimously.

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**H.) Adjourn (8:50 PM)**

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Received: May 3, 2022

Approved: May 17, 2022

Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Karen C. Daigle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K".

Karen C. Daigle  
Recording Secretary