

January 8, 2008

**MINUTES
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
SENIOR CENTER 2ND FLOOR, CONFERENCE ROOM
26 PARK PLACE
TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2008
7:30 P.M.**

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM

Present: Bill Campbell, Mark Etre, Bill Fox, Marie Herbst, Nancy E Herold, Peggy A. Jackle, Brian R. Motola, Pauline Schaefer, Diane Wheelock, Michael A. Winkler

Absent: Daniel Anderson

Entered During Meeting: Daniel Champagne (7:50 PM)

Also Present: Mayor Jason L. McCoy, Town Administrator Christopher Clark, Bernice K. Dixon, Town Clerk, Assistant Town Clerk James Krupienski, Recording Secretary Jill Kentfield

CITIZEN'S FORUM:

Edie Chernack, 50 Cubles Drive: Expressed dismay that Chip Bellows and Mary Kelley have not been re-nominated to the Planning and Zoning Commission. She has worked with them directly on the Committee and has a great amount of respect for them. Mary Kelly is very thorough, and is able to offer a legal opinion as she is an attorney. It is ridiculous for the commission to turn down free legal advice. Please reconsider re-nominating Mary Kelly to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Citizen's Forum closed at 7:35 PM

PUBLIC HEARING: (7:35 P.M.)

Public Hearing regarding proposed Ordinance entitled "An Ordinance to Grant an Exemption of Property Tax for Hybrid Electric Vehicles and Certain Authorized Alternative Fuel Vehicles". (Copy of proposed Ordinance is in the packet.)

Legal notice read by Town Clerk, Bernice K. Dixon

Public Comments:

James Krupienski, 59 Deerfield Drive: Expressed opposition to the proposed ordinance for second time. Currently, there are federal and state exemptions already in place. With the State and Federal tax exemptions already in place, where is the money coming from – the towns. To re-exempt these vehicles again means that tax payers have to make up for the loss of the revenue. With the cuts in funding to schools and other areas, cannot find a logical reason to pass such an ordinance. The State Office of Fiscal Analysis report stated that if municipalities were to exempt vehicles from paying taxes, it would result in a loss to the net grand list and would likely pose an increase to their mill rate and an increase to their budget to offset the loss of taxable property. How can we justify 4 budget referendums and add on more tax breaks. Currently the number of vehicles in town that would be eligible to receive this exemption of taxes is between 125 and 130 or .004% of the registered vehicles in the town of Vernon. To do pass this ordinance would be neglectful. Also, the ordinance itself as it doesn't define what a hybrid is but merely references a statute. Statutes can change. Constituents should be able to understand the ordinance and what it was intended for. Recommends that the Town Council not pass this ordinance and finally lay it to rest.

ADJOURN PUBLIC HEARING 7:40 PM

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY MOVES THE ADOPTION OF THE ORDINANCE ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE TO GRANT AN EXEMPTION OF PROPERTY TAX FOR HYBRID ELECTRIC VEHICLES AND CERTAIN AUTHORIZED ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLES".

Council Member Wheelock seconded by Council Member Campbell moved to vote on the ordinance. Council Member Etre, seconded by Council Member Motola moved to postpone the vote on the ordinance until the full council is present.

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Discussion took place.

Motion to postpone the vote on the ordinance until the next town council meeting carried, Council Members Schaefer, Herbst and Fox opposed. *Note Public Hearing on this matter is closed members will vote at next full council meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING AND SPECIAL TOWN MEETING:

Public Hearing relative to a “Resolution regarding an additional appropriation for roadway improvements in the amount of \$202,587.00”. Mayor McCoy calls the Public Hearing to order to receive comments and recommendations relative to a “Resolution regarding an additional appropriation for roadway improvements in the amount of \$202,587.00.”

Legal notice read by Town Clerk, Bernice K. Dixon.

Council Member Wheelock, seconded by Council Member Jackle moved to elect Attorney Martin Burke as the moderator. Motion carried unanimously.

No public comments.

ADJOURN PUBLIC HEARING - 7:48 PM

Council Member Wheelock, seconded by Council Member Herbst moved to vote on the resolution regarding an additional appropriation for roadway improvements in the amount of \$202,587.00. Motion carried unanimously (**Appendix A**)

PRESENTATION:

Alan Slobodien, Director, Vernon Youth Services Bureau made a presentation on the Graustein Memorial Fund grant that supports early childhood education awareness in Vernon. (Material provided by Mr. Slobodien is in the packet.)

History: In 1997 the Dept of Education allocated funds to 2 different types of districts: priority school districts and severe needs districts. Vernon qualified as a severe needs district because they had schools with 40% or greater on the free school lunch program. The goal was to provide 15 spaces to low income children for preschool education. The preschool program had to be a national accredited program and at the time, Hockanum Valley was the only program in the area that qualified.

To date, consultants have been hired and developed a social marketing plan, which focuses on data collection with regard to kindergarten registration. Through community outreach efforts a Parent Engagement Committee was created and key project oriented activities have been completed. Monthly reports to the Town Council will provide detailed activities.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

- C 1. Request for Tax Refunds – Current and Prior Fiscal Years.
- C 2. Request the Town Council to approve the appointment of Chester W. Morgan as a regular member of the Planning and Zoning Commission.
- C 3. Request the Town Council to approve the appointment of James M. Hoover as a regular member of the Municipal Flood and Erosion Control Board.
- C 4. Request the Town Council to approve the appointment of Melissa M. Shannon as a member of the Water Pollution Control Authority.
- C 5. Request the Town Council to approve the appointment of Robert B. Hurd as a member of the Homestead Revitalization Committee.
- C 6. Request the Town Council to approve the appointment of Stephen Marcham as a member of the Homestead Revitalization Committee.
- C 7. Request the Town Council to approve the appointment of Fred Norman as a member of the Homestead Revitalization Committee.

NEW BUSINESS (CONSENT ITEMS)

- 1. **Request for Tax Refunds – Current and Prior Fiscal Years.**

PROPOSED MOTION:

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THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES TAX REFUNDS FOR THE PRIOR YEAR IN THE AMOUNT OF \$330.80 AND TAX REFUNDS FOR THE CURRENT YEAR IN THE AMOUNT OF \$646.66 AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM THE COLLECTOR OF REVENUE DATED JANUARY 2, 2008 TO THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR.

Council Member Wheelock, seconded by Council Member Motola moved to approve motion. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix B)

- 2. Request the Town Council to approve the Mayor's appointment of Chester W. Morgan (D), 60-37 Old Town Road, to serve as a regular member of the Planning and Zoning Commission to fill a vacancy due to the term expiration of Mary Kelly.**

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE APPOINTMENT OF CHESTER W. MORGAN TO SERVE AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION, SAID TERM TO EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2010.

Council Member Wheelock, seconded by Council Member Motola moved to approve motion.

Discussion took place.

Motion carried. Council Members Herbst, Fox and Winkler abstained.

- 3. Request the Town Council to approve the Mayor's appointment of James M. Hoover (R), 155 Trout Stream Drive, to serve as a regular member of the Municipal Flood and Erosion Control Board to fill a vacancy due to the term expiration of Richard Gaughan.**

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE APPOINTMENT OF JAMES M. HOOVER TO SERVE AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE MUNICIPAL FLOOD AND EROSION CONTROL BOARD, SAID TERM TO EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2010.

Council Member Wheelock, seconded by Council Member Motola moved to approve motion. Motion carried unanimously.

- 4. Request the Town Council to approve the Mayor's appointment of Melissa M. Shannon (R), 14 Blue Ridge Drive, to serve as a member of the Water Pollution Control Authority to fill a vacancy due to the term expiration of Everett Ray Weaver.**

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE APPOINTMENT OF MELISSA M. SHANNON TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY, SAID TERM TO EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2010.

Council Member Wheelock, seconded by Council Member Motola moved to approve motion. Motion carried unanimously.

- 5. Request the Town Council to approve the Mayor's appointment of Robert B. Hurd (R), 7 Rheel Street, to serve as a member of the Homestead Revitalization Committee.**

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE APPOINTMENT OF ROBERT B. HURD TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE HOMESTEAD REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE FOR AN INDEFINITE TERM.

Council Member Wheelock, seconded by Council Member Motola moved to approve motion. Motion carried unanimously.

- 6. Request the Town Council to approve the Mayor's appointment of Stephen Marcham (D), 29 Sutton Drive, to serve as a member of the Homestead Revitalization Committee.**

PROPOSED MOTION:

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THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE APPOINTMENT OF STEPHEN MARCHAM TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE HOMESTEAD REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE FOR AN INDEFINITE TERM.

Council Member Wheelock, seconded by Council Member Motola moved to approve motion. Motion carried unanimously.

- 7. Request the Town Council to approve the Mayor's appointment of Fred Norman (R), 60-97 Old Town Road, to serve as a member of the Homestead Revitalization Committee.**

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE APPOINTMENT OF FRED NORMAN TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE HOMESTEAD REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE FOR AN INDEFINITE TERM.

Council Member Wheelock, seconded by Council Member Motola moved to approve motion. Motion carried unanimously.

IDENTIFICATION AND ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS:

PENDING BUSINESS:

- 1. Request the Town Council to approve the Mayor's appointment of Solomon Kerensky (R), 35 Berle Road, South Windsor, as a member of the Economic Development Commission to fill a current vacancy, said term to expire on June 30, 2012.**

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE APPOINTMENT OF SOLOMON KERENSKY TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION, SAID TERM TO EXPIRE ON JUNE 30, 2012.

Council Member Wheelock, seconded by Council Member Champagne moved to approve the motion.

Discussion took place

Motion carried. Council Members Herold, Herbst, Fox, and Winkler opposed.

- 2. Request the Town Council to approve the Mayor's appointment of Robert J. Kleinhans, (R), 64 Old Black Point Road, East Lyme, as a member of the Economic Development Commission to fill a current vacancy, said term to expire on June 30, 2012.**

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE APPOINTMENT OF ROBERT J. KLEINHANS TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION, SAID TERM TO EXPIRE ON JUNE 30, 2012.

Council Member Wheelock, seconded by Council Member Champagne moved to approve the motion.

Discussion took place

Motion carried. Council Members Herold, Herbst, Fox, and Winkler opposed.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Request the Town Council to approve the budget amendment(s) for fiscal year 2007-2008 as provided by James Luddecke, Finance Officer.**

PROPOSED MOTION #1:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY MOVES TO APPROPRIATE \$70,700.00, AS OUTLINED IN BUDGET AMENDMENT FORM #10, FOR THE PURPOSE OF SOME AVAILABLE FUNDS TO

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THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF VEHICLES AND OTHER RELATED EQUIPMENT, SAID PROCUREMENT BE DONE IN COMPLIANCE WITH CHAPTER XII, FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION, SUB-SECTION 9 OF THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, ENTITLED "PURCHASING".

Council Member Wheelock, seconded by Council Member Schaefer moved to approve the motion.
Motion carried unanimously. (**Appendix C**)

PROPOSED MOTION#2:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUESTS 11-18 FOR FISCAL 2007-2008 AS OUTLINED IN BUDGET AMENDMENT FORMS AS PROVIDED BY THE FINANCE OFFICER.

Council Member Wheelock, seconded by Council Member Schaefer moved to approve the motion.
Motion carried unanimously.

- 2. Request the Town Council adopt resolutions relative to the entitled OPM Regional Performance Incentive Program.**

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY ADOPTS A RESOLUTION ENTITLED "TRAIL MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT PROPOSAL", AND AUTHORIZES MAYOR JASON L. MCCOY TO SIGN ALL NECESSARY AGREEMENTS AND TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO ALLOW FOR THE TOWN OF VERNON'S PARTICIPATION IN THIS PROGRAM.

Council Member Wheelock, seconded by Council Member Schaefer moved to approve the motion.
Motion carried unanimously. (**Appendix D**)

- 3. Request the Town Council to approve new job description entitled "Assistant to the Assessor".**

PROPOSED MOTION :

THE TOWN COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH THE TOWN OF VERNON PERSONNEL RULES AND REGULATIONS, SECTION 4.0 ENTITLED "CLASSIFICATION", SUBSECTION B, "JOB DESCRIPTIONS", AND PURSUANT TO CHAPTER XI OF THE TOWN CHARTER ENTITLED, "ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENTS AND OFFICERS RESPONSIBLE TO THE MAYOR" SECTION 4, "QUALIFIED OFFICERS WITHIN THE CLASSIFIED SERVICE", HEREBY APPROVES THE JOB DESCRIPTION FOR ASSISTANT TO THE ASSESSOR, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 8, 2008.

Item pulled from the agenda

- 4. Request the Town Council to schedule a Special Town Meeting and Public Hearing relative to a "Resolution Regarding an Additional Appropriation for Repairs to the Board of Education Central Administration Building in the Amount of \$200,000.00.**

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY CALLS A PUBLIC HEARING AND SPECIAL TOWN MEETING RELATIVE TO "A RESOLUTION REGARDING AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION FOR REPAIRS TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$200,000.00, AND THAT SAID PROCUREMENT BE DONE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TOWN CHARTER, ARTICLE XII, FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION, SUB SECTION 9 ENTITLED "PURCHASING", PUBLIC HEARING TO BE HELD AT 7:45 AND SPECIAL TOWN MEETING TO BE HELD AT 7:50 ON JANUARY 22, 2008, SECOND FLOOR, VERNON SENIOR CENTER, 26 PARK PLACE, VERNON CONNECTICUT.

Council Member Wheelock, seconded by Council Member Jackle moved to approve the motion.

Discussion took place.

Motion carried unanimously.

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DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS:

Council Member Herbst moved to pull informational item #4 regarding CRRRA class action settlement and distribution of funds for discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion took place.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

PROPOSED MOTION #1:

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF DECEMBER 11, 2007 AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Wheelock, seconded by Council Member Schaefer moved to approve the motion. Changes to the minutes include:

Page 2, first motion to extend citizen's forum: seconded by Council Member Herbst

Page 2, first bullet change Chaplin to Champlain

Motion carried with corrections to minutes. Council Member Jackle abstained.

PROPOSED MOTION #2:

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 18, 2007 AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Wheelock, seconded by Council Member Champagne moved to approve the motion.

Motion carried. Council Member Etre abstained.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY MOVES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS CLAIMS AND LITIGATION AND INVITES MARTIN B. BURKE, ESQ., AND CHRISTOPHER CLARK, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO ATTEND.

Council Member Wheelock seconded by Council Member Jackle moved to approve the motion to go into Executive Session. Council Member Winkler asked for clarification regarding Executive Session based on the FOI law, the Council can only go into Executive Session if the Town Council or a member of the Town Council is involved in a law suit in the plaintiff/defendant position.

RECESS (9:00 PM)

Council Member Wheelock, seconded by Council Member Jackle moved to take a 5 minute recess. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting Reconvened 9:06 PM

Council Member Wheelock, seconded by Council Member Schaefer moved to withdraw the motion to go into Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

1. Monthly report for November 2007 from Alan Slobodien, Director, Vernon Youth Services Bureau, monthly report for October 2007, monthly reports for November and December 2007 from Penny Rand, Senior Center Director, and monthly report for November 2007 from Bernice Dixon, Town Clerk.
2. Letter from John Lampson, received December 26, 2007, resigning from the Planning and Zoning Commission.
3. Letter to DPW roads foreman Jeffrey Schambach from Mayor McCoy, appointing him a Tree Warden for the Town of Vernon for calendar year 2008.
4. Letter to Mayor Jason McCoy from David S. Golub, Esq. relative to CRRRA class action settlement and distribution of funds.

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5. Organizational charts from Department Heads are included in the packet.
6. Letter of resignation from Tim Timberman, Town Engineer.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting Adjourned 9:07 PM

Received: January 11, 2008

Approved: January 22, 2008

Respectfully submitted,
Jill M. Kentfield, Recording Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Krupinski". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "K".

James Krupinski
Assistant Town Clerk