

February 19, 2008
MINUTES
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
SENIOR CENTER 2ND FLOOR, CONFERENCE ROOM
26 PARK PLACE
TUESDAY, February 19, 2008
7:30 P.M.

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM

Roll Call:

Present: Daniel Anderson, Bill Campbell, Daniel Champagne, Bill Fox, Nancy E Herold, Peggy A. Jackle, Brian R. Motola, Pauline Schaefer, Diane Wheelock,

Absent: Mark Etre, Marie Herbst, Mayor Jason L. McCoy

Entered During Meeting: Michael A. Winkler (7:38PM)

Also Present: Town Administrator Christopher Clark, Recording Secretary Jill Kentfield

CITIZEN'S FORUM:

Sheryl McMullen, 564 Bolton Road, and **Scott A. Wieting**, 64 Valley Falls Rd.: Spoke on behalf of the Conservation Commission. They have been down members and would like to see the Commission at full capacity.

Martin Johnson, 5 Knollwood Dr.: Wanted to thank Mayor McCoy and Deputy Mayor Wheelock for rectifying the misunderstanding with the Vernon Housing Authority regarding his mother, Eleanor Johnson, and her living situation at Pitkat Apartments. She should be moving back into the apartments on or about March 1.

Citizen's Forum closed at 7:38 PM.

PUBLIC HEARING:

There were no public hearings.

PRESENTATION:

Michael J. Purcaro, Town of Vernon Emergency Management Director presented information regarding the satellite that has malfunctioned and is expected to re-enter the Earth's atmosphere sometime between the last week of February and the first week of March. It is unknown where or when the satellite will land. If it lands in or near the Town of Vernon the site will be treated as a HazMat incident. First Responders have been prepared to handle the situation if the event occurs.

Mr. Purcaro also spoke about the Smart Satellite Phone, which will be able to communicate with the Federal Government, sister towns and other entities that utilize satellite phones during a disaster. The phone will be able to communicate when land lines and cellular phones are unavailable due to overuse during an emergency. The Department of Justice Wireless Management Office and the FBI's Radio Systems Development Unit created the Satellite Mutual Aid Radio Talkgroup (SMART). SMART is a five beam talkgroup, first established in August of 2007, on the MSV satellite communications network. This talkgroup currently encompasses all of MSV's coverage area over the continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii, and the Caribbean. The FBI Strategic Information and Operations Center monitors SMART on a 24 hours a day--7 days a week basis. The Town of Vernon is the first municipality to be linked to the system. Fees for the satellite phone are comparable to cell phone fees.

Council Member Schaefer recommended inviting Ms. Melan, Executive Director for Town of Vernon Housing Authority to present information regarding procedures and policies in place for elderly housing complexes in the event of a fire, flood or other emergency.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

- C** **1.** Request for Tax Refunds – Current Fiscal Year.
- C** **2.** Request that the Town Council approve the Mayor's appointment of Matthew Whitney as a regular member of the Design Review Advisory Commission.
- C** **3.** Request that the Town Council approve the Mayor's appointment of Thomas Davenport as a regular member of the Board of Ethics.
- C** **4.** Request that the Town Council approve the Mayor's appointment of Christy Vale as an alternate member of the Board of Ethics.
- C** **5.** Request that the Town Council approve the Mayor's appointment of Joe Grabinski as a special member of the Board of Assessment Appeals.
- C** **6.** Request that the Town Council approve the Mayor's re-appointment of Charles E. Bettinger as a regular member of the Traffic Authority.
- C** **7.** Request that the Town Council approve the Mayor's appointment of Allen Sheridan as the Town of Vernon's Deputy Director of Emergency Management.

NEW BUSINESS (CONSENT ITEMS)

1. **Request for Tax Refunds – Current Fiscal Year.** (Memorandum from Carol S. Nelson, Collector of Revenue; dated February 14, 2008 to Christopher Clark, Town Administrator, is included in the packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES TAX REFUNDS FOR THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,215.51 AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM THE COLLECTOR OF REVENUE DATED FEBRUARY 14, 2008 TO THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR.

Council Member Schaefer seconded by Council Member Herold moved to approve motion. Motion carried unanimously.

2. **Request that the Town Council approve the Mayor's appointment of Matthew Whitney (R) 17 Tolland Avenue, as a regular member of the Design Review Advisory Commission in order to fill the term expiration of Kevin Sharp.** (Resume is included in the packet).

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF MATTHEW WHITNEY AS A MEMBER OF THE DESIGN REVIEW ADVISORY COMMISSION FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2010.

Council Member Schaefer seconded by Council Member Herold moved to approve motion. Motion carried unanimously.

3. **Request that the Town Council approve the Mayor's appointment of Thomas Davenport (R) 202 Tracy Drive, as a regular member of the Board of Ethics to fill a vacancy due to the resignation of Matthew Larson.** (Resume is included in the packet (#3), along with resignation letter from Matthew Larson (#3B).

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF THOMAS DAVENPORT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF ETHICS FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE ON NOVEMBER 30, 2012.

Council Member Schaefer seconded by Council Member Herold moved to approve motion. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Request that the Town Council approve the Mayor's appointment of Christy Vale (R) 100-3 Dobson Road, as an alternate member of the Board of Ethics, to fill a vacancy due to the appointment of Thomas Davenport as a regular member.** (Resume is included in the packet).

PROPOSED MOTION:

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THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF CHRISTY VALE AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF ETHICS FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE ON NOVEMBER 30, 2009.

Council Member Schaefer seconded by Council Member Herold moved to approve motion. Motion carried unanimously.

5. **Request that the Town Council approve the Mayor's appointment of Joe Grabinski (R) 623 Dart Hill Road, as a special member of the Board of Assessment Appeals, to fill a vacancy due to the appointment of Bill Francis as a regular member.** (Resume is included in the packet).

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF JOE GRABINSKI AS A SPECIAL MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE ON JUNE 30, 2009.

Council Member Schaefer seconded by Council Member Herold moved to approve motion. Motion carried unanimously.

6. **Request that the Town Council approve the Mayor's re-appointment of Charles E. Bettinger (R) 29 Foster Drive, as a regular member of the Traffic Authority.** (Resume is included in the packet).

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE MAYOR'S RE-APPOINTMENT OF CHARLES E. BETTINGER AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE TRAFFIC AUTHORITY FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE ON FEBRUARY 21, 2011.

Council Member Schaefer seconded by Council Member Herold moved to approve motion. Motion carried unanimously.

7. **Request that the Town Council approve the Mayor's appointment of Allen Sheridan, as the Town of Vernon's Deputy Director of Emergency Management.** (Responsibilities and Duties sheet (#7) as well as Mr. Sheridan's Bio sheet (#7B) are included in the packet).

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF ALLEN SHERIDAN AS THE TOWN OF VERNON'S DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FOR AN INDEFINITE TERM.

Council Member Schaefer seconded by Council Member Herold moved to pull this from the Consent Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

E) IDENTIFICATION AND ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS:

No additional agenda items

F) PENDING BUSINESS:

No pending business

G) NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Discussion of the submission of the Urban Act Request to the State of Connecticut for \$1.2 million dollars, for clean-up activities at the former Roosevelt Mills site.** (Memo from Christopher Clark, Town Administrator to Mayor Jason L. McCoy dated February 13, 2008, Resolution of the Legislative Body signed by Mayor Jason L. McCoy, Resolution authorizing Mayor Jason L. McCoy to sign the necessary documents and agreements pertinent to the administration of the Roosevelt Mills Clean-Up Grant are included in the packet).

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE RESOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE BODY PURSUANT TO THE ROOSEVELT MILLS CLEAN-UP GRANT AND HEREBY AUTHORIZES MAYOR JASON L. MCCOY TO SIGN THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS.

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

2. **Discussion of the Assessment Technician withdrawal and the new Assessment Specialist position being created.** (Memo from Christopher Clark, Town Administrator to Mayor Jason L. McCoy dated February 8, 2008 and a copy of the Assessment Specialist Job Description).

PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

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 SECTION 9, CHAPTER XI OF THE TOWN CHARTER, ENTITLED "FINANCE DEPARTMENT", "OTHER EMPLOYEE'S AS THE TOWN COUNCIL MAY DETERMINE", AND PURSUANT TO SECTION 2, CHAPTER XIV "THE CLASSIFIED SERVICE", "NEW OR ADDITIONAL POSITIONS MAY BE CREATED AND CHANGES IN THE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF EXISTING POSITIONS MAY BE MADE BY RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE MAYOR." THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE JOB DESCRIPTION FOR ASSESSMENT SPECIALIST, EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 19, 2008.

Council Member Champagne seconded by Council Member Motola moved to approve motion.

Discussion took place. Questions were asked regarding the job description and potential savings to the Town by hiring this position versus hiring consultants.

Motion carried unanimously.

H) INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE(S):

No ordinances were introduced.

I) ACTION ON ORDINANCE(S) PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED:

No action items regarding ordinance.

J) DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS:

No additional agenda items.

K) ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 5, 2008 AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Schaefer seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to approve the motion with the following amendments to the minutes:

Page 2/7: fix typo in paragraph regarding residential property building permits, change \$20,000 to \$20.00 per \$1,000.00 for each \$1,000.00 after \$75,000.00

It was noted that on page 4/7 there was no 2nd for Council Member Etre's motion for the previous question. For future reference, motions should always have a second.

Page 6/7 the motion to extend the curfew should list members that opposed the motion. (If Available)

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Motion carried unanimously.

L) EXECUTIVE SESSION:

No executive session.

M) INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

1. Minutes of the Board of Education Meeting from January 23 and January 28 2008.
2. Copy of press release from Michael Purcaro, Director, Office of Emergency Management, "VERNON is S.M.A.R.T. about Emergency Communications."
3. Copy of an ordinance amending Section 3-1 of the Town of Vernon Code.
4. Copy of FY2009 Governor's Midterm Budget Highlights.

Council Member Schaefer seconded by Council Member Champagne moved to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 8:20 PM

Received: February 21, 2008

Approved: March 4, 2008

Respectfully Submitted,

Jill Kentfield
Recording Secretary



James Krupienski
Assistant Town Clerk