

**SPECIAL MEETING  
OF THE  
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL  
May 11, 2006**

Senior Center 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room, 26 Park Place, Vernon, CT

Mayor Ellen L. Marmer, M.D. called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL:**

**Present:** Council Members Daniel E. Anderson, Bill F. Campbell, Daniel A. Champagne, Mark S. Etre, Bill Fox, Marie A. Herbst, Jason L. McCoy, Pauline A. Schaefer, Christy N. Vale; 9.

**Absent:** Council Members Brian R. Motola, Mary A. Oliver, Connie Simon; 3.

**Entered During Meeting:** Council Members Brian R. Motola (7:29 p.m.), Mary A. Oliver (7:13 p.m.); 2.

**Also Present:** Mayor Ellen L. Marmer, M.D., Town Administrator Laurence R. Shaffer, Finance Officer James Luddecke, Budget Analyst Diane Luddecke and Recording Secretary Karin Z. Pike.

Mayor Ellen L. Marmer, M.D. spoke regarding the recently defeated budget

Council Member Oliver entered the meeting (7:13 p.m.)

**CITIZEN'S FORUM:**

Allen Sheridan, 36 Christopher Drive, thanked the Council for their time and effort concerning the budget. He also spoke against the budget.

Catherine Rebai, 42 Neill Road, spoke regarding the Board of Education budget and the importance of the \$317,000 Excess Cost Grant.

No other residents wished to speak and Citizen's Forum was closed at 7:26 p.m.

Mayor Ellen L. Marmer, M.D. called a recess. The meeting recessed at 7:27 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 8:02 p.m.

Council Member Motola entered the meeting at 7:29 p.m.

**Open all budgetary items for discussion and potential action.**

Finance Officer James Luddecke was available for questions and comment.

Council Member McCoy, seconded by Council Member Vale, moved TO OPEN THE ENTIRE BUDGET AND REDUCE EACH DEPARTMENT BY 1.4%, SAID REDUCTIONS SHALL BE MADE BY THE DEPARTMENT HEADS OR THE COMMITTEE/COMMISSIONS AS APPROPRIATE AND AS THEY SEE FIT, FOR A TOTAL REDUCTION OF 1 MILLION DOLLARS.

Discussion took place.

A recess was called at 8:16 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 8:19 p.m.

A legal opinion was given by Town Attorney Joseph Courtney concerning the motion and was deemed out of order according to the Town Charter. In order for the motion to be legal, the motion would have to state that the budget go back to the department heads to prepare in detail the specific reductions, which in turn would come back to the Council.

A recess was called at 8:58 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 9:03 p.m.

Council Member McCoy, seconded by Council Member Campbell, moved TO SEND THE BUDGET BACK TO THE DEPARTMENT HEADS TO BRING BACK TO THE COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH ATTORNEY JOSEPH COURTNEY'S OPINION, WITH REDUCTIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF 1.5%, EXCLUSIVE OF THE DEBT SERVICE BUDGET.

The motion was carried 7 to 4 on a roll call vote with Council Members Anderson, Campbell, Champagne, Etre, McCoy, Motola and Vale voting yes and Council Members Fox, Herbst, Oliver and Schaefer voting no.

Mayor Ellen L. Marmer, M.D. stated that there would be no referendum held on May 23<sup>rd</sup> and would have to be held at a later date.

*The remainder of the agenda was not taken up:*

**APPROVAL OF TOWN OF VERNON BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006-2007 FOR SECOND REFERENDUM**

Council Member \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Council Member \_\_\_\_\_, moved TO PRESENT THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006-2007 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ TO THE ELECTORS AND QUALIFIED TAXPAYERS TO VOTE ON PAPER BALLOTS OR BY BALLOT LABELS UTILIZING A "YES" OR "NO" ON THE VOTING MACHINES AT THE SECOND BUDGET REFERENDUM SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, MAY 23, 2006 AT CENTER 375, 375 HARTFORD TURNPIKE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 6:00 A.M. AND 8:00 P.M., AND TO AUTHORIZE AND DIRECT THE TOWN CLERK TO PUBLISH A WARNING OF SAID REFERENDUM AT LEAST FIVE DAYS BEFORE THE REFERENDUM AND TO PHRASE SUCH ITEM IN A FORM SUITABLE FOR PRINTING ON SUCH PAPER BALLOTS OR BALLOT LABELS IN ACCORDANCE WITH CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES §7-7 AND OTHER LAWS:

"SHALL THE TOWN OF VERNON ADOPT A BUDGET FOR A PERIOD COMMENCING JULY 1, 2006 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2007 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ \_\_\_\_\_?"

**APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE TOWN OF VERNON FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006-2007**

THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES THE TOWN OF VERNON GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ; THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND DEBT SERVICE APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ; AND THE EDUCATION BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ \_\_\_\_\_ FOR A GENERAL FUND TOTAL OF \$ \_\_\_\_\_ .

**APPROVAL OF BUDGET REVENUE ESTIMATES  
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006-2007**

THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES THE TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ TO COINCIDE WITH THE TOTAL RECOMMENDED APPROPRIATIONS OF \$ AND TO AUTHORIZE THE FINANCE OFFICER TO ADJUST LINE ITEMS IN THE ESTIMATED REVENUES AS MAY BE DEEMED NECESSARY.

**SET DATE FOR REFERENDUM.**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY SETS THE DATE FOR THE REFERENDUM UPON THE BUDGET VOTE AS TUESDAY, MAY 23, 2006 BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 6:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M. AT CENTER 375, 375 HARTFORD TURNPIKE, VERNON CONNECTICUT.

**Information:**

Voter totals and survey results relative to the May 9, 2006 referendum.

**ADJOURN:**

Council Member McCoy, seconded by Council Member Herbst, moved TO ADJOURN.

The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

RECEIVED: May 16, 2006  
APPROVED: June 6, 2006  
Vernon Town Council

Karin Z. Pike  
Asst Town Clerk/ Recording Secretary