

**SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL
June 8, 2006**

Senior Center 2nd Floor Conference Room, 26 Park Place, Vernon, CT

Mayor Ellen L. Marmer, M.D. called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL:

The Clerk called the roll as follows:

Present: Council Members Daniel E. Anderson, Bill F. Campbell, Daniel A. Champagne, Bill Fox, Jason L. McCoy, Brian R. Motola, Connie Simon, Christy N. Vale; 8.

Absent: Council Members Mark S. Etre, Marie A. Herbst, Mary A. Oliver, Pauline A. Schaefer; 4.

Entered During Meeting: Council Members Marie A. Herbst (7:41 p.m.), Mary A. Oliver (7:37 p.m.), Pauline A. Schaefer (7:40 p.m.); 3.

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

Mayor Ellen L. Marmer, M.D. gave an overview of the past budget referendums and the current budget situation for the Town.

Council Members Oliver (7:37 p.m.), Schaefer (7:40 p.m.) and Herbst (7:41) entered the meeting.

CITIZEN'S FORUM:

Eileen M. Miller, 77 Center Road, spoke against the budget, stated to "make do with what you have, not what you want". She stated that the Town should go back to basics.

Pam Oliver, 171 Risley Road, spoke against Board of Education cuts and felt that families were getting pushed out of Town.

Jeffrey Adamson, 72 School Brook Lane, in favor of the Town not cutting too much from the budget.

Tanya Merrow, 138 Grove Street, spoke against the budget.

James Tuppance, 67 Orchard Street, spoke against the budget and in favor of cutting administrative and education positions.

Council Member McCoy, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved TO EXTEND CITIZEN'S FORUM UNTIL ITS COMPLETION. The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote.

Phyllis Winkler, 20 Gottier Drive, spoke against Board of Education cuts and stated "we need to take care of our children."

Richard Barile, 15 John Drive, felt that Town and Board of Education budgets should be equal and felt that the Town should look to the State surplus for excess funds.

Michael Winkler, 20 Gottier Drive, felt that the Town should lobby for changes in tax structure and that it should do what needs to be done.

Joe Grabinski, 623 Dart Hill Road, felt that the Town "got yourself in this position", employees must forego "bonuses" and felt that all raises should be cut from all non-union employees.

Rudolph Rossmly, 228 Risley Road, spoke regarding the police department providing service 365 days a year/7 days a week and also stated that the police department makeup has not changed since the mid 1980's. He also felt that department heads do not add "wants" to their budgets and that budget cuts should be fair and across the board including the Board of Education.

Frank Simcic, 127 Jonathan Drive, feels the budget is a "regional" problem and that the Town should distinguish between "wants" and "needs". He also felt that all Council members should show up to meetings and make the "tough" decisions.

Adam Talbot, 30 Tunnel Road, RHS student, stated that the Town depends on the Council to make decisions and also that it should look at the Governor and State legislature for help. He also spoke in support for the Board of Education budget.

Donald Patterson, 228 Tallwood Drive, spoke regarding "Property tax reform", unfunded mandates and to look at the State elections this November.

Norma Marchesani, 18 King Street, spoke against Freshmen sports cuts, cutting AP courses and spoke in support of education.

Martha Daufin, 11 Olive Lane, RHS student, participates in AP courses to get the "highest" level that Vernon offers and spoke against Board of Education cuts.

Deborah Halpryn, 59 Rainbow Trail, stated that she was "scared" as to where the budget was going, doesn't want the Town to "fall apart". Felt that there is a high teacher turnover which is not helping the students or the property values.

Diana Gagne, 37 Valley View Lane, spoke against Board of Education cuts and felt that the State gives "inadequate" support to the Town.

Peter Tracey, 31 Center Street, spoke in support of the budget.

Calliope Zenick, 70-321 Old Town Road, spoke against leaf and bulk pickup. Spoke in favor of AP courses and against Board of Education cuts.

Bill Smith, 30 Vernwood Drive, felt that the Town should keep property taxes "in line".

Peggy Chaffee, 9 Summit Road, spoke in support of all-day kindergarten. Felt things should be kept "equal across the board" and the Town needs a well-rounded budget to support all services.

Elissa Blanchard, 166 Irene Drive, spoke against Board of Education cuts.

Suzanne Vaillancourt, 96 School Brook Lane, spoke against part-time teachers and felt that "college is a choice and school is an obligation."

Bill Daufin, 11 Olive Lane, spoke against public safety, Board of Education and administrative cuts. Requested that the Town not make "false cuts."

John Machung, 31 Timber Lane, questioned whether the Town and the Board of Education duplicated services and whether or not healthcare was combined between the two. He also felt that pension and administrative costs should be taken over by the State. He also questioned whether or not the Board of Education could be cut lower than the previous year.

Finance Officer James Luddecke answered questions concerning prior comments.

Ellen M. Byrne, 1170 Hartford Tnpk, spoke against the Library and Visiting Nurses budget.

Joel Kendrick, 100.5 Talcott Avenue, spoke in favor of a "no increase" budget and would like to encourage the new Town Administrator to move to Vernon.

Denise Neumeyer, 34 Boxwood Drive, spoke in favor of AP classes.

Brendan McKibben, 12 Reed Street, thanked Town Council and Administration for their time and effort given to the Town. He felt that a 0% increase was not realistic and requested the Town to think of additional income ideas and to think "outside the box".

Lynn Nielson, 82 Meadowlark Road, spoke in support of the Education budget and in favor of the AP classes.

James Hoover, 155 Trout Stream Drive, President Vernon Taxpayer's Association, felt that the Town is becoming "unaffordable" and passed out a handout related to web sites regarding cost saving programs.

John Shea, 63 Vista View, spoke in support of charging students for transportation to and from school. He suggested a freeze for all salaries above \$70,000 for 1 year and felt that Town employees should pay 50% of health costs.

Peter Kosak, 34 Farmbrook Lane, spoke in favor of "big box" developments, against more senior developments and against the cost to "glamorize" Rockville-too much history, preservation and recreation. He also felt that field trips were not necessary in the schools.

No other residents wished to speak and Citizen's Forum was closed at 10:13 p.m.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member McCoy, moved TO EXTEND CURFEW UNTIL THE COMPLETION OF BUSINESS. The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote.

Mayor Ellen L. Marmer, M.D. called a recess at 10:14 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 10:32 p.m.

1. OPEN ALL BUDGETARY ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL ACTION.

Finance Officer James Luddecke explained the Budget Revision sheets.

Discussion took place.

Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member Oliver, moved TO OPEN AND CORRECT TAB 7 DPW BUILDINGS CODE 1034023 FROM (34,444) TO (3,444). The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member Champagne left the table.

Council Member Campbell, seconded by Council Member Anderson, moved TO DECREASE TAB 6 POLICE CODE 10230180 WAGES BY \$8,000 BY POSTPONING NEW HIRES UNTIL DECEMBER AND INCREASING TAB 6 POLICE CODE 10230180 WEAPONS AND SAFETY EQUIPMENT BY \$14,680.

Council Member Campbell, seconded by Council Member McCoy moved TO AMEND THE MOTION TO ADD \$6,680 TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT BUDGET. The motion on the amendment passed 8 to 2 on a voice vote with Council Members Campbell, Fox, Herbst, McCoy, Motola, Schaefer, Simon and Vale voting yes and Council Members Anderson and Oliver voting no.

The main motion as amended was moved 8 to 2 on a voice vote with Council Members Campbell, Fox, Herbst, McCoy, Motola, Schaefer, Simon and Vale voting yes and Council Members Anderson and Oliver voting no.

Council Member Champagne returned to the table.

Council Member Vale, seconded by Council Member McCoy, moved TO AMEND TAB 12 EDUCATION CODE 10990330 FROM \$300,000. TO \$250,000. FROM THE BUDGET REVISION SHEET.

Discussion took place.

Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member Motola, moved TO MOVE THE QUESTION. The motion was carried 10 to 1 on a voice vote with Council Members Anderson, Campbell, Champagne, Fox, Herbst, Motola, Oliver, Schaefer, Simon and Vale voting yes and Council Member McCoy voting no.

The main motion failed 4 to 7 on a voice vote with Council Members Campbell, Champagne, McCoy and Vale voting yes and Council Members Anderson, Fox, Herbst, Motola, Oliver, Schaefer and Simon voting no.

Council Member Schaefer, seconded by Council Member Oliver, moved TO ACCEPT THE BUDGET REVISION SHEET AS AMENDED.

A recess was called at 12:02 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 12:06 a.m.

Council Member McCoy, seconded by Council Member Vale, moved TO AMEND THE MAIN MOTION TO EXCLUDE TAB 12 EDUCATION CODE 10990330. The motion on the amendment failed 4 to 7 on a voice vote with Council Members Campbell, Champagne, McCoy and Vale voting yes and Council Members Anderson, Fox, Herbst, Motola, Oliver, Schaefer and Simon voting no.

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

A recess was taken at 12:08 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 12:30 a.m.

(A copy of the Final Budget Revision sheets are appended to these minutes and marked as "Appendix A.")

2. APPROVAL OF TOWN OF VERNON BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006-2007 FOR THIRD REFERENDUM

Council Member McCoy, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved TO PRESENT THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006-2007 IN THE AMOUNT OF **\$70,842,119**. 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 THIRD BUDGET REFERENDUM SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 20, 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 **\$70,842,119**?"

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

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

Council Member McCoy, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES THE TOWN OF VERNON GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF **\$23,897,260**; THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND DEBT SERVICE APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF **\$4,077,376**; AND THE EDUCATION BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF **\$42,867,483** FOR A GENERAL FUND TOTAL OF **\$70,842,119**.

The motion was carried 10 to 1 on a voice vote with Council Members Anderson, Campbell, Fox, Herbst, McCoy, Motola, Oliver, Schaefer, Simon and Vale voting yes and Council Member Champagne voting no.

APPROVAL OF BUDGET REVENUE ESTIMATES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006-2007

Council Member McCoy, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES THE TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUE IN THE AMOUNT OF **\$70,842,119** TO COINCIDE WITH THE TOTAL RECOMMENDED APPROPRIATIONS OF **\$70,842,119** AND TO AUTHORIZE THE FINANCE OFFICER TO ADJUST LINE ITEMS IN THE ESTIMATED REVENUES AS MAY BE DEEMED NECESSARY.

The motion was carried 10 to 1 on a voice vote with Council Members Anderson, Campbell, Fox, Herbst, McCoy, Motola, Oliver, Schaefer, Simon and Vale voting yes and Council Member Champagne voting no.

3. SET DATE FOR REFERENDUM.

Council Member McCoy, seconded by Council Member Oliver, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY SETS THE DATE FOR THE REFERENDUM UPON THE BUDGET VOTE AS JUNE 20, 2006 BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 6:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M. AT CENTER 375, 375 HARTFORD TURNPIKE, VERNON CONNECTICUT.

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

4. INFORMATION:

Voter totals relative to the June 6, 2006 referendum.

YES votes: 1,135

NO votes: 1,876

ADJOURN:

Council Member Schaefer, seconded by Council Member Vale, moved TO ADJOURN. The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 12:36 a.m.

Received: June 13, 2006
Approved: June 20, 2006
Vernon Town Council

Karin Z. Pike
Asst Town Clerk/Recording Secretary

Appendix A

Appendix A (continued)

Appendix A (continued)

Appendix A (continued)

Appendix A (continued)

Appendix A (continued)

Appendix A (continued)

Appendix A (continued)