

**REGULAR/SPECIAL MEETING
PUBLIC HEARING
OF THE
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL
October 3, 2006**

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

Mayor Ellen L. Marmer, M.D. called the meeting to order at 7:34 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, Mark S. Etre, Bill Fox, Marie A. Herbst, Brian R. Motola, Mary A. Oliver, Connie Simon, Christy N. Vale; 10.

Absent: Council Members Jason L. McCoy, Pauline A. Schaefer; 2.

Also Present: Mayor Ellen L. Marmer, M.D., Town Administrator Christopher Clark and Recording Secretary Karin Z. Pike.

Mayor Ellen L. Marmer, M.D. conveyed her condolences to Council Member Christy Vale from the Town and the Council in the recent loss of her father. She also announced that Old Business item (discussion regarding revaluation) would be postponed until the next meeting due to Mr. Wheeler's absence.

Mayor Marmer notified all that there is going to be a public hearing at the South Windsor Town Hall on Thursday, October 5 at 6:30 p.m. relative to the 30% rate hike being requested by Connecticut Water.

CITIZEN'S FORUM:

Bill Campbell, 214 Tracy Drive, read a letter into the record written by himself to Chief Rudolph Rossmly regarding his recent participation in the Vernon Police Department's Citizens Academy program.

No other residents wished to speak and Citizen's Forum was closed at 7:44 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Mayor Ellen L. Marmer, M.D. called the public hearing to order at 7:44 p.m. in regards to "A Resolution Regarding an Additional Appropriation for the Farmland and Historic Preservation Surcharge in the Amount of \$118,950.00".

Recording Secretary Karin Z. Pike read into the record the legal notice of the Public Hearing/Special Town Meeting and certified that the notice was posted on the Town Hall bulletin board on September 21, 2006 and published in the Journal Inquirer on September 25, 2006.

Mayor Ellen L. Marmer, M.D. adjourned the Public Hearing/Regular meeting at 7:46 p.m.

Mayor Ellen L. Marmer, M.D. called the Special meeting to order at 7:46 p.m.

MAYOR RECOMMENDED ACTION ON THE RESOLUTION

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Oliver, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY ADOPTS THE RESOLUTION ENTITLED "A RESOLUTION REGARDING AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE FARMLAND AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION SURCHARGE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$118,950.00".

Mayor Ellen L. Marmer, M.D. called for nominations for a moderator to preside over the Special Town Meeting.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Vale, moved TO NOMINATE JAMES LUDDECKE AS MODERATOR. There being no other nominees, the Council approved the nomination unanimously 10 to 0 on a voice vote.

The legal notice had been previously read, therefore, Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Simon moved TO ELIMINATE THE READING OF THE LEGAL NOTICE A SECOND TIME. The motion was carried unanimously 10 to 0 on a voice vote.

The Moderator explained the requirements necessary to speak at the Special Town Meeting as to residency, age, and ownership of property and tonight's special meeting would be strictly for comments on the proposed resolution.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No residents wished to comment.

The vote on the resolution passed 9 to 1 on a voice vote with Council Members Anderson, Campbell, Champagne, Fox, Herbst, Motola, Oliver, Simon and Vale voting yes and Council Member Etre voting no.

(A copy of the resolution is appended to these minutes and marked as "Appendix A.")

Council Member Fox, seconded by Council Member Simon, moved TO ADJOURN THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING. The motion was carried unanimously 10 to 0 on a voice vote.

The Special Town Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

The Regular meeting resumed at 7:50 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS:

State Representative Claire Janowski presented a Legislative citation to Michael J. Purcaro, Emergency Management Director.

Mayor Ellen L. Marmer, M.D. read a letter from Governor Jodi Rell congratulating Mr. Purcaro.

Ellen L. Marmer, M.D., Mayor presented a Proclamation to Michael J. Purcaro, Emergency Management Director.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Oliver, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2006, AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED AS AMENDED ON PAGE 79. The motion was carried unanimously 9 to 0 on a voice vote. Council Member Vale abstained.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

Council Member Motola pulled C.N.B. 1. for discussion.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Oliver, moved TO APPROVE C.N.B. 2 AND 3 AS FOLLOWS:

1. Request for Tax Refunds – Current and Prior Fiscal Year(s).

2. Request the Town Council approve the appointment of Dennis Sullivan as an alternate member of the Conservation Commission.
3. Request the Town Council approve the appointment of William Dauphin as a member of the School Building Advisory Commission.

NEW BUSINESS (CONSENT ITEMS):

C.N.B. 2. Request the Town Council to approve the Mayor's appointment of Dennis Sullivan, (D) 95 Echo Ridge Drive, as an alternate member of the Conservation Commission, to fill a vacancy due to the regular appointment of Scott Sierakowski, said term to expire on December 31, 2007.

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE APPOINTMENT OF DENNIS SULLIVAN (D) TO SERVE AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION, SAID TERM TO EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2007.

C.N.B. 3. Request the Town Council to approve the Mayor's appointment of William Dauphin, (D) 11 Olive Lane, as a member of the School Building Advisory Commission, to fill a vacancy due to the resignation of Christopher Crowne, said term to expire on June 30, 2007.

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE APPOINTMENT OF WILLIAM DAUPHIN (D) TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE SCHOOL BUILDING ADVISORY COMMISSION, SAID TERM TO EXPIRE ON JUNE 30, 2007.

The motion was carried unanimously 10 to 0 on a voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS (TAKEN FROM CONSENT AGENDA):

C.N.B. 1. Request for Tax Refunds – Current and Prior Year(s).

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Simon, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES TWELVE (12) TAX REFUNDS FOR THE CURRENT YEAR IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,795.38 AND THREE (3) TAX REFUNDS FOR THE PRIOR YEAR IN THE AMOUNT OF \$894.42, AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM THE COLLECTOR OF REVENUE DATED SEPTEMBER 28, 2006 TO THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR.

(A copy of the memorandum is appended to these minutes and marked as "Appendix B.")

Finance Officer James Luddecke was present for questions and comment.

Discussion took place.

The motion was carried unanimously 10 to 0 on a voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

David Wheeler, Assessor will be present for discussion/presentation/informational session relative to revaluation.

This item was postponed due to Mr. Wheeler's absence until the next Town Council meeting.

IDENTIFICATION AND ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS:

A.A.I. 1. Council Member Motola requested that Informational Item #3 (Copy of memorandum from Bernice Dixon, Town Clerk thanking her staff, the Public Works Department, and Sub-Contractor Michael Parys for their assistance with floor and carpet repair in the Town Clerk's office) be added for discussion.

By unanimous consent, A.A.I. 1. was added to the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS:

N.B. 1A. Request the Town Council to adopt a Resolution entitled "Electronic Voting Equipment Agreement".

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Vale, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY ADOPTS THE RESOLUTION ENTITLED "ELECTRONIC VOTING EQUIPMENT AGREEMENT", ACCEPTING OWNERSHIP OF THE SAID "LHS OPTICAL SCAN VOTING MACHINES", AND WILL BEGIN TO USE SAID VOTING MACHINES WITH THE FIRST ELECTION OF NOVEMBER 7TH 2006.

Registrar of Voters Judith Beaudreau and Patricia Noblet were available for questions and comment.

Discussion took place.

The motion was carried unanimously 10 to 0 on a voice vote.

N.B. 1B. Request the Town Council to adopt a Resolution entitled "Electronic Voting Equipment Agreement".

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Vale, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY ADOPTS THE RESOLUTION ENTITLED "ELECTRONIC VOTING EQUIPMENT AGREEMENT", ACCEPTING OWNERSHIP OF THE SAID "IVS VOTING SYSTEM" AND WILL BEGIN USING SAID VOTING MACHINES WITH THE ELECTION TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 7. 2006.

Registrar of Voters Judith Beaudreau and Patricia Noblet were available for questions and comment.

The motion was carried unanimously 10 to 0 on a voice vote.

N.B. 2A. Christopher Clark, Town Administrator to give presentation relative to road projects.

Also present were Tim Timberman, Town Engineer and Cardinal Engineering representatives.

Informational.

N.B. 2B. Request for Town Council to approve amendment #2 to the Cardinal Engineering contract.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Oliver, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES AMENDMENT #2 TO THE CARDINAL ENGINEERING CONTRACT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$360,820.00, THEREBY MAKING THE TOTAL FOR CONTRACT #763 \$1,976,224.00, SAID FUNDS TO COME FROM BOND PROCEEDS.

Christopher Clark, Town Administrator, Tim Timberman, Town Engineer and Cardinal Engineering Representatives were available for questions and comment.

Discussion took place.

The motion was carried 9 to 0 on a voice vote with Council Members Campbell, Champagne, Etre, Fox, Herbst, Motola, Oliver, Simon and Vale voting yes and Council Member Anderson voting no.

N.B. 3. Request the Town Council to approve the creation of a "Property Maintenance Fund".

Council Member Etre, seconded by Council Member Herbst, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE CREATION OF A "PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CLEANUP FUND", WITH AN INITIAL ALLOCATION OF \$3,000.00 FROM AVAILABLE FUNDS.

Christopher Clark, Town Administrator and James Luddecke, Finance Officer were available for questions and comment.

Discussion took place.

The motion was carried unanimously 10 to 0 on a voice vote.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

None.

DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS:

A.A.I. 1. Council Member Motola requested that Informational Item #3 (Copy of memorandum from Bernice Dixon, Town Clerk thanking her staff, the Public Works Department, and Sub-Contractor Michael Parys for their assistance with floor and carpet repair in the Town Clerk's office) be added for discussion. Discussion took place.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

1. Minutes from Board of Education regular meeting of September 11, 2006, minutes from the August 7th meeting of the Design Review Committee.
2. Monthly report for August from Bernice Dixon, Town Clerk.
3. Copy of memorandum from Bernice Dixon, Town Clerk thanking her staff, the Public Works Department, and Sub-Contractor Michael Parys for their assistance with floor and carpet repair in the Town Clerk's office.
4. Updated informational listing for Mayor, Town Council members as of September 18, 2006.
5. Reminder from the Bicentennial Committee that an informational session and presentation for volunteers and interested parties regarding the Town's 200th birthday will be held at the Senior Center on October 19th at 7:00 P.M. Town Council members are encouraged to attend.
6. Amended list of 2007 Legal Holidays, Town of Vernon.
7. Copy of Press Release announcing that St. Joseph School is a recipient of the "No Child Left Behind – Blue Ribbon Award".

ADJOURN:

Council Member Fox, seconded by Council Member Simon, moved TO ADJOURN.

The motion was carried unanimously 10 to 0 on a voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:44 p.m.

Received: October 10, 2006
Approved: October 17, 2006

Karin Z. Pike
Asst Town Clerk/Recording Secretary