

**PUBLIC HEARING / ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES**  
**APRIL 24, 2012 - 7:00 PM**

**ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM**  
**70 LOVELAND HILL ROAD**  
**VERNON, CONNECTICUT**

RECEIVED  
VERNON TOWN CLERK  
12 APR 26 AM 9:34

Pledge of allegiance

Mayor George Apel called the public hearing/annual town meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

There were approximately 80 citizens present at the Annual Town Meeting in addition to the Mayor and members of the Town Council.

Town Clerk, Bernice K. Dixon read into the record the legal notice of the Public Hearing/Annual Town Meeting and certified that the notice was posted on the bulletin board in the Town Hall and published in the Journal Inquirer in the April 14-15, 2012 edition.

Mayor called for nominations for a moderator. Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Winkler made a motion for Attorney Dorian Famiglietti as the moderator. Motion Carried unanimously.

As Moderator Ms. Famiglietti explained the requirements necessary to vote at the Referendum as to residence, age and ownership of property.

The Moderator then asked if anyone present wanted to comment on the budget:

Public Comments:

Marie Herbst, 245 Brandy Hill Road, spoke as a citizen of the Town of Vernon. She spoke about the purchasing police vehicles, need for a resource officer at the Middle School, and breathing apparatus' for the Fire Department, the cut to the Rockville Downtown Association budget and the Hockanum Valley Community Council budget.

Steve Peterson, commented on the purchasing of police vehicles and stated that the Town is purchasing 2 new vehicles during the budget period.

Bill Rothen, Lantern Lane, thanked the Town Council for presenting the budget and asked about the excise tax which is a state tax.

Tanjua Damon-Merrow, 138 Grove St., spoke about support for the education budget and should the referendum for the budget fail, she requested Town Council members not make any more cuts to the education budget.

Alice Johns, 275 Risley Road, regardless of the referendum outcome, she requested support for the education budget.

Paul Stansel, 39 Reed St., spoke about his opposition to the cut in the education budget. Regardless of the outcome of the referendum, he requested Town Council members review the education budget and consider increasing the budget.

Carol Burke, Bolton Road, spoke about residents rights to reject the budget as presented, but requested residents fill in the area of the ballot that explains why they are rejecting the budget.

Dan Nevelos, 59 Hillcrest Dr., spoke about the education budget and requested a review of the education budget.

Harold Cummings, 32 Ravens Croft, spoke about the different populations on the Town of Vernon including a large senior population. He congratulated Town Council members for presenting a balanced budget that addresses all the needs across the board.

Carl Schaefer, 1A Fox Hill Dr, He spoke about DPW purchasing 3 dump trucks and the purchase of 3 new fire trucks; his issues with the pension funding; he spoke about the \$5,000 decrease to the Rockville Downtown Association and their current activities, he requested Town Council members consider adding the funding back into the budget; requested a review of the Hockanum Valley Community Center budget with a consideration of increased funding to help purchase food; he requested the support of the Town Council and Mayor to purchase new cruisers for the Police Dept; and spoke about cuts to the education budget.

Adam Weissberger, 1158 Hartford Turnpike, spoke about the budget process, spoke in favor of the current budget and encouraged passage of the budget.

Mike Winkler, 20 Gottier Dr, spoke about minority party recommendations to the budget and the reason behind the unanimous vote on the budget and stated that his support for a budget that was as good as they could get.

Brian Motola, Vernwood Dr, requested support for the budget.

John Kopec, 24 Jan Dr, requested support for the budget.

Jason McCoy, 216 Skinner Road – requested the finance officer speak about increases and decreases in the budget.

James Luddecke responded to Mr. McCoy's request by stating that no services currently being funded will not be funded in next year's budget, he spoke about the decreases in health insurance for town and board of education employees.

The Moderator closed the public hearing at 7:59 PM.

The Moderator called for the adoption of the following minutes:

**Proposed motion:**

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made the following motion:

The Annual Town Meeting waives the reading of and moves acceptance of the minutes as presented for the town meeting held on August 16, 2011.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Adjourn (8:00 PM)**

Moderator calls for a motion to adjourn. Council Member Motola seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Received:

Approved:

Respectfully Submitted,

Jill Kentfield  
Recording Secretary