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MINUTES
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING
TOWN HALL - 14 PARK PLACE - 3rd Floor
VERNON, CONNECTICUT

April 9, 2012 – 7:30 PM

Mayor George Apel called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM

A) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

B) ROLL CALL:

Present: Council Members Bill Campbell, Thomas DiDio, Virginia Gingras, Judy Hany, John Kopec, Brian Motola, Steven Peterson, Thomasina Russell, Daniel Sullivan, Adam Weissberger, and Michael Winkler

Absent: Marie Herbst

Entered During Meeting:

Also Present: Mayor George Apel, Town Administrator John Ward, Recording Secretary Jill Kentfield

C.) PUBLIC HEARING

Open Public Hearing (7:31 PM)

Mayor Apel called the public hearing to order to receive comments and answer any questions from the public. The clerk read the legal notice into the record.

Public comments:

There were no public comments

Close Public Hearing (7:33 PM)

Council Member Weissberger, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to return to the special town council budget meeting.

D.) PRESENTATION

Mayor George F. Apel and James M. Luddecke, Finance Officer and Treasurer to present any updates since the April 3, 2012 meeting.

Mayor Apel announced that this was the last budget meeting.

E.) BUDGET REVIEW

1. Recreation – Administration
2. Recreation – Public Celebration
3. Recreation – Parks Maintenance
4. Recreation Programs – Special Fund
5. Community and Economic Development
6. Town Planner – Administration
7. Finance – Administration
8. Finance – Independent Audit
9. Finance – Treasury
10. Finance – Purchasing
11. Social Security and Medicare
12. Pension
13. Group Insurance
14. Unemployment Compensation

15. Municipal Insurance
16. Contingency
17. Debt Service – Principal Payments
18. Debt Service – Interest Payments
19. Revenue

Recreation – Administration

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to open tab 9, pages 123-126, code 10560250 in the amount of \$419,299. Motion carried unanimously. Discussion took place. Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to close tab 9, pages 123-126, code 10560250 in the amount of \$419,299. Motion carried unanimously.

Recreation – Public Celebration

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to open tab 9, page 127, code 10560253 in the amount of \$20,000. Motion carried unanimously. Discussion took place. Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to close tab 9, page 127, code 10560253 in the amount of \$20,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Recreation – Parks Maintenance

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to open tab 9, pages 128-132, code 10560254 in the amount of \$604,123. Motion carried unanimously. Discussion took place. Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to reduce code 57730 by \$650.00. Motion carried unanimously. Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to close tab 9, pages 128-132, code 10560254 in the amount of \$603,473. Motion carried unanimously.

Recreation Programs – Special Fund

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to open tab 12, pages 164-167, code 26560444 in the amount of \$596,184. Motion carried unanimously. Discussion took place. Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to close tab 12, pages 164-167, code 26560444 in the amount of \$596,184. Motion carried unanimously.

Community and Economic Development

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to open tab 5, pages 44-46 code 10151171 in the amount of \$50,000. Motion carried unanimously. Discussion took place. Council Member Campbell, seconded by Council Member Peterson made a motion to reduce object code 58800 in the amount of \$5,000. Discussion took place. Motion carried, Council Members Winkler, Russell, DiDio, Gingras and Motola opposed. Council Member Campbell, seconded by Council Member Peterson made a motion to reduce the Vernon Community and Economic Development budget by \$5,000. Discussion took place. Motion carried, Council Member Winkler, Russell, DiDio, Gingras opposed. Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to close tab 5, pages 44-46 code 10151171 in the amount of \$40,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Town Planner – Administration

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to open tab 5, pages 41-43, code 10150170 in the amount of \$251,979. Motion carried unanimously. Discussion took place. Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to close tab 5, pages 41-43, code 10150170 in the amount of \$251,979. Motion carried unanimously.

Finance – Administration

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to open tab 5, pages 17-19, code 10114140 in the amount of \$468,369. Motion carried unanimously. Discussion took place. Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to reduce object code 51010 in the amount of \$2,000. Motion carried unanimously. Council Member Motola, seconded by

Council Member Weissberger made a motion to close tab 5, pages 17-19, code 10114140 in the amount of \$466,369. Motion carried unanimously.

Finance – Independent Audit

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to open tab 5, page 20, code 10114141 in the amount of \$51,100. Motion carried unanimously. Discussion took place.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to close tab 5, page 20, code 10114141 in the amount of \$51,100. Motion carried unanimously.

Finance – Treasury

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to open tab 5, page 21, code 10114142 in the amount of \$21,455. Motion carried unanimously. Discussion took place.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to close tab 5, page 21, code 10114142 in the amount of \$21,455. Motion carried unanimously.

Finance – Purchasing

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to open tab 5, page 22, code 10114143 in the amount of \$9,950. Motion carried unanimously. Discussion took place. Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to close tab 5, page 22, code 10114143 in the amount of \$9,950. Motion carried unanimously.

Social Security and Medicare

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to open tab 10, page 136, code 10670270 in the amount of \$943,000. Motion carried unanimously. Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to close tab 10, page 136, code 10670270 in the amount of \$943,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Pension

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to open tab 10, page 137, code 10670271 in the amount of \$2,251,074. Motion carried unanimously. Discussion took place.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Russell made a motion to close tab 10, page 137, code 10670271 in the amount of \$2,251,074. Motion carried unanimously.

Group Insurance

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to open tab 10, pages 138-139, code 10670272 in the amount of \$2,747,189. Motion carried unanimously. Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to close tab 10, pages 138-139, code 10670272 in the amount of \$2,747,189. Motion carried unanimously.

Unemployment Compensation

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to open tab 10, page 140, code 10670273 in the amount of \$25,000. Motion carried unanimously. Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to close tab 10, page 140, code 10670273 in the amount of \$25,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Municipal Insurance

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to open tab 10, pages 141-142, code 10671278 in the amount of \$86,125. Motion carried unanimously. Discussion took place. Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to close tab 10, pages 141-142, code 10671278 in the amount of \$86,125. Motion carried unanimously.

Contingency

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to open tab 10, page 143, code 10672280 in the amount of \$190,000. Motion carried unanimously. Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to reduce object code 58400 in the amount of

\$20,000. Discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously. Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to close tab 10, page 143, code 10672280 in the amount of \$170,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Debt Service – Principal Payments

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to open tab 11, page 149, code 10883292 in the amount of \$4,282,698. Motion carried unanimously. Discussion took place. Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to increase object code 59100 in the amount of \$145,000 to get principal bonds. Discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously. Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to close tab 11, page 149, code 10883292 in the amount of \$4,427,698. Motion carried unanimously.

Debt Service – Interest Payments

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to open tab 11, page 150, code 10883294 in the amount of \$1,734,073. Motion carried unanimously. Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to decrease object code 59200 in the amount of \$303,940. Motion carried unanimously. Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to close tab 11, page 150, code 10883294 in the amount of \$1,430,133. Motion carried unanimously.

F.) MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNTS REQUIRING ACTION

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to open tab 11, page 147, code 10780290 Capitol Improvements in the amount of \$187,965. Motion carried unanimously. Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to increase object code 58800 in the amount of \$200,000. Motion carried unanimously. Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to close tab 11, page 147, code 10780290 Capitol Improvements in the amount of \$387,965. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to open tab 6, page 66, Animal Control code 10233188 in the amount of \$131,660. Motion carried unanimously. Discussion took place. Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to reduce object code 51020 in the amount of \$5,000. Discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously. Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to close tab 6, page 66, Animal Control code 10233188 in the amount of \$126,660. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Campbell, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to open tab 5, page 12, General Elections, code 10113130. Motion carried unanimously. Council Member Campbell, seconded by Council Member Peterson made a motion to reduce object code 54430 by \$1,300. Discussion took place. Council Member Campbell withdrew his motion. Council Member Campbell, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to close tab 5, page 12, General Elections, code 10113130 as the account currently stands. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member DiDio, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to open tab 6, page 52, Police. Motion carried unanimously. Council Member DiDio, seconded by Council Member Winkler made a motion to increase object code 57610 in the amount of \$25,100 for a new patrol vehicle. Motion failed, Council Members Campbell, Hany, Kopec, Motola, Peterson, Sullivan, and Weissberger opposed. Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to close tab 6, page 52 as the account currently stands. Motion carried unanimously.

(9:53 PM) Council Member Campbell, seconded by Council Member Hany made a motion to extend curfew until the end of business. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member DiDio, seconded by Council Member Winkler made a motion to open tab 6, page 55, Fire Fighting and Administration. Motion carried unanimously. Council Member DiDio, seconded by Council Member Winkler made a motion to increase object code 57873 to purchase breather masks as needed by the Chief. Motion failed, Council Members Campbell, Hany, Kopec, Motola, Peterson, Sullivan, and Weissberger opposed. Council Member DiDio, seconded by Council Member Winkler made a motion to close tab 6, page 55, Fire Fighting and Administration in the amount designated as it currently stands. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Motola made a motion to open tab 5, page 16, referendum, code 10113133. Discussion took place. Council Member Motola withdrew his motion.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to open tab 12, page 152, Education, code 10990330 in the amount of \$48,230,997. Motion carried unanimously. Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to reduce the Education budget by \$220,000 Discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously. Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to close tab 12, page 152, Education, code 10990330 in the amount of \$48,010,997. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Russell, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to open tab 8, page 103, Hockanum Valley Community Council. Motion carried unanimously. Council Member Russell, seconded by Council Member Winkler made a motion to increase code 58700 in the amount of \$10,000 to purchase food for the pantry. Discussion took place. Motion failed, Council Members Campbell, Hany, Kopec, Motola, Peterson, Sullivan, and Weissberger opposed. Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to close tab 8, page 103 in the amount designated.

Recess (10:04 PM)
Reconvene (10:32 PM)

G) **Finalize budget**

APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE TOWN OF VERNON FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012-2013

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

APPROVE THE TOWN OF VERNON GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$26,172,367; THE CAPITOL IMPROVEMENTS AND DEBT SERVICE APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,245,796; AND THE EDUCATION BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$48,180,997 FOR A GENERAL FUND TOTAL OF \$80,599,160.

Discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF BUDGET REVENUE ESTIMATES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012-2013.

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

APPROVE THE TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$80,599,160 TO COINCIDE WITH THE TOTAL RECOMMEND APPROPRIATIONS OF \$80,599,160 AND TO AUTHORIZE THE FINANCE OFFICER TO ADJUST LINE ITEMS IN THE ESTIMATED REVENUES AS MAY BE DEEMED NECESSARY.

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF TOWN OF VERNON BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012-2013 FOR PRESENTATION AT THE PUBLIC HEARING/TOWN MEETING

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

PRESENT THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012-2013 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$80,599,160 TO THE ELECTORS AND QUALIFIED TAXPAYERS AT THE PUBLIC HEARING/ANNUAL TOWN MEETING SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 2012 AT 7:00 PM IN THE AUDITORIUM OF ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL AT 70 LOVELAND HILL ROAD, VERNON, CONNECTICUT. THE TOWN CLERK IS AUTHORIZED AND DIRECTED TO PUBLISH A SUMMARY OF SAID PROPOSED BUDGET AND ENTERPRISE ACTIVITY ESTIMATES SHOWING ANTICIPATED REVENUES BY MAJOR SOURCES AND PROPOSED APPROPRIATIONS BY FUNCTIONS AND/OR DEPARTMENTS AND THE AMOUNTS TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION, AT LEAST FIVE DAYS BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEARING.

Motion carried unanimously.

Recess 10:35 PM
Reconvene 10:45 PM

Discussion took place regarding the mill rate.

Adjourn (10:49 PM)

Council Member Weissberger, seconded by Council Member Peterson made a motion adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Received:

Approved:

Respectfully Submitted,

Jill Kentfield
Recording Secretary