

February 20, 2018

Approved Minutes

Vernon Town Council- Regular Meeting

Town Hall- 14 Park Place- 3rd Floor

Vernon, Connecticut

February 20, 2018- 7:30PM

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VERNON TOWN CLERK
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Mayor Daniel A. Champagne called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM

A) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

B) ROLL CALL:

Present: Council Members Steve Wakefield, Thomas DiDio, Brian Motola, Julie Clay, Mike Wendus, Laura Bush, Bill Campbell, Ann Letendre, Jim Tedford, and Steve Peterson (and Ralph Zahner)

Absent: Pauline Schaefer

Entered During Meeting: None

Also Present: Town Administrator Michael J. Purcaro, Recording Secretary Cassandra Minor

C) CITIZENS FORUM

None.

D) EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Campbell made the following motion to enter Executive Session #1 at 7:32PM.

THE TOWN COUNCIL, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GIVEN IN CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES §1-200, (6) (B), HEREBY GOES INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING REAL ESTATE TAX APPEALS: *CV-17-6039043-S BOSTONROCKVILLE, LLC vs TOWN OF VERNON ET AL.*, AND *CV-17-6039046-S BOSTONVERNON11, LLC vs. TOWN OF VERNON, ET AL.*, AND INVITES TOWN ADMINISTRATOR MICHAEL J. PURCARO, ASSISTANT TOWN ATTORNEY MARTIN BURKE AND TOWN OF VERNON ASSESSOR DAVID WHEELER TO ATTEND.

Executive Session #2 #1 ended at 7:46PM.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to authorize the Town Attorney to settle a tax appeal 1) CV-17-6039043-S, captioned "BOSTONROCKVILLE, LLC vs. Town of Vernon et al," for taxes on the Grand List of October 1, 2016 for the assessed value of \$787,500 or the 100% fair market value of \$1,125,000 and to adjust assessment and tax bill on the January 2016 bill for the 2016 Grand List. The Property is commonly known as 73 EAST STREET, Map 46-0125-0005A. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made the following motion to authorize the Town Attorney to settle a tax appeal 2) CV-17-6039046-S, captioned "BOSTONVERNON11, LLC vs. Town of Vernon, et al" for taxes on the Grand List of October 1, 2016 for the assessed value of \$2,030,000 or the 100% fair market value of \$2,900,000 and to adjust assessment and tax bill on the January 2016 bill for the 2016 Grand List. The property address is commonly known as 281 HARTFORD TURNPIKE, Map 02-0011-00013. Motion carried unanimously.

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Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Peterson made the following motion to go into Executive Session #2 at 7:48PM:

THE TOWN COUNCIL, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GIVEN IN CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES § 1-200, (6) (E), AND PURSUANT TO CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES § 1-210, (b) (7), CONCERNING THE ACQUISITION OF THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS THE ROCKVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY INC., HEREBY MOVES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AND INVITES TOWN ADMINISTRATOR MICHAEL J. PURCARO AND ASSISTANT TOWN ATTORNEY MARTIN BURKE TO ATTEND.

No motion taken.

Executive Session #2 ended at 8:14PM

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush, made the following motion to go into Executive Session #3 at 8:16PM:

THE TOWN COUNCIL, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GIVEN IN CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES § 1-200, (2), HEREBY MOVES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS A PERSONNEL MATTER AND INVITES TOWN ADMINISTRATOR MICHAEL J. PURCARO AND ASSISTANT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DAWN MASELEK TO ATTEND.

No Motion taken.

Executive Session #3 ended at 8:33PM

F) PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMIMISTRATION

1. In concert with the Superintendent, BOE and our broker, USI, we have renegotiated the Town of Vernon's LAP Insurance with CIRMA. As a result of the negotiations CIRMA has agreed, based on our excellent record, our stellar Risk Management Committee and our overall general experience, to reduce our premiums in the first year 2018-2019 by 7.5%, in 2019-2020 the premium will go up a maximum of 3.0% and in year 2020-2021 the premium will go up a maximum of 3.0% , keeping us at 1.5% below 2017-2018 rates. Over all, in the first contract year alone this represents approximately \$50,000 in savings. Thank you to all those who worked on this contract and helped to maintain our stellar CIRMA experience.

2. **Update on the budgetary process:** Human Services and Capital Improvements as well as the Board of Education have completed their portions of the 2018-2019 budget. The Mayor will review all the department documents to present to the Town Council by March 15, 2018. You have before you this evening a budget meeting schedule to review and approve.

3. **Update on Employee Self-Service of (ESS):** ESS is a software program that is web based, and will give our employees access to their pay stubs and other data. This will eliminate paper checks and assist our employees with getting information they need seven days a week. Early testing has been very positive and we are now in the troubleshooting phase. Full rollout is anticipated in the next month or so.

4. **Cyber Security Training:** Was held last week. The training began as an in house training session and word spread to other towns. Over 45 individuals from Tolland Country as well as representatives from State and Federal agencies work together. This collaborative effort projects a strong community presence and puts Vernon at the forefront of the discussions on the topic of Cyber Security.

5. We are again trying to encourage **volunteers** to come forward to join our commissions and boards. Please take a moment and complete a resume form or encourage a neighbor or friend to do so. We are always looking for volunteers.

6. **WPCA Project Update:** The design phase of this project is on schedule. Three bids have closed and are soon to be awarded for UV Disinfection; Cloth Filter Media and IFAS (Phosphorous and Nitrogen treatment). These three systems will be incorporated into the final design. Tighe and Bond continues to work diligently to keep up with the tight schedule and regular holds progress meetings with Town staff. We will keep you posted as this project progresses.

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7. **Sr. Center Update:** The new Center is progressing nicely. Furniture is being ordered and the technology wiring is almost complete. The atrium area in the center of the building is taking shape and with spring approaching the entire project will be complete sometime late March. Stay tuned for the Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting announcement.

E) **PUBLIC HEARING**

None.

G) **ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA:**

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to move the Consent Agenda. Motion to approve C-1 – C-2 carried unanimously.

- C 1. **Request the Town Council approve Tax Refunds for Prior and Current Years.** (See copy of a memorandum from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue, to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator dated February 9, 2018 included in the Council packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES FOUR (4) TAX REFUNDS TOTALLING \$1156.56 FOR PRIOR YEARS, AND FOURTY-EIGHT (48) TOTALLING \$64,760.33 AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED FEBRUARY 9, 2018.

- C 2. **Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of James Ferguson, Jr., (U), 65 Dockerel Road, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, said term to commence February 21, 2018 and expires June 30, 2019.** (A copy of Mr. Ferguson's resume is included in the Council packet for review. It should be noted that Mr. Ferguson is filling the expired term of Carl Slusarczyk.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

PURSUANT TO VERNON'S CHARTER CHAPTER VIII, SEC. 2 & 6; THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF JAMES FERGUSON, JR., (U), 65 DOCKEREL ROAD, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS, SAID TERM TO BEGIN ON FEBRUARY 20, 2018 AND EXPIRES JUNE 30, 2019.

H) **DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEMS**

None.

I) **PENDING BUSINESS**

None.

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J) **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Request the Town Council approve the approve the schedule of dates for the upcoming 2018-2019 Budget Deliberations.** (See memorandum from Diane Wheelock, Executive Assistant dated February 14, 2018 for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY SCHEDULES THE FOLLOWING BUDGET MEETING DATES FOR BUDGET DELIBERATIONS:

THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 2018, MONDAY, MARCH 26, 2018, THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 2018, AND MONDAY, APRIL 2, 2018, ALL WITH A START TIME OF 7:30 PM, AND SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 2018 AND SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 2018 WITH A START TIME OF 9:00 AM. PUBLIC HEARINGS WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 2018 BEGINNING AT 9:05 AM AND THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 2018 at 7:35 PM TO HEAR COMMENTS AND ANSWER QUESTIONS RELATIVE TO THE 2018-2019 TOWN OF VERNON BUDGET. ALL BUDGET MEETINGS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS WILL BE HELD IN THE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THIRD FLOOR, TOWN HALL, 14 PARK PLACE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT.

PROPOSED MOTION:

PURSUANT TO CHARTER, CHAPTER VI "ANNUAL TOWN MEETING", THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY SCHEDULES, APRIL 24, 2018 AS THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING AND FINAL PUBLIC HEARING, TO HEAR COMMENT AND ANSWER QUESTIONS RELATIVE TO THE 2018-2019 TOWN OF VERNON BUDGET. THE APRIL 24, 2018 PUBLIC HEARING AND ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM, LOVELAND HILL ROAD, VERNON, CONNECTICUT BEGINNING AT 7:00 PM.

As to Proposed Motion #1:

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to amend the approval of schedule dates for the upcoming 2018-2019 Budget Deliberations to change the weeknight meetings from 7:30PM to 7:00PM. Discussion ensued. Amended Motion carried with 10 in favor and 1 opposed, Council Member Campbell.

Council Member Motola seconded by Council Member Wakefield made motion to amend the approval of schedule dates for the upcoming 2018-2019 Budget Deliberations to change the Public Hearing time from 7:35PM to 7:05PM. Motion carried with 10 in favor and 1 opposed, Council Member Campbell.

Discussion ensued. Proposed Motion #1, as amended carried unanimously.

As to Proposed Motion #2:

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to approve April 24, 2018 as the Annual Town Meeting and Final Public Hearing. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

2. **Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of the new Finance Officer.** (See attached documentation for Town Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL, PURSUANT TO CHAPTER X, SECTION 3, AND CHAPTER XI, SECTION 1,3(A) AND 9 OF THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF JEFFREY O'NEILL AS FINANCE OFFICER FOR THE TOWN OF VERNON.

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Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Campbell, made a motion to approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Jeffrey O'Neill as Finance Officer for the Town of Vernon. Discussion ensued. Jeffrey O'Neill spoke and answered questions. Motion carried unanimously.

8:49PM Recess; Reconvened: 8:53PM.

- 3. Request the Town Council authorize the Vernon Board of Education to spend 100% of project revenues and authorizes the local share (less reimbursements) for Vernon Center Middle School Partial Roof Replacement Project.** (Additional information will be forthcoming from James M. Luddecke, Interim Finance Officer via email.)

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #1:

RESOLVED, THE VERNON TOWN COUNCIL DOES HEREBY AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF 100% OF PROJECT REVENUES OR \$2,000,000.00, TO COMPLETE THE VERNON CENTER MIDDLE SCHOOL PARTIAL ROOF REPLACEMENT PROJECT.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to authorize the expenditure of 100% of project revenues or \$2,000,000.00 to complete the Vernon Middle School Partial Roof Replacement Project. Discussion ensued. Jim Luddecke spoke and answered questions. Motion carried unanimously.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #2:

RESOLVED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 10-283(d) OF THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES, THE VERNON TOWN COUNCIL DOES HEREBY AUTHORIZE THE FINANCING OF THE LOCAL SHARE OF ~~\$6,500,000.00~~ \$650,000.00 FOR THE VERNON CENTER MIDDLE SCHOOL PARTIAL ROOF REPLACEMENT PROJECT COST, PURSUANT TO THE FUNDING REQUIREMENTS AS OUTLINED IN THE TOWN CHARTER.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to authorize the financing of the local share of ~~\$6,500,000.00~~ \$650,000.00 for the Vernon Center Middle School Partial Roof Replacement Project cost. Discussion ensued. Jim Luddecke spoke and answered questions. Motion carried unanimously.

- 4. Request the Town Council authorize Town Administrator Michael J. Purcaro to execute all necessary paperwork to make application for and receive 2017 FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant.** (See memorandum from Michael J. Purcaro relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE VERNON TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES TOWN ADMINISTRATOR MICHAEL J. PURCARO TO EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY PAPERWORK TO MAKE APPLICATION FOR AND RECEIVE THE 2017 FEMA ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT FUNDING.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to authorize Town Administrator Michael J. Purcaro to execute all necessary paperwork to made application for and receive the 2017 FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant funding. Discussion ensued. Fire Chief Steve Eppler spoke and answered questions. Motion carried unanimously.

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5. **Request the Town Council authorize both a Public Hearing and Special Town Meeting for March 6, 2018 regarding an Additional Appropriation for General Government in an amount not to exceed \$ 273,923.95 to the fiscal year 2017-2018 General Government Budget for the purpose of updating the Town of Vernon fleet.** (A copy of said legal notice and resolution will be provided by Interim Finance Director James M. Luddecke via email.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY SCHEDULES A PUBLIC HEARING TO TAKE PLACE AT 7:35 P.M., AND A SPECIAL TOWN MEETING TO TAKE PLACE AT 7:40 P.M., ON TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2018, AT THE THIRD FLOOR TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN THE TOWN HALL MEMORIAL BUILDING, 14 PARK PLACE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT TO HEAR COMMENTS AND TAKE THE NECESSARY ACTION REGARDING THE RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION OF \$273,924.00 FROM GENERAL FUND BALANCE TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET FOR THE PURCHASE OF THIRTEEN (13) VEHICLES AS A FLEET REPLACEMENT AND UPDATE TO THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT INVENTORY.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to accept a Public Hearing and a Special Meeting to take place on Tuesday, March 6, 2018 to hear comments and take the necessary action regarding to the resolution to approve an additional appropriation of \$273,924.00 from General Fund Balance to the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Capital Improvement Budget for the purchase of thirteen (13) vehicles as a fleet replacement and update to the General Government Inventory. Discussion ensued. Motion carried with 10 in favor and 1 abstention, Council Member Zahner.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Motola made a motion to add New Business Item #6 to the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

6. **Request the Town Council Approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of John P. Leary, (R), 26 Haney Lane, Vernon, Connecticut as the Town of Vernon Citation Hearing Officer, said Appointment commences on February 21, 2018 and expires on December 31, 2018.** (A copy of Mr. Leary's resume is included for the Council review.) (Mr. Leary will be completing the term of James Ferguson who resigned.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE #215, TOWN CODE 2-5, AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE 218 TO ENFORCE ORDINANCES 214 AND 216 THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF JOHN P. LEARY, (R), 26 HANY LANE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS THE TOWN OF VERNON CITATION HEARING OFFICER, SAID NEW TERM TO COMMENCE ON FEBRUARY 21, 2018 AND EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, 2018.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of John P. Leary (R) as the Town of Vernon Citation Hearing Officer. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously

K) INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

None

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L) **ACTION ON ORDINANCE(S) PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED:**

None

M) **IDENTIFICATION/ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS**

None

N) **DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL ITEMS AND INFORMATION ITEMS**

None

O) **ADOPTION OF MINUTES:**

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF ~~JANUARY 16~~, FEBRUARY 6, 2018 AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Motola, made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the regular Town Council Meeting of February 6, 2018. Motion carried unanimously.

P) **INFORMATION ITEMS, PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS, ETC, NOT REQUIRING ACTION.**

1. Monthly Report for the Town Clerk's Office for January, 2018 as submitted by Bernice K. Dixon, Town Clerk.
2. Monthly Report for the Town of Vernon Police Department for January, 2018, as submitted by Captain of Police John Kelley.
3. Invitation from the Fire Department for their **2017 Awards Ceremony**, Monday, February 26, 2018 at Rockville High School Auditorium, 70 Loveland Hill Road, Vernon, Connecticut 06066.

Q) **ADJOURNMENT (9:20pm):**

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Received: February 27, 2018

Approved, as corrected: March 6, 2018 (As to D and O)

Approved, as corrected: March 20, 2018 (To add Ralph Zahner as present and NB-3 Resolution 2)

Respectfully submitted,



Karen C. Daigle, Asst. Town Clerk for
Cassandra Minor
Recording Secretary.