

April 28, 2009

**MINUTES
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
PUBLIC HEARING
TOWN OF VERNON
Rockville High School
70 Loveland Hill Road, Vernon, CT
TUESDAY, April 28, 2009
7:05 P.M.**

A) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL:

Present: Daniel Anderson, Bill Campbell, Daniel Champagne, Mark Etre, Bill Fox, Marie Herbst, Nancy E Herold, Harry D. Thomas, Michael A. Winkler

Absent: Sean O'Shea, Pauline Schaefer

Entered During Meeting: Brian R. Motola (7:55 PM)

Also Present: Mayor Jason L. McCoy, Town Administrator John Ward, Recording Secretary Jill Kentfield, Town Clerk Bernice Dixon

There were approximately 105 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 annual Town Meeting and certified that the notice was posted on the bulletin board of the Town Hall on April 13, 2009, and published in the Rockville Reminder on April 13, 2009.

Mayor McCoy called for nominations for a moderator. Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member Herbst made a motion to nominate James Luddecke as the moderator. Council Member Thomas, seconded by Council member Winkler made a motion to nominate Attorney Cummings as the moderator. Mr. Luddecke deferred his nomination to Attorney Cummings.

Nominations for moderator was closed. Motion to nominate Attorney Cummings as the moderator passed unanimously.

As Moderator, Attorney Cummings explained the requirements necessary to speak at the Annual Town Meeting as to residence, age and ownership of property. He reported that pursuant to chapter 7-7 of the CT General Statutes, a petition was delivered to the town clerk within 24 hours of this meeting, which requires the budget to be sent to Referendum rather than voting at the Annual Town Meeting. He informed the citizens that tonight's meeting would serve as a public forum for residents to make comments and ask questions regarding the proposed 2009 – 2010 budget. The Referendum vote will take place at Center 375, 375 Hartford Turnpike on Saturday, May 9, 2009 between the hours of 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM.

Mayor McCoy thanked everyone for their attendance. He provided the citizens with budget highlights. He explained there will be a box at the referendum for citizens to provide comments.

The Moderator then asked if there was anyone present who wished to comment on the proposed budget.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mary Oliver, 15 Dobson Common Circle. Spoke regarding the increase in budget revenue, personnel, and the lobbyist. She also spoke against the budget vote being held on the Saturday before Mother's Day.

Peter Kosak, 34 Farmbrook Lane: Spoke in favor of the budget along with asking Town Council Members to consider picking up the costs for lights and fire hydrants in his neighborhood.

Bill Dauphin, 11 Olive Lane: spoke regarding the benefits the Town has to offer and everyone in the community who pays taxes has the right to these benefits. He also spoke about considering projects such as schools and roads each year when voting on the budget.

Gale Scott, 65 Vista View: Spoke regarding the fact that not everyone is able to receive the benefits mentioned earlier.

Herbert Slicer, 561 Hartford Tpke.: Asked Town Council Members to provide better communication regarding the budget. He also asked members to consider cuts when dealing with unions.

Edie Chernack, 50 Cubles Dr.: Quoted information from a Town of Ellington meeting minutes where the Town Manager spoke. She is also opposed to the Saturday election and Lobbyist funds. She also spoke about her road, which need work.

Pierre Lisee, 210 Skinner Rd.: Requested Town Council Members keep politics out of the Town Council Meetings.

Ken Poliquin, 73 Vernon Center Heights: Spoke regarding his opposition to the budget.

Bill Smith, 30 Vernwood Dr.: Spoke regarding his opposition to union labor concessions in the budget.

Michael Winkler, 20 Gottier Dr.: Congratulated Mayor McCoy on the final version of the budget. He explained the property value increase is based on the phase-in process. He has concerns that the Board of Education has not informed Town Council Members where the \$300,000 cuts are going to be made. He is in favor of the budget.

Tom Didio, 112 Box Mountain Drive: Spoke in favor of Education being a #1 priority. He is opposed to the lobbyist. He also is opposed to the vote for referendum taking place on a Saturday. He asked Mr. Luddecke about the effect of the budget on taxes. Mr. Luddecke provided an explanation and requested homeowners that have questions speak to the Town Assessors office or visit the Town website.

Mayor McCoy spoke about lobbying efforts that he has had to perform since taking office.

Mr. Didio: spoke against the comments regarding opposition to unions.

Christy Vale, 100 Dobson Road: Provided information about the Board of Education budget. She provided information about personnel including the position for Assistant Town Administrator. She also provided information regarding the cost of holding referendums. She also spoke about the cost of education for each student attending school.

Gordon Gibson, 836 Hartford Tpke: Requested the moderator when taking votes, hold a vote regarding how many people would prefer the Saturday referendum vote.

James Hoover, 155 Trout Stream Dr., Chair of the Flood and Erosion Board: Spoke about his appreciation of the Mayor and his commitment to the Town. He asked the Board of Education members to take notice of a high voltage transformer behind the high school with a gully behind with flood waters flowing through it. He also spoke about the final phase of the re-evaluation payments and requested another re-evaluation as soon as legally possible. He also spoke about the Saturday vote, along with unfunded mandates. He is in favor of the lobbyist.

Carl Slicer, President of the Vernon Taxpayers Association: Spoke in favor of the lobbyist. He also spoke about the number of foreclosures in the Town of Vernon. He congratulated Town Council Members on their efforts in creating the budget.

James Luddecke, 54 Crestridge Drive: Spoke of his 28 years in attending town meetings and provided a historical view of budget process where town meetings were discontinued and brought back again by former Mayor Marcham.

Myron Krueger, 55 Edith Road: Spoke regarding the lack of budget information provided to Vernon residents. He verified the budget was available on-line and asked Council Members to have better communication regarding the viewing of the budget. He also spoke about the classroom sizes within the Board of Education.

Mayor McCoy provided information about unfunded mandates, which take place in many the Town of Vernon Departments besides Dept of Education.

Joe Grabinski, 623 Dart Hill Rd.: Spoke about personnel, and union issues.

Mary Oliver, 15 Dobson Commons Circle: Stated that the Town does have an assessment of unfunded mandates and that the Town should be able to communicate their needs to the Representatives and Senators.

Bill Dauphin: Spoke about the compensation of town and school employees.

The Moderator took the following votes:

April 28, 2009

Citizens voting to increase the budget: **total votes: 6**

Citizens voting to decrease the budget: **total votes: 5**

Citizens voting to support the budget as presented: **total votes: 26**

Those citizens who prefer a Saturday vote: **total votes: 22**

Citizens who prefer a Tuesday vote: **total votes: 17**

Either day: **total votes: 1**

Adjournment (9:10 PM)

The moderator requested a motion to adjourn the Annual Town Meeting. A motion to adjourn was moved and seconded from the floor.

9:16 PM – Council Member Herold left

Received: April 29, 2009

Approved: April 27, 2010

Respectfully Submitted,
Jill Kentfield
Recording Secretary

James E. Krupienski, Asst.

Appendix A

RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF VERNON

PUBLIC HEARING / ANNUAL TOWN MEETING ON PROPOSED BUDGET
APRIL 28, 2009

09 APR 13 PM 1:23

The Electors and Taxpayers who are qualified to vote in the Town Meeting are hereby warned that, pursuant to Chapter VI and Chapter XII, Section 6, of the Town Charter of the Town of Vernon, a Public Hearing and the Annual Town Meeting will be held **Tuesday, April 28, 2009**, at 7:05 p.m. in the auditorium of Rockville High School, 70 Loveland Hill Road, Vernon, Connecticut, to give Electors and Qualified Taxpayers of the Town of Vernon an opportunity to be heard regarding appropriations in the Vernon Town Council proposed budget for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2009 and ending June 30, 2010; and to consider and adopt a budget for the Town of Vernon for said fiscal year.

*Posted
4/13/09
2009*

SHALL THE TOWN OF VERNON ADOPT A BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$76,089,866 FOR A PERIOD COMMENCING JULY 1, 2009 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2010?

The entire proposed budget, including budget summary, can be inspected from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Wednesday; 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday; and 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Friday in the Town Clerk's Office, Memorial Building, 14 Park Place, Vernon, Connecticut.

A summary of proposed appropriations and anticipated revenues are as follows:

TOWN OF VERNON, CT APPROPRIATIONS FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2009 - JUNE 30, 2010									
Description	Actual FY 2007-08	Approved Budget FY 2008-09	Revised Budget FY 2008-09	6 Months Expended FY 2008-09	Estimated Expended FY 2008-09	Department Request FY 2009-10	Mayor Recommend FY 2009-10	Town Council Approved FY 2009-10	Incr (Decr) Against the 08-09 Budget
General Government:									
General Government	\$2,908,651	\$2,683,172	\$3,012,969	\$1,256,287	\$2,949,860	\$3,242,928	\$2,806,746	\$2,748,176	\$65,004
Community Development	329,868	339,662	353,274	218,069	337,812	347,355	341,497	326,497	(13,165)
Public Safety	7,307,796	7,702,235	7,864,173	3,860,280	7,499,973	7,775,801	7,782,010	7,738,505	36,270
Maintenance and Development	5,445,695	5,678,009	5,811,149	2,806,367	5,630,854	5,632,946	5,638,947	5,635,974	(42,035)
Human Services	842,813	909,103	916,653	480,357	918,663	947,349	922,901	926,300	17,197
Parks, Recreation and Culture	1,773,120	1,305,601	1,324,609	697,686	1,306,590	1,329,709	1,308,535	1,306,616	1,014
Town Wide	6,125,093	6,469,671	6,763,297	4,119,732	6,448,077	7,006,617	6,886,082	6,786,082	316,411
Total General Government	24,733,026	25,087,453	26,046,324	12,938,778	25,091,829	26,282,705	25,666,718	25,466,149	380,696
Capital Improvements & Debt Service:									
Capital Improvements-Town	934,946	139,000	190,555	61,475	166,000	598,127	132,120	76,120	-62,880
Capital Improvements-Education	200,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Debt service	3,683,711	4,528,326	4,603,906	3,228,296	4,558,319	5,044,178	4,944,178	4,709,665	181,339
Total Capital Improve./Debt service	4,818,657	4,667,326	4,794,461	3,289,771	4,724,319	5,642,305	5,076,298	4,785,785	118,459
Education	44,864,204	45,696,823	45,696,823	24,589,446	45,696,823	46,135,932	45,835,932	45,835,932	139,109
*** Grand Total ***	\$74,415,889	\$75,451,602	\$76,537,608	\$40,817,905	\$75,512,971	\$78,060,942	\$76,578,948	\$76,089,866	\$638,264

Description	Actual FY 2007-08	Approved Budget FY 2008-09	6 Months Expended FY 2008-09	Estimated Expended FY 2008-09	Department Request FY 2009-10	Incr (Decr) Over FY 2008-09
Education:						
Salaries and Wages	\$28,980,914	\$29,827,784	\$15,376,822	\$29,945,530	\$30,332,975	505,191
Employee Benefits	6,022,363	6,156,162	3,635,383	5,932,405	6,108,194	(49,968)
Professional and Technical Services	652,387	819,965	352,924	869,072	828,862	8,887
Property Services	1,317,813	1,576,761	805,761	1,582,047	1,598,014	21,253
Other Purchased Services	5,975,184	4,035,682	2,581,203	4,841,153	5,135,186	499,504
Supplies and Materials	1,854,104	2,007,785	1,417,771	2,007,722	1,843,844	(363,941)
Capital Equipment / Outlay	261,437	353,684	419,482	401,894	488,867	135,183
Other / Sundry	0	317,000	0	317,000	0	(317,000)
Total Education	\$44,864,202	\$45,696,823	\$44,151,520	\$45,696,823	46,135,932	439,109
Mayor and Town Council Revisions					(300,000)	(300,000)
Total Proposed Education Budget					\$45,835,932	\$139,109

TOWN OF VERNON, CT REVENUE ESTIMATES FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2009 - JUNE 30, 2010						
Description	Actual Revenue FY 2007-08	Revenue Estimates FY 2008-09	6 Months Collected FY 2008-09	Estimates Collected FY 2008-09	Revenue Estimates FY 2009-10	Incr (Decr) Against Prior Year
General Property Tax Levies	\$49,913,095	\$51,972,268	\$32,156,780	\$51,766,481	\$53,965,435	\$1,993,167
Licenses and Permits	497,149	685,280	257,920	434,348	437,348	(247,932)
Intergovernmental Revenues	20,870,957	20,230,468	6,204,515	21,410,046	19,822,170	(408,286)
Charges for Services	2,223,776	1,242,150	387,331	1,289,491	1,082,150	(160,000)
Fines and Penalties	18,515	23,400	3,492	10,630	10,630	(12,770)
Gifts and Contributions	0	0	0	0	0	0
Use of Money and Property	744,280	374,400	170,732	277,131	184,400	(190,000)
Other Revenues	309,571	324,735	178,529	333,107	345,303	20,558
Transfers In	223,892	598,901	4,382	575,316	242,430	(356,471)
Total Revenues	\$74,801,235	\$75,451,602	\$39,363,681	\$76,096,550	\$76,089,866	\$638,264

TOWN OF VERNON, CT ENTERPRISE ACTIVITY FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2009 - JUNE 30, 2010									
Description	Actual FY 2007-08	Budget FY 2008-09	Revised Budget FY 2008-09	6 Months Expended FY 2008-09	Estimated Expended FY 2008-09	Department Request FY 2009-10	Mayor Recommend FY 2009-10	Town Council Approved FY 2009-10	Increase (Decrease) Column 8-2
Waste Treatment Plant	\$5,546,008	\$5,629,050	\$5,629,050	\$2,527,360	\$6,330,154	\$5,946,486	\$5,728,145	\$5,708,145	\$79,095
Center 375	223,828	247,868	247,868	50,656	247,868	240,949	240,949	240,949	(6,919)
Total Enterprise Activity	\$5,769,836	\$5,876,918	\$5,876,918	\$2,578,016	\$6,578,022	\$6,187,435	\$5,969,094	\$5,949,094	\$12,716

* WPCA Recommended

Copies of the summary of proposed appropriations and anticipated revenues are available at the Town Clerk's Office, 14 Park Place, Vernon, Connecticut.

Dated at Vernon, Connecticut this 8th day of April, 2009.
Rockville Reminder

Bernice K. Dixon, CCTC, Town Clerk, Town of Vernon
Clerk of the Town Council