

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

February 5, 2011 – 1:00 PM

Mayor Jason L. McCoy called the meeting to order at 1:06 PM

A) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

B) ROLL CALL:

Present: Council Members Daniel Champagne, Mark Etre, Judy Hany, Marie Herbst, James Krupienski, Brian R. Motola, Sean O'Shea, Pauline Schaefer, Michael A. Winkler

Absent: Daniel Anderson

Entered During Meeting: Bill Campbell, Harry D. Thomas (1:13 PM)

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

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VERNON TOWN CLERK
11 FEB - 7 PM 1:49

Mayor McCoy opened the meeting discussing the school closings in Vernon. Jim Silva, from Silva Engineers evaluated the roofs at the different schools to determine the impact of the weight of snow. It was determined that the snow weighed over 50 lbs per square foot and the schools were only structurally sound for 30 lbs per square foot. There was slight structural failure at some of the buildings, which can be repaired. After hearing the structural engineer's report, a declaration of emergency was declared on February 3, 2011. The Emergency Operations Center was partially activated, and the Emergency Manager began pulling together resources (i.e. personnel and equipment) to start snow removal from the school roofs. In addition to the Mayor, and Emergency Manager, the effort included volunteers from the Fire Department who provided services and outside labor. It was determined that the amount of snow removal needed overwhelmed the town resources. Mayor McCoy requested help from The CT National Guard via the state Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security and they arrived within 2 hours. Members of the CT National Guard were deployed to provide services to the Town for 24 hours. The reverse 911 system was activated requesting volunteers.

Schools status as of 2/5/2011:

Center Road School – 100% complete

Skinner Road School – 100% complete

VCMS – no work necessary due to the snow melting and blowing off

RHS – 75% complete

NorthEast School – 60% cleared by Parks & Rec Department

Maple Street School – there has been twisting and bending in the roof joists which were starting to pull apart. Bolts are being used to repair the joists, crews will be unable to remove the snow from the roof until the joists are fixed.

Once all the snow has been removed, the structural engineer will re-evaluate the schools and check for permanent structural damage.

Expenses will be on-going depending on what each storm brings.

Discussion took place regarding Center 375. The building was been evaluated and was evacuated due to cracks in the gymnasium. The building was re-evaluated and once the snow has been removed, it should be fine. The Day Care is in the process of opening at 23 Elm Street temporarily once paperwork is completed.

Council Member Etre, seconded by Council Member Herbst made the following motion:

The Council resolves that the delay in appropriating these funds will affect the lives, health and property of the citizens of Vernon.

Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made the following motion:

The Council waives the requirement of a public hearing as required by Chapter 12, section 8 of the Town Charter

Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Etre, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made the following motion:

The Council approves the addition of appropriations of fund balance to the snow removal account in the amount of \$90,000.00 as indicated in budget amendment request #13.

Motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn (1:58 PM)

Council Member Winkler, seconded by Council Member Etre made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Received:

Approved:

Respectfully Submitted,

Jill Kentfield
Recording Secretary