

**SPECIAL MEETING  
BUDGET HEARING  
AND  
FIRST PUBLIC HEARING  
OF THE  
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL  
March 22, 2005**

Senior Center 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room, 26 Park Place, Vernon, CT

Mayor Ellen L. Marmer, M.D. called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL:**

The Clerk called the Roll as follows:

**Present:** Council Members Pat S. Beron, Thomas C. Colbert, Mark S. Etre, Bill Fox, Marie A. Herbst, Robert Kleinhans, Mary A. Oliver, Pauline A. Schaefer, Christy N. Vale, John D. Ward, Emily M. Westerberg; 11.

**Absent:** Council Member Jason L. McCoy; 1.

**Entered During Meeting:** Council Member Jason L. McCoy (7:04 p.m.); 1.

**Also Present:** Mayor Ellen L. Marmer, M.D., Town Administrator Laurence R. Shaffer, Finance Director James Luddecke, Budget Analyst Diane Luddecke and Recording Secretary Karin Z. Pike.

Mayor Ellen L. Marmer, M.D. announced that the Rockville High School RAGE Team came in 1<sup>st</sup> place in Annapolis, Maryland and will be going to Atlanta, Georgia for the finals.

A reminder that the School Bond Referendum will be held Tuesday, March 29, 2005 at Center 375 and on Saturday, April 9 there will be a Community question and answer forum regarding the budget held at the Senior Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

Mayor Ellen L. Marmer, M.D. called the First Public Hearing to order at 7:03 p.m. to receive and hear comments regarding the Fiscal Year 2005-2006 Budget for the Town of Vernon.

Council Member McCoy entered the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

The Clerk read into the record the Legal Notice and certified that the notice was published in the Journal Inquirer on March 17, 2005 and posted on the bulletin board at the Town Hall on March 16, 2005.

(A copy of the legal notice is appended to these minutes and marked as "Appendix A.")

Town Administrator Laurence R. Shaffer exited the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Ellen M. Byrne, 1170 Hartford Tnpk, spoke regarding the Rockville Public Library budget. She also felt that the Board of Education should put religion back into the schools.

No other residents wished to speak and the Public Hearing was closed at 7:13 p.m.

**MAYORAL REQUEST:**

The Mayor requested that each Department Head in attendance present an overview of their department budget to the Town Council prior to their budget discussion.

**BUDGET REVIEW:**

Mayor Ellen L. Marmer, M.D., Town Administrator Laurence R. Shaffer and Finance Director James Luddecke were present for questions and comments.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved TO OPEN TAB 9 PAGE 67 **HISTORICAL SOCIETY CODE 10562261** FOR DISCUSSION. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

President Robert Hurd was available for questions and comments.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved TO CLOSE TAB 9 PAGE 67 **HISTORICAL SOCIETY CODE 10562261** IN THE AMOUNT OF **\$4,000**.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved TO OPEN TAB 9 PAGE 68 **ROCKVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY** FOR DISCUSSION. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Town Administrator Laurence R. Shaffer reentered the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Board of Trustees member Robert Hurd was available for questions and comments.

Council Member Kleinhans, seconded by Council Member McCoy, moved TO **INCREASE OBJECT CODE 58710 GRANTS-CULTURAL/HERITAGE BY \$20,000**. The motion failed 5 to 7 with Council Members Etre, Kleinhans, McCoy, Vale and Westerberg voting yes and Council Members Beron, Colbert, Fox, Herbst, Oliver, Schaefer and Ward voting no.

Council Member Beron, seconded by Council Member McCoy, moved TO **INCREASE OBJECT CODE 58710 GRANTS-CULTURAL/HERITAGE BY \$10,000**. The motion passed 7 to 6 with Council Members Beron, Etre, Kleinhans, McCoy, Vale and Westerberg voting yes and Council Members Colbert, Fox, Herbst, Oliver, Schaefer and Ward voting no. Due to a tie vote, Mayor Ellen L. Marmer, M.D. broke the tie voting yes.

Council Member Colbert, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved TO CLOSE TAB 9 PAGE 68 **ROCKVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY** IN THE AMOUNT OF **\$243,000**. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Oliver, moved TO OPEN TAB 5 PAGE 13 **ASSESSMENT CODE 10114144** FOR DISCUSSION. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Assessor David Wheeler was available for questions and comments.

Council Member Schaefer, seconded by Council Member Oliver, moved TO CLOSE TAB 5 PAGE 13 **ASSESSMENT CODE 10114144** IN THE AMOUNT OF **\$266,113**. The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote. Council Member Beron was not present at the table to vote.

Council Member Kleinhans, seconded by Council Member Colbert, moved TO OPEN TAB 5 PAGE 16 **REVALUATION CODE 10114147** FOR DISCUSSION. The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote. Council Member Beron was not present at the table to vote.

Assessor David Wheeler was available for questions and comments.

Discussion took place.

Council Member Vale, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved TO CLOSE TAB 5 PAGE 16 **REVALUATION CODE 10114147** IN THE AMOUNT OF **\$50,000**. The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote. Council Member Kleinhans was not present at the table to vote.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved TO OPEN TAB 5 PAGE 18 **BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS CODE 10116155**. The motion was carried 11 to 0 on a voice vote. Council member Kleinhans was not present at the table to vote.

Assessor David Wheeler was available for questions and comments.

Council Member Vale, seconded by Council Member Colbert, moved TO CLOSE TAB 5 PAGE 18 **BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS CODE 10116155** IN THE AMOUNT OF **\$2,600**. The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote. Council Member Kleinhans was not present at the table to vote.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved TO OPEN TAB 5 PAGE 15 **COLLECTOR OF REVENUE CODE 10114146**. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Acting Collector of Revenue Carol Nelson was available for questions and comments.

Council Member Schaefer, seconded by Council Member Etre, moved TO CLOSE TAB 5 PAGE 15 **COLLECTOR OF REVENUE CODE 10114146** IN THE AMOUNT OF **\$232,816**. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved TO OPEN TAB 5 PAGE 14 **REFUNDS – TAX ADJUSTMENTS CODE 10114145** FOR DISCUSSION. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Acting Collector of Revenue Carol Nelson was available for questions and comments.

Discussion took place.

Council Member Schaefer, seconded by Council Member Vale, moved TO CLOSE TAB 5 PAGE 14 **REFUNDS – TAX ADJUSTMENTS CODE 10114145** IN THE AMOUNT OF **\$20,000**. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member McCoy, moved TO OPEN TAB 12 PAGE 81 **EDUCATION CODE 10990330** FOR DISCUSSION. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Superintendent Stephen Cullinan, Board of Education Members, School Principals and various Board of Education Department Heads were available for questions and comments.

Discussion took place.

Council Member Kleinhans requested information concerning Special Education reimbursement from State Representatives.

Council Member Schaefer, seconded by Council Member Etre, moved TO CLOSE TAB 12 PAGE 81 **EDUCATION CODE 10990330** IN THE AMOUNT OF **\$42,058,049**. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member Kleinhans, seconded by Council Member McCoy, moved TO OPEN TAB 11 PAGE 78 **EDUCATION – CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS CODE 10780291** FOR DISCUSSION. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Superintendent Stephen Cullinan, Board of Education Members, School Principals and various Board of Education Department Heads were available for questions and comments.

Council Member Kleinhans, seconded by Council Member Beron, moved TO CLOSE TAB 11 PAGE 78 **EDUCATION – CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS CODE 10780291** IN THE AMOUNT OF **\$133,160**. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

**REVENUE DISCUSSION:**

None.

**MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNTS REQUIRING ACTION:**

None.

**ADJOURN:**

Council Member Kleinhans, seconded Council Member Beron, moved TO ADJOURN. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Received: March 24, 2005  
Approved: April 5, 2005  
Vernon Town Council

Karin Z. Pike  
Asst Town Clerk

Appendix A

