

**REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE  
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL  
May 15, 2007**

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

Mayor Ellen L. Marmer, M.D. called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL:**

The Clerk called the roll as follows:

**Present:** Council Members Daniel E. Anderson, George F. Apel, Bill F. Campbell, Daniel A. Champagne, Mark S. Etre, Bill Fox, Marie A. Herbst, Brian R. Motola, Connie Simon; 9.

**Absent:** Council Members Jason L. McCoy, Mary A. Oliver, Pauline A. Schaefer; 3.

**Entered During Meeting:** Council Members Jason L. McCoy (7:37 p.m.), Mary A. Oliver (7:57 p.m.), Pauline A. Schaefer (7:32 p.m.); 3.

**Also Present:** Mayor Ellen L. Marmer, M.D., Town Administrator Christopher Clark, Recording Secretary Karin Z. Pike.

Council Member Schaefer entered the meeting (7:32 p.m.).

**CITIZEN'S FORUM:**

Frank Tassistro, 11 Oakview Place, spoke regarding Quail Hollow water bills and street pipes/hydrants. He feels that the residents of Quail Hollow are being billed unfairly for water.

Ginger McLean, 121 West Main Street, spoke regarding the Board of Education budget.

Council Member McCoy entered the meeting (7:37 p.m.)

Frank Guadagnino, 290 Vernon Avenue, spoke regarding safety issues on Vernon Avenue including placement of telephone polls, mailboxes and crosswalks.

Council Member McCoy, seconded by Council Member Herbst, moved TO EXTEND CITIZEN'S FORUM UNTIL ITS CONCLUSION. The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote.

No other citizens wished to speak and Citizen's Forum was closed at 7:50 p.m.

**PRESENTATION:**

Bryan Flint as well as others from the block watch were in attendance to discuss the Rockville Community Block Watch.

-Informational.

Council Member Oliver entered the meeting (7:57 p.m.)

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES:**

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 1, 2007 AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED. The motion was carried 9 to 1 on a voice vote with

Council Members Anderson, Apel, Campbell, Champagne, Fox, Herbst, Motola, Schaefer and Simon voting yes and Council Member McCoy voting no. Council Member Oliver abstained. Council Member Etre was not present at the table to vote.

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:**

1. Request for Tax Refunds – Prior Fiscal Year.
2. Request the Town Council to approve the appointment of Jeff Carlson as a member of the Permanent Municipal Building Committee.
3. Request the Town Council to approve the appointment of Jeff Carlson as a member of the School Building Advisory Commission.
4. Request the Town Council to approve the appointment of Marina Viscun as an alternate member of the Design Review Committee.
5. Request the Town Council to authorize the Town Administrator to sign STAG earmark letter.
6. Request the Town Council to authorize the Town Administrator to enter into a contract with Con Serv. Inc. relative to light improvements at Center 375.
7. Request the Town Council to authorize disposition of Police Department equipment.
8. Request the Town Council to approve the purchase of a Ricoh 240W 1 Roll and Cassette Digital Scan/Print System.
9. Request the Town Council to authorize the collection of Motor vehicle tax due and payable in one installment.
10. Request the Town Council to authorize the Town of Vernon grant easements to J & S Properties LLC and authorize the Town Administrator to sign all documents related to same.
11. Request the Town Council to authorize the Town Administrator and the Town Attorney to negotiate the sale of three parcels: Chestnut Street, Kevin Drive, and Miller Road.
12. Request Town Council to approve transfer of \$40,000.00 for the implementation of the phase-in program.

**NEW BUSINESS (CONSENT ITEMS):**

Council Member McCoy pulled C.N.B. 5, 6, 8, 10, 11 and 12 for discussion.

C.N.B. 9 was pulled due to the failure of the budget.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved TO APPROVE C.N.B. 1, 2, 3, 4 AND 7 AS FOLLOWS:

C.N.B. 1. Request for Tax Refunds – Prior Year.

THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES ONE (1) TAX REFUND FOR THE PRIOR YEAR IN THE AMOUNT OF \$380.09 AND THREE (3) TAX REFUNDS FOR THE CURRENT YEAR IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,659.12 AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM THE COLLECTOR OF REVENUE DATED MAY 10, 2007 TO THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR.

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

C.N.B. 2. Request the Town Council to approve the Mayor's appointment of Jeff Carlson (R), 76 Valley Falls Road, to serve as a member of the Permanent Municipal Building Committee, to fill a vacancy due to the resignation of Jennifer Holt, said term to expire June 30, 2008.

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE APPOINTMENT OF JEFF CARLSON TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE PERMANENT MUNICIPAL BUILDING COMMITTEE, TO FILL A VACANCY DUE TO THE RESIGNATION OF JENNIFER HOLT, SAID TERM TO EXPIRE ON JUNE 30, 2008.

C.N.B. 3. Request the Town Council to approve the Mayor's appointment of Jeff Carlson (R), 76 Valley Falls Road Road, to serve as a member of the School Building Advisory Commission, to fill a vacancy due to the resignation of George Apel, said term to expire June 30, 2008.

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE APPOINTMENT OF JEFF CARLSON TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE SCHOOL BUILDING ADVISORY COMMISSION TO FILL A VACANCY DUE TO THE RESIGNATION OF GEORGE APEL, SAID TERM TO EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2008.

C.N.B. 4. Request the Town Council to approve the Mayor's appointment of Marina Viscun as an alternate member of the Design Review Advisory Commission to fill a current vacancy.

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE APPOINTMENT OF MARINA VISCUN AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE DESIGN REVIEW ADVISORY COMMISSION, SAID TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2009.

C.N.B. 7. Request the Town Council to authorize the disposition of Police Department equipment.

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES THE DISPOSITION OF THE FOLLOWING FOUR (4) POLICE VEHICLES THROUGH SEALED BID AUCTION:

2002 FORD CROWN VICTORIA VIN#2FAFP71W12X131885  
2001 FORD CROWN VICTORIA VIN#2FAFP71W81X190348  
2000 FORD CROWN VICTORIA VIN#2FAFP71W04X194937  
2000 FORD CROWN VICTORIA VIN#2FAFP71W2YX194941

THE TOWN COUNCIL FURTHER AUTHORIZES THE DISPOSITION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS THROUGH PROPERTYROOM.COM:

BRAKE LATHE  
ENGINE EXHAUST ANALYZER  
1 K-9 CAGE  
1 SETINA PRISONER PARTITION  
2 PLASTIC PRISONER SEATS

THE PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF THESE ITEMS ARE TO BE DEDICATED TO THE PURCHASE OF A NEW POLICE CRUISER.

~~C.N.B. 9. Request the Town Council to authorize the collection of Motor vehicle tax due and payable in one installment.~~

~~THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF VERNON IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 12-144A OF THE CT GENERAL STATUTES, AUTHORIZES THE COLLECTION OF MOTOR VEHICLE TAX DUE AND PAYABLE IN A SINGLE INSTALLMENT.~~

The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

**NEW BUSINESS (TAKEN FROM CONSENT AGENDA):**

C.N.B. 5. Request the Town Council to authorize the Town Administrator to sign letter to the EPA in order to change the grantee name on STAG earmark no. XP 98197901-0 from the Town of Vernon to the Bolton Lakes Regional Water Pollution Control Authority.

Town Administrator Christopher Clark was available for questions and comment.

Council Member McCoy, seconded by Council Member Motola, moved to REQUEST THE TOWN COUNCIL TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO SIGN STAG LETTER. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

C.N.B. 6. Request the Town Council to authorize the Town Administrator to enter into a contract with Con Serv. Inc.

Town Administrator Christopher Clark was available for questions and comment.

Discussion took place.

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES TOWN ADMINISTRATOR CHRISTOPHER CLARK TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH CON SERV. INC. RELATIVE TO LIGHT IMPROVEMENTS FOR CENTER 375.

The motion was pulled for further information and the Mayor stated that a small area in Center 375 would be used as a test area before a final decision would be made concerning the contract.

C.N.B. 8. REQUEST THE TOWN COUNCIL TO APPROVE PURCHASE OF RICOH 240W SCAN/PRINT SYSTEM.

Town Administrator Christopher Clark, Gis Coordinator Aaron Nash and Town Engineer Tim Timberman were available for questions and comment.

Discussion took place.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Simon, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY DECIDES THAT IT IS AGAINST THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE TOWN TO INVITE SEALED BIDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF A RICOH 240W 1 ROLL AND CASSETTE DIGITAL SCAN/PRINT SYSTEM AND FURTHER MOVES TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF SAID EQUIPMENT FROM DESIGN PRODUCTS COMPANY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,882.00.

The motion was carried 7 to 6 on a voice vote with Council Members Etre, Fox, Herbst, Oliver, Schaefer and Simon voting yes and Council Members Anderson, Apel, Campbell, Champagne, McCoy and Motola voting no. Mayor Marmer broke the tie by voting yes.

N.B. 10. Request the Town Council authorize the Town of Vernon to grant two easements to J & S Properties relative to the renovation of 4 Park Street, and authorize the Town Administrator to sign any and all documents related to same.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Etre, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY MOVES THAT THE TOWN OF VERNON GRANT TWO EASEMENTS TO J & S PROPERTIES, LLC TO PERMIT THE SUPPORT COLUMN AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN ENTRY WAY AND HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE RAMP IN THE TOWN RIGHT OF WAY ON ST. BERNARD'S TERRACE AS SHOWN ON A MAP ENTITLED:

"PLAN PREPARED FOR J & S PROPERTIES, LLC 4 PARK STREET VERNON, CT PROPOSED EASEMENTS HOLMES & HENRY ASSOCIATES LLC CONSULTING ENGINEERS, LAND SURVEYORS, LAND PLANNERS, 2179 BOSTON TURNPIKE, COVENTRY CT 06238 (860) 742 0340 SCALE: 1"=10' DATE: 2/9/07 FILE NO: 260041E SHEET 1 OF 1"

AND FURTHER, THAT THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR BE PERMITTED TO SIGN ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO GRANT SUCH EASEMENTS OR ANY CORRECTING DEEDS NECESSARY TO PERFECT THE TITLE TO THE PROPERTY.

Town Administrator Christopher Clark was available for questions and comment.

Discussion took place.

By consent of the Council, an amendment to the motion was added, "The final design has to meet with the approval of the Town."

The motion now reads:

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Etre, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY MOVES THAT THE TOWN OF VERNON GRANT TWO EASEMENTS TO J & S PROPERTIES, LLC TO PERMIT THE SUPPORT COLUMN AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN ENTRY WAY AND HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE RAMP IN THE TOWN RIGHT OF WAY ON ST. BERNARD'S TERRACE AS SHOWN ON A MAP ENTITLED:

"PLAN PREPARED FOR J & S PROPERTIES, LLC 4 PARK STREET VERNON, CT PROPOSED EASEMENTS HOLMES & HENRY ASSOCIATES LLC CONSULTING ENGINEERS, LAND SURVEYORS, LAND PLANNERS, 2179 BOSTON TURNPIKE, COVENTRY CT 06238 (860) 742 0340 SCALE: 1"=10' DATE: 2/9/07 FILE NO: 260041E SHEET 1 OF 1"

THE FINAL DESIGN HAS TO MEET WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE TOWN

AND FURTHER, THAT THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR BE PERMITTED TO SIGN ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO GRANT SUCH EASEMENTS OR ANY CORRECTING DEEDS NECESSARY TO PERFECT THE TITLE TO THE PROPERTY.

The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote. Council Member McCoy abstained.

C.N.B. 11. Request the Town Council authorize the Town Administrator and the Town Attorney to negotiate the sale of three parcels: Chestnut Street, Kevin Drive, and Miller Road.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY MOVES THAT THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR AND THE TOWN ATTORNEY BE AUTHORIZED TO NEGOTIATE THE SALE OF THREE PARCELS : CHESTNUT STREET, KEVIN DRIVE, AND MILLER ROAD, BY NEGOTIATED SALE, AND THAT THEY ARE TO USE THEIR BEST DISCRETION RELATIVE TO THE AMOUNT OF FUNDS THAT MAY BE ABLE TO BE OBTAINED FROM THE SALE.

Discussion took place.

Council Member McCoy, seconded by Council Member Etre, moved TO AMEND THE MOTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY MOVES THAT THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR AND THE TOWN ATTORNEY , WITH TOWN COUNCIL APPROVAL, BE AUTHORIZED TO NEGOTIATE THE SALE OF THREE PARCELS : CHESTNUT STREET, KEVIN DRIVE, AND MILLER ROAD, BY AUTHORIZATION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL TO NEGOTIATE THE SALE OF THE THREE PROPERTIES , AND THAT THEY ARE TO USE THEIR BEST DISCRETION RELATIVE TO THE AMOUNT OF FUNDS THAT MAY BE ABLE TO BE OBTAINED FROM THE SALE.

The amendment was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote. Council Member McCoy abstained.

The motion, as amended, was carried 11 to 0 on a voice vote. Council Member McCoy abstained.

C.N.B. 12. Request the Town Council to approve the transfer of \$40,000.00 from available funds for the purposes of implementing the phase-in program.

Deputy Assessor Christine Clark was available for questions and comment.

Council Member McCoy, seconded by Council Member Herbst, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY MOVES TO TRANSFER \$40,000.00 FROM AVAILABLE FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSES OF IMPLEMENTING THE PHASE-IN PROGRAM.

Council Member McCoy, seconded by Council Member Apel, moved a FRIENDLY AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION WHICH NOW READS:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY MOVES TO TRANSFER \$15,000.00 FROM AVAILABLE FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSES OF IMPLEMENTING THE CONDUIT SOFTWARE FOR THE PROPERTY TAX PHASE-IN REVALUATION.

The amendment was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote.

The motion, as amended, was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote.

**IDENTIFICATION AND ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS:**

A.A.I. 1. Copy of information regarding "Homestead Ordinance".

By unanimous consent, A.A.I. 1. was added to the agenda.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

N.B. 1. Request the Town Council to approve the appointment of Stephen Dupre as Building Official.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved that THE MAYOR HEREBY APPOINTS STEPHEN DUPRE TO THE POSITION OF BUILDING OFFICIAL EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2007.

Mr. Dupre was available for questions and comment.

The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

N.B. 2. Discussion relative to the presentation from Bob Holdsworth of Holdsworth Pelton Companies at the meeting held on April 19, 2007 at the Public Safety Building regarding ambulance services.

Discussion took place.

N.B. 3. ~~If applicable – establishment of Mil Rate for Fiscal Year 2007-2008. (Rate Bill and Tax Warrant for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008 will need to be signed by Council members.) Should the voters approve the proposed 2007-2008 Town of Vernon budget, the Town Council will be asked to approve a mil rate consistent with its Town Charter obligation to fix the rate within five (5) days of adoption of the budget.~~

~~THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY SETS THE TAX RATE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2007 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2008 AT \_\_\_\_\_ MIL UPON TAXABLE PROPERTY IN THE TOWN OF VERNON AND THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL SIGN THE TAX WARRANT FOR SAID FISCAL YEAR.~~

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY MOVES TO SCHEDULE A MEETING DUE TO THE PROPOSED BUDGET NOT PASSING AT REFERENDUM AND TO SCHEDULE TWO SPECIAL MEETINGS ON MAY 21 AND MAY 22, 2007 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE SENIOR CENTER, SECOND FLOOR, 26 PARK PLACE VERNON, CONNECTICUT IN ORDER TO DISCUSS POTENTIAL ACTION INCLUDING SETTING A THIRD REFERENDUM DATE FOR APPROVAL OF THE TOWN OF VERNON 2007-2008 BUDGET.

Discussion took place.

The motion was carried 9 to 3 on a voice vote with Council Members Apel, Champagne, Fox, Herbst, McCoy, Motola, Oliver, Schaefer and Simon voting yes and Council Members Anderson, Campbell and Etre voting no.

**DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS:**

A.A.I. 1. Copy of information regarding "Homestead Ordinance".

Discussion took place.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

1. Monthly report for March 2007 from Penny Rand, Senior Center Director.
2. Updated phone/email listings.
3. Copy of email from Marina Rodriguez, C.E.D. Coordinator/Assistant Town Planner relative to RDA budget issues.
4. Announcement of Public Information Meeting State project 146-169 "Operation and Safety Improvements on Route 83 Town of Vernon".
5. Copy of letter from Lisa Rivers, Transportation Supervising Planner, Bureau of Public Transportation relative to state matching grant program application for Elderly and Disabled Demand Responsive Transportation.
6. Copy of memo from Doris Lambert, Administrative Assistant to Ellen L. Marmer, M.D., Mayor regarding empty toner cartridges,
7. Reports from the Registrar of Voters relative to the May 1, 2007 referendum.
8. Copy of information regarding "Homestead Ordinance".
9. Copy of email from Town Administrator Clark regarding abandoned vehicles.
10. Copy of tally sheets/surveys from 2005 and 2006 budget referenda.

**ADJOURN:**

Council Member Etre, seconded by Council Member McCoy, moved TO ADJOURN.

The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

Received: May 22, 2007  
Approved: June 5, 2007  
Vernon Town Council

Karin Z. Pike  
Asst Town Clerk/Recording Secretary