

**SPECIAL MEETING
BUDGET HEARING
OF THE
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL
April 1, 2004**

Board of Education Conference Room, 30 Park Street (Corner of Park and School Streets, Vernon, CT)

Mayor Ellen L. Marmer called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL:

The Clerk called the Roll as follows:

Present: Council Members Pat S. Beron, Thomas C. Colbert, Bill Fox, Marie A. Herbst, Robert Kleinhans, Mary A. Oliver, Pauline A. Schaefer, Jeffrey A. Talbot, John D. Ward, Emily M. Westerberg; 10.

Absent: Council Members Jason L. McCoy and Christy N. Vale; 2.

Entered During Meeting: Council Members Jason L. McCoy (7:07 p.m.) and Christy N. Vale (7:37 p.m.); 2.

Also Present: Mayor Ellen L. Marmer, Town Administrator Laurence R. Shaffer, Finance Director James Luddecke, Town Clerk Bernice K. Dixon and Recording Secretary Karin Z. Pike.

CITIZEN'S FORUM:

Patrick Cox, Rockville High School Coach and Teacher, spoke in opposition of budget cuts to the sports and athletics department.

Council Member McCoy entered the meeting (7:07p.m.)

Joe Grabinski, 623 Dart Hill Road, questioned whether the budget would go to Referendum.

Lisa and Lauren Logan, 27 Valerie Drive, opposed to budget cuts in education and language.

Council Member Talbot, seconded by Council Member Beron, moved TO EXTEND CITIZEN'S FORUM BY FIFTEEN (15) MINUTES. The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote.

Karl Schoen – Rene, 151 Irene Drive, opposed to cuts to the Board of Education budget.

Catherine and Kelly Cocco, 89 Hansen Drive, opposed to cuts in sports and language departments. Kelly (VCMS student) wrote and read a letter concerning the cuts in sports and language (entered into the record) and handed out a petition from VCMS students concerning the cuts (entered into the record).

Cindy Neumaier, 34 Boxwood Drive, opposed to cuts in the language department.

Council Member Beron, Seconded by Council Member Talbot moved TO EXTEND CITIZEN'S FORUM BY FIFTEEN (15) MINUTES. The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote.

Phyllis Winkler, 20 Gottier Drive, opposed to cuts in education budget.

Sandy Glidden, 15 Center Street, opposed to cuts in the language department.

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

Ellen M. Byrne, 1170 Hartford Turnpike, opposed to a tax increase.

Council Member Beron, seconded by Council Member Talbot, moved TO EXTEND CITIZEN'S FORUM UNTIL CONCLUSION.

Joseph Wheeler, 11 Walker Terrace, opposed to education cuts.

Diane Wheelock, 132 Tallwood Drive, opposed to a 4.9 Mil increase and thinks it would be inappropriate.

No other residents wished to speak and Citizen's Forum was closed at 8:00 p.m.

REVENUE DISCUSSION: (Taken out of order.)

Finance Director James Luddecke handed out Budget Revisions sheet and Snow Removal Comparisons and spoke of overall Budget Revisions. (Snow Removal Comparison entered into the record).

Council Member Colbert, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved TO ACCEPT THE BUDGET REVISIONS THROUGH MEETING DATE MARCH 25, 2004. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

(A copy of the Revisions are attached to the minutes and marked as "Appendix A.").

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.

Mayor Ellen L. Marmer requested that #22 Education and #23 Education – Capital Improvements be moved to the beginning of the Budget Review.

BUDGET REVIEW:

Council Member Talbot, seconded by Council Member Ward, moved TO OPEN TAB 12 PAGE 84 EDUCATION CODE 10990330 FOR DISCUSSION. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Stephen Cullinan, Superintendent, Leonard Jacobs, Catherine Rebai, Peggy Jackle and Debbie Maraso were available for questions and comments.

The Board of Education requested that \$179,000 Capital Improvements to be used for Operating and also requested that \$70,000 Medicaid Revenue also be put in the Operating Budget.

Mayor Ellen L. Marmer stated that incoming \$200,000 state appropriation will be given to the Board of Education and \$70,000- Medicaid Account will extend 1 more year.

Council Member Talbot handed out a letter to fellow Council Members concerning the Budget which was entered into the record.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Colbert, moved TO CLOSE AND APPROVE TAB 12 PAGE 84 EDUCATION CODE 10990330 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$41,152,030. The motion was carried 11 to 1 with Council Members Beron, Colbert, Fox, Herbst, Kleinhans, Oliver, Schaefer, Talbot, Vale, Ward and Westerberg voting aye and Council Member McCoy voting nay.

Council Member Oliver, seconded by Council Member Westerberg, moved TO OPEN TAB 11 PAGE 81 EDUCATION – CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS CODE 10780291 FOR DISCUSSION. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member Westerberg, seconded by Council Member Herbst, moved TO TRANSFER \$179,000. TO OPERATING (EDUCATION). The motion was carried 11 to 1 with Council Members Beron, Colbert, Fox, Herbst, Klien hans, McCoy, Oliver, Schaefer, Vale, Ward, and Westerberg voting aye and Council Member Talbot voting nay.

Council Member Vale, seconded by Council Member Oliver moved TO CLOSE AND APPROVE TAB 11 PAGE 81 EDUCATION – CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS CODE 10780291 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$49,000. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member Vale, seconded by Council Member Westerberg moved TO OPEN 5 PAGE 15 COLLECTOR OF REVENUE CODE 10114144 FOR DISCUSSION. The motion was 11 to 0 on a voice vote. Council Member Beron was not at the table to vote.

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

Council Member Vale, seconded by Council Member Westerberg, moved TO REDUCE OBJECT CODE 53800 OTHER FEES BY \$3,000. The motion was carried 10 to 1 with Council Members Beron, Fox, Herbst, Kleinhans, McCoy, Schaefer, Talbot, Vale, Ward and Westerberg voting aye and Council Member Oliver voting nay. Council Member Colbert abstained.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Vale, moved TO CLOSE AND APPROVE TAB 5 PAGE 15 COLLECTOR REVENUE CODE 10114144 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$227,723. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

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

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

Council Member Schaefer, seconded by Council Member Colbert, moved TO EXTEND CURFEW UNTIL THE CONCLUSION OF BUSINESS. The motion was carried 10 to 0 on a voice vote. Council Members Beron and McCoy were not at the table to vote.

Council Member Kleinhans, seconded by Council Member Colbert, moved TO REDUCE OBJECT CODE 58200 TAX REFUNDS TO \$1.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Beron, proposed a Friendly Amendment to the motion REDUCING OBJECT CODE 58200 TAX REFUNDS BY \$15,000. The motion was passed with Council Members Beron, Colbert, Fox, Herbst, Oliver, Schaefer and Westerberg voting aye and Council Members Kleinhans, McCoy, Talbot, Vale and Ward voting nay.

Council Member Westerberg, seconded by Council Member Vale, moved TO CLOSE AND APPROVE TAB 5 PAGE 14 REFUNDS – TAX ADJUSTMENT CODE 10114145 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15,000. The motion was carried 11 to 1 on a voice vote with Council Members Beron, Colbert, Fox, Herbst, Kleinhans, McCoy, Oliver, Schaefer, Talbot, Vale and Westerberg voting aye and Council Member Ward voting nay.

Council Member Kleinhans, seconded by Council Member Fox, moved TO OPEN TAB 5 PAGE 20 GREATER HARTFORD TRANSIT DISTRICT CODE 10116158 FOR DISCUSSION. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member Kleinhans, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved TO CLOSE AND APPROVE TAB 5 PAGE 20 GREATER HARTFOED TRANSIT DISTRICT CODE 10116158 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 2,119. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member Kleinhans, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved TO OPEN TAB 5 PAGE 1 TOWN COUNCIL CODE 10110110 FOR DISCUSSION. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Town Clerk Bernice K. Dixon was available for questions and comments.

Council Member Kleinhans, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved TO CLOSE AND APPROVE TAB 5 PAGE 1 TOWN COUNCIL CODE 10110110 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$13,802. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member Kleinhans, seconded by Council Member Colbert, moved TO OPEN TAB 5 PAGE 17 TOWN CLERK CODE 10115150 FOR DISCUSSION. The motion was carried 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Town Clerk Bernice K. Dixon was available for questions and comments and also handed out an overview of the Town Clerk's Office to Council Members.

Council Member Colbert, seconded by Council Member Talbot, moved TO REDUCE OBJECT CODE 51020 BY \$575.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Vale, PROPOSED A FRIENDLY AMENDMENT TO REDUCE OBJECT CODE 51020 BY \$1,000. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member Vale, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved TO CLOSE AND APPROVE TAB 5 PAGE 17 TOWN CLERK CODE 10115150 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$268,361. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member Kleinhans, seconded by Council Member Oliver, moved TO OPEN TAB 8 PAGE 61 SOCIAL SERVICES CODE 10456240 FOR DISCUSSION. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Paula Claydon, Director of Social Services was available for questions and comments.

Council Member Kleinhans, seconded by Council Member McCoy, moved TO REDUCE OBJECT CODE 54460 RENTAL OF LAND/BUILDINGS BY \$264. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member Kleinhans, seconded by Council Member McCoy, moved TO REDUCE OBJECT CODE 55660 SUBSCRIPTIONS AND MANUALS BY \$150. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member Kleinhans, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved TO CLOSE AND APPROVE TAB 8 PAGE 61 SOCIAL SERVICES CODE 10456240 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$196,112. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member Kleinhans, seconded by Council Member Talbot, moved TO OPEN TAB 8 PAGE 62 YOUTH SERVICES CODE 1046241 FOR DISCUSSION. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Youth Services Director Alan Slobodien was available for questions and comments.

Council Member Kleinhans, seconded by Council Member Talbot, moved TO CLOSE TAB 8 PAGE 62 YOUTH SERVICES CODE 1046241 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$151,955. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Due to a possible conflict of interest, Council Member Beron excused himself from the table for this discussion.

Council Member Kleinhans, seconded by Council Member Fox, moved TO OPEN TAB 8 PAGE 45 VISITING NURSE & HEALTH SERVICES OF CT CODE 10455221 FOR DISCUSSION. The motion was carried 11 to 0 on a voice vote.

Paula Claydon Director of Social Services was available for questions and comments.

Council Member Kleinhans, seconded by Council Member Colbert, moved TO CLOSE AND APPROVE TAB 8 PAGE 45 VISITING NURSE & HEALTH SERVICES OF CT CODE 10455221 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$36,000. The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member Kleinhans, seconded by Council Member Fox, moved TO OPEN TAB 8 PAGE 46 HOCKANUM VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL CODE 10456222 FOR DISCUSSION. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Executive Director David Engelson, was available for questions and comments.

Council Member Kleinhans, seconded by Council Member McCoy, moved TO INCREASE CODE 10456222 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,000. Council Member Kleinhans requested a Roll Call vote. The motion failed 4 to 7 with Council Members Beron, Colbert, Kleinhans and McCoy voting aye and Council Members Fox, Herbst, Schaefer, Talbot, Vale, Ward and Westerberg voting nay. Council Member Oliver abstained.

Council Member McCoy, seconded by Council Member Herbst, moved TO CLOSE AND APPROVE TAB 8 PAGE 46 HOCKANUM VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL CODE 10456222 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$144,368. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member Kleinhans, seconded by Council Member Fox, moved TO OPEN TAB 8 PAGE 47 CHILD GUIDANCE CLINIC CODE 10456223 FOR DISCUSSION. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Cliff Johnson, Director, was available for questions and comments.

Council Member Beron, seconded by Council Member Oliver, moved TO CLOSE AND APPROVE TAB 8 PAGE 47 GUIDANCE CODE 10456223 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$12,000. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member Kleinhans, seconded by Council Member Fox, moved TO OPEN TAB 8 PAGE 48 EXCHANGE CLUB – PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE CODE 10456224 FOR DISCUSSION. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Betsy Palmer-Arenfeld was available for questions and comments.

Council Member Beron, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved TO CLOSE AND APPROVE TAB 8 PAGE 48 EXCHANGE CLUB – PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE CODE 10456224 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8,000. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member Kleinhans, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved TO OPEN TAB 8 PAGE 49 HOCKANUM INDUSTRIES CODE 10456225 FOR DISCUSSION. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Director Tracy Hallsted and Sarah Goodrich were available for questions and comments.

Council Member Vale, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved TO CLOSE AND APPROVE TAB 8 PAGE 49 HOCKANUM INDUSTRIES CODE 10456225 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,500. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member Kleinhans, seconded by Council Member Fox, moved TO OPEN TAB 8 PAGE 50 MARC, INC OF MANCHESTER CODE 10456226 FOR DISCUSSION. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member Kleinhans, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved TO CLOSE AND APPROVE TAB 8 PAGE 50 MARC, INC OF MANCHESTER CODE 10456226 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,000. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member Kleinhans, seconded by Council Member Herbst, moved TO OPEN TAB 8 PAGE 51 TRI-TOWN SHELTER SERVICES CODE 10456227 FOR DISCUSSION. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Rhonda Chapman, Director, was available for questions and comments.

Council Member Colbert, seconded by Council Member Herbst, moved TO CLOSE AND APPROVE TAB 8 PAGE 51 TRI-TOWN SHELTER SERVICES CODE 10456227 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,000. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member Kleinhans, seconded by Council Member Fox, moved TO OPEN TAB 8 PAGE 53 CONNECTICUT LEGAL SERVICES CODE 1046229 FOR DISCUSSION. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Wendy Wanchak and Lisa Spada, Comptroller were available for questions and comments.

Council Member Kleinhans, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved TO CLOSE AND APPROVE TAB 8 PAGE 53 CONNECTICUT LEGAL SERVICES CODE 1046229 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,000. The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote. Council Member McCoy abstained.

Council Member Kleinhans, seconded by Council Member Vale, moved TO OPEN TAB 8 PAGE 54 HARTFORD INTERVAL HOUSE CODE 10456232 FOR DISCUSSION. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member Vale, seconded by Council Member McCoy, moved TO CLOSE AND APPROVE TAB 8 PAGE 54 HARTFORD INTERVAL HOUSE CODE 10456232 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,000. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member Kleinhans, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved TO OPEN TAB 8 PAGE 57 YWCA SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES CODE 10456235 FOR DISCUSSION. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Judy Vasser and Denette Barnette were available for questions and comments. They also handed out informational pamphlets which were entered into the record.

Council Member Talbot, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved TO CLOSE AND APPROVE TAB 8 PAGE 57 YWCA SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES CODE 10456235 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,000. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member Herbst excused herself from the table for this discussion.

Council Member Kleinhans, seconded by Council Member Fox, moved TO OPEN TAB 8 PAGE 58 HOCKANUM VALLEY SCHOOL READINESS CODE 10456236 FOR DISCUSSION. The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member Vale, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved TO CLOSE AND APPROVE TAB 8 PAGE 58 HOCKANUM VALLEY SCHOOL READINESS CODE 10456236 IN THE AMOUNT \$4,466. The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member Kleinhans, seconded by Council Member Fox, moved TO OPEN TAB 8 PAGE 59 POTTER'S HOUSE CODE 10456237 FOR DISCUSSION. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Donna Bednar, Director was available for questions and comments.

Council Member Beron, seconded by Council Member Talbot, moved TO CLOSE AND APPROVE TAB 8 PAGE 59 POTTER'S HOUSE CODE 10456237 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7,000. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member Kleinhans, seconded by Council Member Fox, moved TO OPEN TAB 8 PAGE 55 NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL MENTAL HEALTH CODE 10456233 FOR DISCUSSION. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member Talbot, seconded by Council Member Colbert, moved TO CLOSE AND APPROVE TAB 8 PAGE 55 NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL MENTAL HEALTH CODE 10456233 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$0. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member Kleinhans, seconded by Council Member Fox, moved TO OPEN TAB 8 PAGE 60 GENESIS CENTER CODE 10456289 FOR DISCUSSION. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member Fox, seconded by Council Member Colbert, moved TO CLOSE AND APPROVE TAB 8 PAGE 60 GENESIS CENTER CODE 10456289 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$0. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

REVENUE DISCUSSION: (Taken out of order. See page 352):

MISCELLANEOUS BUDGETS REQUIRING ACTION:

No miscellaneous budgets were discussed.

ADJOURN:

Council Member Beron, seconded by Council Member Colbert, moved TO ADJOURN.

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 p.m.

Appendix A

