

**SPECIAL MEETING
BUDGET HEARING
AND
FIRST PUBLIC HEARING
OF THE
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL
March 23, 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 7:02 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL:

The Clerk called the Roll as follows:

Present: Council Members Pat S. Beron, Bill Fox, Marie A. Herbst, Jason L. McCoy, Mary A. Oliver, Jeffrey A. Talbot, Christy N. Vale, John D. Ward, Emily M. Westerberg; 9.

Absent: Council Members Thomas C. Colbert, Robert Kleinhans, Pauline A. Schaefer; 3.

Entered During Meeting: Council Members Thomas C. Colbert (7:27 p.m.), Pauline A. Schaefer (7:06 p.m.); 2.

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

PUBLIC HEARING:

Mayor Ellen L. Marmer called the First Public Hearing to order at 7:02 p.m. to receive and hear comments regarding the Fiscal Year 2004-2005 Budget of the Town of Vernon.

Acting Clerk of the Council read into the record the Legal Notice.

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

Acting Clerk of the Council certified that the legal notice was published in the Journal Inquirer on March 17, 2004 and posted on the bulletin board in the Town Hall on March 17, 2004.

Council Member Schaefer entered the meeting (7:06 p.m.).

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ronald Valluzi, 74 Richard Road, felt that the infrastructure of the Town was deteriorating.

Raymond Bricault, 10 Russell Drive, spoke against a tax rate increase.

Suzan Hallett, 112 Prospect Street, spoke against a tax rate increase and the rising cost of health care cost.

Thomas Yost, 1 Danny Trail, spoke in favor of Home Depot and Wal Mart and spoke against higher taxes.

Ellen M. Byrne, 1170 Hartford Tnpk, spoke against a tax rate increase and the hiring of two new police officers.

Dr. Bruce Hangs, 28 Fox Hill Drive, concerned with the way the Town is being run.

Anthony Healy, 85 Sutton Drive, President of the Little League, spoke in favor of the Parks and Rec Budget.

No other residents wished to speak and the Public Hearing was closed at 7:22 p.m.

MAYORAL REQUEST:

Mayor Ellen L. Marmer 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:

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

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Beron, moved TO OPEN TAB 8 PAGE 63 SENIOR CENTER CODE 10457242 FOR DISCUSSION. The motion was carried unanimously 10 to 0 on a voice vote.

Penny Rand Senior Center Director was available for questions and comments.

Council Member Colbert entered the meeting (7:27 p.m.).

Discussion took place.

Council Member Schaefer, seconded by Council Member Herbst, moved TO CLOSE AND APPROVE TAB 8 PAGE 63 SENIOR CENTER CODE 10457242 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$104,033. The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved TO OPEN TAB 5 PAGE 5 REGISTRATION CODE 10113130 FOR DISCUSSION. The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote.

Judith Beaudreau and Patricia Noblet, Registrars of Voters, were available for questions and comment. Discussion took place.

Council Member Vale, seconded by Council Member Beron, moved TO CLOSE AND APPROVE TAB 5 PAGE 5 REGISTRATION CODE 10113130 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$68,200. The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on voice vote.

Council Member Vale, seconded by Council Member Colbert, moved TO OPEN TAB 5 PAGE 6 ELECTIONS – GENERAL CODE 1011131 FOR DISCUSSION. The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote.

Judith Beaudreau and Patricia Noblet, Registrars of Voters, were available for questions and comment. Discussion took place.

Council Member Beron, seconded by Council Member McCoy, moved TO CLOSE AND APPROVE TAB 5 PAGE 6 ELECTIONS – GENERAL CODE 101131 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15,750. The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member Vale, seconded by Council Member Vale (Herbst), moved TO OPEN TAB 5 PAGE 7 ELECTIONS – PRIMARY CODE 10113132 FOR DISCUSSION. The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote. *

Judith Beaudreau and Patricia Noblet, Registrars of Voters, were available for questions and comment. Discussion took place.

Council Member Talbot, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved TO CLOSE AND APPROVE TAB 5 PAGE 7 ELECTIONS – PRIMARY CODE 10113132 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1. The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved TO OPEN TAB 5 PAGE 8 ELECTIONS – REFERENDUM CODE 10113133 FOR DISCUSSION. The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote.

Judith Beaudreau and Patricia Noblet, Registrars of Voters, were available for questions and comment. Discussion took place.

Council Member Vale, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved TO CLOSE AND APPROVE TAB 5 PAGE 8 ELECTIONS – REFERENDUM CODE 10113133 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,350. The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Oliver, moved TO OPEN TAB 6 PAGE 24 POLICE CODE 10230180 FOR DISCUSSION. The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote.

Police Chief Rudolph Rossmly gave an overview of the Police Department Budget and was available for questions and comment. Discussion took place.

Council Member Colbert, seconded by Council Member McCoy, moved TO REDUCE OBJECT CODE 54320 REPAIRS MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT BY \$1,147. The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member Colbert, seconded by Council Member Beron, moved TO REDUCE OBJECT CODE 54330 MAINTENANCE OFFICE EQUIPMENT BY \$404. The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member Beron, seconded by Council Member Oliver, moved TO REDUCE OBJECT CODE 57610 CARS AND VANS BY \$22,000. The motion was carried 7 to 3 on a voice vote with Council Members Beron, Colbert, Fox, Oliver, Schaefer, Talbot, Westerberg voting aye and Council Members McCoy, Vale and Ward voting nay. Council Member Herbst abstained.

Council Member Oliver, seconded by Council Member Beron, moved TO REDUCE OBJECT CODE 56514 MOTOR VEHICLE ACCESSORIES BY \$3,235. The motion was carried 10 to 1 on a voice vote with Council Members Beron, Colbert, Fox, Herbst, Oliver, Schaefer, Talbot, Vale, Ward and Westerberg voting aye and Council Member McCoy voting nay.

*Council Member Herbst replaces Council Member Vale.

Council Member Oliver, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved TO REDUCE OBJECT CODE 51010 POLICE REGULAR WAGES BY \$45,994. The motion was carried 6 to 5 on a voice vote with Council Members Herbst, Oliver, Schaefer, Talbot, Vale and ~~Westerberg~~ (Ward) voting aye and Council Members Beron, Colbert, Fox, McCoy and Westerberg voting nay. *

Council Member Oliver, seconded by Council Member Colbert, moved TO REDUCE OBJECT CODE 51030 PART-TIME WAGES (NEW PART-TIME CLERK) BY \$5,903.

Council Member Beron, seconded by Council Member Colbert, proposed a Friendly Amendment to REDUCE OBJECT CODE 51030 PART-TIME WAGES (NEW PART-TIME CLERK) BY \$11,806.

The motion was carried 7 to 4 on a voice vote with Council Members Beron, Colbert, Herbst, Oliver, Schaefer, Vale and Westerberg voting aye and Council Members Fox, McCoy, Talbot and Ward voting nay.

Council Member Oliver, seconded by Council Member Beron, moved TO MOVE THE QUESTION. The motion was carried 10 to 1 on a voice vote with Council Members voting Beron, Colbert, Fox, Herbst, Oliver, Schaefer, Talbot, Vale, Ward and Westerberg voting aye and Council Member McCoy nay.

Mayor Marmer requested Finance Director James Luddecke to get an exact reduced dollar amount on the police budget.

Council Member Oliver, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved TO CLOSE AND APPROVE TAB 6 PAGE 24 POLICE CODE 10230180 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,858,072. The motion was carried 10 to 1 on a voice vote with Council Members Beron, Colbert, Fox, Herbst, Oliver, Schaefer, Talbot, Vale, Ward and Westerberg voting aye and Council Member McCoy voting nay.

Council Member Schaefer, seconded by Council Member Oliver, moved TO OPEN TAB 6 PAGE 25 SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS CODE 10230181 FOR DISCUSSION. The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member Oliver, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved TO CLOSE AND APPROVE TAB 6 PAGE 25 SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS CODE 10230181 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$58,823. The motion was carried 11 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved TO OPEN TAB 6 PAGE 26 TRAFFIC AUTHORITY CODE 10230182 FOR DISCUSSION. The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote.

Police Chief Rudolph Rossmly was available for questions and comment. Discussion took place.

Council Member McCoy requested that Town Administrator Laurence R. Shaffer find out about the Rental of the Line Painting Machine included in Object Code 54450.

Council Member Fox, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved TO CLOSE AND APPROVE TAB 6 PAGE 26 TRAFFIC AUTHORITY CODE 10230182 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$263,960. The motion was carried 10 to 1 on a voice vote with Council Members Beron, Colbert, Fox, Herbst, Oliver, Schaefer, Talbot, Vale, Ward and Westerberg voting aye and Council Member McCoy voting nay.

*Council Member Ward replaces Council Member Westerberg.

REVENUE DISCUSSION:

No new revenue was discussed.

MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNTS REQUIRING ACTION:

ADJOURN:

Council Member Oliver, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved TO ADJOURN. The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 10:18 p.m.

Appendix A

