

March 19, 2008

MINUTES
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
BUDGET MEETING
SENIOR CENTER 2ND FLOOR, CONFERENCE ROOM
26 PARK PLACE
Wednesday, March 19, 2008
6:30 P.M.

Meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM

Roll Call: Present: Bill Campbell, Daniel Champagne, Bill Fox, Marie Herbst, Nancy E Herold, Peggy A. Jackle, Pauline Schaefer, Diane Wheelock, Michael Winkler

Absent:

Entered During Meeting: Daniel Anderson (7:20 PM), Mark Etre (6:38 PM), Brian Motola (6:39 PM)

Also Present: Mayor Jason L. McCoy, Town Administrator Christopher Clark, Finance Officer James Luddecke, Budget Analyst Diane Luddecke, Recording Secretary Jill Kentfield, Town Clerk Bernice Dixon

PUBLIC HEARING:

Jason L. McCoy, Mayor, called the Public Hearing to order to receive and hear comments regarding the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Budget of the Town of Vernon.

The Clerk read the Legal Notice.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

James Webb Wilson, 300 South St.: He stated he did not support the town hiring a lobbyist.

Bill Breslau 60 Haylen Dr.: Wanted to thank the Town Council for all their time spent working on the budget.

6:44 PM: Council Member Wheelock seconded by Council Member Schaefer moved to close the public hearing. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Wheelock, seconded by Council Member Jackle made a motion to reconvene the special budget meeting. Motion carried unanimously

PRESENTATION:

Mayor McCoy welcomed Senator Tony Guglielmo and State Representative Claire Janowski and Joan Lewis.

The Vernon delegation presented information regarding the status of the Legislative Session and proposed state budget information. The Educational Cost-Sharing grant will increase. Mayor McCoy compiled a list of unfunded mandates from the departments and presented these to the delegation and members of the town council. Council Members received the chance to ask questions of the delegation. They highlighted to the Senator and State Representatives the fact that it is essential the delegation concentrate on state funding of the legislative mandates placed on the Town of Vernon, and remove taxes placed on the Town of Vernon

Mayor McCoy called for a recess at 8:10 PM. The meeting reconvened at 8:25 PM.

BUDGET REVIEW:

The Town Council shall consider the budgets for FY 2008-2009 for various departments, divisions and organizations to include:

1. **Historical Society**
2. **Rockville Public Library**
3. **Capitol Improvements – Town**
4. **Pension**
5. **Group Insurance**

- 6. Unemployment Insurance**
- 7. Municipal Insurance**
- 8. Contingency**
- 9. Social Security and Medicare**
- 10. Debt Service-Principal Payments**
- 11. Debt Service-Interest Payments**

Historical Society

This item was opened on March 11, 2008.

Discussion took place.

Council Member Wheelock seconded by Council Member Schaeffer made a motion to close tab 9, page 65, account 10562261, in the amount of \$5,000, motion carried unanimously.

Rockville Public Library

This item was opened on March 11, 2008.

Discussion took place.

Council Member Wheelock seconded by Council Member Etre made a motion to close tab 9, page 66, account 10562262, in the amount of \$300,000, motion carried unanimously.

Capitol Improvements - Town

Council Member Wheelock seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to open tab 11, page 75, in the amount of \$150,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion took place.

Council member Winkler requested account 51610 be changed to a leased vehicle for the Building Inspector to stay consistent with other areas of the budget.

Council Member Herold suggested the Town look into a State Bond request for sidewalks.

Council Member Wheelock seconded by Council Member Champagne made a motion to close tab 11, page 75, account 10780290, in the amount of \$150,000, motion carried Council Member Herbst abstained.

Pension

Council Member Wheelock seconded by Council Member Anderson made a motion to open tab 10, page 68, in the amount of \$1,901,600. Motion carried, Council member Herold abstained.

Council Member Anderson seconded by Council Member Etre made a motion to close tab 10, page 68, account 10670271, in the amount of \$1,901,600, motion carried Council member Herold abstained.

Group Insurance

Council Member Wheelock seconded by Council Member Anderson made a motion to open tab 10, page 69, in the amount of \$2,635,000. Motion carried, Council member Champagne abstained.

It was explained that the account was reduced by Mayor McCoy by \$400,000. Due to re-bidding, the Town received a lower rate for the same coverage.

Council Member Schaefer seconded by Council Member Etre moved to reduce the account by \$12,000 for a total of \$2,623,000. Motion carried, Council Member Champagne abstained.

Council Member Wheelock seconded by Council Member Schaefer moved to close tab 10, page 69, account 10670272 in the amount of \$2,623,000 motion carried, Council member Champagne abstained.

Unemployment Compensation

Council Member Wheelock seconded by Council Member Anderson made a motion to open tab 10, page 70, in the amount of \$25,000. Motion carried unanimously.

March 19, 2008

Council Member Anderson seconded by Council Member Wheelock made a motion to close tab 10, page 70, account 10670273, in the amount of \$25,000, motion carried unanimously.

Municipal Insurance

Council Member Wheelock seconded by Council Member Anderson made a motion to open tab 10, page 71, in the amount of \$684,197. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Anderson seconded by Council Member Wheelock made a motion to close tab 10, page 71, account 10671278, in the amount of \$684,197, motion carried unanimously.

Contingency

Council Member Wheelock seconded by Council Member Anderson made a motion to open tab 10, page 72, in the amount of \$150,086. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Anderson seconded by Council Member Wheelock made a motion to close tab 10, page 72, account 10672280, in the amount of \$150,086, motion carried unanimously.

Social Security and Medicare

Council Member Wheelock seconded by Council Member Anderson made a motion to open tab 10, page 67, in the amount of \$909,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Anderson seconded by Council Member Wheelock made a motion to close tab 10, page 67, account 10670270, in the amount of \$909,000, motion carried unanimously.

Debt Service – Principal Payments

Council Member Wheelock seconded by Council Member Anderson made a motion to open tab 11, page 77, in the amount of \$2,803,137. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Anderson seconded by Council Member Wheelock made a motion to close tab 11, page 77, account 10883292, in the amount of \$2,803,137, motion carried unanimously.

Debt Service – Interest Payments

Council Member Wheelock seconded by Council Member Anderson made a motion to open tab 11, page 78, in the amount of \$1,725,189. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Anderson seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to close tab 11, page 78, account 10883294, in the amount of \$1,725,189, motion carried unanimously.

Revenue Discussion:

Council Member Anderson seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to open tab 12, page 84, account 41345700, in the amount of \$5,707,388.

Discussion took place.

Council Member Anderson seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to send this back to the WPCA for reevaluation of sections 57620 (trucks) \$29,700; 57710 (Computer Hardware) \$50,000; and 57720 (Computer Software) \$32,150 to consider delaying these purchases 1 year or more. The WPCA will have 10 days to act. Motion carried, Council Members Fox, Winkler, Schaefer and Herbst opposed.

10:00 PM – Council Member Wheelock seconded by Council Member Anderson moved to extend curfew until 11:00. Motion carried.

Council Member Anderson seconded by Council Member Campbell moved to open tab 11, page 75 account 10780290 Capitol Improvements, in the amount of \$150,000 to change the Building Inspector vehicle from \$16,000 for a reduction to \$5,000 to lease the vehicle.

Motion carried, Council Member Herbst opposed.

March 19, 2008

Council Member Anderson seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to open section 57590 of tab 11, page 75 account 1078290 Capitol Improvements, in the amount of \$48,100 to purchase the incinerator over 2 years for a reduction of \$24,100 during this budget year and an additional \$24,000 over the next budget year.

Motion failed, Council Members Wheelock, Motola, Etre, Herbst, Herold, Jackle, Champagne, Winker, and Fox opposed.

Council Member Anderson seconded by Council Member Schaefer moved to open account 10562262 – Rockville Public Library, in the amount of \$300,000.

Council Member Anderson seconded by Council Member Jackle moved to open section 58710 to reduce the amount to \$275,000. Motion failed.

Council Members Motola, Herbst, Winkler, Fox, Champagne, Wheelock opposed, Mayor McCoy broke the tie with an opposition vote.

Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member Schaefer moved to close account 10562262, Rockville Public Library, in the amount of \$300,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member Herbst moved to open tab 5, page 7, account 10113132 – Elections Primary, in the amount of \$3,400.

Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member Schaefer moved to reduce section 53090 custodial fees from \$200.00 to 0, motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member Schaefer moved to reduce section 54390 other repairs and maintenance from \$250.00 to 0, motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member Motola moved to reduce section 54430 Rental of vehicles from \$400.00 to 0, motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member Schaefer moved to reduce section 55320 Communication rentals from \$300.00 to 0, motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member Wheelock moved to reduce section 55400 advertising from \$1000.00 to 0, motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member Wheelock moved to reduce section 56010 Office supplies from \$200.00 to 0, motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member Wheelock moved to reduce section 56300 food from \$200.00 to 0, motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Anderson seconded by Council Member Schaefer moved to close tab 5, page 7 account 10113132 in the amount of \$1.00.

Council Member Herbst seconded by Council Member Herold moved to open tab 5, page 3, account 10112120 Executive and Administration.

Council Member Herbst seconded by Council Member Herold moved to open section 55650, professional lobbying firm to reduce the amount of \$30,000.

Brief discussion took place.

Motion failed. Council Members Wheelock, Anderson, Motola, Etre, Champagne, Jackle and Campbell opposed.

Council Member Herbst seconded by Council Member Fox moved to open tab 5, page 22, account 10150170 Town Planner – Administration, in the amount of \$11,240.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Winkler moved to open section 51030 part time wages to increase the account in the amount of \$15,000 to hire a part time secretary.

Discussion took place and members took into account they would support this option further under tab 7, page 42 – Engineering Department.

March 19, 2008

Council Member Herbst withdrew the motion.

Council Member Fox seconded by Council Member Wheelock moved to close the account. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Champagne seconded by Council Member Herbst moved to open tab 7, page 42, account 10341214 – Engineering Administrative Services, in the amount of \$267,601. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Champagne seconded by Council Member Herbst moved to open section 51030 to increase the account in the amount of \$15,000 for part time wages to hire a part time secretary. Discussion took place.

10:55 PM Council Member Wheelock, seconded by Council Member Schaefer moved to extend curfew until 11:30. Motion carried, Council Members Etre and Campbell opposed. 11:00 PM Council Member Etre left the meeting.

Motion failed, Council Members Motola, Wheelock, Anderson, Campbell, Herold and Jackle opposed. Council Member Etre did not vote.

Council Member Motola seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to open tab 8, page 45 account 10456222 – Hockanum Valley Community Council, in the amount of \$170,000.

Council Member Motola seconded by Council Member Anderson moved to reduce account #58700 by \$20,000 to \$150,000. Discussion took place.

Council Member Schaefer suggested a friendly amendment to change the cut in funding to \$10,000 reducing the budget to \$160,000, which was accepted by Council Members Motola and Anderson.

Motion with friendly amendment carried, Council Members Wheelock, Winkler, Fox, Herbst, and Herold opposed.

Council Member Motola seconded by Council Member Anderson moved to close tab 8, page 45 account 10456222, in the amount of \$160,000, motion carried Council Members Fox, Herbst and Winkler opposed.

11:25 PM Council Member Wheelock, seconded by Council Member Schaefer moved to extend curfew until 12:00 AM. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Winkler seconded by Council Member Herbst moved to open tab 12, page 79 of the Board of Education budget, in the amount of \$75,486,500. Motion failed. Council members Campbell, Jackle, Wheelock, Champagne, Herold and Motola opposed.

Council Member Fox seconded by Council member Herbst moved to open tab 8, page 56, account 10456240, in the amount of \$230,172. Motion carried, Council Member Champagne opposed.

Mayor McCoy indicated there was an error in the Budget and asked that the Budget be increased by \$500.00.

Council Member Fox seconded by Council Member Winkler moved to increase the budget \$500.00 due to an error in the original budget. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Fox seconded by Council Member Schaefer moved to close tab 8, page 56, account 10456240 in the amount of \$230,672. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Winkler seconded by Council Member Fox moved to open the Board of Education budget account # 10990330 to add \$200,000 to the budget. Motion Failed, Council Members Wheelock, Anderson, Schaefer, Motola, Campbell, Herold, Jackle, Champagne opposed.

Council Member Schaefer, seconded by Council Member Anderson moved to close the budget. Motion carried unanimously.

11:40 PM – Council Member Wheelock called for a 5 minute recess.

March 19, 2008

11:55 PM Council Member Wheelock, seconded by Council Member Schaefer moved to extend curfew until 12:10 AM. Motion carried unanimously.

12:05 AM Council Member Herold, seconded by Council Member Schaefer moved to extend curfew until 12:15 AM. Motion carried unanimously.

Miscellaneous Accounts Requiring Action:

The next step will be to advertise the legal notice with the chart of accounts. This step will be postponed until the WPCA returns with their recommendations.

The Town Council shall approve the total budget for the Town Meeting.

APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE TOWN OF VERNON FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008 – 2009

Move to: Approve the Town of Vernon General Government appropriations in the amount of \$25,087,453; the Capitol Improvements and Debt Service appropriations in the amount of \$4,667,326; and the Education budget in the amount of \$45,696,823 for a General Fund total of \$75,451,602.

Council Member Schaefer seconded by Council Member Wheelock moved to approve the above budget appropriations. Motion carried, Council Members Herbst and Winkler opposed.

APPROVAL OF BUDGET REVENUE ESTIMATES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008 – 2009

Move to: Approve the Total Estimated Revenue in the amount of \$75,451,602 to coincide with the total recommended appropriations of \$75,451,602 and to authorize the Finance Officer to adjust line items in the estimated revenues as may be deemed necessary.

Council Member Wheelock seconded by Council Member Schaefer moved to approve the above budget appropriations. Motion carried, Council Members Herbst and Winkler opposed.

APPROVAL OF TOWN OF VERNON BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009 FOR PRESENTATION AT THE PUBLIC HEARING/TOWN MEETING

Move to: Present the Town Council approved Budget for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 in the amount of \$75,451,602 to the electors and qualified taxpayers at the Public Hearing/Annual Town Meeting scheduled for Tuesday April 22, 2008, at 7:30 PM in the Auditorium of Vernon Center Middle School, 777 Hartford Turnpike, Vernon, CT. The Town Clerk is authorized and directed to publish a summary of said proposed budget and enterprise activity estimates showing anticipated revenues by major sources and proposed appropriations by functions and/or departments and the amounts to be raised by taxation, at least five days before the Public Hearing.

Council Member Wheelock, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made the above motion. Motion Carried Council members Herbst and Winkler opposed.

ADJOURN: 12:07 AM

Council Member Winkler seconded by Council Member Herbst moved to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Received: March 24, 2008

Approved: May 20, 2008

Respectfully Submitted,

Jill Kentfield
Recording Secretary



James E. Krupienski, Asst.