

**MINUTES**  
**VERNON TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**TOWN HALL - 14 PARK PLACE - 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**  
**VERNON, CONNECTICUT**

**Tuesday, April 7, 2009 7:30 P.M.**

The special Town Council budget meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

A.) **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Council Members Daniel Anderson, Bill Campbell, Daniel Champagne, Mark Etre, Marie Herbst, Brian Motola, Sean O'Shea, Pauline Schaefer, Harry Thomas, Michael Winkler

Absent:

Entered During Meeting: Bill Fox (7:15), Nancy Herold (7:35 PM)

Also Present: Mayor Jason L. McCoy, Town Administrator John Ward, Recording Secretary Jill Kentfield

The April 1, 2009 recessed meeting reconvened at 7:05 PM.

Open tab and motion on the floor:

Council Member Motola seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to open tab 5, page 23, in the amount of \$105,881, motion carried unanimously.

Discussion took place. Council Member Etre, seconded by Council Member Thomas made a motion to reduce object code 58800 by \$15,000.

Discussion continued.

Recess (7:30 PM)

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to recess the Special Town Council Budget meeting until the end of the regularly scheduled Town Council Meeting has been completed. Motion carried unanimously.

The regular Town Council meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM

A.) **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Council Members Daniel Anderson, Bill Campbell, Daniel Champagne, Mark Etre, Bill Fox, Marie Herbst, Nancy Herold, Brian Motola, Sean O'Shea, Pauline Schaefer, Harry Thomas, Michael Winkler

Absent:

Entered During Meeting:

Also Present: Mayor Jason L. McCoy, Town Administrator John Ward, Recording Secretary Jill Kentfield

**CITIZEN'S FORUM: (7:33 PM)**

Receive public comment regarding the Justice Assistance Grant through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. **(Notice of Public Solicitation is attached for your review).**

Receive comments from any citizen wishing to speak regarding issues of interest to them.

Bryan Flynt, Ellington: Spoke on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Rockville Downtown Association. He encouraged the Council to keep the full funding allocation for Rockville Downtown Association

Bill Breslau, 60 Halen Dr.: Spoke on behalf of keeping the full funding allocation for Rockville Downtown Association.

Bernice Dixon, 72 Tinker Pond Rd, Bolton, CT: Spoke about the operations of the Town Clerk Office which included letters of support, state statute mandates and important time frames the Town Clerk's office need to follow. She encouraged the Town Council to reinstate the funding to Town Clerk's office.

Steward Clark, 20 Allison Dr.: Spoke on behalf of the Town Clerk's office and urged the Town Council to reinstate the Town Clerk's funding.

Steve Wakefield, 152 Brookfield Dr.: Spoke on behalf of the Bicentennial Committee. The Committee presented a flag to the Mayor that was designed for the Town by Cliff Edwards.

Scott Martin, Bolton, CT: Encouraged the Town Council to reinstate the funding to the Town Clerk's office.

Bill Smith, 30 Vernwood Dr.: Spoke about in favor of keeping the budget as minimal as possible.

Citizen's Forum closed at 8:13 PM

**B.) PUBLIC HEARING**

PUBLIC HEARING RELATIVE TO THE "PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2009 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION", TO SOLICIT CITIZEN INPUT AND ANSWER QUESTIONS FOR SAME. (A copy of the legal notice is included for your review. L. Wagner and Associates, our consulting firm will be present to answer questions).

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to open the public hearing. Motion carried unanimously.

**Open Public Hearing 8:13 PM**

Mayor McCoy called the public hearing to order to receive comments and answer any questions from the public. The Recording Secretary read the legal notice into the record.

Larry Wagner from Wagner Associates is assisting the Town of Vernon in the Community Development Block Grant application program and was available to answer any questions.

Brian Flint: Spoke on behalf of the Rockville Community Alliance and looks forward to working together to continue the Community Development Block Grant.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to adjourn the public hearing. Motion carried unanimously.

**Close Public Hearing 8:19 PM**

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Herbst made a motion to approve the consent agenda items as presented. Motion carried unanimously to approve the consent agenda items 1-5 as presented.

D.) **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

- C 1. Request for Tax Refunds for the Current Year.** (A copy of a memorandum from Carol L Nelson, Collector of Revenue to John D. Ward, Town Administrator dated March 30, 2009 is included in the Council packet.)

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES SIX (6) TAX REFUNDS TOTALLING \$3,301.85 FOR THE CURRENT YEAR, AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM THE COLLECTOR OF REVENUE, CAROL L. NELSON TO THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR JOHN D. WARD DATED MARCH 30, 2009.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Herbst made a motion to approve the tax fund for current year in the amount of \$3,301.85. Motion carried unanimously.

- C 2. Request the Town Council authorize a bid waiver for High Efficiency Lighting for twelve Town of Vernon buildings.** (Copy of a memorandum from John D. Ward, Town Administrator dated April 2, 2009 to Mayor Jason L. McCoy and the Town Council is included for your review.)

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

THE TOWN COUNCIL IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER XII, SECTION 9, OF THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, DETERMINES THAT IT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE TOWN TO WAIVE THE BID PROCEDURE FOR THE PURCHASE OF A HIGH EFFICIENCY LIGHTING SYSTEM UPGRADE FOR TWELVE TOWN BUILDINGS FROM CON SERV, INC., THROUGH CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$71,436.30. AFTER INVESTIGATION, THIS SUPPLIER IS FOUND TO MATCH THE SPECIFIC NEEDS OF VERNON AND THE COSTS OF SAME.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Herbst made a motion to authorize the bid waiver for High Efficiency Lighting for twelve Town of Vernon buildings. Motion carried unanimously.

- C 3. Request the Town Council authorizes the Mayor Jason L. McCoy to apply for the FY 2010 Historic Documents Preservation Grant Program.** (A copy of the memorandum from Town Clerk Bernice Dixon to Jason L. McCoy, Mayor; John D. Ward, Town Administrator; and Vernon Town Council Members is included for your review.)

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #1:**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES MAYOR JASON L. MCCOY TO EXECUTE AND DELIVER IN THE NAME OF AND ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF VERNON A CONTRACT WITH THE CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY FOR A HISTORIC DOCUMENTS PRESERVATION GRANT.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Herbst made a motion to authorize the Mayor to apply for the FY 2010 Historic Documents Preservation Grant Program. Motion carried unanimously.

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #2:**

THE TOWN COUNCIL ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF VERNON ADOPTS AS ITS POLICY TO SUPPORT THE NONDISCRIMINATION AGREEMENTS AND WARRANTIES REQUIRED UNDER CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES SUBSECTION 4A-60(A)(1), AS AMENDED IN STATE OF CONNECTICUT PUBLIC ACT 07-245 AND SECTIONS 9(A)(1) AND 10(A)(1) OF PUBLIC ACT 07-142.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Herbst made a motion to adopt as it's policy to support the Nondiscrimination agreements and warranties required under CGS Subsection 4A-60(A)(1), as amended in State of Connecticut Public Act 07-245. Motion carried unanimously.

- C 4. **Request the Town Council adopt the State of Connecticut, Department of Economic and Community Development Certified Resolution; authorize the Mayor to execute and file the CDBG Grant Application in order to undertake Street Improvements in the Rockville Area and to execute the necessary Assistance Agreement.** (Copies supporting documents attached.)

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION:**

WHEREAS, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY ADOPTS THE CERTIFIED RESOLUTION ENTITLED "DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – STATE OF CONNECTICUT, CERTIFIED RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY". SAID RESOLUTION AUTHORIZES THE MAYOR, JASON L. MCCOY TO EXECUTE AND FILE THE CDBG GRANT APPLICATION FOR 2009 ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF VERNON IN THE AMOUNT OF \$500,000.00, TO UNDERTAKE STREET IMPROVEMENTS IN THE ROCKVILLE AREA. FURTHER THE TOWN COUNCIL AUTHORIZES THE MAYOR JASON L. MCCOY TO EXECUTE THE ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT FOR SAME.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Herbst made a motion adopt the State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development Certified Resolution and authorizes the Mayor to execute and file the CDBG Grant Application in order to undertake Street improvements in the Rockville Area and to execute the necessary assistance agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

- C 5. **Request the Town Council authorize the Mayor to apply for the Justice Assistance Grant through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. (Chief James Kenny will be present to answer your questions regarding the Grant Application.)**

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES MAYOR JASON L. MCCOY TO APPLY FOR THE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT THROUGH THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$53,000.00 (FIFTY-THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS) AND AUTHORIZES MAYOR JASON L. MCCOY TO EXECUTE ANY DOCUMENTS NECESSARY FOR SAME.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Herbst made a motion to authorize the Mayor to apply for the Justice Assistance Grant through the American Recovery Reinvestment Act. Motion carried unanimously.

**E) IDENTIFICATION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS**

None

**F.) PENDING BUSINESS**

None

**G.) NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Request that the Town Council entertain a discussion regarding local property tax aid to seniors as requested by Council member Marie Herbst.** (A copy of Council member Herbst memorandum dated March 23, 2009 is included for your review. Tax Assessor, David Wheeler will be present to answer questions and distribute the most up to date information for the Council's review.)

Mr. Wheeler was available to speak about the 3 different property tax aid to seniors as follows:

- State Circuit Breaker Program for seniors 65+ with limited income.
- Local Option of this program for seniors 65+ with limited income.
- Freeze Tax Program for seniors age 70+.

2. **Request that the Town Council return to the recessed 2009-2010 Budget Discussion to continue and complete their final deliberations. Finance Officer James Luddecke to be present to conduct a revenue discussion and answer questions. Finally, the Town Council is requested to approve the total budget for Town Meeting at the conclusion of discussions.**

**MOTION:**

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to adjourn the regular Town Council meeting and move back to the budget meeting.

Recess (8:31 PM)

Reconvene (8:45 PM)

Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member Thomas made a motion to waive curfew. Council Member Winkler asked them to set a time. Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member Thomas amended his motion to adjourn at 12:30 PM. Motion carried, Council Members Herbst, Schaefer, Fox and Herold abstained.

Open tab and motion on the floor:

Council Member Motola seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to open tab 5, page 23, in the amount of \$105,881, motion carried unanimously.

Discussion took place. Council Member Etre, seconded by Council Member Thomas made a motion to reduce object code 58800 by \$15,000.

Discussion continued. Council Member Herbst made a motion to move the question, motion failed, Council Members Etre, Motola, Anderson, Campbell, Thomas, Champagne opposed.

Original motion to reduce object code 58800 by \$15,000 carried, Council Members Herbst, Schaefer, O'Shea, Herold and Winkler opposed, Council Member Fox abstained.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member O'Shea made a motion to close tab 5, page 23 in the amount of \$90,881, motion carried, Council Members Herbst and Schaefer

opposed.

#### **Pension**

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Etre made a motion to open tab 10, page 67, in the amount of \$2,047,000, motion carried unanimously.

Discussion took place.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to close tab 10, page 67, account 10670271, in the amount of \$2,047,000, motion carried, Council Members Herold and Champagne abstained.

#### **Group Insurance**

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member O'Shea made a motion to open tab 10, page 68, in the amount of \$2,766,250, motion carried, Council Member Champagne abstained.

Discussion took place.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Thomas made a motion to close tab 10, page 68, account 10670272, in the amount of \$2,766,250, motion carried, Council Member Champagne abstained.

#### **Unemployment Insurance**

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Herbst made a motion to open tab 10, page 69, in the amount of \$24,000, motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member O'Shea made a motion to close tab 10, page 69, account 10670273, in the amount of \$24,000, motion carried unanimously

#### **Municipal Insurance**

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to open tab 10, page 70, in the amount of \$696,292, motion carried, Council Member Champagne abstained.

Discussion took place.

Council Member Anderson requested a total vehicle summary for years 2009 vs. 2008.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Herbst made a motion to close tab 10, page 70, account 10671278, in the amount of \$696,292, motion carried, Council Member Champagne abstained.

#### **Pequot Mohegan Grant**

Mr. Luddecke requested a reduction be made to object code 43720, Pequot Mohegan Grant by \$99,407 due to a calculation error. Council Motola, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to open tab 2, page 4-9, motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to reduce object code 43720 by \$99,407. Motion carried, Council Member Herbst abstained.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member O'Shea made a motion to close tab 2, page 4-9 in the amount of \$250,987, Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Contingency**

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Etre made a motion to open tab 10, page 71, in the amount of \$236,000, motion carried unanimously.

Discussion took place.

Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to reduce object code 58000 by \$100,000 for a total of \$136,000. Motion carried, Council Members Herbst, Winkler, Champagne, Schaefer and Herold abstained.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member O'Shea made a motion to close tab 10, page 71, account 10672280, in the amount of \$136,000, motion carried, Council Members Champagne and Herold abstained.

**Social Security and Medicare**

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to open tab 10, page 66, in the amount of \$935,000, motion carried unanimously.

Discussion took place.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to close tab 10, page 66, account 10670270, in the amount of \$935,000, motion carried unanimously.

**Debt Service - Principal Payments**

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Etre made a motion to open tab 11, page 76, in the amount of \$2,935,828, motion carried unanimously.

Discussion took place.

Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to reduce tab 11, page 76, object code 59170 by \$221,897. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member O'Shea made a motion to close tab 11, page 76, account 10883292, in the amount of \$2,713,931, motion carried unanimously.

**Debt Service - Interest Payments**

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member O'Shea made a motion to open tab 11, page 77, in the amount of \$2,008,350, motion carried unanimously.

Discussion took place.

Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member Etre made a motion to reduce object code 59270 by \$26,616 to \$11,694. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Etre made a motion to close tab 11, page 77, account 10883294, in the amount of \$1,981,734, motion carried unanimously.

**Miscellaneous Budget Changes:**

Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member Etre made a motion to open tab 5, page 5, account 10113130. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member Etre made a motion to decrease object code 51030 in the amount of \$3284. Discussion took place. Motion carried, Council Members Winkler, Herbst, Herold, Fox and Schaefer opposed, Council Member Champagne abstained.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Etre made a motion to close tab 5, page 5 account 10113130 in the amount of \$79,422. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member O'Shea made a motion to open tab 5, page 15 account 10114146. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member Etre made a motion decrease object code 51010 in the amount of \$27,721. Discussion took place. Motion carried, Council Members Winkler, Herbst, Herold, Fox and Schaefer opposed, Council Member Champagne abstained.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member O'Shea made a motion to close tab 5, page 15 account 10114146 in the amount of \$224,369. Motion carried, Council Members Herbst, Winkler, Fox and Schaefer opposed.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to open tab 5, page 17 account 10115150. Motion carried, Council Member Etre opposed.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion increase object code 51010 in the amount of \$19,112. Discussion took place

Recess (10:55 PM)

10:57 PM, Council Member Herold left the meeting.

Reconvene (11:11 PM)

Discussion continued.

Motion to increase object code 51010 by \$19,112 failed, Council Members Etre, Motola, Anderson, O'Shea, Campbell and Thomas opposed, Council Member Champagne abstained.

11:15 PM, Council Member O'Shea left the meeting.

Council Member Schaefer, seconded by Council Member Winkler made a motion to increase object code 51030 by \$10,559. Discussion took place. Motion carried, Council Members Etre, Anderson and Campbell opposed.

Council Member Winkler, seconded by Council Member Herbst made a motion to close tab 5, page 17 account 10115150 in the amount of \$270,337. Motion carried Council Member Champagne abstained.

Council Member Winkler, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to open tab 7, page 32 account 10340200. Motion carried, motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Winkler, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to decrease object code 51010 in the amount of \$3235. Discussion took place. Motion carried, Council Member Etre opposed.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to decrease object code 51060 in the amount of \$250. Discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to close tab 7, page 32 account 10340200 in the amount of \$576,468. Motion carried, Council Member Etre opposed.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to open tab 5, page 3 account 10112120. Motion failed, Council Members Etre, Motola, Anderson, Campbell, Thomas and Champagne opposed.

Council Member Campbell, seconded by Council Member Anderson made a motion to open tab 12, page 83 account 41345700. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Campbell, seconded by Council Member Anderson made a motion decrease object code 58400 in the amount of \$20,000. Motion carried, Council Members Winkler, Fox, Herbst and Schaefer opposed.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to close tab 12, page 83 account 41345700 in the amount of \$5,708,145. Motion carried, Council Member Herbst opposed.

Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to open tab 6, page 29 account 10232187. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member Motola made a motion to reduce object code 51010 in the amount of \$20,000. Motion carried, Council Members Winkler, Fox, Schaefer and Herbst opposed, Council Member Champagne abstained.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Anderson made a motion to close tab 6, page 29 account 10232187 in the amount of 261,876. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Anderson made a motion to open tab 11, page 74 account 10780290. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion increase object code 57620 in the amount of \$15,000 for purchase of a 4x4 pick up truck for the fire department. Motion failed, Council Members Motola, Etre, Anderson, Campbell, Thomas and Champagne opposed.

Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to reduce object code 57610 by \$56,000 to change the vehicles to a lease purchase. Motion carried, Council Members Herbst opposed, Council Member Winkler abstained.

Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to close tab 11, page 74 account 10780290 in the amount of \$76,120. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member Winkler made a motion to open tab 11, page 14 account 10883292. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member Winkler made a motion to increase object code 59170 in the amount of \$14,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member Motola made a motion to close tab 11, page 14 account 10883292 in the amount of \$2727,931. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Schaefer, seconded by Council Member Herbst made a motion to open tab 5, page 3 account 10112120. Motion carried, Council Members Anderson and Etre opposed.

Council Member Schaefer, seconded by Council Member Herbst made a motion to decrease object code in the amount of \$30,000. Motion failed, Council Members Etre, Motola, Anderson, Campbell, Thomas and Champagne opposed.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Winkler made a motion to decrease object code 51010 in the amount of \$77,122.

**Recess (12:30 AM)**

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Thomas made a motion to recess until Wednesday, April 8, 2009 at 7:00 PM. Motion carried unanimously.

Received:

Approved:

Respectfully Submitted,

Jill Kentfield  
Recording Secretary