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VERNON TOWN COUNCIL
VIRTUAL SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING/PUBLIC HEARING
MONDAY, APRIL 5, 2021 7:00PM

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89347112214?pwd=cmIvYWdRZTRRUW8yV1ljZHZrQnJ0QT09

CONFERENCE CALL: 1-929-205-6099
MEETING ID: 893 4711 2214 PASSWORD: 0405

Mayor Daniel A. Champagne called the virtual meeting to order at 7:00PM.

A.) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Recited

B.) ROLL CALL
Present: Council Members Laura Bush, Bill Campbell, Julie Clay, Thomas DiDio, Linda Gessay, Ann Letendre, Maryann Levesque, Brian Motola, Jim Tedford, Steve Wakefield, Michael Wendus
Absent: Pauline Schaefer
Entered During Meeting:
Also Present: Town Administrator Michael J. Purcaro, Finance Officer and Treasurer Jeffrey O'Neill, Recording Secretary Kathleen Minor

C.) CITIZEN'S FORUM

7:04PM – Citizens forum ended with no comment.

D.) PRESENTATION

Jeffrey O'Neill, Finance Officer and Treasurer, provided updates related to budget.

E.) BUDGET REVIEW

Assessment – Tab 4, page 166, Code 10114144, $309,712
David Wheeler, Assessor, presented budget summary and answered questions. Discussion ensued.

Revaluation – Tab 4, page 180, Code 10114147, $18,000
David Wheeler, Assessor, presented budget summary and answered questions. Discussion ensued.

Board of Assessment Appeals – Tab 4, page 190, Code 10116155, $2,500
David Wheeler, Assessor, presented budget summary. No discussion.

Finance – Administration – Tab 4, Page 154, Code 10114140, $484,903
Jeffrey O'Neill, Finance Officer and Treasurer, presented budget summary and answered questions. Discussion ensued.

Collector of Revenue – Tab 4, page 174, Code 10114146, $180,190
Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue, presented budget summary and answered questions. Discussion ensued.

Refunds – Tax Adjustments – Tab 4, page 170, Code 10114145, $45,360
Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue, presented budget summary and answered questions. Discussion ensued.

Finance – Independent Audit – Tab 4, Page 158, Code 10114141, $81,537
Jeffrey O'Neill, Finance Officer and Treasurer, presented budget summary and answered questions. Discussion ensued.

Finance – Treasury – Tab 4, Page 162, Code 10114142, $4,640
Jeffrey O'Neill, Finance Officer and Treasurer, presented budget summary and answered questions. Discussion ensued.

Social Security and Medicare – Tab 9, Page 429, Code 10670270, $1,195,796
Jeffrey O'Neill, Finance Officer and Treasurer, presented budget summary and answered questions. Discussion ensued.

Pension – Tab 9, Page 433, Code 10670271, $3,387,595
Jeffrey O'Neill, Finance Officer and Treasurer, presented budget summary and answered questions. Discussion ensued.

Group Insurance – Tab 9, Page 437, Code 10670272, $2,711,128
Jeffrey O'Neill, Finance Officer and Treasurer, presented budget summary and answered questions. Discussion ensued.

Unemployment Insurance – Tab 9, Page 441, Code 10670273, $21,400
Jeffrey O'Neill, Finance Officer and Treasurer, presented budget summary and answered questions. Discussion ensued.

Municipal Insurance – Tab 9, Page 445, Code 10671278, $675,538
Jeffrey O'Neill, Finance Officer and Treasurer, presented budget summary and answered questions. Discussion ensued.

Contingency – Tab 9, Page 449, Code 10672280, $153,831
Jeffrey O'Neill, Finance Officer and Treasurer, presented budget summary and answered questions. Discussion ensued.

Debt Service – Principal Payments – Tab 10, Page 479, Code 10883292, $6,246,381
Jeffrey O'Neill, Finance Officer and Treasurer, presented budget summary and answered questions. Discussion ensued.

Debt Service – Interest Payments – Tab 10, Page 483, Code 10883294, $1,311,369
Jeffrey O'Neill, Finance Officer and Treasurer, presented budget summary and answered questions. Discussion ensued.

Revenue – Tab 2
Jeffrey O'Neill, Finance Officer and Treasurer, presented budget summary and answered questions. Discussion ensued.

F.) MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNTS REQUIRING DISCUSSION OR ACTION

Finance Officer and Treasurer Jeffrey O'Neill discussed the proposed changes from the Mayors budget after the deliberations which resulted in no increase or decrease.

Council Member Didio made a motion, seconded by Council Member Levesque, to restore Tab 4, Page 127, Object Code 55650 Conference Fees and Memberships in the amount of $22,935 for Capital Region Council of Government (CROG). Discussion ensued. Motion failed by roll call vote 4 in favor and 8 opposed (Bush, Campbell, Clay, Gessay, Motola, Tedford, Wakefield, Wendus).

Council Member Wakefield and Council Member Motola asked questions regarding various Capital Improvement budget items. Fire Chief Steve Eppler, Director of Public Works Dwight Ryniewicz and Town Engineer David Smith spoke and answered questions.

Council Member Motola asked a question Parks and Recreation staffing. Marty Sitler, Director of Parks and Recreation, answered questions.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Gessay, made a motion regarding Tab 7, Page 342, Object Code 58700 for Hockanum Valley Community Council to reduce proposed budget by $2,000 to $180,000 total. Discussion ensued. Motion carried by roll call vote with 7 in favor, 3 opposed (Didio, Letendre, Levesque) and 1 abstention (Campbell). Council Member Schaefer is no longer on the call.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Clay, made a motion regarding Tab 7, Page 354, Object Code 58700 for MARC, Inc. of Manchester to increase proposed budget by $2,000. Discussion ensued. Motion carried by roll call vote with 8 in favor, 2 opposed (Letendre, Levesque) and 1 abstention (Campbell) Council Member Schaefer is no longer on the call.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Clay, made a motion regarding Tab 7, Page 370, Object Code 58700 for Opportunity Works to reduce proposed budget by $2,000. Discussion ensued. Motion carried by roll call vote with 7 in favor, 3 opposed (Didio, Letendre, Levesque) and 2 abstentions (Campbell, Motola). Council Member Schaefer is no longer on the call.

Council Member Wendus, seconded by Council Member Clay, made a motion regarding Tab 7, Page 358, Object Code 58700 for Cornerstone Foundation to reduce proposed budget by $1,500. Discussion ensued. Motion carried with 6 in favor, 3 opposed (Didio, Letendre, Levesque) and 2 abstentions (Campbell, Motola) Council Member Schaefer is no longer on the call.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to approve the bottom line number and all the changes on the document titled "Review of Accounts with Proposed Changes to the Mayors Budget". Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote of all members present.

G.) FINALIZE BUDGET

APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE TOWN OF VERNON FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022

THE TOWN COUNCIL DOES HEREBY APPROVE THE TOWN OF VERNON GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF **$31,138,886**; THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND DEBT SERVICE BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF **$9,717,560**; AND THE EDUCATION BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF **$55,032,612** FOR A TOTAL GENERAL FUND TOTAL OF **$95,889,058**.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to approve the Town of Vernon General Government appropriations in the amount of $31,138,886, the Capital Improvements and Debt Service budget in the amount of $9,717,560 and the Education Budget in the amount of $55,032,612 for a total general fund total of $95,889,058. Motion carried by roll call vote with 8 in favor and 3 opposed (Didio, Letendre, Levesque).

APPROVAL OF BUDGET REVENUE ESTIMATES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022:

THE TOWN COUNCIL DOES HEREBY APPROVE THE TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUE IN THE AMOUNT OF **$95,889,058** TO COINCIDE WITH THE TOTAL RECOMMENDED APPROPRIATIONS OF **$95,889,058**, AND TO AUTHORIZE THE FINANCE OFFICER TO ADJUST LINE ITEMS IN THE ESTIMATED REVENUE AS MAY BE DEEMED NECESSARY.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to approve the total estimated revenue in the amount of $95,889,058 to coincide with the total recommended appropriations of $95,889,058 and to authorize the Finance Officer to adjust line items in the estimated revenue as may be deemed necessary. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

APPROVAL OF TOWN OF VERNON BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 FOR PRESENTATION AT THE PUBLIC HEARING/TOWN MEETING:

THE TOWN COUNCIL DOES HEREBY APPROVE AND PRESENT THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 IN THE AMOUNT OF **$95,889,058** TO THE ELECTORS AND QUALIFIED TAXPAYERS AT THE PUBLIC HEARING/ANNUAL TOWN MEETING SCHEDULED FOR ***TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 2021 AT 7:00 PM*** TO BE HELD VIA TELECONFERENCE. ALL PARTIES MUST CALL IN ***1-929-205-6099, MEETING ID 880 9209 0888; PASSWORD 0427.*** SAID ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE TELECONFERENCE IN FRONT OF THE AUDITORIUM ENTRANCE OF ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL AT 70 LOVELAND HILL ROAD, VERNON, CONNECTICUT, WHEREIN QUALIFIED ELECTORS AND QUALIFIED PROPERTY OWNERS WILL DRIVE UP, REMAIN IN THEIR VEHICLE TO VOTE IN A SECURE DRIVE-THROUGH MANNER. ACCOMODATIONS FOR WALK-UP VOTING WILL BE MADE AS WELL. VOTING SHALL CONCLUDE AT 8:30 PM. ALL PARTIES MUST PRESENT A CURRENT PHOTO ID THEN VOTE IN THE AFFIRMATIVE OR NEGATIVE BY SHOW OF HAND.

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 FUNCTION AND/OR DEPARTMENTS AND THE AMOUNTS TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION, AT LEAST FIVE DAYS BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEARING.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to approve and present the budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 to the electors and qualified taxpayers at the Public Hearing/Annual Town Meeting scheduled for Tuesday April 27, 2021 at 7:00PM to be held via teleconference. Said annual town meeting will take place at the conclusion of the teleconference in front of the auditorium entrance of Rockville High School at 70 Loveland Hill Road. Motion carried by roll call vote with 9 in favor and 1 opposed (Didio).

Adjourn (9:22PM)

9:22PM Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Wendus made a motion to recess to the Public Hearing/Annual Town Meeting on April 27, 2021 at 7:00PM. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote of all members present.

Received:

Approved:

Respectfully Submitted.

Kathleen Minor
Recording Secretary