



BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center, 1 School Street
Bethel, Connecticut 06801 Telephone: (203) 794-8501

Matthew S. Knickerbocker, First Selectman
Richard C. Straiton, Selectman
Paul R. Szatkowski, Selectman

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TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, July 7, 2015

7:30 p.m.

CJH Municipal Center – Meeting Room “A”

PRESENT: First Selectman Knickerbocker and Selectman Straiton. Also in attendance was Town Counsel Martin Lawlor.

Call to order/Pledge of Allegiance: First Selectman Knickerbocker called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Public Comments: None

Correspondence: None that was not already on tonight's agenda.

Minutes of May 19, 2015 Special Meeting, June 23, 2015 Special Meeting, June 30, 2015 (at 6:30 p.m.) Special Meeting and June 30, 2015 (at 7:00 p.m.) Special Meeting: First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

First Selectman Report: First Selectman Knickerbocker called for a Moment of Silence in recognition of the passing of James Vibbert; Jim worked for the Town of Bethel for 44 years in the Highway Department.

New Business

1.) Consideration of appointment – Ethics Commission

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to appoint Robert Manfreda, Jr. to the vacancy on the Ethics Commission. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

2.) Consideration of Resolution – Historic Documents Grant (Town Clerk)

First Selectman Knickerbocker advised that this grant award allows for the continuation of preserving historic documents in the Town Clerk's office; the grant award is for \$3,000.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to approve the following motion:

RESOLVED: *That Matthew S. Knickerbocker, First Selectman is empowered to execute and deliver in the name and on behalf of this municipality a contract with the Connecticut State Library for a Historic Documents Preservation Grant.*

Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

3.) Consideration of recommendation/report from the Public Site & Building Commission – Police Station project

Members of the Public Site & Building Commission presented several scenarios for a reduction in the cost of the Police Station Project. The Police Commission had proposed recommendations which would lower the cost to \$ 13,692,000 and the Public Site & Building Commission reduced that further to \$13,188,800. The lowest priced scenario includes the removal of the firing range and is estimated at \$12,619,080. The location remains the same. They advised that any additional cost cuts would require a reduction in the main building size and would severely disregard the requirements of the Building Space Needs Study.

Members of the Police Commission were present and advised that they would be holding Public Hearing(s) on the project soon.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to table the recommendation. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

4.) Consideration of New Ordinance(s):

Several ordinances are being reviewed, including a Noise Ordinance, a Snow/debris removal Ordinance, an Overnight parking ban and Obstructions to Use Ordinance. Also to be considered is an increased benefit to disabled veterans.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to table the ordinances for review. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

5.) Consideration of AFSCME contract (*Executive Session anticipated*)

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to go into Executive Session at 8:24 p.m. for the purpose of discussion of the AFSCME Contract. Invited into the Executive Session portion of the meeting were Town Counsel Martin Lawlor and Wendy Smith as Office Administrator. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Executive Session ended at 8:35 p.m.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to ratify the Collective Bargaining Contract between the Town of Bethel and Local 1303-188 of Council # 4, AFSCME through June 30, 2019. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to add to the agenda, item 6) Region 9 Board of Education, Easton Board of Education and Redding Board of Education vs Town of Bethel. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

6) Region 9 Board of Education, Easton Board of Education and Redding Board of Education vs Town of Bethel:

Town Counsel Martin Lawlor advised that Bethel did not win this appeal case; judgment was in favor of Region 9 Board of Education, Easton Board of Education and Redding Board of Education.

As there was no further business on tonight's agenda, Selectman Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by First Selectman Knickerbocker, to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Wendy Smith, Recording Secretary