



BOARD OF FINANCE

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TOWN OF BETHEL
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NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, October 13, 2015
7:00 p.m.

CJH Municipal Center – General Purpose Room

PRESENT: Bruce Cornwell, Chairman, William Kingston, Patricia Smithwick, Eileen Freebairn, Gary Regan and Timothy Draper. Claudia Stephan was absent as she was serving as the Board of Finance representative to the Board of Education negotiations. Also in attendance were Comptroller Robert Kozlowski, Assistant Comptroller Brad Heering, Town Counsel Martin Lawlor, and the Board of Selectmen.

Call to order/Pledge of Allegiance: Bruce Cornwell called the regular meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Joint Session with the Public Site & Building Commission and Board of Selectmen - presentation of the Police Station Project

Jon Menti, Chairman of the Public Site & Building Committee and Charles Van Zanten of Hawley Construction provided an overview of the revised police station project. The committee provided several scenarios which resulted in different project costs.

The original project was \$14,100,000 and was defeated at referendum.

The Police Commission/Police Chief recommended project is estimated at \$13,692,000.

The latest Public Site & Building Commission recommendation is \$13,188,800; this same project without the firing range is \$12,619,080.

Mr. Menti and Mr. Van Zanten reiterated that these estimates are just estimates, without architectural drawings, the estimates are the best that are available to them. The committee had reviewed the line items and were able to reduce costs by changing out items, such as aluminum gutters instead of copper, brick on the front façade only, eliminating paved parking areas, downgrading of materials, like the sheet rock, trim and windows, etc.

It was the consensus that the firing range should be included in the project and that perhaps, a revenue source could be an option should the range be available to the public, this would have to be investigated.

First Selectman Knickerbocker advised that the earliest that this could go to referendum would be the first week in December. There will be a public hearing and a Special Town Meeting as well. It was suggested that a sign and flagging could be placed at the site to identify the proposed building location. He also noted that the Board of Selectmen will address the project at an upcoming meeting and make their recommendation to the Board of Finance accordingly.

Public Comments

Francis Infurchia, Brian Terzian, Cynthia McCorkindale and William Hillman spoke

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

Comptroller's Report: Comptroller Robert Kozlowski presented the revenue projection/actual through June 30, 2015 as well as the year to date expenditure report.

Consideration of a bid waiver for a retaining wall at 57 Grassy Plain St. (YMCA)

Doug Douglas Arndt, Director of Public Works and David Carlson of Spiegall Zamecnik & Shaw, presented the issue of the crumbling retaining wall at the YMCA Children's Center. After a long and careful review for a solution, it was determined that the best and most affordable fix would be an interlocking block wall system. The crucial timing issue is that there is construction activity at the adjacent parcel and the builder has agreed to let the town enter his property to do the work, but the work has to coincide with his construction plans.

The Board of Selectmen had recommended to the Board of Finance, funding in the amount of \$87,146 for this project, subject to Special Town Meeting approval.

Patricia Smithwick made a motion, which was seconded by William Kingston, to approve the Board of Selectmen recommendation to fund the retaining wall project at 57 Grassy Plain Street, as recommended by the Board of Selectmen, subject to Special Town Meeting approval; said funding to come from the current year capital non-recurring account. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Consideration of salary adjustments for elected officials

William Kingston made a motion, which was seconded by Patricia Smithwick, to increase the Treasurer's salary from \$4,500 to \$5,500, effective July 1, 2016. Voting in favor of the motion: William Kingston, Patricia Smithwick, Eileen Freebairn, Bruce Cornwell and Gary Regan. Voting against the motion. Timothy Draper. Motion passed.

William Kingston made a motion, which was seconded by Eileen Freebairn, to fund the Selectmen's salaries at the current rate of \$5,000 each. Voting in favor of the motion: William Kingston, Gary Regan and Timothy Draper. Voting against the motion. Patricia Smithwick, Eileen Freebairn and Bruce Cornwell. Motion fails.

Patricia Smithwick made a motion, which was seconded by Eileen Freebairn, to increase the Selectmen's salaries to \$5,500 each. Voting in favor of the motion: Patricia Smithwick and Eileen Freebairn. Voting against the motion. William Kingston, Bruce Cornwell, Gary Regan and Timothy Draper. Motion fails.

As it was pointed out, that since the first motion failed, no salary would be in place, therefore an amount needed to set. William Kingston made a motion, which was seconded by Eileen Freebairn, to fund the Selectmen's salaries at their current rate of \$5,000 each. Voting in favor of the motion: William Kingston, Patricia Smithwick, Eileen Freebairn, Bruce Cornwell and Gary Regan. Voting against the motion. Timothy Draper. Motion passed.

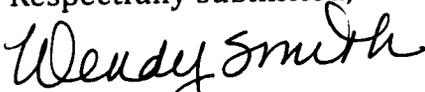
Salary increases for the Registrar of Voters and the Town Clerk will be considered at another time since the salaries are to be established for the next election season at which those positions are elected.

William Kingston made a motion, which was seconded by Patricia Smithwick, to increase the First Selectman's salary from \$79,718 to \$84,718, effective July 1, 2016. Voting in favor of the motion: William Kingston, Patricia Smithwick, Eileen Freebairn and Bruce Cornwell. Voting against the motion. Gary Regan and Timothy Draper. Motion passed.

Gary Regan started to make a motion to add to the agenda, the topic of the Earth Core Energy Services invoice. Town Counsel Martin Lawlor clarified that there is nothing for the Board of Finance to consider; they can only consider items referred to them by the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Selectmen has not referred any invoice to them.

As there was no further business on tonight's agenda, William Kingston made a motion, which was seconded by Patricia Smithwick, to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 p.m. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Wendy Smith, Recording Secretary