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TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

MINUTES OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
October 27, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.
CJH Municipal Center – Meeting Room "A"

PRESENT: First Selectman Knickerbocker, Selectman Straiton, and Selectman Szatkowski. Also in attendance were Town Counsel Martin Lawlor and Public Works Director Douglas Arndt.

First Selectman Knickerbocker called the Special Town Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

First Selectman Knickerbocker appointed Wendy Smith as Acting Town Clerk for tonight's Special Town Meeting. The Acting Town Clerk read the call as follows:

WARNING
NOTICE OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING OF THE TOWN OF BETHEL, CONNECTICUT

The Legal Voters of the Town of Bethel, Connecticut, and those persons entitled to vote therein, are notified to assemble at a Special Town Meeting to be held in the Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center – Meeting Room "A", 1 School Street, Bethel, Connecticut 06801 on Tuesday, October 27, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. for the following purposes, to wit:

1.) To consider and take action upon a recommendation of the Bethel Board of Selectmen and approved by the Bethel Board of Finance to appropriate an amount not to exceed $87,146.00 for the purpose of reconstructing and repairing the retaining wall at 57 Grassy Plain Street owned by the Town of Bethel. Said sum includes a project contingency amount of $10,000.00. The total amount shall be funded from the capital non-recurring account for all site work, structural engineering, site survey and materials.
2.) To take any and all action legally necessary or appropriate to accomplish the above intended results.

Dated at Bethel, CT, this 13th day of October 2015.

BETHEL BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Matthew S. Knickerbocker, First Selectman
Richard C. Straiton, Selectman
Paul R. Szatkowski, Selectman

Motion by Selectman Straiton to accept the call, seconded by Mary Gert McCollam. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Selectman Szatkowski made a motion, which was seconded by Mary Gert McCollam, to nominate Matthew S. Knickerbocker as Moderator for tonight's Special Town Meeting. There were no other nominations. Voting in favor of Matthew S. Knickerbocker as Moderator was unanimous.

First Selectman Knickerbocker asked Town Counsel Martin Lawlor to read the Resolution as follows:

SHALL THE TOWN OF BETHEL as recommended by the Bethel Board of Selectmen and approved by the Bethel Board of Finance, appropriate an amount not to exceed $ 87,146.00 for the purpose of reconstructing and repairing the retaining wall at 57 Grassy Plain Street owned by the Town of Bethel. Said sum includes a project contingency amount of $10,000.00. The total amount shall be funded from the capital non-recurring account for all site work, structural engineering, site survey and materials.

Motion to accept by Selectman Straiton and seconded by Selectman Szatkowski.

Discussion:

Director of Public Works Doug Arndt explained the issue of the crumbling retaining wall at the YMCA Children's Center at 57 Grassy Plain Street. 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 approved the waiving of the bidding procedure, subject to Special Town Meeting approval of the funding, and has awarded the contract to T.D. & Sons, who not only were the lowest bidder, but could start the work almost immediately.

John Kelly, Walnut Hill Road asked whether the contractor working on the adjacent site caused this problem with the retaining wall.

Mr. Arndt advised that no, that was not the case. The retaining wall is over 100 years ld, the mortar holding it together is turning to dust and it is deteriorating rapidly and that drainage/water run-off has contributed to the deteriorating. First Selectman Knickerbocker advised that the contractor brought this wall issue to the attention of the town and they immediately contacted an engineering firm and restoration plans have been prepared along with the locked block style retaining wall.

As there was no further discussion, First Selectman Knickerbocker called for a vote. The vote was unanimous in favor of the resolution.

Selectman Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to adjourn the Special Town Meeting at 7:12 p.m. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Smith

Wendy Smith, Acting Town Clerk