



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

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

7:30 p.m.

CJH Municipal Center – Meeting Room “A”

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TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

PRESENT: Matthew S. Knickerbocker, First Selectman, Selectman Straiton and Selectman Szatkowski. 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: Letter from George Caravella who would like to pursue a project to add the names of the deceased veterans to the base of the Dough Boy statue.

Minutes of November 17, 2015 Regular Meeting: Selectman Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to approve the minutes as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Minutes of November 20, 2015 Special Meeting: Selectman Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to approve the minutes as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Minutes of December 1, 2015 Special Meeting: Selectman Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to approve the minutes as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved. First Selectman Knickerbocker abstained from the vote.

Minutes of December 1, 2015 Public Hearing: Selectman Szatkowski made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to approve the minutes as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved. First Selectman Knickerbocker abstained from the vote.

First Selectman Report: First Selectman Knickerbocker advised that he was at a CCM conference today and presented the Selectmen with information on potential legislative changes that could benefit Bethel in the future.

Old Business

1.) Consideration of Release of Augustana Cooperation Agreement

Town Counsel Martin Lawlor explained that with the sale of Augustana to RMS, a resolution is required to release the prior agreement between the Town of Bethel and Augustana for tax abatement purposes. There would be one more partial abatement since the property was owned by Augustana on July 1, 2015.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, that the Board of Selectmen authorizes the First Selectman to execute the release agreement as set forth by town counsel for the Augustana Cooperative Agreement. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

New Business

1.) Consideration of Resolution - Clean Water Application

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

Be it resolved that it is in the best interest of the Town of Bethel to enter into contracts with the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection. In furtherance of this resolution, Matthew S. Knickerbocker, First Selectman is duly authorized to enter into and sign said contracts on behalf of the Town of Bethel, Connecticut. The First Selectman is further authorized to provide such additional information and execute such other documents as may be required by the state of federal government in connection with said contracts and to execute any amendments, rescissions, and revisions thereto.

The Town Clerk of the Town of Bethel, Connecticut is authorized to impress the seal of the Town of Bethel, Connecticut on any such document, amendment, rescission or revision.

Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

At their November 17, 2015 meeting, the Board of Selectmen approved a motion to accept the recommendation from the Public Utilities Commission and authorize the filing of an application for a Clean Water Fund grant through the CT DEEP in the amount of \$173,996.44. This resolution was necessary to complete the application.

2.) Consideration of Resolution – Hazard Mitigation

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

WHEREAS, the Town of Bethel has historically experienced severe damage from natural hazards and it continues to be vulnerable to the effects of those natural hazards profiled in the plan (e.g. flooding, high wind, thunderstorms, winter storms, earthquakes, dam failure, and wildfires), resulting in loss of property and life, economic hardship, and threats to public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Bethel has developed and received conditional approval from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for its Hazard Mitigation Plan under the requirements of 44 CFR 201.6; and

WHEREAS, public and committee meetings were held between November 2013 and June 2014 regarding the development and review of the Hazard Mitigation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Hazard Mitigation Plan specifically addresses hazard mitigation strategies and Plan maintenance procedure for the Town of Bethel; and

WHEREAS, the Plan recommends several hazard mitigation actions/projects that will provide mitigation for specific natural hazards that impact the town of Bethel, with the effect of protecting people and property from loss associated with those hazards; and

WHEREAS, adoption of this Plan will make the Town of Bethel eligible for funding to alleviate the impacts of future hazards; now therefore be it

RESOLVED by the Board of Selectmen:

- 1. The Plan is hereby adopted as an official plan of the Town of Bethel;*
- 2. The respective officials identified in the mitigation strategy of the Plan are hereby directed to pursue implementation of the recommended actions assigned to them;*
- 3. Future revisions and Plan maintenance required by 44 CFR 201.6 and FEMA are hereby adopted as a part of this resolution for a period of five (5) years from the date of this resolution; and*
- 4. An annual report on the progress of the implementation elements of the Plan shall be presented to the Board of Selectmen by the Planning and Zoning Official.*

Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

First Selectman Knickerbocker thanked Thomas Galliford for all his efforts on this project.

3.) Consideration of Tax Collector's request for Tax Refund Authorization

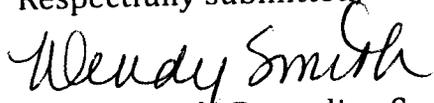
First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to approve the Tax Collector's request, dated December 15, 2015 and authorize Tax Refunds in the amount of \$7,021.57. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

3.) Consideration of appointment - Housing Code Enforcement Officer

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to officially appoint the Bethel Health Director the Enforcement Officer of the Housing Standards under Chapter 63 of the Town of Bethel Code and to ratify and approve all previous actions by the Bethel Health Director acting as the Enforcement Officer under the Housing Standards, Chapter 63. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

As there was no further business on tonight's agenda, First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Wendy Smith, Recording Secretary