



**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING
OF THE TOWN OF BETHEL, CONNECTICUT**

Tuesday, December, 1 2015
7:00 PM

CJH Municipal Center- General Purpose Room

RECEIVED
2015 DEC -3 P 1:33
TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

PRESENT: Selectman Straiton and Selectman Szatkowski. Also in attendance were Town Counsel Martin Lawlor, Comptroller Robert Kozlowski, Jon Menti, Chairman of the Public Site & Building Commission, Jeffery Finch, Chief of Police, Michael Duff, Chairman of Police Commission. First Selectman Matthew Knickerbocker was absent from the meeting due to illness.

In addition a representative from Hawley Construction, Charles VanZanten and Jacunski Humes Architects, LLC, Brian Humes.

Selectman Straiton opened the Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m.

Jon Menti shared building dates and additions on all Town owned buildings. He went on to present a proposed cost not to exceed Thirteen Million Four Hundred Ninety Two Thousand (\$13,492,000) Dollars for the funding to complete the design and construction of a Police Station complex located at the corner of Judd Avenue and Dodgingtown Road (Route 302), Bethel CT. He shared a timeline for the proposed Police Station, space needs assessment, critical building issues and renderings of the new police station. He also shared the source of reductions that were taken after the referendum was voted down last year along with priorities the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance had for the project.

Chief Jeffery Finch discussed the critical needs and explained the conditions of the existing building.

Robert Kozlowski explained the existing and proposed debt service that the Police Station would cost the Town of Bethel.

Brian Humes discussed the Space Needs Assessment; he explained that the proposed building is designed for 20-50 years growth potential. He noted (during Public Comments) that police cars would not be using Whittlesey Dr. as a main road

to travel and the most traffic coming in and out of the police station would be three times a day during shift change. Police Captain, Stephen Pugner explained that the existing Police Station is already close to the schools and they do not use those roads to travel through. He also said the police cruisers do not use lights and sirens on campus.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Joel Leach, 2 Lockwood Circle (?): Among other comments and questions inquired if the proposed Police Station met the needs of the Police and if there were things that they didn't need.

Dave Glahn, Elizabeth Street: Among other comments and questions was not in support of the location.

Pete Flight, Judd Ave.: Among other comments and questions was not in support of the location and would like the entrance to be moved. Jon Menti said that would be something to discuss with Planning and Zoning.

Kevin Gallagher, South St.: Among other comments and questions was not in support of the location.

Bob Glahn, Brookwood Dr.: Among other comments and questions asked what the plan are for the existing building. Rich Straiton said at this time there are no plans.

Frank Infurchia, Honey Hollow Dr.: Among other comments and questions was not in support of the location. He feels it is too big and too expensive. Jon Menti reassured him that there would be a competitive bidding process for the new Police Station.

Cynthia McCorkindale, Elgin Ave.: Among other comments and questions is in support of a new Police Station but feels the proposed station is too expensive. She also stated she is dissatisfied with the process. She presented information that has been filed in the Town Clerk's office for public viewing.

William Hillman, Walnut Hill Rd: Among other comments and questions is in support of a new Police Station.

Nick Hoffman, Sand Hill Rd: Among other comments and questions is in support of the new Police Station.

Public Hearing – December 1, 2015 Minutes

Tom Galliford, Fawn Rd: Among other comment and questions stated that he supports the new Police Station and as Fire Marshall he knows this will be an asset for all emergency departments.

Pat Daubert, Wolf Pit Rd.: Among other comments and questions stated that he is in support of the new Police Station.

James Murphy, Judd Ave.: Among other comments and questions asked where the tower would be located and if the vote could be split into location and price. Town Counsel Martin Lawlor said no.

Bob Legnard, Evergreen Drive: Among other comments and questions supports the new Police Station.

John Kelly, Walnut Hill Rd: Among other comments and questions does not like the location.

Joyce Cook, Chestnut St: Among other comments and questions does not think location is optimal but will support.

Billy Michaels, Fleetwood Ave.: Among other comments and questions thinks the new police station cost too much.

Frank Islip, Evergreen Dr.: Among other comments and questions thinks the new building is inadequate and something comparable to a fortress should be built.

Nancy Ryan, Walnut Hill Rd.: Among other comments and questions explained she has been on the Public Sight Building Committee from the beginning of this process and believes that the proposed location is optimal.

Larry Craybas, Kellogg St.: Among other comments and questions stated that as Chairman for the Board of Education he was speaking on behalf of the board and supports the new Police Station.

As there were no other comments, Selectman Straiton closed the Public Hearing at 9:28 p.m. and reminded everyone that the Special Town Meeting will be December 8, 2015 in the General Purpose Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Dionne Craig, Recording Secretary