BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center, 1 School Street
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Matthew S. Knickerbocker, First Selectman
Richard C. Straiton, Selectman
Paul R. Szatkowski, Selectman

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, October 18, 2016
7:30 p.m.
CJH Municipal Center – Meeting Room "A"

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

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

Public Comments: William Foster

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

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to add to tonight's agenda, First Selectman Report and item # 4) Consideration of Appointment – Ex-Officio member of the Public Site & Building Committee. Vote, all in favor. Motion unanimously approved.

Selectman Szatkowski made a motion, which was seconded by First Selectman Knickerbocker, to add to tonight's agenda, item # 5) Consideration of the Police Station Project. Vote, all in favor. Motion unanimously approved.

Minutes of October 4, 2016: 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 Report: First Selectman Knickerbocker reported on the recent upgrade to the town's bond rating; Bethel is now an AAA town, thanks in part, to our strong financials, debt loads, etc. He noted the recent award of a Main Street Investment Grant in the amount of $480,000 which will be utilized for Phase 2 Infrastructure improvements along Greenwood Avenue. He also noted that the bridge work is proceeding nicely and they are

still a bit ahead of schedule. First Selectman Knickerbocker acknowledged several recent long time employee retirements, including Building Official Gary Boughton, Building Maintainer Wayne Crosby and Utility Maintainer Christopher Hall. Recent hires include Chris Baldwin as the Building Official, David McCollum as the Land Use Coordinator and Rawle Dummet as the Purchasing Agent.

Presentation by the Board of Education – Turf Field Proposal: Superintendent of Schools Christine Carver, Director of Fiscal Services Theresa Yonsky, Chairman of the Board of Education Lawrence Craybas, Athletic Director Mark Caram, Football Coach Jason Gill, Board of Education member William Foster and Director of Parks & Recreation Eileen Earle, were present at tonight's meeting to explain the request for a Turf Field at the High School. Among the benefits of the field would be the ability to expand the use time of the field, currently about 6-8 hours a week, to the potential of using the field 12 hours a day. The present field is subject to the vulnerability of weather and wear and tear; a turf field eliminates those vulnerabilities. It was pointed out that many of our sports teams cannot hold events on the field due to it not being a turf field. Practices are limited or canceled when it rains. Teams would have a chance to practice during bad weather.

They are looking at a Geo-fill as the option of choice. There would be an ongoing maintenance expense, which includes, raking, refilling every three years or so and other items. On the plus side, the ongoing existing maintenance to the current field would be reduced and manpower could be utilized on other maintenance issues throughout town.

The price is estimated to be around $1,000,000; discussion took place regarding the creation of an account which would earmark revenue for future upkeep expenses.

The firm of Milone and McBroom have been contacted to prepare a study, which would allow for firm prices and the true cost for installation and future upkeep. Selectman Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to recommend to the Board of Finance, funding an amount not to exceed $43,500 for the study. Vote, all in favor. Motion unanimously approved. Funding method to be determined by the Board of Finance.

New Business

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

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to approve the Tax Collector's request, dated October 17, 2016, and authorize tax refunds in the amount of $2,658.14. Vote, all in favor. Motion unanimously approved.

2.) Consideration of establishing a Public Hearing date – Water Rates

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to establish a Public Hearing date of Wednesday, November 30, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. in Meeting Room "A" of the CJH Municipal Center. Vote, all in favor. Motion unanimously approved. Vote, all in favor. Motion unanimously approved.

3.) Consideration of appointment – Building Official

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to appoint Christopher Baldwin as the Building Official for the Town of Bethel for a four year term. Vote, all in favor. Motion unanimously approved.

4.) Consideration of appointment – Ex-officio member – Public Site & Building Committee

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to appoint Richard Straiton as the ex-officio member of the Public Site & Building Committee. Vote, all in favor. Motion unanimously approved.

5.) Consideration of the Police Station Project

Selectman Szatkowski expressed concern over the recent bid results for the Police Station Project. Selectman Szatkowski made a motion, which was seconded by First Selectman Knickerbocker, to hold a joint session with the Public Site & Building Committee on November 1, 2016. Voting in favor of the motion: Selectman Szatkowski Voting against the motion: First Selectman Knickerbocker and Selectman Straiton. Motion failed.

Selectman Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by First Selectman Knickerbocker, to invite Jon Menti, Chairman of the Public Site & Building Committee to the November meeting. 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 Straiton, to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m. Vote, all in favor. Motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Smith

Wendy Smith, Recording Secretary