



BOARD OF FINANCE

Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center, 1 School Street
Bethel, Connecticut 06801 Telephone: (203) 794-8501

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

Monday, February 27, 2012

7:00 p.m.

CJH Municipal Center – Meeting Room “A”

PRESENT: William Kingston, Chairman, J. Philip Gallagher, Patricia Smithwick, Eileen Freebairn, Claudia Stephan, Gary Regan and Timothy Draper. Also in attendance were the Board of Selectmen, Comptroller Robert Kozlowski and Treasurer Thomas O’Leary.

William Kingston called the Special Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

BUDGET PRESENTATIONS BY DEPARTMENT FY 2012-2013

290 Emergency Management Requested FY 2012-2013 \$26,000

Thomas Galliford, Emergency Management Director, presented the budget request. He noted no change to the budget request despite the two storm/weather events, record snowfall and flooding issues in 2011. He had advised that Bethel secured over \$128,000 in grants and reimbursements; which does not include anticipated reimbursements from Storm Alfred. During the two major storms, the Municipal Center was open for showers, charging/comfort stations, shelter, meals, etc. Discussed was the potential need for renovations to the shower area as well as utilization of other town buildings for emergency shelters. He noted that the Bethel CERT team has over 30 active volunteers. His budget request includes the continued funding of the Everbridge Mass Notification system; a tool that was invaluable for notifications during the various storm events; it was utilized at least 28 times in 2011.

300 Fire Marshall Requested FY 2012-2013 \$88,134

Thomas Galliford, EMD and Fire Marshal, presented the budget request. He noted changes in the law which extends the schedule for inspections (in some categories) from annual inspections to three years. Burning permits were discussed; they issued 65 permits in 2011 and are considering raising the fee. Office expense includes maintenance for computer program, this is not something that the IT department does; this is a stand alone program for their department.

310 Bethel Fire Department Requested FY 2012-2013 \$203,950

Bethel Volunteer Fire Department Chief Fred Ingram presented the budget request. He discussed the request for painting of the building, noting that the building has not been painted in over 26 years. The masonry must also be addressed. He has also requested funding for office

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furniture. He emphasized other maintenance issues at the firehouse; the basement and workout rooms have a mold issue which needs to be addressed. The fleet was discussed; he reiterated the need to replace Engine 5 as well as other equipment. In their capital request, they are looking to upgrade the vehicle extrication equipment for the rescue truck.

320 Stony Hill Fire Department Requested FY 2012-2013 \$120,700

Stony Hill Volunteer Fire Department Chief Ken Parciasepe and Thomas Galliford presented the budget. Chief Parciasepe advised that their membership is up with over 12 new members. He cautioned that with the growth thus far, and potential growth in the Stony Hill corridor, it really is time to start thinking about the purchase of a ladder truck. In their capital request, they are looking to modify and add storage compartments to R2; they believe this will extend use/life/viability of the vehicle.

350 Health Department Requested FY 2012-2013 \$281,269

Laura Vasile, Director of Health, presented the budget request. She noted the request for funding of \$6,000 for a public health nurse, previously the VNA provided services for the Health Department but with the reduction to the VNA budget, these services now come from the Health Department budget. These funds, if not spent, would be returned at year end as with a number of other accounts in her budget. Discussion took place regarding the (continued) funding of a sanitarian position; this position has been held in the budget for many years. In the past, there have been full time employees who have held this position but for a variety of reasons, have left. Since there is a shortage of sanitarians in the workforce, the work is being done with three part-time workers. She continues to monitor for the availability of sanitarians. She is requesting the replacement of a 2nd vehicle (vehicle beyond repair) for the department.

360 Police Department Requested FY 2012-2013 \$3,724,315

Nicholas Ellis, Chairman of the Police Commission and Police Chief Jeffrey Finch presented the budget request. They noted that the majority of the increase is due to contractual items. In the capital request, is the replacement of three police vehicles; they believe that this allows for sufficient rotation. Currently, staffing is one officer short due to a recent retirement; they are looking to replace this position. They noted small increases to various accounts due to rising costs. Mr. Ellis requested that if a reduction is to be made to the police budget, that it be a dollar amount, not an item reduction.

As there was no further business on tonight's agenda, J. Philip Gallagher made a motion, which was seconded by Claudia Stephan, to adjourn the Special Meeting at 9:36 p.m. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,


Wendy Smith, Recording Secretary