



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, March 20, 2012
7:30 p.m.

CJH Municipal Center – Meeting Room “A”

RECEIVED

2012 MAR 23 P 3:27

TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

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

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

Public Comments: Bethel Fire Department members Chief Fred Ingram, Sherry Holmberg, Jessica Schaad, Joe Schaad all spoke regarding the EMS / Paramedic program. David Glahn spoke about the “old” town hall.

Correspondence: Letter dated March 19, 2012 from Jeff Bruno regarding “old” town hall.

Minutes of March 1, 2012 Special Meeting: Selectman Szatkowski made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to approve the minutes as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Minutes of March 5, 2012 Special Meeting: Selectman Szatkowski made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to approve the minutes as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Minutes of March 6, 2012 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 March 12, 2012 Special Meeting: Selectman Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to approve the minutes as presented. Voting in favor of the motion: Selectman Straiton and Selectman Szatkowski. First Selectman Knickerbocker abstained from the vote as he was not in attendance.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to add to tonight's agenda, under New Business, # 5) Appointment to Public Site & Building Committee and # 6) Appointment to Economic Outreach Committee. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

First Selectman Report: First Selectman Knickerbocker reminded all that the Public Hearing on the "old" town hall is tomorrow evening at the High School and that the Board of Selectmen has not made a final section on its disposition. He also noted that asphalt plants have not yet opened, road construction projects will commence in the next few weeks.

Old Business

1.) Consideration of Paramedic Intercept Request for Proposals (*previously tabled*)

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to forward the Paramedic Intercept RFP to the Comptroller's Office for immediate advertisement. Motion and seconded were withdrawn and the item tabled instead.

Discussion about ambulance and paramedic services ensued. Board of Selectmen stressed that the issue is not necessarily about the service provided but that it is, all about the cost; the program is over budget by \$110,000 and could go higher. There needs to be a method to minimize or at least predict the expense/revenue. The purpose for the RFP with all of its varying options is to see what is out there in the market, look at different models and determine what best meets the needs and finances of the town and its residents.

BFD members expressed concern that some of the options included in the RFP are not feasible with the current license structure so there is no point in asking for these proposals. Members stressed that they offer EMS services, not as a paycheck but because they care about the residents and their town.

Selectman Szatkowski offered that the two departments need to meet with the Board of Selectmen and get a resolve to the issues. This will be scheduled upon the availability of all involved.

New Business

1.) Consideration of recommendation from the Energy Conservation Committee to award the Proposal for Photovoltaic Power Production

William Cratty, Chairman of the Energy Conservation Committee was present to explain the committee's recommendation. They had issued an RFP and held interviews with several different companies that are interested in assisting Bethel to pursue a viable solar project. He stressed that at this time, no one is awarding a contract or a commitment to a project, this award is for a company to investigate the possibilities for a solar project; the company will present a full proposal at another time. There are no out of pocket costs for Bethel. Essentially, the project is to explore the possibilities (including installation, financing, engineering, etc.) to install a "solar-farm" on the landfill. He explained that some of the benefits would be cost and energy savings.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to accept the recommendation from the Energy Conservation Committee and award the Proposal for Photovoltaic Power Production to develop, finance, construct and maintain the Solar PV project to RGS Energy/Solar Energy Capital Team, and refer to Town Counsel for review. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

2.) Consideration of appointments – Energy Conservation Committee

Selectman Szatkowski made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to appoint William Hillman (R) to the Energy Conservation Committee. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved. This appointment fills the vacancy created by the resignation of Nick Ellis.

3.) Consideration of request from the YMCA Children's Center – Boiler/rent cost

First Selectman Knickerbocker explained that the YMCA had submitted a request to modify the lease to assist with the cost to replace the boiler (\$19,744.16). First Selectman Knickerbocker advised that while the lease includes a provision that the tenant pays for the cost of items on the inside and Bethel, as landlord, covers the costs of items on the outside of the building. First Selectman Knickerbocker and Selectman Straiton felt that the boiler (as a fixed asset of the building) falls outside of the scope of what was intended in the lease and would support the lease modification. Selectman Szatkowski offered, that a contract, is a contract and would not support the request.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to approve the request from the YMCA Children's Center for a lease modification to provide a reduction of 50% of the rental rate for an 18 month period. Voting in favor of the motion: First Selectman Knickerbocker and Selectman Straiton. Voting against the motion: Selectman Szatkowski. Motion passed.

4.) Consideration of request from New England Archers – Archery Season

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to approve the request of the New England Archers to hold their 2012 Archery Season from March 15, 2012 to August 31, 2012 on the Terre Haute property, subject to receipt of the appropriate insurance. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

5.) Consideration of appointment – Public Site & Building Committee

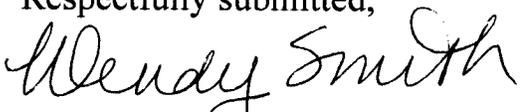
Selectman Szatkowski made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to appoint Deno Gualtieri (R) to the Public Site & Building Committee. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved. This appointment fills the vacancy created by the resignation of Anthony Giordano.

6.) Consideration of appointment – Economic Outreach Committee

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to appoint William Shannon (D) to the Economic Outreach Committee. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved. This fills the vacancy created by the resignation of Patricia Smithwick.

As there was no further business on tonight's agenda, Selectman Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Wendy Smith, Recording Secretary