



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 SPECIAL MEETING

Wednesday, May 30, 2012
7:00 p.m.

CJH Municipal Center - Meeting Room "A"

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TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

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

First Selectman Knickerbocker called the Special Meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Consideration of disposition of "old" town hall and parking to support Library renovation

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to authorize demolition at the building known as "old town hall" located at 5 Library Place, to make way for parking as required by the Planning & Zoning Commission to complete the renovation of the Bethel Public Library.

Town Counsel Martin J. Lawlor clarified that he has thoroughly reviewed the code and charter of the Town of Bethel as well as state statutes and the decision to raze the building lies solely with the Board of Selectmen. Further, since there is a grant for the razing that requires no funds or contribution from the town, Board of Finance approval is not required.

Selectman Straiton offered that the building has been sitting vacant for many years; if it were sold the town would lose control over the building/property. With the demolishing of the building, improvements could be made to the roadway to enhance the intersection as well as meet the parking requirements of both the Library and downtown merchants.

Selectman Szatkowski offered that he believes that it has always been the intention to knock down the building; the original rendering showed what the renovation would look like without the "old town hall". Planning & Zoning has approved the demolition; they have determined that any use would not be able to comply with the parking regulations and that he envisions this area as the future town center, a real focal point and an asset to the future of the town.

First Selectman Knickerbocker offered that the other selectmen raised excellent points and that when the Seelye family donated the property; they donated it for the use of public library and do not believe that they would support the property being sold. He also pointed out the ability we will have to reallocate the sewer allocation to the building to be able promote development efforts in other areas. The demolition will give us the chance to complete the library project correctly.

Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Consideration of application for demolition permit for "old" town hall

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to authorize the First Selectman to apply for a demolition permit for the "old" town hall. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

As there was no further business on tonight's agenda, Selectman Szatkowski made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 p.m. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Wendy Smith, Recording Secretary