



# BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center, 1 School Street  
Bethel, Connecticut 06801 Telephone: (203) 794-8500

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TOWN OF BETHEL  
TOWN CLERK

*Matthew S. Knickerbocker, First Selectman*  
*Richard C. Straiton, Selectman*  
*Paul R. Szatkowski, Selectman*

## MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, December 4, 2012

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:** A. J. Bernard commented on the proposed Blight Ordinance.

**Correspondence:** None that is not already on tonight’s agenda.

**Minutes of October 16, 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 November 26, 2012 Special Meeting:** Selectman Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by First Selectman Knickerbocker, to approve the minutes as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved. Selectman Szatkowski abstained from the vote as he was not in attendance at the meeting.

**Presentation:** Chamber of Commerce – Summer Festival

Bobbi Jo Beers, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce was present at tonight’s meeting to solicit Board of Selectmen support of the Summer Festival being planned for Saturday, July 13, 2013. She explained that this Festival will include a variety of activities, including a BBQ cook-off, music, vendors, family activities, etc. Included in

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the proposal would be the recommendation to close off a portion of Greenwood Avenue. Ms. Beers explained that with the exception of very few merchants, she has received consent from the downtown merchants. She noted that there will be designated merchant parking areas. She will also be making a presentation to the Police Commission and will be in contact with the State of Connecticut, Department of Transportation.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to grant preliminary Board of Selectmen endorsement of the concept of the summer festival, subject to review of the other regulatory agencies. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

**First Selectman Report** – First Selectman Knickerbocker provided an update on Old Town Hall; remediation is ongoing, 1-2 weeks until demolition, work has already commenced on the library interior, Walnut Hill Bridge is complete with the exception of another course of paving, a driveway apron, and some cosmetic work. He noted that road construction for the season has ended; Diamond Avenue was slated to be done but will be pushed off until spring. Due to the storm activity, CL&P is behind and does not anticipate the placement of the light poles along Whittlesey until at least January. Work is expected to commence within the next few weeks for the replacement of the traffic light at 302/Judd Avenue which came down during the storm.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to move New Business, # 6 - Consideration of request from Police Department – supplement yearly car purchase to this point on the agenda. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

### **Consideration of request from Police Department – supplement yearly car purchase**

Chief Jeffrey Finch and Captain David Bruckenthal were present at tonight's meeting to request Board of Selectmen consideration of funding an additional \$10,000 to be used to increase their purchasing ability to purchase and equip departmental vehicles for the current 2012-2013 budget. It would be their intention to purchase 2 marked vehicles and lease 3 un-marked vehicles. The lease vehicles would not be a traditional lease; the vehicles would be owned by the town at the end of the lease period. The Chief and the Captain explained that due to several circumstances, the cost for the vehicles and their associated equipment has increased.

First Selectman Knickerbocker advised that he would like to have the Comptroller see about possible savings in this or other departments to offset this cost and expressed

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concern that there are other items that we may need funding for, i.e. mitigation grant and the Bennett Park dredging.

Police personnel noted that income is received from the vehicles when they are used for extra duty. The Chief advised that many years ago funds were used to offset items in their department budget/car maintenance but has since been included as miscellaneous revenues of the Town of Bethel.

Selectman Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to forward the recommendation for an additional \$10,000 to the Board of Finance for consideration. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved. Depending upon the funding source and approval of the Board of Finance, a Special Town Meeting may be required.

### **Old Business**

#### **1.) Consideration of re-establishing date for Public Hearing on the Blight and Fines Ordinances**

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to establish the date of Tuesday, January 15, 2013 for the Public Hearing on the proposed Blight Ordinance and Fines/Enforcement Ordinance. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

### **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 December 4, 2012 and authorize Tax Refunds in the amount of \$2,175.28. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

#### **2.) Consideration of 2013 Regular Meeting Schedule**

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to establish the 2013 regular meeting schedule as follows:

Wednesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> - Tuesday, January 15<sup>th</sup> (previously established)

Tuesday, February 5<sup>th</sup> - Tuesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>

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Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> - Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> - Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> - Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>  
Tuesday, June 4<sup>th</sup> - Tuesday, June 18<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> - Tuesday, July 16<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday, August 6<sup>th</sup> - Tuesday, August 20<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> - Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup> - Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> - Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> - Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup> - Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>

All meetings to be held at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

### **3.) Consideration of establishing date for Annual Town Meeting**

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to establish the date of Monday May 6, 2013 as the date for the Annual Town Meeting. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

### **4.) Consideration of appointment - Inland/Wetland vacancy**

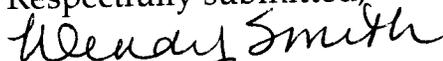
Selectman Szatkowski made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to appoint Catherine A. Cuggino (R) to the Inland Wetlands Commission to fill the vacancy resulting from the resignation of Rodney Haas. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

### **5.) Consideration of funding Actuarial Survey**

First Selectman Knickerbocker advised that the actuarial firm will prepare a survey which will be useful during union negotiations.

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 8:37 p.m. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Wendy Smith, Recording Secretary