



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, February 5, 2013 - 7:30 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 Lawlor.

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

Public Comments: None

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

Minutes of January 15, 2013: Selectman Szatkowski made a motion, which was seconded by First Selectman Knickerbocker, to approve the minutes as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to add to tonight's agenda, under New Business, Item # 11 - Consideration of Personal Services Agreement Resolution – Financing of Construction of Bethel Teen Center. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

First Selectman Report: First Selectman Knickerbocker noted that the "old" town hall has been demolished; crews are working to clear the area for the parking lot (area will not be paved until spring). He also noted that the work inside the Library is progressing. Dedication is anticipated in August 2013.

Old Business

- 1.) Consideration of BOF recommendation on "minimum fund balance" (tabled item)

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First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to table the Board of Finance recommendation on a minimum fund balance policy. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

2.) Consideration of Resolution/Grant Acceptance – Hazard Mitigation Plan (tabled item)

First Selectman Knickerbocker explained that the Connecticut Interagency Hazard Mitigation Review Committee has reviewed the Town's application and has determined that because the awarding of a Hazard Mitigation Plan Project within Bethel is contingent on having an approved Hazard Mitigation Plan, having a Hazardous Mitigation Plan puts the applicant (town) in a top priority for funding. This grant will be used to retain a consultant to work with the Town in the preparation of a plan that will analyze as many hazards and risks as possible that the Town should be aware of: fire, flood, earthquake, blizzard, power failure, etc. and will strive to identify specific shortcomings, i.e. inadequately sized drainage system from Seelye Street to Post Office, fire risks in or near Town property, etc. so that concrete steps can be taken toward addressing those risks. Many grants that are now put forth by the Federal government require that the applicant have one of these plans adopted and in use as a pre-qualifier for grant eligibility. The Hazard Mitigation Plan project cost is \$41,000; Bethel's share, which can be in-kind services, is estimated at \$10,250.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, that:

***BE IT RESOLVED** that it is in the best interests of the **Town of Bethel** to enter into contracts with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.*

***IN FURTHERANCE OF THIS RESOLUTION**, Matthew S. Knickerbocker, First Selectman, is duly authorized to enter into and sign said contracts on behalf of the **Town of Bethel**. Matthew S. Knickerbocker currently holds the title of First Selectman and has held that office since December 7, 2009.*

The First Selectman is further authorized to provide such additional information and execute such other documents as may be required by the state or federal government in connection with said contracts and to execute any amendments, rescissions, and revisions, thereto.

Lisa Bergh, Town Clerk is authorized to impress the seal of the Town of Bethel on any such document, amendment, rescission, or revision.

Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

New Business

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1.) Consideration of proposed blight and penalty ordinances

Selectman Szatkowski made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to table the proposed blight and penalty ordinances. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved. Town Counsel Martin Lawlor was requested to review the proposed ordinance and modify it to reflect the comments made at the public hearing, i.e. length of grass, gutters, etc. The intent of the ordinance is to address the most blatant violations affecting the health, safety and neighborhood property values.

2.) Consideration of Ratification – Police Dispatch Union

Selectman Szatkowski made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to table the ratification of the Police Dispatch contract. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

3.) Consideration of State DOT Grant Acceptance - road safety improvement project on Walnut Hill Road

Selectman Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to table the grant acceptance. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

4.) Consideration of RFP - paramedic vendor contract (review only)

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to table the paramedic contract. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

5.) Consideration of recommendation from Comptroller and Parks & Recreation Director for dredging of Bennett Pond

Selectman Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by First Selectman Knickerbocker to table the dredging of Bennett Park. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

6.) Consideration of Bennett Memorial Park – fee schedule

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to adopt the fee schedule as recommended (below). Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Weekday Rental	M-F	\$100.00 - Bethel Residents
Weekday Rental	M-F	\$125.00 - Bethel Residents (over 125 in attendance)
Weekday Rental	M-F	\$175.00 - non resident

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Weekday Rental	M-F	\$225.00 - non resident (over 125 in attendance) *
Weekday Rental	M-F	\$ 35.00 - (SCOUTS ONLY)
Weekend Rental	Sat or Sun	\$150.00 – Bethel Residents
Weekend Rental	Sat or Sun	\$175.00 – Bethel residents (over 125 in attendance) *
Weekend Rental	Sat or Sun	\$275.00 – non residents
Weekend Rental	Sat or Sun	\$325.00 – non residents (over 125 in attendance) *

Room rental (only available with the rental of the facility) – weekday \$ 75.00 / weekend \$125.00

Lion's Club Use – in recognition of their donation of the building, the Lion's Club will retain the use of the facility free of charge on Wednesdays in the operating season and one weekend day each operating season.

7.) 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 February 1, 2013 and authorize Tax Refunds in the amount of \$2,417.63. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

8.) Consideration of YMCA – lease extension/grant opportunity

First Selectman Knickerbocker advised that the YMCA has an opportunity to receive grants to make improvements to the inside of the building but that this requires a lease commitment of at least 10 years. The current lease expires in 2017. A Special Town Meeting will be required.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to approve a lease extension through 2023 with a 3% rate increase each year, beginning in 2017 (current lease expiration). Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

9.) Consideration of appointments - Ethics Commission & Commission on Aging

Ethics Commission:

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to re-appoint Rosemarie Gorman (D) to the Ethics Commission. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved. This term expires January 4, 2016.

Commission on Aging:

Selectman Szatkowski made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to appoint Judith Novachek (R) to the Commission on Aging. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved. This term expires on January 6, 2017.

10.) Consideration of Conflict Waiver – Cucace, Tusch & Santagata, Attorneys at Law

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Town Counsel Martin Lawlor advised that Attorney Nicholas Vitti from the firm of Cucace, Tusch & Santagata, LLC will be representing Maplewoods Senior Living, LLC for a minor change to an existing site plan before the town regulatory agencies. Attorney Vitti is counsel for the Charter Revision Commission.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to instruct Town Counsel Martin Lawlor to prepare a Conflict Waiver form. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

11.) Consideration of Personal Services Agreement Resolution – Financing of Construction of Bethel Teen Center

First Selectman Knickerbocker advised that notification was received for the \$150,000 grant for the Construction of the Bethel Teen Center. The following resolution is required.

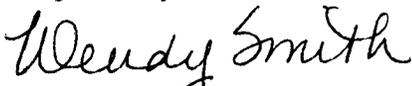
First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, that:

*RESOLVED that First Selectman **Matthew S. Knickerbocker** is empowered to enter into and amend contractual instruments in the name and on behalf of the Town of Bethel with the Department of Social Services of the State of Connecticut for a Neighborhood Facilities program, and to affix the Town Seal.*

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 8:45 p.m. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Wendy Smith Recording Secretary