



BOARD OF FINANCE

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

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, November 12, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.
CJH Municipal Center – Meeting Room “A”

PRESENT: William Kingston, Chairman, J. Phillip Gallagher, Patricia Smithwick, Eileen Freebairn, Claudia Stephan, Gary Regan and Timothy Draper. Also in attendance were Comptroller Robert Kozlowski, Assistant Comptroller Brad Heering, and Tax Collector Anne Scacco.

Call to order/Pledge of Allegiance: Chairman William Kingston called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Public Comments: none

Correspondence: none

Minutes of previous meeting: Patricia Smithwick made a motion, seconded by Eileen Freebairn, to approve the minutes of September 10, 2013. J. Phillip Gallagher had some questions about the audit. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Comptroller's Report: Comptroller Robert Kozlowski distributed a report titled Year End Transfers consisting of five pages. Comptroller Kozlowski advised that the auditors are in the final stages of their audit, and the report is anticipated for mid-December. There was lengthy discussion about the Transfer Station operating at a loss, the EPA fine that was incurred 12 or 14 years ago, the possibility of having the Transfer Station accounts go from an Enterprise Fund to a Special Revenue Fund, gaining income from a mulch operation and a solar farm, among other items.

Comptroller Kozlowski explained that transfers are ordinarily done at the end of the year and explained the items in the report. J. Phillip Gallagher had questions about the number of police officers, the amount of the legal fees, the billing for paramedic intercept, utility costs, the Parks and Recreation expenditures, the amount of money spent on the Walnut Hill Road Bridge under construction, the capital asset value of the Old Town Hall, among other items. Comptroller Kozlowski advised that all town equipment now has a number including furniture, office equipment, etc. This makes it easier to track and total assets. J. Phillip Gallagher questioned the pension policy. Comptroller Kozlowski stated that the Insurance and Pension Commission is working on a pension/investment policy that will be brought to the Board of Finance.

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TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

Eileen Freebairn made a motion, seconded by Patricia Smithwick, to accept the Year End Transfers Report for 2012 - 2013 (below). Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

<u>ACCOUNT</u>		<u>DEBIT</u>	<u>CREDIT</u>
110120-5201	Finance Department	2,555.94	
110160-5352	Professional Services	226,275.64	
110250-5313	Planning & Zoning	540.92	
110340-5501	Boards & Commissions	6,670.14	
140230-5201	Public Works	12,727.18	
140260-5313	Building Maintenance	15,081.67	
110380-5316	Park & Recreation	118,217.24	
110430-5201	Senior Center	308.38	
120320-5301	Stony Hill Fire Dept	6,994.23	
120360-5350	Police Department	10,716.35	
160435-5212	Library	1,931.94	
170450-5701	Board of Education	364,542.47	
110420-5350	Contingency		766,562.10
TOTALS		<u>766,562.10</u>	<u>766,562.10</u>

<u>ACCOUNT</u>		<u>DEBIT</u>	<u>CREDIT</u>
110130-5250	Town Clerk		14,507.99
110110-5201	Treasurer		173.53
110140-5307	Assessor		4,815.21
110420-5350	Contingency	744,929.02	-
110100-5302	Selectmen		590.88
110150-5301	Tax Collector		1,552.84
110170-5201	Probate Court		1,187.94
110190-5206	Data Processing		76,490.82
110210-5360	Town Insurance		23,664.59
110330-5201	Registrar of Voters		16,349.48
110390-5113	Employee Benefits		150,639.62
110400-5337	Non-Gov't Agency Subsidies		11,458.00
110405-5344	Intra Gov't Subsidies		1,380.42
110410-5205	Utilities Charges Services		175,150.99
110420-5355	Misc Charges & Transfers		51,154.18
120290-5201	Emergency Management		5,908.43
120300-5201	Fire Marshall		1,422.81
120180-5201	Building & Inspection		775.81
120310-5301	Bethel Fire Department		15,972.64
130200-5201	Social Service		1,743.78
130350-5201	Health Department		13,934.91
140220-5217	Fleet Maintenance		13,999.64
140240-5403	Highway Department		62,855.64
140270-5313	Tree Warden		10,981.07
150440-5638	Debt Service		86,942.10
170460-5413	Education Maintenance		1,275.70
Totals		<u>744,929.02</u>	<u>744,929.02</u>

Consideration of Elderly Tax Relief – annual review

Tax Collector Anne Scacco presented the Bethel Homeowners Tax Relief Program consisting of seven pages. She noted that 2012 showed a decrease in the number eligible and the amount disbursed probably due to the economy doing a little better. Tax Collector Scacco recommended no change to the present guidelines. Comptroller Kozlowski advised that the cost of the program is built into the mill rate. Tax Collector Scacco commented that different towns/cities have different programs and that the state maximum is \$41,600; Bethel's is \$48,000. Renter's assistance is a separate state program operated through the Assessor's Office. There was some discussion of median household income in Bethel and surrounding towns.

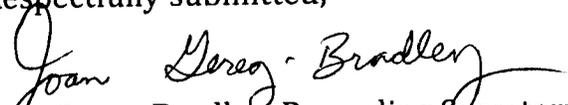
J. Phillip Gallagher made a motion, seconded by Patricia Smithwick, to approve the recommendation of the Tax Collector and make no changes to the Bethel Homeowners Tax Relief Program. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

J. Phillip Gallagher asked about the effect of increased taxes on business owners. Tax Collector Anne Scacco stated that there are no plans for any tax sales and that taxes are being paid. On the average, taxes on apartments increased the most; taxes on condos and homes decreased.

Chairman William Kingston noted that this is the last Board of Finance meeting for J. Phillip Gallagher unless there is a Special Meeting between now and December 2nd. Chairman Kingston thanked Mr. Gallagher for his years of service on the Board of Finance as well as for his membership on many Town boards and commissions. He commented that there has been a real commitment to the Town of Bethel and that the Town is better for J. Phillip Gallagher's dedication.

As there was no further business on tonight's agenda, Timothy Draper made a motion, which was seconded by J. Phillip Gallagher, to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,


Joan Gereg-Bradley, Recording Secretary