

# PUBLIC HEARING

## MINUTES

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MAR 31 2008

**Town of Bethel, Connecticut**  
**Recommended Budget- Fiscal Year 2008 - 2009**

TOWN OF BETHEL  
TOWN CLERK



At a meeting of the Board of Finance, which concluded on March 3, 2008, the following estimates of expenditures and revenues were recommended for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009.

A public hearing on the recommended budget will be held on Tuesday, March 25, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. at the Middle School Auditorium, Whittlesey Drive, Bethel, Connecticut.

All persons entitled to vote at the Annual Town Budget Meeting are invited to make written and oral comments concerning the recommended budget. Copies of the recommended budget are on file in the Town Clerk's Office, Bethel Municipal Center and are available for inspection.

Dated: March 10, 2008

### Board of Finance

J. Philip Gallagher, Chairman ~ William Britt ~ William Slifkin ~ James Roden,  
John Dietter ~ Kevin Riley

### PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

J. Philip Gallagher opened the Public Hearing at 7:30 p.m. and introduced Board of Finance members William Slifkin, William Britt, Kevin Riley and James Roden. Also in attendance were First Selectman Robert Burke, Comptroller Barry Curina, Library Board Chairman Shani Burke Specht, Police Commission Chairman Nicholas Ellis, Board of Education Chairman William Kingston and Board of Education Director of Fiscal Services Theresa Yonsky.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS:

William Michaels, 27 ½ Fleetwood Avenue, questioned and commented about a variety of things, including, in part, suggesting a reduction to non essential spending, questioned debt service, suggested the Library start charging fees for various items.

William Hillman, Walnut Hill Road, questioned and commented about a variety of items including a proposed Board of Education policy which would allow non resident certified staff to enroll their children in the Bethel school system at no cost. (Board of Education Chairman William Kingston advised that the Board of Education will consider this policy

at an upcoming meeting.), questioned some employees of the Board of Education are receiving payment in lieu of receiving medical benefits.

Bob Dolan, Rockwell Road, among other things, questioned whether the Board of Education allocation break-out was part of the Charter Revision and why there was no breakout of the Board of Education revenue.

Connie Booth, Country Way spoke in support of the Library Budget and urged support of the Library.

Will Michaels, Fleetwood Avenue, offered his concern that a former principal has been receiving a 10 year pay out, questioned the fee for NEASC.

Janice Stevenson, Sunset Hill Road remarked that it needs to be determined how many educators have children who attend other town's schools.

Mary Legnard and Mary O'Leary, Registrar of Voters, spoke in support of their request for salary increases, citing additional responsibilities associated with the new voting machines.

John Kelly, Walnut Hill Road, questioned the road account and on-going road maintenance as it relates to the Stony Hill Sewer Project.

Robert Fand, Kayview Avenue, among other things, questioned the surplus.

Geraldine Mills, Colonial Drive spoke in support of the Library Budget.

Kim Lemone, Allan Way questioned the breakdown of account 100 and the increase to the Tree Warden account.

Christopher Trodahl, Oak Ridge Road, among other things, spoke in support of the Registrar's request for a salary increase, questioned the Board of Education allocation, and questioned paramedic program costs.

William Guyla, Putnam Park Road commented on veterans' benefits, revaluation and that the budget needs to be reduced.

Lisa Allaby, Chestnut Ridge Road, questioned the Board of Education allocation; clarified that these costs have always existed.

Alice Hutchinson, Rockwell Road, lends support to the Registrar of Voters and Library requests, questioned the ownership of the funds allocated as Board of Education expenses.

John Milne, Starr Lane offered that in his former position, departments had to make do with less and the Board of Finance should take that stance as well.

Bob Dolan, Rockwell Road, among other things, questioned the oversight for the Board of Education allocation.

William Hillman, Walnut Hill Road, among other things, questioned phasing in of the revaluation, questioned the medical benefits paid

William Michaels, Fleetwood Avenue, among other things, commented that there should be no new employees, spending has to be reduced.

John Kelly, Walnut Hill Road offered that employees need to contribute more to the medical costs.

Robert Crnic, Walnut Hill Road, commented that the Library is the best deal in town with all its free programs.

Robert Fand, Kayview Avenue offered that the surplus is too high.

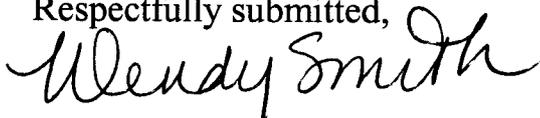
Geraldine Mills, Colonial Drive questioned the number of police officers and complimented the Police Department.

### **Correspondence**

Jenny Tesar, expressed dismay at the reduction to Library staff pay raises.

As there were no further comments, J. Philip Gallagher closed the Public Hearing at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Wendy Smith, Recording Secretary