



BOARD OF FINANCE

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

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

Thursday, February 19, 2009
7:00 p.m.

CJH Municipal Center - Meeting Room "A"

RECEIVED

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TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

PRESENT: J. Philip Gallagher, Chairman, William Britt, Kevin Riley, William Slifkin, James Roden, Gary Regan and John Dietter. Also attending was the Board of Selectmen.

J. Philip Gallagher called the Special Meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

FY 2009-2010 Department Budget Presentations

380 Parks & Recreation

FY 2008-2009	Budget	\$913,302
FY 2009-2010	Request	\$904,761 *

** It had been noted previously that salary accounts for classified service (non-union), while showing an increase, reflect the increase in salary on July 1, 2008 which was after the 2008-2009 budgets were adopted; there are no salary increases budgeted for July 1, 2009 for the classified service employees.*

Megan O'Connor, Chairman of the Parks & Recreation Commission and Eileen Earle, Director of Parks & Recreation presented the FY 2009-2010 Parks & Recreation budget request.

Discussion took place regarding fees for programs; Mrs. Earle advised that the prices were increased recently and most programs are either self-sustaining or make a profit. Programs are cancelled if they do not have enough participation.

Discussion took place regarding the capital equipment request for a combination snow blower/lawn mower. It was pointed out that several mowers aren't working. They felt it made financial sense to have the combined mower as both items need to be replaced. Parks & Recreation

now maintains the islands at the school complex and will have additional sidewalks to clear.

435 Library

FY 2008-2009	Budget	\$744,430
FY 2009-2010	Request	\$737,618

Shani Burke Specht, Chairman of the Library Board of Directors and Lynn Rosato, Library Director presented the FY 2009-2010 Library budget request; reductions were made to most line items. Discussion took place regarding the salaries; it was explained that salary increases had been deferred and were increased in January 2008 as part of the current budget, and part-time hourly rates have been frozen and full time staff will see a reduction in current salaries. She advised that they were able to reduce several line items by joining in with the town for items like the postage machine and coordination of computer related items.

The concern was raised that they may lose their annual grant from the State Library if their budget falls below the average amount appropriated during the past three fiscal years.

Mrs. Specht advised that the Library Capital Campaign has raised nearly two-thirds of the funds needed to complete the library and they anticipate raising the funds without tax dollars.

310 Bethel Fire Department

FY 2008-2009	Budget	\$163,850
FY 2009-2010	Request	\$183,400

Peter Holmberg, Chief of the Bethel Fire Department and Joe Shaad, 2nd Chief, presented the FY 2009-2010 Bethel Fire Department budget request. Among the requested items is the mandated replacement of Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) as they are within one year of their 15 year life; the proposal in this budget year is to replace 25. He did caution that the fire apparatus is aging and they will need to be replaced.

320 Stony Hill Fire Department

FY 2008-2009	Budget	\$155,450
FY 2009-2010	Request	\$140,450

Kenneth Parsiacepe, Chief of the Stony Hill Fire Department presented the FY 2009-2010 Stony Hill Fire Department request. He spoke to the capital equipment request to replace 20 year old equipment; supply hoses and a tool spreader. Discussion took place regarding the doors at the station; the money for repairs was transferred to the building maintenance account.

As there was no further business on tonight's agenda, J. Philip Gallagher made a motion, which was seconded by William Britt, to adjourn the Special Meeting at 8:15 p.m. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wendy Smith".

Wendy Smith, Recording Secretary