



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 2, 2010

7:30 p.m. or immediately following Special Town Meeting
CJH Municipal Center – Meeting Room “A”

RECEIVED

2010 FEB -4 P 1:24

TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

PRESENT: First Selectman Knickerbocker, Selectman Straiton and Selectman Szatkowski. Also in attendance was Town Counsel Martin J. Lawlor.

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

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to add to tonight's agenda, under New Business, item #2A - Establish a Special Town Meeting date to accept American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds and item #2B - Refer funding request in the amount of \$250,000 (Bethel share to complete roadway project) to the Board of Finance. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Public Comments:

J. Philip Gallagher, Robert Burke (*delivered a formal written complaint to the Board of Selectmen and specifically requested correspondence regarding alleged illegal activities involving Police Commission Chairman Nicholas Ellis be attached to the minutes of this meeting - attached*), Robert Crnic, James Roden, Beth Cavagna and Peter Valenti spoke at tonight's meeting.

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

Minutes of January 19, 2010 Special 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 January 19, 2010 Regular Meeting: Selectman Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by First Selectman Knickerbocker, to approve the minutes as amended. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved. The amendment would be to include Selectman Szatkowski's comment that he asked Ms. DeLucia whether the old town hall could be utilized. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Minutes of January 22, 2010 Special 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.

First Selectman Report: First Selectman Knickerbocker reported on the progress at the South Street Firehouse, noting that there are still several punch list items to be completed. He advised that they had held a session with the mediator and no date has been set yet for arbitration. The first Town of Bethel (monthly) newsletter has been posted on the town website. First Selectman Knickerbocker advised that he received notification from Rep. Bartlett's office that they are almost certain that the \$150,000 "teen center" grant can be redirected to another location, as long as the funds are used for a "permanent" home for the Teen Center. He also noted that the joint session with the Ad-Hoc Transfer Station Committee will be held on Thursday, February 10th.

Old Business

New Business

1.) Consideration of exterior security doors – Stony Hill Fire Department

First Selectman Knickerbocker explained that during the last budget process, funds were removed from SHFD budget for the exterior security doors; it was anticipated that they would be funded through the Building Maintenance account, but funding was never appropriated.

Selectman Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to have this request be considered for funding through the FY 2010-2011 budget process. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

2.) Consideration of resolution – authorizing the First Selectman to sign State Project No. 009-007/Federal Aid Project No. 1009-(111) – Construction Agreement between the State of Connecticut and the Town of Bethel for the Construction of Old Hawleyville Road.

2A.) Consideration of establishing a Special Town Meeting date to accept American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds:

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to set a Special Town Meeting date of *Tuesday, February 16, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.* in Meeting Room "A" for the purpose of accepting funds in the amount of \$580,700 from the "Federal Funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 Public Law 111-5" to be used for the Construction, Inspection and Maintenance of Old Hawleyville Road". Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

2B.) Consideration of referring funding request in the amount of \$250,000 to the Board of Finance:

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to recommend to the Board of Finance, funding an amount not to exceed \$250,000 as the Town of Bethel share for the completion of the construction of Old Hawleyville Road. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

First Selectman Knickerbocker and Town Engineer Andrew Morosky explained that the anticipated project cost is \$820,000, the ARRA funding is \$580,700; if for some reason the Board of Finance does not support the funding request, then the project would be condensed back to fall into the amount we will receive from the ARRA funding.

3.) Consideration of letter of intent to support the Western CT Regional Emergency Communications Center proposal to complete a Public Safety Answering Point consolidation study.

First Selectman Knickerbocker explained that the Western CT Regional Emergency Communications Center is proposing a study to determine if regionalization of public safety answering points is feasible and whether it would be a cost saving venture. He explained that by sending a letter of support, it does not commit the Town of Bethel to anything other than participation in the study.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, that the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Bethel hereby supports the Western Connecticut Regional Emergency Communications Center proposal to complete a Public Safety Answering Point Consolidation Study to include the Town of Bethel. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

4.) Consideration of the creation of two committees: Energy Conservation and Business Outreach.

First Selectman Knickerbocker alerted the other selectmen of his interest in creating two committees/commissions. He explained that he raised the topic at tonight's meeting to provide the selectmen the opportunity to think about it and discuss it further at the next

meeting. The Energy Conservation Committee/Commission would be, (among other duties and responsibilities to be determined), charged with the responsibility to undertake a study of town and school buildings to seek out energy saving opportunities. The Business Outreach Committee/Commission would be, (among other duties and responsibilities to be determined), charged with proactively marketing the Town of Bethel to seek out new businesses. First Selectman Knickerbocker envisions these two new boards will start out as Ad-Hoc and develop into permanent boards. Selectmen were supportive of this initiative and will discuss it further at the next meeting.

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 8:10 p.m. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Wendy Smith, Recording Secretary

attachment

Robert E. Burke

1/30/2010

254 Greenwood Ave

Bethel CT 06801

203-798-8277

To Whom It May Concern:

As the former First Selectman of the town of Bethel Connecticut, I am requesting that your agency please investigate a matter of serious concern regarding the current Chairman of the Bethel Police Commission, Nick Ellis, and illegal activities that he may have engaged in as evidenced by the attached photos which were taken at an event Mr. Ellis is alleged to have organized and run for profit purposes on Jan 16th, 2010.

The attached photos were taken by Jeremiah Burke who attended the birthday party which was held on the referenced date at 30 Henry St, in Bethel, CT.

Mr. Jeremiah Burke, who took the attached photos alleged to me that the following activities occurred;

- Mr. Ellis ran the event in a commercial space rented by Carmen Dike, and owned by Douglas Griffin, who were both alleged to be present at the event
- Mr. Nick Ellis, who was witnessed as running the affair, cavorted and interacted with the strippers and dancers
- Mr. Jeremiah Burke also alleged that purported illegal substances were used during the event
- There was a stage set up as evidenced by the attached photos
- Monies were collected and alcohol was served on the premises along with other alleged substances
- Other sexual activities were alleged to have occurred or sanctioned
- It was alleged to me that 60 or more people attended this event

As a former First Selectman and concerned Bethel citizen I am deeply disturbed by the fact that an elected police commissioner (it's Chairman as well) in the town of Bethel, can brazenly conduct the activities evidenced in the attached photos. Furthermore, I have since been told that Mr. Nick Ellis has engaged in these types of activities for some time. I respectfully request that your agency please investigate these allegations of alleged criminal activity as soon as possible.

Respectfully,

Robert E. Burke

CC: New Haven FBI

Washington FBI

Governor Jodi M. Rell

Richard Blumenthal; CT AG

STATE ATTORNEY; S. Sedensky

Lt. Edward Bednarz; CT STATE POLICE

Bethel Police Dept