



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 SPECIAL MEETING

Wednesday, February 17, 2010
7:00 p.m.

CJH Municipal Center – Meeting Room “A”

RECEIVED

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TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

PRESENT: First Selectman Knickerbocker, Selectman Straiton and Selectman Szatkowski. Also in attendance was the Board of Finance.

First Selectman Knickerbocker called the Special Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

FY 2010-2011 DEPARTMENT BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

290	Emergency Management	FY 2009-2010 Approved Budget	\$28,500
		FY 2010-2011 Budget Request	\$28,500

Thomas Galliford presented the FY 2010-2011 Emergency Management budget request. He noted that the Alert Now telephone system is an invaluable tool; there is an ongoing cost associated with it. He complimented the volunteers in Community Emergency Response Training and offered that they have been very active with various training programs and were vital to the H1N1 clinics. Training programs are on-going and he anticipates another CERT training program in the 2010-2011 budget year. It was noted that some of the funding for this account is returned to the town via grants.

300	Fire Marshall	FY 2009-2010 Approved Budget	\$86,310
		FY 2010-2011 Budget Request	\$90,950

Thomas Galliford, Fire Marshall presented the FY 2010-2011 Fire Marshall proposed budget. Among the highlights of his budget request is an increase to the Assistant Fire Marshall line for an additional 3-4 hours per week to meet the demands of inspection; the more hours allotted, the more

inspections that can be done. He has also included a funding request to purchase a new computer system as the one they have is outdated and very slow.

310 Bethel Fire Department	FY 2009-2010 Approved Budget	\$180,200
	FY 2010-2011 Budget Request	\$188,700

Fred Ingram, Chief of the Bethel Fire Department, presented the FY 2010-2011 Bethel Fire Department budget request. He spoke to the expense of replacing the SCBA bottles; currently they are operating with a 12 bottle deficit. Chief Ingram advised that they reduced their account \$4,000 since they no longer have the personnel to support a SCUBA rescue team. Discussed was the option to purchase like items with Stony Hill Fire Department. Both Chiefs noted that while they do not necessarily purchase together, the companies that they purchase from, purchase in bulk to pass savings on to the various departments. Chief Ingram also spoke to the need to replace fire apparatus.

320 Stony Hill Fire Department	FY 2009-2010 Approved Budget	\$140,450
	FY 2010-2011 Budget Request	\$151,500

Ken Parciasepe, Chief of the Stony Hill Fire Department, presented the FY 2010-2011 Stony Hill Fire Department budget request. He thanked the Town of Bethel for supporting the funding for staffing at the firehouse to supplement the volunteers and noted that they anticipate returning approximately \$36,000 to the town that they've collected in billing for ambulance services. He noted the receipt of a FEMA grant which will permit a replacement of a portion of their hoses. He reiterated the need to replace fire apparatus, the tanker is 35+/- years old and the mini-pumper/brush vehicle is 27+/- years old.

350 Health Department	FY 2009-2010 Approved Budget	\$260,711
	FY 2010-2011 Budget Request	\$265,101

Laura Vasile, Director of Health, presented the FY 2010-2011 Health Department budget request. She noted the contractual salary increases and an increase to the cost of West Nile Virus larviciding. She advised that she will have a loss of grant revenue of approximately \$24,000. Discussion took place regarding the fee structure; it was noted that several years back a proposal to increase various fees was not supported but that it can be reviewed again. Ms. Vasile complimented all those who worked and volunteered for the H1N1 clinics.

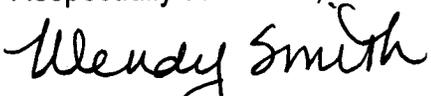
360 Police Department	FY 2009-2010 Approved Budget	\$3,455,641
	FY 2010-2011 Budget Request	\$3,545,061

Christopher McCollam, Vice-Chairman of the Police Commission and Jeffrey Finch, Chief of Police presented the FY 2010-2011 Police Budget. They noted the contractual increases contained within the various line items. Included in the capital request is the replacement of three police cruisers and an unmarked vehicle; they reiterated the need keep the vehicle replacement on a continuous cycle of three vehicles each year. The vehicles experience quite a bit of use; not necessarily road miles but almost constant engine use. They have requested a funding for a storage unit as they have no more room in their building for storage; their building needs remain a concern for them. The armory account has been increased to reflect the rising cost of materials.

435 Library	FY 2009-2010 Approved Budget	\$737,618
	FY 2010-2011 Budget Request	\$737,618

Jane Bickford, Chairman of the Library Board of Directors and Lynn Rosato, Librarian presented the FY 2010-2011 Library budget request. They noted that they have not increased the budget request; it is the same as the current budget. Discussion took place regarding the use of the library, noting that they have approximately 12,000 card holders which equates to 70% of our population. Currently there are 48 computers (anticipate 60 when building is completed). Their goal is to continue to replace one quarter of the heavily used computers each year. It was noted that the volunteer hours which supplements the staff, has a value of approximately \$48,000.

As there was no further business on tonight's agenda, First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to adjourn the Special Meeting at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Smith, Recording Secretary