



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, June 1, 2010
7:30 p.m.

CJH Municipal Center – Meeting Room “A”

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TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

PRESENT: First Selectman Knickerbocker, Selectman Straiton and Selectman Szatkowski. Also in attendance was Town Counsel Martin J. Lawlor. Members of the Board of Finance were present

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

Public Comments: David Glahn, Eileen Earle, Yvonne Grimes and Mark Goodwin spoke.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to move the Presentation of the Road Renewal Plan to this point on the agenda. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Presentation of Road Renewal Plan to Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance:

Town Engineer Andrew Morosky and Highway Superintendent Robert Dibble presented the Road Renewal Plan. Mr. Morosky explained that First Selectman Knickerbocker asked him to come up with a plan that would address our road repair needs now and for the future. Among the highlights of the plan would be to address the most critically needed roadwork. Bethel has approximately 83 miles of roads; typically, allocated funding each year only allows for a small portion of the roadways to be repaired. It was noted at our normal funding levels, we would never catch up on the repairs. Mr. Dibble explained the process of road construction and noted all the measures and materials they use to protect the work which helps make the road repairs/reconstruction last longer.

Webster Bank Financial Advisor, Barry Bernabe presented an overview of the town's debt service and bonding capabilities. He noted several things about bonding, the rating agencies like to see consistent and level bonding, the Town of Bethel has the ability to issue \$10,000,000 in the next four years and not impact current debt levels, our existing debt runs off about \$400,000 annually in the next couple of years, Bethel has a very, very high bond rating and based on the rating criteria, does not have high debt. He offered that the historically low interest rate environment would be a benefit should the town wish to enter into the road renewal project. He noted further that if approved, the road renewal plan would not push the town's debt load above current levels, and would in fact allow it to continue to fall over time.

Finance Board members expressed concern over adding debt as it is not just the roads that need to be addressed but other projects as well, school renovations, police station, capital items, etc. Mr. Bernabe noted that proactive planning and a solid debt planning policy will enable us to maintain level debt; there will always be capital needs by a municipality, planning for debt is important.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to table the Road Renewal Plan. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to take a short recess to allow the Board of Finance to continue to deliberate and take action upon the two items they had tabled – the Bond Anticipation Notes (\$535,200) and the Track Lighting (\$280,000). Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

The Board of Finance approved the Board of Selectmen recommendation for the Track Lighting project (\$280,000) and the Johnson School boilers (\$215,000), the Board of Selectmen had recommended funding \$535,200 in capital projects. A Special Town Meeting will be scheduled by the Board of Selectmen.

Minutes of May 3, 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 May 4, 2010 Regular 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 May 18, 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 noted several items of interest, including the potential donation of the Masonic Lodge on Greenwood Avenue for use as a Teen Center. He did caution however, that there is still lots of work ahead, i.e. the building needs to be inspected, ramp needs to be ADA compliant, etc.

The South Street Fire House is essentially done; there are a few minor punch list items. The elevator is now working and they are moving into the new construction area.

First Selectman Knickerbocker advised that he is appointing Steve Palmer (Zoning Official), Frank Ventrella (Purchasing Agent), Andrew Morosky (Town Engineer) and Richard Straiton (Selectman) to a committee to review the proposals for the Old Train Station. First Selectman Knickerbocker noted that he is recusing himself as he is a personal friend of one of those submitting a proposal.

First Selectman Knickerbocker advised that there are a number of serious concerns with the town information technology (IT) department and will have more information to report at the next meeting.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to add to tonight's agenda, under New Business, Item # 3 – Consideration of establishing a date for a Special Town Meeting on the Bond Anticipation Note Projects and the Track Lighting Project. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Old Business

1.) Consideration of appointments to Energy Conservation and Economic Outreach

ECONOMIC OUTREACH COMMITTEE:

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to appoint the following people to the Economic Outreach Committee: Anthony Rubino (R), Paul Rinaldi (R), Robert Stosser (U), Sandi Foreman, Roy Steiner (U), Mike Boyle (U) and Pat Smithwick (U). Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

ENERGY CONSERVATION COMMITTEE:

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to appoint the following people to the Energy Conservation Committee: Mark Anderson (R), Bill Cratty (R), Nicholas Ellis (R), Henry

Karl (R), David Dunn (D), Fred Zalcman (D), Randy Oisher (D), Bonnie Brown (D) and Gary Pedone (D). Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

2.) **Consideration of HVCEO Mutual Aid Agreement**

This matter was addressed at a previous meeting – no action necessary.

New Business

1.) **Consideration of recommendation from the Ad-Hoc Transfer Station Committee – fee structure:**

Selectman Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to concur with the recommendation from the Ad-Hoc Transfer Station Committee and establish the Bethel Transfer Station Rate Schedule (effective July 1, 2010) as follows.

Category	Current Fee	Recommended Fee
Annual Fee Per Vehicle	30.00	50.00
Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)	0.16/pound	0.20/pound
Recyclables	Free	Free
Small Bulky Waste	5.00	0.20/pound
Twin Mattress or Box Spring	10.00	10.00
Double Mattress or Box Spring	10.00	15.00
Queen Mattress or Box Spring	10.00	20.00
King Mattress or Box Spring	10.00	25.00
Sleeper Sofa	10.00	25.00
Loose Scrap Metal	0.16/pound	0.20/pound
Lawn Mower	5.00	10.00
Lawn Tractor	15.00	20.00
Other Large Scrap Metal	15.00	20.00
Household Appliance w/o Freon	15.00	20.00
Household Appliance w/ Freon	30.00	30.00

Organic Materials	n/a	n/a
Leaves by Carload	Free	Free
Trees/Brush by Carload	5.00	10.00
Filled Pick-Up Truck	35.00	35.00
Extended Pick-Up Truck	50.00	50.00
Homeowner Trailer	50.00	50.00
Commercial Hauler	25.00	250.00
Municipal Registration	n/a	n/a

It was clarified that *anyone* using the Transfer Station must have an Annual Permit regardless. This includes residents who use the Transfer Station just to drop off leaves or recycling.

Also noted was the change in the rate for commercial haulers from \$25 to \$250. This recommendation is competitive to the area. They noted that the revenue generated via commercial hauler permits does not go into the Transfer Station account and wondered if perhaps it should.

The committee advised that two items (Household Hazardous Waste Day(s) and the cost for the town to dispose of leaves) are charged to the Transfer Station account. They are not sure why. The Transfer Station Committee will continue to explore other recommendations affecting the Transfer Station.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to establish a Senior Citizen rate of \$40 per year for the Transfer Station Annual Permit for those seniors that are eligible to receive benefits under the town elderly tax benefit program. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to establish a 2nd car (for vehicles in the same household with same address as initial permit) Annual Permit rate of \$10. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

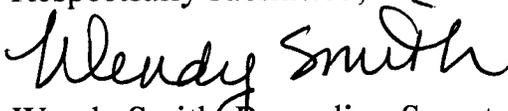
3.) Consideration of establishing a date for Special Town Meeting on the Bond Anticipation Note Projects and the Track Lighting Project:

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to establish a Special Town Meeting date of Tuesday, June 15, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

in the CJH Municipal Center – Meeting Room “A” for the Bond Anticipation Note Projects and the Track Lighting Project. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

As there was no further business on tonight’s agenda, Selectman Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 p.m. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,


Wendy Smith, Recording Secretary