



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, November 2, 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.

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

Public Comments: Tim Draper, Gail Hilton, James Rush, David Glahn, Kathleen Oles, Robert Korin and Kay Visconti spoke.

Correspondence – none that was not already on tonight’s agenda

Minutes of October 5, 2010 Regular Meeting:

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, that the minutes of October 5, 2010 be corrected to reflect that the motion to suspend the Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP) include the Bethel Volunteer Fire Department as well Stony Hill Volunteer Fire Department. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

First Selectman Report – First Selectman Knickerbocker noted the CT Department of Public Health and American Heart Association have awarded Bethel a three year designation as a HEARTSafe community; classes have been held for employees for instruction on the use of the AED machine and basic CPR. He offered thanks to Paramedic Blair Balmforth and BFD member Sherri Holmberg for conducting these classes.

Department Heads have been asked to submit their capital plan; and that he plans meeting with the Comptroller and the department heads to go over the requests.

Selectman Straiton provided an update on the space for the teen center, noting that volunteers have been doing some demolition work. Selectmen clarified that use of the former VNA space for the Teen Center is temporary – temporary for several reasons, one of which is that it is not big enough. The Teen Center has over 400 participants. Selectman Straiton advised that they are working towards a full rendering of the proposed addition; this will create a “shovel ready” project which, for grant purposes, is necessary.

First Selectman Knickerbocker clarified that no decision has been reached as to the old town hall. One thing that he would like to explore is an expanded parking area that would encompass from the back of the building which houses the Chamber offices through to the old town hall.

Old Business

New Business

1.) Consideration of sub-lease – Bethel Rail Station

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to table until next meeting. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

2.) Consideration of Tax Collector’s request for Tax Refund Authorization

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to approve the Tax Collector’s request, dated November 1, 2010 and authorize Tax Refunds in the amount of \$15,570. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

3.) Consideration of request from Carpe Diem – Spring Racing Series at Clarke Park

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to approve the request from Carpe Diem to hold their 2011 Spring Racing Series in the Francis J. Clarke Industrial Park on the following dates: Sunday, March 6th, Sunday, March 13th, Sunday, March 20th, Sunday, March 27th, Sunday, April 3rd and Sunday, April 10th. Races will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., subject to receipt of the appropriate insurance, notification to the park occupants and that a police officer is present at the main intersection. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

4.) Consideration of clarification of leaf policy – Transfer Station

Selectman Szatkowski had requested this item be on the agenda. He advised that residents have been allowed to bring leaves to the Transfer Station without a permit and that was one of the concerns raised by the Ad-Hoc Transfer Station Committee. The cost to the town to dispose of leaves is approximately \$14,000. First Selectman Knickerbocker pointed out that for many years, during the leaf pick-up time, residents are allowed to bring their leaves to the transfer station without benefit of a permit only during this time frame – the reasoning behind it is that it saves the town money since the highway crew is not picking up the leaves.

First Selectman Knickerbocker offered that he would like to look into the town selling its own leaf bags. It was also agreed to look into composting leaves.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to allow for the remainder of this calendar year, the policy to allow residents to bring leaves to the transfer station without a permit. Voting in favor of the motion: First Selectman Knickerbocker and Selectman Straiton. Voting in favor of the motion: Selectman Szatkowski. Motion passed.

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 8:25 p.m. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,


Wendy Smith, Recording Secretary