



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

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TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

Thursday, February 24, 2011
7:00 p.m.
CJH Municipal Center - Meeting Room "A"

PRESENT: First Selectman Knickerbocker, Selectman Straiton and Selectman Szatkowski. Also in attendance were the Board of Finance and Comptroller Robert Kozlowski.

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

FY 2011-2012 Department Budget Presentations

390 Employee Benefits	FY 2011-2012 Request	\$5,247,737
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Comptroller Robert Kozlowski advised that the quotes for the hospitalization reflect a 5 ½ - 6% increase.

Pension Representatives Michael Forte of Smith Barney, Frank Mendillo and Sean Thomas from Wells Thomas were present at tonight's meeting for questions about the pension plan and/or contributions.

The town pension plan is funded at about 55% with assets of approximately \$14,283,000 and the Police Pension Plan is funded at 77.59% with assets of \$5,400,000.

It was noted that many pension plans have switched over to defined contribution plans versus defined benefit plans. Defined benefit plans can be very costly over the lifetime of the recipient. The town is looking into a plan for new hires which would be a defined benefit rather than the traditional pension plan.

260 Building Maintenance FY 2011-2012 Request \$1,009,525

Town Engineer Andrew Morosky and Highway Superintendent Robert Dibble presented the FY 2011-2012 Building Maintenance budget request.

Mr. Morosky discussed the need to replace heating equipment for the gymnasium at the Municipal Center. The existing equipment is original to the building and appears to be at the end of its useful life. This past winter, there were several failures and some parts of the system are obsolete and difficult to repair. One hot water circulating pump in the basement of the Municipal Center is proposed for replacement. There are approximately 10 circulating pumps for the entire facility. One circulating pump was replaced in the current fiscal year because it failed. The pump proposed for this year is the second of two in the set. There are also several circuit panels that were not replaced when the building was renovated in 1996 that should be replaced with reliable circuit breaker panels. This equipment should be in good working order as the Municipal Center serves as an emergency shelter.

Discussion took place regarding the proposed 4,000 gallon oil tank for the Public Works Garage. As an alternative to the oil tank, Town Engineer Andrew Morosky is pursuing, with Yankee Gas / Northeast Utilities, the costs to convert the entire garage facility to gas heat. Gas is now, and is anticipated to continue to be, considerably less expensive than oil as a heating fuel.

Included in the request are several repairs to the South Street Firehouse; these were not part of the recent renovation which was done primarily to address ADA accessibility issues.

A 5 minute break was taken.

270 Tree Warden FY 2011-2012 Request \$89,400

Town Engineer Andrew Morosky presented the FY 2011-2012 Tree Warden request; he noted no changes to this account.

290 Emergency Management FY 2011-2012 Request \$26,000

Emergency Management Director Thomas Galliford presented the FY 2011-2012 Emergency Management Budget request. He noted that the Town usually receives sizeable grants which reduce the cost of many of their budgeted items and training sessions.

Mr. Galliford explained that the Everbridge Mass Notification system has been an invaluable tool and has requested continued funding. There was a 50% price

reduction to this as they are using a new price structure that matches the State pricing, although this price is only good for 2 years.

He did note an anticipated increase to the radio tower lease. Currently the lease is \$3,600 and he has increased this cost to \$6,000. The Comptroller is working with the vendor on a new contract.

300 Fire Marshal FY 2011-2012 Request \$88,234

Fire Marshal Thomas Galliford presented the FY 2011-2012 Fire Marshal budget request. He noted no significant increases to any of his accounts and tried to scale back training and supplies where he could. He did offer that funding of the Deputy Fire Marshal has enabled his office to increase the fire safety code inspections. The Deputy Fire Marshal works approximately 18 hours a week.

310 Bethel Fire Department FY 2011-2012 Request \$197,600

Bethel Fire Department Chief Fred Ingram presented the FY 2011-2012 Bethel Fire Department budget request. He noted that both Bethel and Stony Hill Fire Departments are looking to purchase thermal imaging cameras as a joint venture to save costs; this is to replace older, outdated equipment.

Both Chief Ingram and Chief Parciasepe stressed the need to prepare for the replacement of fire apparatus; much of each department's fleet is aging, refurbishing of vehicles is not a practical option. It was pointed out that ordering any new vehicle is a lengthy process regardless as it takes several months to prepare vehicle specifications as well as the time to have the vehicle built. They also discussed that there are a variety of funding options; discounts are usually provided for up front payments.

320 Stony Hill Fire Department FY 2011-2012 Request \$143,400

Stony Hill Fire Department Chief Ken Parciasepe presented the FY 2011-2012. He discussed the need to address the replacement of fire apparatus. Chief Parciasepe advised that the demographics of the volunteers are such that of their 45 members, 29 are considered "active" and 19 of them are over age 40.

Both departments are looking to replace turn out gear which has a recommended life of 7 years; it was noted that while each department has their own specifications and preferences, they do purchase from the same vendor to get a better price.

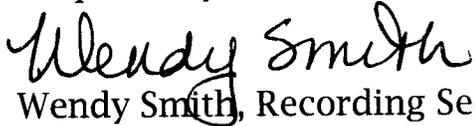
360 Police Department FY 2011-2012 Request \$3,563,444

Police Commission Chairman Nick Ellis and Police Chief Jeffrey Finch presented the FY 2011-2012 budget request. They noted most of the increases were contractual and tried to keep other costs at close to the same.

Discussion took place regarding the police vehicles and trade in; keeping the replacement of vehicles on an ongoing cycle is a goal. They noted we received a better trade in value from the current vendor due to a competitive quote (from a vendor at CCM Conference.). The current vendor matched the trade-in from the competitive quote.

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