



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, December 6, 2011
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: Bill Michaels (old town hall), J. Philip Gallagher (old town hall), Brian Terzian (old town hall) Timothy Draper (old town hall and storm cleanup), Robert Legnard (old town hall)

Correspondence: Letter from Town Counsel Martin J. Lawlor, dated December 1, 2011 regarding the Election Vacancies.

Minutes of November 15, 2011: Selectman Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to accept the minutes with the inclusion that Selectman Straiton had requested that the Blight Ordinance be put on the agenda for December 6th. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

First Selectman Report: First Selectman Knickerbocker reported on the brush pickup; he noted that public works is about a week ahead of schedule on the brush pickup. It had been determined that the most economical method of storm clean up would be for town crews (who are supplemented by crews from Bridgeport) to do the work. It was agreed that this storm was extraordinary and the town had a responsibility to help residents with storm clean up efforts. The total cost is estimated (after FEMA 75% reimbursement) to be around \$65,000.

He noted that the sidewalks, constructed and paid for through Safe Routes to Schools Grant are just about complete, much of the engineering had been done in house, which added time to the project but provided a tremendous cost savings.

Selectman Szatkowski made a motion, which was seconded by First Selectman Knickerbocker, to add to tonight's agenda, under Old Business, #1 – Consideration of Blight Ordinance. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Selectman Szatkowski made a motion, which was seconded by First Selectman Knickerbocker, to add to tonight's agenda, under New Business, # 6 – Consideration of appointment to Board of Education. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Old Business

1.) Discussion of the Blight Ordinance:

Selectman Szatkowski had requested this item be back on the agenda. First Selectman Knickerbocker will meet with town departments to discuss departmental concerns with the ordinance and report back to the Board of Selectmen in January.

New Business

1.) Consideration of appointments:

Acting First Selectman: First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to reappoint Richard C. Straiton as Acting First Selectman. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Town Counsel: First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to reappoint Martin J. Lawlor, Jr. as Town Counsel. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Housatonic Resource Recovery Agency (HRRR) representative and alternate: First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to reappoint Matthew S. Knickerbocker as the HRRR representative and Richard C. Straiton as the HRRR alternate. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Housatonic Valley Council of Elected Officials (HVCEO) and alternate: First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to reappoint Matthew S. Knickerbocker as the HVCEO representative and Richard C. Straiton as the HVCEO alternate. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

2.) Consideration of "Old" town hall, establish date for Public Hearing and/or Special Town Meeting

First Selectman Knickerbocker asked Town Counsel Martin J. Lawlor to investigate what is necessary and required regarding the disposition of the old town hall. Selectmen agreed to look at dates to hold a Public Hearing in January.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to table until the January 20th meeting. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

3.) 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 December 4, 2011 to authorize \$4,403.90 in tax refunds. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

4.) Consideration of 8-24 referral to Planning & Zoning, referral to the Board of Finance and establish a Special Town Meeting date for purchase of Open Space Property on Old Hawleyville Road.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, that the Board of Selectmen pursuant to Section 8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes does hereby refer to the Planning & Zoning Commission for its comments and report on a proposal to purchase Open Space property on Old Hawleyville Road. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

It was agreed to hold off on setting a Special Town Meeting date and referral to the Board of Finance until P&Z responds.

5.) Consideration of HRRA increase in haulers fee

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to refer this to the Public Utilities Commission. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

6.) Appointment to Board of Education

Selectman Szatkowski made a motion, which was seconded by First Selectman Knickerbocker, to appoint Brian Terzian (I) to the vacancy on the Board of Education.

Discussion took place regarding this appointment. First Selectman Knickerbocker advised that another member of the Independent party had contacted him, expressing interest in being considered and that he would like the opportunity to discuss it further with this person and therefore, made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to table this item. Voting in favor of the motion: First Selectman Knickerbocker and Selectman Straiton. Voting against the motion: Selectman Szatkowski. Motion passed.

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 8:45 p.m. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,


Wendy Smith, Recording Secretary