



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

Tuesday, March 4, 2014
7:00 p.m.

CJH Municipal Center – Meeting Room “A”

PRESENT: First Selectman Knickerbocker, Selectman Straiton, and Selectman Szatkowski. Also in attendance were Comptroller Robert Kozlowski, Assistant Comptroller Brad Hering, members of the Board of Finance and various department heads and representations from the Board of Education.

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

Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Department Budget Presentations

250- Tax Collector – this account was tabled

380 - Parks & Recreation FY 2014-2015 Budget Request \$941,524

Eileen Earle, Director of Parks & Recreation and Patrick Morton, Parks & Recreation Commission member, presented the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 budget request for the Parks & Recreation Department. She noted an increase to the part time salaries account due to the increase in minimum wage and the maintenance account includes funding for the downtown to replace benches and trash cans. The park maintenance account has been increased as well to reflect the addition of tree work for the park and education complex. She acknowledged a recent scout project that did a major refresh at Bennett Park, replacing table tops and several other cost saving initiatives.

450 - Board of Education FY 2014-2015 Budget Request \$42,129,368

Board of Education Chairman Lawrence Craybas, Superintendent of Schools Kevin Smith, Associate Superintendent Janice Jordan, and Director of Fiscal Services Theresa Yonsky presented the Board of Education Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget Request.

They noted the biggest drivers to their budget were the cost of health insurance and salaries. They've been actively seeking cost saving alternatives with the health insurance plans and are running various wellness programs to invite a healthier lifestyle.

They spoke to the goals which include every child being part of an active learning environment, developing the strongest professional teaching force, using technology as a catalyst for learning and to maintain the appearance and safety of the buildings.

They spoke to the many benchmarks in teacher growth and development, which include the proprietary COACH program, participation in the Helmsley Project, Common Core Corps, holding workshops, and many more items. Instructional transformations include blended learning experiences, expanded use of performance assessments, gradual release models, implemented WIN, reorganization and intervention programs and much more. Technology continues to be a major component and they've expanded Digital English to all seniors, added 500 new devices system-wide, expanded wireless access to all schools.

Discussion took place regarding the additional NJROTC teacher, this position has not been filled yet; they are actively seeking a candidate for this position. Discussed was the expansion of college courses and vocational training - it was noted the NVCC is expanding in our area which will allow more participation.

460 - Board of Education - Maintenance

Fiscal Year 2014-2015 \$ 549,212

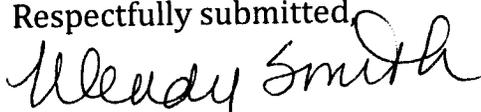
Board of Education Chairman Lawrence Craybas, Superintendent of Schools Kevin Smith, Associate Superintendent Janice Jordan, Facilities Supervisor Robert Germinaro and Director of Fiscal Services Theresa Yonsky presented the Board of Education Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget Request.

Mr. Germinaro explained the request is broken into several categories including the management of purchase orders/supply accounts, outside contractors, preventative maintenance contracts and school building repairs/maintenance. He noted increases to each account in order to achieve important improvements, including several safety enhancements to expand the camera surveillance and the installation of protective window coatings. He explained that several replacement projects have been split to be phased over 2 budget cycles, items like the replacement of pneumatic thermostats and window blinds.

Some items which are needed were postponed and will be included in the renovation projects for Johnson and Rockwell.

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 meeting at 9:40 p.m. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Wendy Smith, Recording Secretary