



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, October 21, 2014
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 were Town Counsel Martin Lawlor and Comptroller Robert Kozlowski.

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

Public Comments: None

Correspondence: None that was not already on tonight's agenda.

Minutes of October 7, 2014: Selectman Szatkowski made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to approve the minutes as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

First Selectman Report: First Selectman Knickerbocker noted that roadwork continues on Garella Road, Maple Row and Birch Drive.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to add to tonight's agenda, under New Business, # 6 – Consideration of Appointment – Bethel Housing Authority. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Selectman Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to add to tonight's agenda, under New Business, # 7 – Consideration of Ordinance – High Rise Building Sprinklers. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

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Old Business

1.) Consideration of establishing a Special Town Meeting date's for the purchase of property at 68A Maple Avenue

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to establish a Special Town Meeting date of Tuesday, November 18, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the General Purpose Room of the CJH Municipal Center. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

2.) Consideration of recommendation to Board of Finance – Eureka Lake Water Storage Tank and establish Special Town Meeting date/referendum (subject to Board of Finance approval)

At a prior meeting, the Board of Selectmen approved sending the Eureka Lake Water Storage Tank to the Board of Finance. It is anticipated that they will consider this at their next meeting.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to establish a Special Town Meeting date of Tuesday, November 18, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the General Purpose Room of the CJH Municipal Center. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved. This item will require a referendum.

3.) Consideration of recommendation to Board of Finance - Ameresco contract and set Special Town Meeting date/referendum (subject to Board of Finance approval)

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to approve the Ameresco contract and refer it to the Board of Finance, and pending their approval, establish a Special Town Meeting date of Tuesday, November 18, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in Meeting Room "A" of the CJH Municipal Center. This item will require a referendum.

New Business

1.) Consideration of request from the SHFD – water line – and if approved, recommendation to the Board of Finance and establish Special Town Meeting date (subject to Board of Finance approval)

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First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to approve and recommend to the Board of Finance, funding an amount not to exceed \$18,000 for the water line hook-up for the Stony Hill Fire Department (suggested funding to come from the capital non-recurring account). Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved. No Special Town Meeting is required.

2.) Consideration of recommendation to Board of Finance - Proposed Issuance of General Obligation Refunding Bonds and set Special Town Meeting date/referendum (subject to Board of Finance approval)

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to approve and recommend to the Board of Finance, the refunding of Bonds, and if approved, establish a Special Town Meeting date of Tuesday, November 18, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the General Purpose Room of the CJH Municipal Center. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

A Special Town Meeting will be required, but no referendum. Town Counsel Martin Lawlor has ruled that these are not new bonding items, but a refunding of existing and legislatively approved bonds for various capital projects. Comptroller Robert Kozlowski advised that there could be a savings of approximately \$2,000,000 – some of which is from the sewer bonds (35%) and some are town bonds (65%). If rates rise, the savings will be reduced.

3.) Consideration of Plumtrees Road Bridge – land acquisition offer from State of CT and if approved, referral to the Board of Finance, and establish Special Town Meeting date (subject to Board of Finance approval)

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to accept the offer in the amount of \$4,500 from the State of Connecticut, Department of Transportation for the acquisition of 27,644 +/- square feet of land and/or property rights and/or easements as noted in their memorandum dated September 18, 2014, and refer to the Board of Finance, and if approved, establish a Special Town Meeting date of Tuesday, November 18, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the General Purpose Room of the CJH Municipal Center.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to approve any such easements required to complete the project. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

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4.) Consideration of Resolution - Johnson Pride: Healthy Bodies & Healthy Minds program

This is the second year of the Johnson Pride: Healthy Bodies & Healthy Minds program Grant, the grant amount is \$3,209.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, that:

RESOLVED that Matthew S. Knickerbocker, First Selectman of the Town of Bethel and in his absence, Laura L. Vasile, Director of Health for the Town of Bethel, Connecticut have been empowered to sign contracts and any of its amendments hereto, on behalf of the Corporation, between the Corporation and the Department of Public Health or its successor agency

Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

5.) Consideration of request from Bethel Fire Department – replacement vehicle for 69BL and, if approved, recommendation to the Board of Finance and, establish a Special Town Meeting date (subject to Board of Finance approval).

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to approve the request of the Bethel Fire Department and forward a recommendation to fund an additional appropriation, in an amount not to exceed \$39,285, funding of which is proposed to come from the capital non-recurring account, and if approved, establish a Special Town Meeting date of Tuesday, November 18, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the General Purpose Room of the CJH Municipal Center. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

6.) Consideration of appointment – Bethel Housing Authority

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to appoint Mary Gert McCollam (D) to the vacancy on the Housing Authority. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved. This appointment fills the vacancy created by the resignation of Linda Ryan.

7.) Consideration of ordinance – High Rise Sprinklers:

Selectman Straiton suggested the creation of an ordinance that would require high rise units to have sprinklers. Fire Marshal Thomas Galliford was present at the meeting and

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advised that building code considers each condominium unit a single living unit regardless of the height of the building and it is not required. He also noted that State Statutes prohibit having a town ordinance that is more stringent than the state fire and building codes.

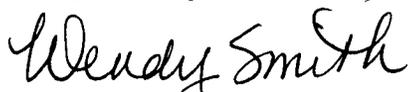
Selectman Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by First Selectman Knickerbocker, to add to tonight's agenda, under New Business # 8 – Consideration of Energy Conservation Commission. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Selectman Straiton advised that two of the members have resigned and that the commission sometimes has quorum issues.

Selectman Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by First Selectman Knickerbocker, to reduce the membership from nine members to seven. 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 First Selectman Knickerbocker, to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Wendy Smith, Recording Secretary