



CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

CJH Municipal Center – 1 School Street – Bethel, CT 06801
(203) 794-8501 – Fax: (203) 778-7520

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

Wednesday, April 2, 2014
7:00 p.m.

CJH Municipal Center – Meeting Room “A”

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TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

PRESENT: David Olson, Chairman, Paul Improta, Meghan O'Connor, William Hillman, and Wendy Smith. Also in attendance was Attorney Nicholas Vitti.

CALL to Order / Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag: David Olson called the regular meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Approval of Minutes – March 5, 2014: W. Smith made a motion, which was seconded by P. Improta to approve the minutes as is. Vote, All in Favor 5-0. Approved.

Invoices: W. Smith made a motion, which was seconded by W. Hillman, to approve payment of the invoice from Cacace, Tusch & Santagata, Attorneys at Law, in the amount of \$5,729.00 for legal services through January, 2014. Vote all in favor 5-0. Approved.

Consideration of the Board of Selectmen's recommendations for changes in the Charter Revision Commission's draft report:

The Commission will discuss the recommendations made by the Board of Selectmen and either adopt or reject the recommendations. Attorney N. Vitti explained that these are the only topics the commission will be able to discuss at this meeting.

- Item # 4 – Moving the date of the Annual Town Budget Meeting
- Item # 7 – Disposition of Real Estate
- Item # 11 – Recognize Fire Departments
- Item # 18 – Public Utilities Commission

Anne Scacco, Tax Collector, was in attendance to offer information about how moving the annual town budget meeting would impact timing of the tax bills. Matt Knickerbocker, First Selectman, was in attendance to help clarify the recommendations made by the Board of Selectmen.

Item # 4 – Moving the date of the Annual Town Budget Meeting:

Ann Scacco, Tax Collector, provided the commission with a timeline of town meeting dates and tax bills mailed for 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 as well as the costs associated with late billing.

Among other comments, Ms. Scacco stated that for many years the budget process began earlier in the year and had been set by April 1st providing adequate time to get the bills mailed even if the budget failed one or two times. The purpose for moving the date of the town meeting to April would be beneficial to the town in the event of a budget failure, the time required for processing in order to send out the bills is the same no matter when the budget passes, however, in the event of a budget failure, additional costs would be a factor if supplemental bills or a late billing was required.

After much discussion, W. Hillman made a motion, which was seconded by P. Improta, to reject the Board of Selectmen recommendation and leave the draft language as is.

Vote, All in favor 5-0 – W. Smith, M. O’Connor, P. Improta, D. Olson, W. Hillman. Motion passes.

Item #7 – Disposition of Real Estate

The Board of Selectmen recommended adding “except for easements” to the draft language to narrow the scope of the wording.

After discussion, W. Smith made a motion, which was seconded by P. Improta, to change the draft language to “any sale, purchase or non-emergency demolition of real estate”.

Vote, All in favor 5-0 – W. Smith, M. O’Connor, P. Improta, D. Olson, W. Hillman. Motion passes.

Item # 11 - Recognize Fire Departments

The Board of Selectmen recommended eliminating “C” (*Each Fire Chief shall be the chief administrative officer of their respective fire company and shall be responsible to the First Selectmen for the operation of said company*) due to fact that the two fire companies operate independently under their own by-laws and include wording which would “*include an audit of public funds*”.

After much discussion, W. Hillman made a motion, which was seconded by W. Smith, reject the recommendation made by the Board of Selectmen and leave the draft language as is.

Vote, All in favor 5-0 – W. Smith, M. O’Connor, P. Improta, D. Olson, W. Hillman. Motion passes.

Item #17 – Location of Meetings

D. Olson was prepared to comment on this item however, W. Hillman made a point of order stating that Board of Selectmen did not recommend any changes. The commission was not able to discuss this.

Item #18 – Public Utilities Commission

The Board of Selectmen recommended retaining the Board of Selectmen as members of the Public Utilities Commission and increase the membership to 7 members.

After much discussion, W. Hillman made a motion, which was seconded by P. Improta, to reject the Board of Selectmen recommendation and leave the draft language as is.

Vote, all in favor 5-0 - W. Smith, M. O'Connor, P. Improta, D. Olson, W. Hillman. Motion passes.

Meetings: The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 15, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjourn: As there was no further business, W. Smith made a motion, which was seconded by P. Improta to adjourn. Vote, All in favor 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Debra Roper, Recording Secretary