BOARD OF FINANCE

Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center, 1 School Street
Bethel, Connecticut 06801 Telephone: (203) 794-8501

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TOWN OF BETHEL
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MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

Tuesday, February 18, 2014
7:30 p.m.
CJH Municipal Center – Meeting Room "A"

PRESENT: William Kingston, Chairman, Bruce Cornwell, Patricia Smithwick, Eileen Freebairn, and Timothy Draper. Also in attendance were members of the Board of Selectmen and various department heads.

William Kingston called the Special Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Department Budget Presentations

110 Treasurer Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget Request $7,300

Town Treasurer Daniel O'Grady presented the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 budget request for the Treasurer's account. He advised that he reviews the invoices, noted that sales tax had been paid/charged when the town is exempt and this will be looked into. He noted that the treasurer's salary, in comparison to the other towns, is quite low and should be increased.

130 Town Clerk Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget Request $219,978

Town Clerk Lisa Bergh presented the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 budget request for the Town Clerk's account. She noted increases to revenues due to conveyance tax and having land records online. She requested that the Town Clerk salary be increased to reflect area town clerks and department heads.

140 Assessor Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget Request $203,388

Assessor Ann Marie Heering presented the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 budget request for the Assessor's Office. She noted that due to the fact that the part time position was made into a full time position, she was able to execute 10 audits which realized $381,000 in additional tax revenue. She noted that the added staff hours have been beneficial to the public.

150 Tax Collector - tabled

200 Social Services Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget Request $63,597

Social Services Director Kathleen Gillen presented the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 budget request for the Social Services Department. She noted that having the Emergency Fund was tremendously helpful to many residents; in particular, having gas cards available are very important in order for some to get to work.

250 Planning & Zoning Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget Request $ 222,458

Zoning Official Steven Palmer presented the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 budget request for the Planning & Zoning Office. He noted there is an increase in the dues and education account for staff training with due to the training for the new GIS software; the current software is no longer supported.

350 Health Department Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget Request $284,436

Health Director Laura Vasile presented the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 budget request for the Health Department. She noted a slight increase in the cost of larvicide. The fee structure was discussed (has not been raised in many years); cost of services/inspections/permits are passed on to the applicants and the concern is to find a delicate balance between revenue and cost to the applicants.

360 Police Department Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget Request $4,004,487

Police Commission Chairman Michael Duff, Chief of Police Jeffrey Finch and Captain David Bruckenthal presented the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 budget request for the Police Department. They noted that the majority of the budget is for contractual items. Among the many items discussed were the costs associated with new technology (many of the items are now required) and the need for ongoing vehicle replacement (they are requesting 5 vehicles with associated changeover.)

405 Intra Govt. (VNA) Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget Request $40,000

Kenneth Stevens from the VNA Board of Directors and VNA Director Judith Malin presented the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 budget request of the VNA of $40,000. They cited the many services provided by the VNA and advised that town funding allows them to continue to provide care to patients who lack adequate insurance and resources.

430 Senior Center Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget Request $146,725

Senior Center Director Lisa Plumb and Commission on Aging member Judith Novachek presented the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 budget request for the Senior Center. Ms. Plumb noted the many positive changes to the Center, membership and participation in the many programs remain high. She did note that she is requesting the replacement of chairs in the cafeteria; these chairs have wheels and this is a safety concern. She is also looking to replace a deteriorated kitchen cabinet and get racks for tables and chairs.

As there were no further presentations for tonight, Patricia Smithwick made a motion, which was seconded by Eileen Freebairn, to adjourn the Special Meeting at 10:00 p.m. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Smith

Wendy Smith, Recording Secretary