



BOARD OF FINANCE

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

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, August 12, 2014

7:00 p.m.

CJH Municipal Center – Meeting Room “A”

RECEIVED

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TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

PRESENT: William Kingston, Chairman, Bruce Cornwell, Patricia Smithwick, Eileen Freebairn, Claudia Stephan, Gary Regan and Timothy Draper (late). Also in attendance were Comptroller Robert Kozlowski and Assistant Comptroller Brad Heering.

Call to order/Pledge of Allegiance: William Kingston called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Public Comments: none

Correspondence: Letter dated August 8, 2014 from the Public Site & Building Commission – epoxy flooring at the Library.

Minutes of previous minutes:

Special Meeting of February 11, 2014: Patricia Smithwick made a motion, which was seconded by Gary Regan, to approve the minutes as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Special Meeting of February 18, 2014: Patricia Smithwick made a motion, which was seconded by Bruce Cornwell, to approve the minutes as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Special Meeting of February 25, 2014 @ 6:45 p.m.: Bruce Cornwell made a motion, which was seconded by Patricia Smithwick, to approve the minutes as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Special Meeting of February 25, 2014 @ 7:00 p.m.: Patricia Smithwick made a motion, which was seconded by Bruce Cornwell, to approve the minutes as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Special Meeting of March 4, 2014 @ 6:45 p.m.: Eileen Freebairn made a motion, which was seconded by Patricia Smithwick, to approve the minutes as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Special Meeting of March 4, 2014 @ 7:00 p.m.: Patricia Smithwick made a motion, which was seconded by Bruce Cornwell, to approve the minutes as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Special Meeting of March 6, 2014: Bruce Cornwell made a motion, which was seconded by Patricia Smithwick, to approve the minutes as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Special Meeting of March 20, 2014: Patricia Smithwick made a motion, which was seconded by William Kingston, to approve the minutes as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Special Meeting of March 25, 2014: Bruce Cornwell made a motion, which was seconded by Patricia Smithwick, to approve the minutes as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Public Hearing of April 8, 2014: Patricia Smithwick made a motion, which was seconded by Eileen Freebairn, to approve the minutes as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Special Meeting of April 9, 2014: Bruce Cornwell made a motion, which was seconded by Patricia Smithwick, to approve the minutes as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Special Meeting of May 27, 2014: Gary Regan made a motion, which was seconded by Bruce Cornwell, to approve the minutes as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Special Meeting of June 16, 2014: Bruce Cornwell made a motion, which was seconded by Gary Regan, to approve the minutes as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Special Meeting of June 30, 2014: Bruce Cornwell made a motion, which was seconded by Patricia Smithwick, to approve the minutes as presented. Gary Regan amended the motion, which was seconded by Bruce Cornwell, to correct that Gary Regan voted in favor

of the Timothy Draper's motion to reduce the entire town side budget by 2% and William Kingston voted against it. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Special Meeting of July 14, 2014: Gary Regan made a motion, which was seconded by Patricia Smithwick, to approve the minutes with the correction that Comptroller Robert Kozlowski advised that should we be downgraded back to a AA+ rating, based on the anticipated projects on the horizon, it would equate to approximately \$1,500,000 in extra interest costs, *that the cost savings would be \$1,125,000 not \$1,500,000.* Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Special Meeting of July 21, 2014: Gary Regan made a motion, which was seconded by Patricia Smithwick, to approve the minutes as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Consideration of Board of Selectmen recommendation – financing recommendation on ADA compliance for routes to athletic fields, in the amount of \$35,335.

Gary Regan made a motion, which was seconded by Patricia Smithwick, to concur with the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen and approve the request of the Board of Education to fund the ADA compliance for routes to the athletic fields in the amount of \$35,225 (corrected amount); said funding to come from the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Capital Non-recurring account. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Consideration of Board of Selectmen recommendation – Land Donation – Habitat for Humanity property – Turkey Plain Road

Town Counsel Martin Lawlor was present and explained this land (9.76 +/- acres) is primarily wetland and is not a buildable lot. He noted that the Planning & Zoning Commission has advised that they believe ownership of this property would be valuable as a wetland habitat and for flood storage. He also noted that the Board of Selectmen will schedule a Special Town Meeting for September 2nd.

Claudia Stephan made a motion, which was seconded by Bruce Cornwell, to concur with the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen and approve, subject to Special Town Meeting, the donation of land (9.76 +/- acres), owned by Habitat for Humanity on Turkey Plain Road. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Consideration of funding items from the Capital Non-recurring account

Bruce Cornwell made a motion, which was seconded by William Kingston, to fund the purchase of (2) Funnel Plows for the Highway Department, at an amount not to exceed \$15,000 from the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Capital Non-recurring Account. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

William Kingston made a motion, which was seconded by Claudia Stephan, to fund the Walnut Hill Bridge Engineering Plans/Design, at an amount not to exceed \$95,000 from the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Capital Non-recurring Account. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Gary Regan made a motion, which was seconded by Patricia Smithwick, to fund the Walnut Hill/Hoyt Road Engineering Plans/Design, at an amount not to exceed \$48,000 from the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Capital Non-recurring Account. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Bruce Cornwell made a motion, which was seconded by William Kingston, to fund the Stony Hill Water Main at an amount not to exceed \$20,000 from the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Capital Non-recurring account. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Claudia Stephan made a motion, which was seconded by Patricia Smithwick, to fund the Stony Hill Fire Department Garage Doors, in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 from the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Capital Non-recurring account. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

William Kingston made a motion, which was seconded by Timothy Draper, to carry over any balance in the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Capital Non-recurring account into the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Capital Non-recurring account. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

William Kingston made a motion, which was seconded by Eileen Freebairn, to fund the Seelye House shutters from the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Capital Non-recurring Account, in an amount not to exceed \$4,800. Voting in favor of the motion: Bruce Cornwell, Patricia Smithwick, Eileen Freebairn, Claudia Stephan, William Kingston and Gary Regan. Voting against the motion: Timothy Draper. Motion passed.

Claudia Stephan made a motion, which was seconded by Eileen Freebairn, to fund the Library Epoxy Flooring from the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Capital Non-recurring Account. The motion and second were withdrawn and tabled (two bids received, waiting on the third).

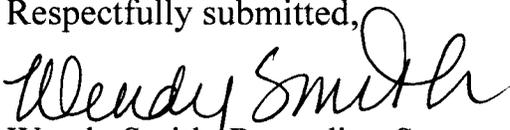
Claudia Stephan made a motion, which was seconded by Patricia Smithwick, to approve an additional appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$3,520 for the purchase of the replacement vehicle 55BL, to be funded from the bonding package approved at the annual town meeting. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved. Originally estimated at \$27,145, the state bid price came in higher than anticipated; therefore additional funding in the amount of \$3,520 is required.

Consideration of establishing a Special Meeting date(s) with the Board of Selectmen to discuss town operations and their budgetary impact.

Board of Finance members discussed having a joint session with the Board of Selectmen to discuss methods to save money, look deeply at what we do as a town and see if there are opportunities to save money, this includes looking into outsourcing, privatization, selling un-needed assets, etc. It is anticipated that there will be several meetings. It was agreed to meet on Tuesday, September 23rd at 7:00 p.m.

As there was no further business on tonight's agenda, Bruce Cornwell made a motion, which was seconded by Claudia Stephan, to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,


Wendy Smith, Recording Secretary