

\* Minutes Printed on Wrong Letterhead \*

# ~~FIRST SELECTMAN'S OFFICE~~

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## ~~\*BOARD OF FINANCE\*~~

~~Matthew S. Knickerbocker, First Selectman~~  
~~Richard C. Stanton, Selectman~~  
~~Paul R. Szatkowski, Selectman~~  
~~Martin J. Lawlor, Town Counsel~~

~~Wendy Smith, Office Administrator~~  
~~Joan Gereg Bradley, Office Assistant~~  
~~Donna Craig, Office Assistant~~  
~~Phyllis Kinsky, HR/Grants Administrator~~

## MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

Wednesday, November 5, 2014

7:00 p.m. CJH Municipal Center- Meeting Room "A"

**PRESENT:** William Kingston, Chairman, Bruce Cornwell, Patricia Smithwick, Eileen Freebairn, Claudia Stephan, Gary Regan. Also in attendance was First Selectman Matthew Knickerbocker, Comptroller Robert Kozlowski, Town Counsel Martin Lawlor.

**Call to order/ Pledge of Allegiance:** William Kingston called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### Consideration of Recommendations from the Board of Selectmen.

#### 1.) Land Acquisition- recommendation to accept offer from State DOT- Plumtrees Bridge Land 27,644 +/- Sq. Ft. in the amount of \$4,500.00

Bill Kingston, Chairman, made a motion, which was seconded by Patricia Smithwick

Motion to approve and recommend transfer of real property consisting of two parcels, the first in the amount of 6,871 Sq. Ft. +/- located at the corner in and about Plumtrees Road and Walnut Hill Rd and the second in the amount of 20,772 Sp. Ft. +/- to the State of Connecticut for the total sum of Three Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty Seven (\$3,737.00) Dollars for the purpose of the construction of the Plumtrees Bridge.

Marty Lawlor shared maps and answered questions for the Board of Finance.

Matt Knickerbocker said that this issue would have to be presented at the Town Meeting on November 18, 2014.

Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

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**2.) Ameresco Energy Contract- recommendation for funding approval for an amount not to exceed \$4,305,492 (Less any grants, rebates, ect.)**

Bill Kingston, Chairman, made a motion, which was seconded by Bruce Cornwell

Motion to approve and recommend appropriation for the sum of the Four Million Three Hundred Five Thousand Four Hundred Ninety Two (\$4,305,492.00) Dollars to finance an Energy Services Agreement with Ameresco, Inc. Said funding shall be in the form of a Tax Exempt Lease Purchase and Security Agreement acquired by the Town.

Patricia Smithwick asked if the savings were continual. Matthew Knickerbocker said yes but we would be responsible for maintaining equipment.

Bruce Cornwell asked what is included in the program. Mr. Bill Cratty, Chairman Energy Commission, explained it is everything from light bulbs, computerized equipment, gradual rises in thermostat settings and the boilers in the Municipal Center. There will also be improved ventilation. The changes made have been studied and well proven energy conservation.

Gary Regan asked how the cost savings was estimated and Mr. Cratty responded that these were protocols and measures that have been studied for years.

The plan will go to the Town Meeting on November 18, 2014 and Referendum.

Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

**3.) Eureka Lake Water Storage Tank- recommendation for funding request for an amount not to exceed \$2,400,000 (less any grants, rebates, ect.)**

Bill Kingston, Chairman, made a motion, which was seconded by Claudia Stephan.

Motion to approve and recommend appropriation for the sum of Two Million Four Hundred Thousand (\$2,400,000.00) Dollars for the funding and construction

of the "Eureka Water Storage Tank" to be located at 37 Long Ridge Road, Danbury, CT. Said funding shall come from bonding, bond anticipatory notes, temporary borrowing and /or other appropriation as recommended by the Comptroller to be reduced by any available grants obtained by the Town of Bethel and/or the Bethel Public Utilities Commission. Payment for the appropriated sums shall be made a motion, which was seconded by by the water account users of the Bethel Public Utilities Commission.

William Kingston asked what the process for attaining grants is, Matthew Knickerbocker answered that the Town of Bethel already have received some grants for this but don't have a total for the combination of grants and loans. He also said the Town of Bethel and Danbury have a good working relationship now and both towns are ready to move forward. The water tank has been moved back 223 ft. behind a wall to hide from the residents in Danbury. This storage tank will help the pressure and volume of water and make it possible to further develop Clark Park. He would like to see this project begin in the Spring. Robert Kozlowski explained that the bond needs to be created to show the Town of Bethel will back up the funds that are being used but there is no tax implication, the rate payers will be responsible for the cost.

This will go to Town Meeting on November 18, 2014 and Referendum.

Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

**4.) Stony Hill Fire Department- recommendation for funding request for an amount not to exceed \$18,000 for the water line connection.**

William Kingston made a motion to fund the request not to exceed \$18,000, it was seconded by Claudia Stephan.

Bruce Cornwell asked if money had been appropriated for this last year. The Fire Marshal, Tom Galliford said that it had but they ran into extra expenses. He explained that Aquarion required all meter pits to be outside of a building. The

meter pit would need to be moved to a new location outside of the intended building and some of the piping inside the building would need to be replaced. The new hydrant will be a public hydrant with no meter on the hydrant on only on the meter pit. Patricia Smithwick asked what water Copper Square and Maplewood used and Tom Galliford responded that they use Aquarion Water.

The motion was amended that the capital for this would come from Capital Non-Recurring Fund.

Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

#### **5.) Proposed Issuance of General Obligation Refunding Bonds.**

Bill Kingston, Chairman, made a motion, which was seconded by Bruce Cornwell

Motion to approve and recommend the issuance of general obligation refunding bonds for the Town's outstanding general obligation bonds including but not limited to the Town's General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2009, Series A and the Town's General Obligation Sewer Bonds, Issue of 2009, Series B in an amount not to exceed Thirty Four Million (34,000,000) Dollars; and, recommend the appointment of the First Selectman, the Town Treasure and the Comptroller as committee to arrange and oversee the refunding of such bonds.

Robert Kozlowski explained that in the last couple of weeks interest rates have dropped and are at an extremely low rate. He recommends refinancing and the Town of Bethel could see saving as much as Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000). There is no penalty to do this, it is pure savings.

This will go to Town Meeting on November 18, 2014.

Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

#### **6.) Bethel Fire Department- request for replacement vehicle for 69BL- recommendation for funding request for an amount not to exceed \$39,285.**

Patricia Smithwick made a motion, which was seconded by a motion which was seconded by.....

Matthew Knickerbocker explained that this item had originally been on the 2014 budget but had been removed during budget cuts. It is now being requested because of special needs the Fire Department has had and not had the proper equipment to do the job. Robert Kozlowski said that the price of the vehicle had changed due to buyers incentives being offered and the price is \$36,534.60, he also explained that the funding for this would come out of the CNR fund. Patricia Smithwick added that she thought sometimes the Town of Bethel waits to long to replace items and that this was a good example of that. Fred Ingram, Chief of Bethel Volunteer Fire Department, said that the vehicle would be used by the Chief Officer and would carry equipment and special items used by the Fire Department. He also

said the vehicle would be used during bad weather when roads are not in the best condition instead of some of the other vehicles that don't do as well on the roads. The capital for this would come from Capital Non- Recurring Fund.

Martin Lawlor requested that Bruce Cornwell recuse himself and he agreed. The request was amended to the amount of \$36,534.60.

Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

**7.) Bethel Police Station Project- recommendation for funding approval for an amount not to exceed \$14,100,000**

Bill Kingston, Chairman, made a motion, which was seconded by Patricia Smithwick.

Motion to approve and recommend appropriation for the sum of Fourteen Million One Hundred Thousand (\$14,100,000.00) Dollars for the funding to complete the design and construction of a Police Station Building located at the corner of Judd

Avenue and Dodgingtown Road (Rt. 302). Said funding shall come from bonding, bond anticipatory notes, temporary borrowing and /or other appropriation as recommended by the Comptroller to be reduced by any available grants obtained by the Town of Bethel.

Bruce Cornwell asked if anything had changed since the meeting and presentation last month and was told no. Patricia Smithwick wanted to know if all three items discussed tonight could be put on the same referendum and what the soonest date would be for a referendum. There was discussion of a referendum the second week of December but also concern that people would not be that involved in the middle of the Holiday Season. Bruce Cornwell asked if bonding and borrowing were within out limits and Robert Kozlowski said yes that we might see a slight spike during the first couple years but then it would come down. Patricia Smithwick asked how the information was being shared and Chief Finch shared the tour schedule that had been initiated. He said that they had a few people to tour the Police Station but would like to see more. There was discussion on how to share the information with the public.

This will be presented at the Town Meeting on November 18, 2014 and then go to Referendum.

Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

As there was no further business on tonight's agenda, William Kingston made a motion, which was seconded by Bruce Cornwell to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted



Dionne Craig, Recording Secretary