



BOARD OF FINANCE

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

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MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at 7:00 pm - Hybrid Meeting
Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center, MTG RM A, 1 School St., Bethel, CT
Video/ Teleconference video link: <https://zoom.us/j/7360902790>
One tap mobile: 1.646.558.8656, 7360902790# US (New York)
Materials can be viewed at: <https://www.bethel-ct.gov/Zoom-Documents>

Present:

Chairman: Nick Ellis, Board members: John Lennon, Will Duff, Bobbi Jo Beers, Cynthia McCorkindale, and Dalene Foster attended in-person. Bob Manfreda, attended via Zoom.
Also in attendance, in-person, were First Selectman Carter, and Comptroller Brad Heering. Assistant Comptroller Sebbie Preston attended via Zoom.

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance:

Board of Finance Chair, Nick Ellis, called the special meeting to order at 7:02pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Correspondence: A synopsis of the Board of Selectmen deductions to the budget was given to each member.

First Selectman Carter presents the FY 2023 – 2024 budget to the Board of Finance:

First Selectman Carter presented the budget to the Board of Finance noting any changes that were made by the Board of Selectmen.

Board of Finance deliberate FY 2023 – 2024 budget:

Chairman, Nick Ellis, opened deliberation on the FY 2023 – 2024 budget.

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to open for discussion:

Account 70-450 Board of Education request: \$54,423,164

Board of Selectman recommendation: \$54,209,164

Board of Finance recommendation: \$53,659,164

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to decrease \$550,000 for health savings. Discussion ensued. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to approve \$53,659,164 for account 70-450, Board of Education. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to open for discussion:

Account 70-460 Board of Education Maintenance request: \$513,880

Board of Selectman recommendation: \$513,880

Board of Finance recommendation: \$463,880

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to decrease the budget by \$50,000. Discussion ensued. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to approve \$463,880 for account 70-460, the Board of Education Maintenance account. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to open for discussion:

Account 20-360 Police request: \$5,774,575

Board of Selectman recommendation: \$5,652,054

Board of Finance recommendation: \$5,602,054

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to decrease budget line 5101 by \$30,000.

Discussion ensued. Vote, Nick Ellis, John Lennon, Will Duff, Bobbi Jo Beers, Cynthia McCorkindale, and Bob Manfreda in favor. Dalene Foster voted against. Motion carries.

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to decrease budget line 5101 by \$20,000.

Discussion ensued. Vote, Nick Ellis, John Lennon, Will Duff, Bobbi Jo Beers, Cynthia McCorkindale, and Bob Manfreda in favor. Dalene Foster voted against. Motion carries.

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to approve \$5,602,054 for the Police account.

Discussion ensued. Vote, Nick Ellis, John Lennon, Will Duff, Bobbi Jo Beers, Cynthia McCorkindale, and Bob Manfreda in favor. Dalene Foster voted against. Motion carries.

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to open for discussion:

Account 60-435 Library request: \$932,283

Board of Selectman recommendation: \$932,283

Board of Finance recommendation: \$932,283

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to approve \$932,283 for the Library account. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to open for discussion:

Account 10-100 Selectmen request: \$333,918

Board of Selectman recommendation: \$333,918

Board of Finance recommendation: \$333,918

Motion made by Cynthia McCorkindale, and seconded by Will Duff, to approve \$333,918 for the Selectman account. Vote, all in favor, motion carries.

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Cynthia McCorkindale, to open for discussion:

Account 10-110 Treasurer request: \$5,500

Board of Selectman recommendation: \$5,500

Board of Finance recommendation: \$5,500

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Cynthia McCorkindale, to approve \$5,500 for the Treasurer account. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to open for discussion:

Account 10-120 Comptroller request: \$433,324

Board of Selectman recommendation: \$433,324

Board of Finance recommendation: \$433,324

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to approve \$433,324 for the Comptroller account.

Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by Cynthia McCorkindale, and seconded by Will Duff, to open for discussion:

Account 10-130 Town Clerk request: \$252,669

Board of Selectman recommendation: \$252,669

Board of Finance recommendation: \$254,706

Motion made by Cynthia McCorkindale, and seconded by Will Duff, to increase the Town Clerk's base salary by \$2,037. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by Cynthia McCorkindale, and seconded by Will Duff, to approve \$254,706 for the Town Clerk's account. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to open for discussion:

Account 10-140 Assessor request: \$266,191

Board of Selectman recommendation: \$266,191

Board of Finance recommendation: \$266,191

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to approve \$266,191 for the Assessor account.

Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Cynthia McCorkindale, to open for discussion:

Account 10-150 Tax Collector request: \$222,996

Board of Selectman recommendation: \$222,996

Board of Finance recommendation: \$222,996

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Cynthia McCorkindale, to approve \$222,996 for the Tax Collector account. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to open for discussion:

Account 10-160 Professional Services request: \$286,180

Board of Selectman recommendation: \$286,180

Board of Finance recommendation: \$276,180

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to reduce line 5351 by \$10,000. Discussion ensued.

Motion was amended by John Lennon, and Will Duff seconded the amended motion to decrease the approved amount of the Professional Services account to \$276,180. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to open for discussion:

Account 10-170 Probate Court request: \$6,207

Board of Selectman recommendation: \$6,207

Board of Finance recommendation: \$6207

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to approve \$6,207 for the Probate Court account.

Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to open for discussion:

Account 10-190 Information Technology request: \$418,972

Board of Selectman recommendation: \$418,972

Board of Finance recommendation: \$418,972

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to approve \$418,972 for the Information Technology account. Discussion ensued. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Dalene Foster, to open for discussion:

Account 10-210 Town Insurance request: \$1,352,987

Board of Selectman recommendation: \$1,352,987

Board of Finance recommendation: \$1,352,987

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Dalene Foster, to approve \$1,352,987 for the Town Insurance account. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to open for discussion:

Account 10-250 Planning and Zoning request: \$273,734

Board of Selectman recommendation: \$273,734

Board of Finance recommendation: \$273,734

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to approve \$273,734 for the Planning and Zoning account. Discussion ensued. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by Cynthia McCorkindale, and seconded by Will Duff, to open for discussion:

Account 10-330 Registrar of Voters request: \$112,190

Board of Selectman recommendation: \$112,190

Board of Finance recommendation: \$112,190

Motion made by Cynthia McCorkindale, and seconded by Will Duff, to add \$1,000 to the Registrar of Voters account to increase the salary (line 5101) of each Registrar by \$500. Vote, Nick Ellis, John Lennon, Will Duff, Bobbi Jo Beers, Cynthia McCorkindale, and Bob Manfreda in favor. Dalene Foster abstained. Motion carries.

Motion made by Cynthia McCorkindale, and seconded by Will Duff, to approve \$113,190 for the Registrar of Voters account. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to open for discussion:

Account 10-340 Boards and Commission request: \$68,600

Board of Selectman recommendation: \$68,600

Board of Finance recommendation: \$68,600

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to approve \$68,600 for the Boards and Commissions account. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to open for discussion:

Account 10-380 Parks and Recreation request: \$1,695,533

Board of Selectman recommendation: \$1,695,533

Board of Finance recommendation: \$1,695,533

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to approve \$1,695,533 for the Parks and Recreation account. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Bobbi Jo Beers, to open for discussion

Account 10-405 Intergovt Agency Subs request: \$483,068

Board of Selectman recommendation: \$483,068

Board of Finance recommendation: \$483,068

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Bobbi Jo Beers, to approve \$483,068 for the Intergovt Agency account. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to open for discussion:

Account 10-410 Utilities Charges request: \$2,924,928

Board of Selectman recommendation: \$2,924,928

Board of Finance recommendation: \$2,924,928

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to approve \$2,924,928 for the Utilities Charges account. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to open for discussion:

Account 10-420 Misc. Charges and Transfers request: \$1,086,716

Board of Selectman recommendation: \$1,086,716

Board of Finance recommendation: \$1,083,679

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to decrease budget line 5353 by \$3,037. Discussion ensued. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to approve \$1,083,679 for the Misc. Charges and Transfers account. Discussion ensued. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to open for discussion:

Account 10-430 Senior Center request: \$260,015

Board of Selectman recommendation: \$260,015

Board of Finance recommendation: \$260,015

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to accept the Senior Center request of \$260,015. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to open for discussion:

Account 20-180 Building and Inspection request: \$348,348

Board of Selectman recommendation: \$348,348

Board of Finance recommendation: \$348,348

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to accept the Building and Inspection request of \$348,348. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to open for discussion:

Account 20-290 Emergency Management request: \$45,083

Board of Selectman recommendation: \$45,083

Board of Finance recommendation: \$45,083

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to accept the Emergency Management request of \$45,083. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to open for discussion:

Account 20-300 Fire Marshal request: \$113,298

Board of Selectman recommendation: \$113,298

Board of Finance recommendation: \$113,298

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to accept the Fire Marshal request of \$113,298. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to open for discussion:

Account 20-310 Bethel Fire Department request: \$202,360

Board of Selectman recommendation: \$202,360

Board of Finance recommendation: \$202,360

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to accept the Bethel Fire Department request of \$202,360. Discussion ensued. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to open for discussion:

Account 20-320 Stony Hill Fire Department request: \$177,300

Board of Selectman recommendation: \$177,300

Board of Finance recommendation: \$177,300

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to accept the Stony Hill Fire Department request of \$177,300. Discussion ensued. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to open for discussion:

Account 30-200 Social Services request: \$92,795

Board of Selectman recommendation: \$92,795

Board of Finance recommendation: \$92,795

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to accept the Social Services request of \$92,795. Discussion ensued. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to open for discussion:

Account 30-350 Health Department request: \$532,957

Board of Selectman recommendation: \$522,557

Board of Finance recommendation: \$512,157

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to decrease budget line 5101 by \$10,400. Discussion ensued. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Bobbi Jo Beers, to approve \$512,157 for the Health Department account. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Bobbi Jo Beers, to open for discussion:

Account 40-220 Fleet Maintenance request: \$387,240

Board of Selectman recommendation: \$375,740

Board of Finance recommendation: \$375,740

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Bobbi Jo Beers, to approve \$375,740 for the Fleet Maintenance account. Discussion ensued. The BOS will forward a request to BOF to cover the \$11,500, for software and a gas pump, from the CNR fund. This cut was made from the BOS deliberations. Vote: Nick Ellis, John Lennon, Will Duff, Bobbi Jo Beers, Cynthia McCorkindale, and Bob Manfreda in favor. Will Duff abstained. Motion carries.

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Bobbi Jo Beers, to open for discussion:

Account 40-230 Public Works request: \$457,789

Board of Selectman recommendation: \$453,789

Board of Finance recommendation: \$445,789

Motion made John Lennon, and seconded by Nick Ellis, to decrease line 5313 by \$8,000 from the Public Works account. Discussion ensued. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to approve \$445,789 as the new amount for the Public Works account. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to open for discussion:

Account 40-240 Highway request: \$2,628,517

Board of Selectman recommendation: \$2,628,517

Board of Finance recommendation: \$2,499,917

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to decrease line 5404 by \$128,600. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to approve \$2,499,917 for the Highway account. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to open for discussion:

Account 40-245 Transfer Station request: \$212,387

Board of Selectman recommendation: \$212,387

Board of Finance recommendation: \$212,387

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to approve \$212,387 for the Transfer Station account. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by Cynthia McCorkindale, and seconded by Will Duff, to open for discussion:

Account 40-260 Building Maintenance request: \$948,882

Board of Selectman recommendation: \$916,382

Board of Finance recommendation: \$883,882

Motion made by Cynthia McCorkindale, and seconded by Will Duff, to reduce line 5101 by \$32,500.

Discussion ensued. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by Cynthia McCorkindale, and seconded by Will Duff, to approve the new amount of \$883,882 for the Building Maintenance account. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by Cynthia McCorkindale, and seconded by John Lennon, to open for discussion:

Account 40-270 Tree Warden request: \$202,900

Board of Selectman recommendation: \$177,900

Board of Finance recommendation: \$167,900

Motion made by Cynthia McCorkindale, and seconded by Will Duff, to reduce line 5313 by \$10,000.

Discussion ensued. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff to approve \$167,900 for the Tree Warden account. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to open for discussion:

Account 50-440 Debt Service request: \$5,427,044

Board of Selectman recommendation: \$5,427,044

Board of Finance recommendation: \$5,427,044

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to approve \$5,427,044 for the Debt Service account. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by Bobbi Jo Beers, and seconded by Cynthia McCorkindale, to open for discussion:

Account 10-390 Employee Benefits request: \$6,679,593

Board of Selectman recommendation: \$6,671,721

Board of Finance recommendation: \$6,646,144

Motion made by Bobbi Jo Beers, and seconded by John Lennon, to reduce line 5112 by \$5,577. Discussion ensued. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by Bobbi Jo Beers, and seconded by John Lennon, to reduce line 5113 by \$20,000. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to approve the new amount of \$6,646,144 for the Employee Benefits account. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by John Lennon, and seconded by Will Duff, to approve the Town Budget which includes Operating Budget, Debt Services, and the Board of Education Maintenance Budget in the amount of \$35,622,089. Discussion ensued. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries. The Board of Education budget is \$53,659,164 for a total budget of \$89,281,253.

Motion made by Bobbi Jo Beers, and seconded by Will Duff, to set the date for the Public Hearing on the FY 2023 – 2024 budget for March 20, 2023 at 7:00pm in the Bethel High School Auditorium. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Adjourn:

Motion made by Will Duff, and seconded by Bobbi Jo Beers, to adjourn the meeting at 9:37pm. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Churchill".

Mary Churchill
Recording Secretary