



BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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

Dan Carter, First Selectman
Richard C. Straiton, Selectman
Bryan Terzian, Selectman

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, December 19, 2023 at 7:00 pm - Hybrid Meeting
Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center, 1 School St., Bethel, CT Meeting Room A
Video/ Teleconference video link: <https://zoom.us/j/7360902790>

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TOWN CLERK
BETHEL, CT.
2023 DEC 21 A 11:50

Present: First Selectman: Dan Carter, Selectman Bryan Terzian, Selectman Straiton
Also present, Town Counsel: Melanie O'Brien, Comptroller Brad Heering (via Zoom) and Public Utilities Director: Tom Villa (via Zoom)

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm by First Selectman Carter.

Public Comments: Brad Koltz 1 Fairchild Drive

Correspondence: email from Brad Koltz, 1 Fairchild Drive included in packets for each member of the Board

Consideration of approval of regular meeting minutes from December 5, 2023:

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Straiton, to approve the minutes from 12/5/2023 as written. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Consideration of approval of Public Hearing Minutes on 12/5/2023 regarding water rates:

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Terzian, to approve the public hearing minutes regarding the water rates from 12/5/2023 as written. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Consideration of approval of Public Hearing Minutes on 12/5/2023 regarding transfer station rates:

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Straiton, to approve the public hearing minutes regarding the transfer station rates from 12/5/2023 as written. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Consideration of approval of Special Town Meeting Minutes on 12/5/2023 regarding the sale of 20 Trowbridge Drive:

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Straiton, to approve the special town meeting minutes regarding the sale of 20 Trowbridge Drive as written. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Consideration of appointing Dan Carter as voting member of HRRRA:

Motion made by Selectman Straiton, and seconded by Selectman Terzian, to appoint Dan Carter as a voting member of the HRRRA. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Public Site and Building Commission quarterly update by the chair, Nancy Ryan:

Chair, Nancy Ryan, updated the Board on the Police Training Range, Johnson School and Rockwell Renovations, BHS HVAC Upgrades, Municipal Center Renovations -GP Room Lobby Renovations, and Municipal Center Renovations-Locker Rooms. Suggestion made by the Board to be made aware of large change orders at the time of the change. Regarding the STEAP Grant, suggestion made to have the Town of Bethel put aside money for matching funds next year. We didn't have matching funds set aside this year or last which likely impacted us not getting the grant those years. Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Terzian, to accept the report from the Public Site and Building Commission chair. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Consideration of enforcement of Connecticut General Statute §12-146a and 12-146b when issuing and renewing licenses:

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Straiton, to open the topic of Connecticut General Statute §12-146a and 12-146b when issuing and renewing licenses for discussion. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries. The CT General Statutes cited allow the withholding or revocation of municipal or district health department license or permit for failure to pay taxes or water, sewer, or sanitation charges. Discussion ensued. Suggestion made to have a clear policy in place. First Selectman Carter will work with the Tax Collector and Town Counsel to come up with ideas on how best to move forward. Discussion will continue with the Board of Selectmen at a later date.

Consideration of approving the water rates for FY 2025 – FY 2029:

Motion made by Selectman Terzian, and seconded by Selectman Straiton to open the topic of approving the water rates for FY 2025 – FY 2029 for discussion. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries. The Public Utilities Commission had a meeting last week. Based on comments from the public hearing, they recommended an increase for the next 3 fiscal years. The original proposal had an increase for the next 5 fiscal years. Discussion ensued. Comptroller Heering reviewed the proposals from a financial standpoint. The consensus of the Board and Comptroller Heering is to look at where we are financially every year and see if adjustments need to be made.

Motion made by First Selectman Carter to accept the water rate change that was approved and recommended by the Public Utility Commission for the Town of Bethel. First Selectman Carter amended his motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to accept the recommended water rates from the Public Utilities Commission with the amendment of a three-year plan (for FY 2025, FY 2026, and FY 2027) with an increase of 8.5% per fiscal year. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Consideration of approving the transfer station rates effective January 1, 2024:

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Terzian, to approve the change in transfer rates effective January 1, 2024 as presented at the public hearing. First Selectman Carter amended his motion, which was seconded by Selectman Terzian, to approve the transfer station rates as discussed at the public hearing:

Food Scrap Waste at 1.00/bucket

Tables, Chairs, End Tables, Bed Frames, Desks, Dressers, Carpet, etc. at \$0.25 per pound

Couches (fee dependent on size of couch) \$25. - \$35. per item

Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Consideration of tax refunds in the amount of \$6,625.68 due to overpayment of taxes:

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Terzian, to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$6,625.68 due to overpayment of taxes. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Consideration of Bethel Fire Department's request for approval of EMS ARPA funds in the amount of \$7,915.79:

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Terzian, to approve the Bethel Fire Department's request for EMS ARPA funds in the amount of \$7,915.79. (The funds were for portable radio holders and straps, PETZL helmets, Training Manikan and carry bag, Medical first-in bags, and a Medical Stair Chair.) Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Consideration of approval of the wiring and installation costs for cameras at Stony Hill Fire Department. (The cameras were approved previously from ARPA funds.):

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Terzian, to approve \$7,545. for wiring and installation costs for cameras at Stony Hill Fire Department. First Selectman Carter amended his motion, which was seconded by Selectman Terzian, to approve \$6,275. for wiring and installation costs for cameras at Stony Hill Fire Department to come from ARPA funds. This quote was from Shock Electrical Contractors, Inc. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Consideration of appointments for Board and Commission vacancies:

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Terzian, to open this topic for discussion. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries. Discussion ensued. Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Straiton to table the consideration of appointments for Board and Commission vacancies until the next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen on January 2, 2024. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Consideration of approval of accepting a grant from the State of CT to help with training and payment of poll workers:

Motion made by Selectman Terzian, and seconded by Selectman Straiton, to accept the grant from the State of CT in the amount of \$10,500. to help with training and payment of poll workers due to early voting. Registrar of Voters, Tim Beeble, provided information on early voting and its impact to the Town. Discussion ensued. First Selectman Carter amended his motion, which was seconded by Selectman Terzian, to accept the \$10,500. from the Sate of CT grant and put it in a non-lapsing account so it can be carried over, if necessary. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by Selectman Terzian, and seconded by Selectman Straiton, to adjourn the meeting at 8:18pm. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Churchill". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Mary Churchill
Recording Secretary