



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 SPECIAL MEETING

Tuesday, February 6, 2024 at 6:00 pm -Hybrid Meeting
Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center, 1 School St., Bethel, CT Meeting Room A
Google Meet calendar link for meeting access and documents

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TOWN CLERK
BETHEL, CT.
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Present: First Selectman: Dan Carter, Selectman Bryan Terzian, and Selectman Rich Straiton
Also present, Town Counsel: Melanie O'Brien, Superintendent of Bethel Public Schools:
Dr. Christine Carver, and Supervisor, Facility & Security Operations: Bob Germinaro

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm by First Selectman Carter.

Correspondence:

- Request from Planning and Zoning Commission to move forward with a conservation committee
- Final report from the last Charter Revision drafted in 2020 and changes that would have been made to the Charter

Consideration of approval of Board of Selectmen regular meeting minutes from January 2, 2024:

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Straiton, to approve the regular meeting minutes from 1/2/2024 as written. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Consideration of approval of Board of Selectmen special meeting minutes from January 18, 2024:

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Straiton, to approve the special meeting minutes from 1/18/2024 as written. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Consideration of approval of Board of Selectmen special meeting minutes from January 22, 2024:

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Terzian, to approve the special meeting minutes from 1/22/2024 as written. Vote: Selectman Straiton abstained, the others voted in favor. Motion carries.

Consideration of approval of Board of Selectmen special meeting minutes from January 25, 2024:

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Straiton, to approve the special meeting minutes from 1/25/2024 as written. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Terzian, to move the Board of Education agenda item to the next order of business. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Consideration of request from the Board of Education regarding Fire Pumps:

Bob Germinaro gave an overview of the request regarding two pumps, one at Bethel Middle School and the other at Berry School, that are deteriorating. Discussion ensued. Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Terzian, to do a bid waiver for the project and go with Rieve Fire Protection. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Straiton, to approve the total cost of \$147,700. from CNR to replace the fire pumps and forward the request to the Board of Finance for approval. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Consideration of appointments to Fire Commission: one member and 2 ex-officio members:

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Straiton, to appoint Chief John Baker and Chief Chris McCollam as ex-officio members of the Fire Commission. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries. First Selectman Carter stated they are not ready to appoint a member to the Fire Commission at this time.

Update PFAS Class Action Cases and Consider Motion to Authorize parties to undertake actions in connection with PFAS Class Action cases:

Town Counsel, Melanie O'Brien, gave the Board an update on the PFAS Class Action Cases. Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Terzian, to authorize Daniel Carter, as First Selectman of the Town of Bethel, to execute the claim forms, including initial submissions, re-submissions, additional claims forms for specific funding sources, and related documentation as may be reasonably required, to facilitate the claim submission process in connection with two class action proceedings against 3M and DUPONT, identified as IN RE:AQUEOUS FILM-FORMING FOAMS PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION, MDL No 2:18-mn-2873-RMG, and to authorize any other actions which the First Selectman may deem appropriate to facilitate the claim process from initiation through completion for the Bethel Water Department, and; to authorize Thomas Villa, Director of Public Utilities, to obtain testing, reports, and other reasonably necessary information for the claim submission and throughout the claim process, and, to authorize Town Counsel to represent the Bethel Water Department of the Town of Bethel, in connection with the claim process from initiation through completion on behalf of the Town of Bethel and its Bethel Water Department. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Consideration of tax refunds in the amount of \$22,342.33 due to the overpayment of taxes:

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Terzian, to approve the tax refunds in the amount of \$22,342.33 due to overpayment of taxes. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Consideration of recommendation from the Fire Commission to purchase two ladder trucks; one for each firehouse and to forward a replacement plan for apparatus as described in the ESCI Fire Study:

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Straiton, to open the topic for discussion. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries. Discussion ensued. Fred Ingram, chair of the Fire Commission, spoke about the request and said it could take 18 months to three years to get a truck after it's ordered. Suggestion made to look for a used truck or a demo model. First Selectman Carter made a suggestion to have the Fire Commission give the Board of Selectmen a list of 10 people to have on an apparatus committee. The Board of Selectmen can choose seven names for the committee. A member from the Board of Finance should also be on the committee.

Consideration of recommendation from the Fire Commission to purchase Paratech Struts for SHFD in the amount of \$11,528.20 from CNR:

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Straiton, to approve the recommendation from the Fire Commission to purchase Paratech Struts for SHFD in the amount of \$11,528.20 from CNR and forward the request to the Board of Finance for approval. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Consideration of Fire Commission's recommendation to accept the SHFD budget for FY 24 – 25 in the amount of \$197,450. :

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Terzian, to table this discussion. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Consideration of Fire Commission's recommendation to move forward with the capital replacement of the Chief's vehicle for SHFD:

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Terzian, to table this discussion. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Continuation of discussion regarding 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 Terzian, to table this discussion. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Consideration of appointments to Boards and/or Commissions:

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Terzian, to appoint Diane Ryan to replace the vacancy created by Ken Stevens, for a term to expire on 12/1/2025 , to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Terzian, to appoint Paul Improta to the Inland Wetlands Commission for the vacancy created by Don Taylor, with the term to expire on 12/6/2027. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Straiton, to appoint Hernando Paredes to the Insurance and Pension Commission for the vacancy created by Ken Kopec, for a term to expire January 4, 2027. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Consideration of a special town meeting for February 13, 2024 at 6:00pm at Clifford J Hurgin Municipal Center in Meeting Room A to consider additional voting locations for the 2024 Presidential Primary:

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Terzian, to recommend to the Special Town Meeting to be held that the Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center, 1 School Street, Bethel, CT is determined to be the one location for early voting in Bethel for the purposes of Public Act No. 23-5. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Terzian, to approve the date, time and place for the Special Town Meeting for the determination of voting location(s) for early voting as per Public Act No. 23-5. The Special Town Meeting shall be held on February 13, 2024 at 6:00pm in Meeting Room A of the Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center, 1 School Street, Bethel, CT. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Consideration of Modifications to the Deferral of Assessment Increases ordinance (Chapter 98 Article VIII):

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Straiton, to table this agenda item. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Consideration of statutory required amendments to The Retirement Plan for Employees of the Town of Bethel:

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Straiton, to approve the statutory required amendments to The Retirement Plan for the Employees of the Town of Bethel as presented. Discussion ensued. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Consideration of statutory required amendments to the Retirement Plan for Police Officers of the Town of Bethel Police Department:

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Straiton, to approve the statutory required amendments to The Retirement Plan for the Employees of the Town of Bethel as presented. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by Selectman Terzian, and seconded by Selectman Straiton, to adjourn the meeting at 6:56pm. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Churchill
Recording Secretary