



# 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, April 16, 2024 at 7:00 pm - Hybrid Meeting  
Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center, 1 School St., Bethel, CT Meeting Room A

**Present:** First Selectman: Dan Carter, Selectman Bryan Terzian, Selectman Rich Straiton  
Also present, Town Counsel: Melanie O'Brien, Superintendent of Schools : Dr. Christine Carver,  
and Director of Finance and Business Operations: Jen Variale

Meeting called to order at 7:02pm by First Selectman Carter.

**Public Comments:** None

**Correspondence:** None

### Approval of minutes:

**Consideration of approval of Board of Selectmen regular meeting minutes from April 2024:**

Motion made by Selectman Terzian, and seconded by Selectman Straiton, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on 4/2/2024 as amended. (On page 2 of the minutes, Tom Smith should be Todd Smith.) Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

### **Consideration of approval of Board of Selectmen special meeting minutes from April 8, 2024:**

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Straiton, to approve the meeting minutes from the special meeting on 4/8/2024 as written. Selectman Terzian abstained, the rest of the Board voted in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Straiton, to move and change the agenda item: *Consideration of purchase of 159 Greenwood Avenue. Executive Session anticipated.* The agenda item will read: *Consideration of purchase of 159 Greenwood Avenue, claims, and litigation. Executive Session anticipated.* Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Terzian, to add to the agenda, under 'New Business' after the approval of tax refunds, *Consideration of approval of up to \$20,000. from ARPA for grant writing.* Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

RECEIVED  
TOWN CLERK  
BETHEL, CT.  
2024 APR 17 P 3:16

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Terzian, to add to the agenda, before the Executive Session, *Consideration of explanatory text for the referendum on April 23, 2024 regarding the purchase of a ladder truck and the purchase of 159 Greenwood Avenue.* Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

**Reports:**

First Selectman Carter forwent the report.

**Unfinished Business:**

**Consideration of creating a Bethel Service Award for non-elected volunteers for outstanding service to the Town of Bethel:**

Motion made by Selectman Terzian, and seconded by Selectman Straiton, to allow the First Selectman to create the Community Service Award. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

**Continuation of discussion of Charter Revision:**

First Selectman Carter proposed that each Selectman read the document entitled, "Proposed Modifications to Charter 2024, Draft" and bring to the next Board of Selectmen meeting any item in need of discussion. The Board agreed.

**New Business:**

**Consideration of approval of Board of Education facilities expenditures for : HVAC Automation Software Maintenance Agreements, Dumpster Fence Repairs, and carpeting for the Berry School Main Office from ARPA funds:**

Jen Variale gave an overview of the request for HVAC Automation Software Maintenance Agreements. Discussion ensued. Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Terzian, to fund the schools from ARPA funds for the HVAC Automation Software and Server consolidation in the amount of \$35,955. Vote: First Selectman Carter and Selectman Terzian in favor, Selectman Straiton opposed. Motion carries.

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Terzian, to authorize the repair of the dumpster fences in an amount not to exceed \$27,637 from ARPA funds. Vote: First Selectman Carter and Selectman Terzian in favor, Selectman Straiton opposed. Motion carries.

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Terzian, to replace the carpeting in the main office of Berry School in the amount of \$9,940. from ARPA funds. Vote: First Selectman Carter and Selectman Terzian in favor, Selectman Straiton opposed. Motion carries.

**Consideration of approval of Fair Housing Resolution:**

Motion made by Selectman Terzian, and seconded by Selectman Straiton, to approve the Fair Housing Resolution as presented. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

**Consideration of approval of tax refunds in the amount of \$1,379.72 due to overpayment of taxes:**

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Terzian, to approve the tax refunds in the amount of \$1,379.72 due to overpayment of taxes. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

**Consideration of approval of up to \$20,000. from ARPA for grant writing:**

First Selectman Carter gave an overview of this request. Discussion ensued. Motion made by Selectman Terzian, and seconded by Selectman Straiton, to use \$20,000. from ARPA to allow the First Selectman to hire help for writing grants to benefit the Town. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Terzian, to recess for five minutes starting at 7:30pm. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

The Board of Selectmen were back from recess at 7:35pm.

**Consideration of explanatory text for the referendum on April 23, 2024 regarding the purchase of a ladder truck and the purchase of 159 Greenwood Avenue:**

First Selectman Carter gave an overview of the agenda item and provided the Selectmen with a draft of the explanatory text. Discussion ensued. Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Straiton, to allow the First Selectman to work with the Town Attorney to create an explanatory text in accordance with State Election Enforcement Commission and State statutes regarding the purchase of a ladder truck and the purchase of 159 Greenwood Avenue. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Terzian, to go into Executive Session at 7:50pm for the consideration of purchase of 159 Greenwood Avenue, claims, and litigation. Vote all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Terzian, to leave Executive Session at 8:42pm. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Straiton, to authorize the First Selectman to negotiate an offer to purchase 159 Greenwood Avenue contingent on the approval at the April 23, 2024 referendum. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Terzian, to retain counsel for all Land Use boards as recommended by the Town Attorney. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by Selectman Terzian, and seconded by Selectman Straiton, to adjourn the meeting at 8:43pm. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary Churchill*

Mary Churchill  
Recording Secretary