



# 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*

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TOWN CLERK  
BETHEL, CT

## MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, December 5, 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>

**Present:** First Selectman: Dan Carter and Selectman Rich Straiton attended in-person. Also present in-person: Town Counsel Martin Lawlor. Selectman Terzian and Comptroller Heering attended via Zoom.

Meeting called to order at 8:25pm by First Selectman Carter.

**Public Comments:** None

**Correspondence:** None

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Straiton, to add to the agenda consideration of appointment of Martin J. Lawlor as special counsel for the Town of Bethel until June 4, 2024 or when released by the Town Attorney. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Straiton, to add to the agenda consideration of approval of purchase of Town vehicle to then be forwarded to the Board of Finance for approval. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

### **Consideration of the creation of a consent calendar:**

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Straiton, to approve the creation of a consent calendar. Discussion ensued. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

The following agenda items were added to the consent calendar without opposition:

- Consideration of the appointment of Melanie O'Brien as Town Attorney
- Consideration of appointment of Murtha Cullina LLP to advise on next Charter Review Commission
- Consideration of reappointment of Thomas Galliford to the Emergency Medical Services Commission
- Consideration of reappointment of Thomas Galliford as the Director of Civil Preparedness

**Election of Acting First Selectman:**

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Straiton, to elect Bryan Terzian as Acting First Selectman for the remainder of this term. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

**Consideration of the appointment of a Selectman to the Board of Fire Commission:**

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Straiton, to open the item for discussion. Vote all in favor. Motion carries. Discussion ensued. Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Terzian, to have Selectman Straiton remain on the Fire Commission but as a full voting member, not an ex-officio member. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

**Consideration of appointments of Selectmen to the Housatonic Resource Recovery Authority:**

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Terzian, to have Selectman Straiton remain as the alternate to the Housatonic Resource Recovery Authority. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

**Consideration of approval of Board of Selectmen regular meeting minutes of November 21, 2023:**

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Terzian, to accept the regular meeting minutes from the Board of Selectmen meeting on 11/21/2023, as written. First Selectman Carter and Selectman Terzian voted in favor. Selectman Straiton abstained. 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 table the discussion of Connecticut General Statute §12-146a and 12-146b to the next regular Board of Selectmen meeting on December 19, 2023. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

**Consideration of approval of special meeting minutes from December 1, 2023:**

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Straiton, to approve the meeting minutes from December 1, 2023 as written. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

**Consideration of buying out leases for two Town vehicles:**

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Straiton, to buy out the leases for two Town vehicles that are coming to the end of their lease. Comptroller Heering reviewed the details of buying out the leases. The buyout of the Toyota Rav 4 is \$21,603. The buyout for the Toyota Tacoma is \$27, 880. Vote all in favor. Motion carries.

**Consideration of transfer of \$360,000. Of proceeds from the sale of 20 Trowbridge Drive to the EDC for maintenance of Francis J. Clarke Park:**

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Straiton, to open the above agenda item for discussion. Discussion ensued. Mike Boyle, chair of the EDC, requested the money be put in an interest-bearing account. First Selectman Carter amended his motion to:

*The Board of Selectmen approves taking \$362,478.45 from the profit of the sales from 19, 20, 21, and 23 Trowbridge Drive, with the sole purpose of maintaining Clarke Business Park and under the supervision of the Economic Development Commission. Maintenance includes weekly lawn service, spring and fall cleanup, brush cutting once yearly, planting and mulch around the park's entrance sign and monument twice yearly, the Trowbridge Drive retention pond maintenance and mowing once yearly, and the maintenance and/or replacement of the park's entrance and its directional signage. The fund can only be utilized towards making Clarke Business Park a premier business park.* The motion was seconded by Selectman Straiton. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

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

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Straiton, to table this item until the next regular Board of Selectmen meeting on 12/19/2023. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

**Consideration of appointment of Martin J. Lawlor as special counsel for the Town of Bethel until June 4, 2024 or when released by the Town Attorney:**

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Straiton, to approve the appointment of Martin J. Lawlor as special counsel for the Town of Bethel until June 4, 2024 or when released by the Town Attorney. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

**Consideration of approval of purchase of Town vehicle to then be forwarded to the Board of Finance for approval:**

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Straiton, to open the agenda item for discussion. Comptroller Heering suggested purchasing a 2023 Chevy Traverse base model for \$36,011. from Capital Non-Recurring Fund. Discussion ensued. Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Straiton, to purchase the vehicle as presented and forward to the Board of Finance for approval. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

**Consideration of approval of items on the Consent Calendar:**

- Consideration of the appointment of Melanie O'Brien as Town Attorney
- Consideration of appointment of Murtha Cullina LLP to advise on next Charter Review Commission
- Consideration of reappointment of Thomas Galliford to the Emergency Medical Services Commission
- Consideration of reappointment of Thomas Galliford as the Director of Civil Preparedness

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Straiton, to approve all items on the Consent Calendar. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Straiton, to adjourn the meeting at 8:53pm. Vote, both in favor. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary Churchill*

Mary Churchill

Recording Secretary