



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 SPECIAL MEETING

Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 5:00 pm -Hybrid Meeting
Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center, 1 School St., Bethel, CT Meeting Room A

Present: First Selectman: Dan Carter, Selectman Bryan Terzian, and Selectman Richard Straiton
Also present, Town Counsel: Melanie O'Brien, and Parks and Recreation Director: Rachael McGrath

Meeting called to order at 5:00pm by First Selectman Carter.

Correspondence: None

Consideration of approval of Board of Selectman regular meeting minutes from March 5, 2024:

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Straiton, to approve the minutes of the special meeting on March 5, 2024 as written. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

First Selectman's Report:

- CT State Comptroller, Sean Scanlon, visited Bethel to promote MyCTSAvings
- Kitchen replacement in the Senior Center is almost complete. It was paid for by a grant.
- The Irish flag raising took place this past week
- The first ever Bethel Unified Prom will be held on March 28, 2024
- Beginning to get a Charter Revision Committee together

Consideration of purchase of fire apparatus:

Discussion took place regarding options for the chief's car with respect to different vehicles and pricing which included a new quote from a company in Long Island. Motion made by Selectman Straiton, and seconded by First Selectman Carter, to refer the new quote back to the Fire Commission for review. More discussion took place. Chief Baker is waiting to hear back from MHQ with more pricing and/or availability. Selectman Straiton withdrew his motion.

First Selectman Carter also opened the floor for discussion on thoughts regarding a ladder truck and if the Board thought it should be included on the upcoming budget referendum on April 23, 2024. To do that, a purchase price would need to be agreed upon. Discussion ensued. Motion

made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Straiton, to table the discussion until later in the meeting. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Consideration and discussion of recording all Board and Commission public meetings:

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

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

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

Consideration of purchase of Wells Fargo property at 159 Greenwood Avenue:

The property is listed for 1.4 million dollars. First Selectman Carter stated this is a long-term opportunity for the Town and Selectman Straiton agreed. If the Town were to move forward to try to purchase the property, it would need to be included on the budget referendum on April 23, 2024. Discussion ensued. Motion made by Selectman Straiton, and seconded by First Selectman Carter to forward to the Board of Finance a request to appropriate 1.6 million dollars for the purchase of 159 Greenwood Avenue. Vote: First Selectman Carter and Selectman Straiton in favor, Selectman Terzian opposed. Motion carries.

Consideration of purchase of fire apparatus:

This agenda item was removed from the table in regard to the ladder truck. Discussion ensued. Motion made by Selectman Straiton, and seconded by First Selectman Carter, to forward to the Board of Finance a recommendation to appropriate an amount not to exceed 1.8 million dollars to purchase a ladder truck. Discussion ensued. Selectman Straiton amended his motion, which was seconded by First Selectman Carter, to recommend to the Board of Finance an appropriation of 1.8 million dollars for a used or stock ladder truck purchased within the next 12 months, contingent upon the final approval of the Fire Commission and the Board of Selectmen. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Consideration of appointments to Boards and Commissions included but not limited to:

Insurance and Pension- person recently appointed, declined (D)

Ethics Commission- resignation of member (R)

Fire Commission-currently 4 members, should be 5 (“U” resigned)

Planning and Zoning Alternate- alternate moved to full seat when vacancy arose (R):

First Selectman Carter stated the only recommendation we have received is for the Insurance and Pension Commission, M. Drucker.

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Straiton, to appoint Myra Drucker to the Insurance and Pension Commission for the remainder of the term left vacant by K. Kopec. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Consideration of acceptance of bid for sidewalk improvements on Durant Avenue and Wooster Street from the award of the Community Connectivity Grant:

The grant was for \$349,000. Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Terzian, to accept the bid of \$140,214.50 and award the contract to TD & Sons, Inc. The project is fully funded by the grant. Other things may be able to be done with the balance of the grant.

Consideration of a Town marketing strategy and approving \$10,000. from ARPA for a marketing plan for Bethel:

Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Terzian, to approve \$10,000. from ARPA for a Town marketing plan for Bethel. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Consideration of modifications to Solid Waste Ordinance(Chapter 94, Article 1) to regulate garbage haulers:

First Selectman Carter gave an overview of the agenda item for discussion only, at this point. We receive numerous complaints of garbage haulers picking up garbage between 3:00am – 5:30am. Suggestion made to have pick up times starting at 6:00am in residential areas and 5:30am in commercial areas, which is in line with the noise ordinance.

Consideration of repeal of the Dumpster Ordinance (Chapter 52):

First Selectman Carter gave an overview of the agenda item for discussion only, at this point. This ordinance states, the Town is supposed to charge \$25.00 to anyone who rents a dumpster, which is rarely ever done. It's hard to enforce and may be best to get rid of the ordinance.

Consideration of approval of tax refunds in the amount of \$3,009.81 due to overpayment of taxes:

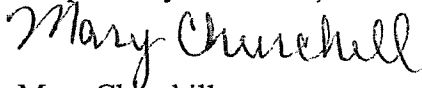
Motion made by First Selectman Carter, and seconded by Selectman Straiton, to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$3,009.81 due to overpayment of taxes. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Consideration of repair of tennis/pickleball courts at Bethel High School and recommendation the cost to be covered from \$250,000. from CNR and \$250,000. from ARPA funds:

First Selectman Carter gave an overview of the agenda item for discussion only, at this point. The tennis courts at Bethel High School need to be repaired. Parks and Recreation Director, Rachael McGrath, stated she has only received one bid so far for the work for \$478,000. She said she's having trouble getting quotes. The Board agreed the tennis courts need to be repaired and the suggestion was made to find the most efficient and cost- effective ways to do the work. Possibility to use the old skatepark and make dedicated pickleball courts. The Board of Selectmen agreed to discuss this at their next meeting.

Motion made by Selectman Terzian and seconded by Selectman Straiton, to adjourn the meeting at 6:42pm. Vote, all in favor. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Mary Churchill
Recording Secretary