



**TOWN OF BETHEL
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

MONDAY, April 6, 2015

BETHEL HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

Whittlesey Drive

7:30 P.M.

RECEIVED

2015 APR -8 P 2:26

**TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK**

PRESENT: First Selectman, Matthew S. Knickerbocker, Selectman, Richard C. Straiton, Selectman, Paul R. Szatkowski, Town Counsel, Martin J. Lawlor, Jr., Board of Finance Chairman, Bruce Cornwall, Comptroller, Bob Kozlowski, Town Clerk, Lisa Bergh, School Superintendent, Dr. Christine Carver, Board of Education Chairman, Larry Craybas, Board of Education Fiscal Services Director, Teri Yonsky.

CALL TO ORDER: First Selectman Knickerbocker called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Town Clerk, Lisa Bergh read the call (see attached). Bob Legnard made a motion to accept the call; motion was seconded by John J. Kelly. Vote, the motion was approved.

Don Goodrich made a motion to nominate Alice Hutchinson as Moderator; motion was seconded by Wendy Smith.

Billy Michael made a motion to nominate J. Philip Gallagher; Bill Hillman seconded the motion. J. Philip Gallagher respectfully declined the nomination.

Motion to close nominations made by Bob Legnard, motion seconded by Don Goodrich. Nominations closed; Alice Hutchinson was elected Moderator.

Town Counsel Lawlor read **Resolution#1** (see attached). Motion seconded by Wendy Smith.

Billy Michael called a Point of Order; the handouts that were made available did not include the revenue portion of the Town Budget.

Moderator Hutchinson called a 5 minute recess to allow for the copying of the information left vacant from the handout. Meeting recessed at 7:45 P.M.

The meeting was reconvened at 7:50 P.M.

Tia Murphy made a motion to accept Resolution #1; motion was seconded by Don Goodrich.

Discussion on Resolution #1:

Bill Hillman: Noted that three recent articles in the News-Times revealed that the Town of Bethel is second to Ridgefield in regards to the mill rate; that Bethel is a much poorer community. Mr. Hillman would like the mill rate to remain flat.

He made a motion to reduce the bottom line Town Budget proposed amount from \$27,584,851 to \$27,344,851; which represents a reduction of \$240,000. Which would be a 2.44% increase year to year. The motion was seconded by Billy Michael.

Discussion on Amendment to Resolution #1:

Billy Michael: Mr. Michael supports Mr. Hillman's motion. Within the last few weeks there have been three articles in the Danbury News-Times regarding taxes, Bethel has almost the highest mill rate in the area.

J. Philip Gallagher: Mr. Gallagher noted that he had read the article from the previous day's newspaper. Rather than look at the increase for each household for the year should this budget pass, it costs a Bethel resident \$22.00 per day to live in town.

Kerry Landon-Lane: Increasing the mill rate is exactly what Bethel should not do. He is in favor of Mr. Hillman's motion.

Kathleen Quader: Made a motion to move the question. Her motion was seconded by Wendy Smith; the Moderator asked that she reconsider due to the person standing in line behind her. She declined to retract her motion. Motion was seconded by Bob Legnard

Vote taken, standing count required. Motion failed.

Discussion continued:

Cynthia McCorkindale: Stated that not all residents can afford the increase in taxes. She referenced the Feds not raising interest rates; job growth. Ms. McCorkindale recited a quote by John F. Kennedy from 1962 on the subject of taxes. She supports the motion.

Bill Hillman: Asked to be able to speak again in regards to his motion. He discussed the fact that the Board of Ed budget passed on the first go around last year, and subsequently resulted in the Town side of the Budget being cut substantially.

No further discussion; a vote was taken on the motion to amend. The motion failed.

Discussion continued on Resolution #1:

J. Philip Gallagher: Wanted to discuss the Road Construction Account; also discussed the #400 account; Non Governmental Services. Every year this is a contentious account. He noted there are new agencies listed as recipients of funds from Bethel. Mr. Gallagher made a motion to reduce each of the six agencies to \$500.00 each. Bill Hillman seconded the motion.

Discussion on amendment to Resolution #1:

Bill Hillman: When he asked First Selectman Knickerbocker to explain the process of selecting those agencies that would benefit he was told it was subjective.

Matthew Knickerbocker: He clarified the statement of it being a subjective process. He stated that Mr. Hillman only partially reported the conversation. The Non-Profit Agencies are not Charities. The selection of the Agencies is done by the amount of population that is served in Bethel.

Billy Michael: Stands in support of J. Philip Gallagher's motion.

Cynthia McCorkindale: Supports this motion; she donates her own money to the Agencies she wants to contribute to.

Shani Burke-Specht: She mentioned that in Danbury a grant from the State allows for distribution to various charities.

Matthew Knickerbocker: Mr. Knickerbocker is unaware of the grant referenced, he will look into it.

Bob Legnard: He supports the money allocated for this account and supports the elected official's decision to fund the agencies.

No further discussion; a vote was taken on the amended motion, motion fails.

A vote was taken on the original motion, motion accepted.

Town Counsel Lawlor read **Resolution#2**, (see attached). Motion to accept made by Don Goodrich, the motion was seconded by Pat Rist.

Discussion on Resolution #2:

Bill Hillman: In reference to the #450; Education Budget, Mr. Hillman made a motion to reduce the bottom line of that budget by \$340,000.00 to \$42,942,535.00 a decrease in the requested and approved amount. This represents a 1.93% increase year to year. The motion was seconded by Billy Michael.

Discussion on amendment to Resolution #2:

Billy Michael: Is in favor of Mr. Hillman's motion.

Cynthia McCorkindale: Remarked that the State of CT. owes Bethel a lot of money, she met with the Superintendent and Fiscal Director for the Board of Education. She believes we need to step up the effort to obtain those funds.

No further discussion; a vote was taken on the amendment to Resolution #2, motion fails.

Discussion continues on Resolution #2:

J. Philip Gallagher: He had questions regarding the funding of the budget and commented on the fact that the state doesn't have a budget yet.

No further discussion; a vote was taken on the Board of Education budget, motion accepted.

Town Counsel Lawlor read **Resolution#3** (see attached). Motion accepted by Matthew Knickerbocker. The motion seconded by Wendy Smith.

Discussion: None

A vote was taken, motion carries.

Town Counsel Lawlor read **Resolution#4** (see attached). Motion accepted by Bob Legnard; the motion was seconded by John J. Kelly.

Discussion: None

A vote was taken, motion carries.

Town Counsel Lawlor read **Resolution#5** (see attached). Motion accepted by John Kelly. The motion was seconded by Wendy Smith.

Discussion: None

A vote was taken, motion carries.

Town Counsel Lawlor read **Resolution#6** (see attached). Motion accepted by J. Philip Gallagher, the motion was seconded by Wendy Smith.

Discussion: None

A vote was taken, motion carries.

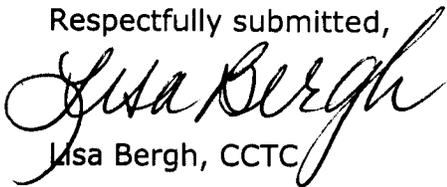
Town Counsel Lawlor read **Resolution#7** (see attached). Motion was accepted by Bob Legnard, the motion was seconded by Wendy Smith.

Discussion: None

A vote was taken, motion carries.

Moderator Alice Hutchinson recessed the Annual Town Meeting to a machine vote on April 21, 2015 at 9:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Lisa Bergh, CCTC

Bethel Town Clerk

**TOWN OF BETHEL, CONNECTICUT
NOTICE OF ANNUAL TOWN BUDGET MEETING**

TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

2015 APR - 6 A 10: 16

RECEIVED



The legal voters of the Town of Bethel, Connecticut and those persons entitled to vote therein are hereby notified to assemble at the Annual Town Budget Meeting to be held at the Bethel High School Auditorium, 300 Whittlesey Drive in Bethel, Connecticut on Monday, April 6, 2015 at 7:30 p.m., for the following purposes, to wit:

- 1) To consider and take action upon a resolution to appropriate the sum of Twenty Seven Million Five Hundred Eighty Four Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty One (\$27,584,851) Dollars, which sum includes debt service of Three Million Eight Hundred Seventy One Thousand Six Hundred Thirteen (\$3,871,613) Dollars and the school's building maintenance account of Five Hundred Thousand (\$500,000) Dollars as recommended by the Board of Finance, as the Annual Town Operating Budget for the Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2015.
- 2) To consider and take action upon a resolution to appropriate the sum of Forty Three Million Two Hundred Eighty Two Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Five (\$43,282,535) Dollars as recommended by the Board of Finance, as the Annual Board of Education Budget for the Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2015.
- 3) To consider and take action on a resolution to appropriate the sum of One Million Nine Hundred Twenty Three Thousand Eight Hundred Eight (\$1,923,808) Dollars, as recommended by the Board of Finance, for capital item expenditures and further authorizing the issuance of short term notes and/or bonds of the Town of Bethel in an amount not exceeding One Million Nine Hundred Twenty Three Thousand Eight Hundred Eight (\$1,923,808) Dollars to finance the appropriation of said sum for all costs incurred for the following capital item expenditures:.

ASSESSOR	2017 REVALUATION (ESTIMATED COST \$250,000)	\$ 50,000
BETHEL FIRE DEPARTMENT	AIR COMPRESSOR	\$ 30,000
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	HIGHWAY GARAGE – STRUCTURAL REPAIRS	\$ 52,000

BUILDING MAINTENANCE	EMERGENCY GENERATOR AT HIGH SCHOOL	\$ 285,000
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	REPLACE TRUCK BL-58	\$ 35,000
FLEET MAINTENANCE	GASBOY FUEL SYSTEM	\$ 20,000
HIGHWAY	ROAD CONSTRUCTION	\$1,038,808
HIGHWAY	BACKHOE/LOADER (REPLACES 1985)	\$ 118,000
HIGHWAY	CLASS 8 42,000 GVW TRUCK (REPLACES 1994 FOR L8000)	\$ 170,000
HIGHWAY	FUNNEL PLOWS (2)	\$ 15,000
PARKS & RECREATION	TRAILER	\$ 12,000
PARKS & RECREATION	TOP DRESSER	\$ 18,000
PARKS & RECREATION	CONSTRUCTION OF RUBINO PROPERTY FIELDS	\$ 30,000
PLANNING & ZONING	2017 PLAN OF CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT	\$ 50,000
	TOTAL CAPITAL	\$1,923,808

- 4) To authorize the First Selectman and the Treasurer of the Town of Bethel to borrow on short term notes or loans "tax anticipation notes" an amount not to exceed the aggregate of Six Million (\$6,000,000) Dollars for the purpose of paying current expenditures of the Town of Bethel for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2015, which tax anticipation notes are to be repaid from anticipated tax revenues.
- 5) To consider and take action upon a resolution that the tax on motor vehicles and personal property be collected in one or more than one installment.
- 6) To establish the date on which the machine vote on the annual town budget shall take place in accordance with the provisions of the Bethel Town Charter.
- 7) To do any and all things which may be legally required or appropriate to accomplish the above named purposes.

Dated at Bethel, Connecticut this 25th day of March 2015.

Board of Selectmen

Matthew S. Knickerbocker, First Selectman
Richard C. Straiton, Selectman
Paul R. Szatkowski, Selectman

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Town of Bethel, Connecticut Recommended Budget - Fiscal Year 2015-2016

At a meeting of the Board of Finance, which concluded on March 2, 2015, the following estimates of expenditures and revenues were recommended for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2016.

A public hearing on the recommended budget will be held on Monday, March 23, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. at the Bethel Middle School Auditorium, 600 Whittlesey Drive, Bethel, Connecticut.

All persons entitled to vote at the Annual Town Budget Meeting are invited to make written and oral comments concerning the recommended budget. Copies of the recommended budget are on file in the Town Clerk's Office, Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center and are available for inspection.

Dated: March 2, 2015

Board of Finance

Bruce Cornwell, Chairman
Timothy Draper ~ Eileen Freebairn ~ William Kingston
Gary Regan ~ Patricia Smithwick ~ Claudia Stephan

TOWN OF BETHEL RECOMMENDED BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016				
ACCOUNT	REVENUE SOURCE	RECEIVED 2013-2014	REVISED 2014-2015	ESTIMATED 2015-2016
500	GENERAL TAX REVENUE	\$ 58,812,145	\$ 58,590,240	\$ 60,235,806
550	LICENSES AND PERMITS	461,160	250,000	250,000
600	INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUES	9,395,844	9,085,040	9,358,171
700	CHARGES FOR SERVICES	865,947	832,457	980,266
750	USE OF MONEY AND PROPERTY	70,451	45,000	60,000
850	OTHER REVENUES	88,339	20,000	20,000
900	FUND BALANCE			
				\$ 70,904,243

TOWN OF BETHEL RECOMMENDED BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016				
ACCOUNT	DEPARTMENT	SPENT 2013-2014	REVISED 2014-2015	RECOMMENDED 2015-2016
100	SELECTMEN	\$ 228,609	\$ 229,219	\$ 232,955
110	TREASURER	8,502	7,300	7,500
120	FINANCE	415,400	390,761	403,608
130	TOWN CLERK	223,337	219,978	213,227
140	ASSESSOR	199,073	203,388	209,696
150	TAX COLLECTOR	179,076	192,905	192,345

TOWN OF BETHEL
MOTIONS FOR ANNUAL TOWN BUDGET MEETING
APRIL 6, 2014
BETHEL HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
7:30 PM

- 1.) Pursuant to the Charter of the Town of Bethel, shall the Town of Bethel appropriate the sum of Twenty Seven Million Five Hundred Eighty Four Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty One (\$27,584,851) Dollars, as recommended by the Board of Finance, as the Town Operating Budget, a portion of the Annual Town Budget, for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2015, to be placed on the ballot for a Town wide referendum machine vote?

- 2.) Pursuant to the Charter of the Town of Bethel, shall the Town of Bethel appropriate the sum of Forty Three Million Two Hundred Eighty Two Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Five (\$43,282,535) Dollars as recommended by the Board of Finance, as the Board of Education Operating Budget, a portion of the Annual Town Budget, for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2015, to be placed on the ballot for a Town wide referendum machine vote?

- 3.) Shall the Town of Bethel as recommended by the Board of Selectmen and approved by the Board of Finance, appropriate the sum of One Million Nine Hundred Twenty Three Thousand Eight Hundred Eight (\$1,923,808) Dollars, as recommended by the Board of Finance, to be placed on the ballot for a Town wide referendum machine vote to pay for the direct and ancillary costs including the financing, for the following items, hereinafter referred to in total as the "Projects":

ASSESSOR	2017 REVALUATION (ESTIMATED COST \$250,000)	\$ 50,000
BETHEL FIRE DEPART.	AIR COMPRESSOR	\$ 30,000
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	HIGHWAY GARAGE – STRUCTURAL REPAIRS	\$ 52,000
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	EMERGENCY GENERATOR AT HIGH SCHOOL	\$ 285,000
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	REPLACE TRUCK BL-58	\$ 35,000
FLEET MAINTENANCE	GASBOY FUEL SYSTEM	\$ 20,000
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PARKS & RECREATION	TOP DRESSER	\$ 18,000
PARKS & RECREATION	CONSTRUCTION OF RUBINO PROPERTY FIELDS	\$ 30,000

TOTAL CAPITAL

\$1,923,808

- 4.) In the event the Town of Bethel approves the appropriation of the sum of One Million Nine Hundred Twenty Three Thousand Eight Hundred Eight (\$1,923,808) Dollars by a Town wide referendum machine vote for the Projects, shall the Town of Bethel borrow a sum not to exceed the aggregate amount of One Million Nine Hundred Twenty Three Thousand Eight Hundred Eight (\$1,923,808) Dollars so specified for the Projects as set forth in the preceding motion and issue bonds and/or short term notes under its corporate name and seal, which bonds and/or notes shall be general obligations of the Town issued upon the full faith and credit of the Town, for the purpose of financing the appropriations of said sums for the cost of the Projects including, if any, architectural, engineering, demolition, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, equipping, equipment costs, financing and all other costs related thereto with the following additional terms and conditions:

Section 1. The First Selectman, Town Treasurer and the Comptroller are hereby appointed a "Committee" with full power and authority to cause said bonds to be sold, issued and delivered; to determine their form, including provision for redemption prior to maturity; to determine the aggregate principal amount thereof within the amount hereby authorized and the denominations and maturities thereof; to fix the time of issue of each series thereof and the rate or rates of interest thereon as herein provided; to designate the bank or trust company to certify the issuance thereof and to act as transfer agent, paying agent and as registrar for the bonds, and to designate bond counsel. The Committee shall have all appropriate powers under the Connecticut General Statutes including Chapter 748 (Registered Public Organizations Act) and Chapter 109 (Municipal Bond Issues), as presently in force or subsequently amended, to issue the bonds and, further, shall have full power and authority to do all that is required under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the "Code") as amended and other applicable laws of the United States, including the execution of certifications and agreements on behalf of the Town with respect to compliance with the Code to provide for issuance of the bonds in tax exempt form and to meet all requirements which are or may become necessary in and subsequent to the issuance and delivery of the bonds to ensure that the interest on the bonds be and remain exempt from Federal income taxes, including, without limitation, to covenant and agree to restriction on investment yield, rebate of arbitrage earnings, expenditure of proceeds within required time limitations and the filing of information reports as and when required.

Section 2. The bonds may be designated "Public Improvement Bonds of the Town of Bethel", series of the year of their issuance and may be issued in one or more series, or may be consolidated as part of the same issue with other Bonds of the Town; shall be in serial form maturing in not more than twenty (20) annual installments of principal, the first installment to mature not later than two years from the date of issue and the last installment to mature not later than twenty (20) years there from or otherwise as may be provided by statute. The bonds may be sold at not less than par and accrued interest at public sale upon invitation for bids to the responsible bidder submitting the bid resulting in the lowest net interest cost to the Town, provided that nothing herein shall prevent the Town from

rejecting all bids submitted in response to any one invitation for bids and the right to so reject all bids is hereby reserved, and further provided, that the Committee may sell the bonds, or notes, on a negotiated basis, as provided by statute. Interest on the bonds shall be payable semi-annually or annually. The bonds shall be signed on behalf of the Town by at least a majority of the Board of Selectmen and the Town Treasurer, and shall bear the seal of the Town. The signing, sealing and certification of said bonds may be by facsimile as provided by Statute. The Town Treasurer shall maintain a record of bonds issued pursuant to this resolution and of the face amount thereof outstanding from time to time, and shall certify to the destruction of said bonds, or notes after they have been paid and canceled, and such certification shall be kept on file with the Town Clerk.

Section 3. The Committee is further authorized to make temporary borrowing as permitted by the General Statutes and to issue a temporary note or notes of the Town in anticipation of the receipt of proceeds from the sale of the bonds to be issued pursuant to this resolution. Such notes shall be issued and renewed at such times and with such maturities, requirements and limitations as provided by Statute. Notes evidencing such borrowing shall be signed by the First Selectman and Town Treasurer and have the seal of the Town affixed, which signing and sealing may be by facsimile as provided by statute, be certified by and payable at a bank or trust company incorporated under the laws of this or any other state, or of the United States, be approved as to their legality by bond counsel, and may be consolidated with the issuance of other Town notes. The Committee shall determine the date, maturity, interest rates, form and manner of sale, including negotiated sale, and other details of said notes consistent with the provisions of this resolution and the General Statutes and shall have all powers and authority as set forth above in connection with the issuance of the bonds and especially with respect to compliance with the requirements of the Code in order to obtain and maintain in tax exempt form.

Section 4. Upon the sale and issuance of the bonds authorized by this resolution, the proceeds thereof, including any premium received upon the sale thereof, accrued interest received at delivery and interest earned on the temporary investment of such proceeds shall be applied forthwith to the payment of the principal and interest of all notes issued in anticipation thereof or shall be deposited in trust for such purposes with a bank or trust company, or shall be applied or rebated as may be required under the provisions of law. The remainder of the proceeds, if any, after the payment of said notes and of the expense of issuing said notes and bonds shall be applied to further finance the appropriation made by the appropriation resolution enacted concurrently herewith.

Section 5. In each fiscal year in which the principal or any installment of interest shall fall due upon any of the bonds or notes herein authorized there shall be included in the appropriation for such fiscal year a sum equivalent to the amount of such principal and interest so falling due, and to the extent that provision is not made for the payment thereof from other revenues, the amount thereof shall be included in the taxes assessed upon the Grand List for such fiscal year and shall not be subject to any limitation of taxes that may be imposed by any other Town ordinance or resolution.

Section 6. Pursuant to regulation of the Internal Revenue Service the Town hereby expresses its official intent to reimburse expenditures paid from the General Fund, Fund Balance or Capital Improvement Fund for the aforesaid Projects with the proceeds of the bonds or notes to be issued under the provisions of this Resolution. The allocation of such reimbursement of bond proceeds for an expenditure shall occur not later than one year after the later of a) the date on which the expenditure is paid, or b) the date on which the project is placed in service, or for extended periods and in such manner as may be permitted by amendments to the regulations. The Comptroller is authorized to pay project expenses in accordance herewith pending the issuance of the reimbursement bonds or notes.

Section 7. The First Selectman (or other proper authority of the Town) is hereby authorized to apply for and accept any available state or federal grant in aid of the financing of the Projects and to take all action necessary and proper in connection therewith.

Section 8. The amount of final issuance of the bonds shall be reduced by the amount of funds that may be received from any direct state or federal grants, if any.

Section 9. The Committee is hereby authorized to take all action necessary and proper for the sale, issuance and delivery of the bonds and notes in accordance with the provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes and the laws of the United States

- 5.) Shall the First Selectman and the Treasurer of the Town of Bethel be authorized to borrow on short term notes or loans known as "tax anticipation notes" in an amount not to exceed the aggregate of Six Million (\$6,000,000.00) Dollars for the purpose of paying current expenditures of the Town of Bethel for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2015, which tax anticipation notes shall be repaid from anticipated tax revenues?
- 6.) Shall the Town of Bethel collect motor vehicle and personal property taxes in one installment for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2015?
- 7.) Pursuant to the Charter of the Town of Bethel, shall the referendum by machine vote on the Annual Town Budget for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2015 take place on Tuesday, April 21, 2015.

(Pursuant to Charter C6-3.A.5, the Annual Town Meeting automatically adjourns to the Town wide referendum by machine vote when there is no further business to be conducted.)