



BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center, 1 School Street
Bethel, Connecticut 06801 Telephone: (203) 794-8501

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

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, July 19, 2016
7:30 p.m.

CJH Municipal Center – Meeting Room “A”

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TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

PRESENT: First Selectman Knickerbocker, Selectman Straiton and Selectman Szatkowski. Also in attendance was Town Counsel Martin Lawlor.

Call to order/Pledge of Allegiance: First Selectman Knickerbocker called the meeting to order. A Moment of Silence was held in honor of the passing of Lt. Kevin Kennedy.

Public Comments: None

Correspondence: None that was not already on tonight’s agenda.

Minutes of July 5, 2016: Selectman Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to approve the minutes as presented. Vote, all in favor. Motion unanimously approved.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to add to tonight’s agenda, Item #5) Consideration of Tax Collector’s request for Tax Abatement. Vote, all in favor. Motion unanimously approved.

First Selectman Report – First Selectman Knickerbocker reported that the bridge project is progressing nicely; the temporary by-pass roadway is open and demolishing of the old bridge will start any day. He noted also, that the water tank is complete and is being inspected. He gave special recognition to Bobbi Jo Beers, the outgoing Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce, for a very successful Beerfest/Summerfest and all of her hard work and commitment to Bethel.

New Business

1.) Consideration of appointments – Public Site & Building Commission and Parks & Recreation

Selectman Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by First Selectman Knickerbocker, to appoint Donald Brown (D) to the Public Site & Building Committee. Vote, all in favor. Motion unanimously approved.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to appoint Keegan Shaw (D) to the Parks & Recreation Commission. Vote, all in favor. Motion unanimously approved.

2.) Consideration of grant acceptance – Senior Van

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to accept the grant from the Federal Transit Administration Program and recommend to the Board of Finance, funding in an amount not to exceed 20% of the cost of the vehicle, estimated to be approximately \$12,000 (town share). Federal share is 80% - cost of the vehicle is estimated at \$60,000. Voting in favor of the motion: First Selectman Knickerbocker and Selectman Straiton. Voting against the motion: Selectman Szatkowski. Motion passed.

First Selectman Knickerbocker assured the Board of Selectmen that while it may come to pass that this van purchase doesn't happen, we should accept the grant regardless and decide what to do in the future. He also mentioned that we have applied for a grant to provide funding for a driver of the van.

3.) Consideration of the 2016 Deer Hunt

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to accept the request to hold the Annual Deer Hunt on town property; all hunters must provide the Town of Bethel with a completed Agreement to Indemnify and Hold Harmless, and the Town of Bethel waiver form. Vote, all in favor. Motion unanimously approved. It was clarified that this does not include the Franc property.

4.) Consideration of Bethel Fire Department request – disposal of outdated equipment

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to approve the request of the Bethel Fire Department and authorize the disposal of outdated equipment consisting of 44 SCBA cylinders and 52 Carins Structural Firefighting coats and pants, ranging in manufacture dated of 1992-2005. Vote, all in favor. Motion unanimously approved.

5.) Consideration of Tax Collector’s request for Tax Abatement

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to approve the Tax Collector’s request, dated July 6, 2016 and authorize the abatement of taxes for the Bethel Housing Authority and Augustana Homes Inc. for the Grant List of October 1, 2015 in the amount of \$220,724.48. R04555 5-07 Main Street \$49,780.52, R02689 – Reynolds Ridge property \$60,071.68, R02688 Reynolds Ridge property (2) \$ 60,042.40 and R00177 – Durant Avenue property \$50,829.88. Vote, all in favor. Motion unanimously approved.

As there was no further business on tonight’s agenda, Selectman Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m. Vote, all in favor. Motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Wendy Smith

Wendy Smith, Recording Secretary