



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 SPECIAL MEETING

Tuesday, March 27, 2012
7:00 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 J. Lawlor, Chief Fred Ingram, Sherry Holmberg and Pat Morton from Bethel Fire Department and Chief Ken Parciasepe and Tom Galliford from Stony Hill Fire Department.

First Selectman Knickerbocker called the Special Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Joint Session with Bethel Fire Department and Stony Hill Fire Department - paramedic program discussion (*Executive Session may be anticipated*)

First Selectman Knickerbocker reiterated that the Town of Bethel is not unhappy with the fire departments, the paramedic program or its service to residents, they are, however, concerned with the cost of the program. Originally thought to break even, or even make money, the program is costing us more than ever anticipated. Costs are higher due to the Medicare reimbursement issue and that each department fully staffs with paid personnel; volunteers are used as well. Based on comparisons with neighboring towns, Bethel may be overpaying by \$100,000 or more per year.

Much discussion ensued over various topics, including the history of the paramedic program. One of the biggest concerns is that each department holds a license. Stony Hill does not want to relinquish their license to Bethel Fire Department if Bethel Fire Department holds the control; if it was a shared control or new entity name, they would do it. Bethel Fire Department believes since they have “more” equipment and “more” calls, they should hold the license or control of the organization. Discussed was the possibility of creating another entity with shared representation by both departments, creating a board of directors, covering expenses, setting aside funds for replacement ambulances and then splitting the proceeds proportionally with the two departments. There are many aspects to providing service to the community.

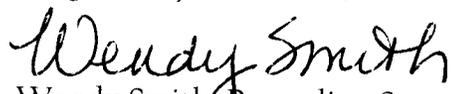
Selectman Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to hire a consultant to investigate the paramedic issue. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Selectman Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to publish the RFP, including all the various options, as soon as practical. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

First Selectman Knickerbocker will check with our current provider for a month to month extension on our current contract.

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 8:40 p.m. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,


Wendy Smith, Recording Secretary