



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, May 1, 2012
7:30 p.m.

CJH Municipal Center – Meeting Room “A”

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

Call to order/pledge of allegiance: First Selectman Knickerbocker called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Public Comments: David Glahn (ordinance), Billy Michaels (registrar's at Special Town Meetings, voting districts, 10 day clarification), Cynthia McCorkindale (agreed with B. Michaels comments) Robert Fand (veterans' benefit ordinance) and Bob Crnic (ordinance, Charter provisions).

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

Minutes of April 17, 2012 Regular Meeting: 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 Report: First Selectman Knickerbocker reported that he anticipates establishing the Open Space committee at next meeting and noted that the CT Environment Group will tour and study the recently purchased property from the Franc family and will inventory and catalog the property. He advised that he plans to send a postcard to all postal patrons advising of the budget referendum date. He noted that HRRA is soliciting RFQ's for proposals to take over when the current contract expires;

this should allow for municipalities to derive revenue from recycling. He also advised that CL&P has promised to install the lampposts along Whittlesey

Old Business

1.) Consideration of Blight Ordinance:

Selectman Szatkowski made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to table until the next meeting. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved. The Board of Selectmen will look to hold a Public Hearing on the proposed blight ordinance but first will meet with the appropriate departments.

New Business

1.) Consideration of Tax Collector's request for Tax Abatement authorization

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to approve the Tax Collector's request, dated May 1, 2012 for Tax Abatement for Augustana Homes, Inc. for the Grand List of October 1, 2010 in the amount of \$28,412.00. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

2.) Consideration of Tax Collector's request for Tax Refund authorization

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to approve the Tax Collector's request, dated May 1, 2012 for Tax Refund authorization in the amount of \$28,412. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to approve the Tax Collector's request, dated May 1, 2012 for Tax Refund authorization in the amount of \$3,095.62. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

3.) Consideration of recommendation to Board of Finance – legal fees associated with the BHS renovation project

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to recommend to the Board of Finance, an appropriation in the amount of \$80,874.64 (less any funds that may still be available in the High School Building Committee fund) for legal fees associated with the High School Building Project, and, upon their concurrence, establish a Special Town Meeting date of June 5, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in Meeting Room "A" of the CJH Municipal Center. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Selectman Szatkowski made a motion, which was seconded by First Selectman Knickerbocker, to add to tonight's agenda, under New Business, # 4 – Discussion of Special Town Meeting and ordinance. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

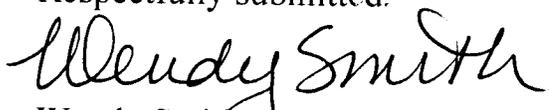
4.) Discussion of Special Town Meeting and ordinance:

Selectman Szatkowski asked for clarification on the recent Special Town Meeting and its related ordinance and the ten (10) day provision. Town Counsel Martin J. Lawlor advised that the Board of Selectmen is the sole body that can create an ordinance, and because of that, the Special Town Meeting approved a *recommendation only* proposal for urging and compelling the Board of Selectmen to create an ordinance, the reference pertaining to the ten (10) day provision only means that the recommendation *urging and compelling* the Board of Selectmen to create the ordinance becomes effective after ten (10) days, it does not mean the Board of Selectmen has to act on it within ten (10) days, nor does it mean that the ordinance (which was only a recommendation) became official after ten (10) days, it means the action (*to urge and compel the Board of Selectmen to create an ordinance*) taken at the town meeting becomes effective and since that action was only a recommendation, the Board of Selectmen can act upon it (or not) at any time.

First Selectman Knickerbocker commented that he does not anticipate rushing into this; he is hesitant to trigger an automatic expense of something outside our control.

As there was no further business on tonight's agenda, Selectman Szatkowski made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted.


Wendy Smith, Recording Secretary