

TOWN OF BETHEL
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
TUESDAY, January 17, 2012
CLIFFORD J. HURGIN MUNICIPAL CENTER
"General Purpose Room"
7:00 P.M.

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TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

Present: Town Counsel, Martin J. Lawlor, Jr., First Selectman, Matthew S. Knickerbocker, Selectman, Richard C. Straiton, Selectman, Paul R. Szatkowski, Town Clerk, Lisa Bergh, and Comptroller, Robert Kozlowski.

Call to Order: First Selectman, Matthew S. Knickerbocker called the Special Town Meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Town Clerk, Lisa Bergh read the call (see attached).

Motion to accept the call made by Robert Legnard, the motion was seconded by Pat Rist. A vote was taken, the motion was approved.

William Hillman called a "Point of Order". He questioned the financing disclosure within the call. Mr. Hillman stated that the total dollar amount exceeds \$1,000,000.00, which requires a machine vote per Town Charter.

Town Counsel Lawlor disagreed stating the purchase price to be within the limits allowing a vote at this Special Town Meeting. Point of Order denied.

Billy Michael called a "Point of Order" He questioned the legality of having this Special Meeting without benefit of verifying voter status. Town Democratic Registrar, Mary O'Leary stated that the official voter list was present should there be any question. Point of order dismissed.

Billy Michael made a motion to appoint Robert Legnard as Moderator; Robert Legnard respectfully declined the nomination and made a motion to nominate First Selectman, Matthew Knickerbocker as Moderator. The motion was seconded by Beth Cavagna. John Holbrook made a motion to close nominations. Motion was seconded by John

O'Neill. Vote taken to close nominations, motion passes. Vote taken to elect M. Knickerbocker as moderator. Motion passes.

Town Counsel, Martin Lawlor read Resolution #1 (see attached). Motion seconded by Robert Legnard.

Discussion:

Beth Cavagna- Spoke in favor of the purchase of open space.

Billy Michael- Questioned the balance in the Open Space Account. Town Planner, Steve Palmer gave the balance within the account as approximately \$210,000.00.

Billy Michael asked that more money be used from the Open Space Account to offset the burden on the taxpayers. He also noted that during the upcoming budget deliberations he will be asking for an \$800,000 offset in the operating budget.

Paul Improta - spoke in favor of the purchase.

Bob Eckenrode- Newtown Forest Representative relayed that the Newtown Forest Association is thrilled with this purchase, and offered the expertise of his association in helping Bethel to manage the land. He read a letter of support from the Newtown Forest Association.

John O'Neill- Spoke in favor of the purchase.

Lisa Lettieri - Spoke in favor of the purchase.

Gerard Brooker- Spoke in favor of the purchase.

Judy Novachek- Suggested a large sign acknowledging the Franc Family should be placed at the corner of Old Halweyville Road and Plumtrees Road.

Don Warfield- President of the Bethel Land Trust, is concerned that the contract will not limit use of the property in the future for use as recreation fields, etc. It should remain Open Space.

First Selectman Knickerbocker informed Mr. Warfield that it is his intention to form an Ad-Hoc Committee charged with keeping this property in its natural state and possibly suggests usage for passive recreation.

Tom Wolfe- Spoke in favor of the purchase.

Noel Gill- Spoke in favor of the purchase.

Michael Mack- Spoke in favor of the purchase.

Robert Legnard- Spoke in favor of the purchase.

John Holbrook- Spoke in favor of the purchase and recommends that The property be turned over to the Bethel Land Trust, in order to maintain it as open space, not town owned property that in the future can be developed into ball fields, or locations for Town Buildings. As the case in Westport.

Tom Carruthers- spoke in favor of the purchase.

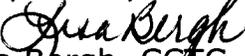
John Holbrook made a motion to move the question; motion was seconded by John O'Neill. Motion approved.

A vote was taken on the main motion, Motion approved.

A motion to adjourn was made by Robert Legnard; motion was seconded by Richard Straiton. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 7:52 PM

Respectfully submitted,


Lisa Bergh, COC
Bethel Town Clerk

**WARNING
NOTICE OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
OF THE TOWN OF BETHEL, CONNECTICUT**



The Legal Voters of the Town of Bethel, Connecticut, and those persons entitled to vote therein, are notified to assemble at a Special Town Meeting to be held in the Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center – Meeting Room “A”, 1 School Street, Bethel, Connecticut 06801 on Tuesday, January 17, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. for the following purpose, to wit:

- 1.) To consider and take action upon a recommendation by the Bethel Board of Selectmen and approved by the Bethel Board of Finance that the Town of Bethel purchase the real property currently owned by Anna Franc, Sophia Shail, John Franc, Ambrose Franc, Jacob Franc and the Estate of Frank Franc located at the corner of Plumtrees Road and Old Hawleyville Road consisting of seventy-two (72) acres, more or less, identified and shown on the Town of Bethel Assessor’s Map 86, Block 70, Lot 01 for the sum of Nine Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$950,000.00); further, that the Town of Bethel finance and/or borrow a sum not to exceed Eight Hundred Fifty Five Thousand Dollars (\$855,000.00) to purchase said real property with the balance of the purchase price of Ninety Five Thousand Dollars (\$95,000.00) to be paid from the Open Space Fund pursuant to a pledge of the Bethel Planning & Zoning Commission on December 13, 2011.

A copy of said map depicting said real property is available for review during normal business hours at the Office of the First Selectman, Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center, 1 School Street, Bethel, CT.

- 2.) To take any and all action legally necessary or appropriate to accomplish the above intended results.

Dated at Bethel, Connecticut, this 20th day of December, 2011.

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TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Matthew S. Knickerbocker, First Selectman

Richard C. Straiton, Selectman

Paul R. Szatkowski, Selectman

Motion
For
Special Town Meeting
Of The Town Of Bethel, Connecticut

Bethel Municipal Center
1 School Street
Meeting Room "A"
Tuesday, January 17, 2012
At
7:00 p.m.

Shall The Town Of Bethel as recommended by the Board of Selectmen and approved by the Board of Finance, purchase the real property owned by Anna Franc, Sophia Shail, John Franc, Ambrose Franc, Jacob Franc and the Estate of Frank Franc located at the corner of Plumtrees Road and Old Hawleyville Road consisting of seventy-two (72) acres, more or less, identified and shown on the Town of Bethel Assessor's Map 86, Block 70, Lot 01 for the sum of Nine Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$950,000.00) and that the Town of Bethel pay, finance and/or borrow a sum not to exceed Eight Hundred Fifty Five Thousand Dollars (\$855,000.00) for the balance of the purchase said real property with the Open Space Fund of the Bethel Planning and Zoning Commission contributing Ninety Five Thousand Dollars (\$95,000.00) towards the purchase price.