



# 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, February 26, 2013 - 7:00 p.m.  
CJH Municipal Center – Meeting Room “A”

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TOWN OF BETHEL  
TOWN CLERK

**PRESENT:** First Selectman Knickerbocker (late), Selectman Straiton and Selectman Szatkowski. Also in attendance were members of the Board of Finance and Comptroller Robert Kozlowski.

Selectman Straiton called the Special Meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

### Department Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Budget Presentations

#### **450 - Board of Education**

**Fiscal Year 2013-2014 request \$ 40,946,273**

Lawrence Craybas, Chairman of the Board of Education, Dr. Kevin Smith, Superintendent of Schools, Theresa Yonsky, Director of Fiscal Services and Janice Jordan, Associate Superintendent, presented the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 budget request.

Among the items discussed was the vision that the Board of Education has for the Bethel Public Schools. The primary focus is on safe and secure schools, high student achievement, unique opportunities, embedded technology, dynamic teaching and responsible resource management.

Safe and secure schools focus on an “All Hazards” approach. Measures have already been implemented and are on-going to address any potential trouble areas. Immediate steps have been taken to close obvious security holes. A School Resource Officer (proposed in the Police Budget) is recommended for the Middle School (which would also be responsible for Johnson and Rockwell). The Board of Education recommends the reinstatement of the School Psychologist; they believe that identifying and providing a solution before it starts is the best way to prevent trouble later.

Several security enhancements have already been initiated and additional items are being requested in the 460 (Maintenance) account. A community member has generously donated \$50,000 for security enhancements.

Included in their budget request, is the proposal to include a third NJROTC instructor; this successful program has over 120 8<sup>th</sup> grade students interested in participating in the program next year; this would bring the total participation to over 275. Based on the number of current and past enrollments, a 3<sup>rd</sup> instructor has been needed for some time.

They are also proposing a part-time reading specialist at the High School noting that it has become more imperative to provide reading support.

The cost drivers for the budget include the contractual obligations for Wages – a 2.7% increase of \$719,577, Benefits – a 5.54% increase of \$380,591, Transportation – a 3.2% increase of \$75,310 and SPED Tuition – a 5.06% increase of \$51,629. Mrs. Yonsky noted that switching to the Health Savings Account (HSA) saved a considerable amount. Most new/replacement employees (not teachers) have been switched to defined contribution pension plans instead of the traditional defined benefit pension plans.

**460 - Board of Education – Maintenance      Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Request \$549,392**

Lawrence Craybas, Chairman of the Board of Education, Dr. Kevin Smith, Superintendent of Schools, Theresa Yonsky, Director of Fiscal Services and Robert Germinaro, Supervisor of Facility Operations.

The request is broken into several categories – Management of Blanket PO's/Supply Accounts: funding at \$54,000 is requested. This account includes items like paint and misc. supplies. Outside Contractor: funding at \$40,000 is requested. This account includes items such as licensed repair work, i.e., electricians, plumbers, HVAC. Preventive Maintenance Contracts: funding at \$230,400 is requested. This account includes items such as alarm monitoring, inspection fees, snow plowing of parking lots (question arose as to which account this should come from – Highway Department or this account) and School Building Repairs and Maintenance: funding at \$224,992 is requested. This account includes replacement of worn carpeting, tiles, clocks, etc. and purchase/installation of items like hand dryers, additional lighting, drapery cleaning, etc.

As there was no further business on tonight's agenda, Selectman Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to adjourn the Special Meeting at 10:00 p.m. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Wendy Smith, Recording Secretary