



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

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Thursday, February 28, 2013 - 6:30 p.m.
CJH Municipal Center - Meeting Room "A"

RECEIVED

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TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

PRESENT: First Selectman Knickerbocker, Selectman Straiton and Selectman Szatkowski. Also in attendance were the Board of Finance, Town Counsel Martin Lawlor, Willard Dwinells, Civil Engineer and Comptroller Robert Kozlowski.

First Selectman Knickerbocker called the Special Meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Consideration of pending litigation – GC Construction – Executive Session anticipated

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to go into Executive Session at 7:01 p.m. for the purpose of discussion of pending litigation. Invited into Executive Session were members of the Board of Finance, Town Counsel Martin Lawlor, Comptroller Robert Kozlowski and Wendy Smith, Recording Secretary. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Executive Session ended at 7:25 p.m.

Consideration of Bennett Memorial Pond Dredging – Establish date for Special Town Meeting

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, that the Board of Selectmen recommends to the Board of Finance that the sum of \$58,000.00 be appropriated for the dredging of Bennett Park Pond and, further recommends to the Board of Finance that the funds for the dredging be repaid over a period of time not to exceed ten (10) years from the rental income of Bennett Park, and in the event the Board of Finance approves the same, that the matter be referred to a Special Town Meeting for final approval to be held on March 19, 2013 at 7:00 PM in Meeting Room A of the Hurgin Municipal Center. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

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Department Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Budget Presentations

380 Parks & Recreation Requested Fiscal Year 2013-2014 \$936,873

Meghan O'Connor, Chairman of the Parks & Recreation Commission and Eileen Earle, Director of Parks & Recreation, presented the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 department request; they noted increases to the park maintenance and repairs account, primarily based on the added tree work associated with the various storms and ongoing maintenance of trees and brush. In their capital request, they have requested a replacement vehicle (Ford 350) with a trailer but will look at the smaller vehicle; it needs to be able to tow a trailer. They have also requested an Over Seeder, this will help the grass seed actually get into the ground, and the present equipment is old and does not serve its purpose. In their capital construction, they are looking for an irrigation system for Berry School fields. These fields are hard packed and grass will not grow on them without water. They would also like to have a development study on the Kolowski property done; there is a need for more athletic fields. They have had to turn down requests from various sports teams to hold practices, games, etc. and are continuously rearranging schedules to accommodate all the requests. Mrs. Earle pointed out that program revenues are anticipated at \$333,599 and they are reviewing program costs to see if any can be increased.

100 Selectmen Requested Fiscal Year 2013-2014 \$198,175

First Selectman Knickerbocker presented the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 department request and noted no changes.

110 Treasurer Requested Fiscal Year 2013-2014 \$7,150

Comptroller Robert Kozlowski presented the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 department request; he noted that this account has increased, primarily due to the cost of postage. Discussion took place regarding the possibility of paying bills online; this will be reviewed.

120 Finance Requested Fiscal Year 2013-2014 \$387,760

Comptroller Robert Kozlowski presented the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 department request; he noted an increase cost for the auditing fees and advised that he may look into bidding the audit next year.

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160 Legal Requested Fiscal Year 2013-2014 \$212,600

Comptroller Robert Kozlowski presented the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 department request; he noted that he increased the litigation account to more accurately reflect what is actually spent from this account.

170 Probate Requested Fiscal Year 2013-2014 \$4,374

Comptroller Robert Kozlowski presented the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 department request; he noted a reduction to this account. The Probate Court and its costs are shared by Bethel, Redding, Newtown and Ridgefield.

190 Data Processing Requested Fiscal Year 2013-2014 \$279,148

Assistant Comptroller Brad Heering presented the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 department request; he noted that this account contains the funding for the computers and related technology. It was pointed out that the IT Technician has been a great asset.

210 Town Insurance Requested Fiscal Year 2013-2014 \$1,204,737

Comptroller Robert Kozlowski presented the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 department request; he noted an increase. He advised that these rates are preliminary and they are looking at different worker's compensation carriers.

340 Town Boards & Commissions Requested Fiscal Year 2013-2014 \$128,350

Comptroller Robert Kozlowski presented the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 department request; he noted that he has increased the cost for the legal fees associated with the Charter Revision Commission.

390 Employee Benefits Requested Fiscal Year 2013-2014 \$5,897,230

Comptroller Robert Kozlowski presented the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 department request; he noted sizeable increases to the hospitalization accounts and advised that the insurance consultant is reviewing other carriers and options. The pension contribution is moves us closer to funding the pension account at the recommended level of 80% (currently it is funded at 60.4). The police pension account is at 89%.

400 Non-Government Subsidies Requested Fiscal Year 2013-2014 \$26,752

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Comptroller Robert Kozlowski presented the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 department request; he noted several new requests for funding.

410 Utilities & Other Charges Requested Fiscal Year 2013-2014 \$2,492,509

Comptroller Robert Kozlowski presented the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 department request; he noted a reduction to this account due to the conversion from oil to gas although the other utility costs have increased.

420 Misc. Charges & Transfers Requested Fiscal Year 2013-2014 \$443,205

Comptroller Robert Kozlowski presented the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 department request; he noted an increase in this account, primarily due to the cost of legal ads. Other publications that meet the legal requirements for posting are being looked into as well as legislation that would lessen the legal notice requirements.

440 Debt Service Requested Fiscal Year 2013-2014 \$3,886,486

Comptroller Robert Kozlowski presented the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 department request; he noted that he has reduced this account, primarily due to several accounts starting to wind down. Discussion took place regarding the rating agencies recommendation that funding remains level. It was suggested that as debt begins to drop off, fund at the same level but place those funds in the capital non-recurring account to maintain stability and to have funds available for future projects.

As there was no further business on tonight's agenda, First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to adjourn the Special Meeting at 8:45 p.m. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Wendy Smith, Recording Secretary