



BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center, 1 School Street
Bethel, Connecticut 06801 Telephone: (203) 794-8501

Robert Burke, First Selectman
Paul Szatkowski, Selectman
Kevin L. Cleary, Selectman

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TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

7:30 p.m.

CJH Municipal Center – Meeting Room “A”

PRESENT: First Selectman Burke, Selectman Szatkowski and Selectman Cleary. Also in attendance was William Hagan, Town Attorney

Call to order/Pledge of Allegiance: First Selectman Burke called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Correspondence: None that is not on tonight’s agenda.

First Selectman Burke made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to add to tonight’s agenda, under New Business, Item # 4 – Consideration of abatement of taxes for Bethel Housing Authority. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Public Comments: David Glahn, Terry Nakid, Kevin Cleary, J. Philip Gallagher and Robert Crnic spoke.

Minutes – July 1, 2008: Selectman Szatkowski made a motion, which was seconded by First Selectman Burke, to approve the minutes as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

First Selectman Report:

New Business

1.) **Consideration of Tax Collector’s request for Tax Refund Authorization**

First Selectman Burke made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to authorize the Tax Collector's request, dated July 11, 2008 for Tax Refund Authorization in the amount of \$6,467.14. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

2.) Consideration of appointments – Cable TV Advisory and Library Board of Directors

First Selectman Burke made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to appoint Kevin Gallagher (U) to the Cable TV Advisory Board to replace Robert Pitt (D). Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

First Selectman Burke made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to appoint Richard Merritt to the Library Board of Directors to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Gail Slifkin (R). Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved. This term expires January 2, 2012.

3.) Update on EMS Commission activities

First Selectman Burke advised that both Bethel Fire Department (BFD) and Stony Hill Fire Department (SHFD) would initiate staffing during the daytime hours, supplement with volunteers and begin billing for Basic Life Support. This has generated from a consent order that has been imposed on the BFD. First Selectman Burke continued that SHFD anticipates a shortfall of approximately \$80,000 to \$100,000 and that the town may have to subsidize the shortfall. First Selectman Burke advised that more discussions and meetings will be forthcoming to explain the changes to the residents of Bethel.

First Selectman Burke made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to advise the Board of Finance that the Board of Selectmen makes a recommendation to subsidize the potential shortfall for SHFD. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

4.) Consideration of Abatement of Taxes – Bethel Housing Authority

First Selectman Burke made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to authorize the abatement of taxes for the Bethel Housing Authority in the amount of \$63,136.72 for the Grand List of October 1, 2007. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Selectman Cleary made a motion, which was not seconded, to invite Representative Bartlett to the August 5, 2008 Board of Selectmen meeting to discuss monies earmarked for Bethel in accord with his letter of December 2007. Motion failed for lack of a second.

Discussion took place regarding the recent pamphlet distributed by Representative Bartlett. First Selectman Burke expressed concern that it appears that Rep. Bartlett is

taking credit for the Bogus Farm open space acquisition and he is also concerned that the flyer maybe in violation of election laws.

Selectman Cleary reiterated his request to invite Representative Bartlett to come before the Board of Selectmen to provide the required information regarding the funding opportunities for Bethel.

First Selectman Burke made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski to authorize Town Attorney William Hagan to investigate and report back to the Board of Selectmen by its next meeting, any findings of violations (i.e. Freedom of Information Act and Election Enforcement) regarding the recent pamphlet distributed by Representative Bartlett. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

As there was no further business on tonight's agenda, Selectman Szatkowski made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Cleary, to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wendy Smith".

Wendy Smith, Recording Secretary