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MAY 07 2008

TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

**TOWN OF BETHEL
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 5, 2008
BETHEL MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
7:30 P.M.**

PRESENT: First Selectman, Robert E. Burke, Selectman, Paul Szatkowski, Selectman, Kevin L. Cleary, Town Counsel, William J. Hagan, Comptroller, Barry Curina, Board of Finance Chairman, J. Philip Gallagher, Town Clerk, Lisa Bergh, Police Commission Chairman, Nick Ellis, Board of Education Chairman, Bill Kingston, Board of Education Fiscal Services Director Terri Yonsky.

CALL TO ORDER: First Selectman, Robert E. Burke called the Town Meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Town Clerk, Lisa Bergh reads the call (see attached)

Robert Legnard made a motion to accept the call, motion seconded by John Lennon. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

John Lennon made a motion to appoint Sharon Straiton as moderator, motion seconded by Paul Improta. Robert Legnard made a motion to close nominations, seconded by John Lennon. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved, nominations closed. Vote to elect Sharon Straiton as moderator, motion carries.

Moderator Straiton asked the Town Clerk to read Resolution #1 once again. Motion made to accept Resolution #1 made by Robert Legnard, seconded by John Lennon.

Discussion:

- Billy Michael- Is concerned regarding the economy, the revaluation will result in his small parcel being increased by 77% in taxes. The biggest part of this recommended budget is salaries and benefits. Mr. Michael inquired if there were plans for any new employees. He was informed that a position in the Highway Department was included in the proposed budget. The cost of this new employee would be \$73,851.00 for salary and benefits. Billy Michael made a motion to reduce the Town side of

the budget by \$72,000 in the "240" Highway Account via secret ballot. Motion was seconded by Will Michael.

Discussion:

-Ray Curcio- Asked if the Parks and Rec hiring of part-time workers were covered by user fees. Barry Curina confirmed this.

-Bill Hillman- Questioned the validity of the secret ballot and can the motion take place. Town Counsel William Hagan ruled that to proceed we must vote whether or not to vote by secret ballot. Motion made by Will Michael to vote by secret ballot, seconded by Billy Michael. Vote taken, motion fails. Division called, Paul Improta and Wendy Smith acted as counters. Motion failed.

Discussion continued:

-Bob Legnard- Asked why a person was needed in the Highway Department. Board of Finance Chairman J. Philip Gallagher responded that the Board of Finance was convinced it was needed and long overdue. They have been short handed ever since a hiring freeze 14 years ago.

-Bill Hillman- In regards to the motion to reduce the budget, he doesn't like paying taxes but understands the need. There is such a thing as a Municipal Cost Index, which is roughly nationwide at 4-4 ½ percent increase. The Town of Bethel is right in line with this. He is in favor of leaving the budgets the way they are.

Vote to reduce Account "240", motion fails.

-Alice Hutchinson- Brought to the attention of Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance by way of letter dated April 17, 2008 (with no response forthcoming) a discrepancy in the procedure for bringing forth the proposed budget. Ms. Hutchinson referred to Charter section C-10-2 sub paragraph "f". William Hagan responded to Ms. Hutchinson's claims by stating the Board of Finance specifically delineated the Town Operating Budget. The budgets were properly delineated.

-Jeffrey Kenausis- Feels it is a deceptive practice to have "in-kind" contributions specifically mentioned in the call in resolution #1.

-Kristen Trent- Complained that no notice of this meeting was to be found. Mentioned e-mailing the Town Clerk with no response. Lisa Bergh responded that possibly the email was never received, based on issues with the IT department and the trouble receiving emails through the Group-Wise system. Town Clerk Bergh explained that all emails are checked daily and responded to immediately.

First Selectman Burke stated that the notice was published in the paper and that the actual notice was posted in Town Hall.

-Lisa Allaby- Spoke of the impassioned request the Registrars had made for an increase to their salary and how the Registrars were disrespected, given their years of service and hard work. J. Philip Gallagher responded that the Registrars had been told to bring supportive evidence to the next Board of Finance meeting and the members would consider it. According to Mr. Gallagher the Registrars were not able to supply this information, therefore no raise was granted.

-Mary O'Leary-not intending to speak, spoke of her love for the job regardless of salary and that she and Mary Legnard had resigned themselves to the fact that they would not be receiving the requested increase, but felt the need to express her opinion on how she felt they were treated rudely and not permitted to speak at the Board of Finance's meeting following the public hearing.

-Bob Dolan-As a follow-up to Lisa Allaby's remarks, Mr. Dolan spoke of how bothersome it was that the Board of Finance could justify the \$72,000.00 Highway position. The same should have been done for the Registrars.

-Fred DiNegrìs- Questioned Selectman's account #100. Asked Barry Curina to explain the \$12,000.00 increase. \$3810.00 to the First Selectman's salary, \$5187.00 to Office Administrator, \$715.00 to the Administrative Assistant, \$2,063.00 to Human Resources, and Board of Selectmen at \$500.00. Mr. DeNegrìs also asked what is budgeted for gasoline and fuel oil. Mr. Curina stated \$195,300.00 for gasoline and \$481,400.00 for fuel oil. Barry stated this is approximately \$100,000.00 over last year.

-Carol Cheslock-Asked for clarification on the "290" account. Mr. Curina stated the cost of \$10,000 to move the town siren from Dolan field to the schools.

-Ralph Hunter- Asked why the Tree Warden account had such a sizeable increase. Chairman Gallagher noted that it was done as a preventative measure given the recent tragedies where people have lost their lives by fallen trees and the town's liability.

-Jan Neuner- Questions the 213% increase in the Emergency Management account, and a 13.75% increase to the Fire Marshal's account. She feels it is a shame that the First Selectman received a \$3,000 plus raise and the registrars received nothing.

-Carol Cheslock- Asked for clarification on Public Works account #230. Barry Curina explained that a total restructuring was done and the results are a \$13,000.00 savings.

-Dana Eaton-Questioned the increase in the Fire Marshal's office and the Emergency Management budget. Asked that in next year's handout that the percentages are included.

-Nancy Ryan-Spoke out in favor of the Registrars and noted that everyone received an increase but the registrars.

-Jill Smith-Asked why the Highway account is up \$200,000.00
Robert Burke stated the cost of paving with the cost of oil.

Robert Legnard made a motion to move the question, seconded by Wendy Smith. Vote, all in favor, question moved. Vote taken on Resolution #1. Motion carries.

Town Counsel William Hagan reads Resolution #2. Motion to accept the resolution made by Robert Legnard. Seconded by Paul Improta.

Discussion:

-Fred DeNigris- Asked why the 8.1 Million Bethel receives from the State is not included in the language of the second resolution. Barry stated this is an appropriation being grant money from the state.

-John Reilly- Questioned the grant money for Education.

-Billy Michael- Asked if any new employees were planned for the Board of Education Budget. Bill Kingston, Chairman of the Board of Education stated that 3.5 new employees were planned, but after the cut to the budget by the Board of Finance he believes this won't be possible. Mr. Michael went on to ask what Dr. Chesley's salary is and will he be receiving a raise. Mr. Kingston stated Dr. Chesley's salary is approximately \$180,000.00 per year and he will come up for consideration.

Billy Michael made a motion to reduce the Board of Education budget by \$200,000.00. Motion seconded by Will Michael. Will Michael made a motion to carry the out the first motion by paper ballot. Motion seconded by Billy Michael. Vote taken motion to vote by secret ballot fails.

-Jan Neuner- Asked if the Board of Education pays for buses to St Mary's. Terri Yonsky stated that due to State Statutes we are responsible for paying for bus transportation to a private school within the town limits.

Will Michael- States it is good to be thrifty, we are all making thrifty decisions, and the Superintendent should be thrifty as well.

-Bill Gulya- Education budget is way too high.

Robert Legnard makes a motion to move the question, seconded by Wendy Smith. Vote taken on reduction of budget by \$200,000.00. Vote taken, motion fails.

-John Trent-What is the change in enrollment from last year to this year. Terri Yonsky stated that last year the enrollment was 3142, and this year it is at 3088. A difference of 54.

Robert Legnard withdraws his motion to move the question to allow for a recount of the last vote for the reduction of the Board of Education budget by \$200,000.00. Ralph Hunter questioned the result. Town Counsel allowed this.

A standing count was had; the motion fails a second time.

Robert Legnard makes a motion to move the question, seconded by Bill Hillman. Vote taken, question moved.

Vote taken to accept resolution #2, Motion carries.

Town Counsel reads resolution #3. Motion to approve made by Robert Legnard, seconded by Wendy Smith. Motion to move the question made by Robert Legnard, Paul Improta seconds. Vote on resolution, motion carries.

Town Counsel reads resolution #4. Motion to approve made by Robert Legnard, seconded by Wendy Smith. Vote taken on resolution, motion carries. Town Counsel reads resolution #5 motion to approve made by Robert Legnard, Paul Improta seconds

Discussion:

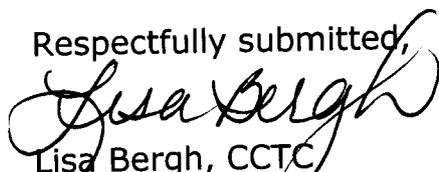
-Dana Eaton- Asked if signs could be placed around town notifying residents of time and place to vote.

Vote taken on resolution #4 motion carries.

Town Counsel reads resolution #5; Robert Legnard makes a motion to move the question, seconded by Billy Michael. Vote, question moved, Vote on the resolution, motion carries.

Meeting Recessed to Machine vote on May 20, 2008 at 9:27 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Bergh, CCTC
Bethel Town Clerk

**TOWN OF BETHEL, CONNECTICUT
NOTICE OF ANNUAL TOWN BUDGET MEETING**

The legal voters of the Town of Bethel, Connecticut and those persons entitled to vote therein are hereby notified to assemble at the Annual Town Budget Meeting to be held at the Bethel Middle School Auditorium, Whittlesey Drive in Bethel, Connecticut on Monday, May 5, 2008 at 7:30 p.m., for the following purposes, to wit:

- 1) To consider and take action upon a resolution in the amount of Twenty Three Million Seven Hundred Ninety Two Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Nine (\$23,792,329) Dollars, of which the sum of Three Million One Hundred Eighty Eight Thousand One Hundred Seventy Two (\$3,188,172) Dollars will be used for operation, maintenance and other expenditures related to education as recommended by the Board of Finance, as the Annual Town Operating Budget for the Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2008.
- 2) To consider and take action upon a resolution in the amount of Thirty Seven Million Three Hundred Thousand Four Hundred Seventeen (\$37,300,417) Dollars, as recommended by the Board of Finance, as the Annual Board of Education Budget for the Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2008
- 3) To authorize the First Selectman and the Treasurer of the Town of Bethel to borrow on short term notes or loans "tax anticipation notes" an amount not to exceed the aggregate of Six Million (\$6,000,000) Dollars for the purpose of paying current expenditures of the Town of Bethel for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2008, which tax anticipation notes are to be repaid from anticipated tax revenues.
- 4) To consider and take action upon a resolution that the tax on motor vehicles and personal property be collected in one or more than one installment.
- 5) To establish the date on which the machine vote on the annual town budget shall take place in accordance with the provisions of the Bethel Town Charter.
- 6) To do any and all things which may be legally necessary or appropriate to accomplish the above named purposes.

Dated at Bethel, Connecticut this 8th day of April 2008.



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TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

Board of Selectmen

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

BETHEL EDUCATION BUDGET PROPOSAL 2008-09

Description	FTE	Budget 07-08	FTE	Budget 08-09	Change	% Change
Teachers	273.55	17,323,084	274.36	17,886,141	563,056	3.25%
Administrators	16.00	1,924,062	16.00	1,988,189	64,127	3.33%
Retirements/Add'l Degrees	0.00	434,733	0.00	446,603	11,870	2.73%
Tutors/Summer School	3.50	315,302	3.50	365,349	50,047	15.87%
Secretaries	24.65	961,906	24.65	965,046	3,139	0.33%
Lunch Monitors	2.17	20,272	3.10	31,329	11,057	54.54%
Paras/Summer School	48.00	1,026,669	47.00	1,006,493	-20,176	-1.97%
Nurses	7.00	304,684	7.00	326,090	21,406	7.03%
Custodians	22.00	894,344	24.00	1,048,374	154,030	17.22%
Others - System Wide	14.93	827,376	14.73	921,127	93,751	11.33%
Substitutes/Interns	0.00	360,500	1.00	373,118	12,618	3.50%
Coaches/Advisors	0.00	351,322	0.00	365,460	14,138	4.02%
SALARIES	411.80	24,744,254	415.34	25,723,319	979,065	3.96%
Health Benefits		4,818,773		5,227,399	408,626	8.48%
Social Security/Medicare		673,650		700,596	26,946	4.00%
Life/LTD/Unemp/Other		219,146		227,696	8,549	3.90%
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS		5,711,569		6,155,690	444,121	7.78%
Purch. Serv. - Fiscal & System Wide		54,900		16,250	-38,650	-70.40%
Purch. Serv. - Special Ed		213,300		213,300	0	0.00%
Adult Ed - Danbury		41,526		45,106	3,580	8.62%
Curriculum Consulting		65,000		67,600	2,600	4.00%
Professional Development/Conferences		36,250		36,700	450	1.24%
Prof. Technical Services		201,038		218,630	17,592	8.75%
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES		612,014		597,586	-14,428	-2.36%
Repair and Maintenance System Wide		123,585		124,420	835	0.68%
Leases - System Wide		34,500		34,700	200	0.58%
Leases - Technology		230,000		230,000	0	0.00%
Leases - Copiers		170,520		170,520	0	0.00%
PROPERTY SERVICES		558,605		559,640	1,035	0.19%
District Transportation		1,808,103		1,898,508	90,404	5.00%
St. Mary's Transportation		108,270		113,683	5,413	5.00%
Communications		130,000		130,000	0	0.00%
Printing/Postage/Advertising/Insurance		149,900		140,600	-9,300	-6.20%
Reg Ed Tuition		82,319		74,936	-7,383	-8.97%
Special Ed Tuition		704,899		770,227	65,328	9.27%
Prof. Development/Travel		41,132		42,460	1,328	3.23%
PURCHASED SERVICES		3,024,623		3,170,414	145,791	4.82%
Instructional Supplies & Textbooks		666,623		663,818	-2,805	-0.42%
Diesel Fuel		102,789		159,000	56,211	54.69%
Library Books/Reference Materials		49,248		56,529	7,281	14.78%
Custodian Supplies		79,000		82,000	3,000	3.80%
Other Supplies Incl Health/Sports/Clubs		215,920		218,650	2,730	1.26%
SUPPLIES		1,113,580		1,179,997	66,417	5.96%
EQUIPMENT & FURNITURE		5,000		38,000	33,000	660.00%
DUES		48,501		75,771	27,270	56.23%
BOS/BOF REDUCTION		0		-200,000	-200,000	-100.00%
TOTAL		35,818,146		37,300,417	1,482,271	4.14%
BUDGET REDUCTIONS TO DATE:						
Superintendent's Proposal				37,661,127		5.15%
Board of Education Reduction				-160,710		
Board of Education Proposal				37,500,417		4.70%
Board of Selectman Reduction				-150,000		
Board of Finance Reduction				-50,000		
Education Budget Currently Proposed				37,300,417		4.14%

BOE BUDGET CHANGES FROM 2007-08 TO 2008-09

	FTE Headcount	Amount in \$ Dollars	Percentage Change
2007-08 Approved Budget	411.80	35,818,146	
2008-09 Proposed Budget	415.34	37,300,417	
Increase in Budget 2007-08 to 2008-09	3.54	1,482,271	4.14%
Cost to Carry Forward 07-08 Budget into 08-09		1,405,381	3.92%
Proposed Changes to Budget - Payroll		199,665	0.56%
Proposed Changes to Budget - Non-Payroll		77,225	0.22%
BOS/BOF Budget Reduction to Education		-200,000	-0.56%
Total Budget Increase 2007-08 to 2008-09		1,482,271	4.14%
Proposed Changes to Budget - Payroll			
HS Technology Education Teacher	1.00	57,403	
MS Reading Specialist/Teacher	1.00	57,403	
JS Fifth Grade Teacher	(1.00)	-57,403	
HS College & Career Center Paraprofessional	1.00	17,634	
HS Custodians	2.00	81,620	
HS Lunch Monitors (2)	0.62	7,466	
BS Lunch Monitor	0.31	2,983	
HS Security	1.00	22,200	
SW Technology Specialist (part time to full time)	0.20	12,053	
SW Summer School Assistance	0.20	8,840	
Staff Re-organizations during 2007-08	(2.79)	0	
Increased Reliance on Staff Vacancy Savings		-20,000	
Additional Summer School Staff (+Teachers -Paras)		10,852	
Summer School Director Funding		-4,625	
JS After School Enrichment/Remedial - 120 hours		3,239	
	3.54	199,665	0.56%
Proposed Changes to Budget - Non-Payroll			
SW Health Benefits related to new positions		47,218	
SW Technology Software Programs		14,842	
HS Library Books		7,400	
JS Purchased Professional Administrative Services		-36,900	
HS Dues - NEASC Accreditation Process		25,000	
HS Athletic Uniforms		7,000	
HS Athletics-Program Change-Delete Ice Hockey		-19,100	
HS Athletics-Program Change-Add Indoor Track		12,765	
HS/JS/RS Classroom Furniture		19,000	
		77,225	0.22%

TOWN OF BETHEL
RECOMMENDED BUDGET
FISCAL YEAR 2008 - 2009

**TOWN OF BETHEL
RECOMMENDED BUDGET
FISCAL YEAR 2008 - 2009**

ACCOUNT	DEPARTMENT	SPENT 2006-2007	BUDGET 2007-2008	REVISED 2007-2008	RECOMMENDED 2008-2009
100	SELECTMEN	177,258	180,458	180,458	192,733
110	TREASURER	6,770	6,550	6,550	6,750
120	FINANCE	309,685	323,542	323,542	336,216
130	TOWN CLERK	186,322	207,948	207,948	210,007
140	ASSESSOR	149,495	167,580	167,580	180,426
150	TAX COLLECTOR	142,577	164,476	164,476	174,425
160	LEGAL & OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	171,747	161,200	161,200	181,380
170	PROBATE COURT	2,291	2,650	2,650	2,650
180	BUILDING INSPECTION	184,107	189,624	189,624	196,155
190	DATA PROCESSING	153,982	117,072	117,072	134,388
200	SOCIAL SERVICES	47,521	54,911	54,911	56,521
210	TOWN INSURANCE	884,362	811,400	811,400	732,403
220	FLEET MAINTENANCE	272,370	300,583	300,583	311,550
230	PUBLIC WORKS ADMIN	231,760	269,063	269,063	321,979
240	HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT	1,417,815	1,555,232	1,555,232	1,769,692
250	PLANNING AND ZONING	175,118	189,073	189,073	192,316
260	BUILDING MAINTENANCE - TOWN	532,908	743,177	743,177	680,006
270	TREE WARDEN	66,790	62,600	62,600	93,700
290	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	8,943	9,850	12,309	38,538
300	FIRE MARSHAL	65,744	73,111	73,111	83,161
310	BETHEL FIRE DEPARTMENT	111,338	150,250	150,250	163,850
320	STONY HILL FIRE DEPARTMENT	131,203	155,050	155,050	155,450
330	REGISTRARS OF VOTERS	71,593	79,086	79,086	79,886
340	BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS	100,394	121,855	121,855	134,448
350	HEALTH DEPARTMENT	210,461	242,591	242,591	253,457
360	POLICE DEPARTMENT	3,249,328	3,360,891	3,360,891	3,492,978
380	PARKS AND RECREATION	783,200	907,409	907,409	923,202
390	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	3,457,601	4,089,651	4,089,651	4,272,996
400	NON GOVERNMENT AGENCIES	26,069	35,509	35,509	25,052
405	INTRA GOVERNMENT AGENCIES	327,850	492,649	492,649	446,483
410	UTILITIES AND OTHER CHARGES	1,939,216	2,034,053	2,034,053	2,340,078
420	MISC CHARGES AND TRANSFERS	585,867	374,500	372,041	368,574
430	SENIOR CENTER	107,109	125,516	125,516	129,018
435	LIBRARY	729,134	774,616	774,616	804,430
440	DEBT SERVICE	3,886,586	3,974,155	3,974,155	3,956,602
460	BUILDING MAINTENANCE - EDUCATION	447,344	376,945	376,945	350,829
	TOTAL TOWN BUDGET	21,351,858	22,884,826	22,884,826	23,792,329
450	BOARD OF EDUCATION	34,299,264	35,818,146	35,818,146	37,300,417
	TOTAL BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET	34,299,264	35,818,146	35,818,146	37,300,417
	TOTAL BUDGET	55,651,122	58,702,972	58,702,972	61,092,746

**TOWN OF BETHEL
ESTIMATED REVENUES
FISCAL YEAR 2008- 2009**

ACCOUNT	REVENUE SOURCE	RECEIVED 2006-2007	REVENUES 2007-2008	REVISED 2007-2008	ESTIMATED 2008-2009
500	GENERAL TAX REVENUE	44,809,336	47,744,760	47,744,760	49,864,892
550	LICENSES AND PERMITS	389,272	287,800	287,800	287,800
600	INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUES	9,139,621	9,314,320	9,314,320	9,776,460
700	CHARGES FOR SERVICES	802,278	837,658	837,658	747,558
750	USE OF MONEY AND PROPERTY	559,059	338,586	338,586	391,586
850	OTHER REVENUES	38,018	179,848	179,848	24,450
900	FUND BALANCE				
	REVENUE TOTALS	<u>55,737,584</u>	<u>58,702,972</u>	<u>58,702,972</u>	<u>61,092,746</u>