



BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center, 1 School Street
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TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

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

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

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.

Public Comments: Alice Hutchinson, David Glahn, Martin Lawlor, Richard Straiton, and Robert Crnic spoke.

Correspondence – Letter from Plumtrees Schoolhouse & Landmark Preservation Committee requesting that the committee be disbanded as they have completed their charge.

First Selectman Burke made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to add to tonight's agenda, under New Business # 3 - Consideration of request to disband the Plumtrees Schoolhouse & Landmark Preservation Committee.

Letter from the Democratic Town Committee requesting that Eileen Freebairn (D) be appointed to the vacancy on the Library Board of Directors created by the resignation of Robert Crnic (U).

Selectman Cleary made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to add to tonight's agenda, under New Business # 4 – Consideration of appointment – Library

Board of Directors. Voting in favor of the motion: Selectman Cleary and Selectman Szatkowski. Voting against the motion: First Selectman Burke. Motion carried.

First Selectman Burke made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to add to tonight's agenda, under New Business Item # 5 - Consideration of request – use of Clarke Park Roadways. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Minutes of October 16, 2009 Special Meeting: Selectman Szatkowski made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Cleary, to approve the minutes as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Minutes of October 20, 2009 Regular Meeting: Selectman Szatkowski made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Cleary, to approve the minutes as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Minutes of October 22, 2009 Special Meeting: Selectman Szatkowski made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Cleary, to approve the minutes as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Minutes of October 29, 2009 Special Meeting: Selectman Szatkowski made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Cleary, to approve the minutes as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

First Selectman Report – First Selectman Burke noted that the town held a bond sale today and received very favorable rates. The High School Project and the balance of the Stony Hill Sewer Project were bonded at 3.76% which equates to a substantial savings. He noted that the Town of Bethel owes a debt of thanks to Comptroller Barry Curina for all his hard work on the bond sale; we received an upgrade in our bond rating to AA+ from Standard & Poor's.

New Business

1.) Consideration of Tax Collector's request for Tax Refund authorization.

First Selectman Burke made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Cleary, to approve the Tax Collector's request, dated November 17, 2009 to authorize Tax Refunds in the amount of \$5,255.57. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

2.) Consideration of Transfer Station Proposal

Discussion took place regarding the Transfer Station proposal from Bethel Processing & Recycling LLC (BPR). In April, the Board of Selectmen approved the advertisement of

Request for Proposals (prepared by Pullman & Comley) for the Bethel Transfer Station. Two proposals were submitted in May, copies of which are to be provided to Selectman Szatkowski and Selectman Cleary.

Town Engineer Andrew Morosky noted that the transfer station operates on a deficit of approximately \$75-100,000 annually and currently owes the Town approximately \$500,000. It was noted that the transfer station's proximity to a proposed railroad siding would be an advantage in terms of moving material out of Town by rail rather than on the roads. Pullman & Comley reviewed the two proposals and had indicated in a June 24, 2009 memorandum that both proposals appeared to be complete and that BPR appears to have the better proposal. First Selectman Burke noted that the Town of Bethel is in a unique position in that we currently hold a license to operate a transfer station and we have the opportunity for the transfer station to resolve its deficit and believes that the proposal should be brought to Special Town Meeting for the people to decide.

Selectman Szatkowski and Selectman Cleary expressed concern that a matter of this importance was being considered at the "eleventh hour" of the current administration.

First Selectman Burke made a motion, which was not seconded, to table discussion of the transfer station proposals.

3.) Consideration of request – Plumtrees Schoolhouse & Landmark Preservation Committee:

First Selectman Burke made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to disband the Plumtrees Schoolhouse & Landmark Preservation Committee. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

4.) Consideration of appointment – Library Board of Directors

Selectman Cleary made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to appoint Eileen Freebairn (D) to the Library Board of Directors to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Robert Crnic (U). Voting in favor of the motion: Selectman Cleary and Selectman Szatkowski. Voting against the motion: First Selectman Burke. Motion carried. This term expires January 2, 2012. First Selectman Burke expressed concern that this vacancy was an unaffiliated position and an unaffiliated voter should have the opportunity to fill it.

5.) Consideration of request – Clarke Park Roadways

First Selectman Burke made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to approve the request of Carpe Diem to hold their Spring Racing Series on March 7, 14, 21,

28, April 11 and April 18th in the Francis J. Clarke Industrial Park subject to receipt of the appropriate insurance certificate and notification to park occupants and police department. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

As there was no further business on tonight's agenda, First Selectman Burke made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 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