



# 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*

**RECEIVED**

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TOWN OF BETHEL  
TOWN CLERK

## MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

Tuesday, February 24, 2009

7:00 p.m.

CJH Municipal Center – Meeting Room “A”

**PRESENT:** First Selectman Burke, Selectman Szatkowski and Selectman Cleary.  
Also in attendance was the Board of Finance.

First Selectman Burke called the Special Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### **FY 2009-2010 Department Budget Presentations**

Finance Board Chairman J. Philip Gallagher explained the legislative process which essentially is: Departmental budget presentations, Board of Selectmen review and recommendation of a budget proposal to the Board of Finance, Board of Finance review and adoption of a proposed budget to send to the Public Hearing (to be held sometime in late March), Public Hearing which is the public's opportunity to comment on the budget, after the Public Hearing, the Board of Finance may meet again to revise the budget, the Annual Town Meeting (May 4, 2009) provides the public another opportunity to speak on the budget and sets the date of the referendum.

Finance Board member James Roden spoke to the serious nature of the economy and forewarned that any questions asked tonight by the Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen to the Board of Education does not mean that they are against education, but that in order to formulate a budget that is acceptable to the voters, they need clarification on the funding request.

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

FY 2008-2009	Budget	\$36,567,417
FY 2009-2010	Request	\$37,181,750

William Kingston, Chairman and Lawrence Craybas, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Education along with Theresa Yonsky, Director of Fiscal Services presented the Board of Education budget request for FY 2009-2010. Mr. Kingston explained that after careful review of the Superintendent's proposed budget, the Board of Education pared the budget down even further and offered that this was the budget they would like presented to the voters.

He noted that the cost to put forth the same budget as the current year – a true status quo budget would result in a 4.14% increase. The Board of Education is proposing a budget which results in a 1.68% increase but that a number of items were cut or reduced. This includes payroll and non-payroll reductions.

In order to achieve this reduction, they made payroll related reductions amounting to \$688,951 which includes the elimination of various teaching positions, paraprofessionals, non-union give-back and furlough days, retirement incentive packages, etc. Non-payroll reductions include the renegotiated bus contract, reductions to materials/supplies, and health benefit savings relating to staff reductions.

Discussion took place regarding per pupil expenditure of which Bethel is ranked high; Bethel is ranked considerably lower in per capita income. Mrs. Yonksy explained the relationship between that the Educational Cost Sharing (ECS) of which Bethel receives over \$8,000,000 and others municipalities receive considerably lower.

Selectman Cleary pointed out that even if there was a zero increase to the budgets, there will still be a tax increase because of the decrease in revenues both on the state and local level.

First Selectman Burke reiterated the seriousness of the economy and advised that in order to bring in additional tax revenue, the town has no choice but to hold Tax Sales this spring. He advised that they are looking to the Board of Education for help; the town departments are at zero or below zero. Mr. Kingston advised that the Board of Education is very mindful of the economic climate but they have a responsibility to put forth an education budget that does not dismantle the quality education that Bethel provides.

Questions were posed regarding the practice of payment in lieu of receiving medical benefits. It was explained that the Superintendent receives a payment of \$18,462 as part of his contract when hired as well as an annuity payment of \$19,826. Board of Finance members asked for a detailed analysis of the contingency line item.

460	Board of Education – Building Maintenance		
	FY 2008-2009	Budget	\$350,828.60
	FY 2009-2010	Request	\$347,323.23

Town Engineer Andrew Morosky along with Mr. Kingston, Mr. Craybas and Mr. Duff, presented the FY 2009-2010 request. It was explained that this account is primarily split into Management of Blanket Purchase Orders (plumbing, paint, parts, light bulbs, etc. proposed \$49,000, Outside Contractor Funding (emergency repairs, HVAC, etc. proposed at \$34,000, Building Services (contracts for alarms, elevators, etc.) proposed at \$188,097 and Capital Repairs/Projects (various to each school) proposed at \$76,226.23.

Discussion took place regarding the work order system "School Dude"; Town Engineer Andrew Morosky explained that the Public Works department is more involved this year and while still working out the "kinks" of the system, the work order system is much more consolidated.

Discussion took place regarding the state rescind of the security grant for the High School.

Discussion took place regarding the boilers at Johnson School; while no funding has been requested in FY 2009-2010 the boilers are old and eventually will need to be replaced along with window replacement at various schools.

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 9:25 p.m. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Wendy Smith, Recording Secretary