



BOARD OF FINANCE

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

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

Thursday, April 16, 2009

7:00 p.m.

CJH Municipal Center – Meeting Room “A”

PRESENT: J. Philip Gallagher, Chairman, William Britt, Kevin Riley, William Slifkin, James Roden, Gary Regan and John Dietter.

J. Philip Gallagher called the Special Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1.) Consideration of Tax Collector's request for Suspense Authorization

Tax Collector Ann Scacco was present at tonight's meeting requesting Suspense Authorization. She explained that putting items into suspense does not mean that they are uncollectable. She noted that by transferring these accounts to suspense, it will remove them from consideration as assets to the town, but will remain a liability of the person against whom it was levied. She works with a collection agency who continues to pursue the amounts owed. The majority of the accounts have either moved with no forwarding address, live out of state, filed bankruptcy or have closed their businesses. All eligible accounts will be placed in collection.

William Slifkin made a motion, which was seconded by Kevin Riley, to approve the Tax Collector's suspense list, dated April 13, 2009 in the amount of \$102,412.27. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

2.) Consideration of FY 2009-2010 Town and Education Budgets

J. Philip Gallagher provided a summary of the budget process thus far. J. Philip Gallagher explained that the Board of Education reported at their April meeting that they had bid their health insurance and the bidding resulted in savings of approximately \$541,000.

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TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

William Slifkin made a motion, which was seconded by James Roden, to table establishing a final budget for presentation to the town meeting until such time that the issue with the Ethics Commission and Finance Board member Kevin Riley is resolved.

First Selectman Burke was present and noted that he has received a letter of disclosure from Kevin Riley, to be presented to the Board of Selectmen at their meeting next week.

Voting in favor of the motion: James Roden, William Slifkin and John Dietter. Voting against the motion: J. Philip Gallagher, William Britt, Kevin Riley and Gary Regan. Motion fails.

J. Philip Gallagher made a motion, which was seconded by William Britt, to fund Account 450 – Board of Education at \$36,567,417. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved. This provides funding the Board of Education at the current level. William Slifkin made a motion, which was seconded by William Britt, to go into Executive Session at 7:30 p.m. for the purpose of discussion of salaries for elected officials. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Executive session ended at 7:43 p.m.

J. Philip Gallagher made a motion, which was seconded by John Dietter, to increase Account 100-101 First Selectman salary by \$965 and Account 130-101 Town Clerk Salary by \$685. Both increases would be effective January 1, 2010. Voting in favor of the motion: J. Philip Gallagher, William Britt, Kevin Riley, William Slifkin, Gary Regan and John Dietter. Voting against the motion: James Roden. Motion passed.

J. Philip Gallagher made a motion, which was seconded by William Britt, to recommend a town budget for FY 2009-2010 in the amount of \$23,403,970. Voting in favor of the motion: J. Philip Gallagher, William Britt, Kevin Riley, James Roden, Gary Regan and John Dietter. Voting against the motion: William Slifkin. Motion passed.

J. Philip Gallagher made a motion, which was seconded by John Dietter, to recommend a total town and education budget for FY 2009-2010 in the amount of \$59,971,387. Voting in favor of the motion: J. Philip Gallagher, William Britt, Kevin Riley, James Roden, Gary Regan and John Dietter. Voting against the motion: William Slifkin. Motion passed. The Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 4, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. in the Bethel High School Auditorium.

As there was no further business on tonight's agenda, William Britt made a motion, which was seconded by J. Philip Gallagher, to adjourn the Special Meeting at 7:45 p.m. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wendy Smith". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Wendy Smith, Recording Secretary