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MAY 06 2009

TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

**TOWN OF BETHEL
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 4, 2009
BETHEL HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
7:30 P.M.**

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

CALL TO ORDER: First Selectman, Robert Burke called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM.

Town Clerk, Lisa Bergh read the call (see attached). Geraldine Mills made a motion to accept the call; motion was seconded by Billy Michael. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Nick Ellis made a motion to nominate Bob Legnard as Moderator; motion was seconded by Bill Hillman. Billy Michael made a motion to nominate J. Philip Gallagher. J. Philip Gallagher respectfully declined due to his role as Board of Finance Chairman. Motion made to close nominations made by Nick Ellis, motion seconded by Billy Michael. Vote, all in favor, nominations closed, Bob Legnard elected Moderator.

Town Counsel reads Resolution #1 (see attached). Motion to accept Resolution #1 made by Geraldine Mills, motion seconded by Nick Ellis.

DISCUSSION:

Billy Michael- Stated that this is the first time he has seen that a tax increase will result in a loss of revenue. When asked by Mr. Michael, the Town Comptroller Barry Curina stated that we are currently \$500,000 - \$700,000 in total shortfall. Mr. Michael made a motion to remove \$800,000 from the bottom line of the entire budget.

POINT OF ORDER: Geraldine Mills requested the Moderator to silence those yelling out without benefit of standing at the microphone.

POINT OF ORDER: Bill Hillman stated the motion can only be made in relation to the resolution under discussion namely, the town side of the budget.

Mr. Michael modified his motion to remove \$288,000.00 from the town side of the budget; motion was seconded by Will Michael. Alice Hutchinson called the question, motion seconded by Steve Brill. Vote on moving the question and removing \$288,000.00 from the Town Side of the budget. Motion fails.

Robert Burke made a motion to remove \$965.00 from the First Selectman's salary, Account# 100. Motion seconded by Dan Gaita.

DISCUSSION:

J. Philip Gallagher- wants it known that Mr. Burke has been in office for 4 years and has gone for four years without a raise. The First Selectman's salary is exceeded by many others in town. This is for the position and would not take effect until January. At which time he may or may not be in office.

Alice Hutchinson- Can appreciate the Board of Finance making this suggestion; however this motion to increase the salaries was made after the Public Hearing which was not appropriate. Stated she feels this was done for political reasons. Feels it should have been done where more public input could be had.

David Glahn- Praises Mr. Burke for doing a good job, stating he should take the raise, because he deserves it.

Billy Michael- Supports the motion, Mr. Burke leads by example. Feels he is doing a wonderful job.

Vote taken to move the question and reduce Account#100 by \$965.00, motion fails.

Lisa Bergh- Made a statement that she had no prior knowledge of the proposed increase to the Town Clerk's salary, and due to the state of the economy, she feels it is inappropriate for a raise to be granted. Lisa made a motion to reduce Account # 130-101 Town Clerk's salary by the proposed increase of \$685.00. Kevin Cleary seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION:

J. Philip Gallagher stated that the same applies for the Town Clerk as the First Selectman. The raise is for the position.

Vote taken on the motion, Motion fails.

Christopher Trodahl- Supports the budget. He questioned the planned collection rate for 2008/2009, and 2009/2010. Answered by Barry Curina the planned collection rate for this fiscal year was 98.5%. At this time the actual estimated collection rate is 97.7% down

approximately 1.3% over last year. The planned collection rate for 2009/2010 is 98%.

Mr. Trodahl asked if any town funds had been used for the construction of the Parks and Rec building, and the High School and if any money from the town budget would be used for further construction in 2009/2010. The answer to his question was no, only money appropriated and voted on was used.

Dan Gaita- In regards to the Board of Finance making the motion to increase the elected official's salaries he does not recall it being on the agenda. J. Philip Gallagher stated that discussion of the proposed 2009/2010 budget was on the agenda and that encompasses all discussion in relation to the budget.

Motion to move the question was made by Nick Ellis motion seconded by Paul Improta. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Vote on the resolution to accept the amount of \$23,403,970.00 as the Annual Town Operating Budget for 2009/2010. Vote, Motion passes.

Town Counsel reads Resolution #2 (see attached).

Motion to accept made by Geraldine Mills, motion seconded by Nick Ellis.

DISCUSSION:

Bill Hillman- Requested clarification over the statute that may allow Bethel Schools to be penalized for operating on a budget that was less than the previous year. Terri Yonsky stated that there is a lot of history in regards to minimum budget expenditures. There is a requirement that you spend the same as you spent last year; however it doesn't address if your budget remains the same. Exact legislation remains to be seen. Discussion regarding the actual cost per homeowner should this budget pass would amount to approximately 2/10's of a mill or \$50.00 per year for a typical homeowner. In conversations with Board of Education members Mr. Hillman learned of the devastating effect a cut of \$400,000.00 would be. In anticipation of the next speaker making this motion, Mr. Hillman wanted the audience to know that programs might be cut. One area could be the music program. He expressed strong support for this budget.

Billy Michael- Makes a motion to reduce the Board of Education Budget by \$512,000.00. The motion was seconded by Will Michael.

DISCUSSION:

Billy Michael- Stated that the Board of Education is always portrayed as being in crisis. Taxpayers in this town are heroic. Although we support education we need concessions. The money is just not there.

Dan Gaita- Does support the education budget as it is. Relayed information given to him by Sen. Toni Boucher in regards to being penalized by not funding the education budget. According to Mr. Gaita, Sen Boucher stated that a town will only be penalized if they do not use the ECS funding.

Larry Craybas- Claims that the attorney from the State Education department disavowed the statement made by the previous speaker. Larry said what is confusing the issue is the money coming from the Federal Government there is a lot of gray area and it is still being discussed in the legislature.

Cynthia McCorkingdale- Until recently she had not been paying attention to the budget process. Having been a resident for 20 years and a homeowner for 16 years here in Bethel she now feels there are many areas cuts can be made. She supports Billy Michael's motion to reduce the Education budget. She would like to see a zero increase to the mill rate.

Fred Denigris- Publicly wants to thank the Non-Union employees that gave back \$50,000. He acknowledged the work on Teri Yonsky's and Gary Chesley's part in saving \$541,000 in Health Care costs. He supports the budget as presented.

J. Philip Gallagher- Wants to acknowledge the classified employees on the Town side that have taken a pay freeze.

Kim Lemone- Made a motion to move the question; motion was seconded by Bill Hillman. Vote on moving the question and accepting \$36,567,417.00 as the Annual Education Budget for 2009/2010. Motion passes.

Town Counsel reads Resolution #3 (see attached). Geraldine Mills made a motion to accept Resolution #3. Trisha Dee seconded the motion. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Town Counsel reads Resolution #4 (see attached). Kitty Grant made a motion to accept Resolution #4, Paul Improta seconded the motion. Phil Gallagher made a motion to amend the Resolution to collect in one installment. Motion seconded by Wendy Smith. Vote to amend and accept the Resolution as amended. Motion passes.

Town Counsel reads Resolution #5 (see attached). Robert Burke made the motion to accept Resolution #5, Motion seconded by Geraldine

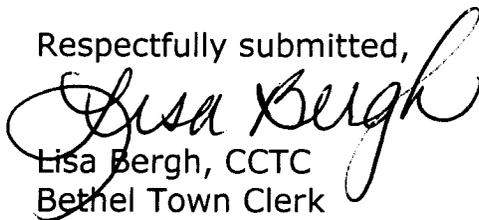
Mills. Vote taken, Motion passes. Budget Referendum to be held Thursday, May 14th, 2009.

Town Counsel reads Resolution #6 (see attached). Robert Burke made the motion to accept Resolution #6, motion seconded by Geraldine Mills. Vote, all in favor, Motion unanimously approved.

Wendy Smith made a motion to adjourn to a machine vote on May 14, 2009. Motion seconded by Geraldine Mills. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Meeting recessed at 8:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Bergh". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "L".

Lisa Bergh, CCTC
Bethel Town Clerk

TOWN OF BETHEL, CONNECTICUT
NOTICE OF ANNUAL TOWN BUDGET MEETING

RECEIVED

MAY 04 2009

TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK



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 High School Auditorium, Whittlesey Drive in Bethel, Connecticut on Monday, May 4, 2009 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 Four Hundred Three Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy (\$23,403,970) Dollars, of which the sum of Three Million Sixty Three Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Two (\$3,063,582) 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, 2009.
- 2) To consider and take action upon a resolution in the amount of Thirty Six Million Five Hundred Sixty Seven Thousand Four Hundred Seventeen (\$36,567,417) Dollars, as recommended by the Board of Finance, as the Annual Board of Education Budget for the Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2009.
- 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, 2009, 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 21st day of April 2009.

Board of Selectmen

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

TOWN OF BETHEL, CONNECTICUT

RESOLUTIONS, MAY 4, 2009

- 1) RESOLVED, that the legal voters of the Town of Bethel and those persons entitled to vote therein appropriate the sum of Twenty Three Million Four Hundred Three Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy (\$23,403,970.00) Dollars, of which the sum of Three Million Sixty Three Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Two (\$3,063,582) Dollars will be used for operation, maintenance and other expenditures relating to education, as recommended by the Board of Finance, as the Annual Town Operating Budget for the Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2009.
- 2) RESOLVED, that the legal voters of the Town of Bethel and those persons entitled to vote therein appropriate the sum of Thirty Six Million Five Hundred Sixty Seven Thousand Four Hundred Seventeen (\$36,567,417.00) Dollars recommended by the Board of Finance, as the Annual Board Of Education Budget for the Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2009.
- 3) RESOLVED, that the First Selectman and the Treasurer of the Town of Bethel are authorized to borrow on short term notes or loans "tax anticipation notes" an amount not to exceed the aggregate of Six Million (\$6,000,000.00) Dollars for the purposes of paying current expenditures of the Town of Bethel for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2009 which tax anticipation notes are to be repaid from anticipated tax revenues.
- 4) RESOLVED, that the legal voters of the Town of Bethel and those persons entitled to vote therein authorize that the tax on motor vehicles and personal property be collected in one or more than one installment.
- 5) RESOLVED, that the legal voters of the Town of Bethel and those persons entitled to vote therein establish the date of _____ as 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 and the Connecticut General Statutes.
- 6) RESOLVED, that the legal voters of the Town of Bethel and those persons entitled to vote therein authorize any and all things which may be legally necessary or appropriate to accomplish the above named purposes.

BETHEL EDUCATION BUDGET PROPOSAL 2009-10

Description	FTE	Budget 08-09	FTE	Budget 09-10	Change	% Change
Teachers	268.36	17,474,517	262.28	17,670,843	196,327	1.12%
Administrators	16.00	1,988,189	15.45	1,976,939	-11,250	-0.57%
Retirements/Add'l Degrees	0.00	446,603	0.00	363,512	-83,091	-18.61%
Tutors/Summer School	3.50	350,349	3.50	303,954	-46,395	-13.24%
Secretaries	24.65	932,289	24.65	1,001,520	69,232	7.43%
Lunch Monitors	2.17	20,880	2.17	21,488	608	2.91%
Paras/Summer School	43.00	925,891	40.00	921,172	-4,719	-0.51%
Nurses	7.00	326,090	7.00	337,351	11,261	3.45%
Custodians	23.00	1,007,564	23.00	1,049,977	42,413	4.21%
Others - System Wide	15.33	880,855	13.83	743,316	-137,540	-15.61%
Substitutes/Interns	0.00	373,118	0.00	381,460	8,342	2.24%
Coaches/Advisors	0.00	354,184	0.00	369,825	15,641	4.42%
SALARIES	403.01	25,080,528	391.88	25,141,358	60,829	0.24%
Health Benefits		5,105,904		5,105,904	0	0.00%
Social Security/Medicare		700,596		721,613	21,018	3.00%
Life/LTD/Unemp/Other		227,696		277,734	50,038	21.98%
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS		6,034,195		6,105,251	71,056	1.18%
Purch. Serv. -Fiscal, SW & HS		16,250		42,250	26,000	160.00%
Purch. Serv. - Special Ed		155,300		88,850	-66,450	-42.79%
Adult Ed - Danbury		45,106		46,008	902	2.00%
Curriculum Consulting		67,600		67,600	0	0.00%
Professional Development/Conferences		33,700		31,400	-2,300	-6.82%
Prof. Technical Services		218,630		219,297	667	0.31%
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES		536,586		495,405	-41,181	-7.67%
Repair and Maintenance System Wide		124,420		116,365	-8,055	-6.47%
Leases - System Wide		34,700		27,000	-7,700	-22.19%
Leases - Technology		230,000		230,000	0	0.00%
Leases - Copiers		170,520		160,520	-10,000	-5.86%
PROPERTY SERVICES		559,640		533,885	-25,755	-4.60%
District Transportation		1,898,508		1,928,417	29,909	1.58%
St. Mary's Transportation		113,683		113,683	0	0.00%
Communications		130,000		130,000	0	0.00%
Printing/Postage/Advertising/Insurance		132,600		127,525	-5,075	-3.83%
Reg Ed Tuition		74,936		64,444	-10,492	-14.00%
Special Ed Tuition		770,227		761,184	-9,043	-1.17%
Prof. Development/Travel		32,460		33,402	942	2.90%
PURCHASED SERVICES		3,152,414		3,158,655	6,241	0.20%
Instructional Supplies & Textbooks		633,831		599,135	-34,696	-5.47%
Diesel Fuel (Buses)		209,000		137,300	-71,700	-34.31%
Library Books/Reference Materials		56,529		52,625	-3,904	-6.91%
Custodian Supplies		82,000		82,000	0	0.00%
Other Supplies Incl Health/Sports/Clubs		108,922		173,075	64,153	58.90%
SUPPLIES		1,090,282		1,044,135	-46,147	-4.23%
EQUIPMENT & FURNITURE		38,000		38,900	900	2.37%
DUES		75,771		49,828	-25,943	-34.24%
Reduction To Be Identified		0			0	
TOTAL		36,567,417		36,567,417	0	0.00%

Superintendent's Proposal to Take the 2009-10 Budget to a Zero Increase

	FTE Headcount	Amount in \$ Dollars	Percentage Change
2008-09 Approved Budget	403.01	36,567,417	
2009-10 Proposed Budget	391.88	36,567,417	
Increase in Budget 2008-09 to 2009-10	(11.13)	0	0.00%
Cost to Carry Forward 08-09 Programs & Staff into 09-10		1,515,724	4.14%
Proposed Cuts to Budget - Payroll		-682,047	-1.87%
Proposed Cuts to Budget - Non-Payroll		-833,677	-2.27%
Total Budget Increase 2008-09 to 2009-10		0	0.00%
Proposed Cuts to Budget - Payroll			
Cut Administrator - Supr. Reading & Language Arts	(0.55)	-67,037	
Administrators (Principals, etc.) Salary Give-Back	-	-27,000	
Administrator (Superintendent, etc.) Salary Give-Back	-	-11,600	
Non-Union Central Office & SW Staff Give-Back	-	-11,188	
Cut Certified Teacher - BHS Art	(1.00)	-54,343	
Cut Number of BHS Classes Offered (Teachers)	(0.51)	-28,402	
Cut Security Guard - BHS	(0.67)	-22,000	
Cut Certified Teacher - BMS Health	(1.00)	-45,241	
Cut Certified Teacher - BMS Reading Specialist 1.0 to .5	(0.50)	-30,350	
Cut Certified Teacher - BMS Math	(1.00)	-55,141	
Cut Certified Teacher - Special Education	(1.00)	-72,513	
Cut Paraprofessionals - Special Education	(3.00)	-54,624	
Cut Licensed Physical Therapist - Special Education	(0.50)	-33,207	
Separation Incentive Savings - (8 Retirees, etc.)		-169,401	
Includes Cut BMS School Psychologist	(1.00)		
Includes Cut .4 Speech & Language Therapist	(0.40)		
	(11.13)	-682,047	-1.87%
Proposed Cuts to Budget - Non-Payroll			
Health Benefits Related to Staff Reductions		-68,808	
Health Insurance Bid Savings		-541,782	
School Bus Contract Renegotiated For No Increase		-62,157	
Excess Cost SPED funding based on Governor's flat-funding		-65,000	
Reduction of Instructional Materials/Supplies All Schools		-16,475	
To Be Determined		-79,455	
		-833,677	-2.27%



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*

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Bethel High School

May 4, 2009

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

CALL TO ORDER: First Selectman, Robert E. Burke called the special meeting to order at 8:55 PM.

Robert Burke made a motion to establish the hours for voting on May 14, 2009 as 6:00 AM- 8:00 PM, motion seconded by Selectman Szatkowski.

Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Kevin Cleary made a motion to adjourn, motion seconded by Paul Szatkowski. Vote, all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Lisa Bergh,
Recording Secretary

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**TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK**