



# BOARD OF FINANCE

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

## MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, July 13, 2010

7:00 p.m.

CJH Municipal Center – Meeting Room “A”

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TOWN OF BETHEL  
TOWN CLERK

**PRESENT:** J. Philip Gallagher, Chairman, William Kingston, William Slifkin, James Roden, Timothy Draper and Gary Regan. Also in attendance were First Selectman Knickerbocker and Interim Comptroller Robert Kozlowski.

**Call to order/Pledge of Allegiance:** J. Philip Gallagher called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in Meeting Room “B”.

**Public Comments:** Lawrence Craybas (Special Education funding) and Fred Ingram (All Terrain Response Vehicle request).

**Correspondence:** None

**Minutes of May 11, 2010 Regular Meeting:** William Kingston made a motion, which was seconded by Gary Regan, to approve the minutes as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

**Minutes of May 25, 2010 Special Meeting:** Gary Regan made a motion, which was seconded by William Kingston, to approve the minutes with the following amendments on Page 1 – Consideration of recommendation from the Board of Selectmen – Old Hawleyville Road should read that J. Philip Gallagher noted that the funding for this could be worked into the current budget allocation. And, Page 3, that William Slifkin voted against the motion to table the requests for lighting and bond anticipation project. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

**Minutes of June 1, 2010 Special Meeting:** James Roden made a motion, which was seconded by Gary Regan, to approve the minutes with the following amendments...that

the vote for the Johnson School boilers was unanimous and that James Roden voted against the track lighting. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

**Chairman's Report:** J. Philip Gallagher noted that he had spoken with Robert Kozlowski, Interim Comptroller regarding the transfer station fees and its deficit. James Roden offered that the town should privatize functions like the transfer station and water department. Mr. Gallagher also noted that the Library Board of Directors minutes reflect that rather than turn back the money which was not expended in their account to the town, they voted to spend it. He also speculated on the results on the Library's financial support of the film festival.

**Interim Comptroller Report:** Robert Kozlowski reported on that they are still working on closing out of June 30<sup>th</sup>, but they anticipate ending the year in the positive. The capital non-recurring account has \$262,000 (\$140,000 was recently used for a portion of the cost of the Johnson School boiler along with \$75,000 from the fund balance).

## Old Business

### 1.) Consideration of remaining capital items from short term bond issue

Discussion took place regarding the items still left to be funded and the method of funding. There is \$262,000 left in the capital non recurring account and the advantage of the very low short term bond rates (less than 1%). Some members felt the capital non recurring account should be used, and some felt that it was better to save the cash and take advantage of the low interest rates.

The items left to be funded are:

Replace old shingle roofing and install new gutters at the Municipal Center	\$ 71,000
Paint all trim on exterior of Municipal Center	\$ 15,000
Replace shingle roof and some decking & repairs at the YMCA Building	\$ 50,000
Repoint brick exterior of bldg, remove upper part of west chimney YMCA Bldg.	\$ 55,000
Replace garage for animal drop off at the Animal Shelter	\$ 20,000
Paint building and metal roof/replace lights at the Animal Shelter	\$ 15,000
Repairs to Salt Storage Building at the Public Works Garage	\$ 32,200
Tennis Court replacement	\$ 34,000
Concrete Ramp for Entrance to MC Gym (Replace Metal Stairs)	\$ 28,000

*(Previously recommended and funded – replace boilers and appurtenances at Johnson School \$215,000)*

Several Board of Finance expressed concern over the cost of repairs to the YMCA building, noting that the income derived versus this expense were not cost effective. It was noted that these items have been identified as needed for several years but have not been funded. James Roden offered that the town should not be running a business or be landlords; he thinks the building should be sold. First Selectman Knickerbocker noted that the repairs needed for the building are critical and, especially if (at some future point), the Board of Selectmen does recommend selling the building, that it could be years before the building might be sold; the repairs are not going away and will only worsen in time. There is a question regarding the validity of the lease and First Selectman Knickerbocker noted that while the lease will be renegotiated, the YMCA has stated, in its present state of disrepair, they are not interested in purchasing the building.

J. Philip Gallagher made a motion, which was seconded by William Kingston, to fund \$200,000 from the capital non-recurring account and have the Board of Selectmen prioritize the items. Voting in favor of the motion: J. Philip Gallagher, William Kingston, and Gary Regan. Voting against the motion: James Roden, William Slifkin and Timothy Draper. Motion fails.

James Roden made a motion, which was seconded by William Slifkin, to fund \$114,000 (Replace old shingle roofing and install new gutters at the Municipal Center \$ 71,000, Paint all trim on exterior of Municipal Center \$ 15,000, Concrete Ramp for Entrance to MC Gym (Replace Metal Stairs) \$ 28,000) from the capital non recurring account. Voting in favor of the motion: J. Philip Gallagher, William Slifkin, James Roden, William Kingston, and Gary Regan. Voting against the motion: Timothy Draper. Motion passed.

William Kingston made a motion, which was seconded by J. Philip Gallagher, to fund \$105,000 (YMCA repairs). Voting in favor of the motion: J. Philip Gallagher, William Kingston and Gary Regan. Voting against the motion: William Slifkin, James Roden and Timothy Draper. Motion fails.

## **New Business**

### **1.) Discussion of town pension plans**

William Kingston made a motion, which was seconded by J. Philip Gallagher, to table this item until the September meeting. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

**2.) Discussion of hiring process for Comptroller position**

It was agreed to hold a Special Meeting on Monday, July 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. to review the resumes/applications for the Comptroller position.

As there was no further business on tonight's agenda, William Slifkin made a motion, which was seconded by Gary Regan, to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 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