



**TOWN OF BETHEL
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 3, 2010
BETHEL HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
7:30 P.M.**

PRESENT: First Selectman, Matthew S. Knickerbocker, Selectman, Richard C. Straiton, Selectman, Paul R. Szatkowski, Town Counsel, Martin J. Lawlor, Jr., Board of Finance Chairman, J. Philip Gallagher, Town Clerk, Lisa Bergh, Board of Education Chairman, Larry Craybas, Board of Education Fiscal Services Director Teri Yonsky.

CALL TO ORDER: First Selectman Knickerbocker called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

First Selectman Knickerbocker asked for a moment of silence to remember High School Senior James Thomsen.

He introduced the officials seated on the stage.

Town Clerk, Lisa Bergh read the call (see attached). Robert Legnard made a motion to accept the call; motion was seconded by Wendy Smith. Vote, the motion was approved.

Robert Legnard made a motion to nominate Sharon Straiton as Moderator; motion was seconded by Dave Olson. Billy Michael made a motion to nominate J. Philip Gallagher; motion was seconded by Rosalie Donofrio. Motion made to close nominations made by Nick Ellis, motion seconded by Billy Michael. Vote, nominations closed. Sharon Straiton elected moderator by vote.

Town Counsel Lawlor reads Resolution #1 (see attached). Town Counsel makes a motion to remove Resolution #3 due to a technical error. Motion seconded by M. Knickerbocker.

DISCUSSION:

Board of Finance Chairman Gallagher noted that the amount in the resolution was not the amount previously approved by the Board of Finance. Therefore it could not be voted on.

2010 MAY -5 A 9:56

TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

First Selectman Knickerbocker accepted responsibility for the discrepancy and stated that the issue would be addressed by the Board of Selectmen. He noted that long term capital items had no bearing on either the town or the school budget, this was a separate item added to the agenda.

Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Discussion on Resolution #1

Billy Michael- Asked how much of an increase in spending over the previous year is this year's proposed town budget. Chairman Gallagher stated that the increase is 1.3 million.

Mr. Michael made a motion to remove \$500,000.00 from the town side of the budget stating that economics as the reason to remove from the bottom line. Motion was seconded by Will Duff.

Alice Hutchinson Speaks to Mr. Michael's motion stating that it is shortsighted to consider taking this amount out of the budget. Services will be sacrificed. The roads in the Stony Hill section of town are horrible. This is a tight and frugal budget she opposes taking the \$500,000.00 out.

Cynthia McCorkindale Had several questions that included pension funding, water rates, police vehicles, and lastly who was responsible for the mass mailing that was titled Taxpayer Alert. She was informed that the mailing originated with the Board of Education.

Robert Legnard Is opposed to removing \$500,000.00 from the Town Budget, it will impact services.

John Gillen Expressed his displeasure over the mailing of the flyer. The printing and mailing cost money. He is in favor of removing at least \$500,000.00 from the budget.

Bill Hillman Inquired as to how little the mill rate would go down with the removal of \$500,000.00. He is not in favor of the motion.

Will Michael Wants to know the total number of classified town employees. J. Philip Gallagher responded that there are 123 fulltime employees, 19 are classified employees, none were terminated last year, but the classified employees took the biggest hit last year with a pay freeze. Will wants a pay freeze, and wants town officials to manage the union contracts.

Frank Hislop Feels as if we are putting the cart before the horse by funding the pensions, if the market comes back in the upcoming year we will have wasted money.

Nick Ellis made a motion to move the question, motion seconded by Robert Legnard. Vote taken on the motion to reduce the town budget by \$500,000.00. Motion fails.

Town Counsel Lawlor reads Resolution #2 (see attached), seconded by Dave Olson.

DISCUSSION:

Billy Michael Mr. Michael made a motion to reduce the Board of Education budget by \$70,000.00 by paper ballot.

Motion seconded by Will Duff.

Discussion took place on the legitimacy of the motion, Town Counsel Lawlor noted that he does have the right to ask for paper ballot, however he could be asked to change his motion.

Mr. Michael exercised his right to keep his motion as stated.

Discussion:

Robert Legnard Is against the motion to reduce the school budget by \$70,000.00

Will Michael Is supporting the motion to reduce the Board of Education budget by \$70,000.00

Bill Hillman made a motion to amend the motion on the floor from a paper ballot vote to a voice vote. Motion seconded by Pat Deuschle. Vote taken motion passes.

Vote taken on reducing the budget by \$70,000.00. Motion fails.

Vote taken on accepting the Board of Education budget as presented, motion passes.

Town Counsel Lawlor reads Resolution #4 (see attached). Seconded by Robert Legnard.

Robert Legnard makes a motion to move the question, seconded by Nick Ellis. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

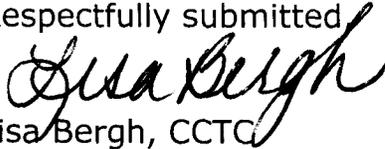
Town Counsel Lawlor reads Resolution #5 (see attached). Seconded by Robert Legnard. Bill Hillman made a motion to move the question, seconded by Nick Ellis. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Town Counsel reads Resolution #6 (see attached). Seconded by Alice Hutchinson. The date of the Budget Referendum will be Thursday, May 13, 2010. Nick Ellis asked why not a Tuesday, it was explained that due to the optical scan voting machines more time is required for the ordering of the ballots and the testing of the machines. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Wendy Smith to recess the meeting to May 13, 2010 machine vote, seconded by Robert Legnard. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Annual Town Meeting recessed at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Bergh". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lisa Bergh, CCTC
Bethel Town Clerk

TOWN OF BETHEL, CONNECTICUT
NOTICE OF ANNUAL TOWN BUDGET MEETING



TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK
2010 MAY - 3 - 9:07
RECEIVED

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 3, 2010 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 Four Million Seven Hundred Twenty Thousand Nine Hundred Fourteen (\$24,720,914) Dollars, as recommended by the Board of Finance, as the Annual Town Operating Budget for the Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2010.
- 2) To consider and take action upon a resolution in the amount of Thirty Seven Million Five Hundred Four Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Five (\$37,504,875) Dollars, as recommended by the Board of Finance, as the Annual Board of Education Budget for the Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2010.
- 3) To consider and take action on a resolution recommending an appropriation of Five Hundred Seven Thousand Two Hundred (\$507,200) Dollars and further authorizing the issuance of short term notes and/or bonds of the Town in an amount not exceeding Five Hundred Seven Thousand Two Hundred (\$507,200) Dollars to finance the appropriation of said sum for all costs incurred for the following:

| | |
|---|-----------|
| 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 |
| Repaint brick exterior of bldg, remove upper part of west chimney YMCA Building | \$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 |
| Replace boilers and appurtenances at Johnson School | \$215,000 |
| Tennis Court replacement | \$34,000 |
- 4) 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, 2010, which tax anticipation notes are to be repaid from anticipated tax revenues.
- 5) 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.
- 6) 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.
- 7) To do any and all things which may be legally necessary or appropriate to accomplish the above named purposes.

Dated at Bethel, Connecticut this 20th day of April 2010.

Board of Selectmen
Matthew S. Knickerbocker, First Selectman
Richard C. Straiton, Selectman
Paul Szatkowski, Selectman

TOWN OF BETHEL
MOTIONS FOR ANNUAL TOWN BUDGET MEETING
MAY 3, 2010
BETHEL HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

- 1.) Pursuant to the Charter of the Town of Bethel, shall the Town of Bethel appropriate the sum of Twenty Four Million Seven Hundred Twenty Thousand Nine Hundred Fourteen (\$24,720,914.00) Dollars as recommended by the Board of Finance as the Town Operating Budget portion of the Annual Town Budget for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2010, to be placed on the ballot for a Town wide machine vote?
- 2.) Pursuant to the Charter of the Town of Bethel, shall the Town of Bethel appropriate the sum of Thirty Seven Million Five Hundred Four Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Five (\$37,504,875.00) Dollars as recommended by the Board of Finance as the Board of Education Operating Budget portion of the Annual Town Budget for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2010, to be placed on the ballot for a Town wide machine vote?
- 3.) Shall the Town of Bethel as recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance, appropriate a sum not to exceed Five Hundred Seven Thousand Two Hundred (\$507,200.00) Dollars to pay for the direct and ancillary costs including the financing for the following, hereinafter referred to total as the "Projects":

| | |
|---|------------|
| 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 Building | \$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 |
| Replace boilers and appurtenances at Johnson School | \$215,000 |
| Tennis Court replacement | \$34,000 ? |

- 4.) Shall the Town of Bethel borrow a sum not to exceed the aggregate amount of Five Hundred Seven Thousand Two Hundred (\$507,200.00) Dollars so specified for the Projects as set forth in the preceding resolution approved by this Town Meeting and issue bonds under its corporate name and seal, which bonds shall be general obligations of the

Town issued upon the full faith and credit of the Town, for the purpose of financing the appropriations of said sums for the cost of the Projects including, if any, architectural, engineering, demolition, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, equipping, equipment costs, financing and all other costs related thereto with the following additional terms and conditions:

Section 1. The First Selectman, Town Treasurer and the Comptroller are hereby appointed a "Committee" with full power and authority to cause said bonds to be sold, issued and delivered; to determine their form, including provision for redemption prior to maturity; to determine the aggregate principal amount thereof within the amount hereby authorized and the denominations and maturities thereof; to fix the time of issue of each series thereof and the rate or rates of interest thereon as herein provided; to designate the bank or trust company to certify the issuance thereof and to act as transfer agent, paying agent and as registrar for the bonds, and to designate bond counsel. The Committee shall have all appropriate powers under the Connecticut General Statutes including Chapter 748 (Registered Public Organizations Act) and Chapter 109 (Municipal Bond Issues), as presently in force or subsequently amended, to issue the bonds and, further, shall have full power and authority to do all that is required under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the "Code") as amended and other applicable laws of the United States, including the execution of certifications and agreements on behalf of the Town with respect to compliance with the Code to provide for issuance of the bonds in tax exempt form and to meet all requirements which are or may become necessary in and subsequent to the issuance and delivery of the bonds to ensure that the interest on the bonds be and remain exempt from Federal income taxes, including, without limitation, to covenant and agree to restrictions on investment yields, rebate of arbitrage earnings, expenditure of proceeds within required time limitations and the filing of information reports as and when required.

Section 2. The bonds may be designated "Public Improvement Bonds of the Town of Bethel", in series of the year of their issuance and may be issued in one or more series, or may be consolidated as part of the same issue with other bonds of the Town; they shall be in serial form maturing in not more than twenty (20) annual installments of principal, the first installment to mature not later than two years from the date of issue and the last installment to mature not later than twenty (20) years there from or otherwise as may be provided by statute. The bonds may be sold at not less than par and accrued interest at public sale upon invitation for bids to the responsible bidder submitting the bid resulting in the lowest net interest cost to the Town, provided that nothing herein shall prevent the Town from rejecting all bids submitted in response to any one invitation for bids and the right to so reject all bids is hereby reserved, and further provided, that the Committee may sell the bonds, or notes, on a negotiated basis, as provided by statute. Interest on the bonds shall be payable semi-annually or annually. The bonds shall be signed on behalf of the Town by at least a majority of the Board of Selectmen and the Town Treasurer, and shall bear the seal of the Town. The signing, sealing and certification of said bonds may be by

facsimile as provided by statute. The Town Treasurer shall maintain a record of bonds issued pursuant to this Resolution and of the face amount thereof outstanding from time to time, and shall certify to the destruction of said bonds, or notes after they have been paid and canceled, and such certification shall be kept on file with the Town Clerk.

Section 3. The said Committee is further authorized to make temporary borrowing as permitted by the General Statutes and to issue a temporary note or notes of the Town in anticipation of the receipt of proceeds from the sale of the bonds to be issued pursuant to this resolution. Such notes shall be issued and renewed at such times and with such maturities, requirements and limitations as provided by statute. Notes evidencing such borrowing shall be signed by the First Selectman and Town Treasurer and have the seal of the Town affixed, which signing and sealing may be by facsimile as provided by statute, be certified by and payable at a bank or trust company incorporated under the laws of this or any other state, or of the United States, be approved as to their legality by bond counsel, and may be consolidated with the issuance of other Town notes. Said Committee shall determine the date, maturity, interest rates, form and manner of sale, including negotiated sale, and other details of said notes consistent with the provisions of this resolution and the General Statutes and shall have all powers and authority as set forth above in connection with the issuance of the bonds and especially with respect to compliance with the requirements of the Code in order to obtain and maintain tax exempt form.

Section 4. Upon the sale and issuance of the bonds authorized by this Resolution, the proceeds thereof, including any premium received upon the sale thereof, accrued interest received at delivery and interest earned on the temporary investment of such proceeds shall be applied forthwith to the payment of the principal and interest of all notes issued in anticipation thereof or shall be deposited in trust for such purposes with a bank or trust company, or shall be applied or rebated as may be required under the provisions of law. The remainder of the proceeds, if any, after the payment of said notes and of the expense of issuing said notes and bonds shall be applied to further finance the appropriation made by the appropriation resolution enacted concurrently herewith.

Section 5. In each fiscal year in which the principal or any installment of interest shall fall due upon any of the bonds or notes herein authorized there shall be included in the appropriation for such fiscal year a sum equivalent to the amount of such principal and interest so falling due, and to the extent that provision is not made for the payment thereof from other revenues, the amount thereof shall be included in the taxes assessed upon the grand list for such fiscal year and shall not be subject to any limitation of taxes that may be imposed by any other Town ordinance or resolution.

Section 6. Pursuant to regulation of the Internal Revenue Service the Town hereby expresses its official intent to reimburse expenditures paid from the General Fund or Capital Improvement Fund for the aforesaid Projects with the proceeds of the bonds or

notes to be issued under the provisions of this Resolution. The allocation of such reimbursement bond proceeds to an expenditure shall occur not later than one year after the later of a) the date on which the expenditure is paid, or b) the date on which the Projects are placed in service, or for extended periods and in such manner as may be permitted by amendments to the regulations. The Comptroller is authorized to pay the Projects' expenses in accordance herewith pending the issuance of the reimbursement bonds or notes.

Section 7. The First Selectman (or other proper authority of the Town) is hereby authorized to apply for and accept any available state or federal grant in aid of the financing of the Projects and to take all action necessary and proper in connection therewith.

Section 8. The amount of final issuance of the bonds shall be reduced by the amount of funds that may be received from any direct state or federal grants, if any.

Section 9. The Bond Committee is hereby authorized to take all action necessary and proper for the sale, issuance and delivery of the bonds and notes in accordance with the provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes and the laws of the United States

- 5.) Shall the First Selectman and the Treasurer of the Town of Bethel be authorized to borrow on short term notes or loans known as "tax anticipation notes" in an amount not to exceed the aggregate of Six Million (\$6,000,000.00) Dollars for the purpose of paying current expenditures of the Town of Bethel for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2010, which tax anticipation notes shall be repaid from anticipated tax revenues?
- 6.) Shall the Town of Bethel collect motor vehicle and personal property taxes in one installment for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2010?
- 7.) Pursuant to the Charter of the Town of Bethel, shall the machine vote on the Annual Town Budget for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2010, take place on Thursday, May 13, 2010?
- 8.) Shall the this Meeting be adjourned to a machine vote on the Annual Town Budget for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2010?