



# BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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

*Matthew S. Knickerbocker, First Selectman*  
*Richard C. Straiton, Selectman*  
*Paul R. Szatkowski, Selectman*

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TOWN OF BETHEL  
TOWN CLERK

## MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

Thursday, February 25, 2010  
7:00 p.m.  
CJH Municipal Center – Meeting Room “A”

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

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

### FY 2010-2011 DEPARTMENT BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

<b>Account 430 – Senior Center</b>	<b>2009-2010 Approved Budget</b>	<b>\$130,584</b>
	<b>2010-2011 Budget Request</b>	<b>\$133,632</b>

Alan Barney, Chairman of the Commission on Aging and Kathleen Oles, Senior Center Director presented the Senior Center FY 2010-2011 budget request.

Among the highlights of their budget request is an increase in salary for the senior aides, increase to their activities account and funding of a feasibility study to review space options. Mr. Barney offered that the Friends of the Seniors will cover half of the cost of the feasibility study, with the impending move from the building, they are looking to occupy the space vacated by the VNA. In order to apply for a Small Cities Block Grant, they need to have a Feasibility Study.

<b>Account 450 – Bd of Education</b>	<b>2009-2010 Approved Budget</b>	<b>\$36,567,417</b>
	<b>2010-2011 Budget Request</b>	<b>\$37,504,875</b>

Lawrence Craybas, Chairman of the Board of Education, Theresa Yonsky, Director of Fiscal Services, Board of Education, Dr. Gary Chesley, Superintendent of Schools and Janice Jordan, Associate Superintendent of Schools presented the FY 2010-2011 Board of Education budget request.

In their presentation, they offered that the Board of Education did their due diligence when adopting this proposed budget; their primary objective is to educate the students in a cost effective manner, providing them with opportunities to be life-long learners and be well-equipped to compete in our new world economy. Mr. Craybas said this is a shared responsibility between the Board of Education, Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance. The Superintendent's proposed budget of \$38,026,031 (3.99%) was reduced further by the Board of Education to the proposed budget of \$37,504,875 (2.56%). The 2010-2011 budget drivers include:

Contractual obligations:        Wages +\$359,264 (1.43% increase)  
    Health Benefits +\$130,634 (2.56% increase)  
    Special Education + \$327,039 (31.53% increase)

Other obligations: include State & Federal mandates, Magnet School costs of \$39,000, Adding a Para to the Alternate Education program \$29,730 and General Transportation increase of 3% = \$69,552

Mr. Craybas spoke to the 2010-2011 as The Challenge = The Charge.

- Continue growth in student achievement
- Sustain educational quality gains
- Continue both within available resources

He noted, however – there is always a point of diminishing returns. Past funding led to improvements, diminished funding can lead to diminished returns.

Mr. Craybas spoke to the various student successes and system wide achievements. While they have had to do more with less funding, there is a correlation between funding and achievement and reducing funding reduces opportunities and programs.

It was pointed out that the Town of Bethel and Board of Education have to fund for unemployment costs; we do not have unemployment insurance.

Mr. Craybas spoke to the underfunding of Special Education; they face a decrease in state reimbursement of \$200,000. It was noted that of all the mandates, Special Education is the most expensive and the reimbursement rate, once was 100% and is

now down to 60%. Special Education costs approximately 20% of the education budget.

It is anticipated that the Town and Board of Education will jointly lock in for diesel fuel.

The Magnet School and various other tuition paid avenues were discussed. Currently there are 26 students enrolled in other schools at a cost of approximately \$39,000. It was noted that the costs (to Bethel) do not go away because students go to other schools.

<b>Account 460 – BOE – Bldg. Maint.</b>	<b>2009-2010 Approved Budget</b>	<b>\$336,406</b>
	<b>2010-2011 Budget Request</b>	<b>\$333,335</b>

Lawrence Craybas, Chairman of the Board of Education, Robert Germinaro, Facilities Manager, William Duff, Board of Education member and Dr. Gary Chesley, Superintendent of Schools presented the FY 2010-2011 Building Maintenance budget request.

The 460 Account is broken into 4 separate categories:

- (A) Management of Blanket PO's/Supply Accounts: requesting \$39,000 - contains funding for painting products and supplies, Electrical repair and Plumbing/General Hardware/Carpentry Supplies.
- (B) Outside Contractor Funding: requesting \$24,000 to fund licensed plumber, electrical, EMS/HVAC Repair
- (C) Preventative Maintenance Contracts: requesting \$222,235 – this includes items such as alarm monitoring, inspection and monitoring for various components, i.e. elevators, HVAC, lawn care, pest control, etc.
- (D) School Building Maintenance and Repairs: requesting \$48,100 – this includes items such as painting, lighting fixtures, thermostats, bathroom fixtures, etc.

Discussion took place regarding the proposed maintenance for the school buildings. Mr. Germinaro explained that when work and/or repairs are needed, the town maintenance is the vendor of first choice. Private companies are called in if the town maintenance is not able to do a particular item.

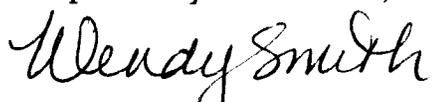
One of the items requested is funding to would allow them to have someone on retainer to change/replace exterior light bulbs on outdoor light poles in the parking lot; they felt this would also be a benefit to the town.

Discussion took place regarding the new item for grounds maintenance; Parks & Recreation does only a portion of the mowing. Bids will be prepared now for springtime work.

Pointing or caulking of the front of the high school is essential. This was not part of the high school project and, if not corrected, will lead to leaking. The funding request for this is included in the Town Building Maintenance account.

As there was no further business on tonight's agenda, Selectman Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wendy Smith".

Wendy Smith, Recording Secretary