



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

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

Thursday, March 25, 2010
7:30 p.m.

CJH Municipal Center – Meeting Room “A”

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TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

PRESENT: First Selectman Knickerbocker, Selectman Straiton and Selectman Szatkowski. Also in attendance Town Counsel Martin J. Lawlor.

Call to order/Pledge of Allegiance: First Selectman Knickerbocker called the Special Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Public Comments: None

Correspondence: Letter from New England Tree Movers – to be discussed at the next meeting.

First Selectman Report – First Selectman Knickerbocker noted a change to the Public Hearing date change from Monday, March 29th to Monday, April 12th. He also noted the progress at the South Street Fire House; final inspection is April 15th. They are working on a containment area for refuse. Selectman Szatkowski reported on the activities of the recent Ad-Hoc Transfer Station Commission; he noted that it was a very productive meeting. He advised that several sub-committees were established to look into the operations, financial, contracts and proposals associated with the Transfer Station; he will keep the Board of Selectmen up to date on the Commission progress.

Old Business

1.) Consideration of new committees – Energy Conservation and Business Outreach

First Selectman Knickerbocker submitted a draft proposal for the Business Outreach Commission as follows:

Draft Proposal for Business Development Commission

Composition:

Commission to be comprised of seven (7) members, appointed by the Board of Selectmen. Members will serve without compensation.

Term and Status:

Upon its inception, this commission will exist as an ad-hoc committee with each member serving a two-year term. At the end of this assignment, the Board of Selectmen will review the progress of the commission and will choose to renew as an ad-hoc commission, establish a permanent commission or disband the commission.

Duties of the Commission:

- Take actions to develop a marketing plan for the purpose of attracting new businesses opportunities to the town of Bethel. Create communication plan which highlights Bethel's advantages as a business location:
 - Low tax rates.
 - Access to interstate highways and public transportation
 - Affordability of housing.
 - Excellent school system located in a unique central campus environment; easy access to all school buildings, sports complex, practice fields and other recreational facilities.
 - Recently expanded public library with wide variety of community oriented programming.
 - Vibrant downtown and Stony Hill business districts, with wide variety of shopping and dining opportunities.
 - Highly active Senior Center and Teen Center, both featuring a wide variety of activities and events.
 - Wide variety of outstanding children's programming through Bethel Parks and Recreation Department.
- Assign liaisons to the Bethel Economic Development Commission, the Bethel Chamber of Commerce and the Stony Hill Four Corners Chamber of Commerce. Work in close coordination with these agencies and seek their recommendations in establishing the town marketing plan.
- Research any and all private, state and/or federal grant monies that may become available for the purpose of local business development.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to approve the draft outline of the Business Outreach Committee as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

First Selectman Knickerbocker submitted a draft proposal for the Energy Conservation Commission as follows:

Draft Proposal for Energy Conservation Commission

Composition:

Commission to be comprised of seven (7) members, appointed by the Board of Selectmen. Members will serve without compensation.

Term and Status:

Upon its inception, this commission will exist as an ad-hoc committee with each member serving a two-year term. At the end of this assignment, the Board of Selectmen will review the actions of the commission and will elect to renew as an ad-hoc commission, establish a permanent commission or disband the commission.

Duties of the Commission:

- Research appropriate and cost effective opportunities for implementing energy efficient measures in all aspects of Bethel town and school buildings and operations; forward recommendations to the appropriate municipal governing bodies.
- Research and evaluate current energy conservation technology and its adaptability to municipal use.
- Research and facilitate the use of renewable energy systems that could be employed by the town of Bethel.
- Research any and all grant opportunities from private, state and federal sources that are available for both municipal and private uses for the purpose of clean energy conversions and energy efficiency initiatives.
- Educate Bethel residents about clean energy options that are available to them through their current and/or alternative energy provider.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to approve the draft outline of the Energy Conservation Committee as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

It was agreed to prepare a press release to put out to the community to advertise for members who may be interested in serving on the newly created committees. The Board of Selectmen will establish a date to interview interested parties.

New Business

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

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to approve the Tax Collector's request, dated March 23, 2010 authorizing Tax Refunds in the amount of \$2,779.31. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

2.) Consideration of resolution – Management Plan for a State Marching Grant Program for Elderly and Disabled Demand Responsive Transportation.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to authorize First Selectman Matthew S. Knickerbocker, to negotiate and execute all necessary Agreement/Contract documents on behalf of the Town of Bethel with the Department of Transportation of the State of Connecticut and to affix the corporate seal. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

3.) Consideration of filing Open Space grant application

The Department of Environmental Protection will be accepting applications for its Open Space Land Acquisition Grant Program, with a deadline for applications of May 3, 2010. These grants provide up to 65% reimbursement for the purchase of open space land.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to authorize Phyllis Kansky to pursue the grant opportunity as outlined in the Memorandum dated March 17, 2010. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

4.) Consideration of CL&P's Standard Form Pole Attachment Agreement

Town Counsel Martin J. Lawlor advised that there is no action required by the Board of Selectmen at this time, unless the Town of Bethel has a pressing need to put some type of line on the poles, it would be his suggestion that the Town Board of Selectmen not execute this agreement since there has already been two changes to the same and the final version will probably be available some time this June. Selectmen agreed that at this time, there is no need for Board of Selectmen action.

5.) Consideration of AT&T's intention to place equipment in the public right-of-way on Stony Hill Road near the entrance of Sky Edge Drive.

Town Counsel Martin J. Lawlor advised that AT&T is constructing a 117"X120" wide by 8" high pad to place a piece of equipment (VRAD cabinet) in the public right of way at Stony Hill Road near the entrance of Sky Edge Drive and that there is no action required by the Board of Selectmen on this matter.

6.) Consideration of Request for Proposals - lease of Old Train Station

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to forward the Draft Request for Proposals for the lease of the Old Train Station to Town Counsel Martin J. Lawlor for review and recommendation. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

7.) Consideration of Augustana Homes vs Town of Bethel (*Executive Session anticipated*)

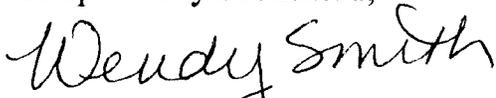
First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to go into Executive Session at 8:04 p.m. for the purpose of Consideration of the Augustana Homes vs Town of Bethel and invite in Town Counsel Martin J. Lawlor and Assessor Ann Marie Heering. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Executive Session ended at 8:36 p.m.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to approve the recommended stipulated valuation agreement between Augustana Homes and the Town of Bethel, docket number DBD-CV-08-4009527S, resulting in an agreement to establish the Fair Market Value (FMV) of Augustana Homes at \$3,221,720 over the five year period beginning 2007. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

As there was no further business on tonight's agenda, Selectman Szatkowski made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to adjourn the Special Meeting at 8:39 p.m. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Wendy Smith, Recording Secretary