



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 REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, May 4, 2010
7:30 p.m.

CJH Municipal Center – Meeting Room “A”

RECEIVED

2010 MAY -6 P 3:49

TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

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

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

Public Comments: none

Correspondence: Police Chief Jeffrey Finch provided the Board of Selectmen a letter of disclosure regarding his son, Jeffrey W. Finch, Jr. represented by the company name of IT Integrity who is performing limited computer services to the Police Department computer system at a cost of \$75 per hour. Selectman Straiton requested an approximate cost/value of this service.

Minutes of April 20, 2010 Regular Meeting: Selectman Szatkowski made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to approve the minutes of April 20, 2010 as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Minutes of April 27, 2010 Special Meeting: Selectman Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to approve the minutes of April 27, 2010 as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to add to tonight's agenda, under New Business, Item # 7 – Consideration of establishing a date for a Public Information Session – Safe Routes to Schools project. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to add to tonight's agenda, under New Business, Item # 8 – Consideration of Teen Center. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

First Selectman Report: First Selectman Knickerbocker reported on the recent and very successful bond refunding; originally projected as a \$350,000 savings turned into a \$407,000 savings. He also noted that all three bond rating agencies have increased our bond rating (AA+). The annual town meeting has established the referendum date for Thursday, May 13th; we will be using the reverse 911 system to announce to residents the date of the referendum. Also noted was that a purchase order was issued for the fence at Meckauer Park, South Street Firehouse work continues and that if the application process timeline is still favorable, to consider getting another appraisal for the Maple Avenue property for the Open Space Grant.

New Business

1.) Update from Ad-Hoc Transfer Station Committee:

Committee Chairman David Olson and member Thomas O'Leary were present at tonight's meeting and provided an update to the Board of Selectmen on the activities of the committee. They are recommending an increase to the annual permit fee from \$30 to \$50. Based on the current number of permits sold, this could raise \$30,000 which would go a long way to reducing the annual deficit that the station experiences. They will also be recommending a revision to the fee schedule for the various other items that are taken at the transfer station. Among some of the concerns raised by the committee is that there are no written policies and procedures for the activities at the station, and would like more detailed financial information regarding the operations. Future plans are to continue to explore the option of privatization and the committee will be bringing in the two companies to discuss their proposals and to look into the small fee for permits sold to commercial haulers.

2.) Consideration of fees – Transfer station

Selectman Szatkowski made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to increase the annual permit fee for the Bethel Transfer Station from \$30 to \$50 for the 2010-2011 season (July 1 thru June 30th). Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Permits will not be sold until June 1st by which time it is anticipated to have a fee schedule recommendation from the Ad-Hoc Transfer Station Committee.

3.) Consideration of Blight Ordinance

Town Counsel Martin J. Lawlor and Selectman Szatkowski provided sample ordinances from two municipalities and a request has been submitted to CCM to obtain additional ordinances. While the Board of Selectmen agreed that a blight ordinance is of merit to explore, they did want to review what other municipalities have adopted.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton to table discussion on a blight ordinance. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

4.) Consideration of bid award – Bid #10-07 ARRA Paving Project – Old Hawleyville Road

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to award Bid # 10-07 ARRA Paving Project – Old Hawleyville Road to A&J Construction for the bid price of \$388,640.03 based on the recommendation of the Procurement Committee and Town Engineer Andrew Morosky. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

5.) Consideration of waiving bidding process - Track Project

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to table this item. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

6.) Consideration of resolution – Crimes against Children Task Force

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, that:

RESOLVED: That Matthew S. Knickerbocker, the First Selectman, be and is herewith authorized to execute a Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the Bethel Police Department for the Town of Bethel with the Connecticut Department of Public Safety for participation in the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.

Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

6.) Consideration of establishing a date for a Public Information Session – Safe Routes to Schools project.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to establish a Public Information Meeting on June 2, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the CJH Municipal Center, Meeting Room. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

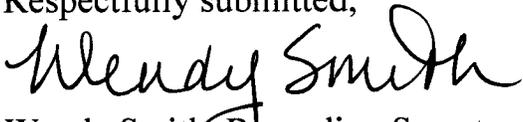
The Town Engineer/Public Works Department will run the Public Information Meeting which is a requirement of the grant for the Safe Routes to School project.

8.) Consideration of Teen Center

Discussion took place regarding a location for the Teen Center. Selectman Straiton had spoken with several different builders to come up with a plan to put an extension on to the Municipal Center for a Teen Center. The self contained extension would provide for approximately 3,200 sf at a net cost of approximately \$360,000 (after grant is applied). Selectmen agreed that there would be no harm in talking with the Youth Commission regarding this concept with the understanding that discussion is still preliminary and that no assures or promises would be made that this project would become a reality; Selectmen are still exploring options for a permanent home for the Teen Center.

As there was no further business on tonight's agenda, Selectman Szatkowski made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,


Wendy Smith, Recording Secretary