



# BOARD OF FINANCE

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

## MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

Tuesday, May 25, 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, John Dietter, William Kingston, William Slifkin, James Roden, Gary Regan and Timothy Draper. Also in attendance were First Selectman Knickerbocker, Parks & Recreation Director Eileen Earle and Interim Comptroller Robert Kozlowski.

**Call to order/Pledge of Allegiance:** J. Philip Gallagher called the Special Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### **Consideration of recommendation from the Board of Selectmen – Old Hawleyville Road – funding request (\$9,500) for Drainage Improvements**

First Selectman Knickerbocker noted that there is no action necessary as it is anticipated that funding for this could be worked into the current budget allocation.

### **Consideration of recommendation from the Board of Selectmen – Bond Anticipation Note Projects (\$535,200)**

The Bond Anticipation Note package was discussed. The Board of Selectmen is also recommending that the concrete ramp (entrance by Parks & Recreation) be funded at \$28,000. At this time, the following items are being recommended for funding.

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 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
Replace boilers and appurtenances at Johnson School	\$ 215,000
Tennis Court replacement	\$ 34,000
<b>ORIGINAL ITEMS</b>	<b>\$507,200</b>
Concrete Ramp for Entrance to Municipal Center Gym (Replace Metal Stairs)	\$ <u>28,000</u>
<b>NEW REQUEST</b>	<b>\$535,200</b>

Board of Finance members did not take any specific action on this request as they tabled it to discuss the next agenda item.

### **Consideration of recommendation from Board of Selectmen – funding of track lighting project (\$280,000)**

Discussion took place regarding the recommendation from the Board of Selectmen to fund the lighting project at the Bethel High School Track. First Selectman Knickerbocker noted that originally, it was hoped that we would be able to utilize the existing lighting, however, as the project plans developed it was discovered that the existing poles could not be reused. The lighting portion of the project is \$280,000 and is not part of the donation (valued at over \$1 million). He noted that extensive research has gone into exploring grant opportunities, private donations, etc. to no avail. Musco Lighting has provided an opportunity to defray the cost of the lights under several different scenarios, including a lease arrangement that would have not budgetary impact on either the current or upcoming fiscal year. First Selectman Knickerbocker advised that if the town does decide to go the lease route, then the first payment would not be required until the 2011 budget cycle. All that would be required, besides town meeting consent, is a \$500 signing payment. In addition, the lease could be terminated or prepaid at any time without penalty.

It was noted that the lights have been a problem for years, adversely affecting night games as well as being costly, providing inadequate lighting (not meeting recommended standards for various sporting events), spillage issues, etc. There is also the concern regarding the structural integrity of the 33 year old poles.

The new lighting proposal provides for more energy efficiency, appropriate lighting guidelines, 100% maintenance free for 25 years, as well as the ability to properly control the system. Mrs. Earle advised that many

groups utilize the field at night (football, band, lacrosse, baseball, etc.) and noted that new lighting would also provide a level of security for the general public that uses the track as well as providing a deterrent to vandalism.

Board of Finance members had questions regarding the cost of financing, interest rates, etc. Int. Comptroller Robert Kozlowski was asked to review the various financing scenarios for the Board of Finance.

Board of Finance members expressed concern over the funding of this (the lights), the Bond Anticipation note items, a potential teen center addition to the Municipal Center and the road renewal plan which First Selectman Knickerbocker has not yet proposed it to the Board of Selectmen, and its potential recommendation to the Board of Finance. Finance Board members agreed that they would like to see the "whole big picture" and the financial impact of the various projects. First Selectman Knickerbocker offered that the road renewal project has nothing to do with the other two projects, which have received Board of Selectmen recommendation for funding. He noted that the teen center addition is not an actionable item and does not foresee any recommendation coming from the Board of Selectmen; it was merely an idea that was being explored.

After a lengthy discussion, James Roden made a motion, which was seconded by William Kingston, to table the requests (lighting and bond anticipation projects) until after the meeting with the Board of Selectmen. Voting in favor of the motion: J. Philip Gallagher, John Dietter, William Kingston, James Roden, Gary Regan and Timothy Draper. Voting in favor of the motion: William Slifkin (who commented that he wanted to see the light project proceed). Motion passed.

The Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance will meet next week (6/1) to discuss these requests further.

### **Consideration of establishing FY 2010-2011 Mill Rate:**

Interim Comptroller Robert Kozlowski advised that he has reviewed the revenue calculations previously provided by Barry Curina and was able to concur with his projected mill rate of 22.44.

John Dietter made a motion, which was seconded by William Kingston, to establish the FY 2010-2011 at 22.44. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

He did note that currently the real estate conveyance tax has not been approved by the state although it is anticipated that they will pass it before the end of the year. Budgeted is \$240,000 so there is the potential for a shortage if the state fails to act.

As there was no further business on today's agenda, William Slifkin made a motion, which was seconded by Gary Regan, to adjourn tonight's meeting at 7:55 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