



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, October 5, 2010-7:30 p.m.
CJH Municipal Center-Meeting Room "A"

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TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

PRESENT: First Selectman, Matthew S. Knickerbocker, Selectman, Richard C. Straiton, and Selectman, Paul R. Szatkowski, Town Counsel, Martin J. Lawlor, Jr.

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

Public Comments: David Glahn spoke in favor of the teens occupying the VNA space.
Philip Gallagher spoke against demolition of the Old Town Hall.

Correspondence: Letter from Library Board of Directors Chairman, Jane Bickford notifying the Board of Selectmen of her husband performing work for the town.

Selectman Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to add to tonight's agenda the Teen Center under Old Business. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Minutes of September 7, 2010 Regular Meeting: Selectman Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to approve the minutes as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Minutes of September 22, 2010 at 6:45 p.m. Special Meeting: Selectman Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to approve the minutes as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Minutes of September 22, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. Special Meeting: Selectman Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to approve the minutes as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

First Selectman Report - First Selectman reported that the Town was notified of the STEAP grant approval last Thursday in the amount of \$200,000, for the intention of remediation of the lead and asbestos from the Old Town Hall and tearing down the building to create additional parking for the Library. The value of the property is estimated as \$184,500 for the land and \$490,000 for the building, no estimate as to what it would sell for. There are tremendous problems with lead and asbestos. Conservative estimates of repair/refurbish just for the first floor is \$460,000 and \$660,000 for the entire building including the top floor. It would cost an estimated \$160,000-\$170,000 to demolish the building. There will be no action taken this evening regarding this, all options will be weighed. Several grants have been applied for projects to include the Stony Hill Sewer project, full funding of the Teen Center and to close funding on the Library. The town is running out of time for completion of the Library. Planning and Zoning ordinances require more parking for the Library. If the location of the Old Town Hall is not used then the side lawn of the Municipal Center must be used. The full funding grant for the Teen Center was denied. OPM has granted an extension on the \$150,000 until December 2011. Permission has not been granted as of yet to use the \$150,000 for the VNA space or another space.

Old Business:

Teen Center- Selectman Straiton reported receiving a letter from the Youth Commission listing the order of desired places to house the Teen Center.

Selectman Straiton made a motion to allow the Bethel Teen Center to temporarily use the old VNA space less 1 meeting room on the west end with some minor renovations to include an exterior entrance to the existing stairwell, work to be done by the building maintenance department and volunteers. Selectman Szatkowski seconded the motion for discussion.

Selectman Szatkowski is in favor of allowing the teens the use of the VNA space. Selectman Straiton noted that this would be done on a temporary basis, which will house the teens while grants and funding is explored. First Selectman

Knickerbocker stated he has a meeting on October 13, 2010 with a significant foundation. By committing to a direction we will be able to move forward with applications.

Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion to formally thank the Masonic Temple but decline their offer of use. Motion was seconded by Paul Szatkowski. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

New Business:

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

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion to approve the Tax Collector's request dated September 28, 2010 and approve Tax Refunds in the amount of \$5,849.11. Motion seconded by Selectman Straiton. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

2.) Consideration of Resolution DPH Log No. 2011-1503/LEAD-Bethel Health Department Lead Grant

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that Laura L. Vasile, MPH, RS, Director of Health, is authorized to make, execute, and approve on behalf of this Corporation, any and all contracts or amendments thereof with the State of Connecticut, Department of Health.

Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

3.) Consideration of 8-24 Referrals to Planning and Zoning Commission for Old Hawleyville Road-road widening project, Old Train Station use and lease, Knollwood Drive-road abandonment and Grassy Plain Street -YMCA lease.

-First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion to approve in accord with the provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes 8-24 to refer the Old Hawleyville Road-road widening project to the Planning & Zoning Commission for comment. Motion seconded by Selectman Straiton. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

-First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion to approve in accord with the provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes 8-24 to refer the Old Train Station use and lease to the Planning & Zoning Commission for comment. Motion seconded by Selectman Straiton. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

-First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion to approve in accord with the provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes 8-24 to refer the Knollwood Drive-road abandonment to the Planning & Zoning Commission for comment. Motion was seconded by Selectman Straiton. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

-First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion to approve in accord with the provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes 8-24 to refer the Grassy Plain Street -YMCA lease to the Planning & Zoning Commission for comment. Motion was seconded by Selectman Straiton. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

4.) Consideration of Dissolution of Ad Hoc Library Building Committee; assignment of library project to Public Site and Building Committee.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion to retire the existing Ad-Hoc Library Building Committee and assign the Library Project to the Public Site and Building Committee for review and recommendation. Motion was seconded by Selectman Straiton. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

5.) Consideration of Fireman's LOSAP plan.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion that the Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP) consisting of all payments made there under, including but not limited to longevity/pension type payments, disability benefits and life insurance for the volunteer members of the Stony Hill Fire Department, including and designated Emergency Personnel, is suspended for all newly enrolled volunteers effective immediately until further notice and that written notice of the suspension be forwarded to both fire departments, the current plan administrator, Morgan Stanley Smith Barney and the Insurance and Pension Commission. Motion was seconded by Selectman Straiton for Discussion: Due to poor record keeping, it is unclear who is entitled; this is a temporary suspension in order to clarify the benefits and the liability to the town. This

does not affect the Tax Abatement benefit. It is hopeful this will be cleared up prior to the next budget season. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

6.) Consideration of establishing a Special Town Meeting date for the Old Train Station Lease and YMCA Lease.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion to establish a Special Town Meeting date of October 26, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in Meeting Room "A" of the CJH Municipal Center. Motion seconded by Selectman Szatkowski. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Town Counsel Lawlor noted Connecticut General Statute § 7-163E in which it states a Public Hearing must be held prior to Special Town Meeting for this purpose, he also noted a sign must be placed at the property location.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion to conduct a Public Hearing on October 26, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. in Meeting Room "A" of the CJH Municipal Center. Motion was seconded by Selectman Straiton. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

7.) Consideration of establishing a Special Town Meeting date for the Knollwood Drive-road abandonment.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion to establish a Special Town Meeting date of October 26, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. and add Knollwood Drive to the call. Motion was seconded by Selectman Straiton. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

8.) Consideration of Litigation: Assessment Appeal-Gayatri Corp. v. Town of Bethel, 18 Stony Hill Road-(Executive Session Anticipated)

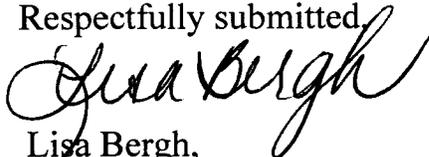
First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion to enter Executive Session at 8:34 p.m. for the purpose of consideration of litigation -Assessment Appeal-Gayatri Corporation v. Town of Bethel, and invited Ann Marie Heering, Assessor Town of Bethel and Martin J, Lawlor, Jr. Town Counsel into Executive Session.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion to exit Executive Session at 8:45 p.m. Motion seconded by Selectman Straiton. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion to accept the settlement offer between Gayatri Corporation and the Town of Bethel to value the property located at 18 Stony Hill Road at \$2,275,000.00. Motion was seconded by Selectman Straiton. 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 tonight's meeting at 8:48 p.m. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Bergh". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Lisa Bergh,
Recording Secretary