



# 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, December 20, 2011  
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 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:** John Lennon (on behalf of Brian Terzian), Robert Legnard (on behalf of Brian Terzian), Will Duff (on behalf of Brian Terzian), Lawrence Craybas (would be fine with either candidate), William Slifkin (on behalf of Brian Terzian)

### **Correspondence:**

Letter - Daniel Gaita, dated 12/13 – new commission request

Letter - Democratic Town Committee, dated 12/20 – appointment recommendation

**Minutes of December 6, 2011** – Selectman Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to accept the minutes with the correction that Selectman Szatkowski had requested the Blight Ordinance be put on the agenda, not Selectman Straiton and that, on page 3 should be to “table until the December 20<sup>th</sup> meeting instead of January 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. 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, # 8) Consideration of reactivation of Ad Hoc Transfer Station Committee. 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, # 9) Consideration of intent to restructure paramedic contract. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

**First Selectman Report** – First Selectman Knickerbocker reported that he and Comptroller Robert Kozlowski have started meeting with department heads on their 5 year capital plans. They have also met with our financial advisor, Barry Bernabe from Webster Bank to explore possible financing scenarios for the open space property purchase. First Selectman Knickerbocker noted that special recognition goes out to Kathleen Gillen, Social Services Director, for all her hard work in coordinating with Brotherhood in Action for the holiday food deliveries and for her work with the program she runs for all the families adopted by Bethel organizations and individuals for Holiday gift distribution. He noted that she has spent a lot of time, not only work time but her own personal time as well.

First Selectman Knickerbocker also reported that the Grant obtained several years back for the Teen Center, can be amended to be used for the construction of the annex onto the Municipal Center for the Teen Center. He also noted that additional grant opportunities are being explored.

### **Old Business**

#### **1.) Consideration of appointment – Board of Education (previously tabled item)**

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to place back on the agenda, the tabled item, which was Selectman Szatkowski's motion and First Selectman Knickerbocker's second, to appoint Brian Terzian (I) to the vacancy on the Board of Education. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

#### **2.) Consideration of establishing date for Public Hearing – "old" town hall (previously tabled item) and referral to Planning & Zoning – Connecticut General Statutes 8-24**

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, that the Board of Selectmen pursuant to Section 8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes does hereby refer to the Planning & Zoning Commission for its comments and report on the proposal to raze the "old" town hall. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Board of Selectmen held off on establishing a Public Hearing date until receipt of the report from Planning & Zoning.

**New Business**

**1.) Consideration of Assessor's request – office personnel**

First Selectman Knickerbocker advised that the Assessor had written regarding staffing in her office; the part-time worker, has been working full-time due to the workload demanded by the responsibilities of the office. Funding will run out at the end of the calendar year.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to refer to the Board of Finance, the recommendation to fund a full-time, temporary position for the remainder of the current fiscal year. Voting in favor of the motion: First Selectman Knickerbocker and Selectman Straiton. Abstention: Selectman Szatkowski.

Motion passed.

First Selectman Knickerbocker advised that there are funds in the wage contingency account as well as the regular contingency account. It is estimated that this will cost \$21,000.

**2.) Consideration of establishing date for Annual Town Meeting**

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to establish Monday, May 7, 2012 as the date of the Annual Town Meeting. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

**3.) Consideration of adopting 2012 regular meeting schedule**

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to hold the Board of Selectmen regular monthly meetings on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

The schedule is as follows:

- Tuesday, January 3, 2012 + Tuesday, January 17, 2012 (previously scheduled)
- Tuesday, February 7, 2012 + Tuesday, February 21, 2012
- Tuesday, March 6, 2012 + Tuesday, March 20, 2012
- Tuesday, April 3, 2012 + Tuesday, April 17, 2012
- Tuesday, May 1, 2012 + Tuesday, May 15, 2012
- Tuesday, June 5, 2012 + Tuesday, June 19, 2012
- Tuesday, July 3, 2012 + Tuesday, July 17, 2012
- Tuesday, August 7, 2012 + Tuesday, August 21, 2012
- Tuesday, September 4, 2012 + Tuesday, September 18, 2012
- Tuesday, October 2, 2012 + Tuesday, October 16, 2012

Tuesday, November 6, 2012 + Tuesday, November 20, 2012  
Tuesday, December 4, 2012 + Tuesday, December 18, 2012  
Wednesday, January 2, 2013 + Tuesday, January 15, 2013

All meetings will be held at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise posted.

**4.) Consideration of appointment – Inland Wetlands Commission – Alternate**

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to appoint Robert Wallace (D) to the vacancy on the Inland Wetlands Commission, alternate position. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

**5.) Consideration of referral to the Board of Finance – purchase of open space property on Old Hawleyville Road and establishing date for Special Town Meeting for same.**

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to recommend to the Board of Finance an appropriation of an amount not to exceed \$855,000 which represents 90% of the purchase price of \$950,000 (\$95,000 pledge from the Planning & Zoning Open Space Fund) to purchase open space property on the corner of Old Hawleyville Road and Plumtrees Road, subject to Special Town Meeting approval. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to establish a Special Town Meeting on Tuesday, January 17, 2012 for the purchase of open space property on Old Hawleyville Road, subject to the concurrence of the Board of Finance. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

**6.) Consideration of resolution authorizing the First Selectman to sign contract with DOT for replacement of Walnut Hill Bridge.**

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

Resolved, that Matthew S. Knickerbocker, First Selectman is hereby authorized to sign the Agreement entitled "Agreement between the State of Connecticut and the Town of Bethel for the Design, Construction, Inspection and Maintenance of Safety Improvements to Walnut Hill Road at Hoyt Road utilizing Federal Funds under the Hazard Elimination Component of the Surface Transportation Program.

Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

**7.) Consideration of Lease – Daily Fare**

Town Counsel Martin J. Lawlor had reported that the grease trap needed to be replaced and the floor will be painted. It was noted that there is approximately \$172,000 in this account.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to approve the sub-lease and lease as prepared by town counsel, subject to Department of Transportation approval. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

**8.) Consideration of Reactivation of Transfer Station Committee**

It was discussed that the HRRRA contract is coming to an end in 2013 and the committee should review our options; there may be some ways to generate income. The committee will be asked to meet and review for report back to the Board of Selectmen.

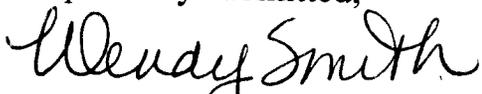
**9) Consideration of intent to restructure paramedic contract**

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to notify Danbury Health Care Affiliates (DHCA) to advise them of a notice of termination. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

This is related to a provision in the contract that notification must be made 180 days in advance in the event there is a change to the program, contract, etc. This will allow for the reexamination of the contract, rebidding, or restructuring of the contract.

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 8:21 p.m. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Wendy Smith, Recording Secretary