



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, February 15, 2011

7:30 p.m. or immediately following the Special Town Meeting
CJH Municipal Center – Meeting Room “A”

RECEIVED

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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.

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 appointing Special Town Counsel for analysis of the Volunteer Firemen Pension Plan. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Public Comments: none

Correspondence: none that was not already on tonight's agenda

Minutes of January 7, 2011 Special Meeting: Selectman Szatkowski made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to approve the minutes as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Minutes of February 3, 2011 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 Knickerbocker once again complimented the town crews on their efforts this season on the snow removal. He did note that the town has contracted with Verdi Construction to assist the town crews in removing snow and

snow related clean-up. First Selectman Knickerbocker advised that budget presentations will begin this week; the dates for the presentations are February 17th, February 24th, February 28th and March 3rd.

Selectman Straiton advised that he has volunteers coming in tomorrow evening to work on the teen center space; work had been held up because of the winter weather.

Selectman Szatkowski advised that a report is pending from the Ad-Hoc Transfer Station Committee; they anticipate meeting with the Board of Selectmen on March 1st.

New Business

1.) Bethel High School Track project completion update:

Yvonne Grimes was present at tonight's meeting to provide an update to the Board of Selectmen on the Bethel High School Track Project. She advised that except for a few minor items that would be addressed when we have good weather, the track project is complete and ready to be turned over to the Town. She spoke to the history of the project, noting the hundreds of hours all involved with the project contributed and her goal for the project was that it had to be done right; it had to be perfect. Mrs. Grimes explained that care and maintenance instructions have been provided to Parks & Recreation.

Selectmen reiterated their thanks to the Grimes family, noting that words can not adequately describe their appreciation for this generous gift to the Bethel community.

2.) 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 January 28, 2011 and authorize Tax Refunds in the amount of \$4,197.19. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

3.) Consideration of appointments – various town boards and commissions

Board of Education - The Board of Selectmen did not make any appointment this evening.

Economic Development Commission: First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to appoint Bonnie Brown (D) to the Economic Development Commission to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of

Charles McCollam, Jr. as recommended by the Democratic Town Committee. Voting in favor of the motion: First Selectman Knickerbocker and Selectman Szatkowski. Abstention: Selectman Straiton. Motion passed. This term expires January 5, 2015.

Public Site & Building Committee: No appointments were made to the Public Site & Building Committee this evening. .

Youth Commission:

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to re-appoint) Richard Merritt (R) to the Youth Commission as recommended by the Republican Town Committee. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved. This term expires on January 7, 2013.

Selectman Szatkowski made a motion, which was seconded by First Selectman Knickerbocker, to appoint Marie Muthersbaugh (R).

Selectman Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by First Selectman Knickerbocker, to re-appoint Robert Korin (U) to the Youth Commission.

Voting in favor of Marie Muthersbaugh (R) was Selectman Szatkowski. Voting against the motion: First Selectman Knickerbocker and Selectman Straiton.

Voting in favor of Robert Korin (U) was First Selectman Knickerbocker and Selectman Straiton. Robert Korin was appointed to the Youth Commission. This term expires on January 17, 2013.

4.) Consideration of Fines and Citations Ordinance

Town Counsel Martin J. Lawlor presented a Draft copy of the Fines and Citations Ordinance for Board of Selectmen review. He explained that this ordinance would provide a mechanism to the town to enforce fines and citations applicable to existing and future ordinances. He suggested that since this proposed ordinance would require a Public Hearing that it could be held the same evening that we hold the Public Hearing required for the proposed Blight Ordinance. No date has been established yet for the Public Hearing(s).

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to table this proposed ordinance to allow the Board of Selectmen time for review. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

5.) Consideration of request – Coronet Machinery Corporation – Personal Property exemption

A request had been received from Coronet Machinery Corporation for the town to hold a Special Town Meeting to consider an exemption for their personal property filing. Due to an oversight on their part, they did not file their declaration in time. The State of CT deadline to file was November 1st and the extension deadline was December 15th; they did not file until January 13, 2011. At this time, any exempt granted would result in a loss of tax dollars to the town; the taxes would not be reimbursed by the State of Connecticut.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to remove Coronet Machinery from the agenda and advise Coronet Machinery that although the Board of Selectmen sympathizes with Coronet's position, the Town is not in a financial position to grant Coronet Machinery's request for an exemption on its personal property taxes for machinery. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

6.) Consideration of resolution – Lyme and other Tick-borne Disease Prevention Study Grant

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

RESOLVED, that the Town of Bethel acting herein through its Health Department hereby accepts a State of Connecticut, Department of Health grant in the amount of \$22,898.00 for the purpose of participating in the "Lyme and Other Tick-borne Diseases Prevention Study" by the Connecticut Department of Health, Yale University and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for the period from February 15, 2011 through December 30, 2011; and,

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Bethel Health Department acting through its Director, Laura L. Vasile, is hereby authorized on behalf of the Town of Bethel to enter into and execute any and all contracts and/or other documents to effectuate the receipt of said grant and to participate in and comply with service tasks of the Prevention Study.

Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

7.) Consideration of appointing Special Town Counsel for analysis of the Volunteer Firemen Pension Plan.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to appoint Mark Williams of the Law Firm of Carmody & Torrence as Special Town Counsel to perform an analysis of the Volunteer Firemen Pension Plan. 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 meeting at 8:07 p.m. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Wendy Smith, Recording Secretary