



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, March 18, 2014
7:30 p.m.

CJH Municipal Center – Meeting Room “A”

RECEIVED

2014 MAR 21 P 1:58

TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

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

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

Public Comments: Ann Cleary, David Glahn, and Cynthia McCorkindale spoke.

Correspondence: Letter from Cynthia McCorkindale

Minutes:

Public Hearing of February 4, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.: Selectman Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to approve the minutes as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Regular Meeting of February 4, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.: Selectman Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to approve the minutes with the amendment that Selectman Straiton abstained from voting on his re-appointment as Constable. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Special Meeting of February 18, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.: Selectman Szatkowski made a motion, which was seconded by First Selectman Knickerbocker, to approve the minutes as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Board of Selectmen Regular Minutes of March 18, 2014

Special Meeting of February 25, 2014 at 6:45 p.m.: Selectman Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to approve the minutes as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Special Meeting of February 25, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.: Selectman Szatkowski made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to approve the minutes as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Special Meeting of March 4 at 6:00 p.m.: Selectman Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to approve the minutes as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Special Meeting of March 6, 2014 at 6:45 p.m.: Selectman Szatkowski made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to approve the minutes as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Special Meeting of March 6, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.: Selectman Szatkowski made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to approve the minutes as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Special Meeting of March 5, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.: Selectman Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to approve the minutes as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Special Meeting of March 6, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.: Selectman Szatkowski made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to approve the minutes as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Public Hearing of March 7, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.: Selectman Szatkowski made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to approve the minutes as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Special Meeting of March 10, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.: Selectman Szatkowski made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to approve the minutes as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

First Selectman Report: First Selectman Knickerbocker reported on the status of the Walnut Hill Bridge Project which had been suspended 6 weeks ago; they have mobilized and will resume work when weather permitting.

New Business

1.) Consideration of recommendations to the Charter Revision Commission

Board of Selectmen Regular Minutes of March 18, 2014

Item 1 – C3-4A – Increase the Board of Selectmen from three to five members:

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to concur with the Charter Revision Commission recommendation. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved. Selectmen agreed that the recommendation has been vetted by the Charter Revision Commission, and the voters should have the opportunity to weigh in on the proposed change.

Item 2 – C3-4B Board of Selectmen Term of Office

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to concur with the Charter Revision Commission recommendation. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved. Selectmen agreed that the recommendation has been vetted by the Charter Revision Commission, and the voters should have the opportunity to weigh in on the proposed change.

Item 3 – C5-1E Compensation of Municipal Officials

Selectman Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by First Selectman Knickerbocker, to concur with the Charter Revision Commission recommendation. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved. Selectmen agreed that the recommendation has been vetted by the Charter Revision Commission, and the voters should have the opportunity to weigh in on the proposed change. Selectmen agreed that moving in this direction is a step toward taking politics out of the compensation determination by the Board of Finance.

Item 4 – C6-3A(1) Moving the date of the Annual Town Budget Meeting

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to concur with the Charter Revision Commission recommendation.

Selectmen raised concerns about a potential impact that may be associated with moving the town meeting up a month, including, for example, new board of selectmen immediately having to begin the budgeting process, up to date financial information for medical costs, revenue projections, etc. Selectman Straiton noted that we can always send out supplemental tax bills if the budget fails.

Voting in favor of the motion: First Selectman Knickerbocker. Voting against the motion. Selectman Straiton and Selectman Szatkowski. Motion fails.

Item 6 – C6-4A and C6-4B Change to threshold for Actions requiring a Special Town Meeting

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to concur with the Charter Revision Commission recommendation. Vote, all in favor, motion

Board of Selectmen Regular Minutes of March 18, 2014

unanimously approved. Selectmen agreed that the recommendation has been vetted by the Charter Revision Commission, and the voters should have the opportunity to weigh in on the proposed change.

Item 7 – C6-4C Disposition of real estate

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to concur with the Charter Revision Commission recommendation. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved. Selectmen agreed that the recommendation has been vetted by the Charter Revision Commission, and the voters should have the opportunity to weigh in on the proposed change.

This item was revisited based on the concerns raised by Town Counsel Martin Lawlor who suggested narrowing the scope of the wording to perhaps include “except for easements”.

First Selectman Knickerbocker amended his original motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to request the Charter Revision Commission consider including “except for easements” in the recommendation, noting that the wording choice of “disposition” is too broad. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Item 9 – C8-3, C8-5, C8-6, C8-10 & C8-11 Eliminate “full-time” designation for positions

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to concur with the Charter Revision Commission recommendation. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved. Selectmen agreed that the recommendation has been vetted by the Charter Revision Commission, and the voters should have the opportunity to weigh in on the proposed change.

Item 10 – C8-13C4i Bidding thresholds

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to concur with the Charter Revision Commission recommendation. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved. Selectmen agreed that the recommendation has been vetted by the Charter Revision Commission, and the voters should have the opportunity to weigh in on the proposed change.

Item 11 – C8-14 New Section – Recognize Fire Departments

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to concur with the Charter Revision Commission recommendation.

First Selectman Knickerbocker amended his motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to recommend eliminating “C” (*“Each Fire Chief shall be the chief administrative*

Board of Selectmen Regular Minutes of March 18, 2014

officer of their respective fire company and shall be responsible to the First Selectman for the operation of said company”) since the fire departments operate under their own set of by-laws and include wording which would *“include an audit of public funds”*. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Item 12 – C10-2D Line Item

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to concur with the Charter Revision Commission recommendation. Voting in favor of the motion: First Selectman Knickerbocker and Selectman Straiton. Voting against the motion. – Selectman Szatkowski. Motion passed. Selectmen agreed that the recommendation has been vetted by the Charter Revision Commission, and the voters should have the opportunity to weigh in on the proposed change. Selectman Szatkowski expressed his concern that he'd like to see the Board of Finance retain line item control.

Item 13 – C10-4B Special Appropriations

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to concur with the Charter Revision Commission recommendation. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved. Selectmen agreed that the recommendation has been vetted by the Charter Revision Commission, and the voters should have the opportunity to weigh in on the proposed change.

Item 14 – C10-4B New – Budget Neutral Transfers

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to concur with the Charter Revision Commission recommendation. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved. Selectmen agreed that the recommendation has been vetted by the Charter Revision Commission, and the voters should have the opportunity to weigh in on the proposed change.

Item 17 - C11-11 New – Location of Meetings

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to concur with the Charter Revision Commission. Voting in favor of the motion: Selectman Szatkowski and Selectman Straiton. Voting against the motion: First Selectman Knickerbocker. Motion passed. Selectmen agreed that the recommendation has been vetted by the Charter Revision Commission, and the voters should have the opportunity to weigh in on the proposed change.

First Selectman Knickerbocker expressed concern with immortalizing this in the charter, thinking that perhaps in the future, when the police station project is completed, public access to the meetings won't be an issue.

Board of Selectmen Regular Minutes of March 18, 2014

Item 18 New – Public Utilities Commission

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to concur with the Charter Revision Commission.

Selectman Straiton believes that the Board of Selectmen should remain on the Public Utilities Commission.

Selectman Straiton amended the motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to recommend to the Charter Revision Commission that the Board of Selectmen *recommends retaining the Board of Selectmen as members of the Public Utilities Commission and increase membership to 7 members.* Voting in favor of the motion: Selectman Straiton and Selectman Szatkowski. Voting against the motion: First Selectman Knickerbocker. Motion passed. It was clarified that whether the Board of Selectmen remains at 3 or increased to 5 – they are recommending 2 additional members and the Board of Selectmen regardless.

Item 20 – C8-13(C-4ii) Correct spelling of Comptroller

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to concur with the Charter Revision Commission recommendation. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved. Selectmen agreed that the recommendation has been vetted by the Charter Revision Commission, and the voters should have the opportunity to weigh in on the proposed change.

2.) Consideration of resolution - Nutmeg Network Grant Application

First Selectman Knickerbocker advised that this grant opportunity that essentially, if approved, provides for the potential of an opportunity to connect with the State's Nutmeg Network, for shared information technology services.

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

*Resolved, the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Bethel hereby endorses the **Regional Performance Incentive Program** proposal referenced in Connecticut General Statutes Section 4-124s as amended by Section 251 and 253 of Public Act 13-247.*

Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

3.) Consideration of appointment – Special Land Use Counsel – Affordable Housing application.

Board of Selectmen Regular Minutes of March 18, 2014

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to appoint Charles Andres of LeClair Ryan as Special Land Use Counsel for the application of Maplevue Village – MH Development, LLC. The property is located at 30, 32 and 34 Hickok Avenue and 68A Maple Avenue.

4.) Consideration of request – Southern New England Summer Training Series – use of Clarke Business Park roadways.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to table this item. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved. As this would be the third request for holding racing events in the Clarke Park - First Selectman Knickerbocker wants to discuss this use and its potential impact on the businesses located within the Park.

As there was no further business on tonight's agenda, Selectman Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Wendy Smith, Recording Secretary