



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, May 20, 2014 - 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 Lawlor.

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

Public Comments: Anna Roode

Correspondence: none

Minutes of May 5, 2014 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 May 6, 2014 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.

First Selectman Report: First Selectman Knickerbocker reported on a recent award of a STEAP grant in the amount of \$430,000 for sidewalk improvements.

He noted that the contractors have advised that the Walnut Hill Bridge opening is coming right down to the wire and are still hoping for it opening next Friday – the safety rails need to be installed before it can open. This is all contingent upon the weather cooperating, the concrete needs to be dry.

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The town and HVCEO will hold a Public Information Session on the planning for a Hazard Mitigation Plan; this plan, when completed, which will take 1-2 years to complete, and will enable residents in flooding prone areas, to apply for funding or other remediation measures available through FEMA. The area towns will all be part of formation of the plan.

Selectman Szatkowski made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to add to tonight's agenda, under New Business # 2 – Consideration of Medical Marijuana – Garella Road. Voting in favor of the motion: Selectman Szatkowski and Selectman Straiton. Abstain: First Selectman Knickerbocker. Motion approved.

Selectman Szatkowski made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to add to tonight's agenda, under New Business # 3 – Consideration of Economic Development Commission. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Selectman Szatkowski made a motion to add the recount to the agenda as he had been approached by residents who thought the Board of Education budget count should be reviewed. Town Counsel Martin Lawlor advised that there is no provision to petition a recount. Connecticut General Statutes did not require a recount of the education budget since it was over the statutory number required. Item was not added to the agenda.

Selectman Szatkowski made a motion, which was seconded by First Selectman Knickerbocker, to add to tonight's agenda, discussion with the Planning & Zoning Commission to discuss future development. First Selectman Knickerbocker and Selectman Straiton advised that they'd be voting against adding this to tonight's agenda. P&Z is their own board and has their own rules. Voting in favor of the motion: Selectman Szatkowski. Voting against the motion. First Selectman Knickerbocker and Selectman Straiton. Motion failed.

Old Business

1.) Consideration of fee schedule/parking pass – Parks & Recreation

Eileen Earle, Director of Parks & Recreation and Megan O'Connor, Chairman of the Parks & Recreation Commission were present, along with member Gary Regan. They surveyed other towns and they also charge a fee to non-residents. The fee for non-residents proposed was to better monitor who are the patrons of the park. They have received numerous calls from residents who were unable to use the facility themselves due to overuse/overcrowding at times. Monitoring the users will give them a better idea as to the users of the facility. They only plan to have a staff member there during peak usage times, mainly on the weekend.

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First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to endorse the concept of the parking passes for all (both resident and non-resident) and hold off on a fee until next season (possibly). Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

2.) Consideration of establishing Special Town Meeting date for the donation of property from Habitat of Humanity – Grassy Plain Street, subject to Board of Finance approval

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski to establish a Special Town Meeting date of Tuesday, June 17, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in Meeting Room “A”, CJH Municipal Center, subject to Board of Finance approval. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

New Business

1.) Consideration of establishing date for vote on the proposed amendments to the Town of Bethel Charter and, establish balloting format questions

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to place the proposed amendments to the Town of Bethel Charter on the Tuesday, November 4, 2014 ballot. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Selectman Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to table the ballot formatting. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

2) Consideration of Medical Marijuana

Selectman Szatkowski advised that he received numerous telephone calls regarding the decision to allow a medical marijuana facility on Garella Road, noting that people felt this was rushed, given no opportunity to voice their opinions, thought it should have come before the Board of Selectmen and Police Commission, other towns rejected it, etc.

Patricia Rist, Chairman of the Planning & Zoning Commission was present and advised that the zoning department did the right thing approving the use as it met the criteria; other towns had various reasons for denying the use, i.e. a moratorium. Selectmen discussed that the police chief met with the owners and is much more comfortable with the business plan, the company will hold a public information session next week, and medical marijuana is permitted and licensed through the state.

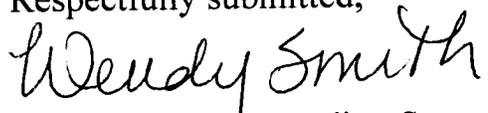
3) Consideration of Economic Development Commission.

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It was agreed to invite the Chairman of the Economic Development Commission and Janice Chrzescijanek, the Economic Development Director to an upcoming meeting.

As there was no further business on tonight's agenda, First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 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