



BOARD OF FINANCE

Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center, 1 School Street
Bethel, Connecticut 06801 Telephone: (203) 794-8501

Minutes of Public Meeting

Tuesday, April 8, 2014
7:30 P.M.

Bethel High School Auditorium, Bethel, CT 06801

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TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

Present: William Kingston, Chairman, Timothy Draper, Bruce Cornwell, Gary Reagan, Patricia Smithwick, Eileen Freebaim. Also in attendance were Comptroller Robert Kozlowski, Board of Education Chairman Larry Craybas, Superintendent of Schools Kevin Smith and Board of Education Director of Fiscal Services Theresa Yonsky.

William Kingston opened the Public Hearing at 7:30 pm and provided an overview of the Board of Finance actions regarding the budget process thus far.

Public Comments:

Robert Crnic, Old Hawleyville Rd: Among other comments, questioned why health benefits were going up. Stated that the High School should provide a lecture hall setting for students to better prepare them for the transition to college. It would also save money to teach 100 – 200 students in a lecture room setting than in a classroom. Thinks tax increase is a lot higher than in neighboring communities.

Nancy Ryan, Walnut Hill Rd: Among other comments, thanked everyone who worked on the budget and asked that \$30,000 be added to the budget for work done to the Library floor. She felt it would save money down the road if there was ever a water leak.

Tia Murphy, Linda Lane: Among other comments, thanked everyone who worked on the budget. Requested that \$30,000 be added to the budget for the Library. Stated that \$30,000 was the estimated cost but a bid could come in for less than that.

Cynthia McCorkindale, Elgin Avenue, Among other comments, thanked everyone for coming out and questioned what was being done by the Board of Education to get the state to help pay for education. Questioned if Obama Care had affected the cost of Health Insurance and Superintendent Kevin Smith confirmed that it had caused it to rise.

Elizabeth Fisher, Autumn Drive, Among other comments, stated that it was her first Town Hall Meeting to attend as a parent of a student at Bethel Schools and she is amazed by what a great job our teachers and staff do. She feels the budget is balanced with providing students with a quality education.

Philip Gallagher, Sunset Hill Road, Among other comments thinks a \$5,000 raise it too much for the First Selectman.

Billy Michaels, Fleetwood Avenue, Among other comments questioned what the proposed mill rate was in comparison to revenue.

Alice Hutchinson, Rockwell Road, Among other comments, thanked everyone for the work they did on the budget and requested \$30,000 in the budget for the library. Also noted the clerical movement of funds from Economic Development to Board of Selectman.

AJ Bernard, Highview Terrace, Among other comments, questioned why there was general equipment that wasn't moved from the transfer site. Comptroller Robert Kozlowski answered that the equipment was used and did serve a purpose at the transfer site. Mr. Bernard thanked the Board of Finance and said he felt they were his only protection between himself and the government.

Will Duff, Walnut Meadow Lane, Among other comments, stated that the two Selectman positions should be considered volunteer positions and should not be a paid position.

Paula Antolini, Jacobs Lane, Among other comments, questioned how money would be used to increase security at the schools.

Myra Drucker, Wolf Pitts Road, Among other comments, questioned if the town was taking advantage of short term interest rates compared to long term interest rates with bonding.

Charles Ruiz, Cherry Lane, Among other comments, questioned the necessity of a new fire engine. Felt that the town needs to buckle down and save money instead of reaching into the tax payers' pockets.

Billy Michaels, Fleetwood Avenue, Among other comments, supports William Duffs comments and thinks too much money is being spent on the Library.

As there were no further comments, William Kingston closed the Public Hearing at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dionne Craig, Recording Secretary