



# BOARD OF FINANCE

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

## MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

Monday, June 16, 2014 - 7:00 p.m.  
CJH Municipal Center – Meeting Room “A”

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TOWN OF BETHEL  
TOWN CLERK

**PRESENT:** William Kingston, Chairman, Bruce Cornwell, Patricia Smithwick, Eileen Freebairn, Claudia Stephan, Gary Regan and Timothy Draper. Also in attendance were Comptroller Robert Kozlowski and Assistant Comptroller Brad Heering.

**Call to order/Pledge of Allegiance:** William Kingston called the Special Meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

William Kingston advised that the board would address the Tax Collector's request as the first item on the agenda.

### **Consideration of Tax Collector's request for Suspense List Authorization:**

Gary Regan made a motion, which was seconded by Timothy Draper, to approve the Tax Collector's request for suspense authorization in the amount of \$ 128,632.96. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved. It was noted that by moving these items to suspense, it removes them from consideration as assets to the town, but does remain a liability to the person against whom they were levied.

### **Consideration of Fiscal Year 2014-2015 budget deliberation:**

First Selectman Knickerbocker advised that because of the politicking associated with the increase to the First Selectman salary, he requested that the finance board eliminate the increase citing that he doesn't want the increase to hamper the passing of the budget.

### **Account 100 – Selectmen's Office**

Timothy Draper made a motion, which was seconded by William Kingston, to reduce Account 100-101 First Selectman Salary by \$4,782. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

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### **Account 130 – Town Clerk**

Timothy Draper made a motion, which was seconded by William Kingston, to reduce Account 130-101 Town Clerk Salary by \$2,179. Voting in favor of the motion: Timothy Draper. Voting against the motion: Bruce Cornwell, Patricia Smithwick, Eileen Freebairn, Claudia Stephan, William Kingston and Gary Regan. Motion fails.

### **Account 160 – Professional Services**

Timothy Draper made a motion, which was seconded by William Kingston, to reduce 160 – 352 Legal Services by \$25,000. Gary Regan amended the motion, which was seconded by Timothy Draper, to reduce 160 – 352 Legal Services by \$10,000. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

### **Account 190 – Data Processing**

William Kingston made a motion, which was seconded by Timothy Draper, to reduce Account 190-206 Equipment Maintenance by \$3,000 (computers). Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

### **Account 200 – Social Services**

Timothy Draper made a motion, which was seconded by Bruce Cornwell, to reduce 200-109 Longevity by \$500. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

### **Account 230 – Public Works**

Bruce Cornwell made a motion, which was seconded by Timothy Draper, to reduce 230 – 313 Contracted Services by \$8,000. William Kingston amended the motion, which was seconded by Gary Regan, to reduce 230- 313 Contracted Services by \$4,000 (professional assistance). Voting in favor of the amended motion: Bruce Cornwell, Patricia Smithwick, William Kingston, Gary Regan and Timothy Draper. Voting against the amended motion. Eileen Freebairn and Claudia Stephan. Motion passed.

Timothy Draper made a motion, which was seconded by Bruce Cornwell, to reduce Account 230 – 301 Dues & Education by \$1,500. Voting in favor of the motion: Bruce Cornwell, Patricia Smithwick, William Kingston, Gary Regan and Timothy Draper. Voting against the motion. Eileen Freebairn and Claudia Stephan. Motion passed

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### **Account 240 – Highway Department**

Timothy Draper made a motion, which was seconded by William Kingston, to reduce 240-209 Sand by \$15,000 and 240-210 Salt by \$15,000. Bruce Cornwell amended the motion, which was seconded by William Kingston, to reduce each by \$5,000. Voting against the amended motion: Patricia Smithwick, Eileen Freebairn, Claudia Stephan, Gary Regan and Timothy Draper. Voting in favor of the amended motion: William Kingston and Bruce Cornwell. Motion fails. Vote on the original motion: Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

William Kingston made a motion, which was seconded by Bruce Cornwell, to reduce 240-404 Road Construction by \$25,000. Voting in favor of the motion: Gary Regan. Voting against the motion. Bruce Cornwell, Patricia Smithwick, Eileen Freebairn, Claudia Stephan, William Kingston and Timothy Draper. Motion fails.

### **Account 250 – Planning & Zoning**

Timothy Draper made a motion, which was seconded by William Kingston, to reduce 250-301 Dues & Education by \$800. Motion and second were withdrawn.

### **Account 260 – Building Maintenance**

Timothy Draper made a motion, which was seconded by William Kingston, to reduce 260-207 Maintenance & Repairs by \$5,000 (general). Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

### **Account 270 – Tree Warden**

Timothy Draper made a motion, which was seconded by William Kingston, to reduce 270-313 Contracted Services by \$5,000. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

### **Account 310 – Bethel Fire Department**

Timothy Draper made a motion, which was seconded by William Kingston, to reduce 310-207 Firehouse Maintenance by \$5,500 (painting & ground maintenance). Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved. Bruce Cornwell recused himself from voting.

### **Account 320 – Stony Hill Fire Department**

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Timothy Draper made a motion, which was seconded by William Kingston, to reduce 320-207 Firehouse Maintenance by \$1,000 (flower beds). Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved. Bruce Cornwell recused himself from voting.

### **Account 380 – Parks & Recreation**

Timothy Draper made a motion, which was seconded by William Kingston, to reduce 380-206 Maintenance & Supplies by \$5,000 (benches/cans) and 380-313 Contracted Services by \$3,500 (Library gardens). Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved. Eileen Freebairn and Gary Regan recused themselves from voting.

William Kingston made a motion, which was seconded by Bruce Cornwell, to reduce 380-206 Contracted Services by \$5,000 (fertilizer). Voting in favor of the motion: Bruce Cornwell, William Kingston and Timothy Draper. Voting against the motion. Patricia Smithwick and Claudia Stephan. Eileen Freebairn and Gary Regan recused themselves from voting. Motion passed.

### **Account 400 – Non Government Agencies**

Timothy Draper made a motion, which was seconded by William Kingston, to reduce 400 by \$9,808 to fund at -0-. Voting in favor of the motion: Bruce Cornwell, William Kingston and Timothy Draper. Voting against the motion. Patricia Smithwick, Eileen Freebairn, Claudia Stephan and Gary Regan. Motion failed.

### **Account 405 – Intra Government Agencies**

Claudia Stephan made a motion, which was seconded by William Kingston, to reduce 405-365 Transfer Station by \$20,000. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Claudia Stephan made a motion, which was seconded by Timothy Draper, to reduce 405-366 Paramedic by \$10,000. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Gary Regan made a motion, which was seconded by William Kingston, to reduce 405-341 Hart Bus by \$1,326. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Gary Regan made a motion, which was seconded by Bruce Cornwell, to reduce 405-342 SweetHart Bus by \$1,900. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

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### **Account 420 – Misc. Charges and Transfers**

William Kingston made a motion, which was seconded by Bruce Cornwell, to reduce 420-353 Wage Contingency by \$5,000. Voting in favor of the motion: Bruce Cornwell, William Kingston, Gary Regan and Timothy Draper. Voting against the motion. Patricia Smithwick, Eileen Freebairn and Claudia Stephan. Motion passed.

### **Account 430 – Senior Center**

Timothy Draper made a motion, which was seconded by William Kingston, to reduce 430-301 Dues & Education by \$2,000. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Timothy Draper made a motion, which was seconded by William Kingston, to reduce 430-403 Capital Equipment by \$2,500. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

### **Account 460 – Board of Education – Maintenance**

Timothy Draper made a motion, which was seconded by William Kingston, to reduce 460 by \$24,600. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Bruce Cornwell made a motion, which was seconded by Patricia Smithwick, to recommend a Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Town Budget of \$26,828,177 (including debt service and Board of Education maintenance) to the reconvened town meeting of June 18, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. in the Bethel High School. Voting in favor of the motion: Bruce Cornwell, Patricia Smithwick, Eileen Freebairn, Claudia Stephan, William Kingston, and Gary Regan. Voting against the motion. Timothy Draper. Motion passed.

As there was no further business on tonight's agenda, Timothy Draper made a motion, which was seconded by Claudia Stephan, to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Wendy Smith, Recording Secretary