

Bethlehem Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes

Bethlehem Selectmen Office

June 2, 2014

Present: Selectman Blanchard (acting Chairperson), Selectman Culver, Selectman Fiorentino, Selectman Glavac.

Chairperson Blanchard opened the meeting at 6:00pm.

Chairperson Blanchard said the first thing on the agenda was opening the bids on the sale properties but no bids were received.

The Recreation Dept. bike raffle winners were picked. Chairperson Blanchard announced that \$196.00 was raised for the raffle.

Chairperson Blanchard said he wants to go on record saying that the Town of Bethlehem has not approved a skate park project and has concerns that monies are being raised for a project that does not have the approval. The Board discussed sending a letter to Fallon O'Brien to ask that she be clear to people donating that it is not an approved project. The Board also discussed that after reviewing the proposal they all have many questions for Ms. O'Brien. Selectman Fiorentino said he has safety concerns with the skate park. Selectman Glavac said he wants to know what it will take to construct the park, how to maintain it, if it will be open to the public all hours? The liability of it? Will the Town need to man it? Selectman Culver said the proposal was copied from a proposal submitted to another Town. Selectman Culver asked how many skateboarders does Bethlehem actually have and referenced a concern a citizen recently expressed about the Town building things that benefit and have more use from surrounding Towns. It was decided the Board members will email a list of concerns to April and then Chairperson Blanchard and April will write a letter to Ms. O'Brien with the list of concerns including the concern about fundraising for an unapproved project.

Chairperson Blanchard said he met with Brett Jackson, Chris Fournier from HE Bergeron, Matt Smith, and Glen from Winterset about the Prospect St. Bridge. It was determined that some rods that came loose will be replaced. Chairperson said there is no danger but some vibration and said this is because the wood has expanded. Mr. Fournier will provide a list of options to the Board but the initial repair will be no cost.

The Board discussed the audit proposals. Chairperson Blanchard said our auditing services were put out to bid and 2 bids were received, one from Roberts & Greene for \$7,990.00 (for 2013 audit) and one from Melanson Heath for \$15,000.00 (for 2013 audit). Chairperson Blanchard moved to accept the proposal from Robert & Greene. Selectman Culver seconded. Selectman Fiorentino expressed concerns about

the big difference in price and wondered if we were missing something. It was explained that the consultant hired to do the RFP and April both reviewed the proposals. Carried 4-0. Chairperson Blanchard moved to hire Carol Coppola & Associates for our consultant. Selectman Fiorentino seconded. Carried 4-0.

John Starr came before the Board representing Habitat for Humanity to discuss the house on Pleasant Street that the Town voted by Warrant Article to sell to Habitat for Humanity for \$1.00 with an option period of up to 12 months. Mr. Starr told the Board that an asbestos audit was completed and found very little with a cost of approx. \$3000.00 to remove it. Mr. Starr said the Fire Chief told him he thinks he can burn the building so they would only have to dispose of ash and fill in the foundation hole. Mr. Starr said in all it would cost approx. \$20,000.00 for everything which is doable for them and they are working on the title search now. He confirmed with the Board that they would not owe any back taxes on the property and said the plan to build was for 2015. Mr. Starr said there is a question of whether it is better for the Town if we own it or Habitat owns it when it is burned. Mr. Starr will come back to meet with the Board in a month after doing the title search.

Mr. Starr gave an update on the work being done on the pool house and said it is coming along.

The Board discussed the Hydro Lane properties that sold in the Town Property sale that came out of current use. There is a question on whether the purchaser of the lots should pay the penalty to take the lots out of Current Use. It was discussed that the tax cards that were in the sale packets did not show the parcels were in Current Use. Chairperson Blanchard moved to waive the penalty fee for the Current Use on the Hydro Lane parcels. Selectman Glavac seconded. Selectman Culver said we need to check that for the next sale and be certain if parcels are in Current Use to make sure that is on the tax card.

The Board discussed a request from a citizen to park a tractor trailer at the municipal parking lot at the skate park periodically throughout the year. There was discussion about there being signs saying no overnight parking at the parking lot. The Board discussed liability concerns if something happened to the truck while being parked there. Selectman Fiorentino moved to send the citizen a letter saying there is no overnight parking allowed in the lot. Chairperson Blanchard seconded. Carried 4-0.

The Board reviewed abatements. They are abatements that were previously signed with a different amount. Mary Jackson explained the new amount includes the interest.

Map 415 Lot 099.002: Chairperson Blanchard moved to accept the abatement for \$1,629.17 recommended by the assessor. Selectman Culver seconded. Carried 4-0.

Map 205 Lot 004: Selectman Fiorentino moved to accept the abatement for \$360.63 recommended by the assessor. Chairperson Blanchard seconded. Carried 4-0.

Map 407 Lot 001/013: Chairperson Blanchard moved to accept the abatement for \$65.57 recommended by the assessor. Selectman Glavac seconded. Carried 4-0.

Map 416 Lot 016: Chairperson Blanchard moved to accept the abatement for \$1,410.37 recommended by the assessor. Selectman Fiorentino seconded. Carried 4-0.

Map 412 Lot 001: Chairperson Blanchard moved to accept the abatement for \$1,153.42 recommended by the assessor. Selectman Glavac seconded. Carried 4-0.

Map 412 Lot 002: Chairperson Blanchard moved to accept the abatement for \$56.15 recommended by the assessor. Selectman Fiorentino seconded. Carried 4-0.

Map 413 Lot 001: Chairperson Blanchard moved to accept the abatement for \$46.28 recommended by the assessor. Selectman Culver seconded. Carried 4-0.

Chairperson Blanchard read an email from Chris McGrath about cleaning up the River Road property. He said all the garbage is cleaned up and will clean all of the tires and oil cans for an additional \$50.00 and will remove all the metal free of charge. Mr. McGrath said he will be covering the drain holes with wood. Chairperson Blanchard moved to accept the offer from Mr. McGrath of additional \$50.00 to clean up tires and oil cans and remove all metal. Selectman Glavac seconded. Carried 4-0. Mr. McGrath said the prior owner also gave him permission to remove the items.

The Board reviewed the website renewal. There was discussion comparing the 3 year and 5 year agreement. Selectman Fiorentino moved to go with the 3 year agreement with unlimited emails. Selectman Culver seconded. Carried 4-0.

The Board reviewed the deed for Map 405 Lot 070. Selectman Culver moved to sign the deed. Selectman Glavac seconded. Carried 4-0.

The Board reviewed the Master Plan update agreement. Chairperson Blanchard moved to sign the agreement and send in the initial \$3,300.00 payment. Selectman Culver seconded. Carried 4-0.

Chairperson Blanchard said the Board is still reviewing the information on the Drag Strip road access issue that the Planning Board referred to the Select Board. The Board will discuss this at a future meeting.

Kevin Roy announced that Hazardous waste day was this coming Saturday from 9 to 1.

Frank Claffey said he hopes the Board will make it clear that we are not involved in the skate park fundraising.

Chief Ho-Sing-Loy came before the Board to discuss the financing for his new cruiser. The Chief said the bank that has the lower % does not have the no appropriation clause. The Board told the Chief to go forward with the Lease through Ford.

At 8:10 Chairperson Blanchard moved to go into non-public per RSA 91-A:3 II (a) & (c). Selectman Culver seconded. Chairperson Blanchard did roll call with all members agreeing to go into non-public session.

The Board discussed personnel.

The Board discussed an issue that will be referred to the Town attorney.

At 8:15 Chairperson Blanchard moved to come out of non-public session. Selectman Fiorentino seconded. Carried 4-0.

At 8:15 Chairperson Blanchard moved to adjourn. Selectman Glavac seconded. Carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

April Hibberd

Administrative Assistant