

*Of the 2025 people who took BethelSurvey.com, 875 also spent extra time writing a final comment about issues in Bethel which the survey did not address, or did not cover adequately. These are strong opinions and we thank you for sharing them.*

*For ease of use we are presenting the final comments by topic. This group includes comments about **education in Bethel, including the Board of Education, the Education Department, and the High School building project.** Rather than try to extract sections, we are listing the entire comment from each person who had something to say about education, though their comment may in fact address several topics.*

*Typing and spelling errors have not been corrected - the comments are presented as written. The number represents the respondent number and is left here for ease of discussing the comments. The number is not linked to any personal information.*

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11 The issues on our mind are the completion of the library (the second floor) and the renovation of BHS. We would love to see both of these done soon for our children!

13 We need to embrace the diversity that our community presents. Look at how Danbury is handling their diversity-badly. Read the op ed pieces and letters to the editor in the Newstimes. Let't not follow Danbury's example. Stop all the fighting between the education system and the Board of Finances and Selectmen. It is our duty to provide a well balanced education to the children of this community. Surely we can come up with an economically AND educationally sound budget. I am tired of feeling like the "underprivileged" community of Fairfield County. Bethel is great place to live! Let's let everyone else know we are proud of Bethel. The constant budget fights do nothing but bring everyone down.

14 Bethel is a great town and the reason it is divided is because of money. Certainly everyone wants great schools, but many of us have seen the waste in our school firsthand. We have some administration that is great and others that do just about nothing but collect fat paychecks. We need to pay our teachers and cut the fat where it isn't needed. I am tired of going to the school and seeing that they can afford downright stupid things that can be thrown out at the end of the year but we can't seem to get our kids a proper education. Someone needs to be held accountable for the waste so that people will want to put money into something that will return something to our community.

16 We need a nice entrance to our town. The property across from the Citgo is such an eyesore to our town. It's the first thing you see when you enter our town an overgrown corner and a used car lot. Our town has so much potential and I think a lot of our citizens are very willing to help make our town a better place. I also feel we need an auditor to come in and figure out how to rework the numbers of all the taxes we pay I bet you would find some money for the HIGH SCHOOL!

20 My main concern is with the Bethel chamber of commerce, they don't do enough to help promote shopping downtown. A meeting of members once in a while would be helpful, and i'm not just talking about some get to gether where i have to pay to go and eat. i want a regular meeting, there may be some members out there that may have good ideas as to getting more shoppers downtown and to promote downtown. Also we need to have a REAL VOTE to elect the board members. But we will never know unless we have a meeting

24 the HS capt results, lack of AYP progress, do not merit a tax increase nor a support of sports for the schools. For the amount of money paid into the system there are little positive results. The Renaissance Program money and the superintendent's letters costs should be redirected to academic endeavors instead of bribing students and deceptive statistics.

39 I think the high school is the most important project.

45 I wish we had more corporate businesses to help with the tax relief. We must make education come first in this community. We need to have the high school start right away. I think the our selectman, abd the BOF should spend a day in the high school when its in session to see the conditions our children have to face day after day. The community voted to renovate the HS so lets not let politics get in the way for our childrens sake please!!!! Also, is it true that Gary from the building dept. was fired from Ridgefield and we hired him?

49 My family loves Bethel but we can see it is progressively becoming more unaffordable. It appears that we are competing aesthetically with towns like Westport and Redding which eventually will price older residents right out of their home and town that they planted their roots and memories in. Please be sympathetic to the baby boomers who have helped build this town to what it is today and slow down. Rome wasn't built in a day. I am no longer a volunteer in Bethel, however, I was extremely active as a volunteer from 1978 to 1993. The taxes are getting out of hand, the roads are a mess and teachers are getting a 5-6% raise when all I got was a 2% raise. This, in addition to the oil prices is very disconcerting.

66 We need to do something about the negativity in the press. Unfortunately those who would tear down our wonderful town have the loudest voice. What a shame! Let's remember that what we have here in Bethel is a gem - New England charm, wonderful teachers, friendly business owners, and great people. We need to have leaders that take charge and get things done. The public loses faith when projects are approved and not completed in a timely manner - costs and indignation rise exponentially. Let's do the right thing by our town and our children.

70 I am concerned about the Education budget and the seemingly condecending attitude of the boards of finanace and education. I am concerned about the high school project direction. A moving target. The downtown needs some additional maintanance. Cleaning.

75 i think it is a sad day when we have to fight for education

85 Would like to see a separation of Town & School budgets.

91 Road conditions, speeding, excessive noise, downtown traffic, too many crosswalks downtown. The taxes are too high for the services we receive. We keep pouring money into a poor education system instead of fixing the problem first. It should not cost more to educate a child in a public school than in a private school.

111 LACK OF RECYCLING!! the town should provide. polarization of political parties in town, Tax watch dog group that seems scandalous rather than constructive, people in town not willing to change or grow as society does, boe that seems to fight with each other rather than help the children. MORE income to the town from outside visitors... make bethel appealing place for others to spend money... Maybe a golf course

138 I continue to be very concerned about education in Bethel. The community simply does not value it enough. The elected town officials continue to allow the BAC to demoralize our town by their false and unfounded accusations. It is known that Mr. Bob Burke is influenced by members of the Bethel Action Committee. It makes no difference what political party any of us belong to. The nastiness doesn't belong. This type of negativity in the news papers is accessible to folks who may be looking for a home here. Why would anyone want to live in this environment? One year we have sports, the next they're cut. One year we have a gifted teacher, the next the program is cut. We never know from one year to the next what classes, services, etc. will be cut thanks to the BAC being allowed to have so much power in the selectman's office, as it were. Mr. Burke is a very nice man, but a weak leader. He has lived in Bethel for many years. He should love and respect our town enough to speak up strongly against these people who work to cut progress off at the ankles. Mr. Burke looks bad allowing it, we all look bad...it's very demoralizing. We don't read this type of bad news about any other surrounding town. As a matter of fact, Mr. Burke was the only local selectman who was quoted in the paper doubting our budget. All the other town leaders were publicly supportive. He is supposed to be working with all town boards, not doubting them or working against them. Personally, I think Mr. Burke needs to be stronger against this type of stuff. It's just not becoming of an elected leader. His legacy is at stake, and he's waited a long time to become selectman. I hope he does something very positive with the time he has left.

140 I have lived in Bethel for over 23 years and really love it here. I do not want to see Bethel so built up and over-crowded that we lose the small town feel. I would like to see The Bethel School System become one to be admired rather than just acceptable. I would like "The Powers that Be" to look to the future and not just into their personal pocketbooks.

143 I was deeply disappointed by the arguments over the school budget. I believe that the education budget the last item that should be cut. Education is the best investment.

145 it seems that the only part of town government we hear about frequently is the Board of Education. I think while education is important all aspects of town government require significant attention from the Selectmen

148 Get the High School DONE!!! Don't be so strict about letting people build houses for people to live in... (condominiums...warhouses etc.)

154 Above all I believe that Bethel needs to aggressively hold on to its small town roots. Overdeveloping will kill this town. We all want more money and increasing the amount of residents surely brings more money to the town via property tax. However it also brings a bundle of issues. The high school is in need of rebuilding, our roads are getting crowded, open space is dwindling away. We need to head in the direction of Redding not Danbury. Speeding vehicles is also an apparent out of control issue in this town. Cars routinely speed through Greenwood Ave making it dangerous to cross the street. I feel it's only a matter of time until there is an incident near the Bethel Cinema. The area is poorly lit and I constantly witness close calls as drivers are often completely oblivious to the crosswalk. As a resident near the schools I'm consistently amazed at the horrific disregard for the 15 MPH speed limit clearly posted. Although I can certainly understand drivers at 25 MPH I'm horrified when cars drive by at what seems to be well over 40 MPH. We need money to fix the high school and fund other projects and at the same time lives are being endangered by speeding vehicles. I propose we start ticketing speeders in town with an overpowering police presence. Wilton, CT is famous for DWI arrests along RT 7. It's common knowledge that when you drive through Wilton you should take it easy. We need the same reputation in Bethel. If you're going to break the law and endanger human lives, you must pay a penalty.

156 I believe it is next to impossible to stop growth and development. Those with political & financial clout will push their agenda through regardless of what is best for the town or it's people. People with children will always demand that not enough is being done, although as adults looking back most of us got what we needed to be successful from the school system of our time. Does driving up the cost of living here benefit the taxpayer or those collecting on the loans? Will this still be small town America when we submit to these increases and growth year after year? Will what we lose really matter? How can the town keep it's integrity and sell out to big development at the same time? Is Bethel just a few good meals for the development machine to take what it wants before moving on? Maybe it's not important. Not enough people seem to vote or care. Bottom line for me is keep costs as low as possible, put in some environmental improvements, preserve the land, a few bike trails would be nice and healthier school lunches. Oh, South St. is in dire need of repavement. It feels like I'm driving down a crater filled war zone every time I go to Bethel Food Market. All in all, I'm very happy to be a Bethel resident and would just like the town to keep the charm that it has now.

161 This survey is great initiative. I think the town of Bethel has a lot of potential and I hope this survey helps to take action on capitalizing on that potential. If Bethel wants to attract residents with greater discretionary income, higher education, and involvement in the community then it must invest in the High School Project now...there's too much competition with neighboring towns to not invest in this project.

166 I have a number of issues 1. The education system in Bethel has been on a consistent down hill slide for years....thanks to the BAC....It needs to be improved drastically Fixing the high school should be our number one priority 2. The teen center looks pathetic....clean up the appearance 3. The Library looks very nice but is huge and a total waste of money...the money should have been spent to fix the high school....maybe the additional space could be used as rental conf room space for use by small companies or organizations. 4. We missed the boat on turning Meckauer into a community swimming pool....instead we spend the money to put a rock wall around it and a walking path....whoopie 5. We also missed the boat on the golf course. Clearly with the amount of play it would have gotten it would have paid for itself and produced revenue for the town in ten years. Funny....we won't float a bond for a golf course which would have cost us minimal, BUT we will raise taxes to build this HUGE library (that no one can figure out what to do with)and a huge fire house on Stony Hill!! 6. Finally....have you tried to make a left hand turn from Greenwood Ave onto Chestnut/Maple around 5PM?? Why there isn't a left turn signal on that traffic light is mind boggling...it might help relieve congestion.

170 We need a long term plan for this town so we don't go through the budget mess every year. I would like to see a 10 year plan laid out with all capital needs spelled out (new police station, Update two other grammar schools. I am tired of the annual fights over the budget. We need some leadership for a change.

175 Get the High School started and finished now!Enough of waisting valuable "\$" time

177 I appreciate your efforts try and improve Bethel. Some of the questions on this survey seem to have no relevance to making Bethel better. In addition, I am greatly concerned that there are no controls on the # of surveys a person or a group can submit. Since there are no controls, the results can be skewed and have no credibility. The overriding issue facing Bethel right now is to get the high school project completed and the school off probation so our children have access to a quality education in a safe facility and out real estate values reflect Fairfield county standards.

184 If the survey got rid of all personal questions that do not pertain to town improvement - personal income, schooling, types of credit cards etc.. will not help the town. Instead the survey needs more question on how to stop: over-development and over-taxation. Similarly, more questions

are needed on the High School and Library building fiascos, and how they can best be remedied. But, just as in the past, the Town of Bethel is more interested in the amount of money they can take - as illustrated by all the personal financial questions- from the taxpayers of Bethel.

188 I do not like the present "small town" form of government. It's slow and needs to keep up with the new demographic. The town needs to outreach to find some qualified people to run the show. Maybe pay more money to find that person. Also, the town should look for someone else to head up the board of ed. He is payed too much and there is probably someone just as qualified who is younger and more progressive who would save the town some money.

191 I think it is a shame that we have a brand new library and cannot completely use all the space in such a large facility. Also, I think the town should stop playing around with the high school project and get it underway before it is too late for some of the students and they will not have attended an accredited school for college applications.

203 I would like to see an improvement in Bethel sidewalks. We live within walking distance of the village, but the sidewalks we use are in poor repair - even dangerous. Good sidewalks are one way to reduce downtown congestion - they encourage people to walk. Walking is good for personal health and for the environment. We retired to Bethel from Long Island and find it to be a good choice for us. We are somewhat concerned about increase in taxes. We are willing to support education, but do not want to be forced to move from a village we enjoy.

208 I would like to see the community better support the schools. I would also like to see less negative press about our community.

217 Drug and Alcohol awareness for teens (maybe through teen center)

225 The high school desperately needs help. Granted there is controversy in the town, what the students have to deal with every day is a constant reminder that the school needs HELP!

227 I feel tax payers monies are not being used wishly. I have gone into the municipal center many times and see people that work their just sitting around . I feel cut should come from within not just educational program clear across the board.

234 The children are the future of Bethel. Whatever can be done for them is an asset. Improve the schools, the library, the teen center.

237 Traffic light timing is a BIG issue in Bethel. The craziest is the Plumtrees entrance to the school complex. It is a totally obnoxious light. It should be a tripped light, short cycles in the evenings and nights. Then there are the crazy lights in Stoney Hill, you have to wait a LONG time then when they change, they're green only long enough for 2 cars to go through. That light at rt6 and Benadict is the worst one. Those are my traffic complaints... Taxes are out of control. People will move out not because of the schools but because they can't afford the taxes. When will it end? Something has to be done with the schools, after years of throwing good money after bad, the school system needs to be revamped. Have teacher pay for their healthcare, don't give out raises every year. Have them give back as us Tax payers have had to do for years. Other school systems can give kids a great education without the high cost that Bethel has.

239 The residential property taxes in Bethel can not continue to increase. We need to find alternative sources to fund future town projects. Families and older people will not be able to afford houses in Bethel if this continues. This is why the budget for the school was difficult to pass.

253 The town needs recreational facilities like a pool golf course a place families could go and community events can be held. We also need to renovate the High School ASAP or all our property values will decline. Pay to Play should NEVER exist. The Board of Ed should always pay for sports. Sports are an important part of our childrens education and EVERYONE should be able to participate.

265 I can not emphasize enough how much a Great school system means to our community, the divisive issues and 'us' vs. 'them' mentality is very troubling. Bethel has become a split comunity and as a lifelong resident it disturbs me.

276 I think Bethel is a lovely town & I would like to see it improve, particularly in the educational, recreational & cultural areas. Thank you.

277 I firmly believe that we need to pursue a county based Education Dept. to reduce cost.

278 I'd like to see the town develop an aggressive program to promote volunteering within our town, particularly with (but not exclusively) helping our senior citizens. There's been some discussion at the state level about abolishing the personal property tax on cars. Perhaps a better way for people to reduce that burdon is by providing tax abatements directly proportionate to the number of hours volunteered. We need to foster the true sense of community and teach our children the importance of helping others. If we have to provide incentives to accomplish this then i'm all for it. I also strongly believe that volunteering should be taught in our schools from kindergarten on as part of our "social studies" and social responsibilities and should be a requirement for to move to the next grade level. It seems that each generation identifies more closely with entitlement rather than responsibility.

279 You have a "bleeding school system". Which is driving out affluent/educated home owners/would be home owners. Take care of your kids and their education, they have been slighted long enough!

283 The High School is a big issue, and must not be ignored, Fix it correct, explain it to the people ask for additional funds, get PTO, Parents to back additional funds, promote it, get it done right! If promoted correctly people will understand it's the best thing to do for our great town!

297 Bethel Streets were not made for heavy traffic, especially down town Bethel. There are too many heavy trucks on Greenwood Avenue and too many vehicles. I think we need to restrict trucks from traveling on Greenwood Ave. during peak hours. Low income housing brings too many minorities into town, which in turn overcrowd our schools, with non english speaking students. This would mean that we would need more teachers teaching english as a second language. We need to spend our money in better areas.

303 Taxes are too high High school and library plans are too extravagant

315 too many people in this town are worried about the wrong things, like keeping the town a "quaint new england village" at the expense of progress. I have been here 3 years, and will be leaving in one month, and still can't find all the stores I need, like a place to find shoes which fit my feet, and other things which I want and need. The town is also way to political, as the BAC and Matt Paulsen who seem to have it out for the Education System. People don't seem to care about the children of

Bethel. I am glad to be leaving this highly political small town. I have lived in 4 major areas in the country and never encountered such politics as this town. I really liked the school system, until last year when so much had to be cut from the budget. Now, it is barely hanging on in my opinion. I do hope things can change, but rather doubt it.

324 Instead of a new police station, how about a "sub-station", either downtown or in Stony Hill? The library renovation was totally mismanaged. In this day of "on-line everything", what do we need with such a huge library, a lot of which remains unfinished. Disgraceful! Did our town boards seriously think that they could pass a budget for the high school renovation, and 3 or 4 years later the same amount of money would get the same amount of work? Anyone familiar with the term inflation?

348 Get the HS fixed, with A/C in the whole building NOW! We need more sports fields, better care of the one's we have and make the HS football field and Rourke TURF fields! It was great to have the town center redone with nice lights, sidewalks and such a few years ago - WHY didn't we BURY the telephone and electrical lines, they are UGLY! STOP the overbuilding in residential area's and ENFORCE the zoning laws on the number and size of buildings being proposed!

349 Let me begin by saying Kudos to the Library for hosting this survey. I have said at more town meetings how the town should begin to do this on its' website instead of splitting the budget. They tell me that it can't be done, yet here the Library is able to do it. I think our town is positioning itself for future years of severe economic trouble. Current leaders are trying to define Bethel as a "retirement community," if it continues to do this all development in Bethel will stop. Retirees do not; have never developed a small New England town. A New England town's model is built, developed and sustained on bringing young families in who are not on fixed incomes into town. A fixed income populace can not develop Bethel into a "charming small town," nor will it be able to support its current infrastructure. We need to rethink this retirement path we have chosen. Look at what needs to be developed in the next five years, because I can assure you if the town government would take the time to do tax projections on a "retirement community base," it will find it will not have the tax revenues even to maintain the current infrastructure. I asked why are they putting in 26 and 264 "retirement units." Their answer was because these types of units don't burden the school system. Once again they are only looking at one side of the equation. A growth in school system means young families with money. Yes, bigger schools but more money in tax revenues to pay for those schools and other town development.

353 Stop parking on both sides of the road on Greenwood avenue by Bethel Food Market. Start a smart development of Route 6, sooner than later to gain further tax revenue, and help decrease the burden of our tax payers, get ride of negative naysayers in town politics do not allow them to hold "court" at town meetings and public sessions. Start selling the Town of Bethel as to its positive attributes, put a more favorable perception in Bethelites and out of towners eyes. Let sell why someone would want to live here, work here, shop here, visit here. Let's get a very functional website for the town, where we can get forms, information, let's pay for a webmaster. Let's all remember change is good when done right, taxes happen and increase when done for the right reasons, and education is one of them. The elected officials needs to set a 5 YEar plan for this Bethel inclusive of growing our town, fixing our buildings, developing Route 6.

365 Well, after taking the survey, I see the town of Bethel has not changed in anyway with the new government officials. They are more interested in the amount of money their citizens make, as indicated by all the personel monetary questions on income, credit cards, types of cars driven etc... so that they can gauge the tax increase for next year. My answer is this: freeze the tax increases, check all your budgets prior to year end to see where there is unused money and cut back on the budgets. By checking before the year end closing date I'm sure you'll find the extra money! Do an internal audit without warning and I'm sure you'll be surprised at the funds you'll find. Additionally, and just as

important, Bethel needs to stop the overdevelopment of it's land before it destroys the small town charm. Terre Haute needs to be preserved AS IS - no golf course and no "harvesting." Make it passive recreational with trails for all. Likewise, Bethel needs to stop the overdevelopment by outside construction firms/developers, such as Ovenrock partners, from creating more urban sprawl. Reservoir Street and it's surrounding neighborhoods do not need any more traffic thru them. Similiar projects throughout Bethel are taxing (literally) the people, the infrastructure and supply system of Bethel. Causing power fluctuations, water main breaks, flooding, traffic concerns and stressing all departments at the increased demands. Furthermore, The town swimming pool and golf courses should NEVER have be in this survey. They should NEVER have been brought up! Both were shot down for various reasons by the citizens of Bethel -why are they still here? Because the town is lead by a select group of cronies who continue to beat a dead horse. The town spoke out numerous times against both projects, was anyone listening to them? Let me refresh your memory the answer was a resounding: NO WE DON'T WANT THEM. The Library project was just a precursor to the horrendous mismanagement of the Bethel High School project. The library is oversized and underutilized. The High School is heading in the same direction. Stop where you are, look at what can be cut in the new addition and renovated in the old building. Most importantly, keep within the approved amount of bonding/loans that the citizens originall approved - do not request more money, the town citizens can not afford anymore.

380 Last time I was at the library, I noticed the children's section was in the same area as the adult while the teen section was separate. This seemed bizarre to me. I could barely concentrate with all the screaming kids. Teenagers, while often obnoxious, are usually pretty respectful in a library. It seems more logical to put the children's library in a separate section so a person can read/research in peace. As a school teacher (in a different town), I am concerned about the budget. People do not understand the ramifications of an unaccredited school. Perhaps they should have information sessions on what that means and on what we need to do to make sure it doesn't happen. The word especially needs to be spread among the senior citizens. Along the same lines, I am very impressed by Bethel's teen center, what a fabulous resource for the town's young people. This should be expanded to include more activities.

383 again, something has to be done about taxes, and the parent/school groups in bethel. please !

389 I WORK IN DANBURY AND THEY ARE ALWAYS IMPROVING THEIR ROADS...BETHEL ROADS, WITHIN THE DOWNTOWN AREA ARE HORRIBLE...PRIME EXAMPLE: SOUTH ST. IT'S LIKE TRYING TO AVOID LAND MINDS...IT HAS BEEN DUG UP SEVERAL TIMES & NEVER PAVED, I USED TO LIVE ON THAT ROAD SEVERAL YEARS AGO & IF I DID TODAY, I'D BE CALLING THE TOWN HALL EVERYDAY! OTHER ROADS IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA ARE ALSO VERY POOR. ALSO, DURING THE VOTING OF THE 2005 G/L BUDGET, WHEN IT DID NOT PASS TWICE, WHY WEREN'T CUTS MADE FROM THE BOARD OF EDUC.? BETHEL TOWN DEPTS. SHOULD NOT BE AFFECTED.I WAS BORN & RAISED IN DANBURY & MOVED TO BETHEL ABOUT 30 YRS AGO & LOVED THE DOWNTOWN QUAINTESS, FRIENDLINESS & LITTLE OR NO CRIME....I WISH TO SEE THAT CONTINUE NOW & IN THE FUTURE...DO NOT BUILD UP BETHEL LIKE DANBURY HAS DONE TO ITSELF. THANK YOU.

401 I am concerned about the future charter revision. I am not happy with the idea of splitting the town and school budgets. While I am always concerned with finding ways to save money, etc., I do not want to see the budget split. There are too many very vocal naysayers about education and I am worried education will be smacked to smithereens. If these naysayers did not exist and meaningful discussion and solutions could go on I would more likely be in favor of it.

404 I feel we should invest more in our schools.

408 The school issues need to be controlled as well as the BOE. Telling the whole truth would be a good start. We must be smart and think "outside of the box" when dealing with these issues. The excuse that "Newtown is doing this, or Brookfield is doing that, in order to justify school expenses is not an acceptable reason to spend money. Put the facts on the table, not politics or personal agenda's. We also need to tell the schools to stop the propaganda and agenda's whenever I attend a school function for my children. When I attend the "dads for donuts" get-together I don't want a speech about how awful things will be if I don't support a particular view of the BOA or administrators. Leave the politics where it belongs, out of my children's classroom!

437 The taxes in Bethel are going too high. We will not be able to afford to live here much longer. I think the school budget is way out of hand.

444 The town needs more public facilities (Town Pool, better park facilities). This is one of the only towns around that has nothing to offer (Wolfe park monroe) to its residents. Big minus for families moving in and looking to stay long term. Education needs to be improved or else families will look to towns that have better schooling for their tax dollars.

452 PLEASE rebuild BHS!

462 PEOPLE WITH NO CHILDREN SHOULD PAY LESS REAL ESTATE TAXES BECAUSE WE DON'T USE THE SCHOOL SYSTEM.

476 Bethel needs parking, couldn't we move the teen center into the Municipal Center where they could have use of a gym? Then turn that spot into a nice parking lot for the town? The powerline project has been messy as expected... after getting stepped on so many times can we at least step up and make them fix up their mess a little better than a pavement patch that will sink and cause us problems to fix down the road? Also what's the deal on Judd Ave. where they cut into these poor people's yards and once they hit the town property went out into the road?? We need to protect our residents from treatment like that. Overall Bethel is a great place to live and own a business, if taxes keep going up myself and others I know plan to live elsewhere though. It is hard to justify needing so much more money and then saying oh by the way here's our new library, here's the plans for a new police station AND a newly fixed up high school, oh Berry school just got re-done too... Too many projects, fix and use what we have first. It seems we can't wait to do things or try other ways to fix them, it's always new this or upgrade that. The high school is working just fine, instead of upgrading it how about we cut all of the BS that is going on there out of it and it will run much smoother. We need better PR help as well, people usually don't like it much when a walking trail is paved at a park but their kid has to pay to play basketball in school. Also think about cause and effect, surely there will be some kids who now won't play sports because we couldn't NOT charge them. What will they do? This isn't a fairy tale, of course some and maybe a lot of them will get in trouble and be arrested and what not. Now take some of the money set aside for the police station and pay for sports, therefore stopping the increase in youth crime and lowering the need for a new police station. Sure it's not all as simple as I have laid it out to be but the general concepts are on par. All I ask is that we think before we DO, we have a falling apart HS remodeling plan, a half finished library, we stuck the teen center in an outdated building, we as Bethel make mistakes so sometimes we need to anticipate an oncoming one. Think about the dogs being walked the kids flying kites, HS Cross Country Practice, Remote control planes, people just enjoying the day, all of that and more will be gone from the property on Whittlesey and Judd if we stick a police station there, and what will happen to this supposedly old run down police station that we have now?? Will it just be another eye sore like the unfinished Library?? If the old building isn't good enough for our police who is it good enough for? Think about it... Thanks for the great idea with this survey and I hope to see more things like it in the future!

482 I would love to see a dog park somewhere in town. Also, I have taken several Adult Ed classes in Bethel. I would suggest that the teachers be screened to be sure that the classes are not advertisements for their personal business pursuits. I had one excellent experience in adult ed and two bad experiences in which I paid to hear their personal businesses advertised. I would like to take more classes but would be very cautious in the future. I would also like to take the opportunity to say that Bethel is a wonderful town, I have been here almost 20 years and I am glad that I raised my son here. This survey and the ideas raised have given me an idea of what great potential Bethel had to be even better!

494 Bethel needs to start cleaning up their act with the schools when it comes to actually giving the kids a good education in the classroom and stop hyping it up in the press. fix the schools that give them the education. fix the police dept. and other town services to accomodate the growing town. get good teachers in the classroom, which I admit my kids have had mostly grea teachers with a few undesirables in between. in middle school parents are not notified if a child is slipping but is told on report cards when its too late. some teachers need to stop "recommending" medication to parents for their children and some pricipals need to have some of their power taken away (BK)although they may manage that school they don't own it. although other teachers, assistants, and others ie amy schulkin are a blessing. thanx for the moment

495 Just three things. 1. Selectman be more visible to public 2. Resolve the second floor issue of the Library 3. Resolve the problem of the towns people being divided on the Board Of Ed budget everytime

500 I work in a down town business and have to live with two other people in order to stay in the town I grew up in, and I am so sad that as of now I will never be able to afford to buy a home in this town. I want to stay here forever and every day it is becoming more impossible, there needs to be more programs to keep those who love this town and deserve to stay here to keep the values that our school system taught us. Give the tweens and teenagers something to do. Give the twenty-somethings something to be involved in together.

511 Bethel needs to "clean up". The unsightly vehicles that are on home properties. Commercial vehicles should not be allowed, old and unused cars are an eye sore, houses that are run down adn over grown shuld be given a visit by volunteers from the high school student body to help clean up our town. Communtiy Service should be manditory for all school children no matter what the age. We need to give back to the community in order for the residents to have a sense of responsibility and awareness. Stop finger pointing and do something to make a difference, something you can see everyday of the year. Rake a lawn,recycle cans,clean up the school yards and fields,volunteer at an event at the library..The people of this town need to engage ALL of the town, not just the same faces over and over.

528 Finish the library project, do the high school project "right", and build a new police station.

531 I have owned a home in Bethel for over 10 years and I have 2 young children. I have no issue with my taxes... but I wish we had a pool in town for the kids (like every other town does....) The constant bickering about school budgets and required improvements to educational facilities makes me think that maybe this is not the best town to raise my kids and pay taxes. I also don't understand why we need a new police station ??? Can't we use some of the ENORMOUS stony hill fire department building as additional office space for the PD?

533 Make sure the High School gets started and completed ASAP. Audit our town government departments - somethings not right. You are getting, at no charge, information for all of us, so why do we need all those department heads.\$\$

550 matt paulsen gives the whole town a black eye. I hate all the press he gets. investigate ways to curb his power and ability to seek attention at the town's expense. thw school's should think of creative ways to get the town behind the schools and take the emphasis off the schools as a drain. The schools shoulkd be held up as a resource. More community outreach needed. i'd like to see, for example, the schools musical groups play in more community settings like nursing homes, senior center, the gazebo, etc. Invite groups to play rehearsals, etc. Get creative!

574 I'd love to see more recreational activities for kids ie: a pool or sprinkler park, outdoor ice skating, etc. I'd also like to see some foreign language classes for elementary school ie: french and spanish.

609 I find it very disturbing that another year has gone by without starting the high school. I also am very upset that the second phase of the sewers in Stony Hill have been delayed. I t seems to be the way this town is run. The "ball" is always being dropped and it is always the "other guys fault". I am tired of supporting budgets that address the needs of small groups of people instead of the majority. I think it is unfair that we pay for gifted teachers and that we do not keep play to pay. Meanwhile we need a new police station and high school that would benefit ALL the children in town. We need to look at the fact that many older people are being forced to leave Bethel.

611 It would be helpful to have a school survey... questioning generalities observed re: teachers, administrators, over courses of study, PTO, etc.

626 I would like to be more informed of the state of the library renovations as well as the high school renovations. All I am sure of is that I voted YES to both of them over the years and only see one project (the library) only two-thirds completed while the high school hasn't begun, but to the best of my knowledge we have had increases in taxes...ie.mill rate that show the budget increases however..not much work to show for it.

632 Bethel is a very nice community. I feel the elderly are treated with respect, the veterans are recognized and honored, and the needs of the minors in town are always considered. The situation with the high school really needs to be aggressively addressed as it has been going on to long and only seems to be getting worse. It is nice to see people walking on the sidewalks as well as to see all of the bikers about town. The Teen Center sometimes seems unmonitored but who possibly can monitor teens at all times? I apprecaiate the Police Department and the Fire Department. I like all of the schools being in one park. Bethel is full of many good people. It is a nice place to live. I am grateful for the people I have met those I will meet in the future. However, Bethel is only as good as the people in it . . .so let's keep community involvement up and continue to have great places available for us to go, such as the library. I was not aware of so many places to go but now I do after this survey. I intend to seek them out.

634 stop the commerical corporate development, focus on conserving resources. OUR MONEY SHOULD NOT BE GOING ALL TO BETHEL HIGH SCHOOL! much of Bethel's population are elderly, have no children, or send their children to other out of town schools. if the parents of bethel high students want improvements, great, they can pay for them. stop making everyone else use their money towards something they could care less about. and it's pretty ridiculous when a bill keeps failing to change the budget and people attempt to keep trying to pass it. hello, no means no.

635 Some town roads are in deplorable condition. Scotty fund picnic is the best and doesn't disrupt traffic through town. Sidewalk sales are great. Love to tell outsiders about Bethel and its ambience even though we can't afford to live here any more. our biggest disappointment with Bethel is the public school education. There is too much fluff and not enough emphasis on the basics. If children learn the basics well, they'll pick up the rest on the way. Firm fundamentals give an appetite for more education. Too much, too soon only tends to confuse the young mind and make learning difficult.

661 BETHEL NEEDS TO VIEW ITSELF IN COMPARISON TO OTHER TOWNS THAT IT COMPETES WITH. THE CIRCUS OF SCHOOL SYCOPHANTS CRYING ABOUT THE SKY FALLING CAUSES A NEGATIVE IMPRESSION ON THE OUTSIDER. BETHEL HAS SOME GREAT ASSETS AND HISTORY, BUT IT IS UNCOMPETITIVE WHEN CONSIDERING ADULT AND FAMILY AMENITIES. ITS TAXES ARE HIGHER, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF COMMERCIAL PROPERTY IS REACTIVE. BETHEL IS CENTRALLY SITUATED WHICH MAKES IT A BETTER CHOICE FOR DOWN-COUNTY COMMUTERS, IT'S DOWNTOWN IS APPEALING. I FIND, HOWEVER, THAT THERE IS NOT MUCH TO ATTRACT ME TO ACTUALLY SHOP DOWNTOWN. THERE IS A REDUNDENCY OF SIMILAR SHOPS, AND A CONSTANT TURNOVER. AS A BUSINESSPERSON I FOUND THAT THE DOWNTOWN LANDLORDS ARE COMPLETELY UNREALISTIC ABOUT THE VALUE OF THEIR RENTAL SPACE, AND HENCE THEY ARE WILLING TO LEAVE THEIR SPACE VACANT FOR EXTENDED PERIODS OF TIME TO THEN GOUGE UNSOPHISTICATED TENANTS WHO THROW LARGE SUMS OF MONEY INTO SPACE TO START A BUSINESS SEEMINGLY WITH NO FORMAL BUSINESS PLAN. THE LANDLORDS AVERAGE THE REAL RENTAL VALUE, BUT IF THEY CHARGED A REASONABLE RATE TO BEGIN WITH, THEY'D HAVE OCCUPIED STORES AND THE DOWNTOWN WOULD HAVE HIGHER QUALITY ESTABLISHMENTS. FINALLY, THE ZONING ENFORCEMENT IS HORRENDOUS. BETHEL LOOKS LIKE A TOWN OF RIDGE RUNNERS WITH WORK TRUCK IN DRIVEWAYS, OR WORSE YET, FRONT YARDS. HOUSES ARE ALLOWED TO DILAPIDATE, WITH NO APPARENT PENALTY FROM THE TOWN.

664 To sum it up, I love the library and maybe it will get people thinking at last that the schools can be updated...really the town of Bethel has really poor priorities and i've really lost interest in it. Any changes for the better are so darn difficult. The lack of leadership and small town back-biting is legendary. Well, at least we have our library!

674 Bethel is a wonderful town, in so many ways. The schools and downtown area are terrific and we all should be proud. Bethel does, however, seriously lack recreational facilities and budget season is simply an embarrassment.

689 Keep Bethel with the same small town feeling! No big corporations! Fix BHS now!

691 Let's get the high school project started. Bethel is a great community! Without the high school renovation, potential new residents will look to other towns to relocate.

694 Maybe the schools should explain to the students how the government of Bethel functions. I could barely understand any of the government-related questions without asking my dad what everything meant.

699 I am concerned about the support our teachers/schools receive. There is a lot of turn over in staff and even the administration in individual buildings. We are not keeping them and making our community appealing enough. The talk I hear is how our teachers feel unappreciated and apathetic towards our town. We must take action steps to change the circumstances. People who teach our kids should not be looking for a way out soon after they get here. Recognition and praise, teamwork

and support...all essential, and professional development. Find out from THEM also, what they need. How do we fare compared to the benefits and support teachers have in other districts. We moved here in 1993. I remember our realtor saying we would have a town pool within a year or two. That was one reason why we chose Bethel. A great place for community, socialization, recreation too. We feel misled and let down and don't give too much weight to what people say. Why our budget fails so often, I find distressing. It's all for the good of our citizens. Again I feel we do not come together like other communities soon enough. If we had the means and it wasn't such an effort, moving might be a consideration. Our educators leave often, our budget fails often, doesn't scream a lot of support. Would I recommend someone with children move to Bethel? I would have to think twice about that one. Another thought. We need more parking for the library. Why don't we get rid of the teen center and create space for people to park when they visit this beautiful, expansive building, the focal point of our town. It's like you have to take tickets to park there now, or why bother going there. Who does the teen center attract. From what I hear it is for troubled teens. That is just the gossip. Doesn't seem appealing for me to want to send my middle schooler there. Thanks for asking.

706 I feel that during the Holiday Season the Nativity scene in the middle of town is slightly offensive to people who are not Christian. Every year I drive by and wish that the town supported all ethnic backgrounds not just baby Jesus and such. There should be a Jewish, Muslim, Kwanzaa etc.etc. The multi-cultural show at Rockwell is done every year and so terrific, but the town needs to support what the kids are being taught in school. Without including all religions it discriminates!!!! If the town can't have something for everyone then it should not be there at all. Or do something that is not religious but wintry and festive.

717 EXCESSIVE OVERDEVELOPMENT!!! Every pretty patch of woods in town is being pulled down for more housing or commercial space and we do not have the room for all these people and their cars and their kids in the schools! Also, something needs to be done about this selfish minority of big mouths ruining our town called the Bethel Action Committee. Paulsen simply doesn't want to pay taxes on a house he inherited and he doesn't send his kids to the local school, so he doesn't care how he ruins the town and the schools for the rest of us. Surely something can be done to shut him down. He is a DISGRACE.

720 A community swimming pool is a wonderful idea and would make our town more Bethel oriented...i am looking forward to this improvement in our community. I am praying that Bethel will not become the home to many condo developments...this creates our town to look messy and would rid us of the lovely small town charm we possess. The teen center seems old and could use some renovation. The high school project has not started yet and this upsets me. Instead of raising more money we should actually start!

725 I am still new here to CT and to Bethel. When we first moved to Bethel and bought our house my husband and I saw all the Save Bethel HS signs and thought..."what did we do by moving here?" Most people in Bethel say that the high school may be finished in 10 years, or by the time my 5 year old gets there. I don't have any solutions as I have been to town meetings and see how things are discussed. I don't know why it's so hard to just take the money for the school and fix it. I obviously do not know the details, but I can't believe that it costs that much money to rebuild or to fix. But really whatever it takes, get it done. We always vote yes for more money. It just seems like Bethel is divided into two towns. Downtown Bethel is the older retired part, then toward Stony Hill you have the younger families with children who want to pay the taxes to bring on changes. I just read what you are doing and try and help when I can. Thank you

735 The high school is my biggest concern. We should do the project once correctly and get it over with. There are huge safety issues in the high school that we should be worried about. Also, budget season is disgusting. People are rude and fighting each other. I think the departments should

put together a budget that reflects what they need and the people should accept it. It makes no sense to say you can only get a certain % . Our town services are vital, as well as educating our children. I will always support our town.

742 I can't afford to live here anymore. Property taxes are too high. You must cut school spending. I shop and buy absolutely as little as possible. No more school building projects. Stop wasting my money. Education budget should be cut in half.

744 We need to fix the High School We need better interaction between the school and parents We need more HS Team Support We need to get the community interested in the youth

751 the over spending by the board of education. too many people move into this town, raise their children and our taxes and then move on. i don't know how to fix it but it is driving home grown residents from this town. we need affordable housing so our children do not have to move out of town and state. too many mcmansions being built instead of small starter homes for seniors or young adults. and stop paying for so many administrators in the school system. use to be 1 principal for each school now there are 3 at the HS and Middle school WHY? and what does Chesley do besides drive around town.

755 Well, from several of your questions, I deduce that the writers of the survey are politically liberal. While I am concerned about the environment I don't agree with a lot of the solutions that the "green" party pushes. The taxes in Bethel are way too high. I would like for my parents to move here but even if they found a house they could afford, the monthly taxes would make it impossible on a fixed income. I understand that the high school needs some serious repairs but the money needs to be found within the current income. Other areas seem to be able to fund their programs and schools with much lower taxes which is pushing a lot of our retired people out of the area.

775 The Bethel Public School System needs improvement. There needs to be better instruction and a full day kindergarten program. There needs to be remedial programs during the school year before or after school. The teachers shouldn't rely on a "Summer School" policy for too many children who don't meet the academic objectives during the school year. The high school renovations should be completed already.

792 Based on the questions asked in the survey there are apparently many resources that are being paid for but many people probably don't know about them. Don't need bike lanes, we need our infrastructures fixed and maintained and we need more tax dollars from business because the homeowners can't bear it all especially since we can't get anything done! Berry School - excellent example of how things should be done, the HS and Library? Disaster, embarrassing. Finish what we started before starting anything new okay??

797 Finish the Library! Finish the High School! Get leaders in Bethel who will lead the town to something better. Stop the animosity between the BOE and Selectmen. Get more big business in here to bring down the taxes! Keep Bethel Awesome!

798 I am so frustrated with these town budget votes.. I wish we could agree on what needs to be addressed and then move forward with it. Waiting for these high school renovations is ridiculous. I have a child going into high school this year and we have chosen to send him to another high school out of town due to the problems and lack of accreditation at Bethel High School.

808 The School System is poorly run. The Superintendant is obsessed with Test Scores. Bethel competes with school systems with much higher per capita income. We have many non english speaking children and no one mentions that. Many children are living in homes with one parent and are living in disfunctional environments. Teahers have to deal with all of this and still must compete with towns like Greenwich. Mr Chesley has been a poor Superintendant in my view. He does not act as a leader in support of the teachers in the system. We dont need a new Police Department Building. What we need is the Bethel Police spending less time hiding in driveways looking to catch a Stop sign roll throughs on Walnut Hill & Talor and more time catching drug dealers

830 the library project should have been done on a much smaller scale - moneies should have been spent on the high school

838 FIX THE HIGH SCHOOL IMMEDIATELY

839 Please help upgrade the school system. The moral is low and so many teachers leave Bethel. Make them want to come and stay.

851 \*Our town concerns: \*Completion of the high school project \*Completion of the library expansion \*Maintenance and expansion of recreational opportunities for people of all ages

853 I like things in good working order, neat and clean. When I travel throughout the town and see unkept town shrubs, gardens, lawns, buildings, etc... I see a town that has dropped the ball. First order of business should be to take good, really good care of what we already have. We need to invest heavily in our children. That means better infrastructure and curriculum. That does not mean more work or homework. Kids need to be kids, need time to rest and have some fun. But we need to meet the demands of gifted children and the special needs of others. I think Bethel is doing well, and can only do better with more money for programs. I don't like teen centers, they encourage punkish behavior. The town should never be asked to pick up the ball for weak parents. We use way too much salt and sand in the winter, we should re-think this. Our roads are a mess, lets get busy paving. Police and fire do a good job, and need infrastructure improvements also. Perhaps we should create a new board to assist town managers with our infrastructure. WiFi wireless would be creative. Fight Blight! Our rivers and streams need cleaning. We have problems, but overall it's a great town, I love it! Nice survey! Thanks for asking. Lastly, The library is going to have raise private money to finish that 2nd floor. There's too many other priorities.

856 this survey should not be available only online- this does allow people who do not have internet connections to voice their opinion. this survey also should have been shorter and the question options should have been separated - for example sometimes i agreed with the first option given but not the following option that was connected with the word "and." as a student who no longer lives in bethel year round I truly think i will not move back to bethel after college unless the educational system is fixed (especially the high school and consistent budget problems).

864 There are too many condominiums going up in the town. The sad part is that the buildings that are being put up, increase the population of the town, and it only benefits the greedy developers who don't live in the town! Also it is a shame that there is such a negative attitude towards the high school renovation in the town. What is sad is that the people who are against it don't realize that if it is not renovated and fixed no one will move into the town, and therefore their house value will depreciate!

892 After attending this year's budget hearings, I feel the town has become seriously divided. We have the people who believe the children of this town should be satisfied with the bare minimum, and the people who feel the children of this town deserve better. Every time we have a budget hearing, it

is the education portion of the budget that is targeted. We hear very little about the town side. No one wants to pay more taxes. But if we have to pay more to provide the children of Bethel with a proper education in buildings that are not 30 years old, so be it. Splitting the budget is only going to make a bad situation worse. I would like to see Bethel fix the high school according to the original plan. I think the high school should be our main priority. I have supported the library, the Stony Hill Firehouse, and various other projects. Now it is the children's turn to get some support. I would just like Bethel to do a project as promised. Thank you for your time.

903 Bethel is rather boring and we find ourselves leaving everytime we do something. We need a town pool, and more fun things for families to do. Consider a children's museum like Stepping Stones. The administration for Circle of Friends needs an overhaul. Extreme incompetence and withholding of services. Look into it ASAP.

934 EDUCATION: I would like to see better foundation work in the elementary and intermediate schools. Teaching to the test was the primary focus of my child's 3rd grade experience!!!! My child's spelling is not great, but she did learn how to expand a thought! Also, how is it that the teachers are to give timed math tests in the 2nd and 3rd grades but yet spelling tests are not given. Rote memory techniques work for math but not spelling? I have seen the difference between my child and those in Danbury....I am not convinced that all the annual drama over the school budget needing to be increased is truly providing an increased level of education. I am not a first time parent...this is the 4th child in our family to go through school. I am not a parent that feels their child can do no wrong....far from it. I just do not see the level of education increasing as does the annual Educational Budget. I came to this town 11 years ago and frankly I don't feel we have substantially improved the town or it's services. My taxes were approx. \$2,500/annually and now its close to \$5000. So taxes have esentially doubled, but what has been the end result? Have we spent our tax dollars wisely? Are we really trying to meet the needs of the entire town or just a handful of "boutique parents" that relocted primarily from New York? It would be enlightening to see a set of core objectives set for the town that don't change based on the outcome of an election. Let the majority of the voters get a chance to buy into the direction of Bethel's future!

948 More money invested in Parks & Recreation facilities. Schools/BOE needs to limit the specials and concentrate on the basics to keep costs down. Parents need to pay for the specials if they want them.

963 The High School is the most important issue for the Town, The price every day is increasing and many people are moving out, the property value will decrease if this continues, we are thinking too!!!

986 As previously mentioned all involved powers need to do some serious thinking on how to address the educational issue without crushing the tax payer. It should be an embarrassment that community members consider that educational quality can only be had in Bethel by going to an outside source. Other communities in which I have lived and worked, (Newtown, Wilton) provide high quality schools for their residents with similar tax resources. The choice to not use these schools is often for personal preference, not out of necessity.

1037 stop the overdevelopment! my parents' taxes are paying for children who do not even live in this town. individuals are using relatives' addresses to attend our schools. had this issue been addressed and overdevelopment, our high school would not have to be renovated so quickly. our new principal is calling for everyone to eat in the cafeteria next year. i could barely breathe as it was last year when 1/4 of the students in each lunch ate in the halls. i cannot imagine how this will b next year!

1038 Because of my family status I am most dissapointed with the lack of attention our budgets get. I believe strongly in the education of our youth. This includes participating in all types of extracurricular activities. sports, music or whatever. The cost to the townspeople would be minimal maybe \$4- \$8 per family per year. It should never be this hard to pass budgets.

1040 Police: they need a new station. Also as I said earlier there should be a comprehensive traffic enforcement program to address moving violations, loud vehicle exhausts, & cell phone use. These violations make downtown very unpleasant. Schools: someone should investigate what really happens to the money. Talk to the teachers without fear of reprisals and find out how the schools really work. Also discipline in the upper grades is very lax, walk through the MS or HS sometime for a real education on the environment there.

1041 We love the town of Bethel. We are concerned with the budget and how it is never passed on the first try. We are pro budget if it will improve our schools. It is very important for us with two young children to ensure a good education. We are also concerned with the businesses in downtown. We want to keep the quaintness of Bethel without becoming a professional area of businesses.

1049 Renovate the high school. Increase the DVD and video collection.

1057 At the current rate of tax increases it will be impossible to continue to live in Bethel. The education people need to be held in check. Upper income families move in, demand the best for their kids...and guess what they move, and we are left with the taxes! How many condo developments can be serviced by the town? More people, more services and the home owner gets to pay more.

1067 The only real negative about where we live is that people speed down our street. We live on Benedict Ave. I did not know when I moved in that it was such a busy road. It is important to me that I be able to walk and ride a bike on my street. You have to be very careful on our road. I know it is impossible but I would love a speed bump or stop sign at the end of my drive way to make people slow down. I am not sure there is anything else that would work. Since that will never happen it is very important to me that there is a community bike path. While living in westchester we had a bike path (blacktop) that ran through miles of the county. It was great to go biking and rollerblading or even walking on. It would be great to have classes during the day for stay at home moms such as photography, garden club, book clubs, yoga, cooking classes, (basic continuing ed stuff) but during the day so we would not have to rely on our husbands getting home in time to take a class. I love the idea of a community pool. I would love to find out more about many of the parks etc. in this survey. I had no idea they existed. I would love to know more about my elected officials. Where do you get this info? And I would love a jazz radio station since you asked. The music in this area is horrible. I use my mp3 player. and finally, We moved to Bethel because it was the only small town in the area that had a town center where you could walk and shop. It reminded us of cold springs, ny. We want to keep it that way.

1068 I would like to see the high school fixed in the near future, the longer they wait, the more it will cost the town and its students. This is not fair to especially those graduating students who would like to graduate from a high school without accreditation problems.

1076 Please make some serious improvements by fixing Bethel High School by making it a safer place for the students to attend. That would be for starters. Thanks!

1081 It is absolutely disgusting that the high school renovation is taking so long. And, now the plans are to cut back on project. So, I guess we will not "Do It Once, Do It Right", as the original project slogan suggested. I would also question why the town is paying for the asbestos removal at the high

school, when this was supposedly cleared up in the early 1990's. Why aren't those companies paying for the removal now?

1090 Get that high school fixed!

1109 The area of land next to the post office and across the street from town hall should be taken advantage of, either for a new business or for community use. After all this survey mentions a lot about community activities and in Bethel I do not think that there is enough. I have grown up in this town and the kids in high school just do not find the town as much fun. Granted the "green" was turned into a park which deters kids from hanging out downtown which is not a bad thing, however many are weary of going into molten Java which many would like to replace the former Doctor Java, but it has not. Famous pizza is a popular place to go, but it can only fit so many people just like many other businesses. I think a Starbucks might be a good business to put downtown, even though we already have a Dunkin' Donuts. I think a gym would be a great thing to have considering there is a Curves, yet there is no place for men to workout, also I heard rumor of a Pancho's and Gringo's that will be on the backside of William Sotheby, that would be a great restaurant to have, especially to bring more to the night life. Another bar or pub would also be good this way people could walk from the Spot, to Greenwood's, to Putnam House and then another to finish off their walking/drinking tour of Bethel. I myself cannot think of much else to say, I am going off to school in the fall and Bethel will just be that place I go back to for the holidays and for the summer. FIX THE HIGH SCHOOL

1113 1. Eliminate overhead wires (all of them) downtown. 2. For every new traffic sign that gets put up require that two get removed. 3. Widen Greenwood Ave between PT Barnum Sq and Bethel Food driveway. 4. Make our public schools the best in the state - it can be done! 5. Hire a "take charge" town manager to oversee all operational and fiscal aspects of town government. The town's inability to deal with long term issues stems from the fact we fall victim of short term limits and lame duck leaders who spend way too much time appeasing those who complain the most and do the least.

1118 As a community we need to raise the bar and focus on the issues of lasting importance. Education and quality of life issues should be first and foremost. If education improves, property values rise and Bethel becomes a more viable alternative for positive growth.

1132 It's great that all the schools are in 1 complex. Make the complex bigger. Add more fields and a field house to house the Park and Rec office and equipment. Fix the schools. Stop the constant battle with the BOE. It serves no purpose. Stop wasting money (2nd Floor of Library). Keep up with the neighboring towns.

1137 The Above Ground Power wires, are people pleased about the resolution? Programs and plans to prevent downtown blight as in Danbury? Plans to put Bethel on the map regarding education? As mentioned, the failure of Bethel to prevent Affordable housing abuse and the need for strategies to prevent future violations. Development of the Corporate park to bring in more taxes and create jobs for professionals. Why should we all travel to NY, White Plains, Hartford and the coastline? Try to convert Bethel to the work destination rather than Bedroom community of other places.

1141 With the hiring of illegal immigrants it has been difficult for high school students and college students to find what used to be typical summer jobs for their age group. I would like to see something done to make the situation fair to the legal citizens' younger population, or to those who have not had the luxury of pursuing higher education to compete in the "unskilled" job market. Re: Public Education: There needs to be a major overhaul of course curriculum, how concepts and skills are taught as well as opportunity for these young students to have physical exercise and "down time" during their school

days. I was appalled by the fact that once in Middle School, students weren't allowed outside even for a brief recess. Even during their lunch period in the cafeteria they were forced to maintain assigned seating for an entire term and were punished if they left their tables to talk to a friend. The kids need to be allowed to be "kids" - not cultivated to be automotons treated as if they're already hardened criminals.

1143 I find it disgusting that the liberal elitists from the gold coast and westchester have come and taken over our little town and made it another haven for materialism and greed. This is why i have fought the building of the mcmansions in town, because this is who it brings here. people with too much money for their own good, who force their ideas on the rest of us. How are you a democate when you think it's o k to take food off the middle class table for your over the top school budgets and building projects? Those things will not better this town, because it's a trade off when you raise taxes to these ridiculous levels. Now i am sure you will label me a Republican conservative, however I am not registered to any party because none of them care about anything but reelection and the Democrats have become the party of the rich! i am pro choice and very pro environment and i am college educated and and an avid writer, however i despise what going on w/ the school budgets and teachers union. i will soon be leaving this town because i can no longer afford to live here, I was raised here and schooled here, but just like many of the people who made it a nice place to live, we can't afford your over spending and taxes and we can't stand you materilistic, elitist attitudes. I hate money and these people worship it. Crash your lexus into your McMansion. I am sure you will ignore any of these surveys that don't agree w/ the liberal agenda, just as is done in most of the town activities. i would give my name, but i see how people are treated who don't agree w/ the liberal elitists.

1146 When I moved here 19 years ago my I told my Realtor that I had to buy a house in a town with a Public pool. She promised me that one was going to be built in Bethel....I have raised two children here with no place to swim and a High School we are embarassed to show our family and friends. Town politics is a joke, too much noise and not enough action. The only really important job we have is to raise our children well. Bethel Politics have sent a clear message to our kids...they don't care about them. There are some fabulous teachers in Bethel and many fabulous teachers have left. We are lucky for the ones who choose to stick it out inspite of the lack of community support. The number one issue that must be addressed is the highschool. I personally don't care that much about the Library. It was fine the way it was. We have never used it very much. Now it is a big white elephant, too big and out of scale for the town, and half finished. I think the second floor should be rented out for office space. The only activity I usually see in the library is kids playing games on the computers.

1168 Bethel has too many cops; waste of tax dollars! Our property taxes have gone sky high in the last 4 or 5 years. Someting's seriously wrong! I think it's primarily the administration laden school system!

1180 Clean up the corner of GREENWOOD AVE. and CHESTNUT STREET!!!! This has been an eyesore for too many years...We are a walking community..Get on whoever owns it to make it look better! GET THE B.H.S. project GOING!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

1188 I love Bethel. I grew up next door in Danbury and moved into my first "real" apartment here back in the late eighties. I never want to leave. The only shame is with current need to tighten the town budget, the schools are always the first to feel the pinch. To keep Bethel a vibrant town, there needs to be more young families moving into Bethel and raising their children here. With the current situation I find it harder and harder to stay with my own child because I want him to get the best education possible. Being cheap with the education budget is so terribly short sighted it will only drive out new young people from moving here and leave us with ill prepared young adults not properly trained to take their place in running the town.

1192 I feel our elected officials should be leaders and look for every opportunity to better the town for its citizens. That is why they were elected, we can hire administrators. Planning ahead with ways to improve the way we live and not be concerned with political gain or getting even with prior officials should be of prime importance. Political acrimony has reached a new low in Bethel and must be eliminated. The unique quality that makes Bethel the attractive town it is should be maintained and developers who want to do excessive building should be denied. The high school needs to be renovated and if additional monies are needed another referendum should be held. Fund raising events to raise money to finish the second floor of the Library should be organized by the town and participation by the townspeople encouraged. The old town hall should be knocked down and the area made into additional parking for the Library and Municipal Center. A new police station is desperately needed as well as major repairs to the South St. Firehouse and ways to accomplish both projects quickly should be a major issue for the current administration and the community should be kept apprised.

1194 1. Improving the high school should be the town's top priority. 2. After the high school would like to see sensible and earnest discussion on a town pool. 3. All new residential development should require the developers to compensate the town on future education and infrastructure costs. 4. Town sports have been pretty good but this year girl's softball made a HUGE mistake by not having a winner. Sports teach kids how to work in a team and the joy of winning. It also, very importantly, teaches them how to graciously lose. By not having a champion we are not giving our kids the chance to compete, win or lose.

1195 Even though it was mentioned in the survey, the high school project must be completed -- the graduates of that school are our future leaders --they should have an adequate learning facility.

1207 The very best of Bethel planning was the school complex(Beautiful). The worst being the police dept. and the size of the library.

1208 I wish Bethel was part of the Magnet School in Danbury. We need underground lighting in downtown. Some of the new landscape trees downtown need to be replaced. Kudos to the new Bethel Educational Foundation!

1210 Please - get the high school renovation started. The facilities are subpar. The students and teachers as a result have a very negative attitude toward BHS.

1214 I think that Bethel needs to focus on keeping a small town feel, while allowing for business and educational and cultural development. We need to look at other towns around us that have done this successfully (Ridgefield, Wilton, and Newtown) to see how to do this successfully with the improvement of our quality of lives, but also to give our children the best opportunities.

1215 I believe that the school improvement issue should be on the top of this town's list. I wish for the town to preserve the "small town" image that we now have. I feel that Bethel is a very nice town and I would like to see it continue to grow as such. There is alot of work to be done and I think that at least some of it should finally be started.

1216 downtown traffic light patterns should be updated(Maple/302; South St & 53) - better light/synch job needed to flow 302. Taxes are high, but new shopping center should help LOWER the base, and new funds should not be allocated to anything that has not since been completed(high school).

1225 It would be wonderful that children should be raised with simple, good values - not to hate, be considerate of others. Schools should foster decent choices, not dominate with special opinion. Lastly, I found college to be massive reading, which I did on my own since elementary school. Nothing practical is taught anymore. Elementary kids should learn how to use a checkbook, what money can do when invested, where other countries are located. There could also be a class in high school dedicated to news and newspapers, and that points of view in the media are often dictated by huge corporate owners whose views are promoted and not necessarily the real "news". Am retired, care for 93 year old mother, we live together, we love Bethel (live in Danbury) and wish the powers that be consider all folks and their well being. Politics today is such an obvious money/power game that ignores the citizenry and the needs of our country. Thanks for this survey.

1226 Please note this survey was completed as a married couple. We believe that education and quality of life are the two biggest issues in any town. These should NEVER be sacrificed due to financial constraints within any budget proposal. The long term benefits of a towns school system far outweigh the short term decision to save a few dollars. We believe that the Educational Park should be the focal part of the town, to be used by the town and to generate revenues for the town. Obviously, we have children, but the major factor for attracting new families to any town is education and safety. Please see other towns use of "field houses" that can be used not only for athletic means but also cultural and community events.

1236 Fix BHS, allow a municipal golf course, speed up the sewer project, continue to re-vitalize downtown, limit new residential development to single family homes. Lastly, enable more balanced answers

1241 I believe this town has great potential. With its small town charm and convenient location it could be the next Ridgefield. In order to improve our standing we need a competitive school system with competent and experienced faculty and administrators. We need local leaders with more forward thinking vision. We need more restaurants and appealing retail in town. It seems this town has stagnated and has not been able to move forwards and upwards. Less concentration on nickel and diming and more focus on larger scale projects and the future of this town.

1243 We need more for the teenagers to do and to hang out. They need structure and they are not getting it because people in this town don't think they are important and cast them aside. They forget that they are our future and it is the responsibility of the people in this time to take the time to invest in our future and stop thinking about their own petty lives.

1245 Please provide a rigorous academic curriculum for our students in a state of the art educational facility. Also, could we please do something about all the litter around town. Perhaps fines for littering and/or a litter patrol to clean up the side streets. It's a shame that others ruin the beauty of our town by throwing beer bottles, fast food wrappers, and coffee cups out their car windows. Something really needs to be done about this issue. Let's keep Bethel clean. Thank you for putting together this survey. We appreciate your efforts to enhance our town!

1268 Property taxes are too high for what we get in return. What is being done with money that was approved to renovate BHS but construction work has not started. I approved both funding for the new library addition and Stoney Hill fire department, but was absolutely shocked at the size of both when projects were done. Much too large, hence expensive, for the size of Bethel. Original architect drawings were misleading.

1278 Our town should have a pool plus more sports for the middle school like swim and football middle school teams. We should have more restaurants that are nationwide and sports fields and basketball courts and more businesses that are nationwide.

1289 The high school should be built as soon as possible, even if it means solving the money matters later. Better schools create better futures; if we have to spend money on renovations that improve our school then we will improve our future.

1297 Has anyone considered taxing \$20,000 per new home / townhome developed in Bethel? This money would go directly into a capital improvement fund for the school. This is done in other counties to help pay for new schools. Think about it, each new home or town house brings additional strain to the school system without support for infrastructure financing. It makes sense!!!

1310 I want Bethel to do whatever it takes to give our children the best in education. I want to be proud of the school system. Everyone wins in Bethel when our children are given the opportunities that are the same as the surrounding communities. I would only leave Bethel if I felt my children were being short changed in the schools. I hear from others they have been considering moving out of district because Bethel taxpayers do not put the children first. My children are still young but I will be in tuned to this issue as time goes on.

1311 I would like to be better informed about the sewer project in Stony Hill. When will phase two begin? I also think the roads are atrocious and need repair. I,m sick and tired of Matt Paulsen and the BAC, who do nothing but give this town a bad reputation. There are lots of families in this town who are willing to invest more into making Bethel a better place to live. A town pool would be a wonderful improvement to the quality of life. I also believe that the Board of Ed should be fiscally responsible when developing budgets. Teachers should be evaluated more frequently and without warning, to determine if they are really doing their jobs. I also think that teachers are being taken out of their classes far more than they need to be, causing disruption in learning. The high school needs to be updated immediately, it's a disgrace to this town. It really should have been renovated before Berry School. We need to start this project over again and do it correctly, regardless of the cost. The high school is the showpiece of a town. It should be something we can all be proud of. We need to improve the morale and the reputation of this town. If we don't feel good about living here, it will be difficult to convince outsiders to want to live here. Bethel should be a town that people want to live in.

1316 Taxes are a big issue in Bethel. For older couples without children, there should be some break on school taxes and I cannot overemphasize my view that parents should pick up more of the tab for the activities of their children than those of us who are not or have never used the services of the school system. The current situation will drive more long term residents out of Bethel.

1317 Pay-to-Play must be eliminated. The School must be renovated and additions must be added on. The Town of Bethel should do something with the traffic that goes through town during the majority of the day. Thank you and I appreciate you listening to my words.

1331 The annual budget vote should be more than one question. The town and education budgets should be separate votes. Furthermore, separating the town budget into several questions might also be helpful. Finally, asking if the budget is too high is simply a ridiculous question and serves no purpose, other than to perhaps confuse some people as to whether they approve of the budget or not.

1338 In the past it seems as if the previous administration had only the ability to focus on one thing at a time, when in fact there are a series of important points that need to be addressed all at once: 1. The High School, 2. SPEEDING on Greenwood Ave is out of control, I have witnessed multiple accidents

in front of my business and at this time the town has done nothing to control the speed. For 7 years that I have been here the limit has been 25 and cars pass on the right and drive at speeds WELL over the limit making it hazardous for people to enjoy the small town charm. Ticketing drivers on Greenwood would generate additional funds for the town to be used for other things, the speeding needs to stop. 3. The Chamber of Comm. needs to focus on business' other than in the center of town. It has become a too closely nit "clique". Collectively we can pull more people to town from all of our business' other than focusing on just a few in the center, it can benefit all of us. I am no longer a member because of this and heard the same from a number of business' outside the center of town. Bethel is not just about PT Barnum Square. 4. The Library. All we have heard for year is the Library and now in this survey it is about the library, our focus needs to be broadened on other issues and items which will make people want to move to Bethel, lets look harder at the high school and get this done before families no longer want to live here. The books have a home lets move on to something else. Lets look at other towns and planning such as Westport, Ridgefield, and even Greenwich center, where traffic is heavy all the time but never a problem. Officers will ticket you immediatley, this is a source of generated income lets use thier technique and make some money. 5. Lets look for some property for a larger municple lot such as Westport has, so more people can enjoy our charm and our town.

1339 It saddens me that such a small group of people can cause so much turmoil with the politics and budget process in this otherwise great town. My wife and I dread each budget season as we have to endure the b.s. that inevitably appears in the letters to the editors, flyers in mailboxes, etc. We don't mind the taxes but do mind the added costs of lawsuits, referandums, etc., in addition to possibly having our school system lose its accreditation due to delays. As for the libray and high school project overrun costs - my job includes working with engineers. They provide bid specifications and a proposed budget - and the bids usually come in on line. How could the library and high school be so off (when Berry and the Stony Hill Fire Dept. weren't)?

1386 offering job sites with in our community, for our people in the community. if bethel high school wants to promote their students to do volunteer work as a NECESSARY requierment..although it is against our constitution..then have oour students volunteer work be strictly for BETHEL..with the elderly, libraby, business help, ect. make it honorable volunteer help, where the student learns something valuable for their studies or life skills. also i feel bethel is very conservative town and people have already formed their opinions years ago..we need to re-think the values of our youth..offer our troops coming home discounts for settling back into their HOME-TOWN..job opportunities, counseling.

1391 Get the High School done ASAP before inflation causes the cost to go up even more!!!!

1394 I am frustrated with the stalemate on the BHS project. This needs to be resolved. My child went to parochial schools, but I still see the need to have a competitive educational experience for all children. Zoning needs to be tightened to discourage outside developers from any more high density projects. I am very concerned about the plans the Hubbards have for the property on the Danbury town line. I think the town should buy it, subdivide it with 1 acre size lots that fit the area and sell them, before we have another nightmare on our hands. We need to put together a long term plan to repair and replace the town's sidewalks. This would encourage walking. As mentioned above we need to get rid of the billboards by utilizing the sunset laws. Finally, we need to recongize that many long term elderly folks cannot afford the taxes and provide them with greater tax discounts. I love Bethel and care a great deal about its future.

1412 PLEASE. PLEASE. PLEASE. Hold referenda on Saturdays, when working people and students can get to the polls. Don't be afraid to LEAD. Bethel needs a library and schools we can be proud of. Please continue to fund the arts in the schools; this is the one area that we have seen great

growth in, in our 20-odd years here. But BHS needs a better performing arts facility much more than it needs improvements to sports facilities outside the school. (Yes, a new gym is vital.) The sound system in the auditorium is horrendous.

1413 I don't understand why Bethel is so tight-fisted about spending money on its schools.

1425 Bethel's pretty nice. It needs a gym and the schools need some financial help. Keep up the good work.

1426 Dr. Chesley has too much power and no one controlling him.

1428 A community radio station, or at least ham instruction, run through the school system, operated by students, community leaders, providing call-in facilities and exchanges along the lines of Comcast Access, but less rigid, so that the community will enjoy and support the venture.

1431 I feel this town needs to provide more recreational services to the families. A swimming pool and a golf course would lure people to Bethel. Support of the educational budget would help maintain our property values. We are watching surrounding town become more desirable and that is a crime.

1446 fix BHS, and get on it. environmental issues need to be confronted; land conservation, recycling, pollution reduction. fix the traffic light at the intersection of chestnut/nashville/302 - does not change efficiently on sunday nights.

1453 I just moved out of Bethel last year after growing up in the community. The town no longer had anything to offer this twenty-something year old. The budget battles in the town of Bethel are unrealistic. People in power positions need to realize that you are losing people that lived in the community for years due to the ridiculous tax increases. If the money could produce results I think people would be more understanding, but they don't. I am a 2000 graduate of Bethel High School and see no improvements in that building over the last six years even though the taxes are increased every year. People should be accountable for their actions and the administrators in Bethel are given yearly raises without justification. I hope this survey produces results, so maybe one day I can return to a town I once loved.

1455 1)For the children: a town pool, establishing a scholarship for pay/to play sports--anonomously. 2) have local leaders welcome outsiders (some have been in Bethel a long time,) 3) don't vote by the party, but what you think is right, 4)the baby boomers are retiring--seek them out to be residents in Bethel for their retirement, encourage them to volunteer to help pre school, grade school and hi school students; english as a second language--we have so many immigrants who are contributing to our town--lets share our lives.5)Just because the baby boomers are retiring does not mean they are disabled or elderly. Offer opportunities for able people to reach the needy for friendship and help.6) The downtown merchants--don't be chatting with your friends--talk to your customers. I love Bethel. And, I realize I have to change my ways to make what I want to happen. Do you know how many times I tried to participate and been told everything is taken care of?

1460 Every year the BOF and BOE present a budget that they know is going to be too high and defeated. We spend thousands and thousands of dollars re-presenting these inflated budgets until the tax payers who can least afford an increase, the elderly, give up. This Chinese water torture budget strategy is unfair and uncalled for. It is said by some that certain groups oppose any budget proposed but that is an unfair thing to say since the BOF has yet to propose a fair budget on the first try.

1479 the biggest issues Bethel faces are taxes and education. we need to improve and focus on education not sports. we also need to keep the taxes under control. people need to be provided with more information on the budget and other projects (ex. high school). the town and school budget need to be separated.

1486 Too many administration positions in the Education Dept.

1488 I am a mother of two children who have always been involved with organized sports. My children have learned many things from these experiences, respect, discipline, and how to bond and socialize with other children. They are 11 and 14 years old. I am very concerned about the lack of organized sports that are going to be available to them as they get older. They may make a school team, but what if they don't? Like many other parents I know, we know how important it is for children to be involved in positive activities. I would like to see more organized sports teams available to teens, outside of school teams. I know of other towns who have put these programs into motion, with positive results, Southbury is one of them. I realize it involves volunteers to coach and organize. I have spoken to many parents and believe you would have more than enough interest to make this happen. Let's continue to give our children the best opportunity to be good and productive citizens. Don't forget about them at this most crucial age. Don't make them think that they don't matter. We owe it to them to help build a positive and confident self image to go forward with.

1499 Maintain level of spending for education and municipal services so taxes don't have to be raised.

1511 Do not agree with the sewer project in Stony Hill. We raised our children in Bethel and would like to see the high school continue to receive accreditation. However the taxes are getting too high.

1513 By far, the worst factor about living in Bethel is the anti-town, anti-school bias of the Bethel Action Committee. Also, the town needs to enlist state help in restricting abuse of low-income housing over-development.

1522 I enjoy living in Bethel. Our schools have great teachers and principals who work very hard. I am definitely in support of separating the budget so that maybe it can be seen that people don't mind spending the money on the children. This does not mean that I feel that pay for play is something that shouldn't exist. If we need the money so that we do not run out of paper or the teachers need more paid support in the classroom, or if we need more teachers for the ESL children--than the money should go here and maybe other ways to raise funds for sports could be found. I had other comments, but I may have placed them in the other spot above incorrectly. I hope that you will still consider them. Thank you for asking me what I think about stuff!

1523 The Bethel downtown area needs to continue to refurbish and rejuvenate itself; I am concerned with what appears to be businesses constantly closing, and wonder if the town can make it economically; there are too many parts of Bethel that are seedy; the schools do not have a solid reputation like neighboring Redding, etc. that will attract and retain a caliber of families that is serious about education. The library is terrific and a great source of inspiration for the town.

1531 It is disappointing that there are always a few loud people in Bethel that turn everything down. A town pool and a Municipal golf course would have been wonderful in town and not cost much money. The pool would have encouraged a better community spirit and the golf course would have been a money maker. The HS really needs to be fixed. We need to stop nit picking and just do it. The town is lovely. I shop more at large stores because of time and generally there are better deals. I am at

CVS and Bethel Food often. Other than that, I don't frequent the stores to often. However, when I do, I always enjoy them. The employees at the library are so lovely and helpful.

1556 The town should have separate budgets for the town and the board of education.

1557 Town government seems to be more interested in preserving itself than true fiscal responsibility. Selectmen and town board members continually attack the education budget while year after year, the town government side is allowed to go through without examination. Excessive spending on projects like the over built library and Stony Hill Fire Department building, and proposed projects like a new police station and South Street Fire Station is disgusting when examined in contrast with the foot dragging over school improvement projects. The new first selectman in particular seems determined to delay the high school project for as long as he can in order to appease the 'keep taxes low' lobby in town. The reality is, cuts to the school budget in the past cycle amounted to a few dollars per household, while the damage to the schools' ability to perform their mission was immediate and serious. As someone who has lived in town about a decade, it seems to me that long-time residents (particularly elderly) are of the opinion that they don't use the schools so they don't want to contribute to their operation; conveniently forgetting their own use of the resources in the past. This lack of community cohesion and vision for a better future has adversely affected property values (examined vis a vis the surrounding towns) and over all quality of life.

1562 I believe education should be separated from other Town budgets so voters have the opportunity to vote it down. I hate the fact that such a large percentage of tax revenues goes to education. Roads, police, fire and such should have a greater share. Do students need such tremendous resources to learn? The results, sadly, do not justify the resource input. The more computers and programs that are utilized, the dumber the students. Everyone on my street sends their children to private schools, in spite of having to pay taxes for education. This does not reflect on the quality of Bethel schools so much as the type of education received.

1565 I love the diversity of people and businesses in downtown Bethel - it is a "real" town that is still somewhat affordable in a very expensive region. Historic architecture and a vibrant, pedestrian small town feel are very important to me.

1577 I would like to see some roads in Bethel paved. Sunset Hill Road and VanCampen Lane are a mess and widening Wolfpits would also help prevent accidents with deer and other vehicles. These roads are always last to be plowed as well and I have walked up Sunset in the snow when it because it hadn't been plowed. The Bethel Schools are in need of airconditioning. The heat in the summer months in school is unbearable and gross. Pay to play should never be put into affect either.

1580 Bicycle helmet awareness- it kills me to see so many kids riding (sometimes doubling up with one kid on the handle bars) around town without helmets- they are in elementary and middle school- I yell out to them to wear a helmet or I ask them- where is your helmet??? where is the the police dept and helmet awareness day - why not ticket or issue warnings to parents of these children... i thought it was a state law that kids under 12 had to wear helmets- let's hold the parents responsible, too. Let's open our eyes and ask the police to be more aware of this themselves- where are the police community programs?

1583 We are building a new home which is not yet complete, and yet are taxes nearly 10 thousand a year. We probably will not be able to afford the taxes upon completion of our house, and will be forced to sell. Its a shame because my husband is building our home himself. We were even told by the town tax collector that the town was trying to squeeze as much revenue as is could from new

construction. Besides the cost, Bethel does not have the school system that Redding has, ultimately we want our son in a better school system. This is our main concern.

1588 STOP THE URBAN SPAWL! Enough land has been destroyed and continues to be so. We need the plants, trees, animals and insect life to maintain a healthy environment here in Bethel. A place for my grandchildren to play and see a bunny or dragonfly. The new CVS building has destroyed and will be paving over so much beauty here in the downtown area. It was NOT needed and there are so many more instances like that. What are the Bethel Commissions thinking? Obviously they are not. Do they want Bethel to become Queens, NY? It is sliding down that slope. We need good schools (that means teachers) it isn't the building that gets kids to learn. Our fire and police departments should be given the help they need to protect the residents and community. The library is the mainstay of a town. We need to finish it, so there will be a place for the kids to have programs (not just huddled up by the elevator). A place where teens can have a dignified teen area to go to, rather than a humid stale basement.

1597 I'm sure there is room for improvement in the managing of the town infrastructure and associated departments, but the biggest wastefulness is in the educational system. All I ever remember since we moved here is how underfunded the education is. So we keep raising taxes and throwing the tax money at problems that money can not fix, such as social engineering and the rearing / raising of kids, that is the parent's job not the educational system. I would like to see the town budget separated from the education budget, the town budget suffers many times due to this type of setup. Why is it that there are so few people in government looking to save money, lower taxes and allow the masses to truly have their freedoms? Because it's become big business and that needs to be changed. Thank you for the opportunity to air these views, I truly hope that someone in the political arena can give these ideas some thought.

1603 There are many ways to cut spending in our town; it's unfortunate that we don't strategize and implement budgeting in a proactive way. We usually cut education funding, which is cutting our nose to spite our face. Also, the small town backstabbing politics has to cease...it's counterproductive.

1620 1 -- Get rid of The Spot (bar on Greenwood Ave)!! 2 -- Having a 3 year old son I am very concerned about the Bethel school system and would consider leaving Bethel if I find the school system is not adequate.

1632 Reducing traffic congestion and development in Bethel. Too many police cars on traffic patrol. I'm tired of seeing people being tailgated by a patrol car for miles. Let's prevent real crime with their allocated tax dollars. If there's not enough crime, then reduce their budget. We need a new High School, NOW!!!

1646 Board of Ed. is under pressure to make curriculum "look" rigorous. In doing so, they dictate very specific and sometimes ridiculous expectations to teachers at the h.s. level. (ex. How many books are AP students required to read over the summer?) Give these professionals some choice and input about what they teach, and how much, and they will be able to do their jobs to the best of their abilities.

1656 It's time for our Board of Education members especially the members who have been there over 2 years to stop threatening the community of Bethel. Last year's 2005 annual budget reflected their arrogance toward anyone who disagreed with their threats to the community. These individuals have no concern about the community as a whole only their agenda. Because of their arrogance, the education budget suffered because of their attitude. Secondly, the Board of Ed should act as Board of Ed. Presently, they are only a rubber stamp of what the Superintendent desires. One only has to read

the newspapers and see that surrounding communities have a true Board of Ed. Most Boards of Education direct the Superintendent. In Bethel, it is the opposite. Its time for this Board of Ed to issue orders to the Superintendent and make him responsible for academic progress. Our SAT's and CAT's have not improved in years and yet they continuously applaud and award the Superintendent's performance.

1662 It is time for Bethel to find a way to keep taxes down. Use state consortiums or school-based purchasing groups to get the best prices on everything from gas to heating oil to textbooks. The town has to do a much better job of planning for capital purchases and projects. We can't defer capital projects year after year and then try to do three or four in one or two years. The library is a prime example of a poorly executed project. When the project came in over bid, it should have been scrapped or rebid. There is no excuse for having a second floor that is essentially useless. Why put all of the money into a library addition and then have the ability to fully use the new space. The high school is another long overdue project that seems to be heading for disaster. Look at the Barlow project in Redding and take heed. If there is not enough money to do the project as proposed, value engineer what you can and then go back to the voters upfront for more money, and it is absolutely essential that a construction manager be hired. Bethel officials need to start thinking outside the box on how to get more for our money. Bethel is fast becoming a town that even middle class people - our sons and daughters, our teachers, our highway crew, firefighters, etc. - cannot afford. Bethel's forte has been its socio-economic mix. Let's work hard not to lose this. Bethel needs more open space and more industry to broaden the tax base. Expand Clarke Park while maintaining as much open space as possible, encourage business in the Commercial-Industrial corridor along Route 6. Offer tax breaks and incentives. Is the Economic Development Commission still viable? If not, it should be. Last, but not least, police should enforce the crosswalk laws in downtown Bethel. You take your life in your hands to get across the street. If you are in a town like Ridgefield, you wouldn't think of not stopping for a pedestrian. We also need better enforcement at traffic lights. Time and again I see people running a light long after it has turned red. There is almost a complete disregard for the law. My last comment is about your survey. What on earth do my credit cards, what I watch on TV, my cell phones and other non-related to Bethel questions have to do with this survey?

1683 The development on Nashville Rd is really an atrocity with the way the trees were all leveled and the wetlands were addressed. We felt bad every time we drove by there and it made us really sad and upset. We hope that the town makes some hard choices regarding new developments and has strong stipulations when new ones are approved that make them fit into our town and not desecrate the environment. If you want to add more developments and let in low income housing you had better fund the schools...Our town CAN NOT do everything at once and has to plan and prioritize just as a family has to...Work together and stop the town politics causing people to not take a stand or to drag their feet or point the finger on different topics. Do not separate the town and school budgets or have officials appear to prefer one budget over another when it comes time to pass a budget. Departments need to work together regardless of who the majority party is...Just get the jobs done...esp. the high school project !!!!!!! You also have to be mindful that our salaries are not going up at the rate of the taxes, so don't overbuild or do all town projects at once!

1684 Let the state keep aid and implement controls on the development. We are forced to let development in under % for low income in order to keep aid but it doesn't cover the increase costs for services, education... There should be more services for elderly, all should be held accountable including teachers after tenure, the budgets should be published...

1685 The town needs to start thinking about broader solutions that contain costs. Regional libraries, combined public safety facilities (fire/police). Controlling residential growth in the town and encouraging commercial growth. Develop a long-term plan for the town's buildings and renovations in order to contain costs.

1686 The high school should have been worked on way before our library because children aren't getting into their desired colleges based solely upon the fact that they attended Bethel High. It is not fair that they are punished when they are doing all they possibly can and are more than qualified that they do not get accepted. It has been a long time since anyone has been accepted to an Ivy League school and no one seems to realize this

1687 As a student in high school, the topic that most concerns me is the Bethel High School Renovation Project. I have lived in Bethel for virtually my entire life and I attended Bethel Public Schools through the 8th grade. But unfortunately, I felt that in attending Bethel High School I would not be as likely to be accepted to a good college when I graduate. So instead, I chose to enroll in a different high school. I am aware, however, that most of my friends from middle school still have to learn in Bethel High School every day, and I feel sorry for them. I feel bad because I attend a beautiful school that was recently renovated and added on to, and that I have been presented with a countless number of opportunities to help me succeed in life. I am certainly more likely to be accepted to a better college by attending this high school because the taxpayers of the town understood the value of education and chose to pay the extra taxes to build a state-of-the-art facility. Bethel will always be my hometown and I believe that it is a great place to grow up and live, but Bethel High School is a real black eye to such a beautiful town and such a beautiful Educational Park. This issue should definitely top the list of needs among our town's leaders, because any renovation to the school, whether within the current budget or not, would greatly benefit the children who will go there in the near future. And for those concerned with property value, I can guarantee that a respectable high school would significantly increase the value of property in Bethel. No matter which way you look at it, fixing Bethel High School would benefit everyone, so I hope that whoever does end up reading this will pass on the message to the "Powers That Be." Let's fix Bethel High School!

1689 The Town of Bethel could be on par with Ridgefield or Rye, NY. It has the potential to be a charming, thriving community. Education is extremely important to us and we are surprised how it is viewed in this community. While we supported the budget increase this year, it was difficult given that we approved the high school building project and it seems like no progress has been made. It just looks like Bethel can't manage its money very well. I think it is awesome that the Bethel Library took the initiative to sponsor this survey and provide this service to the community. Well done.

1693 Please fix the high school. I am graduating this year and I am concerned about getting into the colleges of my choice. Many of the seniors who have graduated did not get into their first choice schools even if they were in the top ten of their class and had high GPA's. I know that I am receiving an excellent education at Bethel High School. I received the highest score, a 5, on my last AP exam which means that I can receive college credit for my high school course. The school has top-notch education, due to its teachers, administrators, and students. The high school's renovation problems are bringing the school down in the eyes of colleges. I hope members of the community realize that their decisions to delay the renovations are affecting the students and their future.

1707 Town and Board of Ed should publish more detailed budget info on-line.

1726 The most important thing to remember about Bethel is that it is NOT trying to compete with affluent neighbors in all categories. #1 Yes, we need to be competitive with our education, but teaching goes beyond the classroom. We expect the teaching will happen wherever and whenever. We missed the window of opportunity to provide more space when the bubble was coming through the high school. The renovating process should have started 7 years ago, it should have been complete the fall of 2003. Having said that, we need to move on. But with the same plan????? I'm not convinced. We have to keep the juices flowing with ideas and this survey is a fabulous start!!! #2 I believe people in Bethel would like more recreational options and would be willing to spend \$\$\$ if the right plan was presented. The Educational Park we have is absolutely the best, we need to maintain

it. Our downtown area has had many recent facelifts..... we need to support our merchants. We lack a location for community health and sports activities beyond team sports. Maybe our land of 650+ acres can be used for a municipal golf course, a resident only pool, trails for cross country running/skiing, etc. I believe the residents of this town are thirsting for a chance to be creative. Our Educational Park was once a vision and look at it now, we all love it. Let's create and execute a vision for community based activities which includes everyone, in BETHEL, only. We should not compare ourselves to other towns because we are different, and I mean that in a very positive manner. Remember, 'good things come in small packages.' We just have to look at what we want in the package. It's not about the wrapping, it is about what's inside. #3 The people who support education will also support this concept. So, we need to include the two concepts together and present the advantages of a 'total picture'. For the good of the community. #4 Unfortunately most individuals are disappointed in the library. I believe this is due to the fact that it is incomplete and the current lay out is not appealing. I hear the phrase, 'it is way to big, cold and impersonal'. Let's not make the same mistake for the high school. I know this community deserves better than to be hasty. Late is late, we don't have the same urgencies as when the referendum was passed..... #5 Thanks for taking the time to listen and read and think about everyone in the town who resides here and who will want to remain here in the future.

1736 Bethel High School should be fixed soon(starting within the year). We really need to get it done.

1743 I am dead set against splitting the annual budget vote into 2 categories because the schools will lose out. I am glad to see more tax relief for vets and seniors. I am open to paying more taxes since I have 2 kids in school, however seniors and vets must realize that they too benefit from their homes appreciating as a result of investing in our town and schools. I can't wait to vote against Bob Burke again and Paul Szatkowki. I am very concerned about the H.S. renovation and them blocking it. We need to go back to the voters and get more money. It is no ones fault that prices have gone up. I want a leader who isn't afraid to be aggressive, pro-active and gets things done!

1750 Bethel is far behind surrounding towns in preservation of open space. This is not merely an environmental issue, but an economic issue as well (new developments almost always cost the town more in services, especially education, than we get back in tax revenues). In particular, establishing the Terre Haute portion of the Ives Trail should be a top priority. This will be a nationally-recognized trail, of great benefit to Bethel.

1758 My main concern within Bethel is the condos going up all over the place. The streets (especially downtown) in Bethel cannot handle any more cars. I am a commuter and I was unable to obtain a parking pass for the the Bethel Train station this year because they ran out. I now have to drive everyday. There needs to be more parking. They keep building and bringing people to the area, but Bethel is not doing much to allow for the extra people/cars that will be in the area. It used to take me about 15 minutes to get down 53 toward Redding. I now follow a line of cars out of Bethel and it can take a 1/2 hour. I do not use the Bethel School system, but I am aware that major repairs are needed to the high school.

1764 Sidewalks within a one mile radius of the schools. Finish the High school project so we will have a good school system which will draw more families. I think hte Scottie fund and Relay for Life are great assessts to our town's caring attitude for it's citizens. Stop dividing the budget as town vs school it is all one and the same. Without the school we have no town! With a bad/out of date school system/buildings we will only attract people who don't care about education! People who care about education will not move into our town.

1769 Taxes are way to high. The school system has I lot of issues There is no extra help for students

1772 Finish HS Get rid of Paulsen's nonsense.

1781 Bethel has a considerably sized bicycling community. These are well educated involved citizens and with that being said we should have the roads to support this usage. I have visited many cycling friendly communities over the years and we are way behind in making roads safe for bicycles and car shared usage. We make home to one of the best bicycle companies in the world and having the bike lanes and wide shoulders on our roads would help in many ways. It is healthier for people, cycle commuters save energy and local business get a boost from the groups that meet here to ride. I would commute to work more if the roads were Friendlier and more suited to safe cycling. Also if the Electric company is going to rip our roads apart then they should replace them in good order, not patch and leave a mess. How did this benefit us besides paralyzing our daily commutes? For a while it took less time to ride my bike to work than it did to drive my car. We chose to live in bethel because we see it as the next great town in Fairfield county. It has great parks and a nice downtown. We felt that by the time our children are ready for school the facilities will be in order and therefore we should continue to invest in town facilities and people. Let's make Bethel Great

1790 I think the renovation of Bethel High School should be much more publicized in order to receive more support from the town. The renovation is an imperative step to the health and education of the students.

1797 The fact that zoning allowed the CVS to purchase the Dolan lot was outrageous. That should have been set aside for expansion of or building of a new post office. We probably have the worst post office in CT from both a capacity and service standpoint. The new Library building is an eyesore. It took away open space, removed old historic trees and is a real blight. It has ruined the sight lines in the downtown. Why are the old streetlights still lit at night on Greenwood Avenue in the streetscape area when we have the new "old fashioned" streetlights? Why do we need both? Aside from being awfully bright, why are we wasting that much electricity and paying for it? The noise levels in town are out of control. We have got to pass a noise ordinance and enforce it. Motorcycles, loud car radios and noisy mufflers are ruining the quality of life in town. Our house is close to the street and it is impossible to sleep at night because of the noise. Some of the motorcycles are bone jarring with the degree of noise they produce. Taxes are getting out of control. We can afford it but we're concerned about the older citizens on fixed incomes. The education lobby is insatiable. No amount of money is ever enough. They have to be reigned in and the Board of Ed and the Bd. of Finance should be much more responsible. Unfortunately, they're controlled by the education lobby. Bethel used to be a nice, quiet town. Now it's noisy, full of traffic and over developed.

1800 Bethel needs to be better at how they spend their money. How is it that the library gets a new building that is hardly used and the High School is still a wreck? Priorities, people.

1802 It is hard to believe the High school has not been done yet. Why couldn't we have gone with the same company that did the outstanding job with Berry School and just moved forward with the High School. The longer we wait the more it will cost. Also the taxes seem to be increasing at a quicker rate than the other towns...

1812 We need a better train schedule from Bethel to New York City, Faster, more trains. Everyone I know drives to Brewster. It kind of defeats the purpose of having a train in Bethel. We really need this!!!!!! A new budget process is needed. Too much time and resources are wasted.. KIS...Keep it simple. I think the renovation of the Library was overdone, with so much information on the internet,

libraries will become a thing of the past. With all the problems with the High School, why we can't get that fixed...very disappointing. Sometimes I'm embarrassed to say I'm from Bethel. I feel like people cringe because of the problems we have here. As I drive around and see all the houses for sale...I wonder if we have a bigger problem than anyone realizes!!! These major problems need to be addressed..we cannot think they will go away...particularly the high school accreditation problem. Let's fix the high school, and give the kids the education they deserve (which includes paying our teachers a competitive salary so they don't leave Bethel after a couple years for a higher salary),which will increase our investments in our children, our town, our properties, and particularly...our future. Thanks for listening! Now let's take action!

1829 It's wonderful to have "freedom of speech" but it seems "fractured" at reported meetings for town government and educational segments. Maybe a little amnesty would help.

1831 What does an up to date tax payer get for his taxes? Our family has had NO ONE in public school for 40 years but pay taxes MORE and MORE each year. What do I get for our taxes? Nothing that I can see unless I bring some hazardous waste to the town sponsored collection. Bethel nickel and dimes us from Tag Sale permits to death certificates and dog licenses and even to use the dump. We've paid for everything and then some. We get nothing for our taxes but the right to support all the town services and the education of other peoples children. What does Bethel do for me?

1853 I wish your community provided more support for the schools. I don't understand why the taxpayers don't realize how important this is in order to maintain their real estate values. Other than that, Bethel seems like a wonderful town. I hope your Greenwood Avenue businesses prosper. We love Bethel Cinema!!

1858 I truly believe that in order to move forward as a town, we will need to deal with some possible inconveniences. It is extremely important that we have the best education available. This means improving Bethel High School. Bethel's citizens continue to grumble about the cost of such improvements to our town. However, one possibility for town revenue would be the proposed and denied golf course which would bring in people from all over who would shop at our stores, lunch at our restaurants and pay to play. This would also be a source of afterschool activities and job opportunities. It would be a way to preserve our land but get the best out of it. The library needs to be finished. Like the school, the library affects the type of people moving into our town. Seeing that our school and library are in such bad state, who would want to move to Bethel? In short, I am a huge support of the renovation of BHS, The Bethel Library, A town golf course, a public pool and any events which would bring people and revenue to our town. Sometimes, change is not only necessary but beneficial.

1860 I have lived here almost 20 years. In that time property values in Bethel have lagged behind neighboring towns. We should do whatever we can to have town policies that have the greatest impact on increasing property values. People like Billy Michaels and Matt Paulsen who only care about reducing taxes and minimizing the budget have hurt property values for years, lagging behind neighboring towns like Newtown and Redding. Their in terrorem influence on town boards needs to be held in check. We cannot be penny wise and pound foolish when it comes to taxes. If we increase taxes to improve our school system and enhance its poor reputation, this will redound in thousands in property values for Bethel home owners. That should be the primary focus for town planners.

1868 When your children graduate from school your school taxes should freeze.

1874 less residential condominium development-more business development. The group of people wishing for more school funding should create a fund to which they can contribute and sponsor fund

raisers which will pay for improvements they have recommended. We need better management of traffic on Greenwood Ave.

1876 A town website with weather, school menus, local news and announcements, accident and incident reports, sports schedules for high school, names of residents on military tours, local gas station and heating oil prices, local menus, real estate transactions, building permits in review, health inspections reports, etc. Keep it fresh, develop traffic, let small ads pay the cost. Make it a school credit program to contribute and update, or run it through the library. Make it a hub of community spirit and activities.

1881 The cross-walks on 302 by Highland and Midway Dr are dangerous, and there is a school bus stop at the bottom of Midway, and children cross there. That corner is a dangerous place for the kids during the school year.

1882 Although I don't follow the issues with the High School renovation I worry about the added tax burden. I feel property taxes, both auto and property, are high enough as it is. I do support the essential improvements- High School, Police Station, etc - I do not support the luxury improvements such as a Golf course.

1886 Education is a big issue in Bethel. More questions could have been dedicated to it.

1906 Improving the town by improving the recreational facilities (trails, parks, etc) and promoting more fairs/markets/concerts would help to showcase the town and have its residents more involved. Funding the school system adequately is essential to keeping the younger families in town and bringing in new families. This will also keep property values higher and make Bethel a more desirable town

1908 The Terre Haute property is your last big opportunity, and it must not be squandered. I feel this survey (thus probably the town) is not considering enough options. It's not a matter of development or no development. You must have it both ways, in fact. I think Bethel's commercial development so far is near perfect. But the abysmal state of the schools make the town a non-starter for families moving into the area. (The two families I know in Bethel avoid the schools. One refuses to have kids because of the schools. The other home schools.) The public schools must be fixed. That likely means the town needs some tax-generating economic development in Terre Haute, unfortunately. If this is done in a concentrated way, according to the principles of Smart Growth (which suits the rest of Bethel's development well) adding a small commercial or office district, and dense housing on, say 1/4 to 1/3 of the property, that would leave plenty of open space left over for recreation. Paving the whole thing over with single-family homes or big-box stores and parking lots will only make the town's financial problems worse.

1931 BPL - need to get updated materials. I noticed 5 copies of an old DVD of the same title. Why not purchase six separate updated titles instead? Town Government - NUMBER ONE PRIORITY IS TO FIX THE HIGH SCHOOL. In addition the govt. needs to come up with a economic plan to bring more business to Bethel and increase the tax base. The conditions of the roads in this town are pitiful. The amount of blight on personal property is unacceptable. Referendum questions of "too high" and "too low" need to be revised. How about adding "just right"? Until the Bethel Action Committee realizes that improvement to this town costs money, we will never succeed. While towns around us improve their town facilities, Bethel remains stuck in the 1960's. And it shows in direct correlation to the price of homes. Professional Services in downtown - Two years ago I used a medical office in downtown for services and thought i had stepped back into the 1950's! I don't feel comfortable using the doctors in this town.

1937 I believe that the educational system in this town is not the best, but I also don't believe putting more money into a problem which is swallowing up money with no results does not rectify the problem. When I attended school here, I graduated without learning to write correctly, and had to teach myself after I left school. There should be incentives for successful students, but also a general encouragement to succeed. Maybe this can be created by more professionals from the area bbeing frank about the positives and negatives of the jobs. That is my main gripe.

1950 I think when you live in Bethel and qualify to be a teacher and have applied several times, you should get an interview. SHOULD NOT HIRE PEOPLE FROM OTHER STATES AND TOWNS AND NOT CONSIDER THE BETHEL RESIDENTS JUST OUT OF COLLEGE WITH EXPERIENCE. ITS WHO YOU KNOW, AND NOT YOUR QUALIFICATIONS. LIKE TEACHERS SONS AND DAUGHTERS. NOT FAIR TO HARD WORKING KIDS TRYING TO GET A JOB THAT THEY LIVE IN.

1960 I just hope something is actually done with the data. I want to see the results and an action plan (that gets implemented) addressing the concerns. The biggest thing on my mind is improving the educational system. I am confronted with the possibility of moving from Bethel if I can't afford to continue to send my child to private school. I am uncomfortable sending her to this system (I went to public school my whole life -- but they were good schools). I wish there was better management and accountability of the education funds...and votes weren't bundled with town concerns. We should be able to do what other towns have done with similiar resources. I love my house, my property, and the downtown area, but the politics have to change! Also, I hope we can get a town pool...that is the other single issue I am unhappy with...no place to swim in the summer -- it is HOT!! Thank you so much for this opportunity. I am impressed by the survey and town's inquiry... very much so... now let's see results! :)

1973 I just want the high school done ASAP!!!!

1991 pay to play sports i think this needs to addressed. there are plenty of families in our community that can not afford this even if its \$20.00. Our children are the ones that are suffering from this. The children will be the next generation to decide if they will raise their children in this community and support it.

1996 I think the biggest issue for me is the abestos in the high school. Year after next, I will have my two sons attending. I AM EXTREMELY CONCERNED ABOUT THIS. Also- Bethel seems to have some good scuool Services to support Special needs

2008 We need a plan for Plumtrees Rd. It is very ugly and doesn't fit in with the look of our town. Maybe there are some variances that could be enforced for this road. The town should wait on the police department and fire house until the high school is finished and done right. We have a very bad reputation at the high school and the moral is very low. We can't keep good teachers.

2011 We REALLY need to fix the high school ASAP, it's bad. the labs need improving the cafeteria is too small, it shouldn't keep getting put off, way too many problems with it to do that. one kid last year was almost burned from an electrical socket on the lab table in my biology class

2018 Improved public schools are a key to attracting young professional families to Bethel. It drives me CRAZY that so many residents seem to care only about low taxes. Bethel should be affordable but it should NOT move ever inexorably toward retirement community status. I have not been involved in public discussions about the town's commitment to education, so I don't know whether there are adequate forums for those discussions. But I can't think of a more important town issue.

2028 1. The new library is too big!! Why can't some departments in the municipal building move upstairs in the new library and the Police Department could move into the Municipal building and therefore we wouldn't need a new expensive police department. 2. Why can't we put taxes from new houses being built in Bethel separate from the budget that has already been voted on & approved and therefore this money could be used to reduce taxes in the following year instead of an increase from homeowners each year. 3. What does the Superintendent of Public Works specifically do to earn his salary - would like to know what his job description is and question if he is earning & working and providing a service for our town. 4. Why aren't policies enforced at the beautiful education complex regarding parking on lawns (behind middle school) and on grass areas around the high school. 5. The speeding cars & disregard for public safety in our town is out of control!! I don't see many offenders pulled over by officers - we have to do something before children are injured or killed by these law breakers.