



SELECTMEN'S MEETING

April 5, 2011

The Board of Selectmen held a Selectmen's Meeting on Tuesday, April 5, 2011, at 7:30 p.m. at the Quinebaug Volunteer Fire Department. Mr. Groh thanked the Quinebaug Volunteer Fire Dept. for hosting this evening's meeting.

PRESENT: Lawrence K. Groh, Jr., First Selectman; John Bell, Selectman; Kenneth Beausoleil, Selectman; Alison Shea – Norwich Bulletin; Karensa Konesni – WINY Radio; Clare Hopkins – Villager Newspaper; Joseph Gaucher; Steven Bodreau; Robert P. Roy; George Elmes; Justine Gendreau; Bill Gendreau; Paul Lenky; other concerned citizens.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mr. Bell, to approve the minutes of the regular Selectmen's Meeting of March 15, 2011 with a correction to the date, and the Special Selectmen's Meeting of March 23, 2011, as presented.

<i>Mr. Beausoleil</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Bell</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Groh presented the monthly update on crime statistics from Troop D.

Mr. Groh presented correspondence from the Conservation Commission to the land use officials and departments regarding conservation easements.

Mr. Groh presented information from the Tax Collector regarding the Firefighter abatements. This year's abatements were slightly over budget; this will be considered in the end of year transfers.

Mr. Groh had received an invitation from the VFW Ladies Auxiliary for their April 18, 2011 Community Day Program. The Board will plan to attend.

SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS

Mr. Groh announced that the West Thompson Dam Earth Day Events will be held on April 9, 2011, starting at 8 a.m. Participants should meet at the pavilion.

The Little League Parade is scheduled for April 16, 2011, with an 11 a.m. start time at the Library.

Mr. Groh stated that the Board of Finance has finished their budget workshops. The proposed mill rate increase is .298. The budget will go to the Annual Town Meeting May 16, 2011 and

adjourn to a referendum. The majority of this increase is due to capital expenditures, many of which will be spread over two or more years. Citizens may obtain a copy at the Selectman's Office, or via e-mail.

Mr. Groh again thanked the Quinebaug Volunteer Fire Department for hosting this meeting as part of the Board's outreach into the community.

Mr. Beausoleil noted that the Highway Department has been actively replacing signs and posts that were damaged this past season.

Mr. Bell thanked the Quinebaug Volunteer Fire Station. He offered his congratulations to the UCONN Men's Team for their victory and the UCONN Women's Team for their season.

Mr. Bell attended the Eagle Scout Program for Joseph Heeps.

Mr. Bell also noted that the Highway Department has been repairing the roads with cold patch.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Mr. Elmes requested information on the proposed budget. Mr. Groh stated that a copy would be available in his office. Mr. Elmes expressed his concerns with the education budget and the bussing program of Thompson schools.

Mr. Gaucher stated that there is still a streetlight out on Main Street and also noted that the streetlight at this fire station is out.

Mr. Lenky expressed his concerns for public safety near the church construction site on Route 131. There was a discussion of the duties of the Zoning Enforcement Officer, the Building Official and the State DOT in regards to this site. Mr. Groh will call the State for further information.

Mr. Elmes expressed his concerns about a property on Azud Road. Mr. Groh stated that the State Police, the Town, and several State agencies have investigated this registered business that sells equipment and parts. This business precedes zoning. Our jurisdiction lies with the Zoning Enforcement Officer and Assessor.

FIRE PROTECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mr. Bell gave an update on the work of this committee with all five fire departments working together for common goals. At their last meeting, they discussed fire hydrants and obtained the use of busses for emergency use from the Superintendent of Schools. Mr. Jamie Seney has been working on a mutual aid and contingency agreement with neighboring departments. The local EMS plan is being investigated. Mr. Bell will coordinate a meeting with this committee and Mr. Kennedy for grants. There is an investigation on saving money on the IM system regarding response time and number of volunteers.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday April 21, 2011 at 7 p.m. at the West Thompson Fire Department. They will be looking at the EMS contract and the Mass Casualty Plan.

Mr. Groh noted that the CT Water Company has submitted plans for improving two areas to improve flow and has provided immediate repair to some hydrants.

There was a discussion of the combined goals and needs of the five fire departments and the use of grant funding.

\$5,000.00 REQUEST FOR FENCE AT HIGHWAY GARAGE

Mr. Groh informed the Board that there was a loss of approximately \$11,000.00 worth of materials at the salt shed this past season. A fence around the salt shed was requested in the coming year's capital budget; this was removed during budget deliberations. The Board of Finance recommended requesting this expenditure in the current fiscal year budget.

Motion made by Mr. Bell, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to request up to \$5,000.00 for a capital expenditure, from the Board of Finance, to install a fence at the Highway Garage to fence off the salt and sand.

<i>Mr. Bell</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Beausoleil</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

ACCUVOTE MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT

The registrars have brought information to the attention of the First Selectman's concerning a maintenance contract for the voting machines.

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mr. Bell, to authorize the First Selectman to enter into an agreement with LHS Associates of Methuen MA, to provide maintenance of our voting machines for 18 months, to coincide with the fiscal year.

<i>Mr. Beausoleil</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Bell</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

DISCUSSION ON MOVING VOTING DISTRICT #2 FROM TOWN HALL TO THOMPSON PUBLIC LIBRARY/COMMUNITY CENTER

This topic was discussed at the first meeting in January. Mr. Groh reviewed two State Statutes: 1) the registrars shall say where voting shall take place and give a thirty day notice before any election, and 2) if a Town Meeting adjourns to referendum, the Board of Selectmen shall decide time and place of said referendum.

Mr. Groh expressed his concerns regarding public safety and space constraints with the current voting place at the Town Hall, and the possibility of alleviating those problems by moving District # 2 to the Thompson Public Library/Community Center. The registrars have expressed concern about adding staff to maintain service. Mr. Beausoleil stated that the safety issues need to be balanced with the additional costs. Mr. Bell requested that the registrars attend the April 19, 2011 meeting to answer these and any other questions.

Motion made by Mr. Bell, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to table this issue until the April 19, 2011 Selectmen's Meeting.

<i>Mr. Bell</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Beausoleil</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

Mr. Groh -Yes
TAX REFUNDS

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to refund the following overpayment as recommended by the Tax Collector, Rene Morin.

Richard Duff	\$16.71
Justin Lapalme	\$39.56
Norman Baker	\$4.01

<i>Mr. Groh</i>	-Yes
<i>Mr. Beausoleil</i>	-Yes
<i>Mr. Bell</i>	-Yes

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Groh has received the resignation of Mr. James Rice, Custodian at the Thompson Public Library/Community Center. He stated that Mr. Rice has done an outstanding job, providing years of exceptional service, and he will be sad to see him go. It was the consensus of the Board to post and advertise this position.

Mr. Groh gave the Board information concerning the printing of tax bills. It was the consensus of the Board to involve the Tax Collector in this decision.

Mrs. Gendreau gave a presentation to the Board concerning an upcoming mock car crash and mass casualty drill at the High School, with involvement by all fire departments. This will be held on May 4, 2011 (raindate May 11, 2011) and the Board is invited to attend. This event will also include a presentation by an inmate serving time for vehicular homicide. Mr. Bell stressed the importance of this prevention event.

ADJOURN

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Bell, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:50 p.m.

<i>Mr. Groh</i>	-Yes
<i>Mr. Bell</i>	-Yes
<i>Mr. Beausoleil</i>	-Yes

Recorded and transcribed by:
Lynn Landry