



## **SELECTMEN'S MEETING**

### **July 19, 2011**

The Board of Selectmen held a Selectmen's Meeting on Tuesday, July 19, 2011, at 7:30 p.m. at the Thompson Fire Engine Company, 70 Chase Road.

**PRESENT:** Lawrence K. Groh, Jr., First Selectman; John Bell, Selectman; Kenneth Beausoleil, Selectman; Robin Cassella – Norwich Bulletin; Meryl Willett – WINY Radio; Kevin Walsh; Paul Baer; E. John King and Pete Pezanko of CT Water Company; Judd White; Sally White; Judy White; Norma O'Leary; Al Landry; other concerned citizens

### ***APPROVAL OF MINUTES***

*Motion made by Mr. Bell, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to accept the minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting of July 5, 2011.*

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

### ***CORRESPONDENCE***

Mr. Groh presented correspondence received from Mrs. Judy White, dated July 14, 2011, which he read into the record. Mrs. White was asking for clarification on the Town Hall meeting room policy. Mr. Groh reviewed the policy and clarified to the Board that on October 17, 2006, the Board created a policy that prohibits political fundraising at the Town Hall. Mr. Groh informed the Board that the Quaddick Lake Association held their Annual Meeting at the Town Hall on Sunday July 17, 2011. There was no political fundraising activity. There is no petition before the Board regarding the Quaddick Lake Association and/or the proposed tax district at this time. The Quaddick Lake Association has informed Mr. Groh that they will research the issues involved and establish their maps and boundaries before submitting any petition, possibly next Spring or early Summer.

Mr. Groh presented the monthly update on crime statistics from Troop D. Mr. Beausoleil commented that there were 261 infractions reported for June, 2011, which shows that the State Police are maintaining a presence in our community.

### ***SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS***

Mr. Groh thanked the Thompson Hill Fire Engine Company for hosting this evening's meeting, as part of the community outreach of the Board.

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Mr. Beausoleil asked about the status of the streetlight near the Quinebaug Fire Station. Mr. Groh spoke with CL&P this morning to clarify the wattage and the light will soon be installed. Mr. Beausoleil asked about the next meeting of the Fire Advisory Committee. It will be held on Tuesday, July 26, 2011 at 7 p.m. at this station. He will coordinate with the EMS/Hartford Director for follow-up.

Mr. Bell stated that the Dept. of Public Works has been actively improving our roadways. He noted several locations where Speed Limit signs need to be replaced. Mr. Groh stated that the Department has been grading the dirt roads and replacing guard rails and signs throughout Town. Mr. Bell cautioned citizens to be vigilant concerning home invasions.

Mr. Beausoleil noted that center lines have been painted on Quaddick Road and suggested that a "Narrow Bridge" sign be installed.

### ***CITIZENS' COMMENTS***

Miss Sally White requested that regular mowing be performed on our roadways. Mr. Groh stated that this program has been started. Miss White asked Mr. Groh if he was ever involved as a liaison between the Quaddick Lake Association and the Town. Mr. Groh replied that he has attended one Quaddick Lake Association meeting several years ago, and has never been involved in such a position. Miss White stated her concerns regarding the use of herbicides. Mr. Groh replied that any treatment of waterways must be approved by the DEP.

Mrs. Judy White asked Mr. Groh if Town Attorney St. Onge has provided the Town with a statement acknowledging his representation of the Quaddick Lake Association. Mr. Groh replied that Mr. St. Onge has not.

Mrs. White asked Mr. Groh to state when he became aware of the Quaddick Lake Association's goal of setting up a Tax District. Mr. Groh replied that he learned of their intention approximately one week before the June 7, 2011 Selectmen's Meeting. He further stated that no petition is before the Board at this time.

Mrs. White asked Mr. Groh if he had ever been elected as a liaison between the Quaddick Lake Association (QLA) and the Town of Thompson. Mr. Groh stated that he has attended a single meeting of the QLA, that he is not a member of the QLA, has never been a member of the QLA, and he has no vote according to the QLA By-Laws. Mrs. White then read the QLA Meeting Minutes of August 6, 2006, which in part state that an individual named Barry Groh was elected as a liaison between the QLA and the Town of Thompson.

Mrs. White asked Mr. Groh to state when he asked Attorney St. Onge to get involved in the process of a Tax District. Mr. Groh responded that he has not done so, and will wait to seek Town Attorney counsel if a petition is received.

Mrs. White asked the Selectmen to reconsider the Town Hall Room Use Policy.

Mrs. White asked if the Selectmen were aware that the QLA is incorporated as a non-profit charity. The Board does not know the status of this organization. She asked if it is usual for a non-profit entity to set up a Tax District. The Board is not aware of the usual and customary practices.

Mr. Groh stated that in a prior meeting with Mrs. White he had informed her that he would consult Town Attorney if a petition was received.

Mrs. White stated that the Town Hall should not be used by an organization such as the QLA. She sees them as a political action organization, because of the exploration of becoming a Tax District. She stated that she was in attendance at the July 17, 2011 meeting, and checks were

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accepted. She feels that some of the money collected may be used for attorney fees to pursue the formation of a tax district. She thanked the Board for listening to her concerns.

Mr. Groh stated that other political groups use the Town Hall and the Thompson Public Library/Community Center for their regular meetings. Soliciting for political activities, however, is prohibited.

Mr. Baer expressed his concerns regarding the Room Use Policy. He also stated that his home had been broken into approximately two weeks ago.

Mr. Walsh questioned the position of Mr. St. Onge. Mr. Groh stated that he will address this issue if or when a petition is received.

Mr. Beausoleil reminded citizens of the legislation (PA 09-173) that was passed by the CT General Assembly that describes the creation of specific Tax Districts. There was a general discussion of the use of grant monies, the format of Town Meetings, and the PA 09-173 legislation.

Mr. Groh thanked the citizens for their concerns regarding this issue and stated that if or when a petition is received, this issue will be researched in depth, and he will contact Town Attorney to discuss any possible conflict of interest and any other issues.

### ***CONNECTICUT WATER IMPROVEMENTS – SET BOND FOR ROAD WORK***

Mr. King represented CT Water and discussed the proposed infrastructure work along Riverside Drive, Thompson Hill Road, Park Street, Klondike Street, LaPorte Street and Thatcher Road. This work will upgrade the system and improve water flow. Mr. Pezanko of the Danielson Office was also available to answer any questions. CT Water will provide the proper bond and Certificate of Insurance as required by Ordinance. This project will cost approximately \$30,000.00 and should be completed this year. There will be additional upgrades to the system in the future. Mr. Groh will discuss this issue with Town Attorney, the Director of Public Works, and the Director of Planning and Development, and establish the amount of the required bond. Mr. King will provide all pertinent information to the Board.

*Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mr. Bell to table this item until the next meeting.*

*Mr. Beausoleil                      -Yes*

*Mr. Bell                                -Yes*

*Mr. Groh                               -Yes*

### ***UNION NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE***

Mr. Groh stated that the Negotiating Teams had met today. There will be a meeting on July 25, 2011, and he hopes for a tentative agreement at that time. He will inform the Board of the Selectmen of any progress. There was a general discussion of the status of the negotiations and the number of employees involved.

### ***ORDINANCES***

Mr. Groh stated that he had attended the Ordinance Committee meeting this morning. The Committee and Town Attorney have reviewed the entire package. He suggested bringing the

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entire package to Town Meeting, with the exception of the FOG (Fats, Oils, Grease) and OWF (Outdoor Wood-burning Furnaces), and the two new Agricultural Ordinances 11-002 and 11-003. He asked the Board to review the package before the next meeting and to set a date for the Town Meeting when the Board meets on August 2, 2011. There was a general discussion of the above named ordinances and the reasons for their exclusion from the proposed Town Meeting. Copies of the Ordinances will be available at the Selectmen's Office, on-line and at the Town Clerk's Office. Tentative Dates for the Town Meeting were discussed and Mr. Groh will contact Town Attorney for his availability.

***APPOINTMENT – ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS ALTERNATE – PETER BASKIN***

*Motion made by Mr. Bell, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil to appoint Peter Baskin as Alternate on the Zoning Board of Appeals for the Town of Thompson, to fill the unexpired term of Craig Hanford, such term to expire November 17, 2015.*

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

***DAY KIMBALL HOSPITAL DEARY MEMORIAL CANCER FUND CYCLING EVENT – CATHY'S RIDE***

A written request was submitted and included a copy of the proposed route and their insurance coverage.

*Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mr. Bell, to allow Cathy's Ride on August 13, 2011 as outlined in the written request.*

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

***TAX REFUNDS***

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

Lavigne, Edgar A.	\$ 20.21
Larson, Everett	\$159.11
Apley, Gary	\$ 2.63
Waters, Janet	\$ 38.22
Cimochowski, Donald	\$ 16.35
Mann, Robert	\$ 18.00

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

***OTHER BUSINESS***

None.

***ADJOURN***

*Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:21 p.m.*

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

Recorded and transcribed by:  
Lynn Landry