



SELECTMEN'S MEETING

December 20, 2011

The Board of Selectmen held a Selectmen's Meeting on Tuesday, December 20, 2011, at 7:30 p.m. in the Merrill Seney Community Room.

PRESENT: Lawrence K. Groh, Jr., First Selectman; Kenneth Beausoleil, Selectman; Kerstin Forrester, Selectman; Town Attorney William St. Onge; Kerensa Konesni – WINY Radio; Joseph Gaucher; Al Landry; Paul Horanzy; Bill Poirier; Susan Labonte; David LaBonte; John Rice; Norma O'Leary; Robert Schwend; Charlie Thayer; Kelly Greene; Carlton Greene; Tom Poplowski; William Ritter; Glen Wallen; Constance Nash; Sam Stillwell; Victor Nizamoff; Stanley Kruzel; Sally White; Maurice Viens; Kevin Racine; Steve Benoit; other concerned citizens.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to accept the minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting of December 6, 2011.

<i>Mr. Beausoleil</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Forrester</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Groh presented a letter of resignation from Joel Hiatt from the Thompson Redevelopment Agency and Small Cities Advisory Board, effective at the Town's earliest convenience. Mr. Groh asked Mr. Poplowski, Chair of the Republican Town Committee, for a recommendation.

SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS

Mr. Groh wished citizens a safe holiday season.

Mr. Groh announced that the Governor was at the West Thompson Fire Station today to present an award of \$150,000.00 for roof repair.

Mr. Beausoleil was glad to see the grant given as this will increase public safety. He stated that West Thompson Fire Company and Town Planner Kevin Kennedy worked hard to obtain this grant.

Mrs. Forrester wished citizens a Merry Christmas and a prosperous and happy 2012.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

None.

SNOW PLOWING OF PRIVATE ROADS

Mr. Groh had distributed information to the Board at the last meeting regarding plowing. Mr. Groh has met with Town Attorney William St. Onge regarding this topic. Mr. St. Onge is attending this meeting. Mr. Groh read into the record a draft policy for a Limited Winter Maintenance Program. This draft calls for taking action if a storm is more than four inches, and outlines other criteria, such as having the Director of Public Works inspect the standards of roads. The policies of other municipalities were reviewed, along with information from Leo Adams, Director of Public Works, regarding the cost per storm of plowing a ½ to ¾ mile dirt road (\$186.26 per storm). There was a discussion of deed restrictions, liability, and road standards. There was a discussion of the private roads that are currently being plowed.

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to continue plowing the private roads that we currently plow, for this one season.

Discussion on Motion: Mr. Thayer and several residents asked for standards of private roads, the width of roads, and maintenance contributions of homeowners on such roads. There was a discussion of identifying the property owners along private roads and identifying private roads with appropriate signage.

Mr. Poplowski asked if the Town could institute a fee on property owners for a road to be brought up to standard. Mr. St. Onge replied that there is a provision in the Planning And Zoning Regulations concerning a levy for road improvement, but this process is expensive to the Town and cumbersome for property owners.

The criteria in the Draft of Limited Winter Maintenance Program was further discussed, as were the legal definitions of roads. Mr. St. Onge explained that an abandoned road was once a public road that has been declared by the Court to be abandoned due to non-use by public and non-maintenance by the Town. Discontinued roads are defined as a road where the owner(s) have petitioned the Town to have the road designated as discontinued, and this has been ratified by Town Meeting. It then becomes a private road.

There was a discussion of truck size, width of roadways, emergency access, current standards for maintaining town dirt roads, and the use of private plowing contractors.

Mr. Groh called for the vote:

<i>Mr. Beausoleil</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Forrester</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

Mrs. Forrester asked for clear definitions in considering the Draft of the Limited Winter Maintenance Program: 1) 80% or majority of households, 2) whether to state seasonal or year-round residents, 3) clear definition of “limited”, and 4) how standards are determined by the Director of Public Works.

Mr. Beausoleil asked for clarification concerning vehicles parked in roadways and liability for the Town.

Miss White stated her concern regarding the number of private roads in Town and the potential cost of entering this program.

It was the consensus of the Board to submit these concerns for the First Selectman and Town Attorney to review, and to obtain the road standards from the Director of Public Works for the next meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION-LEGAL STRATEGIES

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to enter into Executive Session to discuss Legal Strategies with Town Attorney, at 9:10 p.m.

<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Beausoleil</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Forrester</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

The Board and Mr. St. Onge exited the Merrill Seney Community Room.
The Board returned from Executive Session at 9:25 p.m.

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to settle the Sarazin General Contractors contract for the Social Services Building, as recommended by Town Attorney.

<i>Mr. Beausoleil</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Forrester</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

MARIANAPOLIS SEWER PROJECT

Mr. Groh gave a brief history of this project. Trinity Foundation (Marianapolis Preparatory School) has approached the TWPCA and stated that they now want to go with the third option, namely going across their property, under Interstate 395 and then hooking into the system near the Medical Center on Riverside Drive.

Mr. Stillwell, Chair of the TWPCA, has submitted a letter to the Board stating no objection to this plan, but a preference for the option of bringing the line up Route 193 to the intersection of Route 21.

Mr. Stillwell explained that Marianapolis would pay for and own the line and provide a “stub” to Route 200, which could later be used for tie-in by Thompson Hill residents.

Mr. Groh stated that the USDA has committed some grant funding and some low interest loans for this project; however, if Marianapolis completely self-funds this project, the only authority would rest with the TWPCA and none with the Board of Selectmen.

We need to find out more information on funding and have a contract in place before moving forward. All engineering costs and studies have been paid for, as specified by the Memorandum of Understanding.

There will be a meeting in early January with Mr. Stillwell of the TWPCA, the First Selectman and the Trinity Foundation.

APPOINTMENT TO PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION – ALVAN HILL

The Republican Town Committee has nominated Alvan Hill to fill the opening of Planning & Zoning, Alternate, recently vacated by Aaron McGarry.

Motion made by Mrs. Forrester, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to appoint Alvan Hill as Planning & Zoning Alternate, to fill the unexpired term of Aaron McGarry, term to expire November 17, 2015.

<i>Mrs. Forrester</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Beausoleil</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

APPOINTMENT TO TRAILS COMMITTEE – ROBERT PATON

Mr. Paton has submitted a letter to the First Selectman stating his desire to serve on the Trails Committee.

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to appoint Robert H. Paton to serve on the Thompson Trails Committee, term indefinite.

<i>Mr. Beausoleil</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Forrester</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

APPOINTMENTS - CONSTABLES

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to appoint George Henry Mooney, Jr., Donald A. Brown, Joseph G. R. Garceau, Peter Walter Krawiec, and Dennis A. Tackson as Constables, terms to expire November 19, 2013.

<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Beausoleil</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Forrester</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.

Merchants Automotive Group	\$76.75
William Tippet	\$1.75

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

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Groh reviewed the request from Putnam that we share in the costs and revenues of the proposed Quinebaug Regional Technical Park in Putnam. This Park has been discussed at the NECCOG meeting.

Mrs. Forrester stated that this is an idea worthy of exploration.

Mr. Poplowski asked of the affect on our Grand List and for clarification of the associated costs.

Mr. Rice inquired if this agreement would prevent Thompson from hosting an industrial park.

It was the consensus of the Board to gather more information.

Mr. Landry asked for an update on the Chase Road situation. It will be on the next agenda.

Mrs. O'Leary expressed concern regarding the loss of walkways along Route 193 and Quaddick Road.

ADJOURN

Motion made by Mrs. Forrester, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:05 p.m.

<i>Mrs. Forrester</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Beausoleil</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

Recorded and transcribed by:
Lynn Landry