



SELECTMEN'S MEETING

January 3, 2012

The Board of Selectmen held a Selectmen's Meeting on Tuesday, January 3, 2012, at 7:30 p.m. in the Merrill Seney Community Room.

PRESENT: Lawrence K. Groh, Jr., First Selectman; Kenneth Beausoleil, Selectman; Kerstin Forrester, Selectman; Kerensa Konesni – WINY Radio; Joseph Gaucher; Kevin Walsh; Al Landry; Steve Benoit; Paul Horanzy; Ronald E. Barks; Paul R. Dery; Steven Bodreau; Patty Eastman; Bobby Schwend; Kelly Greene; Carlton Greene; Kevin Racine; Sally White; Ron Barks; other concerned citizens

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Mrs. Forrester, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to accept the minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting of December 20, 2011, as presented.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Groh will give the Board a copy of correspondence from Donat Charron to the Planning And Zoning Commission concerning Zoning along the Route 12 corridor.

SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS

Mr. Groh wished citizens a happy new year, and said he is looking forward to the New Year. Mr. Beausoleil wished citizens a happy new year and stated he is thrilled that we have had no snow storms to affect the budget.

Mrs. Forrester wished citizens a happy new year. She inquired about the process of appointing Will Ritter to fill the vacancy on the Small Cities Advisory Commission. Mr. Groh stated that the Board of Selectmen has given the Republican Town Committee an opportunity to submit a candidate within thirty days.

Mrs. Forrester stated that descriptions and guidelines of Boards, Commissions and Committees need to be compiled, and she will lead this project.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Miss White noted that the wooden carving of the town symbol that is in the hallway was carved by Mrs. Forrester's father.

Mr. Racine asked that the town website be updated more frequently.

Mr. Dery expressed concern with the Thompson Board of Education and Administrator's contract. This was filed with the Town Clerk on December 21, 2011. He is concerned with the strict timelines for arbitration and mediation and whether the Thompson Board of Education has complied with State Statute 10-153.

Mr. Groh has checked with the State Board of Education and was told that the timeline begins when documents are filed with the Town Clerk.

Mrs. Forrester and Mr. Beausoleil agreed on the importance of meeting guidelines and timelines.

Mr. Groh stated that Board members need to contact Dr. Jolin a copy of the contracts and negotiated changes. Mr. Dery noted that the submitted document has a schedule of salaries for 2009-2010, not the current year.

Mr. Groh also stated that if this issue were to go to Town Meeting, there would need to be a Special Selectmen's Meeting by January 10, 2012 and a Town Meeting posted by January 12, 2012.

Mr. Gaucher commented that Thompson is the only Connecticut town that uses performance based pay.

The consensus of the Board was to pursue further information on this issue.

Mr. Groh presented information from Lorraine Pasqualetti, 45 Main Street, concerning town-owned property that borders her property. She would like to purchase or lease the town-owned property, as her shed is on the town owned property. Copies of photographs and a plot plan were given to the Board for their review. This will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

SNOW PLOWING OF PRIVATE ROADS

Mr. Groh read the Limited Winter Maintenance Policy into the record. This document is the result of previously expressed concerns and has been reviewed by Town Attorney.

Motion made by Mrs. Forrester, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to approve the Limited Winter Maintenance Program, as approved by Town Attorney.

Mrs. Forrester -Yes

Mr. Beausoleil -Yes

Mr. Groh -Yes

Discussion of Motion: Mr. Groh encouraged concerned citizens to obtain and submit applications to the First Selectman's Office.

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to add to tonight's agenda Re-appointments to the Economic Development Commission.

Mr. Groh -Yes

Mr. Beausoleil -Yes

Mrs. Forrester -Yes

APPOINTMENTS TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION – JOHN SHARPE & WILL RITTER

RE-APPOINTMENTS TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION – BRIAN YACINO & CRAIG HANFORD

Motion made by Mrs. Forrester, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to appoint to the Economic Development Commission: Will Ritter as alternate, term to expire 12/31/2012, John Sharpe as alternate, term to expire 12/31/2013, to reappoint Craig Hanford, term to expire 12/31/2013, and to reappoint Brian Yacino, term to expire 12/31/2013.

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

REDIRECTION OF TRAFFIC - CHASE ROAD

Mr. Groh briefly reviewed the discussion of traffic and safety concerns on the portion of Chase Road that borders the Thompson Common, intersects Bates Avenue, and connects Routes 193 and 200. Chase Road is a designated Scenic Road.

Mr. Beausoleil has suggested making the intersection of Bates Avenue and Chase Road into a three-way stop.

Mr. Barks, representing the Thompson Congregational Church, asked if speed bumps could be installed. This is not allowed on a town road.

Mr. Baer expressed concerns about using Stop signs as a speed control measure.

Mr. Groh agreed that this is usually the case, but using Stop signs in this instance would resolve many problems.

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mr. Groh to make the intersection of Chase Road and Bates Avenue a three-way Stop, by installing Stop signs.

<i>Mr. Beausoleil</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Forrester</i>	<i>-No</i>

Discussion on Motion: Miss White asked if the topic of closing any Chase Road entrance would be pursued. Mr. Groh replied that it will not be pursued at this point in time.

RESIDENT STATE TROOPER PROGRAM

Mr. Groh stated that he would like to begin discussing the Resident State Trooper Program prior to the onset of the budget season. He gave a brief history of the existence and demise of the Resident State Trooper Program in Thompson.

Mrs. Forrester questioned the cost of the program and if it could be justified. She noted the effectiveness of Neighborhood Watch Programs for crime detection.

Mr. Dery spoke of the difficulty of meeting budget constraints, and advised that citizens should carefully weigh any new expense.

There was a discussion of police presence as a deterrent to crime, and the impossibility of measuring what is prevented. There was a brief discussion of the factors that lead to crime, including economic forces, gang related activities and our geographical location. Mr. Groh reminded citizens to report any unusual activity to Troop D.

Mr. Walsh thanked the Board for exploring this subject. He stated that his residence was one of seven that were burglarized last week. He noted that life is priceless and protecting people and property is essential, as is fire protection and ambulance service. He asked the Board to review statistics and to examine each line item in the upcoming budget to weigh each need.

Mr. Beausoleil stated that deterrence is effective and that the impact on services already provided would also need to be examined, as well as exploring other funding opportunities.

Mr. Groh suggested asking neighboring municipalities about regionalizing such a program.

It was the consensus of the Board to discuss this topic further, to obtain annual crime statistics from Troop D and to seek information on management of the program.

TAX REFUNDS

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURN

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:40 p.m.

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

Recorded and transcribed by:
Lynn Landry