



SELECTMEN'S MEETING

January 17, 2012

The Board of Selectmen held a Selectmen's Meeting on Tuesday, January 17, 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; Lisa Sharpe; Ray Piota, Jr.; Kathleen Herbert; Mary Preston; George Patrinos; John Sharpe; Gene Raymond; Jimmy Seney; Rocco Navarro; Constantino Galasso; Brian Maynard; Wes Davis; Ron Meseck; Ed Morin; Thomas W. Curran, Jr.; Paul R. Dery; Carolyn Werge; Norma O'Leary; Patricia Donnelly; Kelly Greene; Carlton Greene; John Rice; Zachary Rood; Roger Durand; Joseph Lindley; 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 January 3, 2012, with a spelling correction and the change of Program into Policy re: Limited Winter Maintenance.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Groh presented correspondence from Paul Baer regarding the installation of Stop signs at the intersection of Bates Ave. and Chase Road, and his dissatisfaction with the Board's decision. Mr. Groh expressed his faith in the residents obeying the Stop signs and travelling safely though this area.

SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS

Mrs. Forrester expressed concern regarding a property on Azud Road that has many vehicles. Mr. Groh stated that this business was in place before Zoning was enacted in Thompson and has been a source of ongoing concern. The State of Connecticut and the State Police have also been involved in trying to address this situation.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Ms. Herbert asked if the Board would consider moving their meeting time to 7:00, from 7:30. Mr. Groh stated that their 2012 schedule has already been submitted to the Town Clerk, and that this idea would be considered in the future. Miss White expressed concern regarding Azud road and requests that any appropriate ordinance be enforced.

REQUEST FROM COMMUNITY FIRE DEPT. – LADDER TRUCK

Mr. Sharpe, Captain of Community Fire Dept. reviewed the need for an aerial truck and presented a proposal to the Board of Selectmen. A 1991 truck is available in Mt. Kisco, New York that would meet their needs and is priced at \$85,000.00. This offer is available for thirty days. They have some funding available in their truck fund, and they are asking Town for \$45,000. This truck would provide service for twenty-five to thirty years. Mr. Navarro stated that all of the Fire Departments have expressed support for this proposal, as discussed at the Fire Advisory Committee meeting. Mr. Bodreau, of the Quinebaug Fire Dept., expressed support for this purchase. He noted that the truck has a stainless steel body and impeccable maintenance records. There was a discussion of various funding and fund-raising opportunities, Board of Finance scheduling, our bond rating, and the timelines involved. Ms. Sharpe commented that the Town has saved approximately \$20,000.00 in this fiscal year due to cost savings in the Fire Dept. insurance coverage. Ms. Baker expressed her appreciation for the volunteer service by the Fire Companies. Mr. Landry suggested that funds could be raised by a publicity campaign that highlighted that this truck would cost about \$11.00 from each of Thompson's approximately 4,000 households.

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, for the Board of Selectmen to ask the Board of Finance for funds up to \$45,000.00 to go toward an aerial truck for Community Fire Dept.

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

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to request, if Board of Finance approval is obtained, moving the expenditure of up to \$45,000.00, for the Community Fire Dept. aerial truck, to Town Meeting.

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

Discussion on Motion: Mr. Groh will contact the Board of Finance and inform Mr. Sharpe of the Board of Finance Agenda.

PETITION FOR SNOW PLOWING

A petition from Breault's Landing residents has been submitted; it is signed by all but one resident. The Director of Public Works has inspected the road, estimates that the cost per storm will be \$65.00 and stated that it be graded in the Spring.

Motion made by Mrs. Forrester, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to approve the request of Breault's Landing residents to receive Limited Winter Maintenance.

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

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS CONTRACT

Mr. Groh had met on Thursday, January 12, 2012 with Dr. Jolin, Superintendant of Schools; Joseph Lindley, Board of Education Member; and Paul R. Dery, Board of Finance Member; concerning the School Administrators' Contract.

Mr. Lindley presented written information to the Board and gave an overview of the Performance Based Pay Policy, instituted by the board of Education.

Mr. Dery stated that he is more concerned with the timeline of this contract.

There was a discussion of the negotiating committee and their responsibilities.

Dr. Jolin was not available for this meeting tonight. Mr. Lindley will ask Dr. Jolin to provide a written report to the Board of Selectmen concerning the guidelines and timelines of the School Administrators' Contract.

Mr. Groh thanked Mr. Lindley for his presentation.

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to add Executive Session – Lamothe Property to tonight's agenda as Item 8 a).

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

Discussion of Motion: Mr. Walsh asked for clarification of the procedure of adding an item to the agenda. The criteria was reviewed by Mr. Groh.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – LAMOTHE PROPERTY

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to enter into Executive Session with the Board of Selectmen, Conservation Officer Carolyn Werge, and Conservation Commission Member Norma O'Leary, to discuss the Lamothe Property, at 9:50 p.m.

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

Mr. Groh, Mr. Beausoleil, Mrs. Forrester, Mrs. Werge and Mrs. O'Leary exited the Merrill Seney Community Room.

The Board, Mrs. Werge and Mrs. O'Leary returned to the Merrill Seney Community Room at 10:10 p.m. with no action taken.

LAMOTHE PROPERTY

There is a need for further information, which will be provided by Mrs. Werge.

BUDGET TRANSFERS

Mr. Groh explained that this subject is examined annually after the completion of the audit. Mr. Groh read a letter from Michael Martin, Director of Finance, into the record. It stated that health insurance savings have more than offset wage increases.

Motion made by Mrs. Forrester, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to accept the recommendations of the Director of Finance, and forward the request for Budget Transfers to the board of Finance.

<i>Mrs. Forrester</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Beausoleil</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 overpayment as recommended by the Tax Collector, Rene Morin.

Scott A. Reynolds	\$21.80
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<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Beausoleil</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Forrester</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

OTHER BUSINESS

There was a discussion of budget workshop meeting dates. It was the consensus to hold meetings at 9 a.m. on January 30, February 1, February 6, February 10, and at 5 p.m. on February 17, 2012.

ADJOURN

Motion made by Mrs. Forrester, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:25 p.m.

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

Recorded and transcribed by:
Lynn Landry