



## SELECTMEN'S MEETING

March 6, 2012

The Board of Selectmen held a Selectmen's Meeting on Tuesday, March 6, 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; Jason Bleau—WINY Radio; Michael Martin, Director of Finance; Joseph Gaucher; Kevin Walsh; Dan Sasur; Linda Sasur; Paul Horanzy; Tom Poplawski; Al Landry; other concerned citizens

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to accept the minutes of the Selectmen's Minutes of February 21, 2012, the Joint Meeting of the Board of Education, Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen on February 23, 2012, and the Special Selectmen's Meeting with the Transfer Station Advisory Committee of February 25, 2012.*

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

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

### **SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS**

Mr. Beausoleil stated that the joint meeting of the Boards of Selectmen, Education and Finance was beneficial. He suggested that this meeting take place earlier in the budget season in the future.

Mr. Beausoleil commented that the aerial ladder truck has been purchased by Community Fire Company and is temporarily parked at Thompson Auto Care.

He also noted that the Neighborhood Watch Meeting was well attended and important information regarding Emergency Management during storms was given to the attendees. Mr. Groh announced that this presentation will continue on April 4, 2012, at 7 p.m. at the Thompson Public Library/Community Center.

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Mrs. Forrester stated that scheduling the Joint Meeting earlier would be beneficial and might increase citizen participation. She asked Emergency Management Director Steve Benoit to research if sirens could be used for notification of an impending storm.

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

Mr. Walsh commented that the Joint Meeting was a great idea and would benefit from increased publicity.

Ms. Sasur suggested a one-call system in case of emergencies, similar to the system used by the schools. Mr. Benoit noted that the Town of Colchester uses a Reverse 911 System, and it took 10 hours to complete. He also stated that there is a CT Call System for emergency notification. Miss White questioned the process of calling the Joint Meeting, and if this should have been noticed as a Special Selectmen's Meeting.

Mr. Groh stated that he, as First Selectman, along with the Chair of the Board of Finance, had been contacted by Superintendant Dr. Jolin regarding this meeting. Mr. Groh stated that this meeting was properly noticed at the Town Clerk's Office, and publicized on the Town of Thompson website and the Thompson Board of Education website. Mr. Groh stated that the public comments were helpful in enabling elected officials to better serve the citizens of Thompson. He would like to see more citizen involvement in the future.

Mrs. Forrester acknowledged that there was no consensus building between Boards; rather, it was a discussion of the overview of the budget, with thought given to the taxpayers who "foot the bill".

Mr. Walsh expressed concern that some Board members appeared disconnected from their constituents' situations, and that this was an opportunity to communicate.

Mr. Walsh observed that we are the only Town in the State of Connecticut that offers incentive pay to administrators.

### ***PRESENTATION OF PRELIMINARY BUDGET FOR FY 2012***

Director of Finance Michael Martin and Mr. Groh presented the Preliminary Budget for General Government, Fiscal Year 2012. There was a discussion of specific line items within some Departments. The roads slated for repair are Wilsonville Road, Buck Hill Road, and Brickyard Road.

Mr. Walsh asked if there would be any hardship if this budget was cut one percent. Mr. Groh stated that there may be a hardship. Mrs. Forrester stated that there are items in this budget, such as Debt Service, Debt Retirement and Fringe Benefits, that cannot be changed. Mr. Beausoleil stated that any cuts would need to be from the Capital side of the budget, and, if roads are not maintained, this may result in higher costs in the future.

Mr. Groh stated that it is his duty to inform the citizens of what is needed, and of the impact of any decision.

The Board will meet to discuss the concerns of citizens regarding this budget.

### ***FLAGS ACROSS AMERICA REQUEST***

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Written information had been received regarding this project which creates awareness regarding organ donation. It has been the policy at the Town Hall to fly the American and State of Connecticut flags. No action was taken.

### ***REQUEST TO CLOSE BATES AVENUE FOR ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT***

The annual request was received from Recreation Director, Renee Waldron.

*Motion made by Mr. Forrester, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to close Bates Avenue on March 31, 2012, from 12 noon to 2:30 p.m., with a rain date of April 7, 2012, for the Recreation Department to hold the Annual Easter Egg Hunt.*

*Mrs. Forrester* -Yes

*Mr. Beausoleil* -Yes

*Mr. Groh* -Yes

Discussion on Motion: As has been done in the past, the Recreation Director will notify the Director of Public Works and the State Police of the details of this event.

### ***2012 CDBG SMALL CITIES APPLICATION RFP FOR CONSULTANTS***

The RFPs had been opened at the last meeting and then given to Director of Planning and Development Kevin Kennedy for his review and recommendation. Mr. Groh read Mr. Kennedy's recommendation into the record.

*Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to accept the recommendation of the Director of Planning and Development Kevin Kennedy, and to award the Consultancy for improvements at 500 Riverside Drive, Gladys Greene Apartments and Pineview Court to L. Wagner and Associates.*

*Mr. Beausoleil* -Yes

*Mrs. Forrester* -Yes

*Mr. Groh* -Yes

### ***COMMERCIAL HAULERS TRANSFER STATION FEES***

The Transfer Station Advisory Committee did not discuss Commercial Haulers. These fees were last raised in 2006 to \$400.00 per truck. There are currently four companies involved, and six trucks. There was a discussion of how best to monitor this program.

*Motion made by Mr. Forrester, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to increase the Commercial Hauler fee per truck to \$500.00 annually, to be effective immediately.*

*Mrs. Forrester* -Yes

*Mr. Beausoleil* -Yes

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Mr. Groh -Yes

At the request of the Board of Selectmen, the Transfer Station Advisory Committee met on February 24, 2012 to discuss permit fees. The Board of Selectmen attended this meeting as a Special Selectmen's Meeting. The fees were last raised in 2006. It was the recommendation of the Transfer Station Advisory Committee to raise the Regular Permit to \$85.00 and the Senior Permit to \$40.00, with corresponding adjustments to the half year rate.

There was a discussion of the costs in neighboring towns, the specific item costs at the Transfer Station and the value of recycling.

Mr. Groh stated that this recommendation is a modest increase.

*Motion made by Mrs. Forrester, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to raise the Transfer Station fees in Fiscal Year 2012/2013 to \$85.00 for a Regular Annual Permit and \$45.00 for a Regular Senior Permit, with the half year charges adjusted accordingly.*

Mr. Beausoleil -Yes  
Mrs. Forrester -Yes  
Mr. Groh -Yes

#### **TAX REFUNDS**

None.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

#### **ADJOURN**

*Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 11.20 p.m.*

Mr. Groh -Yes  
Mr. Beausoleil -Yes  
Mrs. Forrester -Yes

Recorded and transcribed by:  
Lynn Landry