



SELECTMEN'S MEETING

June 19, 2012

The Board of Selectmen held a Selectmen's Meeting on Tuesday, June 19, 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 and Mike Blackmer – WINY Radio; Paul Baer; Steven Bodreau; Kevin Walsh; Kathleen Herbert; Craig Hanford; Al Landry; 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 June 5, 2012.

<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 a request from the Northeast District Department of Health to have an alternate for the Board of Health from Thompson. Mr. Groh asked for volunteers with medical experience.

Mr. Groh presented the monthly update on crime statistics from Troop D and a document that gives a description of each code.

SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS

Mr. Groh stated that the Opening of the Social Services Building was well organized and well attended, with volunteer recognition and participation from Thompson and the surrounding communities.

Mr. Groh stated that the Warrior Dash went well with over 13,000 participants. Mr. Bodreau gave credit for organizing to Chief Seney of Community Fire Company and Chief Sheldon of the East Thompson Fire Company. The Warrior Dash will return on September 22, 2012 for a one day event. This event includes an obstacle course, a marathon type of run, and a mud pit. This event raises money for St. Jude in Boston.

Mr. Beausoleil noted that the Department of Public Works is completing the chip-sealing in the Quinebaug area. He also advised citizens to be careful during the next two days with the increased heat. The Thompson Public Library will be open for those who need cooler temperatures.

Mr. Groh and Mr. Benoit noted that on July 28 and 29, 2012 there will be a statewide exercise in hurricane preparation. Mr. Beausoleil will be available to represent the Board.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Mr. Baer stated several aspects of concern regarding the Town web-site, including the ownership of the domain name and the legality of System Solutions. There was a discussion regarding if System Solutions is listed as a business with the Secretary of State's Office, the Thompson Town Clerk and/or the Planning and Zoning Department. Mr. Baer suggested having our local students work on our web-site.

Mr. Walsh expressed concern about the web-site domain ownership and the obligations of the contract.

Mr. Baer asked for clarification on the status of JD & D of Webster, MA as they are not registered as a business in Connecticut. He is concerned with legal and insurance issues.

Mr. Baer also expressed concern about the legal status of Community Fire Company.

Mr. Hanford stated, on a positive note, that Thompson Together recently held their first town-wide Yard Sale and Business Bargain Bonanza, with 48 participating entities. Funds raised will support the Environment Committee's Scholarship Fund. This was a very successful event with good community spirit.

REQUEST TO USE TOWN HALL PARKING LOT – PROJECT GRADUATION

Mr. Groh has received an e-mail from Rich Belinski regarding using the Town Hall Parking Lot to hold fundraisers on the first Saturday of each month until June, 2013, from 9 AM to 1 PM.

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to allow Project Graduation to hold fundraisers in the Town Hall Parking Lot on the first Saturday of each month until June 2012.

Mr. Beausoleil -Yes

Mrs. Forrester -Yes

Mr. Groh -Yes

Discussion on Motion: Mrs. Forrester asked if there are security or liability issues. Mr. Groh replied that parents will supervise all activities. Funds will be used for a class trip after graduation.

CENTRAL CORRIDOR RAIL

There was a discussion of commuter rail systems, as well as possible bus services to this area. Connecticut has authorized rail improvements to the center of the state. Mr. Kennedy, Director of Planning and Development, has researched local options for commuter rails.

Mr. Beausoleil read the proposed Resolution into the record.

There was a discussion of aspects of the Resolution, especially air pollution and traffic congestion. This Resolution would establish a commuter rail in the Palmer/Springfield/Hartford area, with connections to Boston and Chicago, and support passenger rail service in New England.

Mr. Bleau commented that there is a possibility of a connection from Vermont, through Palmer, to New York City.

Mr. Hanford invited Mr. Groh to attend the Economic Development Commission meeting tomorrow evening to discuss this subject.

Mr. Walsh urged the Board to be careful of any financial commitment. Mr. Groh noted that any financial commitment would need to go through established channels with citizen input.

Motion made by Mrs. Forrester, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to sign the Resolution as read.

Mrs. Forrester -Yes

Mr. Beausoleil -Yes

Mr. Groh -Yes

Discussion on Motion: The Board signed three copies of the Resolution.

VOTING DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

This matter was discussed and tabled at the last meeting. In previous years, suggestions on voting district consolidation have been made during the budget season; having an advisory committee research this issue prior to the next budget cycle would be beneficial.

Mr. Groh read the following charge into the record:

1. This Committee serves as an advisory committee to the Board of Selectmen.
2. Explore all options available for voting districts.
3. Analyze all budgetary aspects regarding voting districts.
4. Investigate both centralized and decentralized voting district options, including consolidation of voting districts to a single district, or no consolidation.
5. Evaluate state laws and mandates.
6. Evaluate workforce need at voting districts current to consolidation to one district.
7. Evaluate same day voter registration
8. Evaluate voter turnout
9. Comparisons of voter districts to other municipalities
10. Evaluate history of voter decline
11. Evaluate history of voting districts
12. Evaluate percentage of voter registrations to actual votes during referenda and elections.

Mr. Groh commented that there was discussion during the 1990's regarding having the Library/Community Center as the polling place for District #2.

Mrs. Forrester will chair this Committee, and asked that Charge #4 be amended as follows:

4. ...consolidation of voting districts from four to as low as a single district.

It was the consensus of the Board to change this item.

Mr. Groh stated that the Committee's report will be received by the Board, the Ordinance Committee will be revitalized if necessary, and this matter would then go to Town Meeting. He suggested that any change be presented to the voters during an election or a referendum.

The time period will be approximately one year. The Committee will consist of Chair Kerstin Forrester, Jay Kenney, Ada Temple, Dick Trudeau, Jim Sali, Craig Hanford and Kathleen Herbert.

Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to create the Voting District Advisory Committee, appoint the seven named individuals, and have the charge as read and discussed.

Mr. Beausoleil -Yes

Mrs. Forrester -Yes

Mr. Groh -Yes

Discussion on Motion: Mrs. Forrester will call the first meeting during the first week in July.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – PENDING LITIGATION

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to go into Executive Session to discuss Pending Litigation, at 8:37 p.m.

Mr. Groh -Yes

Mr. Beausoleil -Yes

Mrs. Forrester -Yes

The Board returned at 9:02 p.m. with no action taken.

TAX REFUNDS

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Landry requested that other groups not use the Planning and Zoning tables, as Town tables are stored in this room.

Mr. Landry reported that it appears that a lawn mower has damaged plants in one of the flower beds. Mr. Groh expressed his appreciation to Sunrun Gardens for the plantings at the Town Hall, and will investigate the damage.

ADJOURN

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:06 p.m.

Mr. Groh -Yes

Mr. Beausoleil -Yes

Mrs. Forrester -Yes

Recorded and transcribed by:
Lynn Landry

