



## SELECTMEN'S MEETING

### January 15, 2013

The Board of Selectmen held a Selectmen's Meeting on Tuesday, January 15, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. in the Merrill Seney Community Room.

**PRESENT:** Lawrence K. Groh, Jr., First Selectman; Kenneth L. Beausoleil, Selectman; Kerstin E. Forrester, Selectman; Paul Dery; Joseph Gaucher; Kevin Walsh; Christine Campbell; Kathleen Herbert; Marina Cinami - WINY Radio; and other concerned citizens.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*Motion made by Mrs. Forrester, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to accept the minutes of the joint Board of Education, Board of Finance, Board of Selectmen's meeting of December 5, 2012 as presented.*

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

*Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to accept the minutes of the Selectmen's meeting of January 2, 2013 as presented.*

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| <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 correspondence from Mr. Gaucher in regard to an article in the paper about the Regional Probate Court.
- Mr. Groh presented correspondence from Steven Lewis in regard to school safety and security.
- Mr. Groh presented a resignation letter from the Director of Planning & Development effective March 1, 2013.
- Mr. Groh presented a resignation letter from Francis Roy for the Assessment Board of Appeals.

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- Mr. Groh presented correspondence from the Connecticut State Police regarding monthly calls for service.

### **SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS**

- Mr. Groh thanked everyone for attending.
- Mr. Groh commented that there are two places for Citizens' Comments on the agenda for tonight to see how it will work.
- Mr. Beausoleil commented that there is a storm coming in and to stay safe.
- Ms. Forrester asked if there was anything that needed to be done in regard to the correspondence from Steve Lewis. Mr. Groh stated that the School has been performing checks and improvements in regard to School safety and security. Mr. Groh stated that the School's Facilities manager is working on the issue as well and that he is also in communication with the Superintendent about working together proactively. Ms. Herbert asked Mr. Groh to share said correspondence with Dr. Jolin. Mrs. Forrester stated that Dr. Jolin was copied on the correspondence originally. A brief discussion followed. Ms. Campbell volunteered to serve on a committee should one be created to address the security concerns as a parent representative. Mr. Benoit stated that he has posted information on this subject on the Town's Emergency Management Facebook page.
- Mrs. Forrester requested to get a report on grants that have been closed out including the West Thompson Fire Department Roof Project. Mr. Groh stated that the Board can get a report on the status of all grants.

### **CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

- Mr. Gaucher asked why the Director of Planning & Development resigned. Mr. Groh stated that he had another opportunity.
- Mr. Dery commented that he has a download from the State Department of Education's website in regard to "Listing of Negotiations and Settlement Status 2011-2012". Mr. Dery stated that many towns have their budget process earlier than Thompson does. Mr. Dery also stated that the teacher's contract will be posted in the Norwich Bulletin so that the statutory 30 days can begin for the public to review it.
- Ms. Campbell asked if there was an answer on her question from the last meeting in regard to laws addressing discharging firearms near a residence. Mr. Beausoleil stated that he did some research and there is a 53 statute that lists a distance requirement. Mr. Beausoleil also stated that there are some hunting laws as well. Mr. Beausoleil advised Ms. Campbell to report it with a proper description to the State Police.
- Mr. Walsh reported that most of the logs on the banking by the School property are gone.

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- Mr. Walsh asked about the progress on the website. Ms. Park gave an update. Ms. Herbert suggested interviewing for on-call expertise to address future website issues.

### **INVITATION TO BID – THOMPSON HOUSING AUTHORITY – FIRE ALARM UPGRADES**

Mr. Groh presented the Invitation to Bid for the Thompson Housing Authority Fire Alarm Upgrade project.

*Motion made by Mrs. Forrester, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to move forward with the Invitation to Bid as presented.*

*Mrs. Forrester* -Yes

*Mr. Beausoleil* -Yes

*Mr. Groh* -Yes

### **RFP OPENING – SMALL CITIES APPLICATIONS FOR FY2013**

The following bids were opened:

-Lisa Low, PHD – Lisa Low & Associates – 293 Riggs Street, Oxford, CT 06478 – \$75,000 or 25% of grants awarded. – Refer to RFP for detailed information.

-Laurence Wagner – L. Wagner & Associates – 51 Lakeside Blvd. East, Waterbury, CT 06708 – \$3,000 – Refer to RFP for detailed information.

*Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to have the Town Planner review the RFPs, ensure they meet all specifications, and come back to the Board with a recommendation.*

*Mr. Beausoleil* -Yes

*Mrs. Forrester* -Yes

*Mr. Groh* -Yes

### **PROPOSED ORDINANCES – PAUL BAER**

Mr. Groh stated that Mr. Baer presented two proposed ordinances to the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Baer was unable to attend tonight's meeting.

*Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to table this agenda item to the next meeting or another meeting at which Mr. Baer is in attendance.*

*Mr. Groh* -Yes

*Mr. Beausoleil* -Yes

*Mrs. Forrester* -Yes

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## **SCHEDULE BUDGET WORKSHOPS**

The following budget workshops were scheduled:

- January 28, 2013 – 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- January 30, 2013 – 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- January 31, 2013 – 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- February 4, 2013 – 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- February 6, 2013 – 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- February 8, 2013 – 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- February 13, 2013 – 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- February 13, 2013 – 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- February 15, 2013 – 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Walsh asked if the Board has an overall approach in mind for this year's budget workshops and if department heads have been given formal guidance on budget submissions. A brief discussion followed.

## **APPOINTMENTS TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

*Motion made by Mr. Beausoleil, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to re-appoint Brian Santo, JoAnn Hall and Ryan Lajoie to the Economic Development Commission, terms to expire December 15, 2014.*

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

## **APPOINTMENTS TO CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Mr. Groh stated that Conservation Commission appointments are done by the First Selectman and that Bernard Davis and Kathryn Mitchell were reappointed.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION – PERSONNEL MATTERS**

*Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters at approximately 8:10 p.m.*

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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> |

*The Board came out of Executive Session at approximately 8:46 p.m.*

No action taken.

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## **INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR SERVICES – ASSESSOR - \$6,000.00**

Mr. Groh explained that the Grand List is due on January 31, 2013. The Town has filed for an extension but assistance is necessary to have it completed.

*Motion made by Mrs. Forrester, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to approve funding for independent contracting services for the Assessor's Department in the amount of \$6,000.00 and to enable the First Selectman to approach the Board of Finance for said funds.*

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

## **ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK POSITION**

Mr. Groh explained that there is a vacant position due to a resignation in the Town Clerk's Office. Mr. Groh stated that if the Town combines the position he suggested waiting until July 1, 2013, the start of the new fiscal budget to fill the position permanently and then temporarily fill the position until then

*Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to eliminate the 20-hour Assistant Town Clerk position.*

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

Discussion on Motion: Mrs. Forrester stated that she does not agree with eliminating the position but rather creating a 15 hour non-union position. Mrs. Forrester stated that this action would save the Town an additional \$10,000.00. A lengthy discussion followed.

*Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to create an Assistant Town Clerk position at 15 hours and combining it with the Secretary/Clerk position in the Selectmen's Office effectively making a 40-hour position.*

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

Discussion on Motion: Mrs. Forrester again stated that she does not agree with eliminating the position but rather creating a 15 hour non-union position. Mrs. Forrester stated that the Town could save an additional \$10,000.00 as the position would be non-union and funds could be saved on hourly rate, pension and FICA costs.

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## **TAX REFUNDS**

*Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to refund the following overpayment as recommended by the Tax Collector, Rene Morin.*

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| -ACAR Leasing Ltd. | \$274.59 |
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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**

None

## **CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

- Mr. Walsh commented on the budget process.
- Mr. Gaucher commented on the issue with out of state registered vehicles.

## **ADJOURN**

*Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Beausoleil, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:18 p.m.*

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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> |

Recorded and transcribed by:  
Tonya C.L. Park