



SELECTMEN'S MEETING December 3, 2013

The Board of Selectmen held a Selectmen's Meeting on Tuesday, December 3, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall – Merrill Seney Room.

PRESENT: Paul Lenky, First Selectman; Kerstin Forrester, Selectman; Shaina Smith, Selectman; Joseph H. Gaucher, Linda Jarmolowicz, Roger Tremblay, John Rice, James Niedzialkoski, John Sharpe, Kevin Walsh, Kathleen Herbert, Paul Deary, Sally White, Alvan R. Hill, Steve Benoit, Chris Burke, Donna Grant, Stacy Rodecap, Norma O'Leary, Mercedes Robles, Donat Sharon, Mike Blackmer – WINY Reporter and other concerned citizens.

1) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion made by Mrs. Forrester, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to accept the minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting of November 19, 2013, with corrections.

Mr. Lenky - Yes
Mrs. Forrester – Yes
Mrs. Smith – Yes

Corrections in Bold: Present: **Mike Blackmer** – WINY Reporter. Page 2 – 4) Citizen's Comments: Sally White – **Also, Ms. White stated that she has been hearing for a few months that there is a perceived problem at the state park with the Recreation Commission and the Adventure Camp.** Page 3 – Paul Baer – Mr. Baer also observed that the Board gave authorization to the First Selectmen to sign the **EMS** plan in **September**. Mrs. Forrester stated that she has some **updated documents that have expired after approval** still to add to the plan. Mrs. Forrester commented that they have a report and have been working on it for the past 2 months, and it has been hard to go back since she wasn't involved with it when it started, and that this should be complete by the **December 18, 2013**, meeting. Mrs. Smith asked about the hiring of a fire consultant and Mrs. Forrester stated that it was brought before **both** the BOS and the BOF before she was on the Committee and it was rejected.

2) CORRESPONDENCE:

1) Letter received from Premier Laboratory, Inc., dated November 25, 2013, informing clients that they are now part of Microbac Laboratories, Inc., effective November 22, 2013. Mr. Lenky stated that they conduct the water analysis at the Town Highway Department.

3) SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS:

1) Mr. Lenky made the following comments: He stated that there was black ice early this past Sunday, and the Highway Department was called out to sand the roads and they did a very good job. The repair of the guardrails on Wilsonville Road by the playground has been completed. Also, the Department of Transportation for the state has replaced the old post cable guard rails with new steel posts near the Stonington Garage, and they offered the posts to the Town of Thompson at no charge for any future repairs; the only requirement is that the town has to pick them up. The stop sign at the Main Street, Route 12 monument has been replaced. The stop sign at Azud and Ballard Road has been replaced; the street sign at the corner of the road has to be ordered. The signs for the "S" curve on Wilsonville Road have to be ordered. Kathleen Herbert stated that the road sign for Stawacki Road needs to be replaced. Also, the town animal shelter on Pasay Road has a washout at the lower end of the road and the town is going to fix it. French River Materials is going to supply the materials at no charge and the town will do the work

sometime this week. Mr. Lenky stated that the Belding-Corticelli Committee met on November 21, 2013, and they met with Bill Warzecha from the CT DEEP. He reviewed a memo from Town Planner, Mary Ann Chinatti, regarding the Belding-Corticelli site. The memo read that the USEPA announced its FY14 Brownfield Grant round and that the site is on the State of Connecticut Brownfield's List. The town intends to pursue obtaining funds to hire Environmental Professionals to prepare a Phase I and Phase II Environmental Review of contaminants on the site, and any remaining funds would be used to begin preparation for a clean-up of the site. There are no matching funds from the town required for this grant. Bill Warzecha, head of the CT DEEP Remediation Division offered his assistance in ensuring that the town has all necessary documents from the state. Steve Benoit, Emergency Management Director, is going to purchase an I.D. making machine for \$800.00 for the town employees and officials for recognition during emergencies. Lastly, Mr. Lenky would like to move forward with the solar panel installations for the town. Mrs. Forrester stated that the Solar Advisory Committee had received approval by the BOS in early September to sign a request to CCM for the project. The First Selectmen was to sign the request but it did not get signed. She did get in contact with Andy Romano and he stated that not all of the 5 sites qualify for the panels. Mrs. Forrester stated that there might be smaller grants and she would like to move forward with this project and that the Solar Advisory Committee has a meeting this coming Friday.

2) Mrs. Forrester stated that at the last meeting, Paul Baer asked whether the EMS Plan had been signed. Mrs. Forrester stated for the record that the EMS Plan is signed and that she has signed copies at the meeting for anyone to review and a copy of the plan would be put on the website as well.

3) Mrs. Smith stated that the Conservation Commission has been doing a lot of hard work documenting the cemeteries on their website, but she still would like to know about the liabilities, if any, of having volunteers to maintain the cemeteries. Mrs. Forrester stated that there are some cemeteries that have committees that take care of them. Mrs. Smith further stated that there are about 23 in total but some are not maintained at all and do they need to ask the town attorney what is needed since some would require entering private property. Mrs. Smith also asked to add the Troop D Emergency Dispatcher Consolidation to 11) Other Business, so that she can inform the citizens about what has been happening at the state level with the policing.

Motion made by Mrs. Smith, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to add Troop D Emergency Dispatcher Consolidation Information to 11) Other Business.

Mr. Lenky - Yes
Mrs. Forrester – Yes
Mrs. Smith – Yes

4) CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

- Sally White – Will citizens be able to speak during the presentations. Mr. Lenky stated yes, and Mrs. Forrester also stated that they would have to be recognized first. Ms. White encouraged the Board to consider renewing the Ethics Committee and further stated that it would be good to have a Committee in place for the town officials. She also stated that she was glad to hear the EMS Plan has been signed and out for public review and further stated that this is a huge accomplishment. She inquired if the Board had an update on the Post Incident Analysis Report. Mrs. Forrester stated that she received a copy of the recording from QVEC and will be meeting with Steve Benoit to make sure that she has the correct details for the report.

- John Rice referred to the November 19, 2013, meeting minutes where Paul Baer commented “the fatal fire which occurred in February of 2013 could have been prevented if they had hired a consultant to review the department’s procedures”. Mr. Rice stated that they need to ask Mr. Baer what facts he has to back up this statement. Mrs. Forrester stated that the Fire Consultant’s job would be to look at a consolidation or how should the fire departments be configured not how they fight fires.

- Kevin Walsh - In regards to the same issue, Mrs. Forrester had stated at the last meeting that she had tried to obtain reports from the State Fire Marshal and Troop D and they stated that they did not have the report. Mrs. Forrester stated that this is correct and she had spoken to Rick Hayes and he commented that he was not surprised but he will try to intervene and get this information in time for them to complete their report. Mr. Walsh also stated that if they had the report they could share this information with the fire departments as part of a critique and a teaching tool. Mr. Walsh inquired if Mr. Lenky had been to any recent NECCOG meetings. Mr. Lenky stated that there are 2 meetings coming up December 10 and 13,

2013. He also asked Mr. Lenky, that as he is the town's representative, if he could take notes so that he can share the information at the BOS meeting. Mr. Lenky stated that he would and he further stated that the best way to solve problems is to provide information to the people.

- Alvan Hill read a statement for the record, regarding a "Stop Work Order" issued by the Town's Building Official, Lee Post, as a result of an anonymous complaint. "To hear the entire statement a recording is available on the town's website."

- Norma O'Leary commented on the cemeteries in town that are in need of maintenance and that the Conservation Committee has been approached by citizens who are interested in volunteering to take care of the cemeteries that have been neglected. They are in the process of finding out who owns the cemeteries and what the liability would be to work on these properties.

- Paul Deary stated that there are 3 NECCOG meetings scheduled; Tuesday, December 10, Friday December 13, and Monday, December 16, 2013. The meeting on the 16th will be to discuss Troop D Consolidation and Probate Court.

5) TEEG PRESENTATION – DONNA GRANT:

Donna Grant from TEEG gave an informative presentation regarding their budget, staff, their many services and the communities that they serve. Please visit their website TEEGonline.org for detailed information.

6) LIBRARY SPRINKLER SYSTEM:

Paul Lenky reviewed a memo from the Library Board of Trustees regarding the sprinkler system. They stated that although the system did pass the latest inspection, there was a lot of pipe debris released during the process indicating rotting pipes. They attached a quote from Simplex Grinnell for an estimate of \$42,787.03 to replace the system. They stated that while the system passed inspection and is "holding its own" the amount of debris evidenced during inspection is troubling. This matter was discussed at the July 2, 2013, BOS meeting and was voted on to postpone the replacement. Mrs. Forrester stated that they did receive an updated quote but they still needed more detail. She further stated that the system did pass inspection but it doesn't sound like it is in dire need and they can always provide maintenance to the system. Mr. Lenky stated that his only concern is that the quote indicates a labor charge of \$36,700.00 and material estimated at \$6,087.03 and the quote does not indicate what material is to be used. He also stated that he would like to know who would be responsible for the removal and disposal of the material of the old system. The Board decided to table this item until they receive more information.

Motion made by Mrs. Forrester, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to postpone any decisions to install a new sprinkler system until they can obtain more details.

Mr. Lenky - Yes
Mrs. Forrester – Yes
Mrs. Smith – Yes

7) EXCAVATION OPERATIONS – DONAT SHARON:

Donat Sharon and Sally White met with Bill Warzecha of the CT DEEP on November 21, 2013, along with Charlie Divivo and Mr. and Mrs. Hopkins to discuss the blasting issues in Thompson. Mr. Sharon and Ms. White pointed out the key items that were discussed. Mr. Warzecha reviewed a draft blasting ordinance from Mr. Sharon and stated that without an ordinance it's impossible for the town to provide any assurance that the blasting be done in a manner that does not damage surrounding properties. Other important issues included the need for a thorough pre-blast survey done by an impartial blasting consultant familiar with the local geology, bedrock water quality, well construction details, the latest blasting technology and evaluation of building structures. Also, posting a bond is a key issue for the town. He also stated that the applicant provide a plan for evaluating the quarried rock material to cause acid drainage, which can adversely affect ground water quality and is particularly dangerous for properties bordering a river. Further information from the meeting includes that the town must work closely with the Fire Marshall to monitor what is allowed by the blasting permit which should designate the limit of charges and the number of holes and there should be an approved plan for handling crushed rock at the site and in transit. Also, pre-blast water testing should be performed to determine what is already in the water. If the operation does not comply with yet to be established permit stipulations, a cease and desist order

should be issued. Lastly, An Air Permit is required for crushing activity which creates dust which is unhealthy to breath and spreads contaminants. Bob Gerardi of DEEP/Air Enforcement would be the person to contact for the Air Permit.

- Charles Divivo stated that he lives very close to the blasting area and he understands that this blasting is supposed to go on for another 8 or 9 years and he does not see them following any specific rules right now. He also stated that there are a lot of houses in the area with cracked foundations and walls, doors won't close and the situation is a real mess and why has this been allowed in the middle of a residential community. Mr. Donat stated that there are about 60 residents who have damage to their homes. He also stated that the blasting affects all the way up to Mossy Lane.

- Mr. Lenky stated that he did some research on the blasting and he supplied, during the meeting, a document from the Kentucky Division of Mining Reclamation and Enforcement – Explosives and Blasting Branch which explains in detail how blasting vibration can be affected by the weather such as the temperature and cloud cover, etc. He will pass this information on to P&Z. Also, a question was asked about having the Fire Marshall present at the blast site, and Mr. Lenky stated that Connecticut does not require that a Fire Marshall is present on site during blasting.

- Ms. White stated that she is puzzled by the role of town government and that the first responsibility is to protect and respect the people in town and protect their property value. She is puzzled why the town permitted an activity to take place that has caused material damage that has cost people money and disrupted their lives and no concrete steps have been taken to remedy this and to ensure that this will not happen in the future. At what cost or what point does the town take on an activity or allow something realizing that it is causing damage to the citizens who live here. Where is the goodness in this? You say P&Z is heading in the right direction. Where is the right direction? Mr. Lenky stated that what has happened in the past is in the past and now they have to work to make things right. He stated that P&Z and the Town Planner are working with the company to try to fix some of the problems. They are inspecting sewer lines for any damage right now. Mr. Hopkins is going to hire a third-party, independent contractor to do a pre-blast survey and they will be conducting water quality tests on any wells that have been affected. Everything will also be documented. He further stated that you have to get commitment from the company to do the right thing and they have to understand that there are rules to abide by which is what P&Z is trying to accomplish.

- Mrs. Forrester asked John Rice if there has been a bond issued, and Mr. Rice replied that the only bond required is for reclamation for P&Z in the amount of \$6,000.00.

8) APPOINTMENTS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION:

Motion made by Mrs. Forrester, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to appoint Brian Yacino and John Sharpe to the Economic Development Commission, expiration term of service, September 30, 2015.

Mr. Lenky - Yes
Mrs. Forrester – Yes
Mrs. Smith – Yes

9) APPOINTMENTS FOR SMALL CITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE/REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY:

Motion made by Mrs. Smith, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to appoint Robert LaChance, expiration term of service, November 19, 2016, Barbara R Pickett, alternate, Mercedes Robbins and Shirley Houle, expiration term of service, November 19, 2015, to the Small Cities Advisory Committee/Redevelopment Agency.

Mr. Lenky - Yes
Mrs. Forrester – Yes
Mrs. Smith – Yes

10) SELECTMEN'S MEETING CALENDAR FOR 2014:

Motion made by Mrs. Forrester, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to accept the Selectmen's Meeting Calendar for 2014.

Mr. Lenky - Yes
Mrs. Forrester – Yes
Mrs. Smith – Yes

11) TAX REFUNDS:

Motion made by Mrs. Forrester, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to refund the following overpayment as recommended by the Tax Collector, Rene Morin.

Mr. Lenky - Yes
Mrs. Forrester –Yes
Mrs. Smith – Yes

Deborah Ann Wenert \$36.21

12) OTHER BUSINESS:

a) Appointment to Special Fire Police:

Motion made by Mrs. Forrester, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to appoint to Special Fire Police, Eric Boucher from Community Fire Department, expiration term of service, November 17, 2015.

Mr. Lenky - Yes
Mrs. Forrester –Yes
Mrs. Smith – Yes

b) Troop D Emergency Dispatcher Consolidation:

The Troop D Emergency Dispatcher Consolidation was discussed by Mrs. Smith since there has been a lot of concerns about this change. She explained that the state is consolidating the dispatching functions of Troop D in Danielson, Troop E in Montville, and Troop K in Colchester into a centralized dispatch center at Troop C in Tolland. Troop D, E and K would be occupied by a sworn Trooper Monday through Friday, exclusively during business hours. She explained that this would increase the amount of troopers that are out on the roads and would make them more available to the citizens. There was also a concern because Troop D would no longer be used as a safe haven. She stated that this one component should be looked at in the future.

●Ms. White asked if they would announce the Thursday meeting and Mrs. Forrester stated that it is a joint meeting between the Thompson Board of Education, Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen on December 5, 2013, regarding the 2014 – 2015 Budget Climate. A question was asked about a site walk at the blasting site and will the BOS be present. Mr. Lenky stated that there is a site walk planned for Saturday and Selectmen would be present. A citizen stated that there was a missing person in this area, which was posted on WINY's Facebook page, and she happened to see this person. She called the dispatcher at the centralized location and was told that he was not a missing person but he was still missing at this point. She further stated that for her it is very unsettling because they do not know their area.

13) ADJOURN:

Motion made by Mrs. Smith, seconded by Mrs. Forrester, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:56 p.m.

Mr. Lenky - Yes
Mrs. Forrester –Yes
Mrs. Smith - Yes

Recorded and Transcribed by Patricia Lacasse.