



**TOWN OF THOMPSON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING**

Tuesday, July 15th, 2014, 7:00 PM

Held in the Merrill Seney Conference Room

PRESENT: P. Lenky, First Selectmen; K. Forrester, Selectmen; S. Smith, Selectmen

PUBLIC PRESENT: Linda Jarmolowicz, Amanda Jarmolowicz, Joseph H. Gaucher, Kevin Walsh, Wayne O'Brian, Roger Tremblay, Frances Becker, Donald Pimental, Alvan R. Hill, Ted Smith, Kathleen Herbert, and others.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Lenky called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

1.) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Motion made by Mrs. Forrester to approve minutes from the July 2nd, 2014 Board of Selectmen's special meeting. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Smith. Mrs. Forrester noted a correction which was a spelling error in one of the names of those in attendance.
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mrs. Smith – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes.
- Motion made by Mrs. Smith to approve minutes from the July 1st, 2014 Board of Selectmen's meeting. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Forrester. Corrections in Minutes were made regarding a change in the word "open" to "opened", a correction regarding temporary hire funds, the addition of the word "recording", a correction of the name "Rossen" to be revised as "Rawson", a spelling correction to "Fabian Road" to be revised as "Faybian-Woodstock Road", a correction/change of the word "year" to "fiscal year", a correction to the Town Clerk's term length and proposed change in term length, the removal of a period, a specification regarding the NECCOG meeting, a correction to the spelling of Mr. Bob Deluca's name, a grammar correction to the phrase "recently had spoken", a correction to "the board responded" to be changed to "Mr. Lenky responded", and an addition under "Ordinances" section.
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mrs. Smith – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes.

2.) CORRESPONDENCE:

- Mrs. Smith received an e-mail from a Yale student which included a survey.
- Mr. Lenky received a letter from Rene Morin, tax collector, who thanked Mr. Jolin and the school system for letting them print at the school due to their having ran out of ink.
- Mr. Lenky also announced that the Northeast Connecticut Chamber of Commerce sent out an invitation to a Business After Hours on August 14th, 2014 from 5:00 PM-7:00 PM at Riverside Drive.
- There also will be another Business After Hours in Pomfret on October 14th, 2014 from 5:00 PM-7:00 PM.

3.) SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS:

- Mrs. Forrester announced that they had received the tax collector's report from June, for the fiscal year, and it was overall very positive. The net taxes collected were up almost a full percentage point to 99.84% of budget, the transfer station permits were up, and building fee permits were up 165.7%.
- Mrs. Forrester asked Mr. Lenky about the person he had spoken to regarding an estimate on asphalt needed for the lots. Mr. Lenky responded that he still needed to call this person so he can come and take a look because right now is a busy time of the year for the person.
- Mrs. Forrester also asked Mr. Lenky about the honoring of Mr. Norm Babbitt which Mr. Lenky responded was something that was still currently being worked on.
- Mrs. Forrester also brought up the issue regarding the Board of Assessment Appeals hearing the appeals of their members and what could be done to stop this from continuing to occur. Mr. Lenky responded that an ordinance would be needed. Mrs. Forrester asked who would need to do that and Mr. Lenky responded that the Board of Selectmen could draft the ordinance.
- Mrs. Smith asked Mr. Lenky what the date of the NDDH meeting was as she is taking Mr. Lenky's place at the meeting. Mr. Lenky responded that he had to look for the date.

- Mrs. Smith also asked Mr. Lenky for an update on the Finance Director search. Mr. Lenky responded that they were going to narrow it down and then come to the Board of Selectmen.
- Mrs. Smith also asked Mr. Lenky who was giving the asphalt and construction estimate for the lots. Mr. Lenky responded that he could not release the person's name because they wanted to be anonymous in case the project goes out to bid.
- Mrs. Smith then asked if the inventory list for the Highway Department has been used yet. Mrs. Forrester responded that they had not yet used the list.
- Mr. Lenky commented that one of Thompson's citizens had asked what the procedure for patching potholes was in town. Mr. Lenky briefly explained that any standing water has to be brushed out so that there is no water when they are putting the material in, they use cold patch in the winter and hot mix in the summer, that it has to be hand-tamped, if the pot hole is oversized they have to use a plate compactor, and there should be light sand on the top so that the material will not be lifted up and dragged.
- Mrs. Forrester asked the other two Selectmen to read through and provide feedback regarding the personnel policies and procedures that she gave them for review.

4.) CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

- Kevin Walsh asked the Board of Selectmen for an update regarding someone being hired for the town website. Mr. Lenky responded that they had not yet but that it should be happening soon. Mrs. Smith suggested the option of having the Department heads run the website rather than one webmaster as it may be a better avenue. Mr. Walsh responded that that particular suggestion had been brought up in the past and that the reason why folks are not doing that is because they know they don't have to and that's why they don't.
- Ted Smith asked if a condo project at the mill was dead. Mr. Lenky responded that it was not happening. Mr. Smith also asked about a potential tourist station/welcome center that was proposed to be built on 395. Mr. Lenky responded that NECCOG wants to institute that, that Massachusetts needs to be involved, and that they are still trying to get the money to make such a project happen. Mr. Smith lastly asked about the Belding eye-sore and what was going to happen with that. Mr. Lenky responded that the process to clean the area up is one that is ongoing and that the state of Connecticut ultimately decides what the town of Thompson can do and that once the Brownfield study is complete that the town will know more.
- Sally White asked if Roy Road was on Mr. Lenky's list of roads paved in the last fiscal year. Mr. Lenky responded that it was not but that he would add it right away and was glad Ms. White reminded him.
- Frances Becker commented that they recently patched Azud Road and did not put sand over the patches as Mr. Lenky explained was the procedure. She also asked if Azud Road would be one of the roads paved this year and Mr. Lenky responded that it was not on the list.
- Sally White commented in regards to two recent break-ins in town within the last two weeks which were both close to her home. Ms. White also stressed that more about this should be in the press, the state police should be aware that it is a hot area, and that something must be done to decrease these instances. Mr. Lenky responded that for the August Board of Selectmen meeting the report for those break-ins should be available. Ms. White then commented regarding the potential Ethics Committee members and stated that she was amazed to see Mr. Lenky's brother John on that list. Ms. White brought up the notion of nepotism in the town's politics. A lengthy discussion ensued. Mrs. Forrester made it clear that the Board of Selectmen asked for volunteers for the Ethics Committee, only received a handful of names, and did not think it to be wise to simply tell certain volunteers to just go away. Ms. White stated she did not believe there was enough advertising for people to volunteer for the Ethics Committee. Mr. Lenky stated that they had been asking at the Board of Selectmen meetings and questioned where the advertising money would come from.
- Kevin Walsh commented that just because there were no nepotism laws in Thompson it does not mean that nepotism is okay. Further, Mr. Walsh commented that things such as this are what turns people off from being engaged.
- Wayne O'Brian commented that we keep talking about people not stepping up in town and again brought up the notion of smaller term lengths as a potential solution. Mr. Lenky responded that that could be a possible factor.
- Ted Smith commented regarding what he considered a lack of publication for the town's search for volunteers.

- Donald Pimental commented that he would possibly be interested depending on what days and times the Ethics Committee would meet and Kathleen Herbert commented that all of the volunteers had filled out a calendar stating when their best available times were.

5.) QUADDICK BRIDGE UPDATE:

- Mr. Lenky stated that he had recently met with inspectors and that they informed him that the head walls of the bridge were in very good shape but that the wing walls need a little bit of work which would be minor. So for the bridge it would likely just be a deck-over. The next step is to talk to the Board of Finance so that they can work with the engineering firm to get what they need. Mr. Lenky further added that by the time everything gets going it may be almost October and that it would take a max of 30 days to have the bridge done but that some bridges with good head walls can be done as quickly as 7-10 days. Mr. Lenky also stated that there was no cost estimate yet. Mrs. Forrester asked about a possible grant and Mr. Lenky responded that he must talk to Mary Ann Chinatti before that could be determined as possible or not.

6.) APPOINTMENTS:

- Motion made by Mrs. Forrester to appoint Renee Waldron Special Fire Police for the town of Thompson with a term to expire on November 17th, 2015. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Smith.
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mrs. Smith – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes
- Motion made by Mrs. Forrester to appoint Lee Post as Building Inspector with a term set to expire on July 1st, 2018. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Smith.
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mrs. Smith – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes
- Motion made by Mrs. Smith to appoint Alvan Hill as the interim Zoning Enforcement Officer. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Forrester.
Mrs. Smith – Yes, Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes
- Motion made by Mrs. Forrester to table appointments for the Ethics Advisory Committee. This motion was seconded by Mr. Lenky.
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes, Mrs. Smith – Yes

7.) ORDINANCES:

- Mrs. Forrester began by speaking about the Conservation Commission by stating that she had no problems with it and believed it was the way they had discussed. Mrs. Smith commented that she had some grammatical corrections and asked if they could elaborate under membership by putting causes for removal by the Board, for example if someone were to miss 4 consecutive meetings without notifying the chairperson. Mrs. Forrester also suggested that 5 years may be too long for a term length. Attorney St. Onge responded that the Board of Selectmen should check the statutes before changing any term lengths.
- Next the Board of Selectmen looked at the proposed ordinance pertaining to the Inlands Wetlands Commission. Mrs. Smith brought up that they flip-flop between the word “agency” and “commission” throughout the ordinance. Attorney St. Onge responded that the phrasing makes no significant difference to his knowledge.
- Mrs. Forrester commented that for the Thompson Constables and Emergency Management Personnel ordinance that it was fairly confusing and suggested that it be edited differently including separating a certain section. Mrs. Smith asked about staggered appointments and whether or not there would be a violation. Attorney St. Onge responded that for the Constables they are usually staggered terms anyways because of low-volunteer levels.
- For the proposed Planning & Zoning Commission ordinance, which would reduce their membership to 9 members from 10, Mrs. Forrester again suggested that the Board of Selectmen check regarding the term-lengths.
- For the ordinance pertaining to the Unrestricted Wandering of Farm Animals Mrs. Forrester suggested that the ordinance needs fines or penalties and Mrs. Smith agreed.
- For the Leash Law for dogs Mrs. Forrester again suggested that the Board add a fine or penalty to the ordinance.

8.) STARR ROAD & NEW ROAD LAND ACQUISITION:

- Mr. Lenky stated that the Board of Selectmen got a recommendation from the Conservation Commission to acquire the land donation of three parcels of land donated by Mr. Rawson as they felt it was beneficial to the town for recreation, for trails, and so forth. Mr. Lenky also stressed that any conditions or restrictions were up to the town and not the donator. Mr. Lenky continued by stating that he would also be going to the Trails Committee to speak with them and get their input as well. After that, the Board of Selectmen will go to the Planning & Zoning Commission, then the Board of Selectmen will approve the plan to acquire the

land, and then it will go to a town meeting. Mr. Lenky also read a letter from Mr. Barske which asked for Mr. Lenky to recuse himself from this issue due to the fact that he used to work for Mr. Rawson. Mr. Lenky responded to this by stating that he worked for Rawson 30 years ago driving trucks and that at the time he did not even know Mr. Rawson personally. Mr. Lenky added that he does currently know Mr. Rawson but that they are not friends and they do not hang around one another socially so Mr. Lenky would not be recusing himself from this matter. Donald Pimentel asked about the potential parking lot that has been talked about as being built as part of the land acquisition. Mr. Lenky responded that they would likely have to compromise but that nothing is written in stone. A lengthy discussion ensued. Mr. Pimentel again asked about whether or not there would be conditions to the land acquisition and stated that he listened to the previous meeting's audio recording. Mr. Lenky responded that the Board could have conditions as well and Mrs. Forrester responded that the Board of selectmen had already addressed that previously and that they were all in agreement to not accept the donation of land with the conditions originally presented. Wayne O'Brian asked whether or not the town would have the money if they had to put in a lot and improve the road. Mr. Lenky responded that he would not entertain answering that question because he wanted to leave the road part of it alone and focus on just the land acquisition.

- Mr. Lenky stated that the 2013-2014 list of roads paved includes Buckhill Road, Wilsonville Road, and Roy Road which adds up to 2.5 miles of road paved with a cost of \$300,000 including the lots. Mr. Lenky also stated that there was 60 feet to go on Buckhill Road. Mr. Lenky continued by stating that 4 miles of road were chip-sealed including the areas around Parker Road, Faybian Road, all of the area going down to the four corners including Watson Road, Green Acres, Walker Road, George Street as well as the two roads going down 197 towards Woodstock. Mr. Lenky stated that this cost about \$150,000 and that some of the roads in dire need were shimmed prior to being chip-sealed. Mrs. Forrester commented that the Board of Selectmen need to look back at the last 4 years to prioritize for the next 5 years.

10.) SOLAR ADVISORY COMMITTEE – REPORT:

- Mr. Alvan Hill began by announcing that the Solar Advisory Committee was pleased to report to the Board of Selectmen regarding their July 11th, 2014 Special Meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss two proposals submitted to them regarding their rfp, request for proposals. One proposal was in regards to putting solar panels on five municipal building which included the Thompson Public School Complex, the TEEG building, the library, the TWPCA, and the Department of Public Works. Mr. Hill stated that during their discussion the Board of Education approached the Board of Selectmen with a request to form a School Building Committee. Such a committee would be charged with addressing the removal of three existing in-ground fuel tanks, with above ground tanks, along with re-roofing for the solar panel installation. The school re-roofing proposal would be reimbursed to the town at approximately 73%, or .73 cents on the \$1.00, but only if a School Building Committee is formed. Mr. Hill continued by stating that the town library roof is also in need of re-roofing and could be part of next year's town budget. This fact led the Solar Advisory Committee to consider that any installation of solar panels at this time with a contractor may not want to include re-roofing in a cost proposal for solar panels. The library re-roofing is part of 2015-16 budget. Mr. Hill continued by stating that if the cost of the roof is more than \$50,000 then why would the town want to pay interest over 20 years. Because of this information, Mr. Hill stated that it was the decision to reject the bids. A very lengthy discussion, including the Selectmen and citizens, then ensued. Mrs. Forrester and Mrs. Smith both stated that they believe the bids should have been approved.

11.) U.S. PAIN FOUNDATION BEAUTIFY IN BLUE CAMPAIGN:

- Mrs. Smith informed everyone of the Beautify in Blue Campaign's purpose and goals. Essentially, this includes raising awareness for all of the millions of Americans who are afflicted with pain and to show that our community is one which is compassionate. There also was a brief discussion regarding which places in town would be best to advertise for this campaign. These places included town halls, town greens, the library, parks, senior centers, TWPCA, town roads, and potentially lighting up the town hall sign in blue was another suggestion which was made.
- A motion was made by Mrs. Forrester to approve the Town of Thompson's participation in the U.S. Pain Foundation Beautify in Blue Campaign. This motion was seconded by Mr. Lenky.
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes, Mrs. Smith – Yes

12.) MARIANAPOLIS SEWER PROJECT – BOB DELUCA CLA:

- Mr. Bob Deluca explained, in depth, that additional money was needed to complete the Marianapolis Sewer Project as the bore length increased significantly during the final design plan. However, Mr. Deluca explained that the USDA earmarked money that could be accepted as a grant for \$500,000 to make up the

difference for the rest of the cost. However, this money would have to be used last, after the rest of the approximately \$1.9 million is already used. A lengthy discussion took place as the Board of Selectmen asked for specifics and went to Attorney St. Onge for his advice as well.

- A motion was made by Mrs. Forrester for the Board of Selectmen to go to the Board of Finance to ask approval for a \$500,000 grant to cover added expenses in regards to the Marianapolis Sewer Project. This motion was seconded by Mr. Smith.

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

13.) TAX REFUNDS:

- A motion was made by Mrs. Forrester to award tax refunds of \$72.04 to Mary Rentle, \$237.49 to Dennis W. Kent, and \$0.92 to Brian Yacino. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Smith.

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

14.) OTHER BUSINESS:

- None.

15.) ADJOURNMENT:

- A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Forrester at 9:42 PM. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Smith. Mrs. Smith – Yes, Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky - Yes

Documented and transcribed by Andrew Richardson, Recording Secretary