



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

Tuesday, September 16th, 2014, 7:00 PM

Held in the Merrill Seney Room

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

PUBLIC PRESENT: Joseph H. Gaucher, Donald Pimental, Jim Pimental, 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:

- A motion was made by Mrs. Forrester to approve minutes from the September 2nd, 2014 Board of Selectmen's meeting. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Smith. Corrections in minutes were made regarding a change in tense under the Correspondence section to make "fire departments" plural; a correction so that it reads "The Board of Selectmen are looking for support from representatives, senators, and businesses for the STEAP Grant for installation of 3 phase electrical power for Reardon Road to provide better resources"; a correction to the spelling of "Blain Road" instead of "Blaine Road"; a correction in the spelling of the word "culvert"; a correction to the word "rope" which should be "road"; a clarification that Mrs. Forrester read the charge for the Ethics Committee in response to Ms. White's request at the previous meeting; on the first line of the second page a clarification that information was presented on the sample Code of Ethics; corrections to the paragraph where Mrs. Forrester speaks about the NECCOG meeting she attended which should now read "Mrs. Forrester stated that she attended the NECCOG meeting on August 22nd, 2014 and most of the discussion was regarding a hearing, to be held on September 4th, regarding a resolution in Hartford for general permits for all storm drains in the municipal sewer system. The change that is being proposed would require that all drains be monitored on a regular basis. The cost for small municipalities will be prohibitive."; the removal of the word "over"; a correction in spelling to "Azud Road"; the capitalization of the first letter in the word "Legos" as it is a brand name; the words "Boy Scout" should be singular and not plural; it should read "platform" not "plant farm" on page 3; it should read "Mary Fisher" not "Marriott Fisher"; "Roselandville" should be corrected to read "Wilsonville"; a correction to the name "Arthur Swanson"; on page 4 it should be corrected to read "off Fabyan Road"; "STEEP Grant" should be corrected to "STEAP Grant" anywhere it is misspelled; it should be corrected to read that the Board "Had reviewed the financials for Trinity Foundation and they are financially strong"; the name "Laura" should be corrected to read "Orla"; the addition of "in regards to our Finance Director position when the current Finance Director decided to retire"; and a correction to state the Mrs. Smith was absent due to illness.

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

2.) CORRESPONDENCE:

- Mrs. Forrester stated that the only correspondence she had was the scheduling for the Energy Audit which will be October 2nd, 2014 and which she volunteered to be the town's example for.
- Mr. Lenky stated that he had attended the Charter Cable Advisory Board meeting on September 15th, 2014 and gave a brief synopsis regarding information he learned about while at the meeting which included that Comcast may buy Time Warner and if that happens there may no longer be Charter in New England by the year 2016. Mr. Lenky also touched on the fact that Charter is going digital and is requiring their cable customers to get a new box if they haven't done so already.
- Mr. Lenky also updated the town on a change in command with the Troop D Police as Lieutenant Smith was transferred to Troop C. Mr. Lenky also updated the town of Thompson on the town's Police Report for the month of August which included 538 calls for service, 13 accidents, 20 criminal investigations, 6 burglaries, 5 larcenies, and 494 non-reportable matters.
- Mr. Lenky announced that the Northeast Probate Court is having an open house at their new location on September 24th, 2014 from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM.

- Mr. Lenky also received some e-mails from citizens in town in regards to the town's recent increase on the price for gun permits.

3.) SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS:

- Mrs. Smith stated that she thought it would be beneficial if the Board could have a list of improvements conducted in Thompson's recreational areas to be ready for either next meeting or the meeting after next.
- Mrs. Smith also asked Mr. Lenky about the potential estimate, from the anonymous person, for paving. Mr. Lenky responded that they would no longer be going along with that plan as there were some concerns about an anonymous source offering an estimate and then potentially having an advantage if that person were to decide to put in a bid.
- Mrs. Smith asked if it were possible to start inviting some of the other Board/Commission/Committee chairpersons to come to the Board of Selectmen meetings quarterly, or at least once in a while, so that they can update the town and the Board on what has been going on in their specific areas. Mrs. Forrester and Mr. Lenky both agreed with the idea of periodic updates. A lengthy discussion then took place in regards to businesses in town.
- Mrs. Smith asked about the specifics of the town's noise ordinance in regards to road construction and Mr. Lenky responded that they cannot begin construction until after 7:00 AM.
- Mrs. Smith asked about who acts as the town of Thompson's Tree Warden and Mr. Lenky responded that the Highway Superintendent is also the Tree Warden for Thompson.
- Mrs. Smith suggested that the town follow-up with Mr. Paul Baer in regards to his offer to donate an American Flag to the town hall.
- Mrs. Smith asked if the town of Thompson signed on the contract for the Northeast Probate Court and Mr. Lenky responded that they did. A lengthy conversation then took place regarding provisions in the contract. Mrs. Forrester then asked if they would be receiving a revised budget and Mr. Lenky said that they would be. Mr. Lenky also stressed that there is a certain amount of time that the Probate Court must stay there for before they can move.
- Mrs. Forrester stated that she got a list of all the town roads, with a lot of information on them, and she is beginning to put together a comprehensive list which will enable and allow for the Board to assess what is being done and to begin their 5-year plan.
- Mr. Lenky explained that he and Mary Ann Chinatti had met with the Department of Transportation and the federal government in regards to Quaddick Bridge Road. He stated that it did not go as well as expected because the town cannot just simply use an engineer of their own choice, then have a company do it, and apply for the funds because the federal government will not let them do that because they have to have a panel of people that have to put out a bid for engineers, interview the applicants, hire the best one, and then put out once the design is done. This process would cost the town about \$250,000. However, the possibility of getting denied would still exist and Mr. Lenky stated he would not be okay with spending \$250,000 just to be denied. Mr. Lenky also suggested that the town take \$300,000 to hire an engineer and have someone do the work, apply it through a State Grant and get the money by just doing all of the engineering up-front and then do the paperwork and send it in but this would be the same idea as they wouldn't be able to get any money until it gets approved. Mr. Lenky asked what the alternative would be and they told him they may have to close the bridge which Mr. Lenky stated he replied that he would not let that happen. Mr. Lenky stated that by the end of the meeting the Department of Transportation agreed to try to work with the town so that they can hire an engineer of their own choice and apply for the money as well as assuring Mr. Lenky that Thompson would be put at the top of the list.

4.) CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

- Wayne O'Brian voiced his concerns regarding the book that the Assessor uses to value vehicles and stated that he didn't see why she could not, instead, use the Kelly Blue Book to value his truck.

5.) PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE MARIANAPOLIS SEWER PROJECT:

- Bob Delucca gave a brief presentation which outlined the specifics of the Marianapolis Sewer Project and explained why the \$500,000 grant offered by the USDA is needed to assist with funding the project. This was due to a longer line-bore being needed which increased the amount of money needed to completely fund the project. This public hearing was brief and was needed in order for the town and the USDA to continue to move forward with the \$500,000 grant.

6.) BUDGET TRANSFER FISCAL YEAR 2014:

- Mrs. Forrester made a motion to approve a transfer of funds increase of \$82,630 to cover the following areas of Town Clerk, Town Counsel, Town Garage, Snow Removal, Economic Community Development,

and Municipal Insurance and a transfer of funds decrease of \$82,630 from the following areas of Fire Departments, Transfer Station, and Fringe Benefits. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Smith.
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mrs. Smith – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes.

7.) PERSONNEL POLICIES:

- Mrs. Forrester brought forth the personnel policies which she had drafted earlier this year. A brief discussion between the Board members took place.
- A motion was made by Mrs. Smith to approve the new Personnel Policies as drafted by Mrs. Forrester. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Forrester.
Mrs. Smith – Yes, Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes

8.) ELIZABETH VRIGA’S RETIREMENT:

- A motion was made by Mrs. Smith to accept the retirement of Selectmen’s Secretary Elizabeth Vriga effective on October 3rd, 2014. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Forrester.
Mrs. Smith – Yes, Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes

9.) DISCUSSION REGARDING VOLUNTEER APPLICATION FORM:

- Mrs. Smith stated that last meeting the Board had briefly discussed the drafted applications and asked if the other Selectmen could provide feedback.
- Mrs. Forrester stated that she had some serious reservations about asking for references for volunteer positions but suggested that Mrs. Smith add a commitment statement to better ensure that volunteers for boards, committees, and commissions attend and participate as much as they possibly can. Mr. Lenky agreed with these suggestions.
- Mrs. Smith stated that she will continue to work on revising these applications for the next meeting.

10.) ROAD UPDATES:

- Mr. Lenky stated that the town highway finished up chip-sealing at West Thompson Road, part of Church Street, Ravenelle Road, and Reardon Road. Also, they finished up work at Buck Hill. A brief discussion took place between the Selectmen regarding when the street signs in town would be replaced. Mr. Lenky explained that a lot of them have been replaced but there is no longer state money being sent to help fund the project so now the town has to do it on their own. They also discussed new high-visibility stop signs which will be replaced by the state.

11.) GRANT UPDATES:

- Mr. Lenky gave the town an update on grants in town beginning with the Brownfield Grant for the Belding Site. Mr. Lenky stated that the Town/State contract was sent to Attorney St. Onge on August 29th, 2014 and that Attorney St. Onge had received it, reviewed it, and sent it back to Mary Ann Chinatti.
- For the Fiscal Year 2015 STEAP Grant, Mr. Lenky stated that the town is looking into submitting funding requests for the following projects: Installation of 3-phase power to run from Plum Road through Route 12 to Reardon Road which is estimated to cost approximately \$480,000; the Community Fire Department needs construction of a new storage area which is estimated to cost around \$500,000; and the Quaddick Bridge Replacement (If the Town can’t use the funds awarded through the Federal/Local Bridge Program) where the town has been awarded \$800,000 which requires a 20% match (\$160,000). Subsequent research has shown the project can be done for approximately \$300,000 which would be a substantial saving for the Town. However, Mr. Scalice has stated that the \$300,000 alternative cannot be accomplished using the awarded funding.
- The Gladys Green/Pineview Court Phase III has had the Town/state Agreement signed by the Town and forwarded to the State for its execution. When it is done the Town will be sent the original.
- The Brownfield Grant for 929 Riverside Drive has seen the Town Planner begin background research in anticipation of Fiscal Year 2016 funding for Brownfield Projects. The site at 929 Riverside Drive is located in the North Grosvenordale Mill National Historic District and is included on the State’s Contaminated/Potentially Contaminated Sites list. The goal is to apply for, and be awarded, funding to perform Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessments, and preparation of a clean-up and reuse plan. If grant rounds are announced, funding requests will be submitted at both the Federal and the State levels.
- The Town Planner has been working with the CT Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) on the West Thompson Fire Department Roof reimbursement of \$150,000. DESPP is in the process of preparing a grant package with all pertinent terms and conditions relevant for the handling of this issue, and will forward it to the Town Planner when the package is complete.

12.) CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

- Joseph Gaucher commented on why he believes Governor Malloy is to blame for why a particular grant had not come in yet. Mr. Lenky responded that it was awarded to the town and was to be given at the beginning of the Fiscal Year but it hasn't been awarded yet.
- Wayne O'Brian commented regarding the Personnel Policies and his frustrations with the Assessor. Mrs. Forrester responded that this is more of a job performance issue, and not really an issue relevant to the Personnel Policies. Mr. Lenky responded that policies and procedures are in place.

13.) TAX REFUNDS:

- A motion was made by Mrs. Forrester to grant the following tax refunds: Diane G. Patterson – \$31.20, Christopher N. Rock - \$133.20, Christopher N. Rock - \$134.52, and Amy Selig - \$37.69. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Smith.
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mrs. Smith – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes

14.) OTHER BUSINESS:

- Mrs. Forrester stated that she would like the ongoing town ordinances, regarding the “Unrestricted Wandering of Farm Animals in town” and the “Town Constables”, added as an agenda item for the next Board of Selectmen meeting.

15.) ADJOURNMENT:

- A motion to adjourn made by Mrs. Smith at 8:30 PM. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Forrester.
Mrs. Smith – Yes, Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes

Documented and transcribed by Andrew Richardson, Recording Secretary