



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

Tuesday, October 7th, 2014, 7:00 PM

Held in the Merrill Seney Room

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

PUBLIC PRESENT: Joseph H. Gaucher, Donald Pimental, Ken Beausoleil, Norma O'Leary, Wayne O'Brian, Kevin Walsh, Sally White, Roger Tremblay, Paul Baer, Gail Livingstone, 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 16th, 2014 Board of Selectmen's meeting. This motion was seconded by Mr. Lenky. Corrections in minutes were made regarding a clarification on page 2 item 6 so that it would read that "a motion was made for a transfer of funds to cover increases" and the removal of "to cover" from following areas; a correction to what was stated as "Economic Community Development" as it should have read "Economic Development Commission"; on page 3 it should read "a transfer of funds to cover the increases"; on page 2 under section 3 bullet 9 it should have read "put the bid out after the design has been done"; on page 3 there was a clarification regarding the road work on Buck Hill as there was still drainage that they need to finish on the top of the hill and paving so they are not actually done yet; on item 11 it should have read "from Route 12 through Plum Road to Reardon Road"; and lastly a correction so that the minutes read "for a new fire station" instead of "for a new storage area."

Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes

2.) CORRESPONDENCE:

- Mr. Lenky received a letter from the State of Connecticut about the Quaddick Road Bridge which included a change regarding what they are offering to the town. The state is willing to put up \$244,000 which the town would have to match. Mr. Lenky stated that they are still looking for a resolution as the town believes they can do the project for only \$300,000.
 - Mr. Lenky also stated that he went out with JD Engineering down to New Road where they inspected one of the bridges that needs to be done. It was determined that the northeast headwall needs to be fixed and has needed to be fixed since 1999. Mr. Lenky continued by stating that there are 7 bridges in town that have needed to be fixed in the last 10 years. Mrs. Forrester asked if this would be a town expense and Mr. Lenky confirmed that it is a town expense.
 - Mr. Lenky announced that United Services would be holding a reception at Wrightsville Farm in Canterbury at 5:30 PM with dinner at 6:00 PM on November 20th, 2014.
 - A motion was made by Mrs. Forrester to put the VFW's request for \$500 from the town to cover the Veteran's Day Program on November 11th, 2014 to the "Other Business" section. This motion was seconded by Mr. Lenky.
- Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes
- Rene Waldron of the Recreation Department sent Mr. Lenky a thank you letter regarding the success of this year's annual Thompson community Day.

3.) SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS:

- Mrs. Forrester began by stating that she wanted to reiterate that Community Day was very good this year.
- Mrs. Forrester also stated that she would like to see the following areas of interest followed up on: A list of improvements of Thompson's recreation areas; having members from the other boards, commissions, and committees attend the Board of Selectmen meetings every once in a while to give updates; the potential donation of an American Flag to the town from Mr. Paul Baer; a revised version of the budget from the Probate Court because the Board of Selectmen would like to know what the changes are and who paid for

the move; volunteer applications drafted by Mrs. Smith; the West Thompson Fire Department's roof reimbursement; and lastly the town ordinances.

- Mr. Lenky stated that the bids went out at the library to replace the granite curbing but that the town received no bids.

4.) CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

- Ken Beausoleil asked the Board members if they had discussed joining Putnam and other surrounding towns in investing in Putnam's Technical Park. Mr. Lenky responded that it had been discussed and that they'd rather not join because of concerns that a potential investment would not yield substantial returns. Mrs. Forrester added that she believed it to be much too high of a risk with payback taking too long as well.
- Norma O'Leary stated that October is make a difference month and that all month long people participating would be cleaning walkways and doing their best to make the town cleaner. She encouraged others to participate as well.
- Wayne O'Brian asked Mr. Lenky if he had a chance to speak to the firm about Mr. O'Brian's house. Mr. Lenky stated that he had not had a chance to do so as of yet. Mr. O'Brian then asked Mr. Lenky if he has spoken to Attorney St. Onge about the situation and Mr. Lenky stated that he had and that attorney St. Onge agreed that Mr. O'Brian was correct.
- Kevin Walsh spoke regarding Mr. O'Brian's situation and stated that he believed that Mr. Lenky could get the situation resolved quicker due to the amount of influence he has as First Selectmen. Mr. Walsh also commented on the Probate Court leaving town and stated that since they owe the town money that the town should pursue the Probate Court with the same intensity that the town pursues people who owe taxes. Mr. Walsh also commented on the situation regarding the Quaddick Road Bridge and stated that he was very troubled that the State of Connecticut was having towns waste so much money when projects such as that could be done for much less. Mr. Walsh also encouraged Mr. Lenky to speak up at NECCOG meetings regarding the money he believes the State is wasting.
- Roger Tremblay commented on Mr. O'Brian's situation with the Assessor's Office as well and stated that he was over-charged by \$500 in July and that, although he did not receive the money he was owed, they did agree to credit him for the future.
- Joseph Gaucher commented on holes on the road near the guard rails on Riverside Drive and also asked why there had been a truck parked in Grosvenordale in the road recently. Mr. Lenky stated that the parked truck would be something they'd have to look in to.
- Paul Baer commented on the ongoing situation regarding the town's website and stated that he had received an e-mail on August 26th, 2014 stating that it was okay to give someone information pertaining to the access of the town's website. Mr. Baer stated he believed he had until September 5th, 2014 and questioned why someone was hired prior to that. Mr. Lenky responded that the person in question was not yet hired at that time. There was a brief discussion on this matter. Mr. Baer also commented briefly on the Quaddick Road Bridge situation. Mr. Baer then stated that FOI violations in town were continuing to occur and cited the Fire protection Advisory Committee and the Town Clerk's office as having violated Connecticut's FOI Act.
- Sally White asked if the Building Committee Appointments on item 8 of the agenda was a new committee and also requested that the charge be read. She also commented that she was troubled that the appointees for item 8 and 9 on the agenda were already elected officials. Ms. White also commented that she believed item 5 on the meeting agenda was non-descriptive.
- Kevin Walsh stated that if the individual that contacted Mr. Baer was not hired by the town then he should not have been asking Mr. Baer for the website's info.
- Paul Baer stated that he believed it was a conflict of interest for Mr. Lenky to be voting on appointing his brother to the Building Committee.
- Wayne O'Brian commented that the new Dance Studio walls across from the Knights of Columbus looked very nice.
- Sally White asked about where the town had posted the bids for the library curbing and Mr. Lenky responded that it was posted on the State website as well as in the Shopper's Guide.
- Joseph Gaucher commented regarding the town website situation by pointing out that IT Contract was an agenda item for the meeting. Mr. Lenky stated that they are not the same thing.
- Paul Baer questioned the town for working with System Solutions as he stated that they had previously left the town hanging during a past project.

5.) PLANNING & ZONING 824 APPROVAL (LAND ACQUISITION):

- A motion was made by Mrs. Forrester to approve and send to the Planning and Zoning Commission the proposed acquisition of three parcels of land from River Junction Estates LLC pursuant to Section 824 of the General Statutes. This motion was seconded by Mr. Lenky.
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes

6.) GIRL SCOUT TROOP 65421 USE OF TRANSFER STATION:

- A motion was made by Mrs. Forrester to approve the use of the Transfer Station by Girl Scout Troop 65421 to sell cookies on Saturday, November 1st, 2014 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM and to approve their request to sell cookies in front of the town hall on November 4th, 2014 from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM.
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes

7.) RESOLUTION OF MUNICIPAL LEGISLATIVE BODY (STEAP):

- A motion was made by Mrs. Forrester for the town of Thompson to opt-in to a contract with the State of Connecticut for the Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) and to opt-out of Urban Access. This motion was seconded by Mr. Lenky.
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes

8.) BUILDING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:

- A motion was made by Mrs. Forrester to postpone appointments for the Building Committee until the Board of Selectmen is able to attain the official charge of the committee so that it can be read prior to approval of the appointments. This motion was seconded by Mr. Lenky.
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes

9.) CHARTER COMMUNICATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:

- A motion was made by Mrs. Forrester to appoint Thomas Angelo and Paul A. Lenky to the Charter Communication Advisory Committee. This motion was seconded by Mr. Lenky.
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes

10.) TOWN TREASURER APPOINTMENT:

- A motion was made by Mrs. Forrester to appoint Orla McKiernan-Rahtery as the Town Treasurer. This motion was seconded by Mr. Lenky.
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes

11.) IT CONTRACT – SYSTEM SOLUTIONS:

- A motion was made by Mrs. Forrester to approve the IT Contract with System Solutions. This motion was seconded by Mr. Lenky.
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes

12.) MARIANAPOLIS SEWER PROJECT UPDATES:

- Mr. Lenky stated the contracts have been signed by both CB Utility, the town, and Marianapolis. Initially Marianapolis signed a bond for one year but the town would not accept that due to concerns that the project may take longer than a year. Marianapolis ended up signing an infinity bond that would cover the project regardless of how long it takes to complete. Mr. Lenky also stated that there would be a meeting with CB Utility on Wednesday, October 8th, 2014 at 1:00 PM and that if all went well the project would begin in 2-3 weeks.

13.) ROAD UPDATES:

- Mr. Lenky stated that the only update he has was in regards to Buck Hill where they are still working on the drainage at the top of the hill and hope to have all the paving done by the end of the 2014 calendar year.

14.) CITIZENS' COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS:

- Kevin Walsh stated that line item 5 pertaining to the town acquiring land was still not clear in regards to the amount of open space the town should have by 2020. Mr. Lenky responded that state and federal land is not included in the 11% needed and that the 11% is a goal.
- Wayne O'Brian also asked about the 11% open space land goal in regards to the State. Mrs. Forrester responded that the State's goal for their land is 10% and the goal for towns is 11% for a total of 21%.
- Paul Baer stated that according to the DEEP website federal land does count towards the town goal so West Thompson would count. He also stated that there is a link to the Special Act on the website.
- Don Pimental commented regarding the land acquisition and brought up concerns that there are still strings attached and that there will be a sub-division. Mr. Lenky responded by stating that Starr Road itself is not involved and that there is no sub-division. Mr. Pimental stated that when Mrs. Werge attended the meeting over the summer the Board stated that there would be no strings attached and no contingencies as part of the land offer and that he would really like to see that in writing as part of the Board of Selectmen passing

the land acquisition on to Planning & Zoning. Mr. Lenky stated that no matter what P&Z says it would still have to go to a town meeting regardless.

- Kevin Walsh brought up the 11% open space land goal as being tied into Starr Road and stated that he believed it was propaganda that the town was using to show a sense of urgency. He questioned accountability of the town in regards to the handling of those particular matters.
- Sally White asked the town to please share how much the IT Contract is for. Mrs. Forrester stated that it would be an hourly rate. Ms. White asked if it was in the budget and for how much. Mr. Lenky stated that \$5,000 was in the budget for IT. Ms. White also asked about the land acquisition and wanted more reassurance from the town that there would be no strings attached and that they would just be concentrating on the land acquisition. Mrs. Forrester stated that it was very specific as to what the parcels are and that there were no strings attached.
- Ken Beausoleil asked if easements would be presented and Mr. Lenky responded yes.
- Don Pimental questioned why Mr. Rawson hasn't come forward and publicly stated that he is giving out the land with no strings attached.
- Gail Livingstone asked if the proposal is public record as it may alleviate some of their fears if it is. Mr. Lenky stated that it is public record.
- Wayne O'Brian commented on whether Mr. Rawson could come back and say he wants to improve the road in the future.
- Paul Baer asked what the hourly rate for the IT Contract was and Mrs. Forrester stated that it was \$65 per hour and \$85 per hour for lasers and printers. She also stated that on Sundays and holidays it would be \$80 per hour and \$95 per hour for lasers and printers. Paul Baer commented that this should have been on the town website and also asked about the volunteer applications. Mrs. Forrester stated that they wanted to add a clause for commitment to the proposed volunteer applications.
- Sally White commented regarding the sprinkler system and asked Mr. Lenky about the town roads. A brief discussion ensued.
- Wayne O'Brian asked about the line-boring for the Marianapolis Sewer Project and Mr. Lenky responded that they are hoping to find out soon whether or not they can get that part of the project done before the end of the year.
- Paul Baer commented briefly on the acreage of the land.
- Gail Livingstone asked if Mr. Rawson would give up the other parcel of land he owns near Starr Road. Mr. Lenky responded that he would not be willing to give that up.

15.) TAX REFUNDS:

- A motion was made by Mrs. Forrester to grant the following tax refunds: Cecile A. Bass - \$4.46, Reynold Cochrane - \$102.80, Melanie H. Deveno - \$7.62, Celeste or Norman Guimont - \$280.28, Kenneth P. Hanson - \$201.26, Marianne Hulten - \$20.01, Belinda O'Brian - \$18.42, Wayne O'Brian - \$152.54, Lori G. Sax - \$29.75, Denise R. or Timothy J. Wesolowski - \$8.99, Wheels LT - \$60.04, and Roland Jullian - \$8.47. This motion was seconded by Mr. Lenky.
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes

16.) OTHER BUSINESS:

- A motion was made by Mrs. Forrester to approve the VFW's request for \$500 from the town to cover the Veteran's Day Program on November 11th, 2014. This motion was seconded by Mr. Lenky.
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky - Yes

17.) ADJOURNMENT:

- A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Forrester at 8:44 PM. This motion was seconded by Mr. Lenky.
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes

Documented and transcribed by Andrew Richardson, Recording Secretary