



**TOWN OF THOMPSON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING
Tuesday, October 21st, 2014, 7:00 PM
Held in the Merrill Seney Room**

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

ABSENT: S. Smith, Selectman – Due to Illness

PUBLIC PRESENT: Joseph H. Gaucher, Donald Pimental, Ken Beausoleil, Wayne O'Brian, Kevin Walsh, Roger Tremblay, Paul Baer, 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 October 7th, 2014 Board of Selectmen's meeting. This motion was seconded by Mr. Lenky. Corrections in minutes were made regarding the following: It should be noted in the minutes whenever a Selectmen is absent; under the "Correspondence" section it should be clarified that the State agreed to put up \$244,000 through grant; a clarification to the sentence where Mr. Lenky stated "bridges that have needed to be fixed"; on page 2 under Mr. Paul Baer's comment it should be clarified that the e-mail from August 26th, 2014 was asking for a quote and the 2nd e-mail he received on September 3rd, 2014 was the one regarding giving out information for the town website; on page 3 it should read "Connecticut General Statute Subsection 8s-24"; the removal of the phrase "and opt-out of Urban Access" from agenda item 7; a clarification to Paul Baer's comments so that it reads "West Thompson Dam" instead of "West Thompson"; on page 4 under Paul Baer's comments regarding the Volunteer Applications it should be added that "and Mrs. Smith is working on it"; a clarification so that it reads "library sprinkler system" instead of just "sprinkler system"; and lastly it should read "northeast footings" instead of "northeast headwalls" where Mr. Lenky was speaking about the Quaddick Road Bridge.

Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes

2.) CORRESPONDENCE:

- Mrs. Forrester stated that they all had received the corrections from Paul Baer which she had gone over during the approval of the minutes.
- Also, Mrs. Forrester stated that Paul Baer had never stated that the Town Clerk had violated the FOI Act. What he stated was that the town clerk had recorded copies of deeds instead of the original documents.
- Mr. Lenky stated that they had four FOI complaints in the town of Thompson: one for the Board of Selectmen because of the special town meeting in July, another is to the Board of Assessment Appeals, one is against the Fire Protection Advisory Committee, and the last one is against the Thompson Water Pollution Control Authority (TWPCA).
- Citizen's national Bank is having their Turkey Trot on November 9th, 2014 at the West Thompson Lake. That benefits the TEEG food bank and the Thompson trails, parks, and playgrounds.
- Mr. Lenky stated that information came through from the Interstate Liability Project which stated that during the week of October 13th, 2014 in the town of Thompson they were clearing, installing roads, and construction paths. They also will be clearing vegetation in the vicinity of Elmwood Road.
- On October 20th, 2014 crews will be clearing vegetation, and clearing construction paths near Quaddick Town Farm Road and Elmwood Hill Road.
- Troop D State Police gave their monthly report and in September in Thompson there were 7 accidents, 17 criminal investigations, 2 burglaries, 2 larcenies, 358 non-reportable matters, no DUIs, 84 traffic citations, and 23 written warnings.
- The Trails Committee had sent a letter to Mr. Lenky stating that they are looking to fix their easement near the French River Conservation Recreation Overspace Easement Area which is an easement near the French River which heads towards where the Boy Scout Camp is. Someone was camping up there for a while and

there is a lot of material that needs to be cleaned up. Mr. Lenky stated that they still need permission from the bank first in order to do that.

3.) SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS:

- Mrs. Forrester recommended that on the agenda that they reverse the order of agenda item 6. "Building Committee Appointments" and 7. "Building Committee Charge" so that the committee's charge could be read prior to the appointments being made.
- A motion was made by Mr. Lenky to reverse the order of agenda items 6. "Building Committee Appointments" and agenda item 7. "Building Committee Charge" on the agenda. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Forrester.
Mr. Lenky – Yes, Mrs. Forrester – Yes
- A reminder was given by Mrs. Forrester to everyone that the first November Board of Selectmen's meeting will be on Wednesday, November 5th, 2014 instead of Tuesday, November 4th, 2014 due to Election Day.
- Mrs. Forrester stated that she would recommend that for the November meeting the Board add a review of the revised ordinances as an agenda item.
- Mrs. Forrester commented on Kevin Walsh's comments regarding Mr. O'Brian's property at the previous meeting. Mrs. Forrester stated that the idea that Mr. Lenky could do more with his influence as First Selectmen might be something that could open doors to fraud, favoritism, etc. and that it would be better to just let the processes in place work. Mr. Walsh clarified that if he did use the word influence that he should have used the word authority instead and that although he agrees with Mrs. Forrester he still feels that as CEO of the town Mr. Lenky could do more to help people such as Mr. O'Brian to resolve their issues more quickly.
- Mr. Lenky stated that at Riverside Park the town highway cleaned the area near the railroad tracks up, despite it not normally being their job to do so.

4.) CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

- Kevin Walsh reiterated that he should have used the word authority not influence at the last meeting but also stated that he still believed that Mr. Lenky could do more to help Mr. O'Brian as even Attorney St. Onge believed that Mr. O'Brian was right. Mr. Walsh also brought up that the rent owed to the town by the Probate Court is a situation that should also be rectified and Mr. Lenky responded that it'll be brought up at the next NECCOG meeting. Mr. Walsh then handed out a paper from the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection's website. This was in regards to the open-space issue. Mr. Walsh put quotes around the following excerpt:
"The State's overall goal is to preserve 21% of Connecticut's land as open space by the year 2023, a total of 673,210 acres. The initiative includes 10% of open space to be state owned as additions to the State's system of parks, forests, wildlife, fisheries, and natural resource management areas, with the remaining 11% owned by municipalities, private nonprofit land conservation organizations, water companies and the federal government. As of October 2010, 73% of this goal has been achieved through the direct purchase of open space by the state and through state support for local acquisitions."
- Roger Tremblay commented that he had attended the West Thompson Fire Department's Roast Beef Dinner and that it was excellent and they did a great job.
- Ken Beausoleil commented regarding Mr. O'Brian's ongoing issue with the Assessor's office by stating that Mr. Lenky does have the authority as CEO, especially with the Town Attorney's opinion on the issue.
- Paul Baer brought up the issue of out of town businesses posting signs in Thompson without permission stating that it is not only illegal but makes the town look trashy. Mr. Baer also brought up that he still believes it to be a conflict of interest for Mr. Lenky to vote on an appointment of his brother. Mr. Baer also stated that as First Selectmen Mr. Lenky is already on the Charter Advisory Committee and that as a former employee it would be a conflict of interest for the Board to appoint Mrs. Orla McKiernan-Raferly as an alternate on the NDDH Board of Directors. Mr. Baer also brought up continued FOI violations coming from the Recreation Office and noted that when he came to the town hall at 2:45 the Selectmen's Office was closed when it should have been open. Mr. Lenky responded that this was because they had gone to Hartford. Mr. Baer also brought up the issue of the town going to System solutions for their IT Contract and stated he did not believe the town should have went to them when they left the town in a bad way previously.
- Don Pimental commented that he believed for the land acquisition item on last month's agenda that they should have put the road names on there to specify what land they were talking about. Mr. Lenky stated that he agreed with Mr. Pimental on this. Mr. Pimental asked the town if the West Thompson Dam counted

towards the open space land goal or not. Mrs. Forrester stated that it does count and that it includes federal land.

- Paul Baer stated that the file names on posted agendas and other items for the Board of Selectmen and others have not been maintaining a standard. This causes the documents to become out of order.
- Kevin Walsh stated that the town of Sterling and others are creating better lines of communication by getting their information out to town citizens via e-mail and suggested that Thompson look into something like this for the future.

5.) EXECUTIVE SESSION CURRENT LITIGATION: JANE ROVERO-KRUZEL:

- A motion was made by Mrs. Forrester to go into Executive Session regarding “Current Litigation – Jane Rovero-Kruzel.” This motion was seconded by Mr. Lenky.
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes
- The Board of Selectmen returned from Executive Session at 7:50 PM and announced that while in the Executive Session no action was taken.

6.) BUILDING COMMITTEE CHARGE:

- Mr. Lenky read the charge for the Building Committee as follows from a letter written to the Board of Selectmen by Dr. Michael Jolin, Superintendent of Schools:
“Board of Selectmen:
At its meeting on August 11, 2014 the Thompson Board of Education voted to request that the Thompson Board of Selectmen form a Building Committee to oversee oil tank replacement, roof repairs and any other necessary school facility projects.
Your attention to this matter would be much appreciated.”

7.) BUILDING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:

- A motion was made by Mrs. Forrester to appoint the following individuals to the Building Committee: Raymond Faucher, Jr., Kerstin Forrester, John Rice, and William Witkowski. This motion was seconded by Mr. Lenky.
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes

8.) ALTERNATE MEMBER ON THE NDDH BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

- A motion was made by Mrs. Forrester to appoint Orla McKiernan-Raftery as an alternate member on the NDDH Board of Directors. This motion was seconded by Mr. Lenky.
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes

9.) COMMITTEE UPDATES:

- Brian Yacino gave an Economic Development Commission update to the Board of Selectmen as Chairperson Ryan Lajoie was unable to attend. Mr. Yacino stated that the EDC awarded the Business of the Year Award to the Thompson Speedway at Community Day. Mr. Yacino stressed that the EDC was not totally happy with their time slot to hand the award out due to low attendance so late in the day but stated that Community Day went really well and they hope to get a better time slot next year. Mr. Yacino also stated that the EDC is working on new business packets which they like to get out to the new businesses in town. He also stated that continuing to put up new business street signs are an ongoing item for the EDC, adding that they also support the Business Association and a member on the commission involved with the Belding-Corticelli Committee. Lastly, Mr. Yacino stated that he would like to see more direction given to the Economic Development Commission and that it would be good if the Commission could get more members as they are still low on the amount of members that they are supposed to have.
- A motion was made by Mrs. Forrester to dissolve the TWPCA Advisory Committee. This motion was seconded by Mr. Lenky.
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes

10.) OLD BUSINESS:

- Mr. Lenky read a letter he wrote to Mr. Paul Baer thanking him for and accepting his donation of an American Flag to the town of Thompson to be flown at the town hall.
- Mr. Lenky stated that the list of improvements to Thompson recreation areas would have to be an update given in the near future as they do not have the list yet.
- Mrs. Forrester and Mr. Lenky gave detailed reasons as to why they did not support joining the Putnam Technology Park. Essentially, this was because the risk was extremely high and the potential reward would have taken many years for the town of Thompson to see a return on their investment.
- Mrs. Forrester and Mr. Lenky both contributed to giving the town more details on the issue of the open-land goal. For the update on the Connecticut Open Land issue, it was explained that the 11% open-land is a

goal for towns to have met by 2023 with the overall goal being 21% of the land in the State of Connecticut being open land by 2023; the 21% being broken up as 11% for towns and 10% for state-owned land. It was also clarified that federal land does count towards the 11% goal for towns.

11.) ROAD UPDATES:

- Mr. Lenky stated that they are working up on Buck Hill to finish their road work there before the season finishes up and that it should be done in a week or so.
- It was also stated that there was the removal of branches from cedar trees near the cemetery on Parker Road.

12.) CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

- Kevin Walsh commented that the misinformation or false information regarding the open-land comes in front of the Board and they need to make sure to hold whoever gave them the misinformation responsible as they trusted the person who told them that.
- Don Pimental asked if the West Thompson Dam put them over the top of the goal now that they know it counts. A brief discussion was had regarding the land between Kevin Walsh and Mr. Pimental. Whether or not the overall goal has yet been met was not answered.
- Paul Baer commented that at Community Day the library and the schools didn't have much of a presence, if any, and he found this concerning. Mr. Baer also stated that he encourages people to read the plan in regards to the open space and why it is important. Mr. Baer also commented that he believed it to be disingenuous that they were talking about using influence when a Selectman's family member was hired by the town hall. Mr. Baer also asked when was the last time the Board of Selectmen spoke with Putnam regarding the Technology Park. Mr. Lenky responded that they had not spoken with Putnam.

13.) TAX REFUNDS:

- None.

14.) OTHER BUSINESS:

- None.

15.) ADJOURNMENT:

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

Documented and transcribed by Andrew Richardson, Recording Secretary