



TOWN OF THOMPSON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING

Wednesday, November 5th, 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, Norma O'Leary, Donna Godzik, and others.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Lenky called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

1.) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- A motion was made by Mrs. Forrester to approve minutes from the October 21st, 2014 Board of Selectmen's meeting. This motion was seconded by Mr. Lenky. Corrections in minutes were made regarding the following: On page 1 under correspondence bullet 2 it should have read "also Mrs. Forrester read the letter from Paul Baer"; on page 2 the removal of the word "still"; under the last bullet of Selectmen's Comments the removal of the word "up"; the capitalization of the beginning of the word "Solutions" and elaboration regarding Mr. Paul Baer's comments on System Solutions; on page 3, 6 lines down under Committee Updates it should have read "which they would like to get out to new businesses" and "business street signs is an ongoing item"; under the third bullet of Old Business a clarification that "the potential return on the investment is much too long"; on page 4 under Road Updates it should have read "to finish the road" instead of "their road" and also the phrase "finishes up" should be removed; lastly under Correspondence it should have said "open space" instead of "over-space."
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes

2.) CORRESPONDENCE:

- Mr. Lenky received a letter from Energize Connecticut CT which stated that Thompson, Connecticut is holding an energy challenge to help people save money and to make the community more energy efficient and sustainable. They are partnering with New England Leading Home Energy Upgrades Company and Next Step Living to help residents reduce energy costs and live in a more comfortable and sustainable home. They will help members of the community to save on their energy bills, reduce utility rates, and will provide booklets with information to replace windows. They do also work with CL&P and this does also help the town of Thompson.
- Mr. Lenky also received a letter from the Tax Office that sent a letter to the Pilot Program requesting the amount of \$18,147.34 from Marianapolis Trinity Foundation for the properties they had purchased.
- Mr. Lenky received information from the Building Office from October 2nd, 2014 stating that the town had 49 permits for a value of \$892,457.60 with the fees for that being \$9,276.74.
- Mrs. Forrester made a motion move to "Other Business" the resignation of Peter Baskins from the Planning and Zoning Board of Appeals, the appointment of John O'Connell to move from the alternate position to fill the seat vacated by Mr. Baskins, and the appointment of Kirby Cunha to fill the alternate position vacated by Mr. O'Connell. This motion was seconded by Mr. Lenky.
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes
- Mrs. Forrester made a motion to move to "Other Business" the Resolution for Homeland Security Grant. This motion was seconded by Mr. Lenky.
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes
- Mrs. Forrester stated that she had received the Tax Collector's Report through October 31st, 2014. So far taxes collected are 55.4% of the budget which is comparable to the prior year and the total tax office collection including TWPCA and Transfer Station Permits is at 55.6% of the budget.
- Mrs. Forrester stated that he JB Civil Engineering proposal for Sand Dam Road was also received.

- The DEP proposed permits regarding storm water was also brought up and Mrs. Forrester encouraged everyone to take a look at these proposed permits as the cost to municipalities will be severe if it goes through. There is a hearing in regards to this issue coming up which will be December 17th, 2014 in Hartford.
- Mrs. Forrester stated that CLA Engineering sent in a proposal regarding the Quaddick Road Bridge.

3.) SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS:

- Mrs. Forrester commented that there was a good turnout on Election Day.

4.) CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

- Kevin Walsh asked for some clarification regarding the storm water issue which was brought up and Mr. Lenky explained that DEP and DEEP want towns to monitor the water that goes into the river. He elaborated that they would have to design and look at all of the storm drains in town (over 30) due to the leaves, slat, etc. that drains into them. Mr. Lenky further stated that they are putting the burdens on the towns as 25% of towns fall into a tier 1 program, including Thompson, which is more strict than tier-2. Mr. Lenky mentioned that when it comes to testing they would either have to use on-site portable testing for the towns to do or have an engineering firm come in.
- Wayne O'Brian asked if the Thompson Dam could be a reason why Thompson is considered tier-1 for this program and Mr. Lenky responded that it could be the dam, the amount of highways that go through the town, or another reason but that he did not know for sure.
- Kevin Walsh asked if there was any update on the open space requirements and Mrs. Forrester responded that Mrs. Werdge will come in and explain at a meeting in the near future. Mr. Walsh also brought up that Mrs. Smith has been absent at recent meetings and stressed the importance of having a full board. Mrs. Forrester and Mr. Lenky both stated that Mrs. Smith has had a legitimate medical reason for not being present at meetings recently and that she has been ill.
- Norma O'Leary asked if DEEP has given any money to support the proposed permits regarding the storm water and Mr. Lenky stated that they had not.
- Paul Baer stated that he had never said that the Recreation Department violated FOI and that this being attributed to him in the last meeting's minutes was an error. Mr. Baer brought up the issue of Selectmen's meeting agendas not being posted in the correct format on the town's website and stressed that this makes it difficult to find documents when the posting is all out of order. Mr. Baer also brought up that the American Flag at the town hall is not lit. Mr. Baer continued by taking up issue with Mr. Lenky's appointment to the Charter Advisory Committee as he stated by State Statute Mr. Lenky should already be a part of that committee. Mr. Baer also stated that he expected to see correspondence from the FOI Commission. Mr. Baer also brought up another issue regarding a petition that was filed October 14th, 2014 in which notice 5 days prior did not occur and a meeting within 21 days also did not occur. Mr. Baer also stressed that businesses from out of town should not be posting signs, Mr. Baer stated that a memorandum went out to P&Z and that the Interim ZEO made comments about "not having a pro-business attitude." Mr. Baer elaborated that it should be pro-business for the town of Thompson, not for businesses from all over the state.
- Donald Pimental stated that Mr. Rawson withdrew his land donation at the last Planning & Zoning meeting and wanted to know why. A lengthy discussion between Mr. Pimental and Mr. Lenky then took place regarding how water in the State of Rhode Island may have been a factor.
- Paul Baer stated that he failed to see any relationship of water coming from Rhode Island affecting the land donation and suggested that this shows there were strings attached to the donation. Mr. Baer also brought up the idea of input from residents being heard in regards to the work soon to be done on the town's website.
- Donna Godzik read a letter she had written which stresses and outlines concerns that she and others have regarding the deforestation in front of the school and how winter weather may make for very dangerous situations once snow and ice become prevalent again. The idea of guard rails was raised and it was repeatedly stressed that the winter weather could make the removal of trees into a very dangerous safety situation.

5.) EXECUTIVE SESSION CURRENT LITIGATION: SEBRINA HEROUX:

- A motion was made by Mrs. Forrester to go into Executive Session at 7:34 PM regarding "Current Litigation – Sebrina Heroux." 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 the meeting was reconvened at 7:51 PM.
- A motion was made by Mrs. Forrester to approve the settlement agreed upon by the Board of Selectmen and counsel while in Executive Session. This motion was seconded by Mr. Lenky.
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes

6.) SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT FOR JANE ROVERO-KRUZEL:

- Mr. Forrester made a motion for the Board of Selectmen to approve the settlement agreement for Jane Rovero-Kruzal. This motion was seconded by Mr. Lenky.
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes

7.) TEEG – FUEL ACCOUNT:

- Donna Grant, the Executive Director of TEEG, spoke at length to ask the Board of Selectmen to consider requesting from the Board of Finance a line item to support “Project Fuel” which assists Thompson families in affording fuel during the winter months. Ms. Grant explained, in depth, that typically excess revenue from the State is always held over but because of the severe winter from this past year there were no excess funds for this year. Ms. Grant also explained that a lot of families have an income level that does not allow them to qualify for State assistance and this is why they have been able to use one time payments from “Operation Fuel” to help Thompson families in the past. Due to reductions in multiple programs, Ms. Grant stated that TEEG is looking for a municipal appropriation of \$5,000.00.
- Mrs. Forrester made a motion to take to the Board of Finance on November 20th, 2014 the fuel assistance account for TEEG for the amount of \$5,000. This motion was seconded by Mr. Lenky.
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes
- How to find financial information on the TEEG website:
Go to www.teegonline.org
Click on “about TEEG”
Click on “our budget”
Scroll down the page and you will see:
View complete 990 IRS form and 2013-2014 Audit.
Click on the document of choice.

8.) ORDINANCES:

- Mrs. Forrester stated that the first ordinance, Thompson Constables 10-012, was an existing ordinance and that the only change to it was that there would be a maximum of 12 appointed, instead of the previous amount of 7, with at least 4 from each of the 2 major political parties instead of the previous amount of 3.
- The second ordinance, the Civil Preparedness Emergency Management Agency 10-008, is also an existing ordinance and the changes to that one included grammatical changes, changing the director/coordinator to the Emergency Management Director, and the addition of a section describing the Emergency Management Director’s oversight.
- The third ordinance, Control for the Unrestricted Wandering of Farm Animals, states that farm animals must be fenced in and kept off roads and highways. Failure to maintain fences may result in a fine as well.
- Control of Dogs mandates that all dogs must be leashed and controlled at all times. Failure to do so may also result in a fine.
- The fifth and sixth ordinances changed the Conservation Commission and Inland Wetlands Commission into two separate entities. The ordinance numbers for these are 10-011A for the Conservation Commission and 10-011B for the Inland Wetlands Commission.
- The final ordinance was a decrease of the amount of members in the Planning and Zoning Commission from 10 members to 9 members.

9.) SELECTMEN’S MEETING DATES FOR 2015:

- Mrs. Forrester made a motion to approve the Board of Selectmen’s meeting dates for the 2015 calendar year. This motion was seconded by Mr. Lenky.
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes

10.) INFORMATION ON NECCOG PRESENTATION ON 11-13-14:

- The Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (NECCOG) will be conducting an informational, public meeting regarding its 2015 Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- The meeting will take place at the Thompson Town Hall on November 13th, 2014 at 7:00 PM.
- Samuel Alexander of NECCOG will present on the scope of the region’s draft plan.
- Those in attendance will have an opportunity to offer input into the scope and methodology of the plan.

- Those in attendance will have an opportunity to complete a questionnaire on the region's identified natural hazards and potential mitigation measures.
- A current draft of the plan is available, online at:
<http://neccog.org/programs-services/northeastern-ct-natural-hazard-mitigation-plan-2015/>

11.) BUILDING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT:

- Mrs. Forrester made a motion to approve the appointment of John Lenky to the Building Committee. This motion was seconded by Mr. Lenky.
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky - Yes

12.) INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION APPOINTMENT:

- Mrs. Forrester made a motion to approve the appointment of Peter S. Ricard to the Inland Wetlands Commission. This motion was seconded by Mr. Lenky.
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes

13.) OLD BUSINESS:

- None.

14.) ROAD UPDATES:

- Mr. Lenky stated that the only update he had was that the drainage on Buck Hill was still being finished.

15.) CITIZENS' COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS:

- Steve Benoit commented that for the NECCOG meeting on November 13th, 2014 it is also for a grant for mitigation.
- Joseph Gaucher commented regarding a painting in the Merrill-Seney room of the Town Hall needing to be fixed so that it does not fall.
- Paul Baer commented that he believes it is still a conflict for Mr. Lenky to vote on an appointment for his brother John Lenky to the Building Committee. Mr. Baer also commented regarding Selectmen Shaina Smith's absence and stated that Mr. Lenky is not open to advice or suggestions.
- Norma O'Leary asked if the Ag. Commission had any input regarding the ordinance having to do with the fencing in of farm animals. Mr. Lenky responded that he did contact them and was told that there was nothing wrong with the ordinance.

16.) TAX REFUNDS:

- Mrs. Forrester made a motion to approve the following tax refunds: Sandra Marie Constantine - \$168.81, Sandra Marie Constantine - \$118.29, Jordan R. Caye - \$17.47, Becca Guilbault-Truplett - \$5.49, Scott A. Reynolds - \$10.98, and Matthew C. Woodhouse - \$33.58. This motion was seconded by Mr. Lenky.
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes

17.) OTHER BUSINESS:

- Mrs. Forrester made a motion to approve the resolution for the Homeland Security Grants. This motion was seconded by Mr. Lenky.
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes
- Mrs. Forrester made a motion to accept the resignation of Peter Baskins from the Planning and Zoning Board of Appeals. This motion was seconded by Mr. Lenky.
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes
- Mrs. Forrester made a motion to approve the Planning and Zoning Board of Appeals' recommendation that John O'Connell be moved from an alternate position to the seat vacated by the resigning Mr. Baskins. This motion was seconded by Mr. Lenky.
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes
- Mrs. Forrester made a motion to appoint Kirby Cunha as an alternate on the Planning and Zoning Board of Appeals. This motion was seconded by Mr. Lenky.
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes

18.) ADJOURNMENT:

- A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Forrester at 8:25 PM. This motion was seconded by Mr. Lenky.
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes

Documented and transcribed by Andrew Richardson, Recording Secretary