



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

Tuesday, November 18th, 2014, 7:00 PM

Held in the Merrill Seney Room

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

PUBLIC PRESENT: Joseph H. Gaucher, Kevin Walsh, Don Brown, Karen Durlach, Charles H. W. DeVevo, Ken Beausoleil, Donald Pimental, Linda and Amanda Jarmolewicz, 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 November 5th, 2014 Board of Selectmen's meeting. This motion was seconded by Mr. Lenky. Corrections in minutes were made regarding the following: On page 1, the first bullet under the Correspondence section it should be added "reach its goal of 20% decrease in energy consumption by 2020"; clarification regarding the letter the tax office sent to Marianapolis asking them for PILOT or "pay in lieu of taxes"; a correction to the name "J&B" instead of "JB"; a correction to "DEEP" instead of "DEP"; a correction so that it states "proposed process for storm water drain monitoring" instead of "proposed permits for storm drains"; a correction to two spelling errors under Citizens' Comments section regarding "DEEP" and the spelling of the word "salt"; a correction in phrasing under Citizens' Comments section; a correction in spelling to the name "Mrs. Werge"; a change in phrasing of "proposed permits" to "proposed process"; and a change in phrasing under Citizens' Comments section to read "repaired so that it does not fall apart" instead of "fixed so it does not fall."
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes, Mrs. Smith – Abstain (due to absence due to illness)
- A motion was made by Mrs. Forrester to approve minutes from the November 7th, 2014 Board of Selectmen's special meeting. This motion was seconded by Mr. Lenky.
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes, Mrs. Smith – Abstain (due to absence due to illness)
- A motion made by Mrs. Smith to approve minutes from the November 10th, 2014 Board of Selectmen's executive session regarding interviews. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Forrester.
Mrs. Smith – Yes, Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes

2.) CORRESPONDENCE:

- Mrs. Forrester stated that the Board of Selectmen received correspondence regarding a Freedom of Information Act filing against the town of Thompson due to the Fire Protection Advisory Committee not posting the agenda for their September 3rd, 2014 meeting on the town website. This was filed by Mr. Paul Baer.
- Mrs. Smith read a letter from Erica Groh which voiced concerns regarding accusations which had been brought against David Kress, an elected official in the town of Thompson. Mr. Lenky stated that the Board would not comment on the matter as he must first speak with Attorney St. Onge.
- Mr. Lenky stated that Town Planner Mary Chinatti, Mr. Adams, and himself went over the conference of municipalities and explained that the Board of Selectmen have to do a survey which will go with them to Hartford, along with Marla Butts who will provide some important notes on the matter, when they go on December 17th, 2014 to voice concerns about why it would be a significant burden to the town.
- Mr. Lenky also stated that he received correspondence regarding Thompson Public Schools being closed on Friday, November 21st, 2014 as they must remove an underground oil tank which will require them to shut off power at the Elementary and Middle School.
- Mr. Lenky stated that the Library Curbing bids which closed on November 12th, 2014 had 4 people pick up applications but no bids were submitted.
- Mr. Lenky received a letter from the Tax Collector's office which stated that they had one person that was working on delinquent sewer taxes and as of November 18th, 2014 they had collected \$85,981.

- Mr. Lenky received information from Mary Ann Chinatti about the Interstate Line Project which stated that crews would be surveying and installing access roads in the vicinity of Quaddick Town Road.
- A motion was made by Mrs. Smith to Motion made by Mrs. Smith to move to the “Other Business” section the petition regarding Starr Road. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Forrester.
Mrs. Smith – Yes, Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes

3.) SELECTMEN’S COMMENTS:

- Mrs. Forrester addressed the concerns brought forth by Kevin Walsh and Paul Baer at the last meeting regarding the absence of Mrs. Smith at the prior few meetings due to illness. Mrs. Forrester stated the Board asked Attorney St. Onge for his opinion and he stated his opinion, as town Attorney, was that that the Board of Selectmen’s duty is to continue to do the business of the town during the Third Selectman’s absence and that two selectmen constitute a quorum. He also stated that providing meeting agendas and minutes to the Third Selectman, as the Board has been doing right along, is proper.
- Mrs. Smith stated that she believes there are some items included in the Hazard Mitigation, provided by Steve Benoit, which should be addressed sometime in the near future. She elaborated that one was improving the communication system in the town and the other was finding a location for an emergency pet shelter.
- Mrs. Smith also asked about the foot bridge near the library and Mr. Lenky stated that the state won’t inspect it and it must be the town. Mr. Lenky also stated that he spoke to Rene and it was suggested potentially putting down steel boards. Mr. Lenky stated it would also be added to the list for the Town Highway personnel to fix it.
- Mrs. Smith also brought up the fencing near the library which had been vandalized. Mr. Lenky stated that it would have to be put back up.
- Mrs. Smith also asked if there would soon be a hiring process for the part-time position opening in the Selectman’s office. Mr. Lenky stated that he was waiting still as they would be restructuring that particular position.
- Mrs. Smith asked about members from other boards and commissions in town coming in to speak and updating the Board of Selectmen on their progress. Mrs. Forrester responded that they already had one come in (Brian Yacino from the Economic Development Commission) and that they were continuing to work on this.
- Mr. Lenky thanked Mrs. Forrester and Mrs. Smith for all of their hard work over the past year and stated that it has been a pleasure to work alongside both of them.

4.) CITIZENS’ COMMENTS:

- Donald Brown brought up a concern he had regarding the camp situation when Quaddick State Park was closed to the Recreation Program. He also stated that he believes there needs to be a public hearing or investigation as they already had to change the director once previously and that the problems should be made public. Mr. Brown continued by stating that accounts should be audited. Mr. Brown then stated that he sat at a budget workshop where they picked up the Recreation Department’s request for funds for maintenance of Bull Hill and then the Town Highway did as well. He stated this means there was an overlap and asked whether or not an adjustment had been made.
- Charles H. W. DeVevo brought up some concerns he has with a gas station in town which is very close to his home. Some of his concerns included that the gas station removed fencing, took up asphalt, widened the drain in back of the building, as well as trash from the customers in his yard and driveway, issues with his driveway being blocked, issues with flooding, and issues with snow removal. Mr. DeVevo also gave the Selectmen pictures he took of all of these instances. The Selectmen responded that this was actually an issue more appropriate for Planning & Zoning.
- Kevin Walsh brought up the discussion at the last meeting regarding the monitoring of drainage for storm drains in town as well as asked about the meeting the Board had mentioned they would be attending in regards to that matter. Mrs. Forrester responded that the meeting was on the 27th of November so it hadn’t happened yet. Mr. Walsh also brought up the oil leak issue at the school and asked if there would be monitoring of storm drains there. Mr. Lenky responded that they were doing that currently. Mr. Walsh also brought up that the Starr Road Petition is Old Business and asked why they put it under Other Business.
- A motion was made by Mrs. Forrester to move from the “Other Business” section to the “Old Business” section the petition regarding Starr Road. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Smith.
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mrs. Smith – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes

- Mr. Walsh also commented that his concern in bringing up Mrs. Smith's absence the last few weeks as issue was because there are important discussions that are had as well as votes that are taken at these meetings and he believes that the minority Selectman should always have a voice because he and others like to hear different points of view on various issues.

5.) CONSERVATION REPORT ON OPEN SPACES – CAROLYN WERGE:

- Carolyn Werge gave a presentation to the Board of Selectmen regarding the state of Connecticut's goal for open spaces by the year 2023. Mrs. Werge stated that the state's overall goal is to preserve 21% of Connecticut's land as open space by 2023 with 10% of the open space to be state owned and 11% of the open space owned by towns, municipalities, private nonprofits, water companies, and the federal government. Mrs. Werge also showed that Thompson needs 3,428.48 total acres of town-owned land to meet the 11% goal but currently only have 2,584.1 acres making them about 845 acres short of the goal currently.
- Kevin Walsh and Carolyn Werge engaged in a lengthy discussion on the issue with Mr. Walsh making the point that he believes about 50% of Thompson's land is privately owned property so the goal is actually more like needing 22%.
- Mrs. Forrester asked Carolyn Werge if there were any specific restrictions for land donation and Carolyn Werge replied that intention for land will now be specified in the deeds.
- Donald Pimental commented that he has 8 acres but only 1 house lot and that the tax should be different for buildable lots.

6.) NECCOG NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION PRESENTATION UPDATE:

- Mr. Forrester stated that the presentation was in regards to disasters such as hurricanes, blizzards, tropical storms, earthquakes, etc.
- Mrs. Forrester stated that the Board of Selectmen should meet with Emergency Management to see about what they could purchase with grant money. A larger generator for the town hall and improving some of the bridges were mentioned as potential areas where grant money could be very useful.
- Mr. Lenky commented that the State of Connecticut is looking for the town to draft a letter regarding hazardous areas and how they can improve.

7.) RESIGNATION FROM INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION:

- Mrs. Smith made a motion to approve of the resignation of Steven Baranow from the Inland Wetlands Commission effective November 13th, 2014. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Forrester.
Mrs. Smith – Yes, Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes

8.) TRAILS COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT:

- Mrs. Forrester made a motion to approve the appointment of John J. Kochinskas to the Trails Committee. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Smith.
MOTION NOT MOVED
- A motion made by Mrs. Smith to approve the appointment of John J. Kochinskas to the Trails Committee with a term to be determined by the end of the fiscal year (June 2015). This motion was seconded by Mrs. Forrester.
Mrs. Smith – Yes, Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes

9.) OLD BUSINESS:

- Mr. Lenky stated that the petition was sent to Attorney St. Onge and then read Attorney St. Onge's letter of response to the petition.
- Attorney St. Onge's response was that the town of Thompson does not have to act but should hold a public hearing on the matter. Attorney St. Onge also stated that although he believes the petition as written is insufficient to act on, he believes there are other ways through existing Connecticut Statutes to meet the result being desired by the petitioners.

10.) ROAD UPDATES:

- Mr. Lenky stated that the Town Highway Department still must complete the drainage on Buck Hill and that there is also some repair work on Rich Road which needs to be done. Mr. Lenky also stated that the cleaning of catch basins would also be done soon.

11.) CITIZENS' COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS:

- Kevin Walsh asked if, beyond the cul-de-sac, is Starr Road a paper road. Mr. Lenky responded that it is not and the definition to show it's a cul-de-sac and that all of these things were items that could be brought up when they have a public hearing on the matter. Mr. Walsh then asked what authoritative figure would be at

the meeting and Mrs. Forrester responded a moderator would be there and Mrs. Smith stating that Attorney St. Onge would also likely be there.

- Don Pimental commented that there was an action item on the petition for the town to leave Starr Road as is. He also asked how Attorney St. Onge made his determinations. Mr. Pimental also commented that with having been able to get 46 people to sign the petition he is finding the legal response bizarre. Mr. Lenky responded that Mr. Pimental was telling people that he doesn't want them on his road. Mr. Pimental stated that this would be essentially the same Public Hearing from 2002. Mr. Lenky and Mr. Pimental engaged in a brief discussion.
- Mrs. Forrester stressed that the "Citizens' Comments" section is for citizens to comment and not for full discussions.

12.) TAX REFUNDS:

- Mrs. Forrester made a motion to approve of the following tax refunds: Daniel X. Adiletta - \$100.52 and David P. Ford Jr. - \$52.83. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Smith.
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mrs. Smith – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes

13.) OTHER BUSINESS:

- None.

14.) ADJOURNMENT:

- A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Forrester at 8:37 PM. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Smith.
Mrs. Forrester – Yes, Mrs. Smith – Yes, Mr. Lenky – Yes

Documented and transcribed by Andrew Richardson, Recording Secretary