



# **TOWN of THOMPSON**

## ***Board of Selectmen***

**Minutes: Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, August 18, 2015  
Merrill Seney Room, Town Hall**

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The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

First Selectman Paul Lenky called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Present: Kerstin Forrester  
Paul Lenky  
Shaina Smith

Staff Present: Tina Fox, Recording Secretary

Also Present: Members of the Public

I. Approval of Minutes

A. **Kerstin Forrester moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the August 4, 2015 regular meeting with the following corrections:**

1. Page 2, Section II(A)(2): Clarification that it was 'a very low return for a high risk investment'
2. Page 9, Section XV(E): Last sentence should read "...the Board..." rather than '...they Board...'
3. Page 7, Section XII(F): Should read "...needs to be revisited." rather than '...needs revisited.'
4. Page 8, Section XII(I): Should read "...now the First or Second Selectman,..." rather than '...now the First of Second Selectman,...'
5. Page 8, Section XII(K): Fourth line, clarification that S. Smith had asked for the questions to be forwarded to the Town Attorney.

Kerstin Forrester- Yes      Paul Lenky- Yes      Shaina Smith- Yes

**The motion carried unanimously.**

II. Correspondence

A. K. Forrester presented the following correspondence:

1. Report from the Building Office regarding permits issued for the month of July.
2. Minutes from the Ordinance Committee meeting of August 13, 2015.
3. Letter from Mary Ann Chinatti regarding the 630 Riverside Dr. Brownfield assessment grant.
4. Email from Regional Energy Solutions, having a workshop in Hampton, CT on September 24, 2015.
5. Next Step Living Good Energy newsletter.
6. Interstate Reliability update.
7. Email stating the EDC meeting was cancelled.
8. Email from Steve Benoit regarding data needed for FEMA.

- B. P. Lenky presented the following correspondence:
  - 1. Interstate Reliability update: while no work is being done in Thompson, they've started working in Brooklyn and are working their way toward Thompson.
  - 2. The roundtable discussion has been scheduled for Monday August 24, 2015 from 9:00-11:30 AM at the Valley Springs Sportsman Club.
  - 3. Quote for the cleaning of the ducts at Town Hall came in at \$2,300, to be acted upon at the next meeting.

### III. Selectmen's Comments

- A. K. Forrester presented the following Selectman's Comments:
  - 1. There was a question about Mary Ann Chinatti sending a letter about the TEEG building at the previous meeting. K. Forrester clarified that it is not M. Chinatti's responsibility, and that Attorney St. Onge is addressing the issue with the Attorney General.
  - 2. Sending the proposed ethics code to the Ordinance Committee to review.
  - 3. No questions were submitted to be added to the website survey. K. Forrester asked again if citizens would comment on the proposed survey by August 21, 2015.
  - 4. There was a meeting with Greg Lee (PZC Chairman), Randolph Blackmer, JR. (PZC Vice-Chairman), John Rice (PZC Secretary), Paul Lenky, Kerstin Forrester, and Alvan Hill (ZEO) to discuss the letter from Sharon Recore. A. Hill responded with a letter addressed to the BOS, which K. Forrester read aloud.
  - 5. K. Forrester asked about the corrections to the File Access Procedure Policy, to which S. Smith responded that she submitted the corrections that day.
  - 6. A consulting firm to Eversource looked at how the library and Town could save energy by switching to more efficient lighting fixtures.
  - 7. There was a meeting with Mary Ann Chinatti to discuss C-PACE. C-PACE is a program that works with companies or apartment houses, not single family residences, to provide financing for solar or alternate energy. There will be more information regarding this in the future.
  - 8. K. Forrester asked if P. Lenky met with the new CCM Town liaison representative, to which P. Lenky responded in the negative.
  - 9. In regards to contacting Attorney St. Onge or Ken Weinstock about the Recreation Commission holiday pay, K. Forrester said that it is not an issue because the Executive Assistant was a full-time employee and was paid holiday pay.
  - 10. The Board is still waiting on an opinion from Attorney St. Onge regarding the Assistant Town Clerk position.
- B. S. Smith presented the following Selectman's Comments:
  - 1. The signs for the library have been ordered.
  - 2. S. Smith asked if the meeting with Congressman Courtney on August 24<sup>th</sup> had been advertised. P. Lenky answered that it was advertised in the Shopper's Guide and Villager. S. Smith also asked who was sent information about the meeting. P. Lenky answered that information was sent to all First Selectmen and mayors in Windham County.
  - 3. S. Smith asked that, in the future, she be kept up-to-date about where meetings such as the one mentioned will take place.
  - 4. The log books and receipts have been ordered for each department to document any related requests for the File Access Policy.

5. S. Smith asked if there had been any communication from Mr. Lafayette regarding the solar project. K. Forrester answered that there is no update on the schedule. K. Forrester also stated that there was some resistance from Bill Birch at the school because he wants to put solar panels on the school roof, which would have an associated cost with the Town, whereas Mr. Lafayette's project has no cost to the Town.
  6. S. Smith asked for a written opinion regarding the Personnel Director position that was given verbally by K. Forrester.
  7. S. Smith stated that it was her understanding that now that there is a full time person in the Selectman's office, the personnel duties were going to be handled by the First Selectman. K. Forrester answered that she handles questions related to HIPPA and medical issues. She added that she is going through boxes because nothing has been filed since 2006, and some of the documents are HIPPA related.
  8. S. Smith stated that the Highway Department cleaned up Phelps Pond and did a good job, but there is still debris and muck. She brought up concerns that there is no real way to manage a situation where volunteers are responsible for cleaning Town property, and asked if there are any other situations where volunteers clean-up.
- C. P. Lenky presented the following Selectman's Comments:
1. The Town is receiving more guide posts and hardware free of charge from the State Highway to replace broken ones.
  2. Mr. Adams is waiting to figure out if the material from the stove shop is going to Auburn or Webster.
  3. CLE is going to apply for a Wetlands Permit for the Quaddick Bridge.
  4. Charter is doing work at Town Hall with the fiber optic cable for the phone system.
  5. The voicemail system at Town Hall went down and Frontier came in to fix it, but because the phones are so antiquated, it cannot be repaired. Hopefully, the new phones will be set up within a week.
- IV. Citizens' Comments (Limit 3 Minutes)
- A. Steve Benoit stated that the FEMA issues have been handled as of 3:55 PM that day and the grant was received. He thanked Dianna Rebello in the Selectman's Office and Orla McKiernan-Rafferty, Finance Director, for all of the work they did in helping with that.
  - B. Sharon Recore, 46 Townes Lane, asked for a copy of the memo received from Alvan Hill after the meeting.
  - C. Al Landry, 33 Randall, asked if there was any information regarding the Communications Academy filming Board/Commission meetings. K. Forrester stated that she has asked Dr. Jolin about it, and will ask again.
  - D. Kevin Walsh, Blain Rd., asked if the school is trying to piggy-back on the solar project. K. Forrester explained that the school has to replace some roofs, so Mr. Birch said they were looking at putting solar panels on the roof. The Town would have to pay for 30% of them and maintain them, whereas with Mr. Lafayette's project, there is no cost for the Town.

- E. Wayne O'Brien, 108 Fabyan Rd., asked if any BOS members sit on the BOE, and if not, asked why. He stated that in Worcester, the guy that gets elected gets to be on the certain Boards. He asked why that doesn't happen in Thompson, because if one of the Selectmen sat on the BOE, there 'would be a voice from this side over there.' He also asked why they didn't condense the schools and go with K-8 because they could have saved \$200,000 in salary by not hiring a principal. He added that they're spending habits are out of control and that doesn't seem right that that happens. K. Forrester answered that the First Selectman is an ex officio member, but does not have voting rights. W. O'Brien stated that if Thompson votes in a person to run the Town, he should have a say in what goes on at the school.
  - F. Kevin Walsh, Blain Rd., stated that the First Selectman is an ex officio member of all committees/boards/commissions and can't vote, but it would be nice to see a Selectman attend all BOE meetings routinely and speak on behalf of the taxpayers of the Town.
  - G. Wayne O'Brien, 108 Fabyan Rd., asked 'how we would go about making it so that we could have a say up there.' K. Forrester stated that someone would probably have to go to the State to find out.
- V. Website Upgrade Update-Stratos Studio
- A. Jim Stratos of Stratos Studio stated that he has been involved with the Woodstock website for 15 years, and is in the middle of revising New Britain's website as their web master. He stated that there was a recent upgrade to the Town's website because the software that was being used was out dated and at risk for being exploited and hacked. The current template used for the website does not work with the most current software, so another update still needs to be done. He believes it would be a good idea to switch to a more user-friendly template that is compatible with the newest system. He stated that the upgrade would take at least 29 billed hours, at \$50 an hour, with \$1,500 as an estimated price. He stated that the current design wastes a lot of time, and there are drop down menus on every page that make no sense because they were a lot of work and completely superfluous.
  - B. S. Smith asked for an example of another website using the newest version, to which J. Stratos suggested looking at the Woodstock website.
  - C. **Kerstin Forrester moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to move forward with the website update.**  
 Kerstin Forrester- Yes                      Paul Lenky- Yes                      Shaina Smith- Yes  
**The motion carried unanimously.**
  - D. S. Smith asked if the BOF would need to approve this, to which K. Forrester stated that there is already a separate line item in the budget for IT.
  - E. Kevin Walsh, Blain Rd., asked Mr. Stratos why minutes older than two years were lost when the website was upgraded. J. Stratos explained that it was agreed to only keep two years worth of minutes due to storage issues. K. Walsh stated that a volunteer spent hundreds of hours putting older minutes on the website, and he has been told there was no storage issue. J. Stratos explained that the older minutes that were uploaded were scanned in, rather than uploaded as a PDF, taking up 2 to 3 times as much unnecessary space compared to a PDF.

VI. Road Updates

- A. P. Lenky stated that chip sealing begins the second week of September. He stated that Sand Dam, Stawicki, Fabyan, Church, and Ballard are all done, and work on Azud Rd. would start the next day. He added that road side mowing is being worked on.

VII. Other Business: None

VIII. Citizens' Comments on Agenda (Limit 3 Minutes)

- A. Ken Beausoleil, Walker Dr., asked who was doing the paving on Azud Rd. P. Lenky answered that a contractor was hired to do the Azud Rd. He stated that it would be about \$11 per ton for the Town to do it, and \$14 per ton for the company to do it, and that if the Town did the work, they would have to neglect all other necessary work.
- B. Wayne O'Brien, 108 Fabyan Rd., mentioned a rock that sticks out on Fabyan Rd. P. Lenky stated that they are aware of some rocks and they are going to be taken care of.

IX. Tax Refunds

- A. **Kerstin Forrester moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to approve the following tax refunds:**

1. Jessica R. Dion- \$21.59
2. David J. Charbonneau- \$7.16
3. Melissa Kapitulik- \$1,920.02
4. Bernard W. or Rebecca M. Kuszewski- \$72.27 and \$59.10
5. Debra J. and Philip R. LeBlanc- \$15.64
6. Nissan Infiniti- \$195.24 and \$68.01
7. Kevin B. or Pauline E. Riordan- \$6.10
8. John J. Sacramone, Jr.- \$19.64
9. Rebecca M. or John J. Sacramone- \$9.82
10. Gloria M. Vrabel- \$4.04
11. Mare Yost or Christine M. Durand- \$47.49

Kerstin Forrester- Yes      Paul Lenky- Yes      Shaina Smith- Yes

**The motion carried unanimously.**

X. Adjourn

- A. **Kerstin Forrester moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to adjourn.**

Kerstin Forrester- Yes      Paul Lenky- Yes      Shaina Smith- Yes

**The motion carried unanimously.**

- B. First Selectman Paul Lenky adjourned the meeting at 7:59 PM.

Tina Fox  
Recording Secretary