



TOWN of THOMPSON

Board of Selectmen

**Minutes: Regular Meeting
Tuesday, September 1, 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 7:01 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 18, 2015 regular meeting with the following correction:**

1. Page 4, Section IV(E): "...their spending habits..." rather than 'they're.'

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

The motion carried unanimously.

B. **Shaina Smith moved and Kerstin Forrester seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the August 20, 2015 special meeting as written.**

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

The motion carried unanimously.

II. Correspondence

A. K. Forrester presented the following correspondence:

1. Steve Benoit forwarded an email from the State of Connecticut regarding 2015 Statewide Governor's Emergency Planning Preparedness Initiative.
2. Email from Orla McKiernan-Rafferty regarding electricity costs.
3. Letter from Sharon Recore responding to Alvan Hill's memo.
4. Information from the Interstate Reliability Project stating that major construction is complete and expects complete restoration by the end of Fall 2015.

B. P. Lenky presented the following correspondence:

1. Town Road List received from the State of Connecticut and available in the Town Clerk's office.
2. Preliminary costs for Plum Rd. water and sewer, which is the best way to access the Industrial Park, is \$565,000. The Town will apply for a grant for \$405,000, and will ask the Industrial Park to pay for the remainder.
3. Flyer from Chamber of Commerce for a ribbon cutting Tuesday, September 15th.
4. K. Forrester read a memo from Mary Ann Chinatti.

MUNICIPAL BUILDING

**815 RIVERSIDE DRIVE · NO. GROSVENORDALE, CONNECTICUT 06255
TELEPHONE (860) 923-9475 · FAX (860) 923-9897**

III. Selectmen's Comments

A. K. Forrester presented the following Selectman's Comments:

1. A mandatory employee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 10th from 11:00 AM to Noon to discuss items such as the File Access Procedure, time sheets and time-off request sheets, annual sexual harassment policy, and personnel policy.
2. RFP has gone out for an engineering assessment for the HVAC at the library. There will be a pre-bid meeting on September 10th and the bids are due September 21st by 2:00 PM and will be opened at the September 22nd BOS meeting.
3. Need to schedule a meeting to discuss purchasing cameras to replace the security cameras at the library.
4. At the previous meeting, S. Smith had asked to receive Ken Weinstock's opinion regarding whether or not it is appropriate for K. Forrester to act as interim personnel; K. Weinstock suggested the Board discuss this during an Executive Session at the next BOS meeting.
5. Planning and Zoning Commission is suggested to find out if there are statutes or regulations about how many members are allowed on PZC, since PZC made the recommendation for the change.
6. The hiring for the Assistant Town Clerk position will wait until after the election so that the new Town Clerk can make the appointment; legal opinion was received on this topic.
7. K. Forrester asked about the material for the old stove pipe shop. P. Lenky answered that the material is going to Oxford.

B. S. Smith presented the following Selectman's Comments:

1. S. Smith suggested looking at local businesses regarding new cameras at the library.
2. S. Smith asked that discussion regarding the proposed change to the driveway permits be on the next agenda.
3. S. Smith asked about the Assessor Clerk position. K. Forrester answered that it is put on hold pending Board of Finance approval.
4. The date that the BOS adopted the File Access Procedure will be added to the document, as recommended.
5. In regards to M. Chinatti's memo, S. Smith stated that she did submit a request for a copy of M. Chinatti's contract on August 20th, and added that she did not request other salary employee contracts, but did request other employee contracts. She stated that the reason she requested the contract was not to single M. Chinatti out, but to look into what some of the residents have been stating, which was that M. Chinatti was a salary employee, had a certain amount of hours she needed to meet per week, and looking into if M. Chinatti was putting PZC meetings on her timecard, which she is not. She stated that she wanted to check the validity of what citizens were saying to verify that M. Chinatti is within her rights in order to deter some of the rumors that have been going around regarding her cutting-out early or not working on Friday. S. Smith apologized that the reason she did not reply to M. Chinatti's email was that S. Smith was on vacation.
6. Blue ribbons were put up in Riverside Park and more will be placed outside of Town Hall. S. Smith commented that the lamp posts at Riverside Park were very shaky, and suggested having someone come out to look at them.

- C. P. Lenky presented the following Selectman's Comments:
1. The United States Department of Interior is awarding \$4,158 to the Town that can be used for various purposes. P. Lenky would like to request at the next BOF meeting to use the money for emergency management for radio upgrades. K. Forrester stated that Steve Benoit would have to come up with a number for what it would cost, and then the BOF can approve it.
 2. A letter was read into the record regarding the conceptual redesign at 395 and 193.
 3. **Kerstin Forrester moved and Paul Lenky seconded the motion to add 'Approve Release of the Bond to Pine Sand and Gravel' under 'Other Business' on the agenda.**
Kerstin Forrester- Yes Paul Lenky- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.

IV. Citizens' Comments (Limit 3 Minutes)

- A. Sharon Recore, 46 Townes Lane, stated that she is the author of the letter that wasn't read. She stated that A. Hill's memo read at the last meeting stated that she failed to give specific questions, but her original letter in May did have specific questions, and the Board is failing to answer her questions. K. Forrester stated that it was fully discussed and addressed from an HR prospective. S. Recore stated that she thinks there is something wrong when you call someone at Town Hall for 10 months and they lead you to believe that they were helping you, and then tells you that no one in Town can help you. She stated that over 10 months, A. Hill never once called her back, and that out of common courtesy, you should return someone's phone calls. She added that never once did A. Hill tell her that this wasn't something he should be handling, and that she is very disappointed.
- B. Kathleen Herbert, 122 Wilsonville Rd., presented the final draft of the ethics code on behalf of the Ethics Committee. She asked that the Board add this to the agenda. P. Lenky reminded her that the Board already voted to approve the proposal.
- C. Kevin Walsh, Blain Rd., asked if the File Access Procedure had been posted online, and asked where it is posted. He asked if the procedure would apply to every person, including attorneys. He stated that this is one more way in which "big brother" is watching and it is nobody's business what "we're" looking at. He said that he would assume everyone in Town Hall will also be signing out what they're looking for. He stated that there are two months left in this administration and there are more questions to be answered, referring to the road list presented at a public hearing regarding Starr Rd. He stated that it's been nine months, and for the Board to leave with any credibility, the citizens need to know the truth.
- D. Joe Gaucher, 519 Riverside Dr., asked about the impact on route 12 and Plum Rd. if the Town puts a ramp and road across the river for the sewer and water line. P. Lenky clarified that while there was talk about putting in a road before, that is not the plan anymore. J. Gaucher added that there is a man in a Dexter Construction truck that goes to the transfer station and doesn't pay for his loads.
- E. Donald Pimental, 40 Starr Rd., stated that he received his road list from the State on June 29th, and any citizen can just call the state to ask for the document. He asked why he had to give Jeff Barske a note to give to the State to get the road list, and added that the State doesn't send the list to the Town unless you give them a note, and that it should happen automatically. He stated that the State will send you 65 years of road list if someone requests them, and that it should be

sent to "us" so that when anyone comes in to look at the road list, they can see 65 years of road lists.

- F. Wayne O'Brien, 108 Fabyan Rd., mentioned that the cone that was up on Fabyan Rd. to mark a stone sticking up in the road was removed.
- G. Steve Benoit stated that there is a state-wide drill on October 21st and the school is going to participate. He stated that he requested a plan from them, and the drill is going to be really involved.

V. Storage Room Repair Approval

- A. P. Lenky explained that ServPro did work in the back room because of a leak in the ceiling and a possible black mold problem. There was no black mold found, but a smell was coming from dead mice. RK Pellerin quoted \$2,300 to replace the sheet rock and drop ceiling, including extra material and time.
- B. S. Smith asked why the sheet rock needs replaced. P. Lenky answered that the walls were taken down because of possible black mold.
- C. S. Smith asked if the vents even needed cleaning if black mold wasn't the problem. K. Forrester answered that the vents should be cleaned annually regardless.
- D. **Kerstin Forrester moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to approve spending \$2,300 for the storage room repair.**
 - 1. S. Smith asked how/why one quote was received. P. Lenky stated that RK Pellerin does the cleaning at Town Hall currently, and he asked them to submit a quote. K. Forrester stated the anything under \$10,000 does not need to go out to bid.
 - 2. S. Smith stated that it would be nice to know what they are charging per hour.
 - 3. S. Smith asked when the Board would be looking to have them come in. P. Lenky answered it would be as soon as the company can do it.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

VI. 630 Riverside Drive Brownfield Grant- Consultant Recommendation

- A. P. Lenky explained that the Belding Committee and Town Planner reviewed all proposals and after interviews were conducted, decided CME was the best qualified to do the work at the best price.
- B. **Kerstin Forrester moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to approve awarding the contract to CME.**

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

The motion carried unanimously.

VII. SHR Energy Update- Noel Lafayette

- A. Noel Lafayette briefed the Board on the current progress of the project. He stated that they went through great pains to not go through Wetlands, both because of costs and citizen's concerns, and we're able to keep a dense vegetation buffer to alleviate citizen's concerns. He stated that CT Water holds a lot in the middle of the project, and because an easement would not have been received in time, they will go around it at an additional cost. He stated that the system is based on the Town's three year average and designed to produce 95% of the needed power, factoring in the possibility of snow days and other weather issues.

- B. K. Forrester asked if the project had received necessary approvals from Wetlands, PZC, etc. N. Lafayette answered affirmatively and added that M. Chinatti has been outstanding with her help because she is clear and to the point, and that between her and Janet Blanchette of J & D Engineering, this project has been the easiest thing he has dealt with.
- C. N. Lafayette stated that because the upper quadrant of the project is a knoll, 12,000 cubic yards are going to need to be moved. An estimate from a local contractor was received to do this work and puts the project at \$120,000 over budget. Another cost that cannot be nailed down from Eversource is being estimated at \$480,000, but Eversource states that it could be \$480,000 plus or minus 45%. The original quote stated that the Town would pay 12.3 cents per kilowatt, but that will now increase to 13 cents per kilowatt because of the unexpected costs, but that may be lowered if Eversource confirms an amount less than \$480,000.
- D. N. Lafayette explained that he toured the school with Bill Birch and three electrical engineers; all three engineers recommended not replacing the switch gears because they are fuses rather than circuit breakers, which is a better system than anything that could be purchased now. The switch gears are instead going to be refurbished, and the school will be given a case of replacement fuses. Also, a third party engineer will sign-off and certify the switch gears for another 20 years.

VIII. Road Updates

- A. P. Lenky stated that Ballard Rd., Azud Rd., and Hill Rd. have all been paved, and paving at the Lots is proceeding. He stated that when the company paving at the Lots runs into a problem, they notify the Town Highway Department. A stone the size of a refrigerator was found under Vandall St., and the Highway Department dug it out. Roadside mowing is continuing in the Quaddick area. 154 out-fall pipes are in Town, going into streams or rivers, and 141 need minor to major repair; some haven't been touched in 5 to 7 years. Also, out of the 17 bridges, 8 need minor to moderate repair. P. Lenky added that the Wetlands Permit for the Quaddick Rd. Bridge has been sent to the State for review.

IX. Other Business

- A. Approve Release of the Bond to Pine Sand and Gravel
 - 1. P. Lenky explained that Pine Sand and Gravel (PSG) went to PZC for a gravel permit, and PZC required a scrubber pad at the end of the road. There was a problem because of an incline, so it was suggested that PSG pave 60 feet and put an 80 feet scrubber pad below, which benefited the Town. A \$750 bond was requested, but PSG gave \$2,000.
 - 2. **Kerstin Forrester moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to approve the release of the bond to Pine Sand and Gravel in the amount of \$2,000.**
Kerstin Forrester- Yes Paul Lenky- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.

- X. Citizens' Comments on Agenda (Limit 3 Minutes)
- A. Kevin Walsh, Blain Rd., asked how deep the testing will go in regards to agenda item 6. P. Lenky answered that the State has specific standards that will have to be followed. K. Walsh asked if this will be enough money to complete the project from start to finish. K. Forrester explained that there was discussion about whether or not the grant would be enough to cover the full project, but the bids from the companies received indicate that they will be able to complete the project at their specified quotes.
- XI. Tax Refunds
- A. **Kerstin Forrester moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to approve the following tax refunds:**
1. Harvey E. and Dena S. Baskin- \$50.44
 2. Harvey E. Baskin- \$52.97
 3. Donald A. Bernklow- \$11.24 and \$7.81
 4. Laura W. Bond- \$4.76
 5. Heidi Bouchard and Albert J. Martin, Jr.- \$2,041.38
 6. David Deparasis- \$39.93
 7. Timothy A. Ducat- \$4.78
 8. Mitchell R. and Mary Jo Magoffin- \$9.57, \$6.92, and \$11.30
 9. Jacklyn M. Pimental- \$9.40
 10. William Ormerod- \$34.97
 11. Brian M. Austin- \$18.53
- Kerstin Forrester- Yes Paul Lenky- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes
- The motion carried unanimously.**
- XII. Adjourn
- A. **Shaina Smith moved and Kerstin Forrester 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 8:13 PM.

Tina Fox
Recording Secretary