



TOWN of THOMPSON

Board of Selectmen

**Minutes: Regular Meeting
Tuesday, October 20, 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 September 15, 2015 regular meeting with the following corrections:**

1. Page 4, Section VI(C): "...if the Town..." rather than "...of the Town..."
2. Page 5, Section VIII(C)(2): "...time frame..." rather than "...time frae..."
3. Page 2, Section II(B): Add a number 5 that explains S. Smith mentioned a letter from an attorney (Kenneth R. Slater, Jr.) from Starr Rd. and asked if it would be read under correspondence.
4. Page 5, Section IX(B): First sentence should read: "S. Smith asked what the reason for this request being on the agenda was."
5. Page 6, Section XII(A): Clarification that 'an attorney' refers to Attorney Kenneth R. Slater, Jr.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

B. **Kerstin Forrester moved and Paul Lenky seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the October 14, 2015 special meeting as written.**

1. S. Smith stated that the question she asked on Page 1, Section 3(C) was not about signatures, but about overseeing the project. K. Forrester disagreed. S. Smith suggested that she begin recording Special Meetings.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

C. **Kerstin Forrester moved and Paul Lenky seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the October 19, 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. Emails from Steve Benoit regarding the Emergency Management and Homeland Security.
2. Request from Noel Lafayette to meet with Board of Education Finance Subcommittee.
3. Email from Steve Benoit regarding youth mental health first aid course.
4. Tax Collector's report period ending September 2015.

B. S. Smith presented the following correspondence:

1. Letter from Brian Walker, a volunteer firefighter, asking about the stipulations for taxes for the firemen, as well as follow-up information. S. Smith stated that she is looking for some way the Town could recognize our volunteers. K. Forrester explained that the ordinance that has been in place since 2004 is clear as to the eligibility requirements. She stated that Brian Walker has never been recommended by the Fire Chief, and the Fire Chief says he does not meet the requirements. She added that the fact that Brian Walker owes a significant amount of back taxes makes him not eligible for the tax abatement.

C. P. Lenky presented the following correspondence:

1. Letter to Second and Third Selectman from First Selectman and Leo Adams, indicating that they looked over the storm drains at the Lots that were damaged and indicated to the paving company that they did not need to cut around them because they were going to be replaced anyway.
2. Northeast Chamber of Commerce Health and Wellness notification.
3. Joe Lindley will be making a presentation at the Library on October 21, 2015.
4. Library is hiring for a Library Assistant for Tech Services.
5. Thompson Together raised over \$2,300 for the yard sale they had.

III. Selectmen's Comments

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

1. Jim Stratos has been contacted about upgrading the website.
2. The Library is hiring for a tech assistant because the woman who had been serving that position passed away very suddenly.

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

1. S. Smith asked if she does not need to share the pictures of the catch basins at the Lots because the Town is not looking for reimbursement.
2. S. Smith asked if Attorney St. Onge had been asked for his opinion regarding Attorney Slater's correspondence to the Board, to which P. Lenky answered that Attorney St. Onge will be responding.
3. S. Smith asked about the Public Hearing scheduled for October 21, 2015. K. Forrester answered that the Public Hearing was not set, and P. Lenky explained that Attorney St. Onge advised against having a Public Hearing.
4. S. Smith asked if the ordinances were up online and what other venues would be utilized to get the notice of Town Meeting to the public. P. Lenky answered that they were not on the website yet because they were just received late that day from Attorney St. Onge, and said that they will be available in Town Hall, and a notice will be published.

- C. P. Lenky had no Selectman's Comments.
- IV. Citizens' Comments (Limit 3 Minutes)
- A. Al Landry, 33 Randall, asked if the Transfer Station Committee will be allowed to speak later in the agenda when the Board discusses the Transfer Station Permits, to which P. Lenky answered affirmatively.
 - B. Steve Benoit, Emergency Management, mentioned that the Town had been granted \$36,744.47 from FEMA for the January snow storm. He stated that there is a State-wide drill the following day that the school did not want to participate in because the administration was too busy, but that Marianapolis Prep agreed to participate. He thanked Dianna Rebello, Paula Leblanc and Orla McKiernan-Rafferty for the teamwork in getting the FEMA reimbursement.
 - C. Kevin Walsh, Blain Rd., clarified that there was no Public Hearing the following day, and asked when the ordinances will be available online. P. Lenky answered that they will tell Jim Stratos they have to be online by Thursday.
 - D. Al Landry, 33 Randall, commended Marianapolis Prep for participating in the drill.
 - E. Ken Beausoleil, Walker Dr., asked if the additional work at the Lots is part of the contract with the paving company. P. Lenky answered that it is not because he did not want the Town to pay an extra \$45,000 to have it done improperly again.
- V. Shawn Johnston- Eversource Energy Clean Energy Communities Program
- A. Shawn Johnston explained that less than a year ago, the Town was asked to join the Clean Energy Communities Program. The BOS and Mary Ann Chinatti worked very hard and the Town is now eligible for a \$5,000 grant. The Town was presented with an award of achievement at bronze level. S. Johnston explained that the grant can be used for any energy efficiency project, including the lighting retrofit that the BOS has been looking into.
- VI. 630 Riverside Drive Brownfield Project Update- Wayne Budgen
- A. Wayne Budgen, Director of Environmental Services for CME Associates, gave an update regarding the Brownfield Project. He explained that there are three phases. Phase 1 is a paper study to identify areas of concern, and speak to people who are knowledgeable about the property. Phase 2 takes samples of the area. Phase 3 defines how big and bad the contamination is by analyzing the data from the samples. They are looking to combine phase 2 and 3 so that while data from samples is coming back from phase 2, they can continue to take more samples elsewhere. At the end of Phase 3, a remedial action plan is produced. He stated that Town input is important, so they would like to hold a public meeting after phase 1 is completed. He explained that the study conducted several years ago was not detailed, and was just an investigation of available files.
 - B. S. Smith asked if adding the third phase will cost additional money. W. Budgen explained that they will prioritize which areas to analyze, so that if the grant money runs out, the highest priority areas will have already been analyzed, and explained that the company will make every effort to ensure that everything gets done within the grant amount. Mary Ann Chinatti stated that CME's bid already combined phases 2 and 3, and the bid said they would not exceed the grant funds. W. Budgen explained that the remedial action plan cannot be produced without a phase 3.

- VII. Requisition to set Town Meeting for Ordinances, Land Easements and Acquisitions
- A. P. Lenky read the Call to Town Meeting/resolution aloud.
- B. **Kerstin Forrester moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to approve the resolution for Town Meeting as read.**
1. S. Smith stated that she thought the Town Meeting was just for the proposed ordinances, to which P. Lenky answered that it was also for the easements and acquisitions.
 2. S. Smith stated that from her perspective, her vote was to authorize to set a Town Meeting date for the ordinances only and she felt uncomfortable with the additions. She stated that she does not want to feel like she was voting under false pretenses, and that there was nothing in the minutes of that meeting indicating that the Town Meeting was for anything other than ordinances.
 3. Tina Fox read a quote from her notes from the previous meeting where P. Lenky had stated the Town Meeting would involve "6 or 7 ordinances, 3 land donations, 5 or 6 easements."
- Kerstin Forrester- Yes Paul Lenky- Yes Shaina Smith- Abstain (for reasons previously stated)
- The motion carried.**
- VIII. Disabled Resident Transfer Station Permit
- A. P. Lenky read a letter from Sara Laughlin regarding the Transfer Station Permit fee being reduced for disabled residents. K. Forrester explained that the BOS did make a motion to reduce the fee, but it was rescinded later, and that the BOS agreed there was a lot of information that needed to be looked at.
- B. Karen Durlach explained some of the concerns: 1) They do not know approximately how many people may apply for the reduced fee, so they do not know how it will effect the budget; 2) They need a consistent way to define who is disabled; 3) There has been no answer as to whether the disabled residents make less garbage or have lower income; 4) They will have to raise the rates for everyone else, including other low income families, to accommodate the new fee; 5) There is no handicap access at the Transfer Station.
- C. Al Landry stated that he thinks disability should be determined by the Social Security Administration, which is the guideline used in the Assessor's Office. He stated that if a person requests two stickers, only the first should be at a reduced cost. He added that the head of the household should have to apply for the permit even if they are not the person who physically brings the trash to the Transfer Station.
- D. Mike Fashola, Mountain Hill Rd., stated that he is on a fixed income and Social Security Income (SSI) is not increasing their payments. Taxes and electricity costs are going up, but not SSI. He stated that he takes the trash to the dump and he feels the permit cost is too much for just one vehicle from a two person family because they do not accumulate much trash. He stated that he feels the people who need help most are not getting it.
- E. K. Forrester agreed to get the information regarding disabled residents from the Assessor's Office, and S. Smith agreed to get the information regarding Killingly Transfer Station Permit fees (because Killingly offers a reduced rate to disabled residents).

- IX. Approval for transferring funds from West Thompson Fire Department Roof Project to Road Paving
- A. P. Lenky explained that this was approved by the BOF at their last meeting, and the BOS needs to officially approve it as well.
- B. **Kerstin Forrester moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to approve the transfer of funds from West Thompson Fire Department Roof Project to Road Paving in the amount of \$150,000.**
Kerstin Forrester- Yes Paul Lenky- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.
- X. Budget Transfers for year end Fiscal 2015
1. K. Forrester read aloud and explained some of the significant amounts to be transferred. A large amount was due to the Union Agreement not being settled until after the budget passed. Town Counsel exceeded \$16,974 due in part to Union negotiations. \$10,377 for truck repair parts. \$16,000 for snow removal overtime. \$78,000 for snow removal, salt, and sand.
2. **Kerstin Forrester moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to approve the budget transfers for fiscal year 2015 as presented.**
Kerstin Forrester- Yes Paul Lenky- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.
3. K. Forrester added that this is a normal accounting adjustment that is done at the end of each year.
- XI. Approve Girl Scout Cookie Sales at the Transfer Station
1. P. Lenky read a letter from a Girl Scout Troop asking to sell cookies at the Transfer Station on Saturday, November 7, 2015 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM.
2. **Shaina Smith moved and Kerstin Forrester seconded the motion to approve Girl Scout Cookie Sales at the Transfer Station on November 7, 2015.**
Kerstin Forrester- Yes Paul Lenky- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.
3. S. Smith asked that they provide their insurance and liability to the Town.
- XII. Road Updates
- A. P. Lenky stated that the Lots have been paved. Ballard, Azud, Buck Hill and Reardon received a base coat, totaling 6.5 miles. The Town is renting a piece of equipment with a hammer to break off crops of stone that are blocking roads/site lines at a cost of \$1,675 to rent for seven days. Berms are going to be completed on Buck Hill, Chase, and the Lots.
- XIII. Other Business: None
- XIV. Citizens' Comments on Agenda (Limit 3 Minutes)
- A. Linda Jarmolowicz, 7 Denis Dr., stated that she is shocked to see the Ethics Code and Blight Ordinance being brought to Town Meeting because there were a lot of unanswered questions and the Ordinance Committee was not done with their review. She stated that they are bypassing the Ordinance Committee.
- B. Joe Gaucher, 519 Riverside Dr., asked what the Belding bridge is rated for because big tandem trucks loaded with gravel go over it. P. Lenky agreed to look into it. J. Gaucher added that the bridge's weight limit should be posted.

- C. Kevin Walsh, Blain Rd., asked what the screening process is when someone wants to donate land to the Town so that "the Town doesn't end up owning a piece of property that is glowing at night." He stated that it seems like a lot of stuff is being coat-tailed into the Town Meeting.
- D. Don Pimental, 40 Starr Rd., asked if someone is going to explain what an easement is, because he thinks the Town already owns two of the properties included in the Town Meeting. P. Lenky answered that land easements are restrictions that are put on a property, and that it is written on the easements.
- E. Karen Durlach, 94 Tuft Hill, stated that she is concerned that all of these things are going to Town Meeting when there is no public hearing. She asked about stone dust on the airline trail, to which P. Lenky answered that it is going to be considered in November.
- F. Al Landry, 33 Randall, stated that the small building in front of the old Belding Corticelli mill should be donated to the Town and turned into a visitor's center. He stated it is right in the center of Town and there could be information about TEEG, the school, etc. Local businesses could buy spots to advertise. P. Lenky explained that it would be up to the property owner.
- G. Mike Fashola, 17 Mountain Hill Rd., asked if he could talk about lighting on his street. S. Smith explained that these are supposed to be Citizen's Comments on agenda items, and recommended he send the BOS an email.
- H. Kevin Walsh, Blain Rd., also attempted to talk about lighting issues. P. Lenky explained that these are supposed to be Citizen's Comments on agenda items. K. Walsh asked if there is any indication that the lower field at the Belding property will be subjected to testing as well, to which P. Lenky answered that all of the property will be tested. K. Walsh asked if the baseball field is Town property, to which P. Lenky answered negatively.

XV. Tax Refunds

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

| | | |
|-----|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. | Rita Barthelet | \$24.80 |
| 2. | Cynthia L. Bates | \$84.04 & \$15.70 |
| 3. | Davis or Elsa C. Burton | \$17.61 |
| 4. | Janice Ann Day | \$122.58 |
| 5. | Paul H. Goulet | \$24.80 |
| 6. | Hyundai Lease Titling | \$399.84 |
| 7. | Claire M. Markov | \$24.80 |
| 8. | Katherine S. Murdock | \$91.85 |
| 9. | Eugene C. Ross | \$24.80 |
| 10. | Kathryn Marie Shevy | \$5.19 |
| 11. | Paul G. and Nancy L. Standrowicz | \$79.41 |
| 12. | Lorna K. Wilson | \$24.80 |

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

The motion carried unanimously.

XVI. 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 8:36 PM.

Tina Fox

Recording Secretary