



# **TOWN of THOMPSON**

## ***Board of Selectmen***

**Minutes: Special Meeting  
Wednesday, November 4, 2015  
Thompson Library/Community Center**

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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 October 20, 2015 regular meeting with the following corrections:**

1. Page 1, Section I (B)(1): S. Smith suggested the Board beginning recoding Special Meetings.
2. Page 3, Section IV(B): "...administrators were too busy..." rather than "...administration was too busy..."
3. Page 4, Section VIII(B): Include Karen Durlach's title, which is Transfer Station Advisory Committee Member.
4. Page 2, Section III(B)(3): Add that S. Smith's understanding was that the Board was not seeking legal opinion as to whether the Board should have a public hearing, but rather the legal obligations to post and advertise for the public hearing.

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 27, 2015 special meeting with the following corrections:**

1. Page 1, Second Paragraph: "A. Boutaugh" rather than "A. Burtaugh."
2. Page 1, Second Paragraph: Board also gave permission for Bob LaChance to ask questions of interviewees.

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

**The motion carried unanimously.**

II. Correspondence

A. K. Forrester presented the following correspondence:

1. Pricing information regarding CLEAResult updating the outdoor lighting at the Library/Community Center.
2. Email from Ken Weinstock regarding petition of declaratory ruling regarding pensions.

3. Email from Jared Henshaw regarding bid on replacing gas tanks at Town Garage.
  - B. S. Smith had no correspondence to present.
  - C. P. Lenky presented the following correspondence:
    1. Letter from Attorney St. Onge regarding a possible joint lawsuit with the school re: the oil tank remediation.
    2. Dudley Police Chief Steve Wajner would like to do a mutual aid agreement.
    3. The Town was previously awarded \$4,158 from the Pilot Program, and is now being awarded another \$354.
    4. UCONN Engineering will be at Town Hall on November 5<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 Pm to discuss the boat/kayak ramp, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM to discuss the 193/395 interchange, and November 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM to discuss the Reardon Rd./Route 12 sewer project.
- III. Selectmen's Comments
- A. K. Forrester presented the following Selectman's Comments:
    1. Regarding an email S. Smith sent to Brian Walker discussed at the last meeting, K. Forrester asked S. Smith how she followed-up with the situation. K. Forrester stated that he accused the Board of treating him unfairly, and that the accusations were unfounded and he should be aware of that. S. Smith stated the she will follow up with Brian Walker. K. Forrester asked for copies of that correspondence.
    2. K. Forrester asked about the crops of stone being hammered because Fabyan-Woodstock Rd. wasn't done. P. Lenky answered that the Highway Department will do Fabyan-Woodstock Rd. with a jack hammer and Blain Rd. with a backhoe. For Wilsonville Rd., they are going to look into renting the equipment again.
    3. K. Forrester asked about the weight limit on Belding Bridge, brought up by Joe Gaucher at the previous meeting. P. Lenky stated that the State hasn't set a weight limit on it.
  - B. S. Smith presented the following Selectman's Comments:
    1. Belding-Corticelli Committee will hold a meeting Thursday, November 5, 2015 at 7:00 PM at the Library regarding the Brownfield Grant.
    2. S. Smith asked if the State provides signs for bridges, to which P. Lenky answered that if the State provides a weight limit, the Town must put the signs up.
    3. S. Smith thanked everyone who exercised their right to vote on Election Day, which had a 46% voter turn-out. K. Forrester believed that the figure was actually 41%.
  - C. P. Lenky presented the following Selectman's Comments:
    1. P. Lenky thanked S. Smith for the two years of service for the Town, and wished her luck in her upcoming service.
    2. P. Lenky thanked K. Forrester for being a great help in moving the Town forward, and doing much more than is asked for of a second Selectman.
    3. P. Lenky thanked other Boards and Commissions for everything they've provided and recapped the year's accomplishments as follows:



- a. Recovered \$150,000 for the West Thompson Fire Department roof.
  - b. Moved forward with the Marianapolis Sewer project.
  - c. Moved forward with the Quaddick Road Bridge, to be finalized this spring.
  - d. Resolved issues with Thompson Rail Business Park to bring new business into Town.
  - e. Dollar General is in the process of getting their building up.
  - f. Worked with Eversource to get three phase power to the Industrial park.
  - g. Dunkin Donuts has plans to move forward with their location on Thatcher Rd.
  - h. Renovation of the Old Quinn Shirt Shop is to begin.
  - i. Completed curbing at Thompson Library/Community Center.
  - j. Paved 6 ¾ miles of roads.
  - k. Acquired Hummer for Emergency Management.
  - l. Acquired generator for TEEG.
  - m. Had material donated to save the Recreation Department money for Riverside Park.
  - n. Had concrete donated for playground equipment at Rivermill Village.
  - o. Thompson Electrical is working on the lighting at Rivermill Village.
  - p. Updated to a new phone system at Town Hall.
  - q. Moved forward with work for Blain Rd. Footbridge.
  - r. Received Brownfield Grants.
- 4. P. Lenky reiterated that UCONN engineering will be doing work with the new administration on various projects.
  - 5. Three roads of priority were discussed with the incoming First Selectman: Line House Rd., Fabyan Rd., and Porter Plain Rd.

#### IV. Citizens' Comments (Limit 3 Minutes)

- A. Al Landry, 33 Randall, extended a good luck to the Board in their further endeavors.
- B. Mike Fashauer, Mountain Hill Rd., asked about street lighting. He said he spoke with "Mr. Johnson" who admits there is inadequate lighting, but in order for a street light to be installed, he would have to pay for it himself. He stated that there is plenty of street lights in front of the school, and asked the Board to put some lighting on his street because there are vandals, speeders, and no sidewalks. He stated that "Mr. Johnson" suggested he bring it up with the Board. He explained that he is worried about paying for a Transfer Station 'sticker,' and cannot afford a street light. He stated that he would appreciate if something could be said or passed. He explained that when you come around Red Bridge Rd. to Mountain Hill Rd., it is pitch black, and that someone came out of the woods behind his house. Troop D gave him surveillance cameras, but they don't work because there is 'no lighting,' and it took Troop D almost eight hours to show up when someone slashed a tire. He stated that he doesn't want to live in fear in his home and that he can't afford to put a street light up. He suggested that since there are twenty street lights on Main St., one can be taken down and moved "three streets up."
- C. Don Pimental, 40 Starr Rd., thanked the new administration and stated that he put an ad in the Shopper's Guide to thank everyone for coming out on the October 28<sup>th</sup> meeting for a reason. He explained that he went to the Building Department to pick up 'stuff' about the Blight Ordinance and Lee Post gave him a letter dated October 20, 2015 asking the Building Department to issue a foundation permit to Dollar General upon the Mylars being signed by PZC. He said his problem is that 'we don't give out foundation permits.'

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He stated the letter was "drafted by the First Selectman's Office, brought to the Building Official and says he wrote it; he didn't write it." D. Pimental stated that Lee Post didn't sign it, that 'he' doesn't get a foundation permit, and this is what D. Pimental wants to stop from happening in the next administration. P. Lenky explained that he was asked to send a letter to the Building Official because the Mylars for the Dollar General project didn't get signed; all Dollar General wanted to do was move forward. Mr. Post was asked to sign the letter if the Mylars were not signed. It was not illegal, and if Mr. Post did not want to sign it, he didn't have to. If he would have signed it, they could've started digging for the foundation. D. Pimental stated that the right information is that P. Lenky should have never drafted the letter in the first place, and that he is glad the Town has a new First Selectman.

- D. Ray Dewey, 168 Quinebaug Rd., stated that he was upset about the Ethics Code Discussion at the Town Meeting, with one elected official referring to the code as 'crazy, ludicrous and insane' which he felt reflected poorly on himself. He stated that he (the elected official) was trying to inflame the public. The elected official stated that the code prevented him from accepting flowers from his wife, which was wrong and a fabrication of his imagination. R. Dewey stated that if the elected official had read the code, he would've seen that immediate family is exempt. R. Dewey explained that the elected official said that there is a provision preventing the elected official from speaking to his wife, but that was a twist of logic to use it for married politicians. He explained that first someone would have to file a complaint about the elected official talking to his wife, then the Ethics Committee would have to find a problem/agree with the complaint, and then the Board of Selectmen would have to fine the elected official. He stated that Ethics Codes apply only to government officials, and that there was a calm, intelligent discussion about the proposal for twelve months, but only seven citizens showed up to the meetings to discuss the code. R. Dewey asked if the code was not approved at Town Meeting because of the elected official's fabrication of the code.
- E. Kevin Walsh, Blain Rd., stated that he reviewed the ethics ordinance, and there was good substance, but he had concerns about the front page; K. Walsh felt that rules should apply to everyone, and if they don't apply to everyone, they shouldn't apply to anyone. He asked why the ethics ordinance was never presented to the Ordinance Review Committee. He stated that enough discussion has taken place at BOS meetings on how to handle ordinances, and the process has been documented but not followed. He stated that he does not believe the Blight Ordinance review was completed by the Ordinance Review Committee. K. Forrester explained that in January of 2014, the Board asked for volunteers for an Ethics Committee to draft an Ethics Code, and because the Board specifically charged the task to the committee to draft the policy, they did not send it to the Ordinance Committee. K. Forrester also stated that one person is on both Committees, which posed a conflict of interest. She added that she agreed that the Blight Ordinance should not yet have gone forward to Town Meeting. K. Walsh stated that he is "having a hard time drinking that Kool-aid."
- F. Norma O'Leary thanked all three members of the Board for the job that they've done, and stated that people of the Town do not realize the time that the Board has put in and the problems they've addressed. She thanked P. Lenky especially for coming in "cold turkey, not being a politician." She thanked K. Forrester for going above and beyond her duties and "cleaning up that desk." She then thanked S. Smith for serving the Board.



- G. Kathleen Herbert asked for a copy of Attorney St. Onge's letter (regarding the possible joint lawsuit mentioned during 'Correspondence').
  - H. Alison Boutaugh, Thompson Library, thanked the Board for their service, particularly for those issues at the library. She stated that she appreciates the effort in getting the curbing project done. She asked for clarification regarding the parking lot lights at the library that K. Forrester referred to earlier in the meeting. K. Forrester explained that CLEAResult did a study to look at the efficiency of the lights at Town Hall and the library, including the lights in the library parking lot. At the last BOS meeting, Shawn Johnston presented a \$5,000 grant to the Town to be used for energy efficiency projects, and one of the huge consumers of electricity are the lights in the library parking lot.
  - I. Al Landry, 33 Randall Rd., stated that he is the person who was referred to who is on both the Ethics Committee and Ordinance Review Committee. He explained that he has stated all along that he would not vote on the Ethics Code when it came before the Ordinance Review Committee, and asked why the Board put him on the Ethics Committee if they thought it was a conflict of interest.
- V. Review and Select Engineering Firm for HVAC System at Thompson Public Library/Community Center
- A. **Kerstin Forrester moved and Paul Lenky seconded the motion that the HVAC Engineering at the Library be addressed by the new Board.**
    - 1. K. Forrester explained that everyone who attended the meeting was asked to submit their pros and cons, and that not everyone handed those in yet.
    - 2. S. Smith explained that she did not hand in her pros and cons because Dianna told her there might be new information and to hold off on handing in the notes.Kerstin Forrester- Yes   Paul Lenky- Yes   Shaina Smith- Yes  
**The motion carried unanimously.**
- VI. Disabled Resident Transfer Station Permit
- A. S. Smith explained that Killingly has disabled residents fill out an application form and show their Social Security award letter on an annual basis to receive a discount on their Transfer Station Permit. She stated that she asked about the head of household issue and she was told that whatever vehicle that is driving in to the station has to match the permit. She stated that Killingly is not aware of any issues with that, and that it has been smooth and has been working.
  - B. K. Forrester stated that she got the information regarding disabled Thompson residents from the Assessor and she has not had a chance to analyze it as it is several pages of information. She again recommended that the new Board address the issue.
  - C. S. Smith asked when the Transfer Station Advisory Committee meets. Lynn Landry, Transfer Station Advisory Committee member, stated that they will meet the first Thursday in December.
  - D. **Kerstin Forrester moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to move discussion of the Disabled Transfer Station permits to the next Board.**  
Kerstin Forrester- Yes   Paul Lenky- Yes   Shaina Smith- Yes  
**The motion carried unanimously.**
- VII. Road Updates
- A. P. Lenky stated that they are finishing up on the south end of Reardon Rd., and they will be putting a finishing coat on next spring.

## VIII. Other Business

- A. K. Forrester stated that Litchberg Environmental advised the Town that they are no longer doing well testing, and they gave some recommendations for a new company to do the testing. She stated that she has not had a chance to compare the amount to what was budgeted, but that it is her understanding that it is significantly more than what was budgeted.
- B. S. Smith asked if this was the same company that told the Board it did not need the \$18,000 in the budget for well testing. K. Forrester answered affirmatively, and stated that now the company has pulled out, and the Board budgeted based on what the original company recommended.

## IX. Citizens' Comments on Agenda (Limit 3 Minutes)

- A. Mike Fashauer, Mountain Hill Rd., suggested that the Board increase the price of Transfer Station Permits for seniors and the disabled by \$5 to help off set the discount.
- B. Wayne O'Brien, 108 Fabyan Rd., thanked everyone who voted the day before, and thanked the current Board for their service.
- C. Mike Fashauer, Mountain Hill Rd., asked if the grant from Eversource could be used to put a street light on his street. P. Lenky answered that it has to be used for Town facilities.

## X. Tax Refunds

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

1.	ARI Fleet	\$158.62
2.	Steven R. Freudenthal	\$56.49
3.	Honda Lease Trust	\$537.42
4.	Ashleigh Lafortune	\$9.87
5.	Arthur J. Mansfield	\$24.80
6.	Scott A. and Dawn M. Reynolds	\$16.61
7.	Patricia A. Sargent	\$24.80
8.	Keith B. and Michelle L. Thornton	\$24.80
9.	VW Credit Leasing LTD	\$226.05
10.	Lindsey C. Bates	\$268.56
Kerstin Forrester- Yes		Paul Lenky- Yes
		Shaina Smith- Yes

**The motion carried unanimously.**

## XI. 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 7:57 PM.

Tina Fox  
Recording Secretary