



# **TOWN of THOMPSON**

## ***Board of Selectmen***

**Minutes: Regular Meeting**

**Tuesday, June 16, 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 7:02 PM.

Present: Kerstin Forrester  
Paul Lenky  
Shaina Smith

Staff Present: Tina Fox, Recording Secretary

Also Present: Members of the Public

1. Approval of Minutes

a. **Kerstin Forrester moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the June 2, 2015 meeting with the following corrections:**

1. **Page 2, Section 3(c): Note that it was the *First* Selectman who picked up the *Personnel Director laptop*, rather than just 'Selectman' and 'Executive Assistant laptop.'**
2. **Page 3, Section 3(f): Clarification that S. Smith had stated that there were a lot of people requesting audio on the website, rather than just 'a citizen.'**
3. **Page 4, Section 4(c): Add that Kathleen Herbert handed each Selectman a draft from the Ethics Advisory Committee to review.**

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

**The motion carried unanimously.**

b. **Kerstin Forrester moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the June 11, 2015 7:00 AM special meeting with the following corrections:**

1. **S. Smith made a motion at the end of the meeting for the Ordinance Committee to look into a few different things. Three items: looking into number of members for Boards and Commissions to change even numbers to odd, ordinance regarding Town budget adopted in 1997, and checking into terms of elected officers.**

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

**The motion carried unanimously.**

- c. **Shaina Smith moved and Kerstin Forrester seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the June 11, 2015 9:00 AM special meeting with the following corrections:**
1. **Page 1, third bullet: 'First Selectman' rather than 'First Selectmen.'**
  2. **Under 'Discussion,' S. Smith wanted to add that it was a great learning process and she thought the agreement was fair for all parties involved.**
- Kerstin Forrester- Yes      Paul Lenky- Yes      Shaina Smith- Yes
- The motion carried unanimously.**
2. Correspondence
- a. K. Forrester presented the following correspondence:
1. Report for annual tax abatement programs for the volunteer fire departments from the tax department.
  2. Summary of the survey for the telephone requirements.
  3. Letter to Dr. Jolin and Daniel Pisaturo, Superintendent of Thompson Public Schools and Principal of Tourtellotte Memorial High School respectively, asking them to look into the Communications Academy recording Board meetings.
  4. Emails from Noel Lafayette and Bill Birch regarding the solar farm.
3. Selectmen's Comments
- a. K. Forrester encouraged all citizens to vote during the Referendum. She stated that she received a contract from Service Station Equipment for the fuel tanks at the Town Garage, which is in the process of being reviewed. She explained that interviews are being held for the Assessor's Position on Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, and that there were only two applicants. She stated that the union contract was signed but that the Selectmen put dates on the lines where the union was supposed to sign, so the contract is being resigned. She stated that she sent an email to Jim Stratos to get an activity report for the website. She explained that a job description was completed for summer help for mowing, seeding, weed-whacking, etc., and explained that the former summer help now has a full time job.
- b. K. Forrester asked if the Agriculture Commission was contacted to find out what they wanted when they had requested funds at the previous meeting. P. Lenky answered that they have not yet explained what they wanted.
- c. K. Forrester referred to the previous minutes to note that Ken Beausoleil had stated that the Town should have gone out to bid for cleaning services, that the Board should have discussed it first. She stated that the Board did discuss going out to bid, and that the Board agreed that if Ernie retired, they would go out to bid. P. Lenky added that the previous cleaning service that the Board hired understood that it was only a six month contract, and that the Board would go out to bid at the end of the six month term. S. Smith added that when Ernie submitted his resignation, the Board did discuss at that meeting advertising for cleaning services.
- d. K. Forrester mentioned that the Board did agree to advertise for the Assessor's Position. She added that even though the job was posted on the State website, the State Assessor's website, and the Shopper's Guide, the Board only received two applications. She stated that Ken Beausoleil also stated during Citizen's Comments that the phone contract should have been discussed at an open meeting. K. Forrester stated that it was discussed at an open meeting, that the

Board had two special meetings with the vendors, and sent out a phone survey in Town Hall.

- e. K. Forrester stated that the Board had asked the Recreation Director to give the Board a list of positions that each person was being hired for on the summer hiring list at the previous meeting, and that she did not receive the list yet.
  - f. S. Smith asked if the Hazardous Waste Day was being advertised. P. Lenky answered that there are signs being put up around town, and flyers being handed out.
  - g. S. Smith asked if Attorney St. Onge had been contacted regarding the ZEO position. P. Lenky answered that he has a meeting with Attorney St. Onge for 1:00 PM the following day, Wednesday, June 17<sup>th</sup>.
  - h. P. Lenky stated that only one bid was received for the sidewalk curbing at the library. He also stated that he had a meeting to discuss the Marianapolis Sewer Project, which was delayed briefly because of weather and a blow-out.
4. Citizen's Comments (Limit 3 minutes)
- a. Don Pimental, 40 Starr Rd., stated that his father received a copy of the July 29<sup>th</sup> document on Thursday, June 11, 2015 that was different than the copy that Paul Baer received. He stated that both documents should be identical and that he brought them in for the Selectmen to see. He stated that one has handwriting on it and the other doesn't. He also stated that Jeff Barske sent an email to the State requesting the 2013 document, which is how the document ended up in the Town Clerk's office.
  - b. Sally White, East Thompson, stated that for several years, there has been activity of selling used cars on Thompson Hill at 361 Thompson Rd. She stated that they've sold 30-40 cars on the front lawn, most of them with no plates, and some with Massachusetts plates. She stated that another citizen went to the Selectman's Office to ask for assistance on the matter and no one seems willing to address it, including Alvan Hill. She added that Thompson Hill is not what it once was and that the last thing we need is a used car lot near four corners. She stated that it is her understanding that we have a right to sell our own car, but that this is an ongoing business, and it's quite ugly. She mentioned that it is her understanding that Alvan Hill has refused to address the issue. She added that she hopes the Town will be responsible and take care of the problem.
  - c. Kevin Walsh, Blain Rd., mentioned an interview that K. Forrester did with WINY that was posted on June 9<sup>th</sup> in regards to the document in Town Hall where K. Forrester stated: "Does this warrant bringing in an investigator? Maybe it does." He stated that he and others have repeatedly suggested bringing in an outside agency to straighten this out. He stated that he does not see this being resolved and going away. He stated that the Board is running out of people it's trying to tie the document to. He asked that the Board, based on several requests from the community and K. Forrester's quoted statement, please let the citizens know if there will be some sort of formal investigation regarding this issue.
5. Ethics Advisory Committee
- a. Kathleen Herbert spoke on behalf of the Ethics Advisory Committee (EAC), concluding with a request that the Board of Selectmen adopt the code of ethics that they were presented.
  - b. K. Forrester stated that the EAC did a very thorough job, and asked questions to clarify certain areas of the draft.

- c. K. Herbert explained that an Ethics Advisory Board would be appointed by and report to the Board of Selectmen (BOS). She added that they have been looking into how the State and other towns find independent, unbiased members to be elected by the BOS, and that they will follow up with more information at a later date.
  - d. S. Smith stated that she thought the individuals would be elected, and K. Herbert explained that they must be appointed, and added that some towns require five members, but that it will be difficult to find five qualified, unaffiliated people in Thompson. K. Forrester suggested that there be a minimum of three members, but the ability to have five if the spaces can be filled.
  - e. K. Herbert, after being asked for clarification from S. Smith, explained that the Board of Education and Planning and Zoning Commission both have a state agency that governs them, so the code will not be applicable to them.
  - f. S. Smith asked who should bring a problem to the attention of the EAC, to which K. Herbert explained that anyone can file a complaint. S. Smith asked why the EAC did not seem inclined to have an Ethics Officer. K. Herbert explained that it would have to be a paid position, which would have budget concerns. K. Herbert further explained that a current employee at Town Hall could not also be the Ethics Officer because the person needs to be independent.
  - g. K. Herbert stated that the principal goal is to further the public trust, so the more independent the Commission is, the more people will trust their findings. She explained that the BOS would have the final say, and that the EAC would not have authority to reprimand/suspend someone, only the First Selectman does.
  - h. K. Herbert agreed to look into whether other towns establish a code of ethics as an ordinance or just a code, whether other towns utilize social media like Facebook and Twitter, and how other towns establish an EAC.
6. Decide on Janitorial Bids
- a. The Board briefly discussed the janitorial bids summarized on a spreadsheet.
  - b. **Kerstin Forrester moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to offer a one year contract to RK Pellerin of Grosvenordale at \$693.34 per month.**  
Kerstin Forrester- Yes      Paul Lenky- Yes      Shaina Smith- Yes  
**The motion carried unanimously.**
7. File Access Procedure
- a. S. Smith explained that she drafted a policy concerning public records based on another town's policy.
  - b. K. Forrester stated that the draft was very thorough. She stated that under number 3, Definition of Public Records, the word 'tapes' should be changed to 'recordings.' She also stated that applications for employment are HIPPA protected, and that the only application that can be revealed is the person who accepts the job. K. Forrester asked about number 6 'Work Product,' to which S. Smith stated that she would look into that. K. Forrester stated that 'Custodian' should be expanded on.
  - c. K. Forrester stated that it should be very clear that people cannot make copies themselves. She stated that 'Exempt Records' needs a clearer definition, perhaps with a list of what records are exempt.
  - d. S. Smith stated that the state library has a municipal records retention schedule that should be put on the website so that it is available for residents. K. Forrester added that it would be good to have available for employees as well.
  - e. The Board agreed to have a continuation of the discussion on the next agenda.

## 8. Appointments

- a. **Kerstin Forrester moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to accept the appointment of Brett Jacobson as an Alternate to the Fire Protection Advisory Committee.**

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

**The motion carried unanimously.**

- b. For clarification purposes, K. Forrester added that this is for the East Thompson Volunteer Fire Department.

- c. **Kerstin Forrester moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to accept the appointment of Logan Miller to the Special Fire/Police.**

1. K. Forrester stated that Logan Miller is a Town employee, which could cause problems. She suggested looking into if Thompson has had other special fire/police that were also Town employees.

2. S. Smith suggested getting a list of special fire/police from Dianna Rebello.

Kerstin Forrester- No      Paul Lenky- No      Shaina Smith- No

**The motion failed.**

## 9. Eversource

- a. P. Lenky mentioned that the Town demoed the machine the previous week. He stated that if the Town chooses the used machine, it would lose a year on the warranty. If the Town chooses the new machine, they would receive \$25,135.36 reimbursement from Eversource per year.
- b. K. Forrester stated that the Board needs to find out if the purchase has to go to Town meeting. P. Lenky stated that he would ask Attorney St. Onge whether or not it would have to go to Town meeting.
- c. The Board agreed to table the discussion.

## 10. Road Updates

- a. P. Lenky stated that road crews are still doing street sweeping, and would be mowing on the sides of roads. He stated that Buck Hill is not finished, that the pavers are ready to go, but that they need good weather.

## 11. Other Business

## 12. Citizens' Comments on Agenda

- a. Kevin Walsh, Blain Rd., asked how the EAC project will go forward. P. Lenky answered that it will go to Town Meeting if the ethics code is considered an ordinance. K. Walsh asked that residents have ample time to review the code beforehand. He sought clarification about having a commission that is apolitical reporting to the BOS who would have final say and authority. He stated that an apolitical commission would be presenting their findings to a political body.
- b. Sharon Recore, 46 Townes Lane, asked when the Quaddick Road Bridge would be finished because it is very dangerous. P. Lenky stated that it will hopefully start the first week of August, but that it all depends on how fast the State reacts now.
- c. Ken Beausoleil, Walker Dr., asked for a copy of the ethics draft that the Board received so that the resident's can comment on it. He asked what would happen if there is an ethics charge against the BOS; he asked who would issue penalties if a selectman is in violation of the ethics code.
- d. Kevin Walsh, Blain Rd., asked that the ethics code draft be put up on the website.

13. Tax Refunds

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

1) Michael J. Caron: \$2.69

2) Waylon J. Kimball: \$137.22, \$134.52, and \$80.80

Kerstin Forrester- Yes

Paul Lenky- Yes

Shaina Smith- Yes

**The motion carried unanimously.**

14. 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 8:39 PM.

Tina Fox

Recording Secretary