



## SELECTMEN'S MEETING

### March 13, 2007

The Board of Selectmen held a Selectmen's Meeting on Tuesday, March 13, 2007, at 7:30 p.m. in the Merrill Seney Community Room.

**PRESENT:** A. David Babbitt, First Selectman; Kathleen A. Hiatt, Selectman; Lawrence K. Groh, Jr., Selectman; Leo Adams; Art Stone, AIC; Al Landry; Charles DeVivo; Kevin Curley – Thompson Villager; several members of the Girl Scout troops in Thompson; other concerned citizens

The Girl Scouts performed an opening flag ceremony, presented the colors and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Babbitt, to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2007 as corrected.*

<i>Ms. Hiatt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Babbitt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Abstain</i>

*Motion made by Mr. Babbitt, seconded by Ms. Hiatt, to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2007 Special Selectmen's meeting, the February 23, 2007 Special Selectmen's meeting, the February 26, 2007 Special Selectmen's meeting, the February 28, 2007 Special Selectmen's meeting, the March 1, 2007 Special Selectmen's meeting, the March 2, 2007 Special Selectmen's meeting and the March 5, 2007 Special Selectmen's meeting as presented.*

<i>Mr. Babbitt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Ms. Hiatt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Abstain</i>

*Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Babbitt, to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2007 Selectmen's meeting with one correction.*

<i>Ms. Hiatt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Babbitt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

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*Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Babbitt, to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2007 Special Selectmen's meeting as presented.*

<i>Ms. Hiatt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Babbitt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Abstain</i>

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

- Mr. Babbitt presented correspondence in regard to a gentlemen trying to sell books.
- Mr. Babbitt presented correspondence from the State of Connecticut in regard to Peter Vangel's project.
- Mr. Babbitt presented a flyer from Day Kimball Hospital in regard to the Deary Memorial Road Race.
- Mr. Babbitt presented an invitation to the legislative breakfast with Joseph Courtney on April 4, 2007.
- Mr. Babbitt presented correspondence from the Safety Committee in regard to the distribution of hand sanitizers.
- Mr. Babbitt presented correspondence from the American Red Cross thanking the Town for using the facilities for a blood drive.
- Mr. Babbitt presented correspondence in regard to Fairway Farms and the approval of mylars.
- Mr. Babbitt presented correspondence that was sent to the Tax Collector's Office from the Selectmen's Office.
- Mr. Babbitt presented correspondence in regard to the \$13,000,000.00 bond sale on March 7, 2007 for the School Building project. Mr. Babbitt stated that the Town received a very good rate.
- Mr. Babbitt presented correspondence in regard to LOCIP funding which is used for roads.
- Mr. Babbitt presented correspondence from the Republican Town Committee in regard to the proposal for appointing constables instead of electing them. Mr. Babbitt stated the Republican Town Committee is endorsing the proposal.
- Mr. Babbitt asked to add an agenda item under Other Business in regard to the hiring of Recording Secretaries.

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*Motion made by Mr. Babbitt, seconded by Ms. Hiatt, to add the hiring of Recording Secretaries to the agenda under Other Business.*

<i>Mr. Babbitt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Ms. Hiatt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

#### **SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS**

- Mr. Babbitt commented that he met with Senator Williams and other representatives from Northeastern Connecticut.
- Mr. Babbitt commented that there have been several Special Selectmen's meetings regarding the budget and union negotiations.
- Mr. Babbitt commented that there have been meetings with the new owner of the Grosvenordale Mill property and the old Quinn's Shirt Shop. Mr. Babbitt also stated that there are negotiations going on regarding the purchase of the Rivermill.
- Mr. Babbitt commented that the Town is still pursuing the issue with junk vehicles which have included court trials.
- Mr. Babbitt commented that he attended a NECCOG meeting last night and discussed things such as the budget.
- Mr. Babbitt commented that the Board has hired a new Recording Secretary for Planning & Zoning, Zoning Board of Appeals and Economic Development.
- Mr. Babbitt commented that he has attended meetings with the Department of Public Safety in regard to the Quinebaug Firehouse project.
- Mr. Babbitt commented that there will be negotiations beginning with the union in the Town Hall.
- Mr. Babbitt commented that there will be a Board of Finance presentation on Thursday and a Town Meeting on Wednesday at 8:00 p.m.
- Mr. Babbitt commented that Michelle Bourgois attended her first meeting with the Mystic Country Tourism District.
- Mr. Groh apologized for not attending recent meetings due to personal reasons. Mr. Groh thanked Ms. Hiatt for keeping him informed on what has been going on and stated that he appreciated the time she took in doing so.

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## CITIZENS COMMENTS

- Mr. Landry requested to make a comment under Other Business.

## GIRL SCOUT PROCLAMATION PRESENTATION

Mr. Babbitt announced that the Board would be presenting the proclamation to the Girl Scouts that the Board signed at their last meeting. Mr. Babbitt introduced Selectman Kathleen Hiatt who was a Girl Scout. Ms. Hiatt presented the proclamation to the Girl Scouts in attendance.

## PERCEPTION PROGRAMS, INC.

Art Stone from the Alternative Incarceration Center provided information to the Board in regard to the community service opportunities available through Perception Programs, Inc.

The Board asked questions in regard to the types of community service workers that Perception Programs, Inc. provides and whether or not the Town can reject certain workers. A brief discussion followed.

*Motion made by Mr. Babbitt, seconded by Ms. Hiatt, to go forward with utilizing the program.*

<i>Mr. Babbitt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Ms. Hiatt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

## SELECTMEN'S BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR FY 2008 DISCUSSION

Mr. Babbitt explained that he added this agenda item to give Mr. Groh an opportunity to discuss the budget. Mr. Groh responded that because he had not attended the meetings that he was going to hold any comments in regard to the budget.

Ms. Hiatt explained that there was one position in Town that the Board had agreed to cut three hours from a position at the Town Hall. Ms. Hiatt explained that the position serves two different offices and would like to add back an hour to one of the offices.

*Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Babbitt, to amend the budget submission to the Board of Finance to include a two-hour cut to the position in question as opposed to a three-hour cut.*

<i>Ms. Hiatt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Babbitt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

Discussion on Motion: - Mr. Groh stated that he did know about this budget decision and questioned if the addition of the hour was for busy purposes or a legitimate need. Ms. Hiatt responded that the supervisor stated that it is for a legitimate need.

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## EXECUTIVE SESSION – PERSONNEL MATTER

Mr. Babbitt explained that this Executive Session is no longer required.

### TAX REFUNDS (3)

*Motion made by Mr. Babbitt, seconded by Ms. Hiatt, to refund the following overpayments as recommended by the Tax Collector, Rene Morin.*

-Tonya C & Allan E Levesque	-\$655.52
-Richard F Mead III	-\$41.24
-Mary E Witkowski-Jones	-\$133.27

<i>Mr. Babbitt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Ms. Hiatt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

### OTHER BUSINESS

#### Approval of New Hires – Diana Traynor & Judith Hoyt

*Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, to hire Judith Hoyt as the Recording Secretary for the Economic Development Commission and the Small Cities Advisory Board.*

<i>Ms. Hiatt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Babbitt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

*Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Babbitt, to hire Diana Traynor as the Recording Secretary for Planning & Zoning Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals.*

<i>Ms. Hiatt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Babbitt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

- Mr. Landry reported that the Renewable Energy Committee visited a geothermal site and also visited Staples to see the largest photovoltaic setup in New England.
- Mr. Landry stated that the Committee has been receiving phone calls from other towns and other schools that want the Committee to give them information on what they are learning.
- Mr. Landry questioned why there is not an award for fathers during the Springtime Festival.
- A concerned citizen commented that a simple way to save money and conserve energy would be to shut off all of the computer equipment at the school each night.

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- Ms. Hiatt stated that Norman Rudzinski commented at the last meeting in regard to carbon monoxide from the generator at the School. Ms. Hiatt stated that she spoke to David Johnson and that he said they have a procedure when they are working on the school that there are workmen in the trailer that will investigate and shut down the generators when a concern is brought to their attention.
  - Mr. DeVivo expressed his concern in regard to the gas station on Riverside Drive. Mr. DeVivo also asked if the Board addressed his issue with the Zoning Enforcement Officer. Mr. DeVivo also presented photographs of how the property at the gas station looked before the convenience store / Dunkin Donuts was put in. Mr. DeVivo also presented photographs of the fence at the gas station. Mr. DeVivo expressed concerns of the water that is being shed on his property from the gas station property. Mr. Babbitt stated that Representative Johnston, the Attorney General's Office and the DEP are all involved in resolving this issue. A lengthy discussion followed.

## **ADJOURN**

*Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Babbitt, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:48 p.m.*

<i>Ms. Hiatt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Babbitt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

Recorded and transcribed by:  
Tonya Levesque