



TOWN of THOMPSON

Board of Selectmen

Minutes: Regular Meeting

Tuesday, July 21, 2015

Merrill Seney Community Room, Town Hall

p. 1 of 8

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

Approval of Minutes

I. Approval of Minutes

A. Kerstin Forrester moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the July 7, 2015 regular meeting with the following corrections:

1. Page 3, Section 3(a)(3): The 35% increase is this year, not each year.
2. S. Smith noted that her reason for abstaining from approval of minutes was that she was absent for those corresponding meetings.
3. Page 4, Section 3(b)(1): "citizen's" should be "citizens."

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 July 10, 2015 special meeting as written.

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

The motion carried.

1. S. Smith stated that the reason she abstained from the vote is that she was absent.

C. Shaina Smith moved and Paul Lenky seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the July 14, 2015 special meeting as written.

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

The motion carried.

1. K. Forrester stated that the reason she abstained from the vote is that she recused herself from the meeting.

D. **Kerstin Forrester moved and Paul Lenky seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the July 16, 2015 special meeting as written.**

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

The motion carried.

1. S. Smith stated that the reason she abstained from the vote is that she was absent.

II. Correspondence

A. K. Forrester presented the following correspondence:

1. Email from J&D Civil Engineers regarding the SHR Energy solar farm project. Their schedule was attached, which the Board discussed later in the meeting.
2. Documents releasing the Animal Control Officer to return to full duty.

B. S. Smith presented the following correspondence:

1. Letter from Logan Miller requesting a sick bank. K. Forrester explained that the request had already been addressed.

C. P. Lenky presented the following correspondence:

1. Letter prepared by P. Lenky sent to Sergeant McAllister for review, regarding the Starr Rd. road list.
2. Letter to two volunteers, Lynn and Al Landry, thanking them on behalf of the Town for the effort they put into caring for the flower beds at Town Hall.

III. Selectmen's Comments

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

1. Ninety (90) applications were received for the Assistant Town Clerk position. Attorney St. Onge is going to send an opinion regarding that position and the concerns a resident brought up at the previous BOS meeting.
2. At the Board of Education meeting on July 20, 2015, K. Forrester asked about the Communications Academy video recording Board meetings for the Town; Dr. Jolin is still looking into it.

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

1. Discussed the possible website survey, and getting together with Jim Stratos, and looking at new ways to make a survey available for the residents.
2. Asked if the gentleman involved with neighborhood crime watch had been contacted. P. Lenky stated that he had made contact and the gentleman is interested in moving forward.
3. There were a few break-ins recently, particularly at Riverside Pizza. As a reminder to residents, if you see something suspicious, don't be afraid to call police. Brought up the possibility of Thompson having a resident state trooper again, and gathering numbers on costs associated with that. P. Lenky stated that he can get information regarding costs from Brooklyn.
4. At the last meeting, there was correspondence from the Recreation Commission. S. Smith asked if the Board would be having an Executive Session to discuss that correspondence. K. Forrester answered that it was her suggestion to contact either Attorney St. Onge or Ken Weinstock to seek an opinion.

5. In regards to the Assistant Town Clerk position, S. Smith handed out the statute that was referred to at a previous meeting in regards to the hiring of that position. She stated that she is glad the Board is seeking a legal opinion, but that in the end it is just an opinion and the Board will have to make a decision. She suggested asking Attorney St. Onge if the Town will be liable if the Board finds out the appointment should come from the Town Clerk and not from the Board. K. Forrester pointed out that the current Assistant Town Clerk was hired by the BOS and made it a union position.
 6. Asked about the job description for the summer help and why the job was only advertised at the high school. K. Forrester explained that she worked with Leo Adams to create the job description, and that it was posted at the high school because, traditionally, the summer help has been a high school student. S. Smith stated that now that K. Forrester is doing the personnel work, she would appreciate if the entire Board was involved in some of these decisions.
 7. K. Forrester asked about the file access procedure policy. S. Smith stated that she is still working on it. K. Forrester asked to have it put on the next meeting agenda.
- C. P. Lenky presented the following Selectman's Comments:
1. The First Selectman and Town Planner went to Hartford and met with Congressman Murphy's economic development personnel. They are interested in coming to Thompson for a discussion. A meeting is being scheduled for August 24th, from 9-11:30 AM, involving state representatives, and federal and state officials. Other Selectmen from NECCOG are invited, as well as business owners and any interested members of the public.
- IV. Citizens' Comments (Limit 3 Minutes)
- A. Al Landry, 33 Randall Rd., mentioned concern about road conditions. He stated that if something isn't done about Hill Rd., it will have to be re-built. He wanted to make a formal notice to the Board that Hill Rd. is in dire need of repair.
 - B. Norman Babbitt, 265 Quaddick Town Farm Rd., stated that there will be a special program next month in honor of the 377 living veterans in Thompson, and encouraged everyone to watch the paper for details. He called for a moment of silence for Betty Vriga.
 - C. Beverly Bostwick, 103 Azud Rd., stated that she has been calling about the condition of her street. There are over 27 potholes, some six inches deep. A car hit one of the potholes, while not speeding, and the air bag popped. She stated that she calls every week and no one has been out there to take care of them. She added that her street is the last to get plowed in the winter and it is very treacherous.
 - D. Sharon Recore, 46 Townes Lane, asked about the Town's disciplinary procedure. At a previous meeting, she was told that a first complaint against a Town employee results in a verbal warning, a second complain is a written warning, and a third complaint is a dismissal, and complaints stay in employee files indefinitely. She received a copy of the Town's disciplinary procedure which stated that a first complaint is a verbal warning, second written warning, third suspension without pay (with no clarification as to how long the employee would be suspended), and a fourth complaint results in discharge. The policy also stated that warnings do not stay in employee files forever. She added that nothing in the policy states that three complaints can be combined as one.

She asked why she was given incorrect information previously, and why she never received an answer as to why the ZEO handled her situation unprofessionally. K. Forrester apologized for misquoting the policy. She stated that the complaints were grouped together because they 'piggy-backed' off each other. K. Forrester also stated she will talk to John Rice and Greg Lee and get an answer as to why the ZEO treated her the way he did, and committed to writing a letter to S. Recore.

- E. Kevin Walsh, Blain Rd., in reference to the ZEO complaints 'piggy-backed' off each other, stated that if he received three speeding tickets in one day on the same road, they wouldn't be grouped together as one. He asked P. Lenky if he received information regarding the trees on the school grounds. P. Lenky answered that while the building and grounds belong to the Town, it is the school's responsibility to maintain them. K. Walsh asked about the Town Planner's contract, specifically about comp time, and stated that people have said that the Planning Office isn't open on Fridays. P. Lenky stated that she doesn't receive comp time, but that because of outside meetings, she often goes over 40 hours per week, and if she does go over 40 hours, she can't come in on Fridays sometimes. K. Walsh asked for clarification that the Planner's contract says she works a 40 hour week, to which P. Lenky replied affirmatively.
- F. Donald Pimental, 40 Starr Rd., asked if he could receive a copy of the letter sent to police that P. Lenky referenced in his correspondence. He stated that at a previous meeting, letters from Mary Ann Chinatti and Alvan Hill were read aloud, but that the letter from the Recreation Commission was not read aloud.
- G. Wayne O'Brien, 108 Fabyan Rd., stated that he asked about the trees on the school grounds, and that "basically, it is what it is."
- H. Ken Beausoleil, Walker Dr., stated that he hopes the VFW in Quinebaug could work something out with the Riders present at the meeting looking for a space. He stated that he hopes the Board will have an open discussion about the Assessor's Clerk position since it was posted for. He suggested contacting the Secretary of State regarding the Assistant Town Clerk position.
- I. Norm Babbitt, 265 Quaddick Town Farm Rd., asked that everyone stand up while they speak in respect to the hearing impaired.
- J. Ken Beausoleil, Walker Dr., in reference to the proposed August 24th economic development meeting, stated that Thompson didn't entertain the proposition of the tech park.
- K. Joe Gaucher, 519 Riverside Dr., stated that the flag pole in front of Town Hall needs a new rope.
- L. Linda Jarmolowicz, 7 Denis Dr., stated that the Selectmen put money in to have the roads fixed, but that it was cut at budget workshops. She stated that if a citizen has a concern about roads, they should attend the workshops and tell the Board of Finance how bad the roads are.
- M. Beverly Bostwick, 103 Azud Rd., stated that there was an article in the paper, which she referred to as almost a threat, that stated the Town budget passed but the education budget did not pass, and it said that if people didn't get out and vote, there could be severe cuts to the Town budget and roads might not get fixed. She stated that, for personal reasons, she couldn't get out to vote, but that she did vote the third time. She added that a woman in the Selectman's Office stated that if the budget passes, hopefully her road would get fixed.

- N. Leslie Bostwick, 103 Azud Rd., stated that he worked for 33 years for the Auburn, MA street department. He stated that for some reason, the highway department doesn't want to come to his street, even to just patch holes. He stated they've been good until the past few years. He explained they're waiting to at least see a patch truck, and added that his road is last to get plowed.
 - O. Cathy Thomas, Riverside Dr., thanked Kerstin for doing research regarding the Assistant Town Clerk position, but added that just because a precedent is set, doesn't mean it is right. She said there is a State statute, and the appointment must be signed by the Town Clerk. She agreed with Ken Beausoleil that the Board should speak to the Secretary of State. She added that she would like to support S. Smith's statement to include the entire Board when looking at job descriptions, because S. Smith keeps getting left out of the equation.
 - P. Donald Pimental, 40 Starr Rd., asked if opinions from Attorney St. Onge come in writing, and asked if citizens can see those opinions.
 - Q. Larry Groh, Wagher Rd., stated that he would like to provide a character reference for the Chrome and Steel Riders in attendance, stating that they do a lot of good things for veterans. He hoped the VFW would be allowed in the conversation with the Riders. He also stated he hopes the Town Attorney will move forward with looking into the old Tourtellotte building.
- V. Chrome and Steel Veterans Riders
- A. Lee Post spoke on behalf of the Riders. He stated that the club was founded eight months prior and does a lot of fund raising. He stated that they hope to be able to use the VFW building a few nights per month because their current meeting place at the Killingly VFW is inadequate. He stated that they are a charity club, and can help clean up and pay rent.
 - B. Norm Babbitt stated that a couple months ago, there was a negative vote for their request to use the VFW. He stated that they could not make another vote today, but they will have another meeting to discuss it.
 - C. Beverly Bostwick stated that a lot of officers are in PA at a convention, so they couldn't be in attendance. She stated the subject needs further discussion.
 - D. Al Landry stated that he supports the Riders because what they are doing for veterans is good, and he hopes the VFW and Town will make the project happen.
 - E. John Rice asked who has jurisdiction, regarding the lease agreement with the VFW. He added that he would support this riding club being in Town somewhere.
- VI. Ethics Committee Update
- A. Kathleen Herbert, 122 Wilsonville Rd., explained that the Committee put together another packet for the Board to answer some of the issues raised at a previous meeting. She explained some training options available. She explained that most Towns had their BOS appoint the Ethics Commission.
 - B. K. Forrester asked about whether an ordinance was needed, to which Ray Dewey answered that most towns had an ordinance.
 - C. K. Forrester stated that the Committee did a good job. She suggested changing the definition of working day from Monday-Friday to include Saturdays, because that is a normal working day for the Transfer Station. K. Forrester asked about Section H on Page 5, multiple agency positions. K. Herbert explained that any situation where a family member is petitioning a Board for a decision, the family member needs to recuse him/herself from the process.
 - D. K. Forrester asked about the social media section. K. Herbert explained that the social media section applies to Town operated social media accounts.

- E. S. Smith suggested having a discussion/possible action regarding the Ethics Committee Update at the next meeting.

VII. Beautify in Blue Campaign

- A. P. Lenky stated that Attorney St. Onge's opinion was that there is no conflict of interest.
- B. S. Smith stated that she receives no personal financial gain from this, and she will recuse herself from the vote.
- C. **Kerstin Forrester moved and Paul Lenky seconded the motion to adopt and support the 'Beautify in Blue Campaign.'**
 Kerstin Forrester- Yes Paul Lenky- Yes Shaina Smith- Abstain
The motion carried.

VIII. Award Bid for Road Paving

- A. K. Forrester, referring to the Reardon Rd. bids, noted that there is a \$120,000 difference between the high and low bids, and noticed that Fuller noted need for the Town to supply trucking and gravel, whereas the others did not include that. P. Lenky stated that he contacted the other bidders, and both All State and Fuller said they would require the Town to supply materials if needed, and that Pasteryak did not answer the same question yet.
- B. K. Forrester suggested waiting to award the bid until hearing from Pasteryak. P. Lenky agreed, stating that he would like to keep the material in Town because if they remove it, they can do whatever they want with it.
- C. K. Forrester suggested going with the lower of the two bids for the Lots.
- D. P. Lenky explained that the Pasteryak bid stated that if the price of oil goes up for asphalt, the bid price would increase, whereas the others didn't say that.
- E. S. Smith asked about the price difference if the Highway Department did the work instead of an outside company. P. Lenky explained that if the Highway Department is tied up, they won't be able to do the other maintenance they have to do. He explained that money would also need to be spent on equipment, because the Town does not have the equipment to do this project. S. Smith asked about leasing equipment if needed.
- F. K. Forrester stated that the difference between bids for the lots is \$70,000, and the high bid isn't complete and has many questions left unanswered.
- G. **Kerstin Forrester moved and Paul Lenky seconded the motion to award the contract to Fuller Paving at \$347,000 for paving of The Lots, making sure they know it is a fixed price.**
 - 1. S. Smith stated that she is not 100% behind the concept of having an outside company do the paving until she can fully wrap her head around looking at the costs. She stated that perhaps it is a question of management and prioritizing at the department, and added that it is unfortunate so many potholes and roads are unattended.
 - 2. K. Forrester stated that if the Town Highway crew did the paving, roads will get worse, and she did not think the Town could do it for \$347,000.
 Kerstin Forrester- Yes Paul Lenky- Yes Shaina Smith- No
The motion carried.
- H. **Paul Lenky moved and Kerstin Forrester seconded the motion to hold off on awarding a contract for the paving of Reardon Rd. until the Board receives further information.**
 Kerstin Forrester- Yes Paul Lenky- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.

- IX. Appointment-Housing Authority: Mary Poulin
- A. K. Forrester explained that M. Poulin has worked with the elderly, so she has some relative experience for this position
- B. **Kerstin Forrester moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to appoint Mary Poulin to the Housing Authority.**
Kerstin Forrester- Yes Paul Lenky- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.
- C. S. Smith requested that the rest of the Board receive the second page of the appointment.
- X. Road Updates
- A. P. Lenky stated that Buck Hill has been paved, with two short curbing left to put in at the bottom. The road crew is going to touch up Spicer Rd. and Quaddick Town Farm Rd., then move on to Azud Rd. and Ballard Rd. He stated he will ask when the curbing for Buck Hill will be completed.
- B. K. Forrester stated that they have asked several times for Leo Adams to give a weekly plan, which would be very helpful.
- XI. SHR Energy- Noel Lafayette
- A. P. Lenky explained that representatives will be in Thompson school to access meters and other things to gather information. Noel Lafayette will have final plans in two weeks to supply Town Hall and the school. He wants to get going with the project in November.
- B. K. Forrester read correspondence from J&D Civil Engineering regarding the timeline for the project. She stated that Diana Rebello is pulling together electric bills to look at usage.
- XII. Other Business: None
- XIII. Citizens' Comments on Agenda (Limit 3 Minutes)
- A. Kevin Walsh, Blain Rd., asked if the ethics correspondence will be available on the website for citizens to review.
- B. Larry Groh sought clarification for the bid awarding that was just completed. He asked what was in the paving budget, and if Leo Adams reviewed the bids. He also asked if the questions the Board asked of the bidders was information included on the specs.
- XIV. Tax Refunds
- A. **Kerstin Forrester moved and Kerstin Forrester seconded the motion to approve the following tax refunds:**
1) Jack Edward Mosley: \$27.17
2) Martin Wexler: \$23.31
3) William A. Barrette: \$249.74
Kerstin Forrester- Yes Paul Lenky- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.
- B. The tax refund for William A. Barrette in the amount of \$249.74 was not read aloud at the meeting, but was signed and approved by all three Selectmen at the meeting, included in the motion to approve tax refunds, and witnessed by Recording Secretary Tina Fox.

XV. 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 8:53 PM.

Tina Fox
Recording Secretary