



# **TOWN of THOMPSON**

## ***Board of Selectmen***

**Minutes: Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, March 17, 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

1. Approval of Minutes
  - a. **Shaina Smith moved and Kerstin Forrester seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the March 3, 2015 special meeting as written.**  
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 March 3, 2015 regular meeting with the following corrections:**
    1. Page 3, Section 2, Correspondence, should state K. Forrester rather than K. Smith.
    2. Section J, "Norman Babbitt" rather than "non-battered."
    3. Page 4, Section F, "...overnight, they have to be paid..." rather than "...that have to be paid..."
    4. Page 5, Section 6, K. Forrester believes she did not state that a family member of hers could not work in that position; it was the ethics committee that suggested that information.
    5. Section 4, A, the word should be "appropriateness" rather than "validity." And it was the numbers for 'consulting' rather than 'travel' that were not yet put together.
    6. Page 6, Section 6, C, K. Forrester stated it is a Town Policy rather than a Selectmen's Policy.
    7. Page 4, Section B, "Tom Filchak" should be "John Filchak." Also, "NEECOG" should be "NECCOG."
    8. Page 7, Section D, clarification: if the engineering is done, the project can be started in August, not the engineering.  
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 March 4, 2015 special meeting as written.**  
Kerstin Forrester- Yes      Paul Lenky- Yes      Shaina Smith- Yes  
**The motion carried unanimously.**

- d. **Kerstin Forrester moved and Paul Lenky seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the March 5, 2015 special meeting as written.**  
Kerstin Forrester- Yes      Paul Lenky- Yes      Shaina Smith- Yes  
**The motion carried unanimously.**
- e. **Shaina Smith moved and Kerstin Forrester seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the March 12, 2015 special meeting as written.**  
Kerstin Forrester- Abstain      Paul Lenky- Yes      Shaina Smith- Yes  
**The motion carried unanimously.**

2. Correspondence

- a. P. Lenky presented the following correspondence:
1. Interstate Reliability Project
  2. Thompson Energy Update from Next Step Living
  3. Summary from Troop D in Danielson
  4. Discount Card summary from CCM
  5. List of property owners that have sidewalks on Route 12 and Main St., as requested.
  6. Email from Winston Avril, re: Senate Bill 946
  7. Pamphlet about the Freedom of Information Annual Conference
  8. Letter from Hometown Bank regarding the donation of two parcels of land to the Town of Thompson, on Wilsonville Rd. and Wagher Rd.
- b. K. Forrester presented the following correspondence:
1. Email from Noah Lafayette regarding his and Alvan Hill's visit to the Waste Water Plant.
- c. S. Smith presented the following correspondence:
1. Email about the inquiry to Attorney St. Onge

3. Selectmen's Comments

- a. K. Forrester stated that she hoped everyone voted on the referendum that day. In regards to Ken Beausoleil's Citizen's Comments at the previous meeting, K. Forrester stated that she checked the website the night of the March 3, 2015 BOS meeting, and the minutes [that K. Beausoleil had mentioned] were on the website. Also, the overtime pay for the Highway Department due to snow removal had just occurred that night at the March 3, 2015 meeting, and not two weeks prior.
- b. S. Smith asked K. Forrester if the description for the Town Assessor position had been created yet. K. Forrester responded that it was still being worked on. S. Smith asked P. Lenky if a letter had been sent to Attorney St. Onge regarding the Executive Personnel position. P. Lenky responded that the letter had not been sent yet, but will be sent soon.
- c. S. Smith questioned where the money was coming from in the budget to increase the pay for the Secretary Clerk. The Board discussed the increase in pay.
- d. S. Smith stated that at the March 12, 2015 Board of Finance meeting, P. Lenky mentioned that the individual in the Executive Assistant Personnel position had been terminated. The Board discussed this and clarified that the individual vacated the position rather than was terminated.
- e. S. Smith thanked Mr. Baer for getting the CCM Prescription Drug Program up on the website, and mentioned that the \$19,400 figure was an incredible savings.

- f. P. Lenky mentioned that the Highway Department will be working on making sure the old stove pipe shop is safe after the roof collapsed due to snow build-up.
  - g. P. Lenky stated that the Emergency Management Department is being given a 'Humvee' (HMMWV) to use for emergency management calls rather than using their own vehicles. The Town will have to pay to maintain, register, and insure the vehicle, but not pay for the vehicle itself.
  - h. P. Lenky explained that it was brought to his attention earlier that day that the original Assessor's area map 154 is missing. It was discovered missing when a taxpayer requested to view it. In addition, there are items missing in the Town Clerk's office. Attorney St. Onge advised P. Lenky to allow the departments a couple days to look for the missing items, and then have an official investigation if the items do not turn up.
4. Citizen's Comments (Limit 3 minutes)
- a. Kevin Walsh asked for clarification from K. Forrester as to what her correction was for the minutes of March 3, 2015, page 5, item 6. K. Forrester answered that the correction is that the Ethics Committee said you cannot preclude relatives from working in the Town. K. Walsh then asked if it would be fair to assume that when the Ethics Committee presents their work to the Board that it will not include anything related to nepotism, favoritism, and so forth. K. Walsh expressed concern that Dianna Rebello, K. Forrester's daughter, would be creating the job description for the Town Assessor. K. Forrester explained that Dianna Rebello is not writing the job description; the Dianna K. Forrester was referring to earlier was the current Interim Assessor.
  - b. Renee Waldron expressed her concern that the temporary position in the Selectmen's Office is receiving a 50% hourly increase in wages after working for only eight months, especially given that there is an employee in the Recreation Department who has worked for the Town longer and receives less per hour than the individual in the Selectmen's Office will now be earning.
  - c. Ken Beausoleil expressed concern that the Referendum notice was not on the Town website. In addition, it was difficult to find the budget on the website because it was on the Finance Department page rather than the front page of the website. He further expressed that he would like to see agendas and minutes from previous years on the website. He stated that if wages are being increased for any position at Town Hall, the Board should have an active and open discussion about it. Specifically, the ZEO position receiving a 14% increase is extensive and inappropriate.
  - d. Roger Trembly suggested that P. Lenky should be reviewing information that WINY receives in regards to the Referendum. He felt the information on WINY was suggesting to citizen's how to vote on the issue. P. Lenky stated that no one in the Selectmen's Office expressed to WINY how Thompson citizens should vote on the issue and that he cannot control the information that someone outside of his office gives to WINY.
  - e. Bob Jalinsky stated that it is not the First Selectmen's job to sit and listen to the radio all day.

- f. Jared [unintelligible last name] asked what the wages and hours were when that person [temporary Secretary Clerk] was hired and whether or not her duties have been doubled now. P. Lenky responded that the person in the temporary position is doing the work for the position that has been vacated. Jared further asked if her hours have been increased, to which P. Lenky responded that her hours have not been increased.
- g. Sylvia Hampshire asked if the vacant position will be filled. P. Lenky stated that the position will be posted in Town Hall for two weeks, and if no one in Town Hall applies, then the position will be posted publicly. Sylvia asked if the current temporary Secretary Clerk would have the opportunity to apply for the vacant position, to which P. Lenky responded affirmatively.
- h. Renee Waldron stated that if the vacant position is not union, then position does not have to be posted in Town Hall first. P. Lenky stated that it gives everyone a chance to apply.
- i. Kevin Walsh wanted clarification as to whether or not the job would be posted publicly in media such as the Shopper's Guide. P. Lenky clarified that it would be posted publicly after employees at Town Hall get a chance to apply.
- j. Don Pimental asked for clarification as to who has the combination for the vault that the documents are missing from. P. Lenky responded that only the Assessor has the combination.
- k. James Niedzialkoski asked about the voting for the referendum not being on the website. He stated that if he hadn't received a phone call, he wouldn't have known about it.
- l. Wayne O'Brien asked if the referendum had been posted in the paper. P. Lenky stated that it had been advertised in the paper, and on WINY.
- m. Ken Beausoleil stated his opinion that at some point, the Board has to accept the resignation of the Executive Assistant/Personnel Director. He also stated that the job description should already exist for the Executive Assistant, as well as the Secretary Clerk.
- n. Don Pimental asked about the availability of the recordings for the meetings. Tina Fox stated that she is working on having the recordings available.
- o. Ken Beausoleil stated that when Paul Baer was running the website, the Sony plug-in that allowed MSV files to be played was available on the website, and it is no longer there.
- p. Renee Waldron asked if the job specifications would be reviewed by the Board before the job was posted. P. Lenky responded affirmatively.

5. Waste Haulers Permit Approval

- a. **K. Forrester moved and S. Smith seconded the motion to keep the fee at \$500.**  
Kerstin Forrester- Yes      Paul Lenky- Yes      Shaina Smith- Yes  
**The motion carried unanimously.**

## 6. Town Clerk Discussion

- a. The Board discussed a letter from the Town Clerk, Jeffrey Barske, stating his intention to decrease his working hours and move out of state. K. Forrester questioned whether the Town Clerk must have full-time residency in the Town. K. Forrester also questioned paying the Town Clerk for mileage. J. Barske was not at the meeting to express his proposal. The Board agreed to go over the proposal with Mr. Barske at a later date, and to seek clarity as to whether the Town Clerk must be a resident of Thompson. The discussion was tabled for the next meeting.

## 7. Resolution Small Cities Program

- a. P. Lenky read a resolution into the record regarding the Small Cities grant for the Gladys Green Project.
- b. **K. Forrester moved and S. Smith seconded the motion to approve the resolution for the Small Cities grant for the Gladys Green project as read.**  
Kerstin Forrester- Yes      Paul Lenky- Yes      Shaina Smith- Yes  
**The motion carried unanimously.**

## 8. Endorse Appointment of Alvan Hill as ZEO for Planning and Zoning Commission

- a. **Shaina Smith moved and Kerstin Forrester seconded the motion to accept the Fair Housing Annual Resolution as written.**  
Kerstin Forrester- Yes      Paul Lenky- Yes      Shaina Smith- Yes  
**The motion carried unanimously.**
- b. **Shaina Smith moved and Kerstin Forrester seconded the motion to accept the Americans with Disabilities Act Annual Resolution as written.**  
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 Fair Housing Policy Annual Resolution with the following corrections:**
  1. Typo in the third paragraph should be 'Town of Thompson.'
  2. Also in the third paragraph, the last word should be 'Town of Thompson,' rather than 'Town/City.'Kerstin Forrester- Yes      Paul Lenky- Yes      Shaina Smith- Yes  
**The motion carried unanimously.**
- d. **Kerstin Forrester moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to accept the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act Annual Resolution as written.**  
Kerstin Forrester- Yes      Paul Lenky- Yes      Shaina Smith- Yes  
**The motion carried unanimously.**
- e. **Shaina Smith moved and Kerstin Forrester seconded the motion to accept the Municipal Grievance Procedure Annual Resolution as written.**  
Kerstin Forrester- Yes      Paul Lenky- Yes      Shaina Smith- Yes  
**The motion carried unanimously.**

## 9. NECCOG Executive Director John Filchak

- a. John Filchak discussed with the Board a special service that NECCOG offers to Towns called an administrative audit. He described the audit as such: They (NECCOG) will compose a detailed description of what each department does, and figure out statutory requirements for each department. They will also generate job descriptions and salary comparisons, and make suggestions regarding processes and procedures. M. Filchak also stated that there will be no cost to the Town for this service. M. Filchak agreed to send a suggested scope of work to the Board.

## 10. Road Updates

- a. P. Lenky stated that there are two crews going out everyday working on fixing pot holes.

## 11. Other Business

- a. **Kerstin Forrester moved and Paul Lenky seconded the motion to add the opening of the bids for the fuel tank replacement under 'Other Business' on the agenda.**

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

**The motion carried.**

- b. The bids for the fuel tank replacement at the highway garage were opened. The bids were as follows:

1. Lemelin Environmental Services, Inc./Chicopee, MA/\$247,000
2. TMC Environmental/Franklin, MA/\$292,000
3. True Blue Environmental/Wallingford, CT/\$327,882.59
4. Service Station Equipment/Uncasville, CT/\$242,800
5. SRS Petroleum Services/West Bridgewater, MA/\$292,300 plus additional pricing at \$5,000, \$6,000 and \$16,700
6. Kropp Environmental Contractors/Lebanon, CT/\$278,900
7. LaMountain Brothers/Oxford, MA/\$282,957

## 12. Citizen's Comments on Agenda (Limit 3 minutes)

- a. Ken Beausoleil stated that Thompson had a Tax Collector at one point who lived out of the country and still retained his position and was paid. He stated that the Board has no control over the residency and salary of elected officials.
- b. Paul Dery commented that a name of an individual should not be included in the Municipal Grievance Procedures, but rather the title of a position. He also stated that agenda item number 9 should have been earlier in the agenda so that John Filchak would not have needed to stay for the entire meeting.

## 13. Tax Refunds: None

## 14. Adjourn

- b. **Shaina Smith moved and Kerstin Forrester seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 PM.**

Kerstin Forrester- Yes

Paul Lenky- Yes

Shaina Smith- Y

**The motion carried unanimously.**

Tina Fox  
Recording Secretary