



**TOWN of
THOMPSON**

Board of Selectmen

**Minutes: Regular Meeting
Tuesday, April 7, 2015
Quinebaug Volunteer Fire Department
720 Quinebaug Rd., Quinebaug, CT**

RECEIVED
TOWN OF THOMPSON, CT.

2015 APR 14 P 12:51

Cheryl T. Sterling
TOWN CLERK

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The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

First Selectman Paul Lenky called the meeting to order at 7:03 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 March 17, 2015 meeting with the following corrections:**

1. Page 2, section 2, b: the email is from 'Noel Lafayette' not 'Noah Lafayette.'
2. Page 2, section 3, a: clarification that the date had just been released, rather than occurred.
3. Page 3, section 4, e: 'Bob Jeneski' rather than 'Bob Jalinsky.'
4. Page 4, section 4, f: clarification that the citizen's name is 'Jared Lockwood.'
5. Page 4, section 4, j: 'has' rather than 'ahs.'
6. Page 5, section 8 should be titled: 'Annual Resolutions: Fair Housing, American with Disabilities Act, Fair Housing Policy, Title IV of Civil Rights Act, Municipal Grievance Procedure.'
7. Page 6, Section 10: the Board had some discussion about making sure the opening of bids is included on the agenda in the future when bids are opened. Further, S. Smith indicated that she would like to see discussion in general be expanded in the minutes in the future.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2. Correspondence

a. K. Forrester presented the following correspondence:

1. Notice of Hearing for Wednesday, April 22, for the Board of Selectmen for a final hearing.

2. Letter from Joanne Baker regarding her resignation from the Thompson Housing Authority.
 - a. **Shaina Smith moved and Kerstin Forrester seconded the motion to add the letter from Joanne Baker regarding her resignation from Thompson Housing Authority to 'Other Business' on the agenda.**
Kerstin Forrester- Yes Paul Lenky- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.
 3. Tax Collector's Report through March 31st.
 4. Correspondence from Jim Strattos.
 - a. **Shaina Smith moved and Kerstin Forrester seconded the motion to add the proposal from Jim Strattos to 'Other Business' on the agenda.**
Kerstin Forrester- Yes Paul Lenky- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.
 5. Various emails from Noel Lafayette.
 6. An email from Jim Strattos regarding the website redesign.
 7. An email from Tina Fox asking about ideas for the Annual Report Cover.
- b. S. Smith presented the following correspondence:
1. Memo from Marla Butts regarding the appointment of Jarrett Thomas as Inland Wetlands Commissioner
 - a. **Kerstin Forrester moved and Paul Lenky seconded the motion to add the recommendation to appoint Jarrett Thomas as Inland Wetlands Commissioner to 'Other Business' on the agenda.**
Kerstin Forrester- Yes Paul Lenky- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.
 2. Letter dated March 9th regarding the Building Department's office hours
 - a. **Paul Lenky moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to add the March 9th letter regarding the Building Department office hours to 'Other Business' on the agenda.**
Kerstin Forrester- Yes Paul Lenky- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.
 3. Jewett City Savings Bank Annual Report.
- c. P. Lenky presented the following correspondence:
1. Information regarding the hearing in Hartford on Wednesday, April 22, 2015 that three Board members of the Board of Assessment Appeals will be attending.
 2. Information regarding the Interstate Reliability Project.
 3. Information from a resident at 643 East Thompson Rd. who had water testing done at his home. The resident is claiming that salt from the road is leaking into his well.
 4. Update about Thompson Energy Challenge from Next Step Living.
 5. Memo from Mary Ann Chinatti summarizing the grants that the Town applied for, including information regarding why some grants failed and what grants are still standing for the future.
 6. A monthly report from the Marianapolis Project.

3. Selectmen's Comments

- a. K. Forrester referenced a comment from a citizen at the previous Board of Selectmen meeting wherein the citizen stated that Paul Lenky should be monitoring information that WINY receives in regards to the previous referendum. K. Forrester stated that WINY mentioned on the radio the following day that the information did not come from Paul Lenky.
- b. K. Forrester spoke directly to S. Smith in regards to a comment that S. Smith had made on a post on the WINY Facebook page. K. Forrester believed that S. Smith had taken a comment from a Board of Finance meeting out of context.
- c. S. Smith mentioned that Friday, May 2nd. Is the French River Clean-up day.
- d. S. Smith asked if a fence is going to be erected around the Old Stove Shop. P. Lenky answered that he was informed that the demolition would start the next day, and that a fence could not be erected until the snow had melted, which had just occurred.
- e. S. Smith asked if any additional information had been received regarding the Town Clerk's possible reduction in hours/pay. P. Lenky answered that he, Jeffrey Barske, would like to have a meeting with the Board to discuss the matter.
- f. S. Smith asked if a letter had been sent to Attorney St. Onge regarding the positions in the Selectman's Office. P. Lenky answered that it had not been done yet because there is going to be an audit done on all of the positions in the Town.
- g. S. Smith asked if the ad for the Town Assessor's position had been put in the Bulletin and the Shopper's Guide. K. Forrester answered that it had been put only in the Shopper's Guide.
- h. S. Smith wanted clarification as to whether or not information was received from the Interim Assessor to use to create the job description. K. Forrester responded that the Board did receive and use that information.
- i. S. Smith brought up the fact that the Board agreed to share the ad with each other before it was sent out. K. Forrester stated that she received the ad just in time for the deadline to get the ad in the Shopper's Guide. K. Forrester asked if S. Smith had any problems with the ad. S. Smith replied that she did not have any problems with it, but that the Board had said they would provide input before the ad was run.
- j. S. Smith asked P. Lenky if he would be providing road updates, to which P. Lenky replied affirmatively.
- k. P. Lenky mentioned that it was poor judgment on someone's part to post a memo to the Finance Office on a Facebook page. He also stated that because there are rumors of conspiracy and corruption regarding some missing documents at Town Hall, an attorney suggested the Attorney General be brought in to investigate the problem.
- l. P. Lenky mentioned a comment on a Facebook page made by a citizen that referenced P. Lenky's daughter. An attorney advised that P. Lenky's daughter can take legal action. P. Lenky stated that the best course of action would be for that individual to make a public apology to P. Lenky's daughter.

4. Citizen's Comments (Limit 3 minutes)

- a. Kevin Walsh, Blain Rd., asked if the discussion regarding the Town Clerk would be on this meeting's agenda, to which P. Lenky responded in the negative. K. Walsh asked if there was ever a formal letter submitted by the person in the Human Resources position in regards to her resignation. K. Forrester responded that if one is submitted, the citizen's will be informed. K. Walsh also expressed that he believes the problem with K. Forrester's daughter being hired is not going to go away. He referred to the situation as nepotism and stated that if it goes through, it will set a precedent in the Town.
- b. Sally White, 308 East Thompson Rd., mentioned a State statute that says any elected member of the Town must be a resident of the Town. She stated that if the Town Clerk is no longer a resident of the Town, then he should resign or his position should be filled. She further expressed that it seems to her things are being done improperly, and the Town cannot and will not thrive because of it. She stated that the Board has time to turn it around, and that there's opportunity for redemption.
- c. Ken Beausoleil, Walker Dr., asked about making a decision on the fuel prices. P. Lenky stated that they are still going through the RFP's.
- d. Norma O'Leary mentioned that the Roadside Clean-up is starting up again. As incentive, anyone who fills a 30 gallon bag of trash can get a free ice cream voucher redeemable at Bogey's. Any citizen wishing to participate can go to the Town Recreation Department to report the filling of a bag. She also mentioned the river clean up on May 2nd, and that work is being done on putting together a playground in Riverside Village.
- e. Don Pimental, 40 Starr Rd., brought up the fact that he asked the Board if someone could find out who created the July 29th document. P. Lenky stated that at a previous Selectmen's meeting, S. Smith stated that Leo Adams said Mike Martin and John Mahon created the document. D. Pimental stated that Mike Martin said he did not create the document, and that the document was created after John Mahon passed away. D. Pimental stated again that he needs to know who made that document. He also wanted to know who has the combination to the vault in the Assessor's Office where the missing documents were kept.
- f. Kevin Walsh spoke again in reference to the comments D. Pimental had just made. He stated that the question about the formal documentation was a straight forward question. He mentioned that the moderator [at a Town Meeting in December] requested that the Board look into the documentation. He stated that the legal documentation is critical to support the Board's decision, and that the burden of proof is on the Board. He further stated that both attorneys were in agreement that there should be a document presented to the citizens.
- g. Sylvie Hamshaw asked Norma O'Leary if she could make flyers for the children's school to put in the children's folders [in regards to the free ice cream vouchers for trash pick-up].
- h. Donald Pimental asked P. Lenky if he submitted the 2014 updated road records to the State yet. P. Lenky stated that he did not because he did not have all of the necessary information yet.
- i. Wayne O'Brien, 108 Fabyan Rd., asked when the meeting location had been changed, and stated that this was the 4th time he went to Town Hall and then had to go somewhere else [because a meeting was being held elsewhere].

5. SHR Solar- Noel Lafayette
 - a. Noel Lafayette began discussing the SHR Solar project. He stated that because he is looking to move forward quickly, SHR has decided to take the financial risk and use its own money to start the project.
 - b. Janet Blanchette stated that the Zoning Regulations do not mention solar farms and that if a use is not specifically described in the regulations, then it is not allowed in any zone. It was recommended that they ask the Zoning Board of Appeals for a use variance, with the hardship being that the regulations are not up-to-date to address alternative energy sources. That is what SHR Energy plans to do. She mentioned that it will take a couple months to get through the process of applying for a variance.
 - c. K. Forrester mentioned talking to the Town Attorney who advised her that under normal circumstances, the contract would not require a Town Meeting, but because this would be a long-term commitment, the Board will need to bring it to a Town Meeting.
 - d. N. Lafayette stated that the Town looks to save at least \$250,000 in the first year, and that the figure will go up overtime.
6. Discuss Administrative Study NEECOG
 - a. K. Forrester stated that she talked to John Filchak, who said he would provide the Board with a suggested scope of work, but that he had not done so yet.
 - b. S. Smith stated that the Board should continue to call his office until they receive the information they need.
7. Discuss Turn Key Fuel Tank Proposals
 - a. K. Forrester stated that there is still a lot of information to go over, and that a thorough analysis is in the best interest of the Town.
 - b. P. Lenky agreed, and stated that the proposals are available in the Selectman's office for the Board to review.
8. Appointment Recording Secretary- Board of Assessment Appeals: Audrey Witkowski
 - a. K. Forrester mentioned that there was a lot of discussion regarding the budget for this position at a Board of Finance meeting. She stated that she would like more clarity on how often the Board of Assessment Appeals will meet.
 - b. S. Smith agreed, stating that the Board should see how many meetings the Board of Assessment Appeals plans to have.
 - c. P. Lenky stated that it is not a good idea for someone on the Board to have to do the minutes, and that is what the former Chair did.
 - d. K. Forrester mentioned that she is not sure there is funding for a Recording Secretary.
 - e. P. Lenky stated that the matter can be discussed further at the next meeting.
9. Reappointment Recreation Commission: Thomas Jourdan, Stephen Bordua, Sylvie Perez-Hanshaw
 - a. **Shaina Smith moved and Kerstin Forrester seconded the motion to reappoint Thomas Jourdan, Stephen Bordua, and Sylvie Perez-Hanshaw to the Recreation Commission.**
Kerstin Forrester- Yes Paul Lenky- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.
 - b. K. Forrester asked what the terms were for each member. P. Lenky responded that the terms for all three individuals end on April 15, 2018.

10. Road Updates

- a. P. Lenky stated that there are two crews working on fixing pot holes. He discussed a problem on Reardon Rd. and the plan to rectify the problem.
- b. K. Forrester mentioned a situation where a citizen came into the Selectman's Office with a bill for damage to the front end of his car. The citizen said that a frost heave on Buckley Hill Rd. had caused the damage and he felt the Town should pay for it. K. Forrester stated that she did not see any potholes on Buckley Hill Rd. when she drove on it. P. Lenky stated that he told the citizen to contact their insurance company.

11. Other Business

- a. Recommendation to appoint Jarrett Thomas as Inland Wetlands Commissioner
 1. **Kerstin Forrester moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to appoint Jarrett Thomas as Inland Wetlands Commissioner.**
Kerstin Forrester- Yes Paul Lenky- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.
- b. Letter from Joanne Baker regarding her resignation from Thompson Housing Authority
 1. **Kerstin Forrester moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to accept the resignation of Joanne Baker from the Thompson Housing Authority with regrets.**
Kerstin Forrester- Yes Paul Lenky- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.
- c. Proposal from Jim Strattos
 1. The Board briefly discussed the Town website. K. Forrester stated that she would like to have Jim Strattos come to a Board meeting to explain his proposal and website redesign more.
- d. Building Department Office Hours
 1. S. Smith asked if the Board should have a discussion about keeping the Building Department office hours as Monday-Thursday, or opening the office on Friday.
 2. K. Forrester stated that the 3 or 4 years previously, the Board of Finance approved increasing the hours for the Building Department Office Secretary on the condition that the office is open on Fridays. S. Smith asked for clarification that the secretary is currently getting the extra hours on the Monday-Thursday schedule, to which K. Forrester replied affirmatively.
 3. P. Lenky stated that there are citizens asking why the Building Department Office is not open on Fridays. He also suggested that the Building Department have a sheet to sign-in at the office so that the Board can see when citizens are using the office the most.
 4. K. Forrester suggested that the Board hold to the vote in January and have the Building Department open on Friday mornings.
 5. S. Smith stated that she was hesitant to have the Building Department open on Fridays without knowing the needs of the office, and that part of what the NEECOG study can do is look at what the needs are.

6. **Kerstin Forrester moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to hold to the vote from January to have the Building Department be open on Friday mornings.**

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

The motion carried.

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

- a. Kevin Walsh stated that he heard the word 'clarity' be used at the meeting multiple times, and that is what we [residents of the Town] are looking for. He stated that he expects elected leaders to be clear with residents. He further mentioned that if the Board would be clear with residents, then most of the questions that residents have raised in the past year and a half would go away in an instant. He stated that the Board could avoid a lot of concerns if they would just answer the questions.
- b. Joe Gaucher, 519 Riverside Dr., stated that Plum Rd. is broken up near his home, and there is a split and drop in the road. He stated that when the roads are plowed, they plow the snow into the storm drain. He mentioned that there was a four-wheeler and a dirt bike with no plates going up and down his road all day. He further stated that there is a drop in the road on Buckley Hill Rd. P. Lenky stated that the drop on Buckley Hill Rd. is now gone.
- c. Wayne O'Brien, 108 Fabyan Rd., mentioned that P. Lenky stated that the trucks coming out on Reardon Rd. are causing some of the problems on the road, and suggested that the Board ask that business to donate some of the stone to build up the road. P. Lenky stated that even though the trucks are not entirely to blame, he has already spoken to French River Materials, and they are willing to donate what the Town needs.
- d. Sally White stated that she is curious as to when Noel Lafayette had first approached the Town regarding the SHR Solar project. She stated that it is her understanding that the Board is considering a contract with that company. She said that government is supposed to be different from private business in that it is supposed to be a slow, deliberate process. She asked if the Board is looking at other companies for the project. She felt that the Board should investigate how much money he [Noel Lafayette] is going to get for leasing property. She further stated that she hopes the Town is careful in regards to that project.
- e. Joe Gaucher stated that 'CLNP' is 'Eversource' now.

13. Tax Refunds

- a. **Shaina Smith moved and Kerstin Forrester seconded the motion for the following Tax Refunds:**

Fafard, John H. - \$30.24

Majercik, Richard, D. - \$133.20, \$137.22, and \$134.52

Young, Rose M. or Michael H. - \$37.87

Ruoppo, Stacye - \$10.77

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

The motion carried unanimously.

14. Adjourn

b. **Kerstin Forrester moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to adjourn at 8:33 PM.**

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Tina Fox
Recording Secretary

Voluntary Sign-In

April 7th - BOS

- 1) Joseph H. Gaucher
- 2) Linda Jarmolowicz
- 3) STEVE BODREAU
- 4) KEN BEAUSOLEIL
- 5) KEVIN WALSH
- 6) Greg Lee
- 7) JANET BLANCHETTE
- 8) Norma O'Leary
- 9) Gail Livingstone
- 10) Jayson Livingstone
- 11) HANSHAW FAMILY