



TOWN of THOMPSON

Board of Selectmen

Minutes: Regular Meeting

Tuesday, July 19, 2016

Merrill Seney Room, Town Hall

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The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

First Selectman Ken Beausoleil called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Present: Ken Beausoleil
Shaina Smith
Steve Herbert

Staff Present: Tina Fox, Recording Secretary

Also Present: Members of the Public

I. Approval of Minutes

A. Steve Herbert moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the July 5, 2016 regular meeting with the following corrections:

1. Page 3, IV(a): "...Siting Board..." instead of "...Citing Board..." throughout.
2. Page 4, V(A): "...Fire Protection Advisory Committee..." instead of "...Fire Advisory Committee..."
3. Page 5, XI(C): "...she will draft a letter..." instead of "...she will draft a resolution..."

Ken Beausoleil- Yes

Steve Herbert- Yes

Shaina Smith-Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

B. Ken Beausoleil moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the July 7, 2016 special meeting as written.

Ken Beausoleil- Yes

Steve Herbert- Yes

Shaina Smith- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

II. Correspondence

- A. Letter from Ray Dewey regarding ethics proposal.
- B. Thank you letter from ACCESS for a donation from the Town.
- C. Statistics from Troop D.
- D. Letter from DOT regarding highway bridge inspections.
- E. Notice of public meeting on July 26th for the TWPCA.
- F. C-TEC Solar, LLC letter informing the Board of their intention to file a petition for a declaratory ruling with the Connecticut Siting Council for solar energy project on Ballard Rd.
- G. Letter from Attorney Steve Byrnes regarding a PZC FOIA hearing.
- H. S. Smith stated that the tax office collected 100.23% of what was budgeted and thanked the tax office for that accomplishment.

III. Selectmen's Comments

A. K. Beausoleil presented the following Selectmen's Comments:

1. Leo Adams is working on the Airline Trail.
2. Roadside mowing has started.
3. Quaddick Road Bridge is still set to close for 30 days beginning in August.
4. A FOIA class is going to be set up for Town Hall staff.
5. The back parking lot at Town Hall is owned by CT Water. The Town has to provide an A-2 survey to CT Water and they will transfer the property to the Town. It will have to go to PZC and Town Meeting for approval. The estimate to do the A-2 survey is \$2,200.

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

1. S. Smith asked about the potential energy cost savings at the library. K. Beausoleil answered that they are still waiting for the report to come back from CLEAResult.
2. S. Smith stated that she just provided a draft letter to possibly submit to the Rhode Island Siting Board.
3. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to add "Library Historical Museum Roof" to the agenda under "Other Business."**

Ken Beausoleil- Yes

Steve Herbert- Yes

Shaina Smith- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

C. S. Herbert presented the following Selectmen's Comments:

1. S. Herbert suggested including the ethics proposal on the next agenda.

IV. Citizens' Comments

- A. Roger Tremblay, Brandy Hill Rd., expressed his concern over the safety and liability issue on Brandy Hill Rd. at the bridge that separates Quaddick Lake. The signs indicating 'no swimming' and 'no loitering' have been taken down. People stand on the top plank and jump into the water. It is a safety concern and a liability concern. He stated that "you" said a month ago that Leo Adams would be informed of the situation, and now Leo is fixing the Airline Trail. Priorities should be reviewed. K. Beausoleil stated that the Town is looking at doing repairs and is waiting for a quote back.
- B. Al Landry, 33 Randall Rd., thanked the Board for getting the school sign to stop flashing.

- C. Paul Baer, Thompson Rd., stated that he spoke with K. Beausoleil regarding a FOIA complaint and K. Beausoleil told him he would not authorize payment for Attorney Byrnes to represent PZC for the complaint, however Attorney Byrnes appeared at the hearing. He assumes K. Beausoleil approved this because hiring Attorney Byrnes was not approved at any PZC meeting. He asked if S. Herbert is being kept informed and getting material on a timely basis. He asked for a status update on the Marianapolis Sewer Project. The website was updated 8 months ago. He has not seen any RFPs for a website contract. The website is lacking. Regarding the Fire Protection Advisory Committee, he stated that it has taken eight months to find out that somebody is going to write up a report on their own. The ethics policy has been going around for a long time. He presented a set of minutes from 13 years ago indicating support for an ethics policy from elected officials, including Larry Groh, until the policy went to Town Meeting. The BOS previously thought it was a great idea to revive EDC, and over 13 years later, \$50,000 was put into the budget when EDC was "charged to do that" 13 years ago. Fire departments and services are grossly underfunded. The fire departments could have used the \$50,000 budgeted for EDC. Three of the four fire departments that are required to file annually with the CT Secretary of State are delinquent on their filings. He presented a report that Sturbridge conducted on their fire department. Sturbridge had equipment put out of service because it was deemed unsafe. Webster had a fatality in front of their fire house when a driver ran over a pedestrian. Fire service in Town needs to be examined.

V. Fire Departments

- A. S. Herbert thanked representatives of the various fire departments for being present. He stated that what he wanted to ask about is how each department makes sure members are qualified when they apply. He also mentioned that criminal records in Connecticut can be found online.
- B. John Sharpe stated that Community asks for 3 letters of recommendation that are checked and contacted, and a copy of their driver's license. Licenses will now be updated yearly. He does use the CT judicial website to check for criminal records. If someone is accused of a crime but not convicted, they are brought before the Board of Directors and J. Sharpe to decide how to handle the situation. Approximately 10 people are drivers for 7 pieces of equipment. There is only one member who is not from Thompson, with some EMS daytime staff from Woodstock and Putnam.
- C. Michelle Harvanek stated that Quinebaug checks references for applicants, and they will add it to their procedures to look at driver's licenses every year. They do check records on the CT judicial site. Members are reviewed periodically, and if there are rumors, they get checked out. If someone is accused of a crime but not convicted, they are brought before the Membership Committee and M. Harvanek to decide how to handle the situation. There are approximately 10-15 drivers for 5 pieces of equipment. There is one member from Putnam, and a number of people belong to other fire departments, such as Webster.
- D. Mike Rivers stated that West Thompson has a lengthy standard operating procedure (SOP). Driver's licenses and driving records are checked, along with criminal records and references. Volunteers are required to self report. He went into detail regarding how disciplinary procedures are handled according to the SOP. There are approximately 10 drivers for 4 pieces of equipment. 70% of members are from Putnam or Woodstock.

- E. Ron Fornier stated that East Thompson checks references and the CT judicial website. References are called and verified. Driver's licenses are checked every two years. There is a lengthy driving program with senior officers before someone can drive on their own. If someone is accused of a crime but not convicted, they are put on leave and the situation is researched. There are approximately 10 drivers for 4 pieces of equipment. 5 members are from Webster, a couple from Thompson, and a lot from Putnam.
- VI. Vacant Positions/Hiring/Job Descriptions
- A. K. Beausoleil stated that he handed out job descriptions for a custodian that will need to be finalized. The Board will need to solidify the dates to interview for the Highway Maintainer. Applications for the Secretary/Clerk were given to the entire Board to review, and the interview process will be set up.
 - B. S. Herbert asked about the volunteer applications for the EDC alternate vacancies. K. Beausoleil stated that he will have to speak with the Executive Assistant regarding the applications.
- VII. SHR Solar
- A. K. Beausoleil stated that an email was received stating that the solar project behind Town Hall lead by SHR Energy has won the ZREC bid.
 - B. S. Herbert stated that this issue was discussed in Executive Session and he was not sure what could be spoken about openly. K. Beausoleil answered that the company just wants to have a conversation, and suggested that the Board should hold a public informational meeting.
 - C. S. Herbert mentioned that the email referred to the project as the school solar project. K. Beausoleil answered that the Town will receive a savings because the energy costs come through the budget as a whole. He also stated that the past administration was informed that the project would have to go to Town Meeting.
 - D. S. Smith stated that the Town Attorney is looking into the matter, and she was worried about having this conversation in the open. K. Beausoleil stated that he spoke with the Town Attorney that day, and he knows about the email.
- VIII. Road List
- A. K. Beausoleil stated that Leo Adams presented a list of roads needing repair. He presented the list and schedule to the Board.
 - B. S. Herbert asked if the list could include dollar amounts for the first 10 items or so.
 - C. K. Beausoleil left the meeting at 8:06 PM.
 - D. S. Herbert suggested including the list of roads to be repaired on the website, even if the list is subject to change. He also suggested including the discussion on the next agenda.
 - E. K. Beausoleil returned to the meeting at 8:08 PM.
- IX. Burrillville, RI Power Plant/Town Meeting
- A. K. Beausoleil stated that there were other items, such as the ordinance for the separation of IWC and Conservation Commission, that he would like to include in the Town Meeting, and the ordinances were reviewed by the Town Attorney before.
 - B. S. Smith read the letter she drafted for the Board in opposition to the power plant aloud.
 - C. K. Beausoleil expressed concern about the aquifer.

- D. S. Smith suggested submitting the letter as a Letter to the Editor in a Rhode Island publication, and the Villager.
 - E. S. Herbert asked if the letter should say "on behalf of Thompson residents" as this is a Board proposal.
 - F. There was discussion regarding MBTE. Paul Baer stated that MBTE can be filtered out of water depending on how much money a company wants to spend.
 - G. Al Landry stated tat 200 acres of interior forest are being cut down. One tree can absorb 10 pounds of carbon dioxide per year. 200 acres of trees is a huge filter. It would be nice if a state was not allowed to put a power plant on its border. The grid loses incredible amounts of power that is checked every mile. He is completely opposed to the power plants, and he suggested the Board should publish the letter wherever they can.
 - H. Wayne O'Brien stated that at a previous meeting, it was said that during the winter, the plant will use one million gallons of water per day, and Thompson will be dry and looking for water.
 - I. Ray Dewey stated that the letter expresses that the Board is concerned with the power plant, but he thought the Board was opposed.
 - J. S. Smith stated that if the Board wanted to put their opposition at the beginning of the letter, she would not object.
 - K. D. Pimental asked if the Board is opposed to the power plant, and suggested they put those words in the letter. He stated that the purpose of our government is to improve the lives of our citizens, and the letter should stress that.
 - L. Roman Jamieson stated that he is opposed to the power plants because it is the wrong direction to go, and he is more interested in solar power. He stated that there will be traffic issues with trucks going through Thompson because of the plant.
- X. Other Business
- A. Library Historical Museum Roof
 - 1. K. Beausoleil stated that the roof has to be done. Mary Ann Chinatti will start the USDA loan process. A proposal will be drafted and the loan amount will still have to go to Referendum.
 - 2. S. Herbert asked about an opportunity for a grant. Joe Lindley stated that they can only apply for a 1772 Foundation Grant to match funds up to \$10,000, and then they would have to find other funding.
 - 3. S. Smith asked about a time-line. K. Beausoleil suggested this would be completed late September or October.
 - 4. John Rice explained that with the last storm, more leaks were discovered in the underlayment, and because of the structure of the roof, it is very difficult to determine where the water will fall.
- XI. Citizens' Comments
- A. Wayne O'Brien, 108 Fabyan Rd., asked what kind of roof would be on the building just discussed. K. Beausoleil answered they would restore the clay tile roof, replace the underlayment, and put the clay tile back up.

- B. Al Landry, 33 Randall Rd., expressed his dismay about hearing nothing regarding the power plants from the Conservation Commission. There are concerns about air quality, quality of life, etc. He asked the Board to send the Conservation Commission their letter. He stated that he is disgusted with the Commission and they are supposed to look out for Thompson residents.
- C. Joe Lindley stated that, regarding the SHR correspondence, he is worried to hear that the project was called the school solar project, because there is no school solar project, as far as he is aware.
- D. Paul Baer, Thompson Rd., stated that Porter Plain Rd. should be a top priority as it is a main road for the fire department to get to the highway. Traveling over East Thompson Rd. is probably taking a toll on the fire department's equipment. He stated that this has been being discussed since the administration of First Selectman Groh and Selectman Beausoleil, but year after year, nothing happens. There is a Conservation Commission member who has not been to a meeting in two years. There is a member on IWC who has been at meetings sporadically for 18 months. Conservation Commission is charged with being advisory to IWC, but they have said nothing regarding the Starr Rd. debacle. He suggested a memo from the Selectmen's Office or Board of Selectmen to follow-up. He stated that the First Selectman or BOS should suggest to all Committees that take applications that certificates of existence should be required, because a company filed an application that could not have submitted a certificate of existence, and according to the Secretary of State's office, they should not be doing business unless they're current with their filings.

XII. Tax Refunds

- A. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to approve the following tax refunds:**

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| 1. S. Emerson Hill | \$24.37 |
| 2. Krohn | \$27.62 |
| 3. Phyllis A. Lehrer | \$13.26 |
| 4. Paul P. and Renee M. Rawinski | \$131.55 |

Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

XIII. Adjourn

- A. **Steve Herbert moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to adjourn.**

Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

- B. First Selectman Ken Beausoleil adjourned the meeting at 8:49 PM.

Tina Fox
Recording Secretary