



# **TOWN of THOMPSON**

## ***Board of Selectmen***

**Minutes: Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, August 16, 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 (entered at 7:02 PM)  
Steve Herbert

Staff Present: Tina Fox, Recording Secretary  
Also Present: Members of the Public

I. Approval of Minutes

- A. **Steve Herbert moved and Ken Beausoleil seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the August 2, 2016 regular meeting as written.**

Ken Beausoleil- Yes                      Steve Herbert- Yes

**The motion carried unanimously.**

S. Smith entered the meeting at 7:02 PM, after the following motion was made, but before the vote was taken

- B. **Steve Herbert moved and Ken Beausoleil seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the August 9, 2016 special meeting with the following correction:**

1. S. Smith was not present at the start of the meeting and did not vote to go into Executive Session. Add a sentence to read: "Selectman Smith arrived after the group went into Executive Session.

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

**The motion carried unanimously.**

II. Correspondence

- A. The CT Siting Council responded to the letter of objection regarding the proposed Killingly power plant, advising that the Siting Council has not received an application for that facility at the time of the letter.
- B. Letter from Norm Babbitt, to be discussed during Selectmen's Comments.

III. Selectmen's Comments

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

1. Quaddick Rd. Bridge is closed. When the deck was removed, issues with the abutment were discovered. Additional work is required increasing the cost approximately \$34,000. He is waiting on an answer if the bridge will be closed longer than originally anticipated.
2. Engineers are still searching for the best way to complete drilling for the Marianapolis Sewer Project.

3. Leo Adams has been painting lines on roads, and completed various small jobs.
  4. Norm Babbitt had concerns regarding roads. His letter was forwarded to Leo Adams for review and N. Babbitt was sent a response. N. Babbitt is still concerned about the intersection at Spicer Rd. and East Thompson Rd., the curbing on Buck Hill Rd., and he would like a sign at Buck Hill Rd. where it meets Quaddick Town Farm Rd. A sign was ordered for the intersection of Spicer Rd. and East Thompson Rd. Leo Adams does not want to put the curbing back in on Buck Hill Rd. because the road now drains properly. Leo Adams is going to estimate the cost of N. Babbitt's suggestions.
  5. A fence is going up on Brandy Hill Bridge to prevent jumping off the bridge.
  6. A FOIA class is scheduled at Town Hall on Thursday, August 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 Am and 1:00 PM.
  7. The Town was served two courts summons. One was the labor union pension issue that was in arbitration. The other summons was by Attorney Slater on behalf of his clients regarding the Starr Rd. Inland Wetlands application.
  8. No new information regarding the Library HVAC. Eversource is still working to get a cost savings through their program.
  9. CME has started the process on the back parking lot at Town Hall.
  10. The bill for the oil spill remediation at the Town Garage was negotiated from \$118,000 to \$105,000.
  11. The Selectmen's Update was in the Shopper's Guide the past week, but only went to the 06277 zip code.
  12. Town Hall computers caught a virus Monday morning, but are now up and running.
- B. S. Herbert presented the following Selectmen's Comments:
1. Sent a better description of what would be a good idea for the list of roads needing repairs. He suggested asking Leo Adams to calculate the costs as if he were a contractor quoting the job to another Town.
  2. The lines on Wilsonville Rd. are very wavy. He questioned if that will be a safety issue for cars that have line-sensitive equipment.
- IV. Citizens' Comments
- A. Al Landry, 33 Randall Rd., there used to be a gap in the road lines where one road intersected another, which was helpful to know where to turn. Brandy Hill Rd. is rough, and Gawron Rd. is falling apart. There is talk about getting rid of the bus fleet. Buses are supposed to be used for emergencies. He asked what the Town will do if it does not have its own bus fleet.
  - B. Steve Benoit, Emergency Management, stated that he brought the concern up to Dr. Jolin about where the buses will come from if there is an evacuation at the school. He stated that it is not worth it to save the money for the life of even one child.
  - C. Al Landry, 33 Randall Rd., stated that if the Town does get rid of the fleet, he hopes the buses are not stored at the Town Garage, because Leo Adams should have his room for himself. He stated that he is worried about people in elderly housing if there is an emergency. He saw that there is another grant for the mill across from the Library. He asked when money will stop being thrown at the mill, and asked what the grant is for. K. Beausoleil stated that the grant is to figure out what hazards are there, and what it takes to clean it up. A. Landry stated that there is a court yard in the middle of the mill that is a hazardous waste site.

- D. S. Herbert stated that the past weekend, Steve Benoit hosted the second session for the active shooter class. A number of fire departments participated. S. Benoit did a great job.
- E. Roman Jamieson, Taylor Rd., stated that he heard something on the radio regarding a solar project, the school, the BOS and the owner of the land. He stated that there seems to be a hold-up where the school board does not want to sign the papers. K. Beausoleil stated that the past administration started a discussion with a developer for a solar field behind Town Hall. There was no commitment by the Town or school to partake in the project. The developer was moving forward and was approved for Zero Renewable Energy Credits. The developer would like to re-entertain having some discussion and bring the project to a public informational meeting. R. Jamieson thanked the Board for the letters of objection regarding the two proposed power plants. The radio indicated that plans for the Killingly plant will be submitted by the end of the week.
- F. Paul Baer, Thompson Rd., stated that he missed the last meeting when there was discussion regarding an alternate for EDC. The person being considered was Chairman of the Fire Protection Advisory Committee and resigned and left work incomplete. The individual was involved in the Solar Advisory Committee which "went by the wayside." The individual was on a Board of Directors as a Treasurer in Worcester and the company went bankrupt. A vote was taken to appoint the individual and K. Beausoleil abstained. K. Beausoleil is the CEO of the Town; he is elected to manage the Town's affairs, so an abstention is not appropriate. He distributed a Code of Honor to the Board. He stated that the Town is incurring legal bills it cannot afford. There is no return on investment for legal fees. The questions asked of the Fire Departments at a previous meeting were not adequate; the tough questions were not asked. There is a class coming up in Knoxville for fire departments regarding leadership. He would like to donate his frequent flyer miles to provide an airline ticket for someone to participate in the seminar. A few years ago, another solar project was being considered, and the headquarters of the company was a Holiday Inn. The headquarters of the current company is someone's home. One individual involved with the company is the CEO of a company in Minnesota. One is registered in Massachusetts but not authorized to do business in Massachusetts. The company put together a proposal for Weston, CT and Weston decided they did not want to proceed. Weston is now being sued by the company. Solar Advisory Committee created an RFP and companies came for a pre-conference. Of the 9 or 12 companies that came to the pre-conference, only 3 or 4 bid on the job. One sent a letter saying they did not bid because there was not proper time. He asked the Committee why they did not ask the companies why they did not do a proposal. He would hate to see Thompson end up like Weston. He stated that a company called Rec Solar does these types of solar projects and have engineering staff; they actually do something other than paperwork. The Town needs to be cautious. He distributed paperwork of a criminal case, stating that the case is pending currently and was just filed last year.

- G. Al Landry, 33 Randall Rd., stated that the man who has proposing the solar project was on WINY the other day. There used to be a Renewable Energy Committee, and they had a company willing to, at no cost to the Town, put in solar panels and charge the Town for ten years at whatever rate was being charged the day the panels went up. Burrillville had a four hour public meeting regarding the proposed power plant. He spoke about the gallons of oil and ammonia, making the spot an easy target for terrorism. Emergency personnel talked about how horrible it would be if something went wrong. There was discussion about the well that was capped off. The Health Board just listened, and did not give feed back.
- V. Public Information Meeting re: Solar September 7, 2016
- A. K. Beausoleil stated that there will be a public information meeting on solar September 7<sup>th</sup> at the Library. The company that was being discussed wishes to come down and speak about their project. Another solar field is going in Mechanicsville at the Hydro Plant, and they were invited to speak as well. He will ask the owners of the solar project on Ballard Rd. to speak as well.
- B. S. Smith asked if the Solar Committee will be there or have been notified. K. Beausoleil stated that he has not sent anything out yet, but he did speak to Dr. Jolin and a few members of the Board of Finance (BOF).
- C. S. Smith stated that when the previous administration was first introduced to the solar company, the Board met with the Solar Committee at the time. They were aware of the project. There were not many members present and one member was also on the Board of Selectmen (BOS). She thought they were in-line with doing this type of project.
- D. **Steve Herbert moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to move forward and establish a public informational meeting regarding solar energy on September 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at the Community Center.**  
                     Ken Beausoleil- Yes                      Steve Herbert- Yes                      Shaina Smith- Yes  
**The motion carried unanimously.**
- VI. Request for funds for Ellen Larned Museum/Library Roof
- A. K. Beausoleil explained that this project was discussed during the budget process and \$150,000 was requested. M. A. Chinatti spoke to USDA and was advised that the interest rate would be 2.75% through September 30<sup>th</sup>.
- B. John Rice stated that the roof was quoted at \$149,000. Other costs, including the cost of the bond, insurance, contingency, and legal fees, bring the estimate to approximately \$200,000.
- C. S. Herbert asked about a grant. Joe lamartino explained that a 1772 grant was received last year and the Historical Society does attempt to get whatever grants it qualifies for, but the 1772 grant has been asked for a few too many times.
- D. **Steve Herbert moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to request from the Board of Finance up to \$200,000 appropriation for the replacement of the old library roof.**  
                     Ken Beausoleil- Yes                      Steve Herbert- Yes                      Shaina Smith- Yes  
**The motion carried unanimously.**
- E. There was discussion as to whether the motion should include the total cost or just the principal.

- F. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to amend the original motion and add "...in addition to requesting any additional finance costs which may be incurred."**

Ken Beausoleil- Yes

Steve Herbert- Yes

Shaina Smith- Yes

**The motion carried unanimously.**

- G. K. Beausoleil stated that he will also be requesting funding to finish cleaning the Selectmen's Office with additional staff. The BOF had suggested he request the money out of contingency. He will request \$11,000. S. Herbert asked if the \$11,000 will finish the project, because it seems to be taking a long time. K. Beausoleil answered that there is a number of years of records in disarray and that someone very talented has come in and is familiar with the organization system.

VII. Office Secretary/Clerk Hire- Renee Rawinski

- A. K. Beausoleil explained that interviews were conducted. An offer was presented to Renee Rawinski, which was accepted.

- B. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to officially hire her (Renee Rawinski) so she can start.**

Ken Beausoleil- Yes

Steve Herbert- Yes

Shaina Smith- Yes

**The motion carried unanimously.**

VIII. Town Maintenance-Custodian Interviews / Library Evening Custodian Interviews

- A. K. Beausoleil stated that with the hiring of the Highway Maintainer, a position opened at the Library. An ad went out simultaneously for these two custodial positions. The last time the Library custodian was hired, Allison Boutaugh was on the hiring committee, as well as the day time custodian, and someone from the Library Board.
- B. S. Herbert stated that he is against hiring someone to work at Town Hall to do temporary catch-up work. He suggested not hiring a permanent position that will be on staff forever, but rather hire contractors to do the temporary jobs. He stated that a permanent position for a building the size of Town Hall is overkill.
- C. K. Beausoleil explained that the building has been in disarray for years. The BOF gave additional money to hire someone. The person could work at Town Hall, and the gazebo, parks, and other Town buildings.
- D. S. Herbert stated that he does not want to neglect the building, but would prefer to hire people to do the job and not stay on staff.
- E. K. Beausoleil stated that they created a broad description for the position so that the person would be able to help in all areas of Town. There used to be a 40 hour per week position, and the building has not been maintained since that person retired.
- F. The Board discussed who should be included in the hiring committee. K. Beausoleil agreed to come up with a list of potential members and email the list to the two other Selectmen to be narrowed down.

IX. Other Business

## X. Citizens' Comments

- A. Al Landry, 33 Randall Rd., stated that he worked at the University of Alaska doing janitorial services. Town Hall bathrooms need to be cleaned daily, not twice a week. He suggested using a black light to see the filth in the bathrooms. Town Hall has not been maintained properly for years. If someone gets sick and they find out it originated in the bathroom, the Town would get sued.
- B. Paul Baer, Thompson Rd., stated that K. Beausoleil suggested the building has been neglected for dozens of years, but that K. Beausoleil is not new to this Board. He agreed with S. Herbert. The mentality in the State is to hire more help. The Board had the opportunity to reduce the Town Budget and did not. Employees might be at will, but there is no will to get rid of anyone. Just because the BOF approves the money, doesn't mean the BOS has to spend it. The members of the Renewable Energy Committee did not want to get involved again after they did their work to get a solar project and the school did not approve it. The discussion regarding \$11,000 for additional funds should have been voted on to be put on the agenda as "Other Business." The website still does not have old files uploaded. Town Hall is not big enough to have a full-time custodian. The Library has two custodians, but he suggested looking at Dudley's library budget. It would be nice to have the website fixed and send out an RFP to get a contractor to manage it. No recordings are uploaded and things are mislabeled. The BOS agenda was not on the website as of this afternoon. He stated that K. Beausoleil promised to have agendas on the website by the Friday before the meeting.
- C. Al Landry, 33 Randall Rd., stated that the rooms in Town Hall were painted by volunteers, as well as the benches in the hallway. They spent weeks cleaning up the back room and organizing, and now it is a mess again. When someone volunteers and sees their work fall apart, they soon ask what the point is. No one should be allowed to put anything in the back room without the approval of the First Selectman. He feels both ways regarding needing a custodian at Town Hall.
- D. Paul Baer, Thompson Rd., thanked Al Landry for all the work he does. He stated that K. Beausoleil seems biased against contractors, and he keeps saying that he has seen terrible work with contractors. He asked the Board to look at the paving on Wilsonville Rd., and stated that not every contractor is bad, and not every Town employee is great. He stated that the Town has an affinity for wanting to get more friends hired.

## XI. Tax Refunds

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

1.	ACAR Leasing Ltd.	\$69.68
2.	Dedrick Baublitz	\$217.08
3.	Jordan Coty	\$62.94 and \$10.58
4.	Deborah Dillon	\$20.32
5.	Deborah Dion	\$37.53 and \$12.01
6.	Daniel Fitzgerald	\$31.58
7.	Honda Lease Trust	\$254.61 and \$220.39
8.	Brenda and Brian Johnson	\$26.11
9.	Kenneth Julian	\$35.32
10.	Arthur and Kathleen Maclean	\$31.74
11.	John Naylor	\$17.49
12.	Brenda Noonan	\$72.63
13.	Charles and Cynthia Obert	\$500.00
14.	William Peltier	\$6.47
15.	Daniel Petre	\$39.87
16.	Corinne Philbrook	\$47.63
17.	Merrill Robbins	\$118.52
18.	Michael Tomany	\$8.47
19.	Shawn Tucker	\$11.65
20.	CT Water Co.	\$16,086.52
21.	Edward Volle	\$7.46

Ken Beausoleil- Yes

Steve Herbert- Yes

Shaina Smith- Yes

**The motion carried unanimously.**

## XII. 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 8:58 PM.

Tina Fox  
Recording Secretary