



# **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  
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 August 16, 2016 regular meeting as written.**  
Ken Beausoleil- Yes      Steve Herbert- Yes      Shaina Smith- Yes  
**The motion carried unanimously.**
- II. Correspondence
  - A. Thames Valley Council for Community Action (TVCCA) will host an event on September 16<sup>th</sup> at the Veteran's Coffee House.
  - B. Letter from office of Rhode Island Governor Gina Raimondo regarding the Board's objection to the proposed power plant in Burrillville.
  - C. Letter from DEEP announcing that Community Fire has been awarded a \$2,500 grant.
  - D. Notification from Northeast CT Chamber of Commerce for a Putnam Bank business after hours at Bradley Theater on September 13<sup>th</sup>.
  - E. Notification from Connecticut Conference of Municipalities regarding an event at Grill 37 on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.
  - F. News release from CT Public Health stating that September 6<sup>th</sup> is National "Protect Your Ground Water" day.
- III. Selectmen's Comments
  - A. K. Beausoleil presented the following Selectmen's Comments:
    1. Quaddick Rd. Bridge is scheduled to re-open September 20<sup>th</sup>.
    2. Two FOIA classes were held at Town Hall by Tom Hennick on August 25<sup>th</sup>.
    3. Regarding the proposed Killingly power plant, K. Beausoleil met with David Griffin, member of Killingly Town Council, who acknowledged that Thompson took a stand on the project and wished other Towns would do the same.
    4. Renee King sent a summary of the proposed power plants.
    5. There will be a meeting on September 15<sup>th</sup> between the Marianapolis Sewer Project contractor, the school, and the Town to review options with the project.

6. K. Beausoleil is on the NECCOG Paramedic Intercept Review Committee. Their contract is up and proposals that were sent out for various vendors will be reviewed.
  7. NECCOG is currently working on the building study, and still have a couple of office to get through.
  8. K. Beausoleil asked for a request in writing regarding what the Town is allowed to put on the roof of the Ellen Larned Museum building.
  9. the DOT will be doing a safety study on various intersections in Thompson.
  10. There is a Public Informational Meeting at 7 PM at the Library on September 10<sup>th</sup> regarding solar projects.
  11. The Board needs to begin thinking about how to approach the \$50,000 in the Economic Development Commission budget and decide what to do with the money.
- B. S. Smith presented the following Selectmen's Comments:
1. S. Smith asked if the Selectmen's Update was sent out to all Thompson zip codes, to which K. Beausoleil answered affirmatively.
  2. S. Smith spoke with a web designer in California who said he will not work with Joomla, and prefers WordPress. WordPress is an easy program to use and is more user-friendly.
- C. S. Herbert presented the following Selectmen's Comments:
1. S. Herbert stated that S. Smith told the Recording Secretary to change what she records. He stated that the subject should have been brought up in public, and it is inappropriate for S. Smith to send an email to the Recording Secretary about this and not to the rest of the Board.
    - a. K. Beausoleil stated that he had a discussion with Tom Hennick because of an incident at a meeting of a comment that could have been libelous. Tom Hennick and Town Attorney St. Onge confirmed that in minutes, less is more, and they do not need to be verbatim. He stated that he spoke with S. Smith about this but that no decision was made regarding changing the minutes.
  2. S. Herbert stated that he asked "Road List" be added to the agenda.
    - a. K. Beausoleil stated that it was his oversight that this was not added to the agenda.
    - b. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to add "Road List" to the agenda under Other Business.**  
 Ken Beausoleil- Yes                      Steve Herbert- Yes                      Shaina Smith- Yes  
**The motion carried unanimously.**

## IV. Citizens' Comments

- A. Al Landry, 33 Randall Rd., stated that in Thompson, there are many roads with painted yellow lines where two roads join, which needs to be corrected. He stated that he will make a list of the roads and that someone should fix them. K. Beausoleil stated that Leo Adams has been made aware of the problem and will be working on it. A. Landry stated that he heard misinformation from the Chair of the Board of Education (BOE) on WINY, which was that the BOE brought up the idea of solar and got the solar committee going. The Renewable Energy Committee had Sun Edison ready to do a put in solar panels on the school roof at no cost to the school and the school said they were not interested at the time. He stated that he will be attending the Public Informational Meeting on the solar project.
- B. Don Pimental, 40 Starr Rd., stated that minutes do not have to be written verbatim, but if it weren't for minutes, he would not have been able to uncover a lot of things because recordings get lost. He has to see Mary Ann Chinatti to get a copy of a recording. He records meetings because recordings disappear. Unless the Town has a vault with recordings, he doesn't trust that recordings won't disappear. He has caught people in lies with older minutes. A battery can die on a recorder. He doesn't think everything has to be written into the minutes, but it is what the people want. He should be able to get the recordings at the Selectmen's office or Town Clerk's office. The Town should have tapes from 20 years ago. He wouldn't have proof of certain things if someone hadn't written those minutes. Minutes are important for evidence.
- C. Al Landry, 33 Randall Rd., stated that minutes don't need to be a transcript, and if someone wants a transcript, they can buy it. But everyone has a right to ask that what they are about to say be transcribed word-for-word.

## V. Library Evening Custodian

- A. K. Beausoleil stated he, Bob LaChance, and Alison Boutaugh interviewed candidates and the recommendation was to hire Sarah Zabka for the position.
- B. **Shaina Smith moved and Ken Beausoleil seconded the motion to hire Sarah Zabka for the position of evening custodian at the library.**
  - 1. S. Herbert asked if having two 19 hours per week custodial positions is necessary at the Library. He stated that not filling this vacancy could be an opportunity to save money, and it seems like a lot of hours for a small building.
  - 2. K. Beausoleil briefly described some of the duties involved for the position.
  - 3. S. Herbert reiterated that this could be an opportunity to reduce costs without firing a person.
  - 4. The Board discussed whether or not they could open the discussion to comments from non-Board members.**This motion and second were withdrawn.**
- C. Don Pimental stated that the Library probably has a work schedule that allows them to know how long it takes to get things done. He has custodians at his job location for all three shifts.
- D. Tom Poplawski questioned that if the evening position does the cleaning, then what does the morning person do. He reiterated that S. Smith stated the Board members are not experts on the janitorial position in the Library, so the Board does not know if one position is needed or not. The Board is just voting to have a second custodian because there has always been one.

- E. Al Landry stated that he sees both sides of the situation. His worry is that Thompson would let another nice building fall apart for lack of maintenance.
  - F. K. Beausoleil suggested that S. Herbert meet with Alison Boutaugh and the Library Board to gather more information.
- VI. Resolution re: Emergency Management Performance Grant
- A. Steve Benoit stated that this is a 50/50 grant where if his department spends \$500, the grant then sends \$250 to the Town. The problem is that the grant money goes into the Town's general fund because he has been told Emergency Management cannot have revenue. He would like the Board to meet with the Board of Finance (BOF) to set up a separate account for this grant money to go into for Emergency Management use only.
  - B. K. Beausoleil stated that the resolution on the agenda needs to be approved so that Emergency Management can receive the grant. He read the resolution aloud.
  - C. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to approve the resolution re: Emergency Management performance grant as read.**  
Ken Beausoleil- Yes                      Steve Herbert- Yes                      Shaina Smith- Yes  
**The motion carried unanimously.**
- VII. Girl Scout Request
- A. K. Beausoleil read a letter requesting that Girl Scouts be allowed to sell cookies at the Transfer Station on November 5<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM to 12 PM.
  - B. **Steve Herbert moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to allow girl scouts to sell cookies at the Transfer Station on November 5<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM to 12 PM.**  
Ken Beausoleil- Yes                      Steve Herbert- Yes                      Shaina Smith- Yes  
**The motion carried unanimously.**
- VIII. Republican Town Committee Request
- A. K. Beausoleil stated that a letter was sent to him requesting that the political campaigning be allowed to take place inside the fences of the Transfer Station for safety reasons.
  - B. S. Herbert stated that it seems to make sense and probably does not violate any election laws.
  - C. S. Smith brought up concerns regarding insurance because she was worried the Town would be held liable. She suggested the Board speak to the Highway Maintainers about where the girl scouts set up and to find out if there is a safe place to set up inside.
  - D. K. Beausoleil stated that he will look into this request.
- IX. Proclamation Request for Pain Awareness Month
- A. K. Beausoleil read the proclamation aloud.
  - B. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to approve the resolution re: Pain Awareness Month as read.**
    - 1. S. Herbert asked S. Smith if she is a member of this organization. S. Smith answered affirmatively, and stated that the legality was checked with no problem.
    - 2. S. Herbert asked if the US Pain Foundation was related to the American Pain Foundation. S. Smith answered that they are not affiliated, and the American Pain Foundation was disbanded due to financial issues, and a lot of the volunteers and finances came to the US Pain Foundation.

3. S. Herbert stated that the American Pain Foundation is under investigation regarding their funding. S. Smith reiterated that they were a completely separate organization, and added that the US Pain Foundation started as the Connecticut Pain Foundation and then expanded.

Ken Beausoleil- Yes

Steve Herbert- Abstain

Shaina Smith- Yes

**The motion carried.**

X. Beautify in Blue Campaign

- A. S. Smith explained that Beautify in Blue is a visual awareness campaign for Pain Awareness month that honors residents in Thompson who have chronic pain. The US Pain Foundation's color is blue. Thompson participated in 2014 and 2015. Last year, ribbons and signage were put up along the river trail, Library, and Town hall. Everyone who participates signs a contract stating that they will keep the integrity of the Town intact and commit to cleaning up during and after September. S. Smith puts up the ribbons and signage herself. The contract states that the Town is not liable for any injuries.

- B. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to approve the ribbons and the signs.**

Ken Beausoleil- Yes

Steve Herbert- Yes

Shaina Smith- Yes

**The motion carried unanimously.**

XI. Other Business

A. Road List

1. S. Herbert stated that he would like to see the costs to repair the top ten roads on the list provided by Leo Adams.
2. K. Beausoleil stated that L. Adams provided him that day with two contractor proposals for Reardon Rd., as well as the price for the Town to repair the road itself. The Board discussed the labor costs that were calculated and agreed that the labor costs seemed to be calculated incorrectly.
3. S. Herbert reiterated that he requested the pricing for the top ten roads, and stated that he would speak directly to L. Adams again to clarify what he is looking for.

XII. Citizens' Comments

- A. Tom Poplawski, Wilsonville Rd., made a comment about a small table in the room.
- B. Al Landry, 33 Randall Rd., stated that Recreation and Thompson Trails have accounts set up similar to what Steve Benoit was requesting for Emergency Management. Emergency Management should have an account to build up funds. Any office in Town Hall that brings in money, including the Transfer Station, should have a dedicated fund so that the following year, they are asking for less money in the budget. If this was done, the Transfer Station budget would show \$120,000 instead of \$300,000. K. Beausoleil stated that he can ask the auditors about this.

- C. Don Pimental, 40 Starr Rd., asked the Board to tell him who is in charge of the Wetlands Agent. He stated that Marla Butts was in the woods of Rhode Island (RI) on Friday with Allan Rawson, sent a letter to RI to get them to fix the culverts, and is on video tape saying she doesn't care what happens in RI because it is none of our business. The taxpayers are paying a Wetlands Agent to help a developer win his cause. He asked if someone is going to tell her to stop what she is doing. Taxpayers don't deserve to have her go out of her jurisdiction. She made it seem like she is representing the Town. He stated that he previously asked to the on the Inland Wetlands Commission (IWC) and nothing happened. He again asked who her boss is and who is going to say something to her. He has the emails she sent to RI. "This guy" is controlling the Town and having people that taxpayers pay go out and do "his" dirty work. He thinks it was wrong for her to write a report saying that she's done, then visit the RI woods on Friday with Allan Rawson on the taxpayer's dime with a potential lawsuit pending. He stated that this is deceiving and that someone needs to tell her what to do.

### XIII. Tax Refunds

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

1.	Joseph J. Benkowski	\$28.02
2.	Richard D. Carignan	\$38.05
3.	Financial Services Vehicle Trust	\$539.90
4.	Paul R. Giguere	\$21.24
5.	Garnald L. and Barbara M. Hewey	\$12.20
6.	Hyundai Lease Titling Trust	\$126.79 and \$227.19
7.	Robert S. and Jane D. Jeniski	\$16.45 and \$78.16
8.	Louis P. Jr. and Louise M. Kapitulik	\$120.22
9.	Michael J. Krogul	\$31.54
10.	Richard Meunier	\$1.04
11.	Richard Meunier and Rothwell G.	\$6.20 and \$49.87
12.	Nissan Infinity LT	\$23.48
13.	Raymond E. Olsen	\$8.65
14.	Robert L. and Ellen E. Prestes	\$17.12
15.	Anna P. Surozenski	\$4.59
16.	Timothy Tremblay	\$7.22
17.	Patricia A. Tupaj	\$19.83
18.	James and Tammy M. Weiss	\$9.38
19.	Eugene H. Jr. and Donna M. Young	\$23.50
20.	Brett S. Lovett	\$14.46
21.	Stephan E. and Gwendolyn Rothwell	\$8.58
22.	Lucille T. and Bernard J. Barrette	\$4.50
23.	Dale A. and Margaret S. Smith	\$22.33
24.	Suzanne L. Lindley	\$6.10
25.	Gregory K. and Carol J. Tucker	\$152.25
26.	John E. Jr. and Johanne T. Mahon	\$9.59
27.	Rosemary C. Chepkosgei	\$19.42
28.	David R. Kress	\$21.19
29.	Dana F. Robbins Jr.	\$103.01
30.	Elizabeth D. Lawson	\$6.85

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

**The motion carried unanimously.**

*MUNICIPAL BUILDING*

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XIV. 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 9:06 PM.

Tina Fox  
Recording Secretary