

**Town of Thompson, Connecticut  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
APRIL 10, 2007**

The Board of Selectmen held a Selectmen's Meeting on Tuesday, April 10, 2007 at 7:30 pm at the Thompson Town Hall, Seney Room.

**PRESENT:**

A. David Babbitt, First Selectmen; Kathleen A. Hiatt, Selectman; Lawrence K. Groh Jr., Selectman; Charlie Seney, Joseph Gaucher, Linda Fitzgerald, Al Landry, Lynn Landry, Jim Esslinger, Kevin Sullivan, Charlie Paquette.

Mr. Babbitt called the meeting to order April 10, 2007 at 7:30 pm

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Kathy Hiatt made a motion that we accept the minutes as presented with two corrections. The first correction is under those present at the meeting add John Rice and then on page 4 under the approval of new Hire – Mr. Groh voted yes. Seconded by Mr. Groh.

Ms. Hiatt	yes
Mr. Groh	yes
Mr. Babbitt	yes

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Mr. Babbitt received a letter from State Controller, Nancy Wyman announcing that 3 more people have been added to her Staff and also she wanted us to know she will continue to advocate for initiatives that benefit our State working families.

Mr. Babbitt presented a work sheet that is for Tax Rebates for our voluntary firemen. The grand total has now gone to almost \$46,000 in tax relief for people who volunteer for the fire departments.

Mr. Babbitt mentioned the police report from Troop D. It shows a lot of activity in town.

Mr. Babbitt received a letter from Renee Waldron concerning concessions at the Little League Field. We may want to transfer this item to 9A for consideration

tonight. Kathy Hiatt asked if we could move this item to 10A. David Babbitt made a motion to move this item to 10A. Kathy Hiatt seconded the motion.

Ms. Hiatt	yes
Mr. Groh	yes
Mr. Babbitt	yes

Mr. Babbitt received a letter from the General Assembly from both Don Williams and House Speaker James Amann. What this letter is saying that the Town should not count on the Governors budget in our planning. Changes are going to be coming.

Mr. Babbitt mentioned a master transportation plan. Just an announcement.

Mr. Babbitt mentioned a memo he sent to Renee Waldron regarding the fine work she did with the Easter Egg Hunt which was held Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Babbitt mentioned a violation that we received from NDDH concerning soil testing for repair of an onsite subsurface sewage system. We were told no action would be taken. Mr. Babbitt just wanted all to be aware of it. Mr. Babbitt asked our Fire Marshall and ZEO to look into this.

Mr. Babbitt mentioned a note from the Department of Agriculture stating the Agricultural Viability Grant Project has been approved.

Mr. Babbitt stated that he received a note asking us to save June 10th for an Eagle Scout Court of Honor. There will be three young men from Troop 66 from Thompson honored.

Mr. Babbitt received a letter from Rosa LeLauro, who is now Chairman of the Agriculture and the Appropriation Sub-Committee. Hopefully this will be beneficial to us in regards to the Town receiving more money in the future.

Mr. Babbitt stated the annual Plastic Expo will be held at QVCC.

Mr. Babbitt mentioned that Dr. Adilatta has advised us that he has appointed George Landry to TWPCA replacing Paul Lenky.

Mr. Babbitt stated he received a letter from Norma O'Leary asking that if at all possible to help with the clean-up.

#### **SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS**

Mr. Babbitt mentioned that Tonya Levesque had her baby, and that Diane Courtemanche from the Tax Office has been in the hospital. Diane will probably

be out for about 3 weeks. Mr. Babbitt also mentions his problem with his shoulder, but fortunately he has been able to come to work.

We are also waiting for our new Planner. Our new Planner will be starting May 2<sup>nd</sup>. John Guskowski has been coming in one day a week to and he is keeping everything going. John has been very helpful

Mr. Babbitt mentioned that our Assessor is going to be retiring. Applications are opened until the 13<sup>th</sup> of April. We have a committee of 4 people to review the applications and make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Babbitt mentions several items of which he has been trying to stay abreast, in the event that he couldn't come to the office at all. Fortunately, that didn't happen. He had the operation on Thursday and was back in the office on Monday. On Saturday he was able to attend the Easter Egg Hunt. It was a big success. Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday of that week he worked at home in the morning. The mail was brought to him in the morning and he was able to fax information back to the office and then come in to the office from 3 – 5 pm.

Mr. Babbitt mentioned that one of the interesting things that happened was he has been working with the people who purchased the mill. They have been working hard to secure a loan. We need plan on having a Selectmen's Meeting; probably a Special Selectmen's meeting so that all the Board of Selectmen can get a chance to meet the new owners. This would be a good opportunity to ask questions, to get an understanding as to what's being planned here in both North Grosvenordale and Grosvenordale mills.

Kathy Hiatt asked if we could set a couple of dates for a Special Selectmen's Meeting. The dates mentioned are April 30<sup>th</sup> or May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Between 1 – 2::30 pm.

Mr. Babbitt mentioned that he attended the Chamber of Commerce breakfast at the Harvest Restaurant on April 4<sup>th</sup>. Congressman Courtney was in attendance. Mr. Babbitt extended an invitation to Mr. Courtney to come visit and tour Thompson.

Mr. Babbitt mentioned he has had a few meetings on development. He met with a Hospitality Group this morning that has some interest in Thompson. Also looking into development at Hazard Road facility. We're hoping that good things will come from this.

Mr. Babbitt mentioned for the future we have a pre-construction meeting on the Buckley Hill Road Project. We also had a meeting with Verizon regarding a cell tower project.

Mr. Babbitt mentioned that the Little League parade will be on Saturday, at 11:00 am.

Mr. Babbitt mentioned that union negotiations will be taking place on April 20<sup>th</sup>.

Kathy Hiatt mentioned that the School Readiness Committee is working on the Grant Application again for the coming year and has been told that funding has been cut so that we will not be seeing any more than the \$107,000 they have this year.

Larry Groh asked if anyone reported to Mr. Babbitt the sign being vandalized at Wilsonville Park. Mr. Babbitt said he did not know it, but would pass the information on to Mr. Adams.

### **CITIZENS COMMENTS**

George Elms asked about the study on Thompson Hill regarding the Sewers stating "We were told that was pretty eminent". Mr. Babbitt said yes, as a matter of fact I printed it off my computer this afternoon. A copy was provided to Mr. Elms.

Lynn Landry would like to remind people the road side clean-up is going all month and we also will have the river clean-up on the 21<sup>st</sup>. We are also meeting tomorrow evening for "Evening with the Artist" at the Community Center.

A Citizen mentioned River Street. Did we take it back? Mr. Babbitt said we did not take it back Citizen mentioned that the pot-holes were being repaired. Mr. Babbitt stated that he ordered that since they paid the town \$360,000 in taxes.

A Citizen mentions Azud Road – Do you have a commercial industry coming in? Mr. Babbitt – highly unlikely.

Charles Paquette, Chairman of P&Z, stated he got a notice that Town Attorney's fees are running high and Mr. Paquette was asked all to inform the First Selectman before any calls are made to Attorney St. Onge. Mr. Babbitt stated that his intent was to make sure everyone was aware that that particular account has been over spent.

Kathy Hiatt stated that the intent was not to curtail any of your [P&Z] activities the intend was to have someone call and let the First Selectman know that we have a big one and we are talking to Mr. St Onge.

Mr. Paquette also stated that John Gusztowski had been working with a zoning applicant extensively on altering our zoning rules to allow for this commercial zone. Much discussion continued. Mr. Babbitt stated that we are very interested in trying to get some development going in the town and with your [P&Z] cooperation I believe we can do that. Mr. Paquette had questions about a recent memo concerning potential guidelines on the use of an engineer consultant for the

Town's land use commissions. This was generated at the requested of the Board of Finance. We had been working with NECOG, and they are talking about providing a regional engineer and what the fees would be for a regional engineer--coming close to \$20,000 for our contribution. The Board of Finance commented, why we don't do it ourselves.

Larry Groh made a motion to move agenda item #8 to # 4a since we are discussing it. Kathy Hiatt seconded the motion.

Ms. Hiatt	yes
Mr. Groh	yes
Mr. Babbitt	yes

Kathy Hiatt stated that this was a memorandum from our Planning Consultant because we have unfinished business with the Board of Finance. This memo is to the Planning & Zoning Commission, so your input is welcomed. A while ago a suggestion came up and it went to all the Boards to approve the concept of retaining a consultant engineer. P & Z provided that input. We then took it to the Board of Finance and they said in order for them to approve an amount, they needed an idea some rules are there so that we all know that this is a governed process as opposed to anybody can start writing checks for the engineer. Mr. Paquette stated that he sees problems and that this is a negative step.

## **PROCLAMATION**

David Babbitt made a motion to approve a proclamation honoring Diana Couture's work with the Town of Thompson as an Assessor for 22 years is proclaimed. Kathy Hiatt seconded the motion.

Ms. Hiatt	yes
Mr. Groh	yes
Mr. Babbitt	yes

## **APPOINTMENT**

Kathy Murphy's continuation of service on the Board of Directors North East District Department of Health. Larry Groh made the motion to approve, Kathy Hiatt, seconded.

Ms. Hiatt	yes
Mr. Groh	yes
Mr. Babbitt	yes

## **ASSESSOR COVERAGE**

Mr. Babbitt would like to have someone [Assessor] in the Assessors office at least once a week. Kathy Hiatt made a motion that we authorize the First Selectman to spend up to \$1800.00 to bring Diana Couture back on an as needed basis to complete some of those essential items that must be completed by an Assessor during the gap until a new Assessor is hired. Larry Groh seconded the motion.

Ms. Hiatt	yes
Mr. Groh	yes
Mr. Babbitt	yes

## **RELAY FOR LIFE COLLECTION AT TRANSFER STATION**

Received a letter from Linda Fitzgerald requesting permission to be at the Transfer Station to collect for RELAY FOR LIFE as she has done in the past. David Babbitt called Linda Fitzgerald to tell her that the Selectmen would be discussing this request at tonight's Selectmen's Meeting. Ms. Fitzgerald was available to answer any questions.

David Babbitt moved to go forward with this request. Larry Groh seconded.

Ms. Hiatt	yes
Mr. Groh	yes
Mr. Babbitt	yes

## **REQUEST FOR THE YOUNG MARINES**

Al Lafleur and the Young Marines hope to run the Concession Stand at softball games at Riverside Park. They would also take care of the facilities, restrooms and clean the Concession Stands. They have an insurance policy which we will ask them to produce. Kathy Hiatt made a motion that we allow the Young Marines to use the Concession Stand at Riverside Park as a fund raiser accordance a Lease Agreement that would be drawn up by Attorney St.Onge, and the First Selectman has authority to sign it. Larry Groh seconded.

Ms. Hiatt	yes
Mr. Groh	yes
Mr Babbitt	yes

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Don Brown came in and spoke to each of the Selectmen individually. Kathy Hiatt would like the Selectmen to tour the facilities at Koinonia. Kathy would like to invite members of the Rec Commission to go along. The dates of the tour would be April 24<sup>th</sup> in the am at 9:00 am.

Larry Groh asked about coverage in the Selectmen's Office. Mr. Babbitt stated that Betty Vruga will be covering the office in Tonya's absence.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:40 pm