



TOWN of THOMPSON

Board of Selectmen

**Minutes: Regular Meeting
Tuesday, October 4, 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 September 20, 2016 regular meeting as written.**
Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.
- II. Correspondence
 - A. Notification from CT Green Bank stating that the Support of Clean Energies program has closed.
 - B. Email regarding a Burrillville Town Council meeting to be held October 20th.
 - C. Letter from the Sexual Assault Crisis Center of Eastern CT thanking the Town for the \$100 contribution.
 - D. Letter from Rene Morin directed to the Planning and Zoning Commission regarding proposed solar fields in Town.
 - E. Invitation to Northeast Placement Services ribbon cutting ceremony of the new horticultural program on October 21st.
 - F. Notification of the Chamber of Commerce Men's Health and Wellness Breakfast at Grill 37 in Pomfret on October 18th.
 - G. Invitation to a business showcase on October 5th at Windham Tolland 4H Camp.
 - H. Notification of the Holly Jolly Joy Fund Auction and Gala at Thompson Raceway restaurant on November 11th.
 - I. Letter from Norm Babbitt regarding some signs and other items.
 - J. Letter from Southbridge Fire Department thanking the Town's volunteer fire departments for their help.

III. Selectmen's Comments

A. S. Herbert presented the following Selectmen's Comment:

1. There is a payphone at the Library/Community Center that is only accessible when the Library is open, was used less than 70 times in the past year, and cost \$840 per year. The Library Board of Trustees voted to discontinue the payphone then decided that they did not have jurisdiction because the phone was on the Community Center side of the building. The Library Director chose to continue the phone service. S. Herbert suggested that the BOS could give the Library Director some guidance, and to have a discussion included on the next agenda.

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

1. Thanked everyone for attending Thompson Community Day, and agreed that further discussion of the payphone is warranted.

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

1. Quaddick Road bridge opened October 3rd.
2. NECCOG will cover animal control starting October 12th until further notice.
3. The new Building Maintainer has started yard work and is progressing.
4. CME completed the survey of the back parking lot at Town Hall. CT Water had some concerns with the configuration. The concerns have been sent to CME for review.
5. Doug Cutler, Town Manager of Putnam, passed away unexpectedly on Monday. Smith and Walker are handling the arrangements.
6. The HVAC at the library has been submitted to Eversource for incentives based on information from Tighe & Bond about the heat pumps.
7. Thanked everyone for their participation in Thompson Community Day.
8. K. Beausoleil signed up for the home energy program in cooperation with Eversource. They were very professional. He encouraged everyone to take advantage of the program, which is free if you are income eligible.
9. Bridges in Town were inspected by CT DOT. Two bridges were rated poor. The inspector made recommendations on how to resolve the issues in-house, and Leo Adams will be working on that.
10. Emergency Management will be ready if needed this weekend if there is an impact from Hurricane Matthew.
11. Asked S. Smith and S. Herbert to review the Assessor's position applications, and get comments to Marie Mongeau by Friday.
12. Received notice to abutters that the 49.1 acre lot behind the old Quinn's Shirt Shop on Riverside Dr. is the applicant of a Planning and Zoning Commission public hearing scheduled October 11th.
13. The carpet in the second floor hallway at Town Hall needs replaced, and quotes for the project are being checked.
14. Highway Department is working on sweeping roads that have been chip sealed.
15. The Access to Public Records policy was reviewed by Marie Mongeau, and she made recommendations for changes. K. Beausoleil asked S. Herbert and S. Smith to review the policy.
16. There was discussion at a Board of Finance (BOF) meeting regarding a possible report through TEEG regarding an economic study for the Town done years ago. TEEG was not able to find anything regarding this report.
17. There was a meeting with CERC regarding what they could offer the Town for various studies, and he is still waiting on a response.

18. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to add "Citizens' Comments" as agenda item 3(a).**

Ken Beausoleil- Yes

Steve Herbert- Yes

Shaina Smith- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

III(A) Citizens' Comments

- A. Jody Houghton, 93 Wagher Rd., stated that there was a previous citizen's comment about certain intersections in Town possibly being unsafe because of incorrectly painted lines. The intersection of Wagher Rd. and Wilsonville Rd. are now unsafe because of the way the lines were fixed; the road lines were covered with something like gravel rather than paint. K. Beausoleil stated that the Highway Department put down driveway sealer. J. Houghton stated that there is now an actual physical safety issue.
- B. Al Landry, 33 Randall Rd., stated that he is glad the Quaddick Road bridge is open. Some signs near the bridge still need to come down. Electrical poles had to be replaced in his bottom field by Eversource, and there were big holes left behind with no screen bed. If there is a significant amount of rain, the field will be a disaster.
- C. Ray Dewey, 168 Quinebaug Rd., stated: "Back on September 6th, there was a questionable comment pertaining to a possible problem with the new road markings through intersections. I don't see any real problem. At intersections like Wilsonville and Lowell Davis Roads, I thought the new markings were definitely useful, maybe even important in bad weather. The markings were in accordance with Section 3B.08 of the Connecticut Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices applicable to all State and Town roads. Most states allow the same markings. Once these State-approved road markings were in, was there a good reason, more than the one far-out comment, to have them removed?"
- D. Paul Baer, Thompson Rd., stated that taxpayers had to pay twice for the road lines being discussed. Who made the decision to put them in that way in the first place? PZC has an outstanding FOI complaint against it. Some members refuse to take responsibility for their actions. Legal fees total over \$2,400, which would pay for one set of turn-out gear for firefighters. P. Baer brought up the payphone issue years ago. The Town can buy a payphone and own it and keep the funds for around \$600. The fire departments are grossly underfunded. The Town is knowingly putting firefighters at risk, which is gross negligence. The Board had firefighters come in to answer questions, and the Board asked questions as if they did not want to offend anyone. The Town is giving the departments a meager amount of money, but the departments still need to answer for how they're operating. There is a member with a reckless driving conviction, DUI conviction, and a member currently in jail for a second DUI. Two members are convicted sex offenders. Regarding censoring the minutes, it's true that not everything has to be put in the minutes, but there are people in Town who cannot come to meetings and would still like to be aware of what is going on in Town. There are only two fire departments who complied with the CT Secretary of State's filing requirement. The Town continues to hire companies that are not certified. The Quaddick Road bridge was late in reopening, and there were supposed to be penalties if the company did not complete the work on time. There is a bridge on East Thompson Rd. with a makeshift guard rail with the blunt end sticking out. There should be some type of oversight with the Inland Wetlands Commission. The Town is going to have a lot of legal bills because of the Starr Rd. fiasco.

He asked if the website is going anywhere, and stated that the files have not been re-uploaded and there are no recordings on the website. He thanked S. Herbert for looking into the Library's custodial issue. There were numerous times in the past year to cut staffing but Thompson hasn't made any cuts to staffing. The Building Maintainer is working on the grounds, but we were told the building was in such bad shape that a maintainer was needed immediately. The Town loves to hire people.

- E. Al Landry, 33 Randall Rd., stated that the phone at the Library is expensive, and he does not understand how it is not part of the Library if it is in the entrance. The BOS needs to make a decision and tell them what to do with it.
- F. Roman Jameson, Taylor Rd., stated that it is nice to have the Quaddick Road bridge open again. The fencing put up on the Brandy Hill Road bridge is ugly, and he does not understand the reason for it. He does not think it will stop people from jumping off the bridge, and he is sorry he helped pay for it.

IV. Road List

- A. There was no discussion/update.

V. Solar Projects Discussion

- A. K. Beausoleil stated that he reached out to both the Board of Education (BOE) regarding their intentions and whether or not they would be interested in a joint BOE, BOS, BOF meeting. BOF Chairman Aaron McGarry was in agreement for a joint meeting. He stated that a special BOS meeting could be held, or only one BOS representative could sit in on the meeting.
- B. S. Herbert stated that this is a big enough issue that the entire Board should be at the meeting.

VI. Reappointment Agriculture Commission: Randy Blackmer

- A. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to appoint Randy C. Blackmer to the Agriculture Commission, term to end August 1, 2020.**
Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.

VII. Proclamation Request for Red Ribbon Week from Natchaug River Young Marines

- A. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to approve the proclamation as read.**
1. K. Beausoleil read the proclamation aloud.
Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.

VIII. Request from Community Fire Company to Hold Boot Drive

- A. K. Beausoleil stated that Community Fire is requesting permission to hold a boot drive on October 22nd from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Thompson land fill, and on Riverside Dr. near Main St.
- B. **Steve Herbert moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to grant permission to Community Fire to hold their boot drive on the 22nd of October, 2016.**
Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.

IX. Ordinance Review

- A. K. Beausoleil stated that the Ordinance Review Committee met the previous Thursday to discuss the Inland Wetlands Commission, Conservation, Constables, and Emergency Management ordinances. They were comfortable with the pending changes that were previously presented. He also stated that there was discussion regarding having the annual Town Meeting for the budget being held earlier in the year.
- B. S. Smith suggested that once the date is set for the Town Meeting for these ordinances, the ordinances be placed on the front page of the Town's website.

X. Highway Maintainer Position

- A. K. Beausoleil stated that an employee is retiring on October 20th. The Board will be going through a hiring process.

XI. Ice Program – Shared Grapple Truck

- A. K. Beausoleil explained that this was initiated through the past administration and because State funding for it was expected to be cut, it was not budgeted for. A multi purpose truck would be purchased and shared between Thompson, Woodstock and Killingly, with the State funding a percentage of the purchase. Thompson would have to contribute \$20,000. Killingly is looking for a commitment from Thompson stating that Thompson is still interested.
- B. S. Herbert stated that Killingly would be responsible for maintenance as they would be the owner, and Thompson would only be responsible for repairs if it breaks while Thompson is using it.
- C. S. Smith suggested making sure a process is in place to check the condition of the truck when Thompson receives it.
- D. K. Beausoleil stated that he recommends including the \$20,000 in the next budget, as it will take a year for the truck to come in after ordering.
- E. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion partner with Killingly and Woodstock in this program for the purchase of the truck with the stipulation that we secure funding for it.**
Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.

XII. Other Business

- A. S. Herbert asked if the pay phone, and public records policy would be on the next agenda, to which K. Beausoleil replied affirmatively.

XIII. Citizens' Comments

- A. Al Landry, 33 Randall Rd., stated that Renee King has been working hard on the power plant business. She had asked if the Town would re-mail the letter to the Siting Council now that an application has been received for the Killingly Power Plant. K. Beausoleil stated that he will send the letter again.
- B. Ramon Jameson, Taylor Rd., stated that the Siting Council will be in Killingly holding a site walk and public hearing on October 20th. He attended a talk the previous week regarding the expansion of gas lines in CT, and there is an upcoming project that will affect the Town.

- C. Paul Baer, Thompson Rd., stated that FOIA states that if the BOS attends a properly noticed meeting of another Board, it does not constitute a special meeting of the BOS. He asked about a report that was supposed to be done for the Thompson Fire Service Advisory Committee. That committee was formed because of a public safety issue where a department did not respond to a difficulty breathing call at 2:30 AM, which resulted in a death at Gladys Green. When Gladys Green was remodeled, he suggested they stub-out for sprinklers, as there is a push in the country to require sprinklers. If there are additional renovations going on at Gladys Green, the Town would be wise to include piping.

XIV. Tax Refunds

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

1.	William A. and Lisa J. Barrette	\$64.37
2.	Richard S. Carey	\$612.67
3.	Ann Marie Chisholm	\$15.90
4.	Ann Marie and Timothy C. Chisholm	\$107.11
5.	Christopher D. Ey	\$6.51
6.	Christopher D. and Elynne A. Ey	\$11.47
7.	Karen Croteau	\$12.61
8.	Roland C. Giguere	\$10.37
9.	Honda Lease Trust	\$81.15 and \$88.27
10.	Kelly A. Johnson-Scott	\$45.08
11.	John J. Langelier	\$86.00
12.	Walter H. Milestone	\$56.03
13.	Nissan Infiniti LT	\$201.83 and \$57.41
14.	Dale H. Scott	\$29.18
15.	Margaret L. Sellers and Patricia M. Devine	\$28.40
16.	Michael E. St. Lawrence	\$37.35
17.	Paul G. and Nancy L. Standrowicz	\$15.64 and 67.76
18.	Toudis LLC	\$30.05, \$40.54 and \$48.65
	Ken Beausoleil- Yes	Steve Herbert- Yes
		Shaina Smith- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

XV. Adjourn

- A. **Shaina Smith moved and Steve Herbert 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 8:28 PM.

Tina Fox
Recording Secretary