



TOWN of THOMPSON

Board of Selectmen

**Minutes: Regular Meeting
Tuesday, October 18, 2016
Thompson Hill Fire Department**

p. 1 of 6

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. **Shaina Smith moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the October 4, 2016 regular meeting with the following corrections:**

1. Page 6, Section XIII(C): Change "...difficulty breathing call at 2:30 AM, which resulted in a death..." to "...difficulty breathing call at 2:30 AM. Then, there was a death..."
2. Page 1, Section II(A): "...Support of Clean Energy's..." rather than "...Support of Clean Energies..."
3. Page 2, Section III(C)(5): "...Town Administrator..." rather than "...Town Manager..." and "...Smith and Walker Funeral Home..." rather than "...Smith and Walker..."
4. Page 2, Section II(C)(6): "The HVAC project at the library..." rather than "The HVAC at the library..."

Ken Beausoleil- Yes

Steve Herbert- Yes

Shaina Smith- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

II. Correspondence

- A. Eversource sent notification that they will be participating in the Emergency Management drill on November 2nd.
- B. Northeast Chamber of Commerce notification of Business After Hours on November 2nd.
- C. Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut notification of a reception on Wednesday, November 16th in New London.
- D. Notification of ACCESS annual reception and award ceremony in Storrs on October 27th.
- E. The CNB Turkey Trot and trail race will be held on November 13th.
- F. Thompson Historical Society and CT Eastern Railroad Museum will be sponsoring Rail Day in Thompson on October 22nd.
- G. Notification from AT&T that work will be done on the cell tower on 38 Rich Rd.
- H. CT Fire Chief's Association FEMA grant will be applied for again, starting in the next week.

III. Selectmen's Comments

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

1. S. Herbert mentioned at a previous meeting that a company-mate of his from West Point was fighting leukemia. The company-mate has passed away, and S. Herbert will be in Florida to attend those services.

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

1. Thanked Thompson Hill Fire Department for hosting this meeting.
2. Highway Department is working on paving Reardon Rd. this week. The "Road List" will be added back on to the next agenda.
3. CT Water provided a map regarding the ownership issue of the back parking lot at Town Hall. CME will be reviewing the map.
4. UCONN students will be working on plans for a new salt shed at the Highway Garage.
5. UCONN students will be coming to Town Hall on October 21st to discuss a possible study for economic growth in the Town.
6. UCONN students will be looking at Fabyan Rd. on October 25th to give recommendations on the reconstruction of the road.
7. The STEAP grant that was applied for in order to bring water and sewer into the industrial park was not awarded to the Town. K. Beausoleil spoke to the First Selectman of North Franklin about a federal grant that North Franklin received for water and sewer expansion, and information about that grant was given to Mary Ann Chinatti, Director of Planning and Development.
8. Have not heard back yet from CERC regarding possible economic development study.
9. The deadline for applications for the Highway Maintainer position is October 19th.
10. Re-sent letter of objection to the CT Siting Council regarding the proposed power plant in Killingly, and to Woonsocket, RI regarding the proposed power plant in Burrillville.
11. The NECCOG paramedic intercept program sent out an RFP because the current contract had expired. The contract was extended to the end of the year.
12. K. Beausoleil just became a member of the Eastern Connecticut Workforce Investment Board, having to do with unemployment, job search, and retraining.
13. NECCOG is still working out insurance issues with transportation for veterans, especially for transportation to the VA in Providence.
14. NECCOG is currently working on a transit bus route into Massachusetts. S. Herbert suggested at least extending the service as far as Quinebaug, even if the expansion into Massachusetts does not happen.
15. Emergency Management is holding a drill on October 29th and November 2nd.
16. The Board of Education (BOE) is holding an alternative energy meeting at the Library/Community Center on October 20th at 6:00 PM for members of the BOE, Board of Selectmen (BOS), and Board of Finance (BOF) to discuss alternative energy.
17. Had a meeting at Gladys Green with Barney Seney and Deb Flannigan regarding the renovations at there. He asked about stubbing-out for a sprinkler system, and was given a letter from the project's architect regarding his thoughts on a sprinkler system. The cost would be over \$500,000.

IV. Citizens' Comments

- A. Al Landry, 33 Randall Rd., thanked the Board for resending the letters regarding the proposed energy plants. He stated that CNB is the financial sponsor of the Turkey Trot, but it is actually organized by the Trails Committee. Proceeds go to TEEG, the Trails Committee, and parks in Town.
- B. John Sharpe, Pasay Rd., stated that Community Fire Department submitted proposals for equipment costs to the Board, and asked if there is an update regarding that. At the end of this year, people will be put in jeopardy because of lack of equipment and funding. He thanked the Board for initiating Mary Ann Chinatti's proposed help with the FEMA grant. He asked who the host fire company for the grant will be. He mentioned that the hydrant service is severely lacking. CT Water does not do their own testing; they contract out. The last report he has is from 1997 regarding the last time the hydrant system was tested, and it was subpar then. The majority of the hydrants at the school put out 400-500 gallons per minute, which is atrocious. The average truck can put out 1,500-2,000 gallons per minute, and a standard hose line is 600-700 gallons per minute. The school is not adequately protected. The \$70,000 bill for the fire hydrants is taken out of the fire department's budget. He stated that larger piping increases the amount of gallons per minute from a fire hydrant. K. Beausoleil stated that there is a study more recent than 1997. He stated that the Board does not yet know the full costs being requested from all fire departments, and the sooner that all departments respond, the sooner the Board can move forward. J. Sharpe stated that the FEMA grant won't help for this year's costs. At the end of this year, he will have to put volunteers in harms way. He will be at the BOF meeting on Thursday to discuss the problem. S. Smith suggested that she could create a unified template for the requests from the fire departments.
- C. Don Pimental, 40 Starr Rd., asked about the parking lot behind Town Hall. K. Beausoleil answered that a rough draft of a map was presented, and CME is reviewing it. D. Pimental asked about the roof at the Ellen Larned library. K. Beausoleil stated that the referendum will be scheduled for next year. D. Pimental stated that he heard a rumor that John Rice and Joe Lindley found out that if the Town does not put the actual roof back up, they won't be able to receive grants for the building. He asked if that is in writing.

- D. Paul Baer, Thompson Rd., asked about the report for the Fire Safety Advisory Committee, to which K. Beausoleil stated that no report has been written as of yet. In regards to the fire departments, it is time to do the tough things that have to be done. Equipment is outdated. Thompson is not a special place exempt from tragedies. When you know something is wrong and don't do something, you lose your immunity from liability. The Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) has a FOIA complaint and \$2,700 in legal bills for that complaint. K. Beausoleil and S. Smith authorized another \$175 to review a recent FOIA decision. The payphone at the Library is wasted money. He referred to a fire department in a southern state with a 1.4 million dollar annual budget. The Building Committee is now asking to take on the solar project at the school. There are more and more committees but nothing is being done. Regarding the PZC FOIA complaint, he was told that K. Beausoleil would not authorize payment of an attorney. He asked if K. Forrester is still the Chair of the Building Committee. He suggested having UCONN students help with the website, or pushing to get Tourtellotte students to help. Files are being uploaded inconsistently to the website. There are no recordings or archived files on the website. Numerous companies support Joomla, and they do not have to be in this area. It is deplorable that the fire hydrants are in such condition. CT Water is a stock corporation that makes profits, and they need to be pushed to do upgrades. He asked if the Marianapolis sewer project was still stalled, and suggested that the sewer line should run down the street, which it should have in the first place, instead of worrying about certain owners not wanting to pay frontage fees.
 - E. Al Landry, 33 Randall Rd., stated that when he was on PZC, they were told the new water tower would fix the pressure problems for the hydrants. 37 million dollars was spent on the school and a third of the enrollment was lost. Instead, 7 million dollars should have been spent to save the existing building. People would probably agree to give more money to the fire departments.
- V. Access to Public Records Policy and Form
- A. S. Herbert presented a list of comments/suggestions regarding the existing policy. The Board discussed these comments which included: the need to keep track of when people ask for records, costs for copies of records, definition of public records or files, definition of custodian, definition of exempt records, the intent of the policy, emails, the Town Clerk's office keeping a record of requests, maximum amount of days to reply to a request, and a sign-in sheet.
 - B. Paul Baer stated that the policy should reference the State Library retention guidelines, to which the Board responded that the policy does include this.
 - C. Al Landry suggested the fees section be in accordance with applicable statutes, and asked if the maximum amount of days to respond to a request is business days or not.
 - D. Ray Dewey made suggestions regarding various sections.
 - E. Paul Baer stated that attorneys won't appreciate having to sign-in to view documents, and neither will developers.
 - F. S. Smith stated that the document says it was edited on October 4, 2016, but not who made the changes.

VI. Payphone at the Library/Community Center

- A. S. Herbert stated that less than 70 calls were made from the pay phone the past year, it cost the Town \$70 per month, and it is only accessible when the Community Center is open. He suggested the Board should provide guidance to the Library Director to not renew the contract, and perhaps cancel the contract now.
- B. K. Beausoleil stated that no contract for the payphone is in place.
- C. **Steve Herbert moved and Ken Beausoleil seconded the motion to discontinue service of the payphone effective as soon as possible.**
- a. S. Smith stated that she is concerned as a mother and wants to make sure children have a safe way to communicate if they need to call someone.
- b. S. Herbert stated that the Town paid \$12 per call last year.
- c. S. Smith suggested discussing how much the Town is paying for all phones to see where costs can be saved. She was not sure about getting rid of the payphone because of a public safety issue.
- d. S. Herbert reiterated that the phone is only accessible when the building is open, and stated that in cases of a true emergency, someone in the building would have a cell phone to use.
- e. K. Beausoleil stated that if phone service needs to be provided, the Town could purchase a payphone at a greatly reduced rate.
- Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes Shaina Smith- No
- The motion carried.**

VII. Ordinance Review

- A. K. Beausoleil stated that the Ordinance Committee did not feel any additional work needed to be done. He asked the Board to think about whether 2 or 6 year terms are appropriate for the constables.
- B. S. Herbert pointed out a few corrections to the proposed Emergency Management ordinance.
- C. Al Landry stated that the Ordinance Committee talked about changing the ordinance concerning the annual Town Meeting date to move the date to April rather than May.
- D. K. Beausoleil stated that it would be a simple change, and the proposal will be brought to the BOF.

VIII. Assessor-In-Training Hire

- A. K. Beausoleil stated that interviews for the position were held with Orla McKiernan-Rafferty and Diana Couture. The Highway Maintainer position is closing tomorrow, and copies of resumes will be available for the Board to review.

IX. Community Fire Boot Drive- Request to Change Date to Saturday, October 29, 2016

- A. K. Beausoleil stated that the request was approved for October 22nd, and there is now a request to change the date to October 29th.
- B. **Steve Herbert moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to accept the change for the Community Fire Boot Drive to Saturday, October 29, 2016.**
- Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes
- The motion carried unanimously.**

X. Other Business: None

XI. Citizens' Comments

- A. Don Pimental, 40 Starr Rd., suggested having a phone at the Library/Community Center that can only be used to dial 911.
- B. Steve Boudreau asked if Mary Ann Chinatti would be willing to go to a grant writing workshop specific to the grant the fire departments are seeking. S. Herbert suggested checking with CCM to see if there is a workshop of that type being offered. S. Boudreau stated that someone was giving him advice about the grant, and mentioned the need to have specific keywords in the narrative. The grants are very competitive. His department just spent \$15,000 on a washer extractor and gear cabinet. Any gear that is worn into a fire is mandated to be washed. Taking the gear to a laundromat adds the possibility of the gear being damaged and/or voiding the warranty. They will offer the new equipment to area departments. The equipment washes the gear and dries it within three hours.
- C. Paul Baer, Thompson Rd., stated that manufacturers will assist and write grants because they want to sell gear. He commended the BOS on the action taken regarding the payphone. He stated it disturbs him that the Library Director said the payphone is not under the Library Board of Trustees purview. He stated that the conference room directly behind the pay phone requires special permission from the Library Director to be used.

XII. Tax Refunds

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

- 1. Debra L. Neundorf \$289.27
- 2. Nissan Infiniti LT \$114.00 and \$228.03
- 3. Ray and Donna Rumrill \$3.13

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

The motion carried unanimously.

XIII. 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 9:32 PM.

Tina Fox
Recording Secretary