



TOWN of THOMPSON

Board of Selectmen

**Minutes: Regular Meeting
Tuesday, November 15, 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 November 1, 2016 regular meeting as written.**

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

The motion carried unanimously.

- B. **Steve Herbert moved and Ken Beausoleil seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the November 3, 2016 special meeting as written.**

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

The motion carried.

- C. **Steve Herbert moved and Ken Beausoleil seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the October 27, 2016 special meeting as written.**

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

The motion carried.

- D. **Steve Herbert moved and Ken Beausoleil seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the November 9, 2016 special meeting as written.**

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

The motion carried.

*S. Smith abstained due to being absent from the meetings.

II. Correspondence

- A. 2017 nomination form for the CCM Chamber awards, due by November 29th.
B. An invitation from the Board of Directors for United Services for November 17th at Grill 37.
C. There will be a 2016 School Facility workshop in Hartford on December 2nd.
D. Summary of the last three years of savings related to the pharmacy card for prescription drugs.

III. Selectmen's Comments

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

1. The labor and fixture cost for a light at the entrance to Riverside Park would be \$695.39. It would be an LED light at the corner where the bridge is.
2. The light in the side parking lot at Town Hall went out and needs to be replaced for safety reasons. The cost is \$748.
3. The rug in the upstairs hall at Town Hall needs replaced at a cost of \$2,800.
4. The upstairs conference room at Town Hall was cleaned and painted. The linoleum floor in the Merrill Seney room was washed and waxed, and the same will be done for the upstairs conference room.
5. The Highway Department made repairs on Linehouse Rd. and Watson Rd. They will be making repairs to Fabyan Rd. to get it through the winter. They are starting to re-grade the dirt roads, which is always done prior to winter.
6. A status update on the Brownfield Grant for 630 Riverside Dr. will be provided at the November 18th special meeting of the Mill Sites Redevelopment Advisory Committee. The work at 929 Riverside Dr. is currently halted pending the possible demolition of the complex.
7. The election on November 8th had a 76% voter turn-out. He thanked the moderators, the registrars, the poll workers, and everyone who came out to vote.

B. S. Herbert presented the following Selectmen's Comments:

1. Spoke to Jim Stratos about putting recordings on the website. Recordings must be in MP3 format. He asked about buying a recorder that records in MP3 format, to easily make the recordings available on the website. S. Smith suggested looking for a free conversion program to convert the current MSV files to MP3. S. Herbert reiterated that recording in the proper format could be useful.
2. S. Herbert and K. Beausoleil attended a CCM conference earlier that day. It was very useful and a day well spent.

IV. Citizens' Comments

- A. Don Pimental, 40 Starr Rd., stated that K. Beausoleil sent him a memo about the \$200,000 Ellen Larned library roof, but that it was not an official letter. He asked for accurate evidence that says the Town cannot get a grant unless the same type of roof is put on the building. He also asked that someone write to "this lady" and tell her there is an asphalt roof on the Old Town Hall.
- B. Al Landry, 33 Randall Rd., stated that if a grant is received but does not cover 100% of the costs of the roof, it might still be cheaper to go a different way. That is an outrageous amount of money for that building. He is more concerned with having a fire department than that building.
- C. Don Pimental, 40 Starr Rd., asked if an alternative for the payphone in the library has been developed yet. He stated that the previous recording secretary used to make him copies of recordings that he could play in his car. He did not know how the recordings were copied, but it was very simple.

V. Fire Departments

- A. K. Beausoleil stated that he has been in contact with the various fire departments. East Thompson Fire Department has equipment expiring but have budgeted for it and are not requesting additional funding. Thompson Hill Fire Department presented information regarding their needs and made no request for additional funding. West Thompson Fire Department took a loan out in the past year to purchase equipment and are requesting funds to repay the loan. K. Beausoleil stated that could be discussed during budget season.
- B. There was discussion between the Board and representatives from Quinebaug Fire Department and Community Fire Department regarding their needs.
- C. S. Smith asked if there is a plan in place if the Board is unsuccessful in funding the requested costs. John Sharpe, representing Community Fire, stated that they would have to apply for a loan, but he did not know how they would be able to pay the loan back.
- D. K. Beausoleil asked a similar question. Steve Bodreau, representing Quinebaug Fire, stated that he would have to ask his Board if they wanted to spend the \$20,000. S. Herbert asked if Quinebaug Fire had the \$20,000 they are requesting in their General Fund. S. Bodreau answered affirmatively, and stated that he is asking the Town for help in looking for grants.
- E. K. Beausoleil stated that the Board needs to only look at immediate needs right now, because the request for funds may have to go to Referendum, with costs approximately \$6,000 by itself.
- F. There was further discussion. K. Beausoleil suggested that Community could take out a loan and the Town would make the loan payment until the situation was discussed further during budget season.
- G. S. Herbert stated that only Community Fire seems to have an urgent need, and that need is for \$48,600. That is what the Board should present to the Board of Finance (BOF) as an urgent need. The other fire departments have either not requested anything, or have the ability to meet their immediate needs until budget season.
- H. **Shaina Smith moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to authorize the First Selectman to request that the Board of Finance appropriate \$48,600 for Community Fire Department equipment.**

Ken Beausoleil- Yes

Steve Herbert- Yes

Shaina Smith- Yes

The motion carried unanimously

VI. Road List: No Update

VII. Selectmen's Meeting Schedule

- A. K. Beausoleil stated that the schedule was designed the same as last year, but there was a question as to whether or not the Board should continue to have meetings in alternate locations. The Board was in agreement to keep the alternate locations.
- B. S. Herbert pointed out that November 7, 2017 is Election Day. The meeting for that day was changed to November 8, 2017.
- C. S. Herbert stated that he will not be present at the January 17th or February 21st meeting. The Board did not change these dates.

- D. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to, with the change of November 7 to November 8, approve the Board of Selectmen calendar as submitted for 2017.**
Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.
- VIII. Highway Maintainer Hire
- A. K. Beausoleil stated that interviews were conducted and he was authorized to offer the position to a candidate.
- B. **Steve Herbert moved and Ken Beausoleil seconded the motion to hire Andrew Carlson as a Highway Maintainer.**
Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.
- IX. Charter Communications Advisory Council Appointment- Ken Beausoleil
- A. K. Beausoleil explained that, in the past, the First Selectman was on the council. He has been attending meetings already.
- B. **Shaina Smith moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to appoint Ken Beausoleil to the Charter Communications Advisory Council, term to expire November 17, 2017.**
Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.
- X. Board of Assessment Appeals Appointment- James Clark, Jr.
- A. K. Beausoleil stated that there was a vacancy on the Board of Assessment Appeals and the Republican Town Committee Chair submitted the name of James Clark, Jr. to fill the vacancy.
- B. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to appoint James Clark, Jr. to the Board of Assessment Appeals to fill the unexpired term of Linda Jarmolowicz, term to expire November 21, 2017.**
Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.
- XI. MS4 Storm Water Permit
- A. K. Beausoleil explained that several years ago the Town was in violation of the MS4 permit, and the Town got fined about \$5,000. S. Herbert stated that the Town then got fined for not paying the fine on time, and the total was approximately \$7,500. K. Beausoleil continued that the Town was recently in violation again, but Marla Butts worked to get the Town up-to-date. There are new standards, and a permit has to be filed again. NECCOG is not ready to provide a proposal at this time. J&D Civil Engineers proposed \$1,200 for the permit, \$7,500 for the plan, and \$3,500 for storm water management over five years. There is a need for \$8,700 immediately, and the other \$3,500 could be budgeted for with the next budget.
- B. S. Herbert stated that he spoke to other companies that do this. He stated a concern that Janet Blanchette of J&D Civil Engineers is on a Thompson committee and may not be able to be engaged by the Town.
- C. K. Beausoleil stated that he would like to put the BOF on notice that these funds are needed.

XII. 929 River Mill

- A. K. Beausoleil stated that a developer has expressed interest in demolishing the River Mill at 929 Riverside Dr. Grant money has gone into the mill, and there are tax liens against the mill for back taxes owed to the Town. The mill is on the National Historic list. The Town Planner met with the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) in Hartford, as well as the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation regarding the situation. A number of years ago, there was a Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) application that proposed putting housing into the mill, which is still a viable option. A representative from a company in Atlanta, GA toured the mill and is optimistic that it could be revitalized.
- B. S. Herbert agreed that it would be a tragedy if the mill was demolished and the Town was left with another pile of rubble.
- C. K. Beausoleil read a resolution in opposition of the demolition of the River Mill at 929 Riverside Dr. aloud.
- D. In regards to the resolution referring to soil contamination, S. Herbert asked if it was a fact that there is soil contamination on the property, to which K. Beausoleil answered affirmatively.
- E. S. Herbert asked if S. Smith has a business in the mill. S. Smith answered that her husband's business is in the mill.
- F. S. Herbert stated that his name was spelled incorrectly on the resolution. He also stressed that he would be against the demolition of the River Mill if the demolition was just for salvaging, but would not necessarily be against the demolition if the plan was to develop the property.
- G. **Steve Herbert moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to approve the resolution as corrected and sign it as a resolution of the Board of Selectmen for the Town of Thompson.**
 - 1. S. Smith stated that, in the interest of full disclosure, her family rents space in this property.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

XIII. Bid Policy

- A. K. Beausoleil stated that the Finance Director suggested that the Board should review the Town's Bid Policy that was adopted 12 years ago. Currently, any cost over \$10,000 has to go out to bid. The Finance Director suggested increasing the threshold to \$18,000.
- B. S. Herbert asked how the Bid Policy compares to other Towns, and how many times the Town has gone out to bid this year. He asked that this decision be held off until the next meeting so that he can speak with the Finance Director directly about some of his questions.

XIV. Ordinance and Policy Review

- A. S. Herbert stated that he provided a re-write of the record's policy. He felt the last paragraph regarding record retention was not accurate as written.
- B. S. Herbert also re-wrote the Emergency Management ordinance, and would provide that to the rest of the Board.
- C. K. Beausoleil stated that he did not have a chance to ask the Finance Director about the insurance costs related to Constables.

XV. Executive Session- Possible Land Acquisition and Legal Issues Pending

- A. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to go into Executive Session with the Board of Selectmen for a possible land acquisition and legal issues pending.**

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

The motion carried unanimously.

- B. The Board went into Executive Session at 9:28 PM.

- C. The Board came out of Executive Session at 10:00 PM. No action was taken.

XVI. Other Business: None

XVII. Citizens' Comments

- A. Al Landry, 33 Randall Rd., stated that he was on PZC when there was an application to put apartments in the River Mill. There were real problems with the application. They weren't going to put in accommodations like gyms, pools, etc. There were problems with parking and open space. They had small areas of open space, including the court yard where there was a toxic dump.

XVIII. Tax Refunds

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

1. Jennifer A. Oleksiak \$100.57

2. Randy S. Rankin \$123.32 and \$13.70

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

The motion carried unanimously.

XIX. Adjourn

- A. **Steve Herbert moved and Ken Beausoleil 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 10:05 PM.

Tina Fox
Recording Secretary