



TOWN of THOMPSON

Board of Selectmen

**Minutes: Regular Meeting
Tuesday, December 20, 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
Steve Herbert

Absent: Shaina Smith

Staff Present: Tina Fox, Recording Secretary

Also Present: Members of the Public

I. Approval of Minutes

A. **Steve Herbert moved and Ken Beausoleil seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the December 6, 2016 regular meeting with the following correction:**

1. Remove S. Smith vote from motion at Section VIII(C).

Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

II. Correspondence

- A. Request from a resident to reduce the price of a transfer station permit for disabled residents.
- B. Performing Arts of Northeast Connecticut 43rd season, looking for donations.
- C. CT Water monthly newsletter.
- D. QVCC Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center after hours on January 10th.
- E. Memo from Janet Blanchette, read aloud and attached to these minutes.
- F. November statistics from Troop D.
- G. United Services annual drive requesting donations.
- H. Information form CT OSHA concerning fire department gear.
1. S. Herbert stated that the information is different than they were lead to believe. Only members who are involved in interior structural fire fighting are required to wear proper, unexpired turnout gear. He thanked K. Beausoleil for getting the questions answered, and stated that the Board did not request money for tires, which now appears appropriate.
- I. Offer from the State for the Town to purchase some land off of Rte 131 near Line House Rd. It is Old Rte 131 before the road was straightened. He sees nothing advantageous to the Town in purchasing it. The Town owns no abutting property. Wetlands runs through the property. It is about 20,000 sq. ft. S. Herbert agreed that the purchase does not seem advantageous to the Town.
- J. Letter from CT Siting Council regarding granting the approval for the solar farm proposed on Ballard Rd.

- K. Special Town Meeting held December 12th approved the \$48,600 request for Community Fire Department. When Community goes out to bid and purchases the equipment, they will submit the bills to the Town for reimbursement.

III. Selectmen's Comments

- A. K. Beausoleil presented the following Selectmen's Comments:
 - 1. Attended the school bus RFP conversation with contractors the past Wednesday. Spoke with the consultant and Dr. Jolin to express some concerns. Made it very clear that the bidders should be notified that the numbers in the bid were starting numbers and would have to be agreed to by the BOS. Bidders were made aware that there may be amendments.
 - 2. Article in Thompson Villager concerning the new diner Our Father's Table.
 - 3. Meeting with CCM in Meriden on January 10th at 9:00 AM which he will be attending. Will be speaking with CCM regarding the 401(k) contribution.
 - 4. The NECCOG paramedic intercept program bid was awarded to KB ambulance at \$95 per call.
 - 5. Continuing to put old minutes and audio recordings on the website.
 - 6. Wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
- B. S. Herbert presented the following Selectmen's Comments:
 - 1. Army beat Navy in football after 14 years.
 - 2. Asked about the old Del Rio building. K. Beausoleil stated that there was a holdup because of possible hazardous materials. The building was sold. The demolition is now up to the new owner. The Building Official has been in contact with the new owner and they are hoping to be done with the demo before the first of the year.

IV. Citizens' Comments

- A. John Rice asked how many years it had been since Army beat Navy. S. Herbert stated that when he was there, it was a winning record.

V. Road List: No update.

VI. School Choice Week Proclamation

- A. K. Beausoleil stated that the proclamation is for school choice week from January 22nd-January 28th.
- B. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to approve the School Choice Week Proclamation as read.**
 - 1. S. Herbert stated that there was a recent referendum in Massachusetts related to school choice, and asked if there was a correlation. K. Beausoleil stated that the proclamation is in support of choices for schools.
 - 2. S. Herbert asked if it was pro-charter schools. Massachusetts voted down the charter school referendum. He asked if the organization behind the proclamation has an agenda. He also pointed out that the date is incorrect.
 - 3. K. Beausoleil read the proclamation aloud.
Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

VII. Emergency Management Resolution

- A. Steve Benoit, Emergency Management Director, stated that this is required for one of the yearly grants applied for through Homeland Security.

- B. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to approve the Emergency Management Resolution as written.**

Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.

VIII. Ellen Larned Museum Resolution

- A. K. Beausoleil stated that this resolution is needed to apply for the grant related to the roof.

- B. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to approve the Ellen Larned Library Resolution as written.**

Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.

IX. Conservation Letter of Support Request

- A. K. Beausoleil stated that the Conservation Commission has written a letter of support concerning the Wyndham Land Trust acquisition of 254 acres in the Bull Hill area and is requesting other letters of support for the purchase. He is personally in favor. The 254 acres is made of several parcels, the majority of which is landlocked. It will be used for recreational use.

- B. There was a consensus to send in a letter of support.

X. Budget Workshops Discussion

- A. K. Beausoleil stated that budget workshops will start in February, and asked that S. Herbert provide his availability to the Executive Assistant.
- B. S. Herbert stated that Town employees are reimbursed at 40 cents per mile, when the federal rate is 54 cents per mile, and 53.5 cents per mile next year. He thinks the federal rate should be used going forward.
- C. K. Beausoleil agreed. He also stated he will be speaking with the Finance Director regarding a format for fire departments to prepare their proposals.
- D. S. Herbert suggested setting up a workshop for the fire departments to help them prepare for budget season. He stated that the Town received a clean opinion from the auditors for the audit. A clean opinion takes a lot of hard work. He congratulated the Finance Director for her work on the audit.

XI. EDC Study

- A. K. Beausoleil presented a proposal from Dr. Donald Poland regarding the EDC study, along with a list of references and responses back. The Director of Planning and Development attended a class he presented, and she believed it was very well done and enlightening.
- B. S. Herbert stated that this person seems qualified and less expensive.
- C. K. Beausoleil stated that they can discuss the proposal at the January meeting.

XII. Ordinances

- A. The Board discussed the various ordinance changes being proposed. No change was made to the proposed Conservation Commission ordinance. One word was changed in the Inland Wetlands Commission proposed ordinance. The number of constables was changed to 12 and kept at 2 year terms, as well as some other

changes. Training for constables was discussed, as well as whether or not the Emergency Management Director can direct constables.

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XIII. Fire Department Study

- A. K. Beausoleil stated that he has not received the proposal yet.

XIV. Other Business: None

XV. Citizens' Comments

- A. Linda Jarmolowicz, 7 Denis Dr., stated that the cost difference for 6 or 12 constables was previously asked about. K. Beausoleil stated that he spoke to the Finance Director about this, and was told that insurance is only affected if the person gets paid. The cost is negligible. L. Jarmolowicz stated that people need to know that, because that is one of the reasons people voted against the ordinance change last time.
- B. Don Pimental, 40 Starr Rd., asked about the ordinances. K. Beausoleil stated that in the Inland Wetlands ordinance, the word 'shall' was changed to 'may' so that if someone missed meetings for a reason outside of their control, the Commission had leeway to not immediately dismiss the person. S. Herbert stated that by changing the word, it gives the Commission discretion. D. Pimental asked about the Ellen Larned library roof. K. Beausoleil stated that it will go to Town Meeting then Referendum. D. Pimental stated that he hopes the situation is explained to everyone correctly. The Town does not want to lose the ability to receive grants. It needs to be stressed that the water damage is bad and we don't want any more of that.
- C. Rob Mann, 15 Meadow Dr., asked for an update regarding the back parking lot at Town Hall being owned by CT Water. K. Beausoleil stated that he has not heard back from them and he is still working on the issue.

XVI. Tax Refunds

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

1.Craig F. Aubin	\$39.48
2.Jamie L. Aubin	\$33.28
3.Kimberly L. Hachey	\$13.03
4.Kelly J. or Terri J. Violette	\$5.61
5.SBA Infrastructure	\$369.54

Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

XVII. Adjourn

- A. **Steve Herbert moved and Ken Beausoleil seconded the motion to adjourn.**

Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

- B. First Selectman Ken Beausoleil adjourned the meeting at 8:06 PM.

Tina Fox

Recording Secretary