



TOWN of THOMPSON

Board of Selectmen

**Minutes: Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 16, 2016
Merrill Seney Room, Town Hall**

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 February 2, 2016 regular meeting with the following correction:**

1. Page 3, Section IV(B): "...stated at a Wetlands hearing that..." instead of "...stated at a Wetlands hear that..."

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

The motion carried unanimously.

B. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the February 8, 2016 Budget Meeting as written.**

Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes Shaina Smith- Abstain
Shaina Smith abstained because she was absent from the meeting.

The motion carried.

C. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the February 9, 2016 Budget Meeting as written.**

Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes Shaina Smith- Abstain
Shaina Smith abstained because she was absent from the meeting.

The motion carried.

D. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the February 10, 2016 Budget Meeting as written.**

Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes Shaina Smith- Abstain
Shaina Smith abstained because she was absent from the meeting.

The motion carried.

II. Correspondence

A. K. Beausoleil presented the following correspondence:

1. Letter from the Department of Justice looking at issues within the voting system, forwarded to the Town Attorney.

B. S. Smith had no correspondence to present.

C. S. Herbert had no correspondence to present.

III. Selectmen's Comments

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

1. Vacancy on the WPCA Board is still being dealt with, and there have been no applications/recommendations received for the vacancy.
2. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to add "River Junction Driveway Application" as agenda item number 9.**
Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.
3. There is a candidate for the Fire Advisory Committee Chair, which will hopefully be in place for the March 1, 2016 meeting.

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

1. The Board of Selectmen (BOS) has been going over department budgets and there is still a lot of work to be done. The public was encouraged to attend those special budget meetings.
2. K. Beausoleil stated that there is a BOS budget meeting February 17, 2016 at 5:00 PM at the library, as well as an Inland Wetlands Commission public hearing at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall. He also stated there is a BOS budget meeting February 18, 2016 at 9:00 AM for the Highway Department budget and capital expenditures, and a public hearing to present the entire budget at 7:00 PM on March 3, 2016 at the school auditorium.

C. S. Smith presented the following Selectmen's Comments:

1. Received message from Chief State's Attorney's office regarding S. Smith's correspondence from the previous year, which she will follow up on.
2. The first article for the Selectmen's Update was in the Villager, and the next one should have some discussion about the Transfer Station as well as the budget.

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

1. 929 Riverside Dr. Brownfield Grant has been advertised with a closing date of 2:00 PM, Monday, February 22, 2016.
2. 630 Riverside Dr. Brownfield Grant is moving along.
3. The deck replacement for the Quaddick Rd. bridge was advertised.
4. UCONN engineering students are continuing their work designing the boat ramp, as well as the new interchange design, and water and sewer study. UCONN students have also started working on a plan for the Community Fire Department property.
5. 962 Riverside Dr., Old Quinn Shop, has been moving along.
6. Marianapolis sewer project is paused for the winter months.
7. Economic Development Commission (EDC) now has five members, with two alternate seats still available.

IV. Citizens' Comments (Limit 3 Minutes)

- A. Paul Baer, Thompson Rd., mentioned that the Thompson library has a payphone in the budget, and buys bottled water for employees, costing \$3,915 to date. He stated that the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development specifically states to increase volunteer work at the library, and that at a budget hearing the Director of the library stated that the Thompson library is too special to use volunteers. He stated that the library is trying to get a 3D printer, and that people can't heat their homes but the library wants the Town to pay for their toys. P. Baer handed out paperwork from the CT State Library showing Thompson library with reported decreased attendance, decreased resources being spent, and operating expenses increasing. He stated that Thompson's wealth rating is 148 out of 169 Towns in Connecticut, and that it is nice to have a beautiful facility, but only if the Town can afford to maintain it. S. Herbert mentioned that the numbers on the handout from P. Baer do not seem to match the numbers the BOS were given at a budget hearing. P. Baer stated that a lot of heavy expenses are put under the Community Center in the budget, such as heat, light, and janitors. P. Baer stated that in 2012, the BOS with Larry Groh, Jr. as First Selectman appointed Donald Hoenig to the Inland Wetlands Commission. In 2012, he attended 63% of the meetings, 50% in 2013, 7.7% in 2014, 0 in 2015, and 0 in 2016. He stated that Donald Hoenig told the Commission that he wanted to resign, and the Commission did not want him to. He stated that the Chairman needs to be held accountable for not dealing with it. He stated that the Conservation Commission was separated from Inland Wetlands because they wanted a division, and he does not think it is appropriate to have the same member on both Commissions. 52% of the EDC budget pays for their Recording Secretary. P. Baer asked what the article in the Villager was that S. Smith referenced earlier in the meeting. S. Smith explained that it is the Selectmen's Update/Newsletter. P. Baer suggested putting that on the website as a once-a-month update. He stated that the website icons are still inoperable, and the website was supposed to allow individual access rights to be assigned, which Mr. Stratos did not do. P. Baer stated that Mr. Stratos charged the Town again for something that he was supposed to do already. The Conservation Commission still has its own website, despite the fact that in October 2013, the BOS voted to not fund any outside websites. P. Baer stated that the Conservation Commission could easily attach their webpage to the Town website. P. Baer liked the idea of a pass to the Transfer Station just for recyclables, and asked the Board to look into outsourcing the operation of the Transfer Station to see if it can be done more economically. He stated that he is not sure why the Town has paid out for the work related to the oil spills instead of filing an insurance claim, that the flag was flying in the dark at Town Hall again, and asked the Board to look into the possible damage to the fence at the park across from Town Hall.
- B. Don Pimental, 40 Starr Rd., asked if the Board would look into having the meetings recorded so that a citizen does not have to record the meetings himself, to which S. Smith replied that she is looking into it. He asked about S. Smith hearing from the Chief State's Attorney's Office, to which S. Smith replied that the communication was via voicemail.

- C. Wayne O'Brien, 108 Fabyan Rd., stated that the attorney for River Junction talked about "this property being separate." He stated that when he bought his property, he had two deeds and bought road frontage to combine the two deeds together, and it was explained to him at the time that when the property has road frontage, you can connect the property together. He stated that when River Junction subdivided on New Rd., it was with road frontage, and that "you go to road frontage, you don't go the other way."
- D. Paul Baer, Thompson Rd., asked the Board to look into the Communications Academy at the school recording Town meetings because the students would be able to develop experience.
- E. Don Pimental, 40 Starr Rd., stated that Starr Rd. has been an issue with him for 12 years, and that in the last 22 months he has been battling the problem and hiring attorneys and soil scientists. He stated that at the public hearing 2 years ago, Kerstin Forrester held up a paper that showed Starr Rd. being .339 miles in length, and that had there been a Town Meeting like there was supposed to be, Starr Rd. would have been left in its natural state. He stated that a title search proved that Starr Rd. is not owned by the Town. He stated that he is getting frustrated, and asked the Board to look into the minutes themselves.
- F. Rob Mann, 15 Meadow Drive, stated that Paul Lenky wrote a letter saying he removed the .339 miles from the road list, then Paul Lenky signed an application saying he owned Starr Trail, which is deceptive.
- G. Paul Baer, Thompson Rd., stated that the application doesn't say to make Starr Rd. a Town road; rather, the application Paul Lenky signed was to assign water diversions only.

V. Highway Fuel Tank Remediation Funds

- A. K. Beausoleil stated that the request for funds will need to go before the Board of Finance (BOF), then go to referendum.
- B. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to go before the Board of Finance to request not to exceed \$118,000 for remediation costs for the oil spill at the Highway Garage.**
 Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.

VI. ALS TDI Tri-State Trek: June 24, 2016 – June 26, 2016

- A. K. Beausoleil read a letter from the ALS TDI Tri-State Trek aloud.
- B. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to approve the request for the ALS TDI Tri-State Trek, June 24, 2016-June 26, 2016.**
 Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.

VII. NECCOG Resolution

- A. K. Beausoleil stated that he just received a copy of the resolution this morning, and the Board can review it and vote on the issue at the next meeting. He stated that the BOS has to state in the resolution which programs they would like the Town to participate in.

VIII. Resolution to obtain clean water funding financing for water pollution abatement facilities

- A. K. Beausoleil stated that there were mistakes in the resolution that have now been fixed.

- B. S. Herbert pointed out a number of grammar mistakes still contained in the resolution. The Board decided to hold off on approving the resolution until the mistakes are fixed.

IX. River Junction Estates, LLC Driveway Permit Application

- A. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to deny the driveway application for River Junction, LLC at this time.**

- 1. S. Smith read a letter from the Town Attorney aloud.
- 2. The Board briefly discussed the interpretation of Town Attorney St. Onge's letter.
- 3. S. Smith asked about the overall process of Driveway Permits, and suggested that a document be drafted to document approval and denial of Driveway Permits.

Ken Beausoleil- Yes

Steve Herbert- Yes

Shaina Smith- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

X. Discussion of Ordinances

- A. K. Beausoleil stated that there are some ordinances that still need to be worked on, and that he was asked to attend an Ordinance Committee meeting on March 3, 2016 at 7:00 AM to give the Committee some direction. He stated that in 2010 or 2011, there was an overhaul of the ordinances, but an archiving section was supposed to be included and was not. He is going to ask the Ordinance Committee to work on an archive section.

XI. Road Updates: None

XII. Other Business

- A. S. Smith suggested inviting the Conservation Commission to the next BOS meeting, or do some research as to whether or not the Town has already paid for the \$105 fee for the Conservation Commission website.

XIII. Citizens' Comments

- A. Paul Baer, Thompson Rd., asked about outsourcing engineering services to NECCOG. S. Herbert explained that NECCOG does have engineering services, but the Town does not participate in that service, but can make use of their engineers on an as needed basis. P. Baer stated that there was an article in the paper with false statements by the Webmaster stating that the website was too cluttered and the files were too big. P. Baer stated that there is unlimited space on the website. P. Baer stated that the Ethics Committee worked hard on an Ethics Ordinance and then a current public official made statements about the ordinance that were false. He stated that it was former First Selectman Larry Groh, Jr. who made the comments, and other people believed him, and added that this is why people don't want to get involved in Town projects. He stated that the Renewable Energy Commission members wanted nothing to do with the Solar Advisory Committee because they worked hard on a solar project and the school did not endorse it. He stated that the same thing happened with the Noise Ordinance, with people stating that they wouldn't be able to shovel their driveway according to the ordinance, which wasn't true. Lastly, he stated that the Belding property received a Small Cities grant of \$475 to buy a sign on their property.

- B. Ray Dewey stated that, regarding the Driveway Permit as agenda item 9, the Town Attorney suggested the Board take no action, and by taking any action, the Board is now admitting that they have the authority to grant the application to a road.
- C. Wayne O'Brien, 108 Fabyan Rd., stated that 65 Main St. is the Town's property. He stated that the Girl Scouts requested to have meetings at the school, and that previously, someone said 65 Main St. is a sound building. He suggested the Board look into making use of the building for smaller meetings/requests, like the Girl Scout meetings. K. Beausoleil stated that the Board is looking into getting deed relief for the building, and because it was built in 1902, there are many potential hazards, like lead paint.
- D. Don Pimental, 40 Starr Rd., stated that the deed for 65 Main St. says it must be maintained. He stated that at the Inlands Wetlands Commission public hearing, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 PM because a recording secretary did not want to stay later than that. He stated that if the recording secretary cannot handle staying past 10:00 PM, then the person needs to be replaced.
- E. Rob Mann, 15 Meadow Drive, stated that the deed restrictions at 65 Main St. were because the house was supposed to be the Superintendent's house. He stated that if he gave someone millions of dollars and wanted something done as a condition of the money, that it should be respected. He suggested hiring someone young to be a Superintendent and live in that house. He added that TEEG should never have been in that property.
- F. Don Pimental, 40 Starr Rd., stated that S. Herbert is a good asset to this Board, that BOS meetings don't go late, and the current Board does not limit Citizens' Comments to 3 minutes.

XIV. Tax Refunds

- A. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to approve the following tax refund:**
 - 1. Katie Proulx \$17.96
 - Ken Beausoleil- 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 8:39 PM.

Tina Fox
Recording Secretary