



# **TOWN of THOMPSON**

## ***Board of Selectmen***

**Minutes: Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, April 19, 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 7:01 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 April 5, 2016 meeting with the following correction:**

1. Page 5, Section IV(F): "...cannot be filtered at the water treatment plant," instead of "...cannot be filtered at through the water treatment plant."

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

**The motion carried unanimously.**

B. **Shaina Smith moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the April 11, 2016 meeting with the following correction:**

1. Third point: Wording should be "K. Beausoleil noted it will save on interest costs for the school."

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

**The motion carried unanimously.**

C. **Steve Herbert moved and Ken Beausoleil seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the April 12, 2016 meeting as written**

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

**The motion carried unanimously.**

S. Smith abstained because she was not present at the meeting.

D. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the April 13, 2016 meeting as written.**

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

**The motion carried unanimously.**

S. Smith abstained because she was not present at the meeting.

II. Correspondence

A. K. Beausoleil presented the following correspondence:

1. Chamber of Commerce 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Invitational, June 15<sup>th</sup>.

2. Letter of resignation from Tina Fox dated April 18, 2016, resigning from the Secretary/Clerk position in the Selectmen's Office.
3. Copy of job description for the Secretary/Clerk.
4. 67<sup>th</sup> annual CT Armed Forces Day luncheon in Hartford.
5. Literature from the Labor Department.
6. Letter from Attorney St. Onge, read aloud.
7. Letter of resignation from Sally White dated April 7, 2016, resigning from the Library Board of Trustees.
8. Ordinances that the Ordinance Committee is working on.

### III. Selectmen's Comments

- A. K. Beausoleil presented the following Selectmen's Comments:
  1. Applied for CT DOT Community Connectivity Grant, which has to do with pedestrian traffic and bicycling.
  2. Final phase of the Gladys Green update will be going out to bid within a couple of weeks, with bids being opened on May 24<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM.
  3. Blain Rd. Foot Bridge is still in progress.
  4. There will be a presentation at UCONN on April 26<sup>th</sup> regarding ongoing UCONN engineering projects in Thompson.
  5. Little League Opening Day had a great turnout.
  6. HVAC project at the Library is coming to completion.
- B. S. Smith presented the following Selectmen's Comments:
  1. Spoke with Tom Hennick about excluding Commission members from Executive Sessions, to which Tom Hennick said members cannot be excluded.
  2. Spoke to Old Colony to ask for documentation to prove they are in good standing.
    - a. K. Beausoleil stated that the contract language was cleared by the Town Attorney, and there will be a preconstruction meeting soon. There is an addendum in the contract guaranteeing the bridge will not be closed for more than 30 days, and the project will start within 10 days of the contract being signed, with completion of the entire project within 60 days.
  3. Asked K. Beausoleil to speak with Leo Adams about signs that were designed to be placed outside of the library.
- C. S. Herbert presented the following Selectmen's Comments:
  1. Attended the last Special Meeting of the Library Board of Trustees where they voted to discontinue the payphone. There were less than 70 uses in the last twelve months, and more than \$900 was spent on the phone.

### IV. Citizens' Comments (Limit 3 Minutes)

- A. Don Pimental, 40 Starr Rd., stated that Mr. Rawson is not entitled to the letter from D. Pimental's attorney. He stated that the application was fraudulent from day one and Mr. Lenky did not have the authority to do what he did. He stated that he has an email that Mary Ann Chinatti sent to the Town Planner's Association. In the email, she asks if there is court precedent to deny an application based on the ownership of the land not being clear, and asks people to respond offline to herself or Marla Butts. He stated that Rob Mann videotaped Mr. Rawson and his engineer in the woods of Rhode Island. D. Pimental called Rhode Island and was told that no permit for work issued for River Junction Estates, LLC exists.

- He stated that Mr. Rawson was 4,000 feet into the woods, and he crossed State lines and committed a federal offense.
- B. Rob Mann, 15 Meadow Dr., stated that Mr. Rawson previously told him that he doesn't have access to his own property, but that Mr. Rawson was on a piece of property that borders his, diverting water. He stated that if Mr. Rawson can hike that far, so can boy scouts. He stated that you do not log property and cut down trees if you want to have bird watchers on your property, and stated that it is misleading.
- C. Paul Baer, Thompson Rd., stated that voice-over internet protocol could be used for the library payphone. Only two members of the Board of Finance 'pushed back' at the idea of eliminating the phone, and the BOS should tell those two members that they can write personal checks to cover the costs. P. Baer asked if the Old Colony contract would include penalties if the company does not meet the time-line, and if there is a bail out clause. He asked what the final phase of the Gladys Green project is, and suggested to 'stub-out' for a fire sprinkler system as opposed to retrofitting for a sprinkler system years later. P. Baer asked if the Fire Advisory Committee would have meetings soon, and suggested the meetings could be held without a chair-person. He suggested the BOS challenge the Transfer Station Advisory Committee to look into operational contracts to see if it would be more fiscally advantageous. He asked if S. Herbert is receiving information in a timely fashion. P. Baer stated that Executive Sessions can only be used for certain purposes, which includes pending legal action, not possible legal action, and if the health of a Town employee is being discussed, they should have been asked if they wanted an Executive Session. P. Baer stated that it is against the law to recording copies of deeds without original signatures, which was done at Town Hall. He stated that you cannot un-record a document, but the Town attorney can draft another document to correct the error, which would cost less than litigation costs. He suggested adding the discussion to the agenda tonight instead of himself having to take legal action.
- D. Christine Campbell, 861 Thompson Rd., stated that she is baffled by Attorney St. Onge's letter, adding that this is "our Town" and not Allan Rawson's Town. She stated that Mr. Rawson is looking to do all the wrong things for all the wrong reasons. She asked how the Town Attorney can say that the Town owes Attorney Penny the privilege of that letter. She further asked if Attorney St. Onge is working for Allan Rawson in Putnam. She stated that the more she uncovers she finds it disgusting what 'he' is getting away with. She added that if there is deception in an application process, the application should be immediately denied, and when Mr. Rawson went and altered the water course, that constituted deception.
- E. Wayne O' Brien, 108 Fabyan Rd., asked if the roads that were previously at the top of the list last year were still going to be done. K. Beausoleil answered that the roads are rated, and money is redirected because of immediate needs. W. O'Brien asked how a road could move ahead of Fabyan Road and asked who makes that decision. K. Beausoleil answered that he and Leo Adams make those decisions.
- F. Kevin Walsh, Blain Rd., stated that the people who complain the most and who does the complaining determines which roads get done. He mentioned legal fees on the Starr Rd. issue, and stated that the money the Town is paying because of corruption and refusal of the Town's leadership to address the corruption is verging on disgusting. He pleaded with the First Selectman to express the concerns that citizens have when he goes to meetings. K. Walsh mentioned the discussion at a BOF meeting of a possible Economic Development Director.

He asked if a Town Planner is needed if there is also an Economic Development Director. He also asked about compensatory time for the Town Planner.

- G. Paul Baer, Thompson Rd., regarding the letter from Attorney St. Onge, stated that the Board should make a statement that it is just an attorney's opinion. He stated that the road ordinance states the Board of Selectmen has authority, but the application/letter was signed "on the last day of his office by the self-appointed King of Thompson." He stated that he has yet to find where the BOS gave 'him' authority to sign that letter. He suggested the BOS make a stand and say that the letter wasn't authorized. He stated that the Town bonded for the remediation related to the oil spill at the school when it should have gone to the insurance company. He mentioned that there are three vacancies on Inland Wetlands Commission, but there is an ordinance being worked on to split the commission into two separate commissions.
- H. Christine Desrochers, Fernwood Ave., stated that if Thompson does not have anything in its ordinances to protect the Town for an entity wanting to come into Town with a nuclear of power based energy plant, the Town should consider that.
- I. Don Pimental, 40 Starr Rd., asked if the letter from Attorney St. Onge could be added to 'Other Business' on the agenda.

V. Public Records Policy Update

- A. K. Beausoleil stated that Tom Hennick reviewed the current policy and made recommendations, which the Board can review and decide whether to accept.
- B. The Board discussed when the policy was adopted, a possible fee for using hand-held scanning tools, and whether or not the Town can require someone to fill out a particular form when they make a FOIA request.

VI. Brownfield Grant Award- 929 Riverside Drive

- A. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to authorize the First Selectman to award the Brownfield's Grant contract to CME Engineering if everything appears to be in order upon final review.**

- 1. S. Herbert asked what the time-frame of the project is, to which K. Beausoleil responded that he was not sure.

Ken Beausoleil- Yes

Steve Herbert- Yes

Shaina Smith- Yes

**The motion carried unanimously.**

VII. Burrillville, RI Power Plant Issue/Information

- A. K. Beausoleil stated that he spoke with Paul Roselli who is willing to present pros and cons of the power plant at a public meeting, time and date to be determined. He also spoke with the CT DEEP and was told they were unaware of the proposed power plant.
- B. S. Herbert suggested that the company should also be invited to attend the meeting.

VIII. Executive Session (To discuss possible legal action by Town to protect rights on school oil spill; Possible property purchase by the Town; Discuss health of Town employee)

- A. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to go into Executive Session with the Board of Selectmen (Steve Herbert, Shaina Smith and Ken Beausoleil) to discuss the three topics.**

Ken Beausoleil- Yes

Steve Herbert- Yes

Shaina Smith- Yes

**The motion carried unanimously.**

*MUNICIPAL BUILDING*

**815 RIVERSIDE DRIVE · NO. GROSVENORDALE, CONNECTICUT 06255  
TELEPHONE (860) 923-9561 · FAX (860) 923-3836**

- B. The Board entered Executive Session at 8:28 PM and came out of Executive Session at 9:10 PM.
- IX. Other Business
- A. K. Beausoleil stated that Community Fire Department has requested the use of the Transfer Station for a fund-raising event on April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 8:00 AM through 1:30 PM.
- B. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to allow the Fire Departments to conduct their fundraising with all the safety precautions and working it out with the Transfer Station for a convenient place to operate.**  
Ken Beausoleil- Yes      Steve Herbert- Yes      Shaina Smith- Yes  
**The motion carried unanimously**
- X. Citizens' Comments
- A. Christine Campbell, Thompson Rd., thanked the Board for organizing awareness on the power plant issue. She asked for an update on the complaint S. Smith filed with the State Attorney's office. K. Beausoleil stated that they are conducting their investigation and the Board will share more information when available. C. Campbell asked that the BOS not share the letter read aloud at the previous meeting with Attorney Penny. K. Beausoleil stated that the letter is public knowledge. C. Campbell asked if the BOS would be present at the Inland Wetlands Commission meeting the following night. She also asked if the school has signed a contract having to do with the buses. K. Beausoleil answered that the Board of Education signed a contract with the bus union allowing the BOE to explore the option of privatizing the bus system.
- B. Rob Mann, 15 Meadow Dr., stated that there is also the Ocean State power plant in Burrillville, the Algonquin in Burrillville, and the one in Dayville. He stated that he is worried about the pollution. He asked for an update on getting old minutes back on the website. K. Beausoleil answered that the Town is continuing to make improvements with the website. R. Mann stated he appreciates the Board's hard work and time.
- C. Don Pimental, 40 Starr Rd., stated that the site of the proposed power plant was deemed unacceptable in 1988, and there are signs all over Rhode Island protesting the power plant. He stated that he feels like the Board is saying tonight that they need Allan Rawson to tell them if the Town is the applicant or not, and that the Board should make their own decision. He asked how Attorney St. Onge came to his decision.
- D. Rob Mann, 15 Meadow Dr., stated that the Board has to give an individual responsibility. He stated that people in Burrillville suggested that Thompson write a letter to the EPA to do an analysis of the power plant.
- E. Paul Baer, Thompson Rd., stated that any individual can use a hand-held scanner for FOIA requests, and the Town may charge a fee. He stated that the website continues to be a problem. He stated that the Town continues to deal with an individual who did not deliver what he was supposed to. He stated that the FOI Commission is not God, and the Board should think for themselves when developing a policy. He stated that he is disappointed that the Board did not add discussion of the deeds to 'Other Business.'

XI. Tax Refunds

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

1) Ally Financial \$382.42

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

**The motion carried unanimously.**

XII. Adjourn

- A. **Ken Beausoleil 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 9:31 PM.

Tina Fox  
Recording Secretary