



TOWN of THOMPSON

Board of Selectmen

Minutes: Regular Meeting

Tuesday, June 7, 2016

Thompson Historical Society, Old 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. **Shaina Smith moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the May 24, 2016 special meeting as written.**

Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Abstain Shaina Smith- Yes
The motion carried.

- B. **Steve Herbert moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the May 25, 2016 special meeting as written.**

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

- C. **Shaina Smith moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the May 26, 2016 special meeting as written.**

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

II. Correspondence

- A. K. Beausoleil presented the following correspondence:

1. Invitation to the Tourtellotte High School Graduation on June 16th.
2. The new playground that Thompson Together has funded at Rivermill Village is being dedicated on June 12th.
3. Official notice that Norampac will be closing no sooner than July 24th and no later than August 24th.

III. Selectmen's Comments

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

1. Thanked the Historical Society for use of the building for tonight's meeting.
2. S. Herbert and K. Beausoleil attended the Memorial Day Parade. It was not well attended, and Thompson was one of the only local Towns that did not cancel due to rain.

3. The budget failed at Referendum and the new Referendum is scheduled for June 9th from Noon to 8:00 PM. Absentee ballots are available through the Town Clerk's office, including on the day of the Referendum.
 4. The Marianapolis sewer project is continuing with issues, and alternatives are being explored.
 5. A meeting was held at the Industrial Park with owner Dan Julian, Eversource Representative Shawn Johnston, Mae Flexer, and the First Selectman. Available grants were discussed that the Town Planner will begin working on. Three phase power has been completed at the site, and the next step is bringing sewer and water to the site.
 6. The Highway Department has been working in East Thompson and on Sand Dam Rd., doing chip sealing.
 7. The Quaddick Road Bridge is still on schedule to be closed in early August and open after Labor Day.
- B. S. Herbert presented the following Selectmen's Comments:
1. The Memorial Day Parade was personally meaningful as S. Herbert had received word the week prior that a company-mate of his at WestPoint was undergoing a bone marrow transplant due to leukemia, likely due to his service in Vietnam.
 2. The agenda for tonight's meeting was initially posted with an incorrect location. When the agenda is changed, it would be helpful to indicate on the agenda that it has been modified/revised.
- IV. Citizens' Comments (Limit 3 Minutes)
- A. Phil Thomas, 695 Quinebaug Rd., stated that about four years ago, railroad ties were removed near his home, and the majority of an existing leech bed was removed. Because of this, water from Walker Rd. now drains onto his side of the road, and two perennial gardens that were in existence for 20 years now cannot be maintained. He stated that the problem was not created by him and he believed the problem now needs to be rectified.
- B. Bob Larkin, 686 Riverside Dr., stated that Thompson needs to be more business friendly. The Dunkin Donuts manager told him there will be fourteen more jobs and he doesn't know how many Dollar General brought in. Johnson Corrugated is closing and Thompson could use some growth. He stated that a cross walk is needed near the new Dunkin Donuts and Dollar General and flashing lights to get people's attention. He had been told previously that the State has to put in the crosswalk because it is a State road. K. Beausoleil stated that he will notify State police, and that during the pedestrian/bicycle safety audit, that location came up for discussion, so the State is aware of the situation. B. Larkin suggested using a sign that flashes your speed as you drive by.

- C. Kevin Walsh, Blain Rd., asked for an update on the NECCOG evaluation of Town Hall. K. Beausoleil answered that Phase 1 has been completed, and now NECCOG will come in and do the audit. He stated that Phase 1 was questionnaires to the employees, and Phase 2 will have NECCOG come in to Town Hall to talk with employees. K. Walsh stated that the employees are evaluating themselves relative to their part of our Town governance. He asked when the process will be completed, to which K. Beausoleil answered that it will be done within 30 days. K. Walsh asked for a written document for what transpires with the audit. He stated that employees will be evaluating their own role in Town government, and that we have a collective NECCOG whose pathway is clearly demonstrating that inch by inch, Thompson will find itself in a situation of county governance. Our voices are becoming less relevant. He stated that he is depending on the BOS to keep residents aware of advances that take place. Thompson is going to lose its independence and he is not sure that people will be excited about a county government.
- D. Don Pimental, 40 Starr Rd., stated that he sees a lot of work being done by Leo Adams and the Highway Department. There have been a lot of improvements this year, and if L. Adams is behind it, he is doing a good job. People in Town Hall do not care about Thompson. People who live in Thompson care about Thompson. He stated he does not believe NECCOG should be controlling our government, and it is another tactic to control 'us.' Everyone needs to be able to voice their opinions and concerns.
- E. Wayne O'Brien, 108 Fabyan Rd., asked if there is a limit to how many times the budget can go to Town Meeting and Referendum. He suggested that a policy be put in place to limit the number of Referendums, after which point, the budget remains the same as the year prior. He stated that by having multiple Referendums, the Town is spending money that it does not have. He suggested a cap of two Referendums, and suggested finding a better way to communicate with the public.
- F. Kathleen Herbert, 122 Wilsonville Rd., asked if it is by Town ordinance that the Town and BOE budget are voted on in two pieces, and if one fails, they both fail. She suggested changing the ordinance and put out one whole budget. We operate as a whole Town, and there isn't an 'Us vs. Them.' If the Town votes down the budget as a whole, residents would be more amendable to taking money out of the whole budget. She suggested finding out if it is a State mandate to separate the two budgets.
- G. Kevin Walsh, Blain Rd., stated that the idea behind the two budgets is so that if one does not pass, the BOF can go back and understand that the Town is okay with one and not the other. If people were to vote on a whole budget, it would not be easy for decision makers to know where to take the money from. He suggested that the Town budget process is highly political. S. Herbert reminded him that the Town budget passed, but the BOF cut the Town budget after the failed Referendum. K. Walsh suggested the BOF was sending a message to the BOS by cutting the Town budget after it passed. He also mentioned that the stand alone questions caused a lot of confusion at the first Referendum.

- H. Rob Mann, 15 Meadow Dr., stated that he agrees with Kevin Walsh. The reason why the budgets are separate is because people believe the BOF will take into consideration the fact that one budget failed and the other didn't. He stated that a need for a crosswalk near the new Dunkin Donuts is a huge issue. He stated that people need to get out and vote on the budget, no matter which side they are on. NECCOG tries to regionalize a lot of things; they do a lot of good, but their goal seems to be to take over and regionalize and generalize a lot of our government.
 - I. Wayne O'Brien, 108 Fabyan Rd., mentioned the numerous questions on the first Referendum's ballot. K. Beausoleil stated that the resolutions/questions were for the borrowing aspect, and that the debt service related to those items was already in the budget.
 - J. Bob Larkin, 686 Riverside Dr., stated that teachers were lobbying children to keep their budget, which was disturbing. He stated that his 15 year old came home and said that her music teacher told her that if the Town doesn't pass the budget, she'll lose her job. He was trying to explain budget concerns to teenagers, and he doesn't need his 15 year old to come home and tell him that her teachers are lobbying for a larger budget.
 - K. Storm Larkin, 686 Riverside Dr., stated that she had to sit down with her daughter and four of her friends who were worried their teacher was going to lose their job, and explain a budget process and how it works.
 - L. Don Pimental, 40 Starr Rd., stated that if the Town budget passed, the BOF should have looked at the BOE budget to slash something. He stated that he pays taxes, and it's not just about the children who are here today; it's about the children from the past. He stated that the Town's people voted and the BOE budget should have been kicked down a little. He stated that there are people in this Town that 'double dip.' He mentioned that someone has a pension and income of \$40,000 per year, and that he works seven days per week. He stated that the school is too big, with 400 kids less than in 2006. You have to live within your means, and 'you guys are trying to get blood out of a rock.' He stated that people don't have the money, and that he is not talking about himself, but other people. The budget is going to fail again, and we have to get to a point where it is going to pass the first time.
 - M. K. Beausoleil stated that the Referendum is on June 9th, and at the conclusion, there is a BOF meeting where they will either set the mill rate or revisit the budget. The meeting is open to the public and that is the place to express concerns regarding the budget.
 - V. Eversource Home Energy Audits
 - A. K. Beausoleil stated that Eversource has a voluntary auditing program where they audit a home for energy savings. There is a \$99 charge and free LED light bulbs are distributed. The Town does not have to pay anything for the service. He suggested allowing Eversource to do a mailing on behalf of the Town.
 - B. **Steve Herbert moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to allow Eversource to do a mailing to residents.**
 - 1. S. Smith stated that the last time the Town participated in this program, Eversource provided their findings. She asked if they would be sending a report again this time.
 - 2. K. Beausoleil agreed that he would like to see a report of some kind.
- Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes
- The motion carried unanimously.**

- VI. Burrillville, RI Power Plant
- A. K. Beausoleil stated that around 50 people came out to the public forum, and State Representative Danny Roverso was also in attendance. Finalization for the plant is expected in February of 2017. A 30 mile radius impact is anticipated. Towns can participate by issuing a resolution in support or against the project.
 - B. S. Smith stated that there was interesting discussion about the adopting an ordinance to deter this type of structure in Thompson.
 - C. Bob Larkin asked what is being proposed to be built. K. Beausoleil stated that it is a gas-fracking energy plant, like the one on 395 but bigger.
 - D. S. Herbert stated that he could not attend the meeting because of a prior commitment, and that he has not heard back from the company that he reached out to.
- VII. Recreation Summer Staff Hires
- A. K. Beausoleil stated that a list of names was provided to the Board, and there is one more name to be added. He read the list aloud.
 - B. **Shaina Smith moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to approve the names mentioned off the master staff list for 2016 for Thompson Adventure Camp program.**
Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.
- VIII. Highway Department/Selectmen's Office Secretary/Clerk Hire
- A. K. Beausoleil stated that the candidate's name is Valerie Imre. After conducting interviews, K. Beausoleil discovered that V. Imre is a distant cousin. He recused himself from the vote.
 - B. **Steve Herbert moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to extend an offer to Valerie Imre.**
 - 1. S. Smith stated that Marie Mongeau helped with the hiring process. All of the candidates were very well qualified. V. Imre is already doing work in another Town Hall, so she has experience.Ken Beausoleil- Abstain Steve Herbert- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes
The motion carried.
- IX. Appointment-Library Board
- A. K. Beausoleil explained that a Republican position was vacated, and the Republican Town Committee recommended Kathleen Herbert to fill the vacancy.
 - B. S. Herbert recused himself from the discussion.
 - C. **Shaina Smith moved and Ken Beausoleil seconded the motion to appoint Kathleen Herbert to the Library Board, term to end November 19, 2019.**
 - 1. S. Smith asked when K. Herbert's BOE term ends. K. Herbert answered that her term ends in 2017.Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Abstain Shaina Smith- Yes
The motion carried.
- X. Other Business: None

XI. Citizens' Comments

- A. Don Pimental, 40 Starr Rd., asked if the BOS has an authorized representative or does the entire Board need to vote on everything. He asked if the BOS had an authorized representative during Paul Lenky's administration. He stated that he asked in public so that he could get an answer. He has spent thousands of dollars fighting a developer. He stated that if the BOS has to vote on summer help, then no one can sign an application behind closed doors. He again asked if Paul Lenky was an authorized representative of the BOS and asked if someone will answer him by the next BOS meeting. He did not believe the Board needs to go to the Town Attorney to be able to answer the question.
- B. Rob Mann, 15 Meadow Dr., stated that he filmed the presentation regarding the power plant, and he will post the video on the Facebook "Transparency" page. He stated that many people in Burrillville contracted cancer from a well that was sealed in 2011 by the State, and the power plant wants to open the well to use the water to cool the power plant. There is already a power plant in Burrillville, and Thompson is looking at four power plants with overlapping pollution.
- C. Kevin Walsh, Blain Rd., asked about the Marianapolis sewer project. K. Beausoleil stated that there are problems drilling the hole, and the hole is collapsing under the highway. They have a drill expert and are trying to figure out the best way to handle the situation. K. Walsh stated that there had been more than one option presented in regards to the route for the pipeline, and the current pathway was probably 3rd on the list. He also stated that there was an additional \$150,000 from the USDA 'up for grabs.' The original project was voted on and approved with the given dollar figure, then another \$150,000 was out there, so 'we' went through the process again.

XII. Tax Refunds

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

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1) Hyundai Lease | \$133.50 | |
| Ken Beausoleil- Yes | Steve Herbert- Yes | Shaina Smith- Yes |

The motion carried unanimously.

XIII. Adjourn

- A. **Steve Herbert moved and Shaina Smith 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 8:10 PM.

Tina Fox
Recording Secretary