



TOWN of THOMPSON

Board of Selectmen

Minutes: Regular Meeting

Tuesday, July 5, 2016

Quinebaug Volunteer Fire Department

p. 1 of 5

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 June 21, 2016 regular meeting with the following corrections:

1. Page 4, V(B): Date in the motion should be November 21, 2016 rather than November 1st.
2. Page 7, XII(C): "...covering painting lines..." rather than "...covering paint lines..."
3. Page 7, XII(C): "He stated..." rather than "He state..."
4. Page 6, IX: Add a section (E) to read: S. Herbert stated that the Board needs to revise the letter to change the dates originally in the letter, as June was now over."
5. Page 6, IX(D): "...or given to residents" rather than "...or give to residents."
6. Page 2, III(C): "...list of roads that need repair..." rather than "...list of roads that need repaired..."
7. Page 3, IV(D): Delete entire sentence that reads: "He filed a complaint against the Quinebaug Fire Chief relating to an adulterous affair and a situation that caused a person to take their own life." Amend to "Complaint filed with First Selectman against a fire department member alleged ethics violations."

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 June 30, 2016 special meeting with the following corrections:

1. Paragraph 3, July 5th is written in the minutes, which is the correct date for the discussion, but the Board said July 12th at the meeting.
2. S. Herbert suggested adding a paragraph saying "Agenda items were discussed." K. Beausoleil disagreed, stating that the minutes have to reflect what was on the agenda.

Ken Beausoleil- Yes

Steve Herbert- Yes

Shaina Smith- Abstain

The motion carried.

MUNICIPAL BUILDING

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II. Correspondence

A. K. Beausoleil presented the following correspondence:

1. Discussed grants released by the Governor to regional municipalities, including specific grants through NECCOG.
2. Chamber of Commerce after hours business meeting on July 13th.
3. Thank you letter for the Thompson scholarship from Jared Annis.
4. FOIA complaint filed against PZC, hearing scheduled for July 14th.

III. Selectmen's Comments

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

1. Thanked the Quinebaug Fire Department for hosting this Selectmen's meeting.
2. The flag pole is now illuminated at Town Hall.
3. Made a request to State for speed limit radar trailer.
4. New signage posted on Buckley Hill Rd. near Route 200 intersection and Riverside Drive intersection. A safety study was requested at both intersections.
5. Contacted the school to turn off the lights on the school crossing sign.
6. Highway Department started laying crushed stone on the Airline Trail starting in Mechanicsville and headed north.
7. CLEAResult was in the Library, and will be providing a report regarding energy costs and savings.
8. Notified by CT Water that the back parking lot at Town Hall is not owned by the Town. CT Water will be working with the Town to get the property in the Town's name; the Town will have to provide the survey and deed costs.
9. The Marianapolis sewer project is still being studied.
10. Phosphorus upgrade at TWPCA is underway.
11. Leo Adams will be putting together a list of road priorities to present to the Board.

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

1. On a personal note, S. Herbert discussed that one of the soldiers who drowned in June was a West Point Cadet. Another Cadet drowned trying to save someone who was in trouble and was awarded a medal for an act of courage; he was born on the 4th of July and was buried on the 4th of July.

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

1. S. Smith asked when the State comes to reassess speed limits. K. Beausoleil stated that he would reach out to the State and ask.
2. S. Smith stated that there was a complaint a few years back about not having a street light at the railroad track at Riverside Park, and asked if a call was made to see what would be necessary to put one in. K. Beausoleil answered that the BOS has to approve new street lights. He will reach out to Thompson's Eversource representative Shawn Johnston.

IV. Citizens' Comments (Limit 3 Minutes)

- A. Al Landry, 33 Randall, stated the lights on the school crossing sign are still blinking. He asked about a crosswalk near the new Dunkin Donuts and Dollar General. K. Beausoleil stated that he is contacting the State about it. A. Landry reminded the Board that at the previous meeting he asked about the school bond, how much is left and what the Town is paying per year.

- B. Renee King, Lowell Davis Rd., asked when the Burrillville Power Plant discussion would be taking place. S. Smith answered that it is item 10 on the agenda.
- C. Jason Olkowski, Burrillville resident, asked if he could speak about the proposed power plant now.
- D. **Ken Beausoleil moved and Steve Herbert seconded the motion to move "Energy Plant" up to 4(a) (on the agenda).**

Ken Beausoleil- Yes

Steve Herbert- Yes

Shaina Smith- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

IV(a). Burrillville, RI Power Plant/Town Meeting

- A. K. Beausoleil stated that he thinks it would be appropriate to go to a Town Meeting to get input from the Town. There is some leftover business from last year's Town Meeting, including the Constable Ordinance, and Inland Wetlands Ordinance. A Town Meeting could tentatively be scheduled for August.
- B. Renee King, Lowell Davis Rd., gave a presentation regarding power plants located in the Last Green Valley and Blackstone River Valley along the Algonquin gas line, plus the two proposed plants in Killingly and Burrillville. The Charlton, MA power plant produces 360 megawatts (mw); Lisbon: 15 mw; four power plants within three MA towns produce 360 mw, 578 mw, 178 mw, and 123 mw; Blackstone, MA: 578 mw; two current Burrillville, RI plants: 254 mw and 254 mw; Dayville: 840 mw. The proposed Killingly plant will produce 550 mw and the proposed Burrillville power plant will produce 1000 mw. The power goes into the New England grid and feeds other States. It is Thompson's responsibility to protect the Last Green Valley. Some towns including Thompson will be significantly impacted by the proposed power plants. An environmental impact study should be done.
- C. Jason Olkowski, Burrillville, RI, distributed documents to the Board including a fact sheet about the proposed plant in Burrillville, a map showing the radius of impact of the proposed Burrillville plant, a letter from the Conservation Law Foundation addressing why there is not a need for a new power plant, and a letter from Burrillville Town Council regarding a previously proposed plant in Smithfield, RI. He stated that he is not an environmental activist, he is a private resident, and is trying to educate neighboring towns. The Energy Facilities Citing Board is made up of three members appointed by the Governor and they are the sole decision makers to decide if the plant will be built. Burrillville itself, law makers, and citizens have no say in the process. The Citing Board will consider input from a variety of sources. Thompson can adopt a resolution and send a letter to the Citing Board. Hundreds of acres of land will be clear cut. 220,000 gallons of water will be used per day in the summer, and almost one million gallons per day in the winter. The water source is contaminated with MTBE. Thompson will see all of the negative impact with no benefits.
- D. Al Landry, 33 Randall, stated that aquifers don't recognize borders. He asked if the 52 known pollutants would pose a threat to bees and other pollinators. It would make more sense to put up a solar farm. Two million gallons of oil, 40,000 gallons of ammonia, and hydrogen on site will make the plant a target for a terrorist attack. He asked if the Conservation Committee has said anything about the proposed plant.
- E. Rob Mann, 15 Meadow Dr., asked if the plants become Brownfields in 20-30 years. If the land is used for solar farms, the land doesn't get destroyed. He is against the plant because of the MTBE in the water.

- F. Don Pimental, 40 Starr Rd., urged the Board to adopt a resolution sooner, and to include the proposed plant in Killingly.
 - G. Wayne O'Brien, 108 Fabyan Rd., stated that property values in Thompson will decrease.
- V. Vacancies on Boards, Commissions and Committees
- A. K. Beausoleil produced a list of vacancies including the Charter Communications North East Advisory Council, Economic Development Committee alternates, Agent of the Elderly, North East Regional Planning Commission, Small Cities Advisory Board, Fire Protection Advisory Committee, and Inland Wetlands Commission. He reminded the Board of the fact that Brian Murphy agreed to work individually to compile a report for the Fire Advisory Committee, as was brought up at the previous meeting.
 - B. **Steve Herbert moved and Shaina Smith seconded the motion to have Brian Murphy take on this task and complete the report (for the Fire Advisory Committee).**
Ken Beausoleil- Yes Steve Herbert- Yes Shaina Smith- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.
- VI. Town Website Contract
- A. K. Beausoleil stated that the current contract is \$100 per month and has ended. There will be a two hour meeting the following day to go over some fine points of the site and training for the Executive Assistant. The website has made progress. He suggested looking at other options during the next budget season.
 - B. S. Herbert asked if a new contract needs to be generated, to which K. Beausoleil stated he will talk to the current webmaster in the morning. S. Herbert suggested that the Town should have all of the necessary passwords and full access to the website as the Town should not be "hostage" to anyone. K. Beausoleil stated that he will have a conversation with the Executive Assistant in regards to that.
 - C. S. Smith stated that the fact that the Executive Assistant is being trained is great, but she won't be able to do software updates, etc. She suggested that waiting for the next budget will be too late, and the Board should have a plan in place to find a webmaster and to explore the Town's options.
- VII. Fire Departments
- A. K. Beausoleil stated that he was notified that effective November 1, 2016, NARCAN will be required on ambulances, and will need to be added to the agreement between the EMS providers and the Town.
 - B. S. Smith asked how NARCAN is administered, to which John Sharpe responded that it is done nasally. He stated that Community Ambulance will be purchasing it shortly, and that departments have trained to administer it already but don't have it. Since January 1, 2016, there have been seven recorded opiate overdoses in Thompson. Of those seven, four were not Thompson residents.
 - C. S. Herbert asked about the hiring practices at various fire departments and how members are screened. J. Sharpe could only speak for Community Ambulance. They require three letters of recommendation and call references. A police background check does not get done because of costs. Copies of valid driver's licenses are kept if the person is going to be driving. The individual has to go through a certified program for Fire/Police. Applicants are required to state their criminal background on the application.

- VIII. Economic Development
- A. K. Beausoleil stated that EDC is moving forward with the branding study with NECCOG. Four people have expressed interest in serving as alternates on EDC. The Board agreed to review the list of four names and act on it in the future.
- IX. Vacant Positions/Hiring
- A. K. Beausoleil stated that they received fifteen applications for the Highway Maintainer position and they will be ready for the Board to review on Thursday. He suggested the committee for hiring would be the BOS and the Highway Director. The Secretary/Clerk position in the Selectmen's Office has become vacant again. The position was advertised again and will close on July 15th. He suggested the committee for hiring would be the same as the last time, to which S. Smith agreed.
- X. Burrillville, RI Power Plant/Town Meeting
- A. This item was discussed after Citizens' Comments.
- XI. Other Business
- A. S. Smith suggested that the Board should finalize what was presented regarding the proposed power plants within the coming days, and urge the Town Attorney to provide feedback on a resolution before the end of the next week so that a Town Meeting could be scheduled before the end of August.
- B. S. Herbert agreed that instead of the beginning of August, the Town Meeting should be held within a couple of weeks.
- C. S. Smith stated that she will draft a resolution and send it via email for review.
- D. S. Herbert asked that a road plan from Leo Adams be included on the next regular meeting agenda.
- XII. Citizens' Comments
- A. Don Pimental, 40 Starr Rd., asked where he can get an application to be on the Inland Wetlands Commission. K. Beausoleil advised him to pick up a volunteer application in the Selectmen's Office.
- XIII. Tax Refunds: None
- XIV. 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 9:11 PM.

Tina Fox
Recording Secretary