



TOWN of **THOMPSON**

Board of Selectmen

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2019 MAY -9 P 5:55
Linda Paradise
TOWN CLERK Asst

SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 7, 2019 7:00 p.m.

Thompson Town Hall – Seney Room

- I. Roll Call: First Selectman Ken Beausoleil, Selectmen Amy St Onge and Steve Herbert. Renee Waldron (Chair, EDC Branding Implementation Committee), John Rice (Building Committee)
Members of the public; Recording Secretary Dotti Durst

The meeting was called to order at 7 PM by First Selectman Ken Beausoleil.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion S. Herbert seconded by A. St Onge to approve the minutes of the Meeting March 16, 2019 carried unanimously, with the note that in VI, the sentence should read "security grants"

Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Herbert to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting March 24, 2019 carried unanimously.

Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Herbert to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting March 26, 2019 carried unanimously.

III. Correspondence

- A. DEEP – Constantine Galasso: Open Burning Official Certificate has been received; it expires 1/31/2021
- B. Economic Development Commission – Invitation: Implementation of the Thompson Green and Growing imitative Wednesday, June 5 @ 6 PM; refreshments
- C. DEEP – Raceway Golf Club Notice of Permit Application for irrigation
- D. The Last Green Valley 25th Anniversary Annual Meeting; Thursday, May 30, UCONN
- E. Boy Scouts of America – May 23 at UCONN Alumni Center, honoring Betty Kuszaj Outstanding Leadership Award; Dr. Carlee Drummer (QVCC) Outstanding Educator Award; Jewett City Savings Bank, Community Service Award; Northeast Opportunities for Wellness, Community Organization Award; McKenna Gagnon, Young American Award.

IV. Selectmen's Comments:

- A. St Onge- we are saddened today to learn of the school shooting in Colorado, and grateful to Melinda Smith and the security initiative at the school district, for them being proactive. Hopefully the voters will support the security upgrades. K. Beausoleil noted that an incident took place today at the Thompson school complex involving the report of a person with a knife. Lockdown took place and the State Police handled it.
- A. St Onge - it was energizing last night to see the voter turnout and participation.

S. Herbert - Request to discuss Voting Districts. K. Beausoleil stated that the topic had only been discovered to have been omitted from the agenda after the agenda was prepared.

Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by A. St Onge to add an agenda item, under XII, Other: Discussion of Voting Districts, carried unanimously.

K. Beausoleil: NECCOG is looking into a lease/purchase agreement with Killingly, the owner of the building on Rt 12, Dayville

-we await a finding from the Department of Agriculture investigation into a charge of animal cruelty at NECCOG

- the mill reclamation project meeting is tomorrow with DEEP, a possible developer and the redevelopment team from Thompson

- on April 23, a group of selectmen from Northeastern Connecticut met with Governor Lamont for an hour, discussing the activities taking place here, efforts to regionalize services such as through NECCOG, and other matters. The Governor participated in the discussion; it was a positive meeting.

- UCONN engineering students presented 1). Their study of the Buckley Hill project, upgrades regarding sidewalks and crosswalks, and other aspects of town infrastructure

2). A re-working of the Airline Trail crossing at RT 193, about a \$900,000 project

- DEEP is having a State engineering contractor look at the Airline Trail at RT 12.

- WINY will be utilized to discuss the proposed Education and General Government Budget proposals and the May 20 Referendum

- the new DOT Commissioner met with town leaders at CCM to discuss the status of Connecticut's infrastructure, in particular high-volume highways with constriction points, as well as his thoughts about implementing tolls. He reminded the town leaders that tolls collected on a highway are required to be designated for maintenance on that same highway. He will make his presentation available to attendees in hopes that the facts he presented can be more widely disseminated.

- the safety officers have been hired by the school district

- the Little League parade, 04/27, was a success, with Pete Marcoux the honored guest

- Tourtellotte Trustees will be invited to a meeting to identify a course of action for 65 Main Street. The Town Attorney has specified exactly how the parcel, or proceeds from the sale of it, is to be used, as per the wishes of the benefactor.

- V. Citizens' Comments: Wayne O'Brien, 108 Fabyan Road - Asked about how the ballot will be set up at the budget referendum. K. Beausoleil - there will be 3 sections. As is required, the General Government proposed budget will be separate from the Education proposed budget. There will be a separate question regarding the possible use of \$550,000 for capital improvements regarding security at the school complex. Linda Jarmolowicz, Dennis Drive - remember the funds for school security are reimbursable by grant money. John Rice (Building Committee)- in the Colorado incident, parents were informed they would be able to pick up their children at another location; similarly here, traffic bottlenecks could occur if these security measures are not implemented. He praised the school administration for being pro-active. R. Waldron, 79 Main Street - other school systems have already implemented these measures the funding would provide in Thompson.
- R. Waldron- commends the BOS for initiating action on 65 Main Street, a situation that has been pending since a Committee made recommendations in 2009.

VI. School Security Grant – Resolution Motion K. Beausoleil:

Be it resolved that the Board of Education is authorized to apply to the Commissioner of Education services and to accept or reject a grant for school security projects at Tourtellotte Memorial High School, Thompson Middle School and Mary R. Fisher Elementary School.

Be it further resolved that the Building Committee charge is further expanded to include security projects at Tourtellotte Memorial High School, Thompson Middle School and Mary R. Fisher Elementary School.

Be it further resolved that the Board of Selectmen for the Town of Thompson authorizes at least schematic drawings, outline specifications, and cost estimates for security projects at Tourtellotte Memorial High School, Thompson Middle School and Mary R. Fisher Elementary School.

Motion seconded by A. St Onge carried unanimously.

- VII. Appointments - Motion S. Herbert seconded by A. St Onge to appoint Barbara Roach to the Inland Wetlands Commission Alternate through March 15, 2023 carried unanimously. K. Beausoleil will discuss the Alternate position with B. Roach; S. Herbert expressed thanks to her for stepping forward to serve in this important role.

Motion S. Herbert seconded by A. St Onge to appoint David Poplawski as a Planning & Zoning Commission Alternate, as recommended by the DTC, to fill the vacancy of T. Penn-Gesek through Nov 21, 2023 carried unanimously.

- VIII. VFW Post 10088 – Request for Poppy Sale at Transfer Station and other locations May 18, 22, 23, 24 Motion S. Herbert seconded by A. St Onge to approve as presented carried unanimously.

- IX. West Thompson Fire Department – Request for Boot Drive at Transfer Station June 8: Motion S. Herbert seconded by A. St Onge to approve the proposed change of date (to accommodate the Poppy Sale) carried unanimously

- X. Summer Camp Staff: Motion S. Herbert seconded by A. St Onge to approve Recreation Summer Camp Hires as listed carried unanimously.

Natalie Benton
Channing Boss
Nathaniel Delage
Lexie Lamontagne
Brianna Loffredo
Elizabeth Roy
Julie Szamocki
Evan Ware

Arianna Binienda
Stephanie Daly
Michaela Godzik
Katie Lamontagne
Mary Monaghan
Haley Russo
Nathan Tretheway

Paul Boisvert
Paige Boisvert
Nick Kolodziejczak
Sarah Langlois
Christopher McClure
Jordyn Staveski
Emily Vincent

- XI. EDC Intern Hire: R. Waldron, Chair of the EDC Branding Implementation Committee – to meet the Town EDC Goal of greater communication with and among townspeople, the EDC has recommended the hiring of a part-time high school student

for the balance of the fiscal year (about 8 weeks) and has voted to fund the position from their budget. The person will work with town hall staff on the current facebook site, create other social media platforms for Thompson, and work with all partners in Thompson to facilitate cooperation with events and activities by creating a master calendar. Junior Jonathan Bichelhaupt interviewed very well and is recommended.

Motion S. Herbert seconded by A. St Onge to approve the E D C request to hire Intern Jonathan Bichelhaupt, May 8 – June 30, carried unanimously.

- XII. Other Business: Voting Districts – S. Herbert reviewed the statistics he has compiled regarding the number of Thompson Districts and voting places, the counts of voters at each of them, sorted by Primary, Referendum and Election. His data demonstrate that reducing the number of District and polling places to a single location could save Thompson \$132,693 over ten years. He also compiled data comparing Thompson with other communities in the County; this demonstrated that Thompson brings in the fewest votes per District and per polling place at each location. – A. St Onge: members of the public have voiced support for consolidation of Districts and voting places. Charlene Langlois, who is involved in Commissions and Boards advocates for the One Thompson approach. The town should schedule an opportunity for all the individuals in Thompson to share their thinking on this question. –K. Beausoleil; a Public Hearing could be scheduled to discuss the Advantages/Disadvantages of Four Districts/voting places. –R. Waldron: as Town Clerk I observe that the time and manpower required to set up/take down all four voting places is significant; the DPW is tied up moving machines to/from each location. –J. Rice: if the Community Room is selected for one voting place, consider a different location than is presently used for a second location. It needs excellent access and parking but need not be a town-owned facility. –W. O'Brien: congestion at voting places could be a deterrent to voting; it would be awful for people to look at a waiting line and decided to skip voting. –R. Waldron: suggests the Registrars be asked for more detailed counts of voters who are waiting; not only on each hour. Registrars in other towns can be asked for strategies found to be effective in moving voters through efficiently. And it looks like the Legislature is likely to implement Early Voting, which will reduce the numbers at the voting places each time.

XIII. Citizens' Comments: none

XIV. Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by A. St Onge to approve the Tax Refund to Toyota Lease Trust in the amount of \$ 595.52 carried unanimously.

XV. Executive Session:

Motion to go into Executive Session at 8:03 PM by K. Beausoleil seconded by A. St Onge to discuss the two listed items carried unanimously.

A. School Oil Spill

B. Trinity Sewer Litigation

Executive session ended at 8:27 PM. No action was taken.

XVI. Adjournment was at 8:28 PM by First Selectman K. Beausoleil.

Respectfully submitted by Dorothy Durst, Recording Secretary *Dorothy Durst*

These minutes have not yet been approved by the Board of Selectmen. Please refer to next month's meeting minutes for approval of and/or amendments to these minutes.