



# TOWN of **THOMPSON**

## **Board of Selectmen**

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TOWN OF THOMPSON, CT.  
2019 JUN 11 A 11: 22  
*Linda Paradise*  
TOWN CLERK, Asst

SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
Tuesday, June 4, 2019 7:00 p.m.  
Thompson Historical Society  
MINUTES

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- I. Roll Call: First Selectman Ken Beausoleil; Selectmen Amy St Onge and Steve Herbert  
Others: Susan Witkowski (BOF), Kies Orr (Fort Hill Farms), John Rice (P&Z),  
John Sharpe (Community Fire Chief), Steven Bodreau (Quinebaug Fire Chief),  
Officers of Thompson Fire Departments, Kim Austin (Fire Advisory Committee),  
Steve Benoit (Emergency Management).  
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. Motion by A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to approve the minutes of the  
May 21, 2019, carried with S. Herbert abstaining

III. Correspondence

- A. Chamber Business After Hours-June 19
- B. Learning in Retirement@QVCC 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Coast Guard Band Concert  
invitation extended to all Thompson residents (June 29, Center for the Arts,  
Woodstock Academy, 6 PM). Free but tickets are required/see Academy website)
- C. A Thank you came in for the school drill evacuation and use of facilities
- D. A petition was received for Quaddick Town Farm Road (BOS) and another  
opposing a liquor license moving to Quinebaug
- E. A request was received regarding a possible land purchase.  
**Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by S. Herbert to add a new item to the  
addenda under X. Other Business carried unanimously**
- F. A pre-hospital emergency study at QVCC for fire departments conflicts with  
Thompson interviews.

IV. Selectmen's Comments:

- A. St Onge- none
- S. Herbert – Reminder to all to vote
- K. Beausoleil – after the Referendum, the BOF will meet to set the mil rate, if the  
referendum carries. The BOS will subsequently meet to set the mil rate and sign off.
  - scholarships and awards held on June 6; graduation will be the 11<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM
  - we will be keeping school safety in mind through the end of the school year
  - the EDC Branding Implementation Committee Planning Exercise is June 5,  
gathering at 6 PM; about 50 Board and Commission chairs and members enrolled
  - there will be a tour this Thursday of the Rivermill with DEEP and the possible  
developer to iron out the aspects of the project required for implementation

S. Herbert – the Selectmen's Update in the Newsletter:

**Motion S. Herbert seconded by A. St Onge that A. St Onge be the Voice of the Selectmen in the next Newsletter.**

S. Herbert – yes. A. St Onge – yes. K. Beausoleil – nay. **Motion carried.**

- V. Citizen Comments: **Scott Eastman**, Breault's Landing – There have been disturbances on the road. Police do not respond there since it is a private road; they cannot without written permission of the owner, but there appears to be no definitive owner. A. St Onge spoke with the DPW, which confirms that they keep it open in snowy weather, precisely for safety purposes. K. Beausoleil – the town in 2012 determined that all roads will be plowed when the snowfall reaches 12" including non-town owned roads, for public safety purposes. Question: does the town need to make an investment to bring the road up to standards? It appears that the Road Standards are not met by the roadbed and surfaces; it would take substantial investment to achieve the Standards spelled out in the Planning and Zoning Regulations. The decision to accept it as a Town Road would go to a town meeting; the road itself is not in compliance, it is unlikely.

**Kim Austin:** Chair of Fire Advisory Committee- The Fire Departments have created a presentation which will be presented at the June 20 BOF meeting. They will discuss the current status of the Fire Departments and identify issues which should be addressed. The presentation is designed to open a dialogue with the BOF; all are invited. The committee's schedule aims to bring a proposal to the BOS in August after working on it in the intervening months. S. Herbert- are you now able to get the Committee's agenda and minutes posted? Not yet (computer issues) but they are filed with the Town Clerk. He reminds Ms. Austin that statute calls for them to be posted on the website if a town has one.

- VI. Update on plans for the Community Fire Station: Chief John Sharpe reviewed the history of the Station on Riverside Drive, built in 1939 with a load-carrying capacity of about 46,000 pounds. Today's modern, fully-equipped apparatus weighs about 215,000 pounds. The structural integrity of the building has been called into question several times in recent years, as material fell from the upper story into the EMS and office space below. The Building Inspector and structural engineer suggested a game plan be created for safety purposes. An engineering plan is being developed to carry the station forward for the next 75-100 years. An expansion of the existing station will involve grading, as the land falls off sharply. Steel construction, 14' X 12' doors for modern-sized apparatus and a brick veneer façade to match the current structure are being considered. S. Herbert- is the structure safe to use downstairs, given the recent history? J. Sharpe- there is no definitive answer from the engineers. A. St Onge- does that mean there could be imminent danger? J. Sharpe- no one will give an any more definitive answer. S. Herbert- have other sites been considered? J. Sharpe- yes, the Belding site was discussed, but remaining at the current site was found to be most cost-effective. Advantages of the proposed plan include the possibility of bringing the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management to the structure. The plan comes in at about \$885,000 with additional for ADA-compliant bathrooms and for National Fire Protection Association expectations for venting and the exhaust of fumes (trucks are directly over-head) and other safety matters. Fire fighter safety has to be the first concern. S. Herbert –

the town needs to get this information out to the citizens soon; we should begin to look for grants. K. Beausoleil- yes, especially information about the current status of the structure. Chief Steve Bodreau (Quinebaug)- those are town employees and residents working on that lower level as well as up above with the apparatus; their safety is our first concern. K. Beausoleil- let the town look more closely into the matter so we can move ahead and see what we can do. Thank you, Chief, for bringing this information tonight.

- VII. Fort Hill Farms Energy Proposal: Kies Orr presented the history of the family multi-generation Farm which seeks to utilize anaerobic digesters to convert cow manure and supermarket food waste into electrical energy; theirs would be the first Connecticut farm to feed electricity to the grid, simultaneously resulting in a by-product that looks like odor-free cow bedding/ soil. The result may be 3 million kilowatts of energy, all from Cow Pow(er). The Farm requests: 1). Using Virtual Net Metering (VNM), selling electrical power to Thompson and 2). Consideration of a waiver of a town Permit fee of around \$40,000 (based on a \$1.2 million dollar project). S. Herbert – while being supportive of the technology being presented, and of a Green project, wonders how to justify waiving a fee every other business in town must pay. A. St Onge – this seems to fit into the new Green and Growing Community logo being developed. Using electricity produced in town is a positive. S. Benoit- a meritorious project, yes, but in exchange for a fee waiver, Thompson would need to get something back. J. Sharpe- yes, using power generated right in our own town is a benefit that we might be able to consider in working with the farm on the fee question. K. Beausoleil –the fee is usually due when a permit is issued. However, when a project is planned for an extended period of time, perhaps the fee could be apportioned accordingly. K. Beausoleil- we will need to work on it.
- VIII. Recreation Commission Transportation Bid Award for Summer Camp.: school buses for Thompson were privatized; the Recreation Department had to go out to bid for Camp transportation. The RFPs were reviewed by the Recreation Department and the Recreation Commission; a recommendation has been received to award a one-year contract for Summer Camp transportation to DATTCO.  
**Motion S. Herbert seconded by A. St Onge to award the 2019 Summer Camp school bus contract to DATTCO carried unanimously.**
- IX. Sand Dam Road Culvert Bid Award: four bids came in and were sent to J& D Engineering for review. Because the lowest bid was at a significant difference from the other bids, contact was made to confirm the bid, which stands as presented. The J & D recommendation: Suchochi and Son, for \$148,617; A. St Onge- references were checked and Rich Benoit (DPW) reviewed the materials and concurs.  
**Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Herbert to accept the recommendation of J & D Engineering to award the contract as presented to Suchochi and Son, Preston, CT for \$148,617 with a bid bond included, carried unanimously**
- X. Other Business: Correspondence added to the agenda  
- Mrs. Margaret Johnson has asked to purchase a parcel of land which the Town assumed following a 2017 tax auction of the parcel. The back taxes totaled \$3,362.

The purchase offer is significantly lower than that amount. Planning and Zoning will determine (8-24) if this is a parcel which the Town should retain ownership of.

XI. Citizens' Comments- none

XII. Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by S. Herbert to approve Tax Refunds of \$83.55 (Wheels Limited) and \$36.41 (Ryan B Sarkolis) carried unanimously.

XIII. Executive Session –

Motion K, Beausoleil seconded by A. St Onge to go into Executive Session at 8:36 PM to discuss: A. Litigation - Starr Road and B. Litigation - School Oil Spill, carried unanimously.

Executive Session closed at 8:51 PM. No action was taken.

XIV. Motion S. Herbert seconded by A. St Onge to adjourn carried unanimously.

K. Beausoleil adjourned the meeting at 8:52 PM.

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.*