



TOWN OF
THOMPSON
Board of Selectmen

Selectmen's Meeting
Tuesday, August 6, 2019 7:00 p.m.
Minutes

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TOWN OF THOMPSON, CT.

2019 AUG 12 P 3:51

Renee Walker
TOWN CLERK

First Selectman Ken Beausoleil called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

I. Roll Call: Ken Beausoleil, Amy St. Onge, Steve Herbert
Members of the Public
Recording Secretary, Marie C. Mongeau

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Steve Herbert, seconded by Amy St. Onge, to approve the minutes of July 2, July 9 and July 24, 2019.
One correction was made on the July 9 minutes; the heading should read Selectmen's Meeting, not Special Selectmen's Meeting.

Motion Passes with correction- Unanimous

III. Correspondence

- A. Prescription Card Savings Report -May 2019
- B. DESPP Report: June 2019
- C. Chamber of Commerce - Business After Hours
- D. Town of Burrillville RI - Invenergy Power Plant
- E. CT State Library - Historic Documents Preservation Program
- F. Tri-State Trek - Thank You
- G. Gail Arsenaault - 2 FOIA Requests 07/26/2019

IV. Selectmen Comments:

Ken Beausoleil –The Town Meeting is August, 8, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the Library/Community for the budget. The Referendum will be August 21, 2019 from noon – 8:00 pm at all normal polling districts.

-The notice of sale of 0 Center Street has been advertised; the closing date is August 30, 2019.

-Roadwork: West Thompson Road is completely paved; they're working on aprons this week.

Brandy Hill and Gawron roads have the base coat and they're replacing some catch basin tops prior to top coat.

-Roadside mowing is happening as time allows.

-The Town is receiving a wooden shed from Wheelabrator to help collect recyclables at Transfer Station; delivery is expected next week.

-The Town received a State Library Grant; no action is needed by BOS.

- The Town has received a Facilities Grant from the USDA for Town Hall generator replacement, security camera upgrade at the Library and installation of security cameras at Town Hall. Reimbursement is \$.55 cents on the dollar.

-We are going out for renewals on permits for the Transfer Station. This would be the time to decide if any changes should be made to the fee schedule. Ken will have Orla e-mail BOS the financials to-date for the Transfer Station.

-The custodian hired for the Library/Community Center decided the job was not for him. We've gone back out to advertise for applicants.

Amy St. Onge - none

Steve Herbert – none

V. Citizen Comments

- Rob Mann, Meadow Drive, expressed that the CT State Library grant is great. He believes the highway superintendent is doing an unbelievable job on the roads. The website used to have minutes going way back and the new website doesn't have them; he'd like to see them put back on website. He would also like to have meeting recordings on line; he'd like to see this up for discussion at a future meeting.

- John Dalton, East Thompson Road, asked what the amount of the Library Grant and the amount proposed for the new year. Clarification was made that this is State Library grant was made to the Town Clerk's Office for archiving records. He asked if the \$5,000 the Historical Society requested has been changed in the upcoming budget going to referendum. It was not as far as anyone knew. He stated that Putnam is holding a meeting regarding the possible expansion of their ash landfill and it should concern everyone as he believes Thompson will be dealing with some of the same issues with projects being planned. He'll provide copies of Campus Safety magazine to Steve Benoit, Emergency Management and Bill Birch, School Facilities Manager.

- Gail Arsenault, Spicer Road spoke about issues surrounding 363 Quaddick Town Farm Road and the gravel operation approved by Planning & Zoning Commission (PZC). She has asked why information being requested isn't available or why we couldn't get it done. She feels frustrated in her dealings with Town Hall. She read comments she says she has received from Town employees in response to her requests. She feels something needs to change.

-Cathleen Godzik Spicer Road provided a printout of Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment and read from it regarding gravel mining effects on the health of the community. She said that the mining operation hasn't started yet and she asked the BOS if they can they appeal the decision on behalf of the citizens of Thompson.

-Ken Beausoleil explained that there's an appeal procedure and they were provided with the information on how to appeal. Their request appears to be asking the Town to sue itself. He doesn't know if this is even possible or if the Town would do this. He'll speak with attorney. He reiterated the PZC is a regulatory board elected to enforce Zoning Regulations as they interpret them. If residents do not like a decision made by PZC, the next step is for them to file an appeal. If the ZEO makes a decision which a citizen contests, they can appeal to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Ken Beausoleil urged the other Selectmen to reach out to the ZEO, the Selectmen's Office, the Building Office, Wetlands and Conservation offices for information on the various interactions Town employees had regarding FOIA requests and how the requests were handled (referring to Citizen Comment.)

-Amy St. Onge said that she doesn't know how far a discussion can go with just citizen's comments and maybe it should be an agenda item. She wants to make sure that we do everything legally and following the rules.

-Steve Herbert said that the Town gives authority to the PZC to review the issues. He agrees that we need to be sure we comply with whatever the laws/requirements for both sides. The appeal process is the citizens' next step. The Zoning Regulations are in the process of being updated. Whenever they rework the regulations there are public hearings where they are looking for citizen input. These public hearings are coming up.

-Rob Mann said that he believes regulations say these operations are supposed to be temporary in nature and some have been going on for years. He also believes ordinances states that gravel mining was never to be for commercial use. There was discussion.

-Rob Mann said that the Town is supposed to have a Hearing Officer who you go to if you have a problem with an employee in Town or if there's an issue in Town. Ken Beausoleil stated that the Town has no Hearing Officer at this time and believes that the Hearing Officer deals with issues with violations of Town ordinance and that an Officer would be brought in should a hearing be required. He'll look into it.

VI. Appointments Art Siegmund: Agriculture Commission
 Earl Norman: Agriculture Commission
 Jonathan R. Eddy: Agriculture Commission Alternate
 Charlene Langlois: Mill Sites Redevelopment Advisory Committee
 Renee Waldron: Mill Sites Redevelopment Advisory Committee

Motion by Steve Herbert, seconded by Amy St. Onge, to approve the Appointments as described in the agenda.

Motion passes – Unanimous

VII. US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

USACE gives us license to use West Thompson Road and the 5 year license is up for renewal.

Motion by Steve Herbert, seconded by Amy St. Onge, to authorize the First Selectman to enter into a license agreement with the US Army Corp of Engineers regarding West Thompson Road.

Motion Passes - Unanimous

VIII. Breault's Landing

Ken Beausoleil researched Breault's Landing, a private road and he asked the Town attorney what the requirements are and Town's obligation to a private road. The only obligation is the BOS policy to grade and plow roads to aid in emergency services.

He worked with Town Clerk's office and pulled all descriptions of all Breault's Landing properties to show ownership related to the road. Overall, it refers to ownership by Felix Breault and his heirs. Felix Breault has passed away. The Town Hall doesn't have information on next of kin. Town Hall also cannot certify who owns the road. Town's records show only current deed ownership.

There was discussion on ownership, taxes being paid on the road and if it's considered abandoned property and options for taking ownership.

The property owners can form association to create tax district to work on taking ownership of the road; they would need to hire a professional to search for ownership.

Steve Herbert asked if it's being taxed and if not, why not, and that we should find out if we can identify it as piece of property subject to taxes to begin the process of someone eventually being able to purchase it at auction. Ken will ask the attorney if this is possible.

IX. Other Business – none

X. Citizen Comments - none

XI. Tax Refunds

Ronald L. Dehart Living Trust \$7.38

Anthony J. Mantelli \$18.54

Toyota Lease Trust \$96.85

Toyota Lease Trust \$227.25

Toyota Lease Trust \$268.62

Toyota Lease Trust \$322.45

Motion by Ken Beausoleil, seconded by Amy St. Onge, to approve the tax refunds.

Motion passes - Unanimous

XII. Executive Session – Town Assessor Position

Motion by Ken Beausoleil, seconded by Steve Herbert, to go into Executive Session at 8:08 p.m.

Motion passes - Unanimous

The Selectmen exited Executive Session at 8:35 p.m. No action was taken.

XIII. Adjourn

Motion by Amy St. Onge, seconded by Steve Herbert, to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 p.m.

Motion passes - Unanimous