

**TOWN OF THOMPSON, CONNECTICUT
SELECTMAN'S MEETING
JUNE 12, 2007**

The Board of Selectmen held a Selectmen's Meeting Tuesday, June 12, 2007 at 7:30 pm at the Thompson Town Hall – Seney Room.

PRESENT:

A David Babbitt, First Selectman, Kathleen A. Hiatt, Selectman, Lawrence K. Groh Jr., Selectman, Joseph Gaucher, Charles Seney, Jim Esslinger, Paul Joyal George Therrien, Celeste Fifield, Dale Fifield, Al Landry, Lynn Landry, Joseph Donovan Steve Benoit, James Northridge.

Mr. Babbitt called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting on May 22, 2007, Minutes of June 4, 2007 Special Selectmen's Meeting, and June 11, 2007 Special Selectmen's Meeting. Larry Groh stated that on the Minutes for May 22nd on page 7 of the minutes that *the motion failed*, should be added. Kathy Hiatt made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected for May 22nd, and as presented for June 4th and June 11th. Larry Groh, seconded. So moved.

Kathy Hiatt	yes
Larry Groh	yes
David Babbitt	yes

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Babbitt received our monthly update from Troop D regarding the events that occurred in our Town.

Mr. Babbitt received correspondence from (COST) Council of Small Towns. Giving us information as to what has happened in the Legislature thus far and where we are.

Mr. Babbitt received notification that Renee Waldron received a grant of \$2,365 for the Thompson Recreation Commission.

Mr. Babbitt received a letter from the Quinebaug Park thanking us for the Plowing, Sanding, Sweeping, and Cleaning.

Mr. Babbitt stated that both principals have asked for permission to park at the Town Hall and the Library for graduation. Mr. Babbitt granted permission. The graduation will be Thursday night at the High School and Friday night at the Middle School. Shuttle busses will be going back and forth bring people to the graduation every 15 minutes.

Mr. Babbitt stated he received a notice from Congressman Courtney's office telling us about his hours.

Kathy Hiatt stated that the closes office for Congressman Courtney is at QVCC on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month from 1 pm -4 pm.

Mr. Babbitt received a letter which he forwarded to Mr. Felts, Siting Council regarding the Tele-communications facility on Rich Road.

Mr. Babbitt received the Resident Troopers sample certification letter.

Mr. Babbitt received a letter to all Town Small Cities that funding will be discussed. The Towns were made aware that a competitive funding round is going to take place for 2007. Kevin Kennedy will be at the meeting

Mr. Babbitt received notification that the Thompson Water Pollution Control is going to raise their rates by \$10.00.

Mr. Babbitt mentioned the delivery of Municipal Solid Waste to Lisbon has gone up.

Larry Groh stated he received a letter from Jane Kruzel regarding the School band which the other Selectmen have also received.

SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS

Mr. Babbitt received a draft of the Thompson Hill Waste Water Management District that was presented by Camp Dreser and Mcgee. This was presented to Dr. Adilitta, Kevin Kennedy, David Babbitt, Dennis Greese, DEP , Maureen Marcoux,

and Pat Beckenhaupt, from NDDH. Being reviewed by the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Public Health.

Mr. Babbitt stated that he met with the Dog Warden, Francesa Morano. She is developing a list of the needed repairs at the Dog Pound. The Dog Pound exterior has been painted by Art Stone's crew as well as Elmer's shack at the Transfer Station. Mr. Stone's group will be coming back to paint the Power House and the railings once the railings are completed. They will also be painting the Concession House at the ball ground at River Mill Village. Kathy Hiatt also stated that they helped at the Book Sale. Kathy is very impressed with Art Stone and the folks he brings.

David Babbitt stated that he and Renee Waldron gave out trophies at the Thompson Night at the Raceway.

Mr. Babbitt stated he attended the Memorial Day celebration at the Thompson Middle School on Friday, May 25th and also the Memorial Day Parade which he marched in.

Mr. Babbitt stated that the biggest crowd of the year thus far at the Speedway was on that Eve of Destruction. We were there and it was fun on Sunday night. There were many people and they also had great fireworks.

Mr. Babbitt said that he attended Hattie Green's funeral. Hattie was a long time Town Historian, she did a lot of work at the Historical Society.

Mr. Babbitt met with Peter Casarella of CL&P, regarding our street lights. We believe we have most of them repaired but it's a constant battle to get these street lights repaired even when we call them in with the correct pole numbers, street, etc. Mr. Casarella is our representative from CL&P and he has been working on this for us.

Mr. Babbitt met with Brad Gannon, MCF Communication. We are hopeful that this will generate about \$20,000 in revenue per year once this is completed. We have two companies that have signed up for putting a Cell Tower on Rich Road.

Mr. Babbitt stated that the referendum was held and we did not have good results in passing the Budget.

Mr. Babbitt stated that after the last Selectmen's Meeting he got together with a couple of individuals and was able to buy 24 or 30 flags that will be going up on Thompson Hill. Then we put up 18 flags last night. The rest of the flags are on backorder and hope to receive them soon. The money was donated and people from the fire company put them up.

Mr. Babbitt stated that he attended Marianapolis 80th year celebration. Mr. Babbitt presented on behalf of Senator Williams and Representative Johnson who could not attend because they were tied up in Legislator that night.

Mr. Babbitt stated the American Red Cross had a blood drive here at the Town Hall in the Seney Room. They had to cancel this drive because the room go to hot. They will be holding another blood drive soon and they will bring their Van and it will take place in the Parking lot of the Town Hall.

Mr. Babbitt stated that they had a kid's day at Valley Springs Sportsmen Club. Charlie Moore was in attendance from the MAD FISHERMAN television program. When Mr. Moore came he was immediately surrounded by the kids it took us about 40 minutes to get Mr. Moore to the stage. He stayed at least another two hours signing autographs. It was a great day.

Mr. Babbitt stated that a Development Meeting with John Guskowski who represents companies that are interested in developing here in the Town of Thompson. Present at the meeting were Kevin Kennedy, John Mahon. We are looking at issues that particularly are going on in the Grosvenordale mill, North Grosvenordale Mill, were looking at what's going on at Quinn Shop (the old First National) a lot of work is going to be done there a lot of money will be spent. Behind Quinn's Shop are many acres, they are hoping to put 6 to 8 pads for industrial.

Mr. Babbitt stated at a Special Selectmen's Meeting the budget recommended was approved and a minimum bid on the auction items. We had two auctions this Saturday. One on Marshall Street, which sold for I believe about \$18,000. The Town will get its money back on that one. The property in Wilsonville didn't sell, so we claimed it and the Town will have to make some decisions as to how to market that.

Mr. Babbitt stated that they met with our Insurance Broker, Steve Provost and we've been selecting companies to provide us with our Workman's Compensation. We are trying to get many bidding wars going between insurance companies. Even if we take the current company that we have, we will have been able to reduce the cost by getting them involved in a little bit of bidding. I credit Mike Martin, he has done a great deal of work on this. It's been helpful.

Mr. Babbitt stated that the Scholarship Committee met and 3 students were selected for the Town Scholarship and that will be given at graduation.

Mr. Babbitt stated that he met with Troop 25 in Putnam on citizenship last Monday night.

Mr. Babbitt stated that Peter Casarella, of CL&P and I attended a meeting at CCM and he said that I should meet this person because I think that your eligible for

some money. At that point we had received \$60,000 it has now built to \$ 95,232. Meeting new people proves to be fruitful. The State takes the \$95,232 out of our grant. Although we don't get all that money it is very helpful on bonding side of the ledger.

Mr. Babbitt stated that the Economic Development Committee has met with Peter Venuto. Mr. Venuto is the person who is purposing the 150 condos for the West Thompson area along with some commercial and some industrial sites on that property.

Mr. Babbitt stated that the Board of Finance met and we have a new budget. The new budget is \$21,439,993; \$6,066,169 to the Town and \$15,364,824 for Education. The Town side of the budget took a beating that night. Most of the money came out of our Capital Expense. Taken out of the School Budget was \$30,000, \$10,000 out of the Library, a total of \$227,000 it.

Mr. Babbitt stated that he met with Dan Julian. Mr. Julian owns the property on Reardon Road (147 acres). He is ready to come to Thompson. Hopefully, he will be here in September. We had a very positive meeting with ZEO, Town Planner, and Conservation Officer, we set a schedule so that all these ideas can be presented to the Town. We hope to have hearings sometime this month unofficial informal hearing so that they get an idea of what they are trying to present. They will then go through the process and hopefully they will be permitted by September. This development will be called Thompson Rail Industrial Park. Before they are finished they will be spending \$15,000.000 to get this project going and its all for Thompson. They may be here tonight for a meeting with Wetlands upstairs.

Mr. Babbitt said the Band Concert scheduled for Saturday had to be cancelled due to the rain.

Mr. Babbitt attended a function for Hospice at Sue Vincent's home. It was dinner and a band concert.

Mr. Babbitt had a meeting with the Department Heads on Monday and then had negotiations from 3:00p -7:00p.

Mr. Babbitt mentioned that graduation will be held Thursday night, at 6:00 pm

Mr. Babbitt mentioned that a band concert will be held Saturday night at Riverside This is part of the Recreation program.

Mr. Babbitt mentioned that the Selectmen's Update is due.

Mr. Babbitt mentioned that the Thompson Historical Society has its annual meeting next Monday night. The meeting will be held at Grey Stone Farm.

Mr. Babbitt stated that the Town Meeting is at 8:00 pm. Monday.

Mr. Babbitt stated that CCM has it's annual meeting on Tuesday in Cromwell. Mr. Babbitt plans to attend and then will be going on to Monroe, to get pictures of a new development. Mr. Babbitt was in Monroe at the beginning of his term to see what they were doing. Mr. Babbitt will also meet with the Selectman of Monroe.

Mr. Babbitt stated that the Board of Finance will meet on Thursday, and NECOG will meet on Friday.

Mr. Babbitt stated that next Saturday the 23rd before our next meeting there will be a concert on the common which is also sponsored by Recreation.

Kathy Hiatt stated she was part of the school Readiness fair Saturday morning at the Library. It was opened to all re-schoolers not just Thompson, all pre-schoolers from the surrounding areas all the Day Care Centers were there the schools were there and many other booths. The most popular was Pat the Bug Lady.

Kathy Hiatt also gave an open invitation to anybody who wants to fold Newsletters.

Kathy Hiatt just reminded everyone that our Selectmen's Meeting on the 26th will be held at the East Thompson Fire District.

Larry Groh stated he was glad to hear that flags are going up on the Thompson Common. Larry asked if anyone checked with CL&P. Mr. Babbitt stated that the flags are up.

Mr. Groh stated that he had someone make a complaint to him. Larry said that he is aware that Mr. Babbitt has checked into this before. The complaint that Larry received was in regards to the sand trucks coming in and out of Quaddick Town Farm Road or New Road or something like that in that area coming down Quaddick Town Farm Road. I know you have called the companies involved. Mr. Babbitt stated that he has received complaints regarding uncovered trucks. Mr. Babbitt checked and found that it was Clemens and Mr. Babbitt called Clemens, and was told that he had one driver and he was going to talk to him. Mr. Babbitt will have the resident Trooper check it. John is out for two weeks. But when he returns Mr. Babbitt will have him check this further.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Joe Gaucher asked about the property in Wilsonville asked if it has been checked for hazardous waste. Mr. Babbitt stated that the Town has not taken possession of this property as yet, it's still in court. Thank you for your comment.

Charlie Seney questioned the memo that Mr. Babbitt gave him regarding the expenses that are incurred for plowing and sanding, etc. the Quinebaug Trailer Park. Mr. Babbitt stated that this information came from Leo Adams, our Highway Manager. Mr. Seney said that he thinks it should stop, its private property. Mr. Babbitt said that they had an agreement and also said that they pay \$1,638,200 in taxes.

Celeste Fifield stated that her son Randy is a Boy Scout and he is also helping the Town regarding the street lights that are out in Town. When we go out he will check for street lights that are out and get the pole number and go on line to CL&P and will also do a follow-up if the light has not been fixed.

Dale Fifield stated that a Fire Hydrant is out of service on Riverside drive. Mr. Babbitt stated he had a meeting with Randy from Crystal Water because we are not happy with the salt content in our water and at the time Mr. Babbitt mentioned at that time that we were having a great deal of difficulty getting water out of the hydrant on Buckley Hill when we had that fire. Mr. Fifield said that when the Hydrant on Riverside Drive was not working and that was approximately three months ago he called Crystal Water and they said they would take care of it. Mr. Babbitt will address a letter to Crystal regarding this situation.

Jim from Village Hardware asked if we had a point person regarding the Regional Recreational facility. The Hale foundation and the Hospital that it will probably be located in Putnam. They are hopeful to run this facility similar to a YMCA but an emphasis will be on health and relations to the Hospital. Renee Waldron will be involved I'm sure.

FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL ABETEMENT ORDINANCE

Mr. Babbitt stated that the 3 Selectmen had a meeting and approved the Call. This will be presented at our Town Meeting. Also this Call was sent to all the Fire Chiefs. This will be retroactive. Larry Groh said that he will still ask the Town Attorney if we could issue a check to the person's estate without going through this.

CONSTABLES APPOINTMENT

Mr. Babbitt stated this issue was brought to both Democrat and Republic Town committees that the Constables be appointed rather than a spot on the ballot. This will also be discussed on Monday and hopefully voted on. This would help the Town Clerk in his ballot. Each town committee nominates the individual and then goes from there. Al Landry mentioned what happens to the individual that is an Independent. Mr. Babbitt stated that they should make themselves known to the party chairman.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Mr. Babbitt stated that it will be on Monday at 8:00 pm. At the Library Community Center.

ASSESSOR OVER PAYMENT

Mr. Babbitt mentioned that Diana Couture who was helping out in the Assessors office was over paid for one day. Mr. Babbitt asked the Board to approve since it was not the amount that they had originally approved. The reason for her coming in an extra day was that we asked her to come in to do a few critical items. We went over by \$360.00. Kathy Hiatt made a motion to authorize the \$360.00 which has already been worked against for Diana Couture, the Assessor in the gap period before the new assessor came aboard and the money is available. Larry Groh asked is this was the same as John G. Mr. Babbitt said no because we paid the company CME that John G worked for, as a matter of fact we did not use John for the length of time that we thought. Larry Groh seconded the motion. So moved

Kathy Hiatt	yes
Larry Groh	yes
David Babbitt	yes

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION ALTERNATES

Mr. Babbitt stated that this topic will be discussed Monday at the Town Meeting. This is an ordinance therefore, the Selectmen cannot change it therefore it has to go to a Town Meeting. They would like to have two alternates added to the Economic Development Commission so that they have an opportunity to maintain a quorum.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Mr. Babbitt stated that the Recreation Department recommendations for summer help. In addition to the list that you already have, please as an addition I have 3 more names. Kathy Hiatt made a motion that we approve the list as presented by the Director of Recreation which has been approved via the Recreation Committee to approve the names on the May 24th letter, and the 3 names on the June 8th letter to hire for the summer camp program. Larry Groh seconded. So moved.

Kathy Hiatt	yes
Larry Groh	yes
David Babbitt	yes

ACT II MINISTRIES – CAR WASH

Mr. Babbitt stated that the Pastor came in he is a Youth Ministry at the Act II

Ministries in Quinebaug, the Church is in Wilsonville. They would like to hold a car was at the Town Hall. Larry Groh made a motion to accept, Kathy Hiatt seconded. So moved.

Kathy Hiatt	yes
Larry Groh	yes
David Babbitt	yes

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY – RENEWAL OF RESIDENT TROOPER

Mr. Babbitt stated a renewal for Resident State Trooper. It is from July 1, 2007 to June 30th 2009 it is a standard contract from the State of Connecticut. Kathy Hiatt made a motion that the First Selectman be able to sign the contract with the Resident State Trooper given that the budget that is currently being proposed passes because that contains the funding. Larry Groh seconded. So moved.

Kathy Hiatt	yes
Larry Groh	yes
David Babbitt	yes

AMERICAN RED CROSS

Mr. Babbitt stated that the American Red Cross would like to hold a Blood Drive on Saturday July 14th in the Parking Lot at the Town Hall. They need 60' of flat surface. They will be here from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. Kathy Hiatt made a motion that we allow the bus to come and collect blood. Larry Groh seconded. So moved. Mr. Babbitt also stated that he got a nice thank you note from them.

Kathy Hiatt	yes
Larry Groh	yes
David Babbitt	yes

TAX REFUND

Mr. Babbitt stated that we have one tax refund

Hunter Carreno \$4.87

David Babbitt made a motion to approve as proposed by the Tax Collector. Kathy Hiatt seconded. So moved

Kathy Hiatt	yes
Larry Groh	yes
David Babbitt	yes

Larry Groh made a motion to put a 15a, Other Business on the Agenda. Kathy Hiatt seconded. So moved .

Kathy Hiatt	yes
Larry Groh	yes
David Babbitt	yes

CAR WASH

Kathy Hiatt would like David to ask Leo if it is feasible to have a car wash at the garage.

ADJOURN