



TOWN OF THOMPSON
Board of Selectmen - Minutes
Tuesday, June 7, 2022
Merrill Seney Room-Town Hall
and via ZOOM Online Meeting Portal

- I. The call to order by First Selectman Amy St Onge was at 7:00 PM with all selectmen present.
Roll Call: First Selectman Amy St Onge, Selectmen Susanne Witkowski and Ken Beausoleil
Many Town Staff, Members of Boards and Commissions and the public, Recording Secretary Dotti Durst

II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. Approval of Minutes

- A. **Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the minutes of the 05-17-2022 BOS Meeting carried unanimously.**
B. **Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the minutes of the 05-20-2022 BOS Special Meeting carried, with K. Beausoleil abstaining due to absence.**

IV. Correspondence

- A. C. Obert re: Town Meeting Standard Operating Procedures, regarding the influence of out-of-town individuals (read aloud by A. St Onge)
* After the Agenda was posted: Thompson Together memo Business Expo June 25
* Putnam EMS: see agenda item XIII.

V. Selectmen's Comments:

- S. Witkowski praised the Memorial Day activities
- K. Beausoleil noted moderate drought conditions and urged caution. *Tractor trailers on Buckley Hill Road are not obeying the posted signs. GPS is directing some over that route. * Street lights are burned out yet the town must pay for the service. Pole numbers can be used to phone in the outages.
- A. St Onge * Speeding and accidents are causing grave concerns; she spoke with the Troop D, DSP about monitoring, but they are short-staffed. * PA 490 is now in the final review for an Ordinance.
- * The Memorial Day parade and activities were outstanding. A huge "shout-out" goes to Melinda Smith, Superintendent of Schools! * Dog licensing month is at hand, which requires proof of a rabies vaccination.
- * In response to a citizen's comment, the Town Board/Commissions meetings calendar has been reviewed and updated. * June 25: Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day; list of materials is on the website.

VI. Citizens' Comments:

- Valerie Clark, Alm Road, appreciates the work to update the Town boards/commissions/committees calendar; commented about the Trooper shortage
- Sally White, 308 E Thompson Road, commented about the Trooper shortage and possible actions, volunteering to assist. On June 20 at 6:30, interested people may attend the RTC meeting at the Library, at which Jay Livernois (Pomfret), the area rep to the CT Association of Boards of Education, will discuss the status of several schools-related issues.

VII. Thompson Together Report by Chair Beth Goldsmith, Quaddick Town Farm Road, noted this April Clean-up is the 20th anniversary! She detailed the refuse collected and praised the DPW and TLGV for their roles, thanked all the families and individuals who volunteered, and summarized the role of Thompson Recreation in the day's activities. The Cemetery Restoration project (9 cemeteries) was outlined. New projects and new members are welcome. The BOS offered praise and thanks.

VIII. Thompson Animal Control Fundraiser: Because veterinary and associated costs are so high, an early August event is being considered. K. Beausoleil proposed a standing Animal Control committee.

IX. Juneteenth Holiday: This new holiday, already a Federal Holiday, impacts schools/town staff.

Motion S. Witkowski seconded by K. Beausoleil to add Juneteenth as a recognized holiday for town employees carried unanimously.

X. Appointments:

Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by S. Witkowski to appoint Dave Clark to the Recreation Commission through April 15, 2023 and Angela Authier to the Ordinance Review Committee for an indefinite term carried unanimously.

XI. Resignation:

Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to accept the resignation effective May 23, 2022 of Eric Patterson, DPW Highway Maintainer with regret after 15 years of service, carried unanimously.

XII. TMHS Junior Class Request: Car Wash at Town Hall/use of Town Hall water, Aug 6 or 13, 2022. This location is highly visible. The use of biodegradable chemicals is required for the storm drains. The BOS has sent a memo of support, which also proposes student involvement in town government.

Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to grant permission for the class of 2023 to conduct a car wash as proposed at the Town Hall parking lot and for use of Town Water, pending approval of the Wetlands Agent, carried unanimously.

XIII. Report – QVEC re Putnam EMS: call volume and response /gaps in coverage data were provided. S. Witkowski asked status of the contract with Putnam EMS, a non-profit, private (not town-owned) entity. Two attorneys are reviewing the language, with finalization expected by July. There is a 180-day Walkaway clause, and after 2 years, the concept of broadening the name of the organization will be considered. A. St Onge noted Thompson to be actively working to recruit new certified EMT crew members, examining appropriate incentives.

XIV. Report – Director of Planning & Development Tyra Penn-Gesek provided a detailed report of Grants activity, and her work with the Town Commissions such as Economic Development, MSRAC, Agriculture and others. * The state tourist bureau has agreed to rename “Mystic County” in that it is too non-specific for travelers to appreciate and have selected “Scenic Northeast” instead. UCONN engineering students are engaged in several exploratory options including design of the upgrade to the Transfer Station. Brian Lievense, Recreation Director, added details about the improvements needed to basketball courts. A. St Onge proposed this as a future agenda item.

XV. Other Business: none

XVI. Citizens' Comments:

- Logan Taylor, 961 Thompson Road, reviewed his experience and credentials, recommending further examination of the EMS situation and offering assistance
- Sally White, 308 E Thompson Road, in addition to various other matters, asked about the agenda item “0 Riverside Drive” seeking location specifics. K. Beausoleil noted that the location was discussed at the July 6 BOS meeting last year and details are in the Minutes. As an Executive session matter, no discussion can take place at this time.
- Dave Clark, Alm Road, reviewed some aspects of his experience. He observed that although he found that Thompson does have an Ethics Committee which does not meet, he could not find a Code of Ethics.
- Valerie Clark, Alm Road noted the BOS did not discuss the costs of Junteenth; she encouraged the use of proper names.

– Sally White, 308 E. Thompson Road, refers to the village of East Thompson with solemn regard, and advocates for respect for the community and the people involved there over the span of history.

XVII. Tax Refunds: none

XVIII. Executive Session:

Motion A St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to enter Executive Session at 9:05 PM with all three Selectmen present, to consider a proposed Lease for Town Land at 0 Riverside Drive, carried unanimously.

Executive Session ended at 9:24 PM with no action taken.

The BOS meeting resumed at 9:25 PM.

XIX. Adjourn:

Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by S. Witkowski to adjourn at 9:25 PM carried unanimously.

To hear and see the meeting, use the link to the Zoom recording

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/-XrifKeK6hbShW3ZmTDCz_sZjGtN5LOW8RWq9YkPipfLnBAErWcoE8DWLb3wxGDX.uMsoOSSOojayA74v

Access Passcode: 0dH2I?M5

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.