



TOWN OF THOMPSON
Board of Selectmen-Minutes
Tuesday, June 21, 2021
Merrill Seney Room, Town Hall
and via Zoom from remote locations

I The call to order by First Selectman Amy St Onge was at 7:01 PM with all selectmen in attendance.
Roll call: First Selectman Amy St Onge, Selectman Susanne Witkowski and Ken Beausoleil
Members of Boards and Commissions and the public, Recording Secretary Dotti Durst

II. The pledge of allegiance was recited

III. Approval of Minutes:

Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the minutes of the 06-07-2022 BOS Meeting carried unanimously, with the note that K. Beausoleil had added emails from Bill Warner under Correspondence.

IV .Correspondence:

a. DESPP Police Services Report for May 2022

After the agenda was posted: *Alivia Dalpe sent a Thank you for the Scholarship she was awarded

. *Valerie Clark email—will be read into the record under # VI, Citizens' Comments.

. * Correspondence was received asking that some of the APRA funds be allocated to use for pickleball play area construction

V. Selectmens' Comments:

- S. Witkowski: several mini-bikes and motorcycles are being driven in ways out of legal compliance.

. *A recognition of Joe Lindley will take place on the Common , RT 21 at 193

- A. St Onge * Hazardous Waste collection this Saturday at the DPW. * Sidewalks update: the work from RT 200 to Rawson Avenue is underway, with a target date of September; the State will coordinate their work in the same areas for efficiency of getting both projects completed. * The DPW will cooperatively work with Putnam to simultaneously make use off the milling equipment while it is our area; several Thompson roads will be upgraded/repaved.

-K. Beausoleil noted the Concert Series, the Business Expo and EDC's cruise-in all will bring fun and energy to town

VI. Citizens' Comments: A. St Onge asked that Comments be in regard to an agenda item and that comments be held to around 3 minutes. Please demonstrate respect. If a person wants to comment on other topics, the best way is to come into the Town hall.

-John Rice, 39 E Thompson Road: * is the text for the proposed revision of PA 490 available; he could not see it on the website. He made a comment about some provisions. * Private roads should be brought up to town standards as specified in the Zoning regulations before the owner asks the town to absorb it.

-The needs of the residents of Wrightson Road to have safe access to their property as well as for emergency responders on the road was reviewed by several residents including #32 (Susan Dumas), #47 (Janet Waters), #65 (Jane Carpenter), #50 (Michelle Reynolds) #53 (Susan Waters), #14 (George Dimopoulos), and others.

-Valerie Clark, Alm Road, read an email detailing a typo in the PA 490 proposed text, encouraging revision. She detailed other points about PA 490.

-Al Landry provided PA 490details/definition. A. St Onge thanked him for his work on the project

- Sally White, 308 E Thompson Road, asked for clarification about road work, and Comments

VII. Appointment: **Motion S. Witkowski seconded by K. Beausoleil to appoint Mary Eames to the East Thompson Fire Police through Nov 21, 2023 with thanks carried unanimously.**

VIII. Recreation – Recreation Director Brian Lievense presented a list of proposed summer staff, which was read aloud.

Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the Recreation Department proposed new hires for Summer Camp carried unanimously.

IX. The Putnam EMS Training Status Report arrived only today, listing the Certificates of Training as mandated; the documentation will now go to the State. Tammy Cirka, Putnam EMS Administrator, reviewed the call history and response times for EMT/EMR staff, noting details in the report. The BOS asked several questions during the dialogue. The training process and timelines were discussed; occasional multiple calls at the same time causes administrative staff (also fully trained) to cover. Thompson will create a Direct Mail to all certified EMTs along the 395 corridor and eastern Connecticut to recruit new individuals.

X. Review and Possible Action Contract for Ambulance Services: Rob Werge, a BOF member who was asked to participate in the EMS committee, reviewed that the Putnam EMS, despite the name, is not a town of Putnam entity, but rather a private, non-profit governed by a Board of Directors. July 1 was projected to be the implementation date for the merger of Thompson Ambulance Services with Putnam, following a collaborative merger process during which the negotiations were fair and balanced. The contract has a 5-year term, provides for 24-hour coverage, and has a 2-year clause for discussion of the entity undergoing a name change. The BOS discussed the proposal extensively; S. Witkowski believes the EMS services could be provided in-house. She asked for an in-person report to the BOS each month. K. Beausoleil noted that this interim model is working, with mutual aid available if needed. Thompson's needs are being met and at a considerably lower expense than under the previous contract with K-B Ambulance. He asked, however, that what is provided by each town, such as space, utilities and other specifics be detailed in the contract. Thompson will have an active role in management of the entity, and there are options for change if desired in the future. There is a 180-day opt out provision, if needed. The town-owned ambulances are being used to our advantage. R. Werge: for a monthly report, the BOS should determine what metrics are desired so the report will fully meet your expectations.

Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by A. St Onge to enter into an agreement with Putnam EMS with the stipulation that details of what each town is providing is added to the contract carried, with S. Witkowski voting "nay."

XI. PA490 Ordinance/Recreation Ordinance/Illicit Discharge, Connection Stormwater Ordinance: three (3) Ordinance revisions are underway, with the first and third having been reviewed by the town attorney. . PA 490 needs a language adjustment for clarification. The Recreation Commission is proposed to be reduced in size from 9 to 7 members in order to consistently have a quorum present. K. Beausoleil suggests adding Alternates as well. Connecticut Stormwater regulations mandate MS-4 permitting

XII. Review Fire Services Agreement Proposal: a formal document has been drafted by the Town Attorney, based on similar situations in other towns. It specifies what will be provided by the town and what by the fire departments. A final copy will go to the Fire Advisory Committee for June 30 at 7:30 at the Quinebaug Station for a dialogue among all parties. The effort has been a collaborative process.

XIII. Policy-Private Roads: A. St Onge provided information that there is no statutory section regarding the town's servicing of private roads. She reviewed the 2012 documents which provided for limited winter maintenance for identified roads; there is nothing more current.

XIV Other Business: * **Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to add an agenda item under Other Business, *RiMaConn Relay Event*, carried unanimously**

Motion S. Witkowski seconded by K. Beausoleil to approve use of town roads on August 27 for the RiMaConn event, pending proof of liability insurance, carried unanimously.

XV. Citizen Comments:

-Rob Werge, 452 Lowell Davis Road, * Regarding Fire Services, be mindful of possible conflicts

. *Unimproved roads can be a slippery slope; it will be advantageous to document which roads were previously listed/ maintained and consider continuing to provide for them, but be careful of language

that could be broadly or wrongly interpreted.

- Wrightson Road: further comments were made by residents of the road
- Dave Clark, Alm Road, suggests taking the time needed and to be careful of terms "clear-cut"
- Valerie Clark, Alm Road is concerned with the timeline for the PA 490 Ordinance revision, calling for all due speed in fairness to townspeople as well as to the assessor.
- Al Landry, Randall Road, commented about unpaved roads
- Sally White, E Thompson Road, volunteered time to assist with the mailing
- Assessor Paul Hopkins noted that he will be reclassifying several properties regarding PA 490 and must begin by September 1 or very soon thereafter. In Mid-August a Town Meeting or hybrid meeting is suggested, hybrid allowing as many people as are interested to participate, no matter where they are on that date, it being summer.

XVI. Tax Refunds:

Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the tax refunds as presented, for a total of \$15.22 carried unanimously.

XVII. Executive Session: Land Acquisition North Grosvenordale

Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to enter Executive Session at 9:25 PM, with all 3 Selectmen present, to discuss Land Acquisition in North Grosvenordale, carried unanimously.

Executive Session began at 9:25 PM and ended at 9:31 PM; the regular meeting immediately resumed.

Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to enter into an easement with the owner of 88 Thompson Hill Road, and providing compensation of \$5,000, for the purpose of building the salt storage shed carried unanimously.

XVIII.. Adjourn:

Motion A. St Onge seconded by S K. Beausoleil to adjourn at 9:33 PM carried unanimously.

To hear the meeting, the audio tape is available in the Selectman's Office.

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.