



**TOWN OF THOMPSON**  
**Board of Selectmen – Minutes**

Tuesday, May 16, 2023  
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 Members of Boards and Commissions as well the public via Zoom, Recording Secretary Dotti Durst
- II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- III. Honor Heroic Efforts of Jacques LeBlanc. Those on hand for the Recognition Ceremony honoring Jacques LeBlanc who, after a chain saw accident on January 28, 2023, took immediate steps which saved his father's life: Quinebaug Fire Chief Steve Bodreau, Senator Dr. Jeffrey Gordon, Matthew Bernier and Jack Schubert (the two EMT responders on-scene the day of the accident), two representatives of the VFW, First Selectman Amy St Onge, Selectman Ken Beausoleil, Selectman Susanne Witkowski, and members of the public.  
\*The Selectmen read aloud a Citation for Jacques LeBlanc's quick, thoughtful action  
\* Senator Dr. Jeffrey Gordon read aloud a Connecticut General Assembly Legislative Citation which had been requested by Representative Rick Hayes (who had to be at the Capital tonight) and himself, praising Jacques LeBlanc's efforts which resulted in saving a life  
\*From the Lieutenant Governor's Office, a citation was read aloud by the First Selectman, recognizing that Jacques LeBlanc took quick, calm actions which resulted in saving his father's life on January, 28, 2023  
\* Two representatives of the VFW presented the Citizen-of-the-Year award, for Jacques LeBlanc having Distinguishing Himself in the Service of Others  
\*Chief Bodreau commented that it was the quick, calm steps taken by Jacques LeBlanc that had a positive outcome in a dramatic moment, praising the man's actions.  
\*Jacques LeBlanc: He is thankful for the recognition presented tonight, noting that it was the two EMTs and the Quinebaug Fire Department and the Chief who stepped in and effectively took care of his father
- IV. Approval of Minutes
  - A. **Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the minutes of the 05-02- 2023 BOS Regular Meeting carried unanimously, with two modifications: Item VII. (... Patricia Rudzinski was present as well as niece...); and XII. ...seconded by ~~L.~~ seconded by K. Beausoleil....**
  - B. **Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the minutes of the 05-08-2023 BOS Special Meeting carried unanimously.**
- V. Correspondence:  
\*Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours: Quite Corner Inn, Brooklyn. 05/24 from 5-7
- VI. Selectmen Comments:
  - K. Beausoleil noted the referendum last night; the proposed budget will go back to the BOF for adjustments; the voters spoke
  - S. Witkowski was very disappointed in the outcome of the referendum; she thought it best for the town to add a Resident State Trooper, and now has concerns about what will have to be cut. Perhaps the BOS could present some possible line items for BOF consideration. \* On a positive note, the Memorial Day parade is being planned.

- A. St Onge; the schools are usually involved in the Memorial Day events. Town-wide dead trees are a concern as are other road-related matters; the proposed budget provided for those. The BOF will hold a Special meeting on May 18 at 6 PM with a BOS meeting immediately afterward, to send the proposed budget to a town meeting on May 30 and referendum on June 13. \* And another positive note: the pickle ball court will be ready on May 23.

- VII. Citizen Comments: none
- VIII. Tax Warrant and Rate Bill/Not applicable
- IX. Legal Notice of Town Meeting and Referendum/Not applicable
- X. Request from VFW to distribute poppies, 05-24, 25, 26, 27 at the transfer Station/other locations  
**Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the VFW Post 10088 request to distribute poppies as presented carried unanimously.**
- XI. Request from Quaddick Lake Association - President Peter Bonin reviewed the goal of a sign on the Baker Road Bridge, which will provide a suggestion to Lake users, discouraging motorized watercraft, as they chop invasive plant species and that causes them to be more wide-spread. If approved, the sign will be purchased and installed by the Association, with no town costs. A. St Onge confirmed approval by the DPW. A copy of the exact was provided to the BOS for review.  
**Motion S. Witkowski seconded by K. Beausoleil to approve the installation of an informational sign on the Baker Road bridge, calling for the restraint of gas-powered watercraft on Stump Pond in order to limit the spread of invasive water-plants, carried unanimously.**
- XII. New Hires:  
\* Transfer Station/DPW Maintainer - The credentials of Kevin White were reviewed.  
**Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the hiring of Kevin White for the DPW position as described carried unanimously.**  
  
\*DPW Summer Temp Help: John Steglitz, Isaac St. Onge. There was discussion of the requirements for the summer positions, including the need for a CDL (license) at one post, which the candidate has. The other candidates who were interviewed for the post did have the credentials but declined the position (lower pay than available elsewhere). The second candidate, handling parks maintenance, comes with previous experience at the Speedway. The number of years during which the positions went unfilled, thus moving the tasks to higher-paid DPW staff and slowing the work for which they were qualified, were reviewed. Both candidates are capable of the assigned work. K. Beausoleil: a concern about the appearance of nepotism is inevitable, and the hiring of these two men, relatives of town leaders, is not advisable.  
**Motion S. Witkowski seconded by A. St Onge to hire John Steglitz and Isaac St. Onge for the two Summer, temporary DPW position carried, with K. Beausoleil voting "no."**
- XIII. Resignations:  
**Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to accept the resignation of Brian Howell, Deputy Emergency Management Director, effective 05/31, and of Justin Yong from the Building Committee with regret and with respect for their years of service to the town in a volunteer capacity, carried unanimously.**
- XIV. Other Business: Gloria Harvey has requested appointment to the Recreation Commission.  
**Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to add an agenda item to Other #XIV, carried unanimously.** She is a town resident, involved in other capacities.  
**Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to appoint Gloria Harvey to the Recreation Commission.** After discussion, noting some missing information, A. St Onge withdrew the motion and S. Witkowski withdrew the second. The matter was set aside until the next meeting.

