



**TOWN OF THOMPSON**  
**Board of Selectmen - Minutes**  
**Tuesday - August 15, 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  
Roll call: First Selectman Amy St Onge; Selectmen Susanne Witkowski and Ken Beausoleil. Members of the public in person and via Zoom, Members of Boards & Commissions. WINY. Dotti Durst, Recording Secretary.
- 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 08-01-2023 BOS Meeting carried unanimously, noting that in #XVI, Citizen's Comments, Al Landry, Randall Lane, stated his comment to be that the BOS should challenge the demands of the state in the matter of ACO postings.**
- IV. Correspondence - None
- V. Selectmen Comments:
  - A. St Onge \*reviewed the uses of STEAP Grants in the past including for the Library Roof; now a STEAP Grant could be considered for part of the Schools Track re-build. The town approved bonding for the project at a town meeting in January. There is a Grant ceiling of \$500K. The topic is on tonight's agenda, #X.
  - \* The DPW is finishing up work on two roads, with aprons and driveways, as well as mowing roadsides. The frequent rain has proved a challenge in that aspect of their work. \* In a couple of weeks, school will resume. Everyone should enjoy the remainder of summer.
  - K. Beausoleil: with summer ending and school resuming, everyone is asked to be alert for flashing school bus lights. \* The DPW has indeed been very busy!
- VI. Citizens' Comments:
  - Rich Schultz, 4 Jezierski Lane, spoke about the Rivermill project and supports the VAD Ordinance which will heighten the awareness of the legacy of the town.
- VII. Bid Award: The Town Planning and Development Director's memo of 08-09-2023 regarding Hazardous Materials and Abatement at 65 Main Street was reviewed. The project is funded by a SBA Grant. The recommendation presented to the BOS is to award the contract for the complete scope of work (to protect the health and safety of users of the facility for the long term) to the lowest bidder as well as the most thorough proposal:  
**Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by A. St Onge to award the bid to Bestech, Inc of Ellington, CT in the amount of \$189,000 for 65 Main Street Hazardous Materials Abatement and Selective Demolition carried unanimously.**

- VIII. Open Bids: RFP Permaculture Food Forest Assessment-Design Services - Two bids were received for the USDA-funded project at 65 Main Street (on the back side of the property). The bids will be sent to the Committee for review.
- 1). Wayne Weiseman, The Permaculture Project, Carbondale, IL
  - 2). Regenerative Design Group, Greenfield, MA/BSC, Glastonbury, CT
- IX. Appointment: John. Szamocki's credentials were reviewed for this volunteer position, with positive notes from the interview committee.  
**Motion S. Witkowski seconded by K. Beausoleil to appoint John Szamocki as Deputy Director of Emergency Management carried unanimously.**
- X. Resolution to apply for a STEAP Grant; the sequence of activities includes approval by the BOS for the town to apply for the grant to fund the Schools track upgrade.  
**Motion S. Witkowski seconded by K. Beausoleil to approve the Resolution as prepared by the First Selectman to apply for a STEAP Grant for Schools Track funding carried unanimously.**
- The BOS will need to add to agenda item # XIV (Other): Discussion of the requirement to "Opt-in" to the STEAP Grant program.
- XI. Ordinance 160 Article II Flood Damage Prevention – Revisions: the question has been reviewed and moved forward to Town Meeting.
- XII. VAD Ordinance: The Director of Planning and Development created a list of all public comments which arrived after the draft of the proposed VAD Ordinance was made available, (one comment, Valerie Clark's, was added in the second draft). Comments included removal of the fees/fines schedule to a separate document, grammatical and consistency improvements, and typographical matters. The Town Attorney has reviewed the language; in addition, two members of the Ordinance Review Committee submitted comments. The structure of how the information about the proposed VAD Ordinance will be available at the Town Meeting and the opportunity for questions from the public were reviewed. First Selectman A. St Onge reviewed the timing of tax payments to be made by the Rivermill Developer, beginning with tax payments and sewer fees (none of which are currently being received) and incrementally increasing tax payments over the 25-year phase-in timeline. K. Beausoleil noted this to be the first step of several mill revitalizations.  
**Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by A. St Onge to accept the VAD Ordinance as presented and to move it to a Town Meeting for approval carried 2-1, with S. Witkowski voting "nay."**
- XIII. Special Town Meeting:  
**Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by A. St Onge to accept the legal notice as presented for a Special Town Meeting on Wednesday, August 30, 2023 in the Library Louis Faucher Community Room (934 Riverside Drive) at 7 PM to consider the Flood Damage Protection Ordinance and the VAD Ordinance carried unanimously.**

## XIV. Other Business:

**Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to add an Agenda item: Discussion of the requirement to “Opt-in” to the STEAP Grant program, through the CT Office of Policy and Management, carried unanimously.**

**Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to Opt-In to the STEAP Grant Program, per the required renewal every four years, carried unanimously.**

## XV. Citizens' Comments:

- Rich Schultz, 4 Jezierski Lane, asked about how the public will be able to grasp the VAD Ordinance, perhaps through the distribution of a summary. A. St Onge noted the Town Attorney and others will be present to answer questions.
- Al Landry, Randall Street, asked about the possibility of the town owning River Street, which is in disrepair, after the project is completed.

## XVI. Tax Refunds:

**Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve Tax Refunds in the amount of \$1,899.91 carried unanimously.**

Ally Financial/Vault Trust	\$186.08.
Boulet, Dean R.	\$132.60
Daviau, Lorraine E.	\$21.37
Ally Financial/Vault Trust	\$332.44
Siegmund, Arthur G.	\$13.60
Wojtowicz, Grazyna M.	\$1,213.82

## XVII. Adjourn:

**Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by S. Witkowski to adjourn at 7:36 PM carried unanimously.**

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[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/ur3CMk2bkwjQJMuj365fn\\_BKxmDfSPctjixUS2bv6bumlnOh49srB8jAsXhjQe1j.2wmvLQqTGQ38golp](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/ur3CMk2bkwjQJMuj365fn_BKxmDfSPctjixUS2bv6bumlnOh49srB8jAsXhjQe1j.2wmvLQqTGQ38golp) Passcode: LA&\*6!%2

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.*