



TOWN OF THOMPSON
Board of Selectmen - Minutes
Tuesday - October 3, 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
Role call: First Selectman Amy St Onge; Selectmen Ken Beausoleil and Susanne Witkowski.
Paul Hopkins (Assessor), Rene Morin (Tax Collector), Members of the public, of Boards and
Commissions, 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 09-19-2023 BOS Meeting Minutes carried unanimously, noting that in Item # 12: ~~Deisel~~ should read Diesel.

IV. Correspondence:

*DESPP Services Report (August 2023) was read aloud by A. St Onge, noting a high Traffic Citations count; a possibility is the State Police were noticing bridge illegal truck traffic

V. Selectmen Comments:

- S. Witkowski praised Community Day as well-organized
- K. Beausoleil concurred, noting utilization of paved areas as a positive. * The town will now be looking for a Town Hall custodian; he sent kudos to Pete for eight years of accomplishments and improvements. * A 100th Birthday milestone was celebrated, recognizing Tilly (Matilda) Deotte. S. Witkowski noted the substantial turnout for her tribute; she has been involved with the Housing Authority for years and other services to the town.
- A. St Onge advised that the Blain Road/RT 12 intersection work is underway and may involve delays while the work is being completed. * DEEP stated that financial assistance could be available for the State's boat ramp at Schoolhouse Pond. The town and the Little Pond Association will follow up. * CT DEEP has added a new internet feature, CTParks.com, providing info about regional activities, using social media posts, and advising about ADA and other support data. * The Property Tax Sale was successful. Rene Morin was present to review the process. 10 properties had taxes paid by owners, 9 others were paid by an intervening attorney and 2 properties were actually sold, netting \$202K for the town, as well as about \$7K recovered for the WPCA. There is a 6-month window for the property owner to negate the sale. * On August 28, the First Selectman, the Town Director of Planning and Development and a Manufacturing company interested in locating in Thompson met with Eversource to examine the possibility of tying into a gas line in Putnam, needed for the manufacturer's finishing process; the tie-in (2.5 miles) would be about \$7Million or \$500 per foot. * Notice has been received through the Governor's Office and the OPM that a 2023 STEAP Grant of \$500K for the Track Project has been awarded reducing the amount the town will bond. It was, in part, selected because the project is "shovel ready" with engineering and funding approval already done. * The Animal Control Officer announced a young beagle to be available for adoption and that Bella, an older Spaniel, has already found a new family. Contact the ACO Office for an application to adopt!

VI. Citizens' Comments: none

VII. Open Bids:

The Assessor, Paul Hopkins, reviewed the process for property revaluation. In the next 30 days, a questionnaire will go out to property owners by U S Mail. If there is no response to the questions about property modifications since the last revaluation, a home visit and a physical inspection will take place. The rate of inflation will be relevant to the revaluations but subsequently the mil rate will be adjusted to balance the impact.

Three envelopes were received for the 2024 Property Reappraisal and Revaluation: 2 contained bids while Tyler Tech (Moraine, Ohio) asked to be kept informed of bid opportunities but will defer on this project. The bidders were: Vision Solutions, 1 Cabot Road, Hudson, MA and Municipal Valuation Services, Sherman St, Fairfield, CT. The Assessor will review the bids for compliance with the RFP.

VIII. Wetlands Agent- review of the status of the short-term contract with Marla Butts, former Inland Wetlands Agent, providing for the completion of the revision of Zoning Regulations, in order to accommodate new Flood Plain delineations and the subsequent Public Hearing process, completion targeted for May, was provided. Additionally, she will assist in providing a smooth transition for Dan Malo who assumed the Inland Wetlands Agent position.

IX. Allotment of Nips Funds for Transfer Station Improvements: A. St Onge was given access to the State's 2 ½ hour video explaining the broad re-cycling environmental picture and necessity for roadside cleanup/re-cycling initiatives. The Town's decision of how to utilize allocated "Nips" funds (approximately \$20K) will be based on the town's landfill facility needs; several ideas are being considered including installation of an eye wash station upgraded with running, and equipment improvement or upgrades to facilitate/support re-cycling.

Motion S. Witkowski seconded by K. Beausoleil to appropriate the "Nips Funds" allotment to the Transfer Station for improvements, provided that all proposed specific uses come before the BOS before implementation for approval, thereby allowing public access to the plans, carried unanimously.

X. Other Business: none

XI. Citizens' Comments: none

XII. Tax Refunds:

Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to approve the Tax Refunds in the amount of \$1,171.17 as presented carried unanimously.

Strange, Timothy A.	\$232.96	Orlowski, Daniel J. and Linda M.	\$89.07
Lawton, Christine A.	\$72.80	JA LaRochelle Trucking LLC	\$29.46
Geoffroy, Peter E.	\$225.68	USB Leasing LT	\$521.20

XIII. Executive Session: Two Personnel Matters

Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil that the three Selectmen go into Executive Session at 7:37 PM, with William Steglitz (Finance Director) and Rene Morin (Tax Collector) in attendance, to discuss personnel matters regarding the DPW and the Tax Office carried unanimously.

Executive Session ended at 8:14 PM. No action was taken.

XIV. Motion A, St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to adjourn at 8:14 PM carried unanimously.

To view and hear the complete meeting, click or copy/paste to your search bar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/4GxL1jgUQIXPFhucUAKJ-j7ot4i9zMER8Q36jwjyzichySosiJVMvsfAa2MnfnG8.A18QH_uq6doPzAkL
Passcode: 5+3ZLE=F

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