



**TOWN OF THOMPSON**  
**Board of Selectmen - Minutes**  
**Tuesday – December 19, 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 7:02 PM with all Selectmen present.  
Roll call: First Selectman Amy St Onge, Selectmen Ken Beausoleil, and Susanne Witkowski.  
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 BOS 12-05-2023 meeting carried unanimously.**
- IV. Correspondence:
  - Letter from Jessica De Costanza (spelling?) regarding the Animal Control facility; A St Onge noted that she replied, providing accurate information which should dispel the writer's concerns. K. Beausoleil added that at the previous BOS meeting, the ACO had provided significant, detailed information about operations; the tape recording of that BOS meeting is available.
- V. Selectmen Comments
  - K. Beausoleil \*town staff worked well with CSP during the severe weather; several locations are still without power. He offered best wishes for a happy holiday season and encouraged people to be mindful of staying safe.
  - S. Witkowski \* listening to the scanner, in the absence of power to her home, noted a fire at 6AM; QV Dispatch had very frequent calls. She thanked the volunteers in surrounding towns.
  - A. St Onge: \* added comments about the storm Operations Center; Eversource was noticed as pulling staff back overnight, even with so many locations without power. The Emergency Management staff, Steve Benoit and John Szamocki, were given thanks. \* The Winter Market was a complete success; seniors were able to raise significant funds. The Holiday/Winter concerts were both superb successes, with teachers noticed for their inspiration to the students. The maps for the Holiday Homes drive through town are ready. \* The Assessor held public sessions to discuss the current re-valuation; this has been recorded for the public's access. Another for the public will be 01-045 at the Town hall; questions may be posed.
- V. Citizen Comments:
  - Valerie Clark, Alm Road: \*...the ~~agenda~~ **minutes** were not posted... and comments from another member of the public and herself were reversed \*thanked A. St Onge for response by the town to the storm situation/emergencies and attention to public safety; suggests an Eversource handout specifying what they handle in such a situation
- VII. TEEG Building Proposal: TEEG Director Anne Miller and two others were in attendance, presenting the schematics of the proposed expansion on the current town-owned parcel. Many details were covered, including site challenges due to ledge. The expansion is for additional food storage, needed due to a huge increase in food requests. This would free up space in the current building for the primary TEEG functions, as these spaces are holding backup food inventory. The plan is to seek large grants including State and Corporate, ideally necessitating no impacts on town assets. The grant application process must be supported by Town approval; the consensus of the BOS was that it is sad to have this need in Thompson, but

since it is the case, the process should move forward. K. Beausoleil noted that if the Planning and Zoning Commission needs a formal recommendation, the BOS can provide it.

VIII. Thompson Public Schools track RFP: one bid was received-Mountain View Landscape (Chicopee, Ma.), which attend the site walk. The Building Committee will review the bid.

IX. Thompson Public School Security RFP – Award: Bill Witkowski, Building Committee Chair, recommends on behalf of the Committee, the bid from Pelletier Construction for the renovation/reconstruction safety work at the Public Schools; appropriate bonding is in place. This firm had the lowest bid at \$452,101 plus a \$5,000 allowance for a brick walkway for a total of \$457,101. K. Beausoleil thanked the Building Committee for its due diligence in this project.

**Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to accept the Building Committee recommendation and award to Pelletier Construction Mgmt (Clinton, Connecticut) the contract for renovations and safety aspects at the Public Schools carried unanimously.**

X. Agreement Regarding Real Property Tax Assessment Abatement / 929 River Mill Project: after review of many of the specifics of the VAD Ordinance (applies only to Vacant, Abandoned or Delinquent in tax payments) and the size of the parcel/property which can qualify (probably only 2 in town); all details were reviewed aloud. It was noted that the purpose is to support the other efforts at revitalization such as the focus on Main Street.

**Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to enter into an agreement regarding real property tax abatement with River Mill Development LLC carried unanimously.**

XI. Appointments:

**Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to appoint Kevin Freeland as Constable through November 18, 2025 carried unanimously.**

**Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to add a re-appointment to the agenda carried unanimously.**

**Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to re-appoint John LaFontaine to the Community Fire/Police through November 18, 2025 carried unanimously.**

XII. Resignations: after recognition/discussion of the significant community service by each

**Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to accept with regret the resignations of John Rice from the Planning & Zoning Commission effective immediately and Arthur Siegmund from the Agriculture Commission effective December 31 carried unanimously.**

XIII. Other Business:

**Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to add an agenda item, for the purpose of discussion, regarding the fees for re-inspection of installation of solar panels, carried unanimously.** Assistant Building Inspector John Szamocki recommends that the proposed delay until February for re-inspection fees in this circumstance be changed and made effective immediately; he cited the reasons for doing so. No other fees would be impacted by this change.

**Motion S. Witkowski seconded by A. St Onge to revise the timeline for imposition of fees on installation contractors for re-inspection of Solar Panels, making the fees effective December 19, 2023, carried unanimously.**

XIV. Citizen Comments

-Valerie Clark, Alm Road agrees with K. Beausoleil regarding a retroactive zoning change.

XV. Tax Refunds:

**Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the tax refunds as presented for a total of \$ ~~\$554.74~~ carried unanimously.**

**John Kimball     ~~\$63.44~~**

**Jason Williams ~~\$346.48~~**

**Diane Kimball ~~\$144.82~~**

XVI. Adjourn:

**Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to adjourn at 8:05 PM carried unanimously.**

To see/hear the meeting, click on this link or copy/paste to your search bar:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/kofDFZ5-PYLPCXQw-bb3JOpZv92-ziagIDesZoo0l30FExp4Ydy21Kb-R\\_cW0o.7oN43tuwiOBkDEuY](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/kofDFZ5-PYLPCXQw-bb3JOpZv92-ziagIDesZoo0l30FExp4Ydy21Kb-R_cW0o.7oN43tuwiOBkDEuY)

Passcode: 145p.Qj^

Respectfully submitted by Dorothy Durst, Recording Secretary *Dorothy Durst*

*These minutes have not yet been approved by the Board of Selectmen. Please refer to the next meeting's minutes for approval of and/or amendments to these minutes.*