



SELECTMEN'S MEETING

August 14, 2007

The Board of Selectmen held a Selectmen's Meeting on Tuesday, August 14, 2007, at 7:30 p.m. in the Merrill Seney Community Room.

PRESENT: A. David Babbitt, First Selectman; Kathleen A. Hiatt, Selectman; Lawrence K. Groh, Jr., Selectman; Charles Seney; Joseph Gaucher; Ida Ransom; Lynn Landry; Al Landry; Robert Werge; Carolyn Werge; Cathy Thomas; Ronald Brissette; Angela Brissette-Miller; Erica Ellison-Groh; Laurie Groh-Germain; John Aiello; Dawn Faunce; Ryan O'Connor – WINY; other concerned citizens

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, to approve the minutes of the July 24, 2007 Selectmen's meeting with corrections.

<i>Ms. Hiatt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Babbitt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

CORRESPONDENCE

- Mr. Babbitt presented correspondence from James Bellevance in regard to his resignation from the Economic Development Commission. Mr. Babbitt stated that he has forwarded the resignation to Sally White.
- Mr. Babbitt presented correspondence in regard to a meeting about the 100-year flood plain on August 6, 2007 in Old Lyme.
- Mr. Babbitt presented correspondence from the Connecticut State Police in regard to the monthly calls for service.
- Mr. Babbitt presented correspondence from the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society in regard to a resolution for Luekemia, Lymphoma & Myeloma Awareness Month.

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, to add the agenda item under Other Business.

<i>Ms. Hiatt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
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Mr. Groh -Yes
Mr. Babbitt -Yes

- Mr. Babbitt presented correspondence from the State of Connecticut in regard to Town Aid Road in the amount of \$92,531.00.
- Mr. Babbitt presented correspondence from the State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection in regard to the testing of a well at 41 Murolo Road.
- Mr. Babbitt presented a resignation from Laurie Groh-Germain from the Planning & Zoning Commission.
- Mr. Babbitt presented correspondence from River Junction Estates, LLC in regard to paying \$10,000.00 for pulling gravel out of the end of town-owned property. Mr. Babbitt stated that the funds are in general revenue but that the Board can request that the money go into the open space fund.

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Ms. Hiatt, to add the agenda item under Other Business.

Mr. Groh -Yes
Ms. Hiatt -Yes
Mr. Babbitt -Yes

- Mr. Babbitt presented correspondence from the State of Connecticut Siting Council in regard to the Rich Road telecommunications facility.
- Mr. Babbitt presented correspondence from the Tax Collector in regard to the request for a penalty waiver from the Office of Policy & Management for his tax collector's report.
- Mr. Babbitt presented correspondence in regard to the lever machines. Mr. Babbitt stated that any voting that occurs after September 11, 2007 has to be done on the new voting machines. Mr. Babbitt stated that there is a question on what to do with the old voting machines. Mr. Babbitt said that there has been a suggestion to sell the metal from the old machines. Mr. Groh questioned how much the machines would be worth. Mr. Babbitt stated that the machines would have to be evaluated as to how much metal they contained.
- Mr. Babbitt presented correspondence in regard to a grant forum at Norwich Free Academy sponsored by Congressman Courtney on August 24, 2007. Mr. Babbitt stated that he and the Director of Planning & Development will be attending the forum.
- Mr. Babbitt presented correspondence from Day Kimball Homecare in regard to various activities that took place in Thompson.

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- Mr. Babbitt presented correspondence from Alcoholics Anonymous in regard to finding a new meeting location at St. Joseph's Church. Ms. Hiatt added that AA also commended the Evening Custodian for her assistance.
 - Mr. Babbitt presented correspondence he sent to the Department Heads in regard to overtime hours.
 - Mr. Babbitt presented correspondence from the Northeast Connecticut Chamber of Commerce thanking the Town for paying their dues.
 - Mr. Babbitt presented correspondence from the Eastern Connecticut Workforce Investment Board. Ms. Hiatt questioned if anyone from the Town attends the meetings. Mr. Babbitt commented that they have been present at some the NECCOG meetings.
 - Mr. Babbitt presented correspondence from the MCF Communications in regard to the proposed cell tower on Rich Road.
 - Ms. Hiatt presented correspondence from Unison in regard to a list of cell towers in the Town.

SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS

- Mr. Babbitt commented that the Selectmen met at the West Thompson Fire Station and had a very good crowd.
- Mr. Babbitt commented that there have been Town Meetings and referendums in regard to the budget.
- Mr. Babbitt commented that the concerts at the bandstand have been very well attended. Mr. Babbitt stated that there is another concert this Friday at the Lion's bandstand.
- Mr. Babbitt commented that the Quaddick Lake Association is working on the grant for \$200,000.00 and they have been in touch with him, Representative Johnston and the Director of Planning & Development.
- Mr. Babbitt commented that Union negotiations are continuing although the process is slow.
- Mr. Babbitt commented that he attended a NECCOG meeting and that the exchange between selectmen is good.
- Mr. Babbitt commented that he has met with the press on several occasions in regard to the budget referendums.

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- Mr. Babbitt commented that he has had meetings with some of the developers who are working in town.
 - Mr. Babbitt commented that there is still the budget issue with the trooper and hopefully will be able to get that solved.
 - Mr. Babbitt commented that International Energy Management has come in to the Town Hall to perform an audit in regard to motors.
 - Mr. Babbitt commented that the Tax Collector has provided a plan to collect taxes. Mr. Babbitt stated that the Tax Collector plans to have some tax bills out by the 22nd or 23rd of August and all citizens will have until October 1st to pay their taxes.
 - Mr. Babbitt commented on an article in the newspaper in regard to a transportation study and truck stops along state highways.
 - Mr. Babbitt commented that he received an e-mail in regard to the Quinebaug Fire Station project and the \$300,000.00 that was approved for the project.
 - Mr. Babbitt commented that he received the environmental site assessment for Phase I of the Town Hall ADA project.
 - Ms. Hiatt commented that she attended the School Readiness Committee meeting. Ms. Hiatt stated that there are still pre-school slots available for families that meet the wage criteria.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

- Mr. Landry provided information to the Board in regard to the Guidelines for Disposal of Vehicle Wash Water from the State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. Mr. Landry said that the guidelines state that all vehicle washing must be performed in a manner which prevents direct discharge of filthy wash water into a stream, river or other surface water body. Mr. Landry also read that there are no acceptable detergents that can be discharged without treatment including biodegradable soap.
- Mr. Gaucher commented on out-of-state registrations. Mr. Babbitt asked Mr. Gaucher for the addresses of offenders, but Mr. Gaucher replied that it is not his responsibility.
- *Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, to add the agenda item in regard to vehicle wash water under Other Business.*

<i>Ms. Hiatt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Babbitt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

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- Mr. Werge commented that he has a petition for the reinstatement of the Resident State Trooper. The petition will be submitted under agenda item #14.

RESOLUTION OF MUNICIPAL LEGISLATIVE BODY – PRESERVE AMERICA

Mr. Babbitt re-presented the Preserve America Resolution to the Board and asked for the Board's support to sign the resolution. Mr. Babbitt commented that there is about \$5,000,000.00 in grants that would become available for historic preservation.

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, to sign the resolution as presented by Kevin Kennedy to go for the designation for Preserve America. The resolution highlights the important points of Preserve America including using our historic buildings for further development in a way that is appealing to their history and to use our sites for education and training for citizens that visit.

<i>Ms. Hiatt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Babbitt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

Discussion on Motion – Mr. Groh questioned if any of the concerns from the previous meeting were brought to Kevin Kennedy's attention and if Mr. Kennedy responded. Mr. Babbitt presented Mr. Kennedy's response. Ms. Hiatt stated that her motion was that everyone does their own homework. Mr. Groh commented that we pay people to do this for us and that we should trust them.

NEW APPLICATION FOR USE OF TOWN LION'S GAZEBO / RIVERSIDE PARK

Mr. Babbitt presented a revised application for use of the Town's Lion's Club Gazebo / Riverside Park. Mr. Babbitt explained that charging for use of the facility opens the Town to liabilities. Mr. Babbitt stated that he would like to eliminate the charge. Ms. Hiatt commented on some typos in the new application and also suggested additional language in regard to marring the columns.

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, to accept the Town's application with the correction given.

Discussion on Motion – Mr. Groh questioned if Town Counsel reviewed the application to make sure that it is legal for the Town to require that the user holds the Town harmless. Mr. Babbitt stated that the language was on the previous application.

Amended motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, to accept the Town's application with the correction given and to include the language after review of the Town's attorney.

<i>Ms. Hiatt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Babbitt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

Ms. Landry questioned whether or not the Town could include a statement saying that donations are welcome on the application. Ms. Hiatt asked for this question to be run by Town Counsel as well.

TOWN OF THOMPSON ADA GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

Mr. Babbitt presented the Town of Thompson ADA Grievance Procedure. Mr. Babbitt stated that this needs to be in place for the application for funding for the Town Hall ADA project.

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, to accept the Grievance Procedure as presented with one typo correction.

<i>Ms. Hiatt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Babbitt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

Mr. Groh commented that this is the first time that the Town has had this procedure and that it is moving the town forward.

RESOLUTION OF MUNICIPAL LEGISLATIVE BODY – SMALL CITIES PROGRAM

Mr. Babbitt presented a resolution for the Small Cities program.

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, to accept the Resolution of Municipal Legislative Body, Small Cities Program as presented with the date change to August 14th.

<i>Ms. Hiatt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Babbitt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

APPROPRIATION FOR SECURE CABINETS FOR ELECTION MACHINES – \$6,400.00

Mr. Babbitt explained that he received a request from the Registrars of Voters in regard to purchasing secure cabinets for the new election equipment. Mr. Babbitt explained that there is a \$1,000.00 per machine reimbursement from the State so that the net cost to the Town would be \$2,400.00

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Ms. Hiatt, to recommend to the Board of Finance to appropriate \$6,400.00 for the protection of the new election machines.

<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Ms. Hiatt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Babbitt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

RESCHEDULE SEPTEMBER 11, 2007 SELECTMEN'S MEETING

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, to move the September 11th Board of Selectmen meeting to September 10th, location the Merrill Seney Room and the meeting to start at 7:30.

Mr. Groh questioned if there would be any conflict with any other Board or Commission meeting. Ms. Hiatt stated that the Zoning Board of Appeals meets in the Merrill Seney Room on that day.

Amended motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, to move the September 11th Board of Selectmen meeting to September 12th, location the Merrill Seney Room and the meeting to start at 7:30.

<i>Ms. Hiatt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Babbitt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

REQUEST TO USE TOWN HALL PARKING LOT – ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL POKER RUN

Mr. Babbitt presented a request from St. Joseph's School to use the Town Hall parking lot for their poker run.

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, to let them congregate here to start their poker run on the condition that if they are idling their motorcycles, they will do so in such a way as not to damage the vegetation.

<i>Ms. Hiatt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Babbitt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

TAX WARRANT / RATE BILL

Mr. Babbitt presented the tax warrant / rate bill which needs to be signed according to law in order to collect taxes.

Motion made by Mr. Babbitt, seconded by Ms. Hiatt, to approve the rate bill and tax warrant as presented.

<i>Mr. Babbitt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Ms. Hiatt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION APPOINTMENT – JOANN HALL

Mr. Babbitt commented that there has been a resignation on the Economic Development Commission and that JoAnn Hall is interested in serving on said commission.

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Ms. Hiatt, to appoint JoAnn Hall to the Economic Development Commission.

<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Ms. Hiatt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Babbitt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

RESIDENT STATE TROOPER PROGRAM

Mr. Werge presented a petition with 228 signatures supporting the reinstatement of the Resident State Trooper. Mr. Werge thanked the local businesses and Ms. Miller for helping to gather the signatures presented.

Mr. Babbitt presented a plan to ask the Board of Finance to approve the funding to reinstate the Resident State Trooper program and send it to Town Meeting and referendum for voter approval. Mr. Babbitt commented that the cost to extend the program until October 1st is \$8,142.00. Mr. Babbitt stated that a Town Meeting would be held in early September and because the cost to reinstate the program is over \$50,000.00, it would have to go to referendum. Mr. Babbitt stated that the estimated cost is \$81,000.00

Ms. Hiatt stated that she spoke with the Finance Director in regard to surplus and that funding the program out of surplus would reduce the fund to approximately 11.9%. Ms. Hiatt stated that in the Finance Director's opinion, this percentage was acceptable in regard to bond rating.

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Babbitt, to fund the Resident State Trooper program for an additional month for \$8,142.00, and to go to the Board of Finance for the funding and at the same time go to the next step to forward it to a referendum.

Discussion on Motion – Ms. Hiatt commented that she would like the Town Clerk and the Registrar's to verify that the signatures on the petition are valid.

Amended motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Mr. Babbitt, to fund the Resident State Trooper program for an additional month for \$8,142.00, and to go to the Board of Finance for the funding and at the same time go to the next step to forward it to a referendum pending the verification of the petition to ensure that the majority of the signatures are from eligible voters in the Town of Thompson.

<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Babbitt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Ms. Hiatt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

THANK YOU LETTERS FOR BROOKLYN CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION

The Board signed the thank you letters for Acting Warden Anthony Coletti, C.O. Lamirand and the four inmates that worked on the town-wide clean-up for the Thompson Together Environment Committee.

OTHER BUSINESS

Leukemia, Lymphoma and Myeloma Awareness Month

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, to issue a proclamation that Thompson recognizes September, 2007 as the Leukemia, Lymphoma and Myeloma Awareness Month.

<i>Ms. Hiatt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Babbitt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

River Junction, LLC – Open Space Fund

Mr. Babbitt explained that the Board needs to request of the Board of Finance that the \$10,000.00 received for gravel should be put in the open space fund.

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Ms. Hiatt, to request to the Board of Finance that the money go to open space.

<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Ms. Hiatt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Babbitt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

Guidelines for Disposal of Vehicle Wash Water

Mr. Babbitt explained that there is a church group that requested to hold a car wash. Ms. Hiatt explained that the thought was to use a biodegradable soap, but as this was new information in regard to car washes she supported curtailing all car washes in the future including the Act II Ministries car wash at the end of this month. Mr. Groh stated that he agreed with stopping all car washes here at the Town Hall.

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, that unless other information comes before the Board, the policy of the Town of Thompson is that our parking lot cannot be used for car washes based on environmental concerns and the specific handout from the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection.

<i>Ms. Hiatt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Babbitt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

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- Mr. Groh stated that he heard something about someone's driveway being paved by the Town of Thompson. Mr. Groh stated that he did drive by the property and there was a newly paved driveway. Mr. Babbitt stated that he thought that a private company had been hired to do the driveway. Mr. Babbitt said that because of the work being done on East Thompson Road in order to improve the sightline, DPW had to take a good portion of the property owner's lawn out causing problems with the driveway. Mr. Babbitt stated that the deal was to replace a portion of the driveway.
 - A concerned citizen commented about the safety on East Thompson Road and that someone should direct traffic when road work is being done.
 - Ms. Ransom asked the Board if it was okay to store book sale items in the Merrill Seney Community Room. Mr. Babbitt stated that this would be fine after the Summer Recreation program has ended.
 - Mr. Groh asked about the stone wall that was built in front of the old Quinn's Shirt Shop and that he had heard that procedures were not being followed. Mr. Babbitt stated that the Zoning Enforcement Officer informed him that there were some potential issues with the wall in regard to zoning and the ZEO had suggested that the Building Official handle it. Mr. Babbitt stated that the Building Official looked at it and that there were no issues. Mr. Groh asked if the procedure was not followed. Mr. Babbitt stated that he did not think so and that he would never urge anyone to do anything illegal.
 - Ms. Hiatt stated that she answered a question in regard to computers waiting to be installed. Ms. Hiatt stated that there are no computers waiting and that there are two monitors waiting to be married up with equipment coming in. Ms. Hiatt also stated that someone asked about maternity leave and that the Town of Thompson follows FMLA laws.
 - Ms. Faunce made a statement in support of keeping the Resident State Trooper program in the Town of Thompson.

ADJOURN

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:04 p.m.

<i>Ms. Hiatt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Babbitt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

Recorded and transcribed by:
Tonya Levesque