



## SELECTMEN'S MEETING

### September 25, 2007

The Board of Selectmen held a Selectmen's Meeting on Tuesday, September 25, 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; Lynn Landry; Al Landry; Donna Godzik; Mason Wood – Thompson Villager; John Dignam – Worcester Telegram & Gazette; other concerned citizens

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2007 Selectmen's meeting with the two 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 CCM in regard survey relating to the bond issue impasse.
- Mr. Babbitt presented a resignation from the Animal Control Officer, Francesca Cintolo. Mr. Babbitt asked the Board to approve the appointment of Merry Bennett as the interim Animal Control Officer until a permanent one is hired.

*Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, to add the Appointment of Merry Bennett as the Animal Control Officer to the agenda under Other Business.*

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

- Mr. Babbitt presented correspondence from Judge Lawlor in regard to Thompson Probate Court facilities. Mr. Babbitt also presented correspondence from Judge Lawlor in regard to the current office hours of the Thompson Probate Court as well as Mr. Babbitt's response to Judge Lawlor.

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- Mr. Babbitt presented correspondence from the Eastern Connecticut Workforce Investment Board.
  - Mr. Babbitt presented correspondence from the Northeast District Department of Health in regard to a meeting that was held in May relating to the review of a draft of the Thompson Hill Sewer project.
  - Mr. Babbitt presented correspondence from Anthem Blue Cross & Blue Shield in regard to services.
  - Mr. Babbitt presented correspondence from L. Wagner & Associates in regard to environmental review records.
  - Mr. Babbitt presented correspondence from TEEG thanking the town for collecting donations for the Back-to-School program.
  - Mr. Babbitt presented correspondence from the Connecticut Siting Council in regard to Cingular's request for modification to the cell tower on Lowell Davis Road.

#### **SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS**

- Mr. Babbitt commented that Attorney St. Onge and the ZEO were in court in regard to a junk vehicle ordinance violation. Mr. Babbitt stated that the Town is now awaiting judgment on the suit.
- Mr. Babbitt commented that he has sent a letter to Commission Danaher in regard to the cancellation of the Resident State Trooper program.
- Mr. Babbitt commented that Applied Geographics produced new assessor and planning maps that are digital and will hopefully be available online and in the Assessor's office in the future.
- Mr. Babbitt commented that the Town hosted the Windham County Assessors' Association at the Thompson Public Library.
- Mr. Babbitt commented that there was a move between the land use offices on the second floor. Mr. Babbitt stated that the ZEO is now with the Director of Planning & Development and that the Conservation Officer is now located with the Wetlands Enforcement Officer.
- Mr. Babbitt commented that he met with Attorney St. Onge in regard to the land on Rich Road on which the proposed cell tower is to be built.
- Mr. Babbitt announced that Sebrina Heroux's mother passed away this weekend and that he attended the memorial service this morning.

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- Mr. Babbitt commented that there are things going on in the future such as interviews and radio programs.
  - Mr. Babbitt commented that NECCOG will be meeting on Friday as well as a Transit District meeting.
  - Mr. Babbitt commented that there is a walking weekend and he will be doing the Mill Village walk at 3:00 p.m.
  - Mr. Babbitt commented that there is a Public Hearing on the cell tower on October 11, 2007.
  - Mr. Babbitt commented that the Board of Finance approved the transfer of \$10,000.00 from the general fund to the Open Space fund. Mr. Babbitt stated that the Board of Finance did not yet approve the request for \$1,047.00 for the engineering study for energy conservation and that the Board of Finance is requesting an estimate of the total cost of the project. Mr. Babbitt said that he requested the information from Martin Crabb.

#### **CITIZENS COMMENTS**

None

#### **REQUEST TO USE TOWN FACILITIES**

##### Town Hall Parking Lot – Brownie Troop 5421 – 11/6/2007

Mr. Babbitt presented a request from Brownie Troop 5421 to use the Town Hall parking lot on November 6, 2007. Mr. Babbitt expressed concerns with this request as November 6<sup>th</sup> is Election Day. Ms. Godzik stated that this was a one-time deal for the Brownie Troops in the State of Connecticut. Mr. Babbitt stated that with the Post Office open and voting occurring that he would not know where they could even set up a booth. Ms. Godzik stated that she would check with the Post Office to see if the Troop could use Post Office property to hold the cookie sale on that day. Ms. Hiatt stated that this would be a better alternative as there is a lot of traffic. Mr. Groh also expressed traffic safety concerns.

Mr. Landry suggested that the Department of Public Works paint lines for the parking lot before the November election.

##### Town Hall Parking Lot – WAGS – 10/6 or 10/13/2007

Mr. Babbitt presented a request from WAGS to use the Town Hall parking lot on October 6<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup>.

*Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, to allow the 4<sup>th</sup> graders from Mary Fisher to hold their bake sale to donate to WAGS if it is in compliance with the policy on October 6<sup>th</sup>.*

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

Ms. Hiatt suggested the 6<sup>th</sup> of October as it is a holiday weekend and may generate more business. Mr. Groh stated that if WAGS could not do October 6<sup>th</sup> then October 13<sup>th</sup> would be fine.

Transfer Station – TPDA Competition Dance Team – 11/3/2007

Mr. Babbitt presented a request from the TPDA Competition Dance Team to use the Transfer Station on November 3, 2007.

*Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Ms. Hiatt, to allow the TPDA Competition Dance Team to hold their fundraiser at the Transfer Station on November 3<sup>rd</sup> with a rain date of November 10<sup>th</sup>.*

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

**DISCUSSION ON POTENTIAL SALE OF MARCHETTI PROPERTY**

Mr. Babbitt explained that the Town foreclosed on this property and that the Tax Collector would like to move forward with the sale of this property. Mr. Babbitt also explained that Town Counsel said that the process should include going to Planning & Zoning for approval of the sale, a public auction with a quit claim deed selling the property where is and as is, approval of the Board of Selectmen and then a Town Meeting approving the sale of the property. Mr. Babbitt stated that the property was appraised at \$67,000.00. Mr. Groh stated that he was concerned with selling just this one piece of property and that there should be a policy created in regard to the Town selling property. Mr. Babbitt expressed concerns in regard to liability and would like to see the property sold.

Mr. Landry questioned if the property went to the river and Mr. Babbitt said that he believed that it did not. Mr. Landry also stated that he believed there was a policy created by the Board of Selectmen in regard to not selling property. Ms. Levesque stated that there is not an actual vote on selling property but that there is a recorded discussion on not selling property by the previous Board of Selectmen.

The Board discussed creating a policy in regard to selling property in the future.

**PROCLAMATIONS (2) – NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF CONNECTICUT**

Mr. Babbitt presented two proclamations requested by the National Federation of the Blind of Connecticut.

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*Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, to prepare and have Dave sign as First Selectman for the Board of Selectmen for White Cane Safety Day and the National Federation of the Blind Meet the Blind Month of October 2007 as presented.*

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

Ms. Hiatt suggested that Mr. Babbitt notify the Thompson Public Library to see if the Library Director wants to do anything in conjunction with these proclamations.

### **TOWN-WIDE SURVEY RESULTS**

Mr. Babbitt explained that the Board had agreed to revisit this agenda item for further comment. Mr. Babbitt confirmed that he sent the results to other boards and commissions. Ms. Hiatt suggested that if any board or commission decides to pursue anything in regard to the results that they work in collegiality with other groups. Mr. Groh commented that there have already been focus groups on topics included in the survey. A brief discussion followed.

### **TAX REFUNDS (11)**

*Motion made by Mr. Babbitt, seconded by Ms. Hiatt, to refund the following overpayments as recommended by the Tax Collector, Rene Morin.*

-David G O'Leary	-\$7.92
-Gail Foux	-\$32.75
-Richard LeBeau	-\$51.75
-Richard M Hougasian	-\$74.32
-Ronald G Bushey	-\$57.52
-Charlene L Bushey Leith	-\$34.61
-William A or Lisa J Barrette	-\$251.04
-Kristine S Durochers	-\$27.40
-Mark Stanley	-\$137.39
-Shana R Haggerty	-\$12.25
-Place Leasing Corp	-\$267.34

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

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

#### Appointment of Merry Bennett as Interim Animal Control Officer

*Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, based on the resignation that the First Selectman offer the position of Interim Animal Control Officer to Merry Bennett beginning*

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*October 1<sup>st</sup> with the completion date pending the advertising and hiring of the new Animal Control Officer.*

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

**ADJOURN**

*Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Babbitt, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:18 p.m.*

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

Recorded and transcribed by:  
Tonya Levesque