



SELECTMEN'S MEETING

October 9, 2007

The Board of Selectmen held a Selectmen's Meeting on Tuesday, October 9, 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; John Rice; Charles Seney; Lynn Landry; Al Landry; Stephen Benoit; Joseph Donovan; Sally White; other concerned citizens

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2007 Selectmen's meeting as presented.

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

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2007 Special Selectmen's meeting as presented.

<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 in regard to Farm Fun and Autumn Adventures that include farms throughout the State of Connecticut including Fort Hill Farms.
- Mr. Babbitt presented correspondence from the VFW in regard to their 40th anniversary on November 24th.
- Mr. Babbitt presented information in regard to flu shots that will be available at the Thompson Public Library on October 23rd from 12:00-2:00 and on November 15th from 5:00-7:00.

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- Mr. Babbitt presented correspondence from the State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection in regard to an enforcement action against a company in Thompson.
 - Mr. Babbitt presented correspondence from J&D Civil Engineering in regard to a zone change.
 - Mr. Babbitt presented correspondence from CCM in regard to awarding employees for length of service.
 - Mr. Babbitt presented correspondence from New Alliance in regard to a grant for the Town of Thompson Recreation Department.
 - Mr. Babbitt presented correspondence from the State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection in regard to their Non-point Source Pollution Conference.
 - Mr. Babbitt presented correspondence from the Northeast Chamber of Commerce in regard to the Tastefully New England event.
 - Mr. Babbitt presented correspondence from the Connecticut High School Student Chapter of Home Builders Association of Connecticut, Killingly High School in regard to sponsorship of their annual show.
 - Mr. Babbitt presented correspondence from Larry Wagner in regard to the Town Hall ADA Improvement project.
 - Mr. Babbitt presented correspondence from Connecticut Light & Power in regard to the planned work on the power line in the Quaddick area of Thompson.
 - Mr. Babbitt presented correspondence from Winston Averill in regard to a municipal reporting form for the Town of Thompson.

SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS

- Mr. Babbitt commented on the School Bonding issue with the State of Connecticut.
- Mr. Babbitt commented on the issue between the Probate Court Administrator, Judge Lawlor and the Judges of Probate in small Connecticut towns in regard to office hours and office accommodations.
- Mr. Babbitt commented on the Assessor's Office hours of operation.

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, to add Periodic Closure of Assessor's Office to the agenda under Other Business.

Ms. Hiatt

-Yes

Mr. Groh -Yes
Mr. Babbitt -Yes

- Mr. Babbitt commented that he attended a Taste of the Valley event at the Quinebaug Shetucket Heritage Corridor.
- Mr. Babbitt commented on the Walking Weekend that occurred in Thompson.
- Mr. Babbitt commented that there is a NECCOG meeting with the Department of Health in regard to the amount of money that each town pays per capita on Thursday, October 11, 2007.
- Mr. Babbitt commented that there is a Public Hearing being held by the Connecticut Siting Council in regard to the proposed cell tower on Rich Road on Thursday, October 11, 2007.
- Mr. Babbitt commented that FEMA is holding a meeting on October 16th at the Colchester Town Hall.
- Mr. Babbitt commented that there is a candidates' night on October 17, 2007.
- Mr. Babbitt commented that there may be a ground-breaking ceremony for the Thompson Rail Industrial Park on October 17, 2007.
- Mr. Babbitt commented that he and Larry will be on WINY on October 18, 2007.
- Mr. Babbitt commented that there will be a Board of Finance meeting on October 18, 2007.
- Mr. Babbitt commented that there is a senior luncheon at the Thompson Public Library on October 19th.
- Mr. Babbitt commented that there is a dedication of the computer center at Marianapolis on October 18, 2007.
- Mr. Babbitt commented that there is a CCM Annual Convention on October 24th.
- Mr. Babbitt commented that there is another candidates' night on October 25, 2007.
- Mr. Babbitt commented that the Town Halloween party is on October 26, 2007.
- Ms. Hiatt commented that the first meeting of the Executive Council of the Discovery Grant will be held on October 18, 2007 from 6:00-7:30. Ms. Hiatt stated that the grant was submitted on the last day of September.

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- Mr. Groh commented that he received information in regard to the wall issue and stated that he did not think that Mr. Babbitt told him the full truth on it. Mr. Babbitt stated that when Mr. Groh had asked the question, there was no doubt about what was going on and that it was being taken care of by the Building Official. Mr. Babbitt stated that this is something the ZEO is making an issue of. Mr. Groh stated that he had asked if all the procedures were followed and that Mr. Babbitt stated that they had. Mr. Groh said that he did some research and found a memo that shows the process was not followed. Mr. Babbitt explained that the ZEO came to him and suggested that he pass the wall issue on to the Building Official. Mr. Babbitt stated that documentation provided by the Building Official showed that he was handling everything properly. Mr. Babbitt also stated that the ZEO issued a notice of violation on September 4th and that the ZEO has been trying to make an issue out of this. Mr. Babbitt said that the ZEO has taken his words on that memo and turned them around to try to make him look like a fool. A lengthy discussion followed.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

- Ms. White asked how many consultants the Town employs. Mr. Babbitt explained that the town uses Winson Averill for issues like stormwater. Ms. Hiatt explained that there is also a Small Cities consultant that is paid out of grant administration.
- Ms. White asked if there is a plan to remove the torn and snagged flags. Mr. Rice commented that they were supposed to come down. The flags that were torn were supposed to be replaced but that they should be coming down when the fire departments have the manpower to do so.
- Ms. White commented on the matter of the School Bonding issue and said that it appeared that the Town has overextended itself. Mr. Rice explained that the bond was approved by the Town and the State. Mr. Babbitt and Ms. Hiatt explained that the release of funds has been a contest between the Governor and the Legislature. Mr. Rice confirmed that the State does make the Town build first before they provide funding.
- Mr. Landry asked if there was a way for the Town to sue the State for the bonding funds. Mr. Babbitt commented that this was being considered through CCM.
- Mr. Landry commented that a selectman from NECCOG said that he would like to see the budget process start earlier on the State level so that the budget would be done in time for Town's to do theirs. Mr. Babbitt commented that this was being looked at. A brief discussion followed.

APPROVAL OF DECD AFFIRMATIVE ACTION POLICY STATEMENT

Mr. Babbitt presented a new Affirmative Action Policy Statement required by DECD. Mr. Groh stated that he had a couple of concerns and asked if Town Counsel had reviewed the new policy statement. Mr. Groh stated that it looks like the new statement appears to say that the Town has already discriminated against someone. A brief discussion followed.

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Babbitt, that Dave send this to the Town Attorney and if the Town Attorney blesses this statement, although it is different than the one that already stands, that Dave be able to sign this to update our package.

<i>Ms. Hiatt</i>	<i>-No</i>
<i>Mr. Babbitt</i>	<i>-No</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-No</i>

Discussion on Motion: Mr. Groh stated that he wants to hear the feedback from the Town Attorney before Mr. Babbitt signs the policy statement. Ms. White asked what the date was of the last approval of an affirmative action policy statement.

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Ms. Hiatt, that the new Affirmative Action Policy Statement is reviewed by the Town's Attorney and then commented back to the Board for more discussion.

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

DISCUSSION ON PHOTOCOPYING FEES FOR ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Mr. Babbitt explained that the Assessor would like to raise the fees for photocopying in the Assessor's Office.

Motion made by Mr. Babbitt to raise the photocopying fee to \$1.00. Motion was not seconded.

Ms. Levesque provided information from the Freedom of Information Act in regard to photocopy fees.

Mr. Groh stated that he did not agree with raising the photocopy fee and that the Library only charges \$0.10 per 8 ½ x 11 page. Ms. Hiatt stated that the difference is that a Town employee would have to do the photocopying. A lengthy discussion followed.

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Babbitt, to allow the Assessor to charge the field card as two pages, under the FOIA that would be \$0.50 per page, so the fee for the field card would be \$1.00.

<i>Ms. Hiatt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Babbitt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-No</i>

Discussion on Motion: Mr. Groh commented that if we are paying someone \$25.00 per hour, that if it took them one minute to make a double-sided copy and if you are looking at paying for the paper and the person that would be \$0.42 per minute. Mr. Groh stated that he didn't think it took that long and that the Town is not here to make a profit or break even but to provide a service.

TAX REFUNDS (11)

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, to add five tax refunds to the existing six on the agenda to bring the total tax refunds to be looked at to 11.

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

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

-Ricky D or Lorraine J Smith	-\$2.89
-Paul H Blain	-\$182.93
-Cecile A Boss	-\$21.56
-Jordan C Jezierski	-\$51.29
-Ann Abrams	-\$50.82
-Shawn G Baublitz	-\$31.53
-Alicia J Paul	-\$9.90
-Wayne R Hendrickson	-\$3.75
-Tammy L or Webster N Barrett	-\$59.22
-Edward H Rondeau Jr	-\$186.16
-Elizabeth Goldsmith	-\$3.17

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

OTHER BUSINESS

Periodic Closure of Assessor's Office

Ms. Hiatt explained that the Assessor's Office is working on some additional projects including the Grand List, the GIS mapping project, the Census project and the new regulation regarding how certain properties are displayed in the Town. Ms. Hiatt suggested allowing the Assessor to have some posted closed hours during the business day to be able to handle these four initiatives. A brief discussion followed.

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, that the Board authorize or have the First Selectmen talk to the Assessor and tell her that the Board understands that she has these four things, the Grand List production, the modification to the Grand List, the GIS and the census to be accomplished over the next three months and that we the Board would support or authorize her to use the vehicle of closed hours during normal working hours if she needs all of her staff on these projects and if she can give sufficient notice to the citizens of the Town of Thompson to minimize their inconvenience and let her proceed up to 24 hours of normal working hour time and if she needs more that that to come back to the Board.

<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 Mr. Babbitt, seconded by Ms. Hiatt, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:00 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