



## SELECTMEN'S MEETING

March 4, 2008

The Board of Selectmen held a Selectmen's Meeting on Tuesday, March 4, 2008, at 7:30 p.m. at the Thompson Fire Engine Company, 70 Chase Road in Thompson.

**PRESENT:** Lawrence K. Groh, Jr., First Selectman; Sarah F. White, Selectman; Kathleen A. Hiatt, Selectman; Leo Adams, Director of Public Works; Charles Seney; Lynn Landry; Al Landry; Erica Ellison-Groh; Norma O'Leary; Joseph Gibbons; George Elmes; Gary Bissette; Kevin Walsh; Joseph Gaucher; Bill Bainbridge; Mason Wood – Thompson Villager; WINY Radio; other concerned citizens

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, to accept the minutes of the January 9, 2008 Special Selectmen's meeting as presented. Motion and second withdrawn.*

*Motion made by Miss White, seconded by Ms. Hiatt, to accept the minutes of the January 9, 2008 Special Selectmen's meeting as amended.*

Miss White	-Yes
Ms. Hiatt	-Yes
Mr. Groh	-Yes

Note: The amendments proposed were as follows:

- Add "Miss White said that she had gone to the Town Garage and looked at the vehicles and talked to Leo and made notes.
- Add "Miss White said that the two trucks that it would replace were rarely used and that one has a broken frame and leaking gas tank.
- Add "Miss White said that she counted over twenty trucks yesterday and that 24 were on the inventory list not including Leo's truck.
- Add "Miss White said that adding another piece of equipment would be nice to have but we don't need it.

*Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Ms. Hiatt, to table the Special Selectmen's meeting of February 18, 2008, the Special Selectmen's meeting of February 19, 2008 and the Special Selectmen's meeting of February 21, 2008 until the next regular Selectmen's meeting.*

Mr. Groh	-Yes
Ms. Hiatt	-Yes
Miss White	-Yes

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*Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, to accept the minutes of the February 8, 2008 Special Selectmen's meeting as presented.*

<i>Ms. Hiatt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Miss White</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

*Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Miss White, to accept the minutes of the February 11, 2008 Special Selectmen's meeting with one correction.*

<i>Ms. Hiatt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Miss White</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

*Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Miss White, to accept the minutes of the February 12, 2008 Special Selectmen's meeting as presented.*

<i>Ms. Hiatt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Miss White</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

*Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Miss White, to accept the minutes of the February 12, 2008 Special Selectmen's meeting at 7:00 p.m. as presented.*

<i>Ms. Hiatt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Miss White</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

*Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Miss White, to accept the minutes of the February 15, 2008 Special Selectmen's meeting as presented.*

<i>Ms. Hiatt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Miss White</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

*Motion made by Miss White, to accept the minutes of the February 19, 2008 Selectmen's meeting with corrections. Motion was not seconded.*

*Motion made by Miss White, seconded by Ms. Hiatt, to table the Selectmen's minutes of February 19, 2008 until the tape is listened to by the appropriate parties to clarify that particular item which is included in the discussion on the motion. The appropriate parties are Tonya and the First Selectman.*

<i>Miss White</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Ms. Hiatt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

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## CORRESPONDENCE

- Mr. Groh presented correspondence from Town Counsel in regard to the increase in funds for the Buckley Hill Road project. Mr. Groh stated that Town Counsel informed him that the Town would have to go to referendum if the Town expended any more money above what was approved at the prior referendum which was \$337,000.00. Mr. Groh explained that there was an issue with the contractor not being able to complete the project due to increased costs.

*Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, that perhaps we can discuss this under item number six as well as our Town Meeting notice. Motion was not seconded.*

- Mr. Groh presented correspondence from the State of Connecticut, Department of Transportation in regard to an audit that was done on a bridge in Fabyan.
- Mr. Groh presented correspondence from the Town's Employment Attorney in regard to the Union negotiation agreement.
- Mr. Groh presented information from the State of Connecticut Siting Council, Robinson & Cole and Cohen & Wolf in regard to proposed cell towers. Mr. Groh explained that the cell towers referenced by the Siting Council and Robinson & Cole are not on Town property. Ms. Hiatt stated that the cell tower referenced by Cohen & Wolf is on Rich Road in Thompson.
- Mr. Groh presented correspondence from Connecticut Water in regard to a proposed rate increase. Miss White questioned if the capital improvements referenced in the letter improved Thompson at all.
- Mr. Groh presented correspondence from the in regard to a new MEHIP program.
- Mr. Groh presented correspondence from the State of Connecticut in regard to stormwater phase II seminars.
- Mr. Groh presented correspondence from Robinson & Cole in regard to the cell tower proposed on Elmwood Hill Road in Putnam. Mr. Groh stated that the information was provided by the Mayor of Putnam.
- Mr. Groh commented that there is an item that needs to be addressed by the Board in regard to the bid opening for the transfer station loader.

*Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Miss White, to add the bid opening for the loader as item number 4a.*

<i>Ms. Hiatt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Miss White</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

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## SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS

- Mr. Groh commented that the Board had presented its proposed budget to the citizens who attended the last Selectmen's meeting and that this was the first time this was ever done.
- Mr. Groh commented that there is an organization in town that is trying to raise money to make Thompson a "heart safe" community. The organization is looking to purchase defibrillators for St. Joseph's School, Town Hall, Thompson Public Library/ Community Center and the Thompson Little League. Mr. Groh stated that each defibrillator costs approximately \$1,800.
- Mr. Groh thanked the Thompson Fire Engine Company for letting the Board hold its meeting at the fire department.
- Miss White stated that she thought a copy of the proposed budget was going to be posted on the Town's website. Ms. Levesque stated that it is, but that it was not posted on the main page.

## CITIZENS COMMENTS

- Mr. Bisette stated that he has experience with self-insured health insurance in the Town of Plainfield and that it was an enormous undertaking and a tremendous amount of work.
- Mr. Elmes questioned what was being purchased under the category "rolling stock". Mr. Elmes also questioned why the Town's reserves are not being used to bring down the budget. Mr. Elmes suggested rebating this money to the Thompson taxpayers.
- Mr. Gibbons asked if the Board has had any interaction with the School's budget.
- Mr. Bisette asked if the fund balance recommendation from the State has changed from 5% and asked Mr. Groh stated that he believed it has not changed.
- Mr. Landry thanked everyone who helped with the fundraiser for the French River Buffer project. Mr. Landry also requested that the Town's website be re-worked so that Thompson Together and the Renewable Energy Committee are easier to find.
- Mr. Walsh asked if the Board of Finance sends the budget back to the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Groh explained the budget process.
- Mr. Walsh questioned who has oversight of grants.
- Mr. Elmes questioned the diesel fuel line item and the rolling stock. Ms. Hiatt explained some of the capital items included in the FY 2009 proposed budget including a portion of the cost of a truck and a sweeper/catch basin cleaner.

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## BID OPENING FOR TRANSFER STATION LOADER

The Board of Selectmen opened the bids for the Transfer Station loader.

-H.O. Penn Machinery Company, Inc., Newington, CT	-\$108,990.00
-H.O. Penn Machinery Company, Inc. Alt. Bid	-\$119,490.00
-The W.I. Clark Company, Wallinford, CT	-\$115,225.00
-Kahn Tractor & Equipment, Inc., N. Franklin, CT	-\$130,940.00
-Tyler Equipment Corporation, East Longmeadow, MA	-\$116,373.00

Miss White questioned the procedure for the bid opening and asked Ms. Levesque to read the bid policy. Mr. Groh explained that the Director of Public Works would review the bids and make a recommendation to the Board. Ms. Levesque read the bid policy aloud to the Board and audience.

*Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Ms. Hiatt, to have our Highway Foreman review all the bids to make sure they meet all the specs and requirements.*

Mr. Groh	-Yes
Ms. Hiatt	-Yes
Miss White	-Yes

## STREET LIGHT REQUESTS

Mr. Groh explained that there were requests made to him in regard to the installation of new streetlights. Mr. Groh stated that the two streetlight requests are for 227 Riverside Drive and 1145 Riverside Drive. Miss White asked if it is the Town's responsibility to put up street lights on a state road. Miss White questioned if there are street lights in front of the hair salon and pizza place on Riverside Drive. Mr. Gaucher stated that before the Board puts anymore lights in, they should turn the lights on. Miss White asked for future reference what the cost is to have lights installed and if there are any options for savings. Mr. Groh stated that he would also find out how much it cost to take them down. Ms. Hiatt requested that the Director of Public Works drive by the two locations to assess the need for a street light.

*Motion made by Miss White, seconded by Ms. Hiatt, to defer to our next Selectmen's meeting the requests from Mr. Davis and Mr. Navarro for a street light at Mr. Navarro's residence and one near Mr. Davis' business until Leo has an opportunity to assess the situation and until we can investigate the element of cost and also find out if there are any regulations that CL&P or the State has in relation to installation of streetlights.*

Miss White	-Yes
Ms. Hiatt	-Yes
Mr. Groh	-Yes

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## APPROVAL OF TOWN MEETING NOTICE, DATE & AGENDA

Mr. Groh presented a Notice of Town Meeting for March 12, 2008. Mr. Groh read the Notice to the audience which included a proposed ordinance change for the budget resolutions in regard to state and federal grants. Miss White stated that it might be sensible if this were only to affect the Quaddick Lake grant, but that if this were to affect other types of money matters that she and other townspeople may have a concern about it. Miss White also stated that she does not think that the ordinance change is written clearly enough and that it is unnecessarily convoluted and confusing and that we should not be putting out items for people to vote on that are not more clear. A lengthy discussion followed. Mr. Groh also stated that the road name change from Jezerskia to Jezierski would be voted on at the Town Meeting as well. Mr. Groh notified the Board that if the ordinance change passes on the 12<sup>th</sup> that there will be another Town Meeting on March 26<sup>th</sup> to approve the expenditure of funds for the Quaddick Lake grant.

*Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, that the Board of Selectmen sign this Notice of Town Meeting as presented by the First Selectman.*

<i>Ms. Hiatt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Miss White</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

## ORDINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Mr. Groh explained that he has put together a Committee to review the Town's ordinances. Mr. Groh stated that the Committee will recommend which ordinance are outdated, which ones should be eliminated and which ones fit the Town of Thompson and which ones might need to be re-worded. Ms. Hiatt asked if the Selectmen decide which ordinances are to be acted upon once the Committee has grouped the ordinance in the different categories. Miss White suggested that the initial deadline to group the ordinances should be a quarter. A lengthy discussion followed.

The Committee members are as follows:

- Richard Boss
- Beverly Kennedy
- Charles Paquette
- Claudette White
- Celeste Guimont
- Ted Gagne
- Ted Smith
- Joann Hall
- Alan Pratt (Alternate)

*Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Miss White, to start the Ordinance Review Committee with the eight members and one alternate as mentioned.*

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<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Miss White</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Ms. Hiatt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

### **TAX REFUND (1)**

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

-Timothy S Castano	-\$90.87
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<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Ms. Hiatt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Miss White</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

None

### **ADJOURN**

*Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:54 p.m.*

<i>Ms. Hiatt</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Groh</i>	<i>-Yes</i>
<i>Miss White</i>	<i>-Yes</i>

Recorded and transcribed by:  
Tonya Levesque