



SELECTMEN'S MEETING

March 18, 2008

The Board of Selectmen held a Selectmen's Meeting on Tuesday, March 18, 2008, at 7:30 p.m. in the Merrill Seney Community Room.

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; Norma O'Leary; Don Brown; Joseph Gaucher; George Elmes; Joseph Gibbons; Theodore Smith; Bill Bainbridge; Thompson Villager; James Esslinger – Worcester Telegram & Gazette; WINY Radio; other concerned citizens

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, to accept the minutes of the February 18, 2008 Special Selectmen's meeting with three corrections.

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

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, to accept the minutes of the February 19, 2008 Special Selectmen's meeting with two corrections.

Ms. Hiatt	-Yes
Mr. Groh	-Yes
Miss White	-No

Discussion: Mr. Groh stated that he and Ms. Levesque listened to the tape to check on a sentence and that the sentence in the original minutes was correct. There was a brief discussion on the procedure followed for verification of information in the minutes.

Motion made by Miss White, seconded by Ms. Hiatt, to accept the minutes of the February 19, 2008 Selectmen's meeting with three corrections.

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

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Miss White, to accept the minutes of the February 21, 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, seconded by Ms. Hiatt, to accept the minutes of the February 22, 2008 Special Selectmen's meeting with one correction.

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

Motion made by Miss White, seconded by Ms. Hiatt, to accept the minutes of the February 26, 2008 Special Selectmen's meeting as presented.

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

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, to accept the minutes of the February 28, 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>-Abstain</i>

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, to accept the minutes of the March 4, 2008 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>

CORRESPONDENCE

- Mr. Groh presented correspondence from Premiere Labs in regard to well testing results.
- Mr. Groh presented correspondence from the Office of the Mayor of New Haven, John DiStefano in regard to a dedication for the Connecticut 29th Colored Regiment Infantry.
- Mr. Groh presented correspondence in regard to health care issues and possible solutions.
- Mr. Groh presented correspondence in regard to the Senior Luncheon on April 4, 2008.

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- Mr. Groh presented correspondence from the Connecticut State Police in regard to re-arrest warrants.

SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS

- Mr. Groh informed the public that the Thompson Probate Court has changed its hours to comply with Probate Court Administration. The Court is no longer open on Saturdays and after 5:00 p.m. on Thursdays.
- Mr. Groh stated that he received a request from Don Brown in regard to the local Police Athletic League chapter. Mr. Groh explained that Mr. Brown explained that the form is a part of the renewal package for the PAL. Mr. Brown stated that they use the PAL to form the football team for Thompson and Ellis Tech.
- Mr. Groh informed the Board that there was an award put in for a Town employee for years of service. Mr. Groh stated the Joseph Arthur Girard has worked for the Town of Thompson for over 35 years.
- Mr. Groh stated that the proposed budget is now on the front page of the website for easier access.
- Mr. Groh stated that the budget resolution has passed at the Town Meeting on March 12, 2008.
- Mr. Groh announced that on Friday, March 31, 2008, the Town Hall, Highway Garage and Transfer Station will be closed in observance of Good Friday.
- Mr. Groh announced that for the past two Thursdays the proposed budget was presented to the Board of Finance and the public.
- Mr. Groh said that he attended a seminar in East Hartford on hiring practices.
- Mr. Groh asked Miss White if there is an Economic Development Commission meeting tomorrow night. Miss White stated that there is.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

- Mr. Brown asked if there has been any further action on the part of the Board in regard to the proposed regional recreation center. Mr. Groh said that there has been no discussion at NECCOG in regard to the center.
- Mr. Brown asked if there was going to be anymore discussion on the budget by the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Groh explained that the budget is now at the Board of Finance for review. Mr. Brown informed the Board that the Recreation Department is doing over \$300,000.00 in programs in a separate checking account that has no accountability for.

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- Mr. Landry stated that the Norwich Bulletin endorsed the Regional Recreation Center and that there was mention that they are partnering with the Y.
 - Mr. Elmes asked if the groundwater report relates to anything on Thompson Hill. Mr. Elmes asked if the Board knows where the Thompson Hill issues stands.
 - Mr. Smith asked if there is a snowplowing and sanding policy. Mr. Smith stated that the Town truck plowed only half the road. Mr. Smith submitted a written letter to the Board in regard to this issue. Miss White requested that the First Selectman investigate this issue and report on it at the next Selectmen's meeting. A brief discussion followed.
 - Mr. Landry asked if Mr. Smith meant only one side of the road or if the plow went down half the road and turned around. Mr. Smith stated that it was only one side of the road.
 - Ms. Landry stated that the Community Art Show is opening on March 31, 2008 and it will be at the Thompson Public Library/ Community Center and the theme is "Trails and Pathways." Ms. Landry stated that this event will kick off the April Clean-up.

STREET LIGHT REQUESTS

Mr. Groh presented information to the Board in regard to two requests for new street lights at 227 Riverside Drive and 1145 Riverside Drive. Mr. Groh also presented information on the cost associated with the streetlights including installation and operation. Miss White stated the it would be useful to have an inventory of all of the lights and what is the average cost per light pole. A brief discussion followed.

Ms. Hiatt stated that she drove by the upper part of Riverside Drive and there appears to be sufficient light. Ms. Hiatt stated that she did not view the Mechanicsville School at night. A brief discussion followed.

Miss White stated that if the Board is going to pursue this, then the people requesting the lights should appear before the Board to make their case. Mr. Elmes suggested calling the electric company to get an inventory of the lights in Town. A lengthy discussion followed.

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Ms. Hiatt, to table this agenda item until further notice.

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

CONNECTICUT WATER

Mr. Groh presented information to the Board in regard to some of the capital improvement projects being done in town by Connecticut Water. Mr. Groh commented that Connecticut Water added a pump to help the water pressure on Rawson Ave. and Buckley Hill Road. A brief discussion followed.

No action taken.

APPROVAL OF TOWN MEETING NOTICE, DATE & AGENDA

Mr. Groh presented a Notice of Town Meeting for March 26, 2008. Mr. Groh read the Notice of Town Meeting to the audience.

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, that the Board of Selectmen sign this Notice of Town Meeting as before us and described 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>

GRANT SPREADSHEET

Ms. Hiatt requested that the Board review the spreadsheet in regard to grants from the Director of Planning & Development and provide feedback to him. A brief discussion followed.

GRANT FOR PLOTTER/SCANNER

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, that we allow the Director of Planning & Development to reallocate \$3,000.00 to put against the Department of Agriculture funds in the grant to buy a new plotter scanner as opposed to a refurbished plotter scanner

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

AWARD BID FOR TRANSFER STATION LOADER

Mr. Adams presented his recommendation to the Board for a transfer station loader.

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Miss White, that we spend up to \$95,000.00 to purchase the Volvo loader from Tyler Equipment Corporation if we receive warranty information that is acceptable to the Director of Public Works and the First Selectman.

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

ORDINANCE DISCUSSION

Mr. Groh commented that the Ordinance Review Committee met yesterday to start reviewing the ordinances. Mr. Groh stated that the Committee will be meeting again at 7:00 a.m. on April 1,

2008. Mr. Groh said that the Committee elected a Chair, Charles Paquette, and a Vice-Chair, Richard Boss. Mr. Groh said that Mr. Smith decided to become an alternate. Mr. Groh said that Mr. Gagne did not attend the meeting. Ms. Hiatt asked if the Committee could be given space on the website.

REQUEST FOR SIGN ON TOWN PROPERTY

Mr. Groh explained that there was a request for a sign on Town property by Doreen Bentley in order to remind people about the referendum. Mr. Groh stated that Ms. Bentley is going to send him more information in regard to the wording and location of the sign.

RUDZINSKI PROPERTY

Mr. Groh explained that on May 15, 2006, the Town voted to approve the exchange of two pieces of property. A brief discussion followed.

No action taken.

TOWN EASEMENTS FOR PRIVATE UTILITIES

Mr. Groh presented correspondence from Town Counsel in regard to easements on Town property for private utilities.

Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Ms. Hiatt, to table this agenda item until the next meeting.

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

TAX REFUNDS (4)

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

-Stephen Brainard	-\$55.09
-Est. of Dora Kimball	-\$25.12
-Edgar Boucher	-\$99.78
-Leon Dombrowski	-407.26

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION – SALE OF PROPERTY

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, to go into Executive Session at approximately 9:50 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the sale of property.

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

The Board came out of Executive Session at approximately 10:20 p.m.

No action taken.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURN

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Miss White, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:21 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