

**TOWN OF THOMPSON, CONNECTICUT
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
APRIL 1, 2008**

The Board of Selectmen held a Selectmen's Meeting Tuesday April 1, 2008 at 7:30 pm at the Quinebaug Fire Department, Quinebaug, CT 06262.

PRESENT:

Lawrence K. Groh Jr. First Selectman; Kathleen Hiatt, Selectman; Joseph Donovan, Joe Gaucher Al Landry, Lynn Landry, Ted Smith, reporter from the Telegram & Gazette, reporter from The Villager.

Mr. Groh called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Mr. Groh thanked the Quinebaug Firemen for allowing us to have our meeting at this very nice facility. Kathy Hiatt also stated what a beautiful facility they have.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Kathy Hiatt made a motion to approve the minutes of March 18, 2008 as presented. Larry Groh seconded the motion. All those in favor:

Mr. Groh	yes
Ms. Hiatt	yes

Mr. Groh mentioned that Sally White was not in attendance due to a personal matter that just came up. She notified us that she may or may not attend the Selectmen's Meeting. We are not really sure, so that's why we are starting the meeting and hopefully she makes it but if not, we understand.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Groh stated that he received a letter from the Environmental Protection Agency. It has to do with WPCA, but Mr. Groh thought it was important to mention.

Mr. Groh stated he received a piece of correspondence when he went to a meeting at NECOG and wanted the Selectmen to read it. It is about the Regional YMCA facility.

Mr. Groh said if a study was done as to what effect it will have on local businesses. Mr. Groh was told that a study has been done and it showed no reduction in businesses. Mr. Groh asked if they will ever come back to the Towns to ask for money to fund this regional center and he was told no. Kathy Hiatt asked if we could send a copy of this letter to Don Brown, Mr. Groh stated, absolutely. A copy of this letter will be mailed to Don Brown.

Mr Groh stated that he was asked by the Army Engineers if we would like to participate in the Earth Day cleanup at the West Thompson Dam on April 19, from 9:00 am to noon.

Mr. Groh stated that a breakfast luncheon coming is up shortly sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and the Legislators. A \$5.00 charge per person, mainly pays for the name tag.

Mr. Groh stated he gave a few pages of the quarterly water study to the Selectmen. If you would like to read this report, you can come into the Selectmen's office.

Mr. Groh stated that July 18 there will be some Cyclists coming through town. The roads they will be traveling on are listed.

Mr. Groh stated that May 16, 2008 the CT Armed Forces Day committee will be having a luncheon and they have invited us.

Mr. Groh also stated we received the routine arrest warrants report.

SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS

Mr. Groh stated he just received information from Doreen Bentley regarding signs to be put up for the referendum vote. Kathy Hiatt made a motion to put this on the agenda as 13A. Larry Groh seconded the motion to put this item as 13A. All those in favor.

Mr. Groh	yes
Ms. Hiatt	yes

Mr. Groh stated that there is a group that's raising money to purchase defibrillators. They are having a fun raiser on April 11th at the K of C. at 6:00 pm. All you can eat Coney Island Hot Dogs. This is a buffet. Also to watch the baseball game on a big screen TV between the Red Sox and Yankees.

Mr. Groh stated that April is beautification clean up month. Monday night they had an art show at the Library. Many Thompson residents have submitted many interesting pieces. The road side clean will be going on all month. Also happening this month is the French River clean up on Saturday April 26th and on April 19th there is a treasure hunt where people can go out and look and drive around town looking for treasurers.

Mr. Groh stated that they will be starting to work on the street lights on Marshall and Center Street. Discussion took place and Kathy Hiatt made a motion to put the streetlights on the Agenda as Item 13B, Larry Groh seconded the motion. All those in favor.

Mr. Groh	yes
Ms. Hiatt	yes

Mr. Groh stated that we received grant money of \$150,000 for Social Service building. On the grant application we requested \$ 300,000, with some in-kind services to bring the project total to

\$465,000, \$165,000 of which includes an in-kind amount for land that the town owns. We are \$150,000 short of what we actually wanted so that no cost would come out of tax dollar. Kevin Kennedy did a great job in writing up the grant. He will be getting the Building Committee together to discuss other creative avenues to raise the additional dollars.

Mr. Groh stated he received information regarding the fire hydrants. Mr. Groh met with the Water Company, and was told that they flush the hydrants twice a year so that testing can be done. The pressure is what we have a problem with in some areas. They have booster systems and curling of the lines in trying to get the most pressure up into the questioned areas such as Buckley Hill and Thompson Hills West. The Water Company said they are looking at some point in time into putting in another water tower in Thompson on a higher elevation as well as drilling for more water. They did not give a time frame as to when this would happen. Crystal Water suggested that when the Town is doing road work or putting in another road that we notify them and they will put in the water lines at that time if they are able..

Mr. Groh stated that he wanted to brief everyone on the budget. The BOF is making a lot of proposals. It looks like they worked to get the mill rate around 1.08. The Board of Finance meets every Thursday at 7:30, if anyone cares to go to the meetings.

Mr. Groh stated that he investigated the complaint regarding snow plowing on Hagstrom road. Mr. Groh asked questions so that he could determine if a policy should be in place or not and then completed his report. Mr. Groh stated in his report that we should not implement a snow plowing policy since the weather is so unpredictable. If we said to create a policy to do something one way it would then create another problem. Anyone interested in reading his report, a copy is in the First Selectmens office

Mr. Groh stated he went out with Meals on Wheels delivery. Mr. Groh said that it was very impressive to see how all these meals are delivered and at a reduced cost. The food was delivered on time and it was hot.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Kevin Walsh lives on Blain Road. Wanted to know more about the Social Service Building. The reason for this building is to give TEEG more room which they need. They would occupy half the building. As far as we know there are no time limits on this grant. Several other things are being talked about that could go in this building. The Building Committee is looking into all aspects.

Al Landry asked about the cell towers. Mr. Groh stated that he has not been contacted as yet. He does have the package and will give to John Mahon or Kevin Kennedy.

APPOINTMENT EASTERN REGIONAL TOURISM

Mr. Groh stated that Michelle Bourgeois had served on this committee before and resigned and then expressed her interest in serving again. The position is still vacant. Larry Groh made a motion to appoint Michelle Bourgeois to the Eastern Regional Tourism District. Kathy Hiatt seconded the motion. All in favor

Mr. Groh yes
Ms. Hiatt yes

APPOINTMENT RECREATION COMMISSION

Marie J. DeJesus, Jeanne M. Dery, Catherine A. Thomas are currently serving on the commission, and their terms are expiring and they have expressed an interest to continue to serve. Kathy Hiatt asked what the expiration date would be. Larry Groh said the date for all three will be April 15, 2011. Kathy Hiatt made a motion that we reappoint Marie J. DeJesus, Jeanne M. Dery, and Catherine A. Thomas to the Recreation Commission. Larry Groh seconded the motion. All in favor

Mr. Groh yes
Ms. Hiatt yes.

PURCHASE OF AS400

Mr. Groh stated that our current server is over 10-12 years old. This serves the Assessors Office, the Tax Collectors Office and our Munis System. This server allows the computers to communicate with each other. Kathy Hiatt asked if it was necessary to go out to bid. Our bid policy states if it's over \$10,000 then we do have to go out to bid. Mr. Groh stated that in certain circumstances if its professional or technical services if we state the reasons why we didn't go out to bid then we won't have to. Mr. Groh stated that he will have to get more information on this. Kathy Hiatt made a motion we approve the purchase of a used AS400 server up to \$12,000 and the BOS forward it to the BOF for funding in this fiscal year. Larry Groh seconded the motion. All in favor

Mr. Groh yes
Ms. Hiatt yes.

PURCHASE HIGHWAY MOWER

Mr. Groh stated that this item was requested in the Capital expenditures of this up coming year. He was requested by the BOF to take that item out and purchase it this year. The mower is to replace the one that we have which is on its last leg .Kathy Hiatt made a motion to approve the purchase of the mower as presented in the sum of \$ 9, 750 and forward to the BOF for approval of financing for the fiscal year. Larry Groh seconded the motion. All in favor

Mr. Groh yes
Ms. Hiatt yes

SOLAR ASSESSMENT

Mr. Groh stated he put this on the agenda because he believed that the local government had an option whether or not to give a tax break on individual homes with solar energy and the assessment that goes along with it. If we did that we would have to create an ordinance. Mr. Groh stated that he received new information this morning stating that a new State statue was passed in October of this

past year that does not give the local government options to assess this at all. The town cannot assess and cannot give a tax break, so this is no longer an agenda item.

ORDINANCE UTILITY PLACEMENT IN ROADS AND THE EASEMENTS

Mr. Groh read proposal from Town Attorney. Kathy Hiatt made a motion to table for the next Selectmen's Meeting of April 22nd. Larry Groh seconded the motion. All in favor

Mr. Groh	yes
Ms. Hiatt	yes

TAX REFUND

Mr. Groh made a motion to present the following tax refund as presented by the Tax Collector.

Stephen Myers	\$9.97
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Kathy Hiatt seconded All in favor

Mr. Groh	yes
Ms. Hiatt	yes

APPROVAL OF SUMMER HELP FOR RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Mr. Groh has stated that none of these people have been hired. Interviews have been done and the process is going on. Recreation has presented a total of 30 names. At the moment the State Police are doing background checks. Kathy Hiatt made a motion to approve the hiring of the 30 individuals as presented by the Recreation Department for summer help, pending the results of there background checks. Larry Groh seconded the motion.

Mr. Groh	yes
Ms. Hiatt	yes

REQUEST FOR A SIGN

Mr. Groh stated that this item was tabled from the last Selectmen's meeting since they didn't have enough information. A request has been made by a citizens group to put up a sign reminding people to vote on the day of the referendum. The wording is BUDGET VOTE TODAY they requested to have two signs to put up. We can only give them permission to put the sign on town property. For the other sign, they will have to get permission from the school. This group is a Town recognized group. Kathy Hiatt made a motion to allow the group to put a sign at an area proposed by the 1st Selectmen on the day of the election. Larry Groh second.

Mr. Groh	yes
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Ms. Hiatt

yes

STREET LIGHTING

Mr. Groh stated that CL & P will be replacing the lamps on Marshall Street and Center street. These lights have been out for a long time. Kathy Hiatt made a motion that the 1st Selectman talk to CL&P regarding the change in the lamp. These lamps that we chose are not as decorative as the first set of lamps but they will not be destroyed so easily. They have no glass. Larry Groh seconded.

Mr. Groh

yes

Ms. Hiatt

yes

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Groh stated the package he gave to the Selectmen has every street light in town listed. This was given to them for their review.

Larry Groh made a motion to adjourn Kathy Hiatt seconded

Adjourn

