



SELECTMEN'S MEETING May 6, 2008

The Board of Selectmen held a Selectmen's Meeting on Tuesday, May 6, 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; John Rice; Joseph Gaucher; Charles Seney; Joseph Gibbons; Robert Werge; Carolyn Werge; Norma O'Leary; Lynn Landry; Al Landry; John Mahon, Zoning Enforcement Officer; Stephen Benoit; Joseph Donovan; Don Brown; Paul Horanzy; Donna Fournier; Melissa Davis; Ruth Simmons; Chenoa Pierce – Thompson Villager; James Esslinger – Worcester Telegram & Gazette; WINY Radio; other concerned citizens

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt to approve the minutes of the Selectmen's meeting of April 22, 2008 with two corrections. Motion was not seconded.

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt to approve the minutes of the Selectmen's meeting of April 22, 2008 with three corrections.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

- Mr. Groh presented correspondence from Premiere Labs in regard to well testing.
- Mr. Groh presented correspondence from the Registrars of Voters stating that they are to be paid an additional \$35.00 for attending conferences. Mr. Groh asked the Board if we pay them for that already in their stipend every year.

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, that we put it on the agenda for the May 20th meeting, that way we have time to research it.

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

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- Mr. Groh presented correspondence from the VFW in regard to the Memorial Day Parade on May 26, 2008 that starts at 9:00 a.m.
 - Mr. Groh presented correspondence from the Connecticut Siting Council in regard to a public hearing on June 10, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. in the Merrill Seney Community Room for the proposed cell tower on Route 12 by the Thompson Medical Center. Miss White read the notice to the audience.
 - Miss White presented the Board with copies of e-mails from Mrs. Simmons that captures the situation at Little Pond. Miss White said that they were sent to John Folsum, a parks manager from the State of Connecticut.

SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS

- Mr. Groh commented that he was at an Early Childhood Development Committee today and he received a sample of the banner for the Early Childhood Fair that has been requested to be put in Riverside Park by Doreen Bentley.

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, to put the Early Childhood Fair banner on the agenda as item 17A.

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

- Mr. Groh commented that the Wilsonville hydro site is moving along. Mr. Groh stated that a land swap was approved at a Town Meeting on May 15, 2006. Mr. Groh said that the two sites were on Wilsonville Road and Owen Adam Road.
- Mr. Groh commented that the policy book that Ms. Hiatt suggested has been started by Ms. Levesque and is located on her desk.
- Mr. Groh commented on anonymous complaints that come in to the Town Hall. Mr. Groh stated that each complaint would be looked at differently and prioritized appropriately. Mr. Groh stated that if there is a hazard or danger to someone that the complaint should be investigated right away.
- Mr. Groh commented that there is an issue with the Library/Community Center in regard to the closure of the Library versus the Community Center and who has the authority to make the decision to close. Mr. Groh stated that this issue will be coming in front of the Board in the future.
- Mr. Groh commented that he attended a meeting in regard to the bridge repair on Route 12 near Jim's Hardware. Mr. Groh stated that the project is slated to start on May 12th.

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- Mr. Groh commented on the Regional Recreation Center. Mr. Groh stated that he attended a NECCOG meeting and that the consensus was to accept the general concept of the Recreation Center but that there are a lot of questions that need to be answered. Mr. Groh said that not a lot of information has been provided to the members of NECCOG.
 - Mr. Groh commented that the Annual Town Meeting will be held at the School auditorium on May 19th.
 - Mr. Groh commented that the School Building Project is almost complete and that he did walk through the auditorium this week.
 - Mr. Groh commented that the Ordinance Review Committee met this week and that they will be coming to the Board of Selectmen to suggest moving the Annual Town Meeting to April instead of May for next year.
 - Miss White asked if there is a written policy in regard to holding an Executive Session. Ms. Hiatt stated that the Freedom of Information Act includes the criteria for holding an Executive Session. Miss White asked what the Freedom of Information Act has to do with determining what is discussed in Executive Session. Mr. Groh explained the scenarios in which an Executive Session would be used. Ms. Hiatt stated that the law doesn't say that you have to go into Executive Session but rather when you can go into Executive Session.
 - Ms. Hiatt commented that the work group for the Riparian Buffer Project is meeting at the Lion's Gazebo at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 10, 2008.
 - Ms. Hiatt commented that there is an announcement in the Shopper's Guide that there is a presentation on conservation easements sponsored by Thompson Together and the Conservation Commission on May 8, 2008.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

- Ms. Fournier and Ms. Davis spoke in regard to speeding issues on Route 200 and the public safety hazard that this creates. Ms. Fournier and Ms. Davis described an occasion when they and their children were almost hit by a speeding vehicle. Ms. Fournier stated that she thinks that a big part of the problem is the road itself with people coming off of Route 395 and the blind corners. Ms. Davis also suggested a better sign to get people's attention to warn people to slow down for the school bus stop. A lengthy discussion followed.
- Mr. Brown commented in regard to the Regional Recreation Center. Mr. Brown stated that there was a lot of concern from the Selectmen at the NECCOG meeting that their names were being used but that they were not really backers of the project. Mr. Brown asked if the Board was going to continue to allow Thompson to be used as a supporter for the project. Ms. Hiatt suggested that Mr. Groh mention at the next NECCOG meeting that the marketing material should not list Thompson as a supporter until more information on the project is received. Miss White recommended a letter be sent to the Steering Committee stating the same. A brief discussion followed.

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- Mr. Rice questioned what the Premiere Labs correspondence was in regard to and if it had anything to do with the runoff of salt at the Highway Garage. Mr. Groh explained that the correspondence was in regard to wells near the Transfer Station and Highway Garage.
 - Mr. Rice asked who would prioritize the anonymous complaints. Mr. Groh stated that it depends on what office is involved. Mr. Rice stated that the Planning & Zoning Commission had agreed not to address anonymous complaints.
 - Mr. Rice asked if the Ordinance Review Committee was a Town-sanctioned committee, why the agendas have not been posted and if there is any funding available. Mr. Groh explained that it is a brand new committee and that he had told them that they had to be more official and post agendas and minutes. Mr. Groh also explained that Donna Hall has agreed to be the Recording Secretary for the Committee. Mr. Werge asked where the funding would come from for the Zoning Enforcement Officer to attend the meetings. Mr. Groh explained that the ZEO was told to stay within his weekly hours and was requested to attend the meeting to provide zoning-related information. Ms. Hiatt stated that there are other committees such as the Renewable Energy Development Committee that does their own minutes. Mr. Groh explained that the Ordinance Committee meets during the day.

TRANSFER STATION USAGE REQUEST – V.F.W. – ACTION REQUIRED

Mr. Groh presented a request from the V.F.W. to use the Transfer Station to distribute poppies from May 19th to May 24, 2008.

Motion made Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Miss White, that we give permission to Thompson Memorial Post 10088 V.F.W. and the Ladies Auxiliary to distribute poppies from May 19th to May 24, 2008 in the Town of Thompson and at the Transfer Station.

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

BUILDING FEES FOR CELL TOWER ON RICH ROAD – ACTION REQUIRED

Mr. Groh presented the contract that was signed between the Town of Thompson and MCF Communications. Ms. Hiatt and Miss White pointed out that the contract states that lessee will be responsible for costs incurred to construct. Ms. Hiatt also added that the contract states that all licenses, permits and approvals shall be obtained by the lessee at the lessee's sole cost and expense. A brief discussion followed in regard to the type of fees that would be collected which include the building fee, zoning fee, education fee and site plan review fee. Mr. Groh explained that the second building permit included in the packet is for a new provider on the tower. Mr. Rice explained that the site plan review fee of \$500.00 is for the Zoning Enforcement Officer to review the site plan that is submitted.

No action taken.

CL&P STREETLIGHTS – ACTION REQUIRED

Mr. Groh asked the Board to address the two streetlight requests. Mr. Groh explained that Bernard Davis requested a light in front of 227 Riverside Drive and that Rocco Navarro requested a light in front of his residence at 1145 Riverside Drive. Mr. Groh also presented information on the rates for the streetlights and the inventory for streetlights in Thompson. Miss White asked what the basis of Mr. Davis' request is. Mr. Groh explained that he has a business at that location and he would like more lighting. Ms. Hiatt stated that the Director of Public Works provided feedback in regard to road conditions as they relate to the streetlight requests. A brief discussion followed.

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, that we deny installing a street light at 1145 Riverside Drive and 227 Riverside Drive.

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

Discussion on Motion: Miss White stated that she did not know if it would be correct for the Town to pay for the streetlight on a State road. Miss White stated that it is her understanding that it would cost anywhere from \$12.00 to \$24.00 per month to pay for the streetlight. Miss White stated that it is her understanding that if there is a true safety issue that CL&P will install the streetlight at no cost on a case by case basis. A brief discussion followed.

SCHEDULE SPECIAL SELECTMEN'S MEETING TO APPROVE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING NOTICE – ACTION REQUIRED

Mr. Groh presented a sample copy of the Annual Town Meeting notice. Mr. Groh stated that the Board will need to set a special meeting to approve the final version of the notice which would include the final numbers from the Board of Finance. Mr. Groh also informed the Board that it is the decision of the Board of Finance to pose the advisory questions in regard to the budget being too high or too low on the ballot. A brief discussion followed. Ms. Hiatt recommended that the First Selectman request that the Board of Finance ask the advisory questions on the ballot. Ms. Levesque stated that the Chair of the Board of Finance has already been contacted with that request. Miss White questioned whether or not the questions would be linked to the Board of Finance on the ballot.

The Board agreed to meet at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, May 9, 2008 in the Merrill Seney Community Room for the purpose of approving the Annual Town Meeting notice.

BUCKLEY HILL ROAD PROJECT – POSSIBLE ACTION REQUIRED

Mr. Groh presented information to the Board on the Buckley Hill Road Project. Mr. Groh explained that he met with the contractor. Mr. Groh stated that the State and Federal government would only allow the Town to negotiate material in order to keep the cost down. Mr. Groh said

that if the Town chose to opt out of the current contract and go out to re-bid, the Town would still be responsible for paying approximately \$5,329.29. Mr. Groh said that if the Town decides to go forward with the contract, the Town would be responsible for approximately \$49,032.70. Mr. Groh said that if the Town decides to opt out, the road would still have to be brought up to acceptable conditions. Mr. Groh also said that if the project is not completed by July 1st that the State will impose the new prevailing wage figures.

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Miss White, that we add this to the agenda of the Special Selectmen's meeting of May 9, 2008 at 09:30 when we will have the Department of Public Works estimate for the Town fixing the road.

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

TOWN EASEMENTS FOR PRIVATE UTILITIES – ACTION REQUIRED

Mr. Groh asked if the Board would like him to forward this request to the Ordinance Review Committee or if they wanted to pass it along to Town Meeting. Miss White stated that it would be good to have the Ordinance Committee review it for a number of reasons including uniformity in the review of ordinances and that there is a cross-section of folks on the Committee. A brief discussion followed. Miss White expressed concerns that this request is coming from two attorneys talking to each other rather than a citizen of the Town of Thompson. Another brief discussion followed.

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, that we send this to the Ordinance Committee to look at, at their next meeting, to provide the Board of Selectmen with their thoughts and recommendations as expeditiously as possible.

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

Discussion on Motion: Mr. Groh stated that he would attend the meeting and ensure that this ordinance is on the agenda and that he would also try to get the ordinance to the Committee members beforehand to review.

JOB DESCRIPTION FOR ZONING ENFORCEMENT OFFICER - DISCUSSION

Mr. Groh presented a final draft of the job description for the Zoning Enforcement Officer. Mr. Groh requested that the Board review it and address it at the next Selectmen's meeting. Ms. Hiatt stated that according to the new Zoning regulations some of the duties in the job description now belong to the Secretary. Ms. Hiatt suggested and requested that Mr. Rice review it one more time and that he provide his input at the next meeting. Mr. Groh asked Mr. Rice if he was willing to do this and Mr. Rice agreed. A brief discussion followed.

REINSTATEMENT OF HOURS FOR BUILDING OFFICIAL'S SECRETARY/CLERK – ACTION REQUIRED

Mr. Groh requested that the Board approve the reinstatement of the hours for the Building Official's Secretary/Clerk. Mr. Groh stated that there has been a lot of concern expressed in regard to the reduction of the Building Office hours. Mr. Groh suggested requesting that the Board of Finance reinstate the hours in the budget. Miss White stated that she was in favor of reinstating the hours but was curious about altering the days. Ms. Hiatt stated that it was discussed during budget workshops the possibility of providing coverage five days per week as opposed to four. A brief discussion followed.

Mr. Groh explained that final bids were received in regard to municipal and worker's compensation insurance and that the savings would offset the cost of reinstating the hours.

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Miss White, that we support the First Selectman in his request to go forward to the Board of Finance asking that the Secretary to the Building Official be restored to 32 hours and that compensation for that request be taken out of the revised quotes we got for Worker's Comp and Municipal insurance.

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

DISPOSAL OF RETIRED COMPUTER EQUIPMENT – ACTION REQUIRED

Ms. Levesque recommended to the Board that the retired computer equipment which is over eleven years old and has been wiped clean with no operating system be disposed of through the Transfer Station. Ms. Levesque stated that she would like to retain a couple of monitors to use as spares. Miss White asked the audience if they had any comments on this and Mr. Landry stated that the Town should get rid of the hazardous waste. Ms. Levesque stated that there is a company that comes to the Transfer Station for the computer equipment and disposes of it properly. A brief discussion followed in regard to the procedure to follow for disposing the equipment through the Transfer Station. Miss White suggested that someone from the Town Hall call the outside contractor that picks up the computer equipment and have them go directly to the Town Hall rather than have the Director of Public Works make the phone call.

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, that we dispose of all of the old computer equipment that's currently stored in the generator room according to our established protocols via the Transfer Station.

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

Discussion on Motion: Miss White stated that she thinks we should try to make an effort to do it in a more efficient and productive way. Ms. Hiatt stated that nothing in her motion says who

picks up where. Miss White stated that Ms. Hiatt's motion suggests business as usual. A brief discussion followed.

GRANT SPREADSHEET - DISCUSSION

Mr. Groh presented a draft of the grant spreadsheet to be reviewed by the Board. Ms. Hiatt suggested a key that explains some of the titles in the spreadsheet and an explanation of what the in-kind service is. Miss White suggested documenting the ongoing costs in the out years. A brief discussion followed. No action taken. Mr. Groh will inform the Director of Planning & Development of the requested changes.

TAX ABATEMENTS (2)

Mr. Groh presented correspondence from the Tax Collector in regard to proposed tax abatements. Mr. Groh explained that the Town acquired the Furno property and that the transfer was not finalized until after the October 1st grand list.

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, that we grant the tax abatement of \$354.68 on the 13-acre parcel of land on New Road in East Thompson previously owned by John Furno.

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

Mr. Groh explained that the property at 1395 Riverside Drive was foreclosed on and could potentially be sold in the near future. Mr. Groh explained that if the property was sold, then the books would be cleared up at that time. Ms. Hiatt stated that she would like to keep the money on the books so that when the discussion of the sale of land comes up then the history on the taxes would be available.

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, that we do not grant an abatement for \$12,579.20 for the property that the Town owns through strict foreclosure on 1395 Riverside Drive.

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

Discussion on Motion: Mr. Groh stated that he agrees and that in addition, there may be some interest in the property. Mr. Groh also explained that same concerns as Ms. Hiatt in regard to abating the taxes. Miss White also said that there needs to be access to a paper trail.

Mr. Groh also mentioned a third piece of property and that it is unclear as to who owns the property. Mr. Groh stated that 200 Associates, LLC has an outstanding tax bill of \$96.72 and that he believes that the property is located by Thatcher Road. Mr. Groh said that 200 Associates, LLC says that the land was donated as required open space but that there is nothing listed with

the Town Clerk saying that the property is Town-owned. Ms. Hiatt asked that the Zoning Enforcement Officer to track down what happened to this property. Mr. Rice stated that the Planning & Zoning Commission approved the subdivision and that the ZEO needs to follow-up on the open space. A brief discussion followed.

TAX REFUNDS (1)

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

-Paul A & Gail S Fournier -\$203.64

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

OTHER BUSINESS

Early Childhood Fair Banner

Mr. Groh explained that there would be an Early Childhood Fair on June 7, 2008 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Thompson Public Library. Mr. Groh stated that the request is to put the banner on the fence at Riverside Park.

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh that we allow the School Readiness folks to post the banner for the Early Childhood Fair with the information that you provided on the fence across the street.

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

ADJOURN

Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:50 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