



## SELECTMEN'S MEETING

### September 16, 2008

The Board of Selectmen held a Selectmen's Meeting on Tuesday, September 16, 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; Lynn Landry; Al Landry; Elizabeth Vriga; Robin Trudell; Kevin Walsh; Ron Martin; Joseph Iamartino; Rene Morin, Tax Collector; James Esslinger – Worcester Telegram & Gazette; other concerned citizens

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Miss White, to approve the minutes of the September 2, 2008 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>

### CORRESPONDENCE

- None

### SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS

- Mr. Groh commented that he spoke with the Fire Marshal and asked him about the types of fire-related calls he goes out to. Mr. Groh stated that the Fire Marshal said that he goes out to suspicious fires or fires where the origin cannot be determined. Mr. Groh stated that the Fire Marshal has served the Town of Thompson for over 20 years.
- Mr. Groh commented that he had a meeting with the Trinity Foundation in regard to the Thompson Hill Sewer issue. Mr. Groh stated that Trinity Foundation is looking to extend the sewer line from the corner of Route 12 and Route 193 up to the Marianapolis property. Mr. Groh presented a letter from the Marianapolis Preparatory School in regard to a proposed sewer project. A brief discussion followed.
- Mr. Groh commented that he had a meeting with Alan Meisler who wants to work with the Town in regard to developing a hydropower site. Mr. Groh commented that he would like to put this on the agenda for the Selectmen's meeting on October 7, 2008. Mr. Groh also stated that he would like to talk about the criteria for a private company or for the site to be Town

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run. The Board agreed to tour the site at a Special Selectmen's meeting at 12:00 p.m. on October 7, 2008. Ms. Hiatt suggested inviting members from the Renewable Energy Development Committee to tour the site as well.

- Mr. Groh commented that the proposed social services building project will be on the agenda for the October 7, 2008 Selectmen's meeting.
- Ms. Hiatt asked if the Town has a copy of the computer disk that went in regard to the hydro grant. Mr. Landry suggested contacting Joseph Iamartino.
- Ms. Hiatt proposed adding an agenda item in regard to the WPCA membership and a tribute to Dr. Joseph Adiletta.

*Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, to add these two items to the agenda.*

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

- Ms. Hiatt informed the audience of the Friends of the Library book and tag sale on Saturday, September 20, 2008 from 8:00 a.m. to noon.

## **CITIZENS COMMENTS**

- Mr. Martin commented that he would like to appeal to the Selectwomen on the Board in regard to the acceptance of his road, Fairway Drive. Mr. Martin commented that he has spoken to Mr. Groh and was informed that the Town does not hold special meetings to accept town roads. Mr. Martin also stated that he has received a tax bill for \$1,100.00 from the Town for the road. Mr. Groh explained that he has spoken with Mr. Martin and that he wants to make sure that all of the steps were followed before the Town accepts the road. Mr. Groh cited an example of another road where the Town had made an exception to the regulations and the result was that the road was not finished and the drainage was not done correctly. Mr. Groh stated that this exception is going to cost the Town to make repairs on said road, Ryler Court. Mr. Groh stated that he just wants to protect the Town from things like this. Mr. Martin stated that he takes exception to this comment as he was the contractor that did Ryler Court. A lengthy discussion followed. The Board agreed to hold a Special Selectmen's meeting at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, September 19, 2008 to act on adding the acceptance of this road to the agenda of the Special Town Meeting.
- Mr. Landry commented that the water bubbler on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor runs constantly.
- Ms. Vriga commented that there have been ongoing problems with Ryler Court since Douglas Williams and David Babbitt were First Selectman.
- Mr. Walsh questioned if there would be an open forum for people to speak in regard to the proposed social services building.

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- Mr. Walsh commented that there are broken links on the Town's website for Selectmen's meeting minutes and that the current budget is not online. Mr. Walsh also stated that other Boards' minutes are not updated on the website.
  - Miss White suggested that a request be made to the Board of Finance to post their minutes on the website as well.
  - Mr. Landry suggested that there be a link to the Board of Education's minutes on the Town's website.

#### **ORDINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Mr. Groh presented minutes from the last Ordinance Review Committee meeting on September 9, 2008. Mr. Groh commented that the Committee has already reviewed the first 88 pages of the Ordinance book. Mr. Groh stated that the Committee is struggling as they will work on a particular ordinance and then find updates to that ordinance later on in the ordinance book. Mr. Groh also stated that Committee made a motion to change the wording of the Annual Town Meeting to reflect the first Monday in May as opposed to the third Monday in May. A brief discussion followed.

#### **APPOINTMENT TO ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – DAVID KRESS**

Mr. Groh presented David Kress' name as a proposed appointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate position, term to expire November 17, 2009.

*Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, to appoint David Kress as an alternate to the Zoning Board of Appeals for the term previously stated by the First Selectman.*

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

Discussion on Motion: Miss White asked if the Board has any information on Mr. Kress. Mr. Groh explained that Mr. Kress did serve as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals in the past, is diligent in his membership and responsibilities and does good work for the Town. Miss White stated that she thinks it would be a good process in the future to submit a short bio as well as the basis for interest in serving on a board or commission. Miss White stated that it is not reasonable to expect someone to vote when they don't know the person. Mr. Groh stated that Mr. Kress comes as a recommendation from the Democratic Town Committee. Ms. Hiatt stated that she believes he is also recommended by the Zoning Board of Appeals. Ms. Fifield stated that people can put many things in their bio that may not be true. Miss White stated that this is irrelevant to the point that she is making.

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## REQUEST FOR TOWN HALL PARKING LOT USAGE – CADET SENIOR GIRL SCOUT TROOP 64007

Mr. Groh presented a request by the Cadet Senior Girl Scout Troop 64007 to use the Town Hall parking lot on November 4, 2008. Ms. Trudell clarified that the location requested is actually the grass area near the Post Office mailbox. A brief discussion followed.

*Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, that we allow the Cadet Senior Girl Scout Troop 64007 to use the corner of the parking lot adjacent to the post office to set up a table to sell cookies on November 5, 2008 from 4:00 to 8:00.*

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

## TAX COLLECTOR'S SALE LEGAL SERVICES

Mr. Groh explained that he has requested that the Tax Collector present information on this agenda item. The Tax Collector, Rene Morin, informed the Board that this is a different type of tax collection. Mr. Morin explained that the Town did attempt to foreclose on this property but was unable to do so because legal heirs were not found, therefore a tax collector's sale is necessary. Mr. Morin stated that Attorney Cohen is highly recommended by other tax collectors and that he has heard him speak at Tax Collector's conferences. Mr. Morin also stated that Attorney Harris, the attorney that currently does foreclosures for the Town, does not do tax collector sales. A lengthy discussion followed.

*Motion made by Ms. Hiatt, seconded by Mr. Groh, that the First Selectman has permission to sign the contract that has been presented in front of us by Attorney Adam J. Cohen so that the Town can enter and pursue a Tax Collector's sale as described by Mr. Morin.*

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

## TAX FORECLOSURE ON RADLO PROPERTY – POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Groh stated that the first bid that comes out at the foreclosure would be the Town's minimum bid. Mr. Morin stated that the assessed value on the property done by Platt Associates in late June/ early July of this year is \$47,000.00 which includes the approximate cost of \$20,000.00 for clean-up. Mr. Morin stated that the Radlo foreclosure is being held on Saturday, October 25, 2008. Mr. Morin explained that there was a potential buyer who offered less than all of the liens against the property. Miss White stated that the Town could end up owning this property instead of where the Town could have been paid a portion of the taxes owed, and someone could have built a house on it and started paying taxes on the property. Mr. Groh commented that the Board had held an Executive Session on this issue and it was decided at that time by the Board not to accept that offer. A lengthy discussion continued. Mr. Groh stated that

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he knows there is interest in this property and recommended going with a minimum bid of \$39,535.33

*Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Ms. Hiatt, that we set the minimum for \$39,535.33*

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

## **WPCA MEMBERSHIP**

Ms. Hiatt commented that there is a vacancy on the Water Pollution Control Authority. Ms. Hiatt stated that the WPCA has tried to fill the vacancy and that the Board of Selectmen can appoint someone to the WPCA to fill said vacancy. Ms. Hiatt stated that the current chair of the WPCA, Samuel Stillwell, is willing to answer any questions in regard to the vacancy. Mr. Stillwell's contact information is 923-3524.

## **TRIBUTE TO DR. JOSEPH G. ADILETTA**

Ms. Hiatt commented that the Board received a resignation from the former Chair of the WPCA, Dr. Joseph G. Adiletta. Ms. Hiatt stated that Dr. Adiletta does not want a gala event, but the WPCA members do not want his retirement to go unnoticed. Ms. Hiatt stated that she has spoken to Dr. Adiletta's son who agreed that a proclamation from the Board would be appropriate. Ms. Hiatt suggested presenting this proclamation at the October 21<sup>st</sup> Selectmen's meeting. The Board agreed to present this proclamation on October 21, 2008 at the beginning part of their Selectmen's meeting.

## **TAX REFUNDS (12)**

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

-Stanley B or Jane Rovero-Kruzel	-\$17.07
-Paul J Zachara	-\$89.31
-Paul K Simonds	-\$33.41
-Darrin D or Olivera Schmeelk	-\$25.15
-Cecile A Boss	-\$45.46
-Pamela R Ross Ballard	-\$10.59
-Robert T Schwend	-\$7.18
-William T Peltier	-\$168.01
-Roman Jamieson	-\$84.45
-Sara B Laughlin	-\$44.36
-Kenneth M or Cathy J Julian	-\$41.33
-Richard D Olszta	-\$26.84

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

Mr. Morin commented that these are all generated from the Assessment Board of Appeals for motor vehicle taxes.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Ms. Hiatt stated that the other ordinance that the Board wanted the Committee to review was the Firefighter Tax Abatement ordinance.

#### **ADJOURN**

*Motion made by Mr. Groh, seconded by Ms. Hiatt, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:29 p.m.*

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

Recorded and transcribed by:  
Tonya Levesque